

Motor - Accident - Life - Pensions
all good things in 'LIFE' come
from PARKSIDE (World Wide)
INSURANCE AGENCY
'INCLUDING ME'

Barry Meisel

Telephone : 01-857-8589
or 01-699-7193

Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 79

April, 1976

Price 20p

Tears Amidst the Smiles



Photo by Alexander Toth

**Jaques**

— *of course*

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

Published each month, October to May inclusive. Postal subscription £2.00 for eight issues.

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

Subscriptions: Albert W. Shipley, General 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.

Editorial: George R. Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs., BL1 6JH. Phone: Bolton 42223 (h); 061-228 2141, Ext. 2698 (b).

Life Blood

The current season is one that has seen a marked recession in the sponsorship field leaving both the national team and club championships bereft of financial incentive and the Super League no more than an affair of the past.

Sponsorship is the very life blood of professional sport and especially in team competitions such as the aforementioned. Without it, as like cricket which was dying on its feet before Gillette, John Player and Benson and Hedges injected money, a sport loses its appeal both to player and spectator alike.

Granted our efforts for the 1976-77 season will be directed towards the World Championships in Birmingham but subsidiary sponsorship can, and should be, sought for the domestic competitions which have lost considerable ground in the current season while the County Championships have for long enough cried out for a commercial backer.

Tournaments, apart from the odd lapse here and there, continue to thrive—as witness the Bairstow Eaves Essex Open with a prize fund of £450 for a 2-Star—as well they might, as this is the only source of revenue left open to the players at large who look to the ETTA's Sponsorship sub-committee for a good deal more accomplishment than hitherto evident.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.

President: M. Goldstein.

Life Vice-President: Hon. Ivor Montagu

Chairman: C. M. Wyles, O.B.E.

Deputy Chairman: G. R. Yates.

General Secretary: Albert W. Shipley.

Hon. Treasurer: T. Blunn.

Management Committee:

M. Goldstein, L. F. Landry, A. E. Upton and K. Watts.

10th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

England's Golden Girls in Prague

by George R. Yates



ROLL OF HONOUR

Men's Team
YUGOSLAVIA

Men's Singles
JACQUES SECRETIN
(France)

Men's Doubles
STELLAN BENGTTSSON and
KJELL JOHANSSON
(Sweden)

Mixed Doubles
ANTON STIPANCIC and ERZEBET PALATINUS
(Yugoslavia)

Women's Team
SOVIET UNION

Women's Singles
JILL HAMMERSLEY
(England)

Women's Doubles
JILL HAMMERSLEY and
LINDA HOWARD
(England)



Still a tear to be seen trickling down the right cheek of England's 'Golden Girl' Jill Hammersley, winner of the women's singles title in Prague.

Photo by Alexander Toth, Praha

All praise to England's Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard, who, between them, achieved two gold and one silver medal in the 10th European Championships played over the period March 27 to April 4 in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

But to Jill must go the supreme accolade for her quite magnificent performance in winning the women's singles title to become the first English player, as an individual, to mount the topmost step of the podium.

Praise too for Jacques Secretin of France, in capturing the counterpart men's title with a valiant final display over five fiercely contested games against Anantoliy Strokotov of the Soviet Union.

Jill and Linda, with the loss of but one game to Valentina Popova and Zoya Rudnova of Russia, were the winners of the women's doubles title, the men's going to Stellan Bengtsson and Kjell Johansson of Sweden and the mixed to Yugoslavia's Anton Stipancic and Erzebet Palatinus, breaking the grasp which had extended over four previous championships by Stanislav Gomozkov and Zoya Rudova of the Soviet Union.

It was a long uphill struggle for Jill in the final of the women's singles against that most redoubtable of players, the grimly determined Maria Alexandru of Rumania.

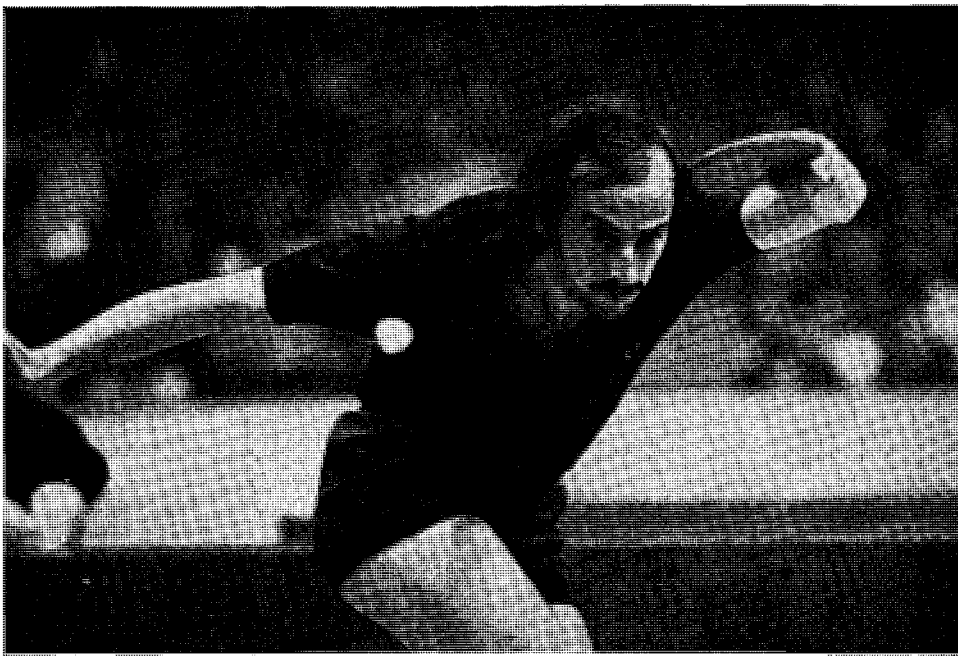
At a score of 7-6 in favour of the Rumanian in the first game the expedite rule was invoked and from then on with the odds, under such a rule, favouring Mrs. Alexandru the battle was on, and it went on, and on, and on, over 75 tense minutes.

PLAY STOPPED

Play stopped at 21-all in the first game when Mrs. Alexandru, the server, had thirteen whacks (excluding the service stroke) before hammering a "winner" past Jill but this was one too many and the point was given to the English girl. But for the next 8 minutes Maria was not to be enticed back into the arena such being her reaction to the umpire's decision to uphold the call of his stroke counter!

To a storm of boos and catcalls from all parts of the stadium play did eventually get under way once more and the boos changed over to cheers as Jill got home 23-21. Sticking to her task well Jill, now playing with increasing confidence, took the second at 16 and held a lead of 11-5 in the third game.

It was at this stage, however, that Maria showed her mettle recovering her composure to claw her way in front at 17-12 and finally took the game at 17. At this point a 5-minute break was taken, as per rule if requested, and battle was resumed with both players looking worse for wear to say



JACQUES and JILL, winners of the individual singles titles.

Photos by J. Krulis, CTK, Praha



nothing of the umpire who stuck to his task valiantly.

Into a 3—0 lead went the Rumanian but taking a firm grip on herself Jill built up a 17—13 lead but even then she was not destined for an easy run-in for it was only by a fourth game score of 21—19 that Jill eventually let out a victory shriek and nervous exhaustion brought the tears of joy as she returned to the bench to be embraced by one and all.

Thither to the path had been comparatively smooth even her opening game loss to the host country's Alica Grofova being taken in three subsequent strides which was all that were required for further engagements against Agnes Simon and Dubrakva Fabri.

AS PREDICTED

The hardest battle, as predicted, was against Russia's Zoya Rudnova in the quarters. Victory here required the distance of five games the last one being at 18 in Jill's favour. But what of the first two when the scorelines read 26—24, 24—26.

Apart from a second game lapse Jill had little the semis the 'indian sign' being again very much in evidence, for our girls would appear to have the measure of the Scandinavians these days.

What then of the fortunes appertaining to our two other contestants in this event? Linda Howard

trouble with Ann-Christin Hellman of Sweden in began brightly enough by disposing of Anna Przygoda of Poland (-20, 14, 10, 15) and Eva Jeler of Yugoslavia (18, -18, 16, 19). But then Elmira Antonian of the Soviet Union blocked the way and Linda, despite improving with every game, fell -13, -15, -19.

Poor Carole Knight, after one set only in the women's team event in which she lost to Przygoda, had the awesome task of facing up to Ilona Uhlikova who, as Miss Vostova at the age of 14 won the title in Lyons in 1968! A victory here was never on and so it proved as the Czech girl thumped her way to victory 10, 17, and 9.

Following the disappointment of losing the women's team final to Russia, when Jill and Linda lost their first doubles set since Calcutta, the English pair were not to have their fine record dented again and it was a succession of convincing wins that gold was struck a second time, very easily in the final against Dana Dubinova and Alica Grofova when, from the very outset, it looked to be no contest.

Hardest worked girl in the singles event was Federal Germany's Weibke Hendriksen who, in three successive rounds, was taken to five games in beating Dubinova (11, -18, -20, 13, 17), Yveline Lecler of France (9, -25, 10, -25, 23) and Elmira Antonian of the Soviet Union (14, 20, -15, -16, 17).

Hardly a reward was her semi-final meeting with Maria Alexandru!

Of our five entrants in the men's singles Denis Neale was the player to go the furthest reaching the last eight before losing to Christian Martin of France.

MAGNIFICENCE

It was disappointing to fall to the French defender after the magnificence of a 3—1 win over the rampaging Dragutin Surbek who, like his victorious compatriots in the men's team event — final victory being at the expense of Sweden — had given his all and had little left in reserve.

Nicky Jarvis who was by far England's best player in the team event fell at his first hurdle when Anton Stipancic had enough steam left to dispose of the English No. 2 with scores of 13, 16 and 18.

But rated the second best set of the whole championships was that between the English No. 1 Desmond Douglas against Kjell Johansson of Sweden. Des would appear to have no fear of this former champion and he traded blow for blow with the giant Swede and might well have won. Scores in Johansson's favour were -20, 16, 16, -21, 14. Voted the best set was that between Johansson and the defending champion Milan Orlovski who subsequently took his leave when beaten by Secretin.

England's two fledglings, Andy Barden and Paul Day failed to make any great impact, the latter accounting for Orlando Sana of Spain in the first round and then losing to Martin, conqueror of Roger Lagerfeldt (Sweden) and Stanislav Gomoskov (USSR) as well as Neale. Barden had but one bite of the cherry losing to the equally stocky Istvan Asztalos of Hungary who won 11, 16 and 17.

Bengtsson, switched from his original position to take over the No. 1 seeded position in the absence of the still injured world champion Istvan Jonyer of Hungary, was surprisingly beaten by Federal Germany's Jochen Leiss whilst the other main seed in this particular quarter, Jaroslav Kunz of the host nation, passed out to the defeated finalist Strokotov.

But what of the new champion, Jacques Secretin, the idol of France? The French ace, so much a crowd pleaser with his balloon type defensive returns, began his run by beating Wilfried Lieck (Federal Germany) -18, 18, 12, 18 to be followed by a win 15, 13, 17 over Rudolf Weinmann of Austria.

NEXT VICTIM

Stipancic was the next victim to be followed, in the semis, by the defending title holder,

Please send for
our Table Tennis
Price List

MS



Navy Bri-Nylon
Stretch Shorts—
Unisex (as illus-
trated), 2 Side
Pockets £1.80

Toni-Hold Anti-
Loop Bats—
Black, Red or
Green £7.50

Club-named
Shirts (as illus-
trated). Please
ask us to quote.

All our prices
include Postage,
Packing & VAT.

maclaren sports

10 ARCADE ROAD LITTLEHAMPTON
WEST SUSSEX - Tel.: L'ton 7610

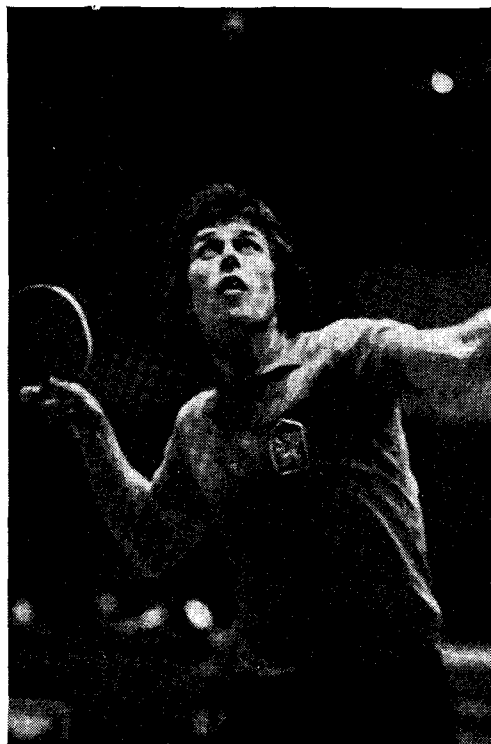


Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard who took the gold medals by winning the women's doubles title with final victory over the host nation's Dana Dubinova and Alica Grofova.
Foto CTK, Praha

Orlowski. Thus was the stage set for a repeat of the Norwich Union International Championships of last season between Secretin and Strokotov and again it was a cracker with the vital difference for the Frenchman being that he was the eventual winner after five hard games.

In the men's doubles our top pair, Douglas and Neale, began with a win over Paul Guttormsen and John Grahl Madsen of Norway (13, 15, 13) and carried on the good work by next accounting for Asztalos and Zoltan Horvarth of Hungary (15, 13, 18).

But all good things come to an end and so it proved as scores of -19, 18, -19, -18 saw the shake of hands of continued success to the winners



Milan Orlowski, the defending champion, who was beaten in the semi-final of the men's singles event by Jacques Secretin.

Photo by Bohumil Novotny, Praha

Strokatov and Bagrat Burnazian. But those words, be they sincere or otherwise, had no materialisation as the Russian combine provided a minor harvest for Ingemar Wilström and Bela Frank, a Swedish/Hungarian pairing in the quarters, a combination that prospered up to their meeting with Orlowski and Kunz in the semis.

CAST GLOOM

Jarvis and Day cast gloom in the German camp by overcoming Leick and Peter Stellwag (21, 13, 16) and then had the tables well and truly turned when beaten by Jukka Ikonen and Martti Autio, two Finns masquerading as sharks.

Barden was paired with Ralf Wosik of Federal Germany and accounted for the Spaniards Sana and Ramon Junyent 14, -17, 18, 18 as well as the Irishmen Jim Langan and Tommy Caffrey 15, 11, 16 before bowing to the combined might of Stipanovic and Surbek -14, -10, 15, -8.

Carole Knight our odd girl out in the women's doubles had Eva Strömvall of Sweden as her partner but it was a continuing tale of woe as they failed in the qualifying stage being beaten by Hungary's Gabriella Ivasko and Beatrix Kishazi.

Perhaps it might be as well to draw a veil over our exploits in the mixed doubles event which saw all our three couples beaten in the first round.

Firstly Neale and Carole fell to Lagerfeldt and Birgitta Olsson of Sweden (-12, -16, 9, -17), then Douglas and Linda were outplayed by the Russian's Sarkhoyan and Antonian (-11, -12, -16) to be followed into the dressing rooms by Jarvis and Jill beaten -13, -11, 18, -11 by Ferenc Timar and Henriette Lotaller of Hungary. Mercifully it all happened quickly and I, for one, regard the mixed as a non event really, although at this level one must have reservations.

Further success came our way in the men's consolation singles with Jarvis the winner at the final expense of the youthful Dzevat Hasonov of Bulgaria this after a fine win over Milivoje Karakasevic of Yugoslavia in the semis.

Also engaged in this event for England were Douglas, Barden and Day. In turn they were beaten by Hasanov, Herbert Suda (Austria) and Josef Dvoracek (Czechoslovakia), the latter in the quarters.

Carole Knight had her first and only win of the championships in the counterpart women's event when she beat Vreni Lehmann of Switzerland but success was short lived as, for the second time, she lost to Poland's Anna Pryzgoda who, it may be recalled, played in Brighton in January.

Because of pressure on space an account of the

team events together with the vital statistics will have to be held over to next month. Suffice it to say for now that our women improved their position from fourth to second, behind Russia, and our men dropped one place, from No. 6 to No. 7. Finishing positions (previous places in brackets) were:—

MEN

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

WOMEN

1. U.S.S.R. (1)
2. England (4)
3. Czechoslovakia (3)
4. Yugoslavia (7)
5. Rumania (5)
6. Sweden (8)
7. Hungary (2)
8. Fed. Germany (6)
9. Netherlands (14)
10. Luxembourg (13)
11. Bulgaria (10)
12. Poland (9)
13. France (11)
14. Belgium (17)
15. Switzerland (15)
16. Greece (12)
17. Denmark (18)
18. Scotland (20)
19. Spain (19)
20. Austria (16)
21. Ireland (—)
22. Turkey (21)
23. Italy (22)
24. Norway (—)
25. Finland (—)

MEDALS TABLE

Position	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	ENGLAND	2	1	0
2	Yugoslavia	2	0	2
3	U.S.S.R.	1	1	2
4	Sweden	1	1	1½
5	France	1	0	4
6	Czechoslovakia	0	3	2
7	Rumania	0	1	0
8	Federal Germany	0	0	2
9	Hungary	0	0	½

In addition Nicky Jarvis won a gold medal in the men's consolation singles.



Jaroslav Kunz of Czechoslovakia who reached the last 16 before losing to Anatoliy Strokatov of Russia.

Photo by Bohumil Novotny, Praha

PATHS OF GOLD

WOMEN'S SINGLES

JILL HAMMERSLEY

bt Alica Grofova (Czech.) -14, 17, 16, 19.
 bt Agnes Simon (Fed. Germany) 19, 8, 14.
 bt Dubrakva Fabri (Yugoslavia) 16, 10, 17.
 bt Zoya Rudnova (U.S.S.R.) 24, -24, 11, -10, 18.
 bt Ann-Christin Hellman (Sweden) 11, -12, 16, 11.
 bt Maria Alexandru (Rumania) 21, 16, -17, 19.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

JILL HAMMERSLEY and LINDA HOWARD

bt Johanna Fetter/Brigitte Gropper (Austria) 15, 8, 12.
 bt Valentina Popova/Zoya Rudnova (U.S.S.R.) 19, -15, 14, 13.
 bt Ludmila Smidova/Miloslava Zizkova (Czech.) 19, 11, 17.
 bt Claude Bergeret/Brigitte Thiriet (France) 12, 16, 9.
 bt Dana Dubinova/Alica Grofova (Czech.) 17, 11, 16.

10th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

ABBREVIATIONS

AU—Austria; BE—Belgium; BG—Bulgaria; CH—Switzerland;
 CS—Czechoslovakia; DK—Denmark; EN—England; EP—Spain;
 FR—France; FD—Federal Germany; GR—Greece; HU—Hungary -
 Mad'arsko; IT—Italy - Italia; IR—Ireland; LU—Luxembourg;
 NL—Netherlands; NO—Norway; PL—Poland; RU—Rumania;
 SC—Scotland; SF—Finland; SU—U.S.S.R.; SV—Sweden;
 TR—Turkey; WA—Wales; YU—Yugoslavia.

MEN'S SINGLES—Round 3:

S. Bengtsson (SV) bt P. Ovarik (CS) 20, -19, 11, 7.
 J. Leiss (FD) bt J. Ikonen (SF) 16, 15, -18, 19.
 A. Strokotov (SU) bt Z. Fraczyk (PL) 19, 9, 17.
 J. Kunz (CS) bt P. Birocheau (FR) 9, 21, 19.
 D. Surbek (YU) bt J. Hamalainen (SF) 10, 9, 12.
 D. Neale (EN) bt J. Turia (CS) 8, 16, 15.
 S. Gomozkov (SU) bt M. Cich (CS) 17, 15, 19.
 C. Martin (FR) bt R. Lagerfeldt (SV) 11, -11, 18, 18.
 A. Stipanec (YU) bt R. Czochanski (PO) 17, 11, -15, -14, 15.
 S. Sarkhoyan (SU) bt S. Bosi (IT) 13, 15, 12.
 J. Borzsei (HU) bt M. Schenk (CS) 13, 18, 15.
 J. Secretin (FR) bt R. Weimann (AU) 15, 13, 17.
 K. Johansson (SV) bt R. Hatem (FR) 11, 14, 14.
 P. Scelliwag (FD) bt Z. Kalinic (YU) 21, -12, 13, 16.
 R. Wosik (FD) bt P. Bargagli (IT) 8, 12, 16.
 H. Orlowski (CS) bt Z. Kosanovic (YU) -20, 14, -16, 9, 19.

Round 4:

Leiss bt Bengtsson -12, -18, 20, 14, 21.
 Strokotov bt Kunz 21, -9, 14, 18.
 Neale bt Surbek 18, -7, 17, 12.
 Martin bt Gomozkov 9, 15, -12, 11.
 Stipanec bt Sarkhoyan -16, 17, 20, -19, 15.
 Secretin bt Borzsei 12, 9, 19.
 Johansson bt Stelliwag 11, 18, 10.
 Orlowski bt Wosik 14, 15, 9.
Quarter-finals:
 Strokotov bt Leiss 16, -11, -18, 15, 14.
 Martin bt Neale 18, 16, -18, 20.
 Secretin bt Stipanec -14, 18, 11, 13.
 Orlowski bt Johansson 19, -8, 13, 16.

Semi-finals:

Strokotov bt Martin 14, 16, -22, 7.
 Secretin bt Orlowski -18, 20, -16, 17, 13.

Final:

Secretin bt Strokotov 16, -26, 14, -13, 12.

WOMEN'S SINGLES—Round 3:

J. Hammersley (EN) bt D. Fabri (YU) 16, 10, 17.
 Z. Rudnova (SU) bt G. Szabo (HU) 11, 14, 19.
 L. Mihut (RU) bt T. Ferdman (SU) 15, 20, 14.
 A.-C. Hellman (SV) bt E. Palatinus (YU) 9, -10, -16, 16.
 E. Antonian (SU) bt L. Howard (EN) 13, 15, 19.
 W. Hendriksen (FD) bt Y. Lecler (FR) 9, -25, 10, -25, 23.
 I. Uhlíkova (CS) bt B. Batinic (YU) 14, -19, 16, 12.
 M. Alexandru (RU) bt S. Poulsen (DK) 11, 7, 8.

Quarter-finals:

Hammersley bt Rudnova 24, -24, 11, -10, 18.
 Hellman bt Mihut 13, 10, -8, 19.
 Hendriksen bt Antonian 14, 20, -15, -16, 17.
 Alexandru bt Uhlíkova 8, 12, 9.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley bt Hellman 11, -12, 16, 11.
 Alexandru bt Hendriksen -16, 18, 13, 13.

Final:

Hammersley bt Alexandru 21, 16, -17, 19.

MEN'S DOUBLES—Round 3:

B. Frank (HU)/I. Wikstrom (SV) bt J.-D. Constant (FR)/
 Hatem 18, 18, 17.
 B. Burnazian (SU)/Strokotov bt D. Douglas (EN)/Neale
 19, -18, 19, 18.
 P. Engel (FD)/Leiss w.o. M. Karakasevic (YU)/Kosanovic
 Sr.
 Orlowski/Kunz bt S. Fraczyk/W. Woznica (PO) 12, -15,
 10, 19, 19.
 Bengtsson/Johanson bt Turai/J. Zlamal (CS) 10, 12, 13.
 Birocheau/Secretin bt M. Autio (SF)/Ikonen 8, 9, 14.
 Borzsei/Martin bt Gomozkov/Sarkhoyan 20, 15, 17.
 Stipanec/Surbek bt A. Barden (EN)/R. Wosik (FD) 14, 10,
 -15, 8.

Quarter-finals:

Frank/Wikstrom bt Burnazian 21, 20, 11.
 Orlowski/Kunz bt Engel/Leiss 10, -16, -19, 19, 13.
 Bengtsson/Johansson bt Birocheau/Secretin 17, -18, 19, 19.
 Stipanec/Surbek bt Borzsei/Martin 17, 8, 13.

Semi-finals:

Orlowski/Kunz bt Frank/Wikstrom 16, 20, 19.
 Bengtsson/Johansson bt Stipanec/Surbek 18, -13, 8, 16.

Final:

Bengtsson/Johansson bt Orlowski/Kunz 13, 6, 17.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES—Round 2:

Orlowski/Ferdman bt M. Grefberg/L. Jarvanpaa (SF) 9, 8,
 14.
 D. Dubinova/A. Grofova (CS) bt E. Olek/A. Przygoda (PO)
 13, 15, 14.
 M. Kneip/A. Simon (FD) bt A. Leonard/K. Senior (IR)
 15, 10, 11.
 Fabri/Palatinus bt Hellman/B. Olsson (SV) 17, -21, 12, 14.
 C. Bergeret/B. Thiriet (FR) bt B. Silhanova (CS)/Uhlíkova
 13, 22, 17.
 G. Ivasko/B. Kishazi (HU) bt M.-F. Geriat/V. Geriat (BE)
 17, 11, -16, 12.
 L. Smidova/M. Zizkova (CS) bt U. Hirschmuller/K. Kruger
 (FD) 10, -11, 12, -19, 18.
 Hammersley/Howard bt V. Popova (SU)/Rudnova 19, -15,
 14, 13.

Quarter-finals:

Dubinova/Grofova bt Antonian/Ferdman 21, 17, 18, -11, 16.
 Kneip/Simon bt Fabri/Palatinus -14, 19, -11, 19, 22.
 Bergeret/Thiriet bt Ivasko/Kishazi 11, 20, 13.
 Hammersley/Howard bt Smidova/Zizkova 19, 11, 17.

Semi-finals:

Dubinova/Grofova bt Kneip/Simon 19, 17, 24.
 Hammersley/Howard bt Bergeret/Thiriet 12, 16, 9.

Final:

Hammersley/Howard bt Dubinova/Grofova 17, 11, 16.

MIXED DOUBLES—Round 3:

Gomozkov/Rudnova bt N. Ramberg/A. Larsen (DK) 10, 13,
 7.
 Borzsei/Kishazi bt Ovarik/A. Cikova (CS) 19, 12, 20.
 W. Lieck (FD)/Hendriksen bt Schenk/Smidova 19, 17, 11,
 11.
 Orlowski/Uhlíkova bt B. v.d. Helm/S. Heltzel (NL) 13,
 18, 16.
 Sarkhoyan/Antonian bt U. Thorsell (SV)/Hellman -17, 15,
 12, 9.
 Stipanec/Palatinus bt J. Dvoracek (CS)/Grofova 12, 15, 13.
 Kunz/Silhanova bt F. Timar/H. Lotaller (HU) 13, 10, 18.
 Secretin/Bergeret bt Strokotov/Ferdman 14, 18, 15.

Quarter-finals:

Gomozkov/Rudnova bt Borzsei/Kishazi 19, 19, 12.
 Orlowski/Uhlíkova bt Lieck/Hendriksen 15, -19, 17, -12, 10.
 Stipanec/Palatinus bt Sarkhoyan/Antonian -11, 18, 18, 18.
 Secretin/Bergeret bt Kunz/Silhanova 13, 17, 9.

Semi-finals:

Orlowski/Uhlíkova bt Gomozkov/Rudnova 14, 15, -17, 18.
 Stipanec/Palatinus bt Secretin/Bergeret -6, 11, 14, 14.

Final:

Stipanec/Palatinus bt Orlowski/Uhlíkova 9, 17, 11.

MEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES—Quarter-finals:

D. Jurcic (YU) bt V. Aleksandridis (TR) 17, 12.
 D. Hasanov (BU) bt M. Mitev (BU) 17, 14.
 Dvoracek bt P. Day (EN) 14, 9.
 N. Jarvis (EN) bt Karakasevic 16, 9.

Semi-finals:

Hasanov bt Jurcic -16, 13, 11.
 Jarvis bt Dvoracek -20, 15, 16.

Final:

Jarvis bt Hasanov 14, -19, 7.

WOMEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES—Quarter-finals:

Olsson bt Dubinova -13, 14, 9.
 Ivasko bt Senior -12, 18, 19.
 Smidova bt J. Trendafilova (BU) 9, -21, 5.
 Zizkova bt M. v.d. Vliet (NL) 8, 19.

Semi-finals:

Ivasko bt Olsson 18, 18.
 Smidova bt Zizkova 16, 15.

Final:

Smidova bt Ivasko 14, -6, 16.

COVER PICTURE

It was just too much for Jill Hammersley after beating Rumania's Maria Alexandru in a gruelling women's singles final not to dissolve into tears. But they were tears of joy really as congratulations are bestowed on her by Carole Knight, Brian Burn, Denis Neale and Bryan Merrett.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nick and Jill Hammersley will, from May 1st, be resident at "Tanglewood", Broad Lane, Newdigate, Surrey. Phone: Newdigate 291.

UMPIRING CORNER

In a number of other 'ball playing' sports, the term 'bodily contact' is often used and to some extent this expression may be appropriate for the type of question posed this month for in each case a part of the human anatomy is directly involved in the rally. For example—

If a player makes a return off the wrist of the racket hand, would the umpire be correct in classifying it as 'good'?

RIGHT or WRONG

Secondly — A point is lost by a player if the ball, not having struck the table on his side, hits his head whilst over the table?

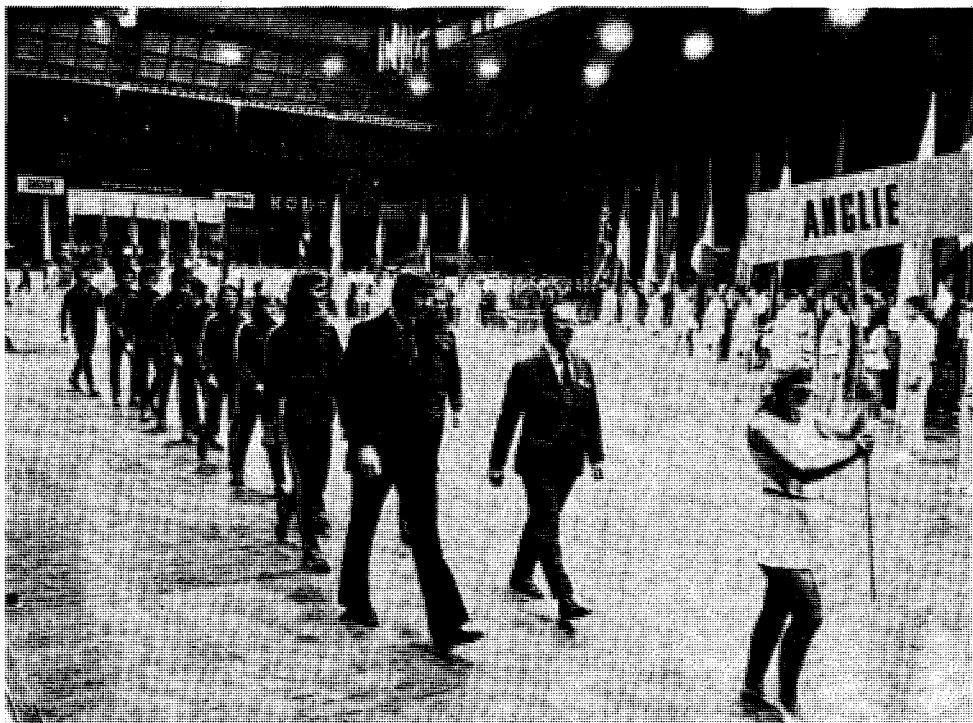
RIGHT or WRONG

Furthering this theme, let us now deliberate on several examples relating to bodily contact with the table, during play. For example — A point is lost by a player if he accidentally moves the table when ducking underneath a ball which his opponent has hit straight towards him at head level.

RIGHT or WRONG

And finally a match situation — Bill plays a drop shot and the ball touches the net, then falls into Alan's court. Alan leans forward, steadying himself by resting his racket and raket hand on the table, and the ball bounces off Alan's racket and falls into Bill's court. Should the umpire take NO ACTION. Should he call a LET or should he score the point to ALAN or to BILL.

Answers on Page 28



England's squad march into the arena for the opening ceremony.

Foto CTK, Praha

POSTSCRIPT TO PRAGUE



Carole Knight presents the picture of dejection having been eliminated in the first round of the women's singles by Iлона Uhlíková of Czechoslovakia.

Photo by Jan Drhlik, Praha

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Colin Hammond

PROMOTION IN BALANCE

A disastrous season for the County 1st team ended with an 8-2 defeat at the hands of Northumberland. Without the services of Alan Croome, Notts. were forced to call upon the experienced Alf. Saunders who distinguished himself by winning both his singles.

Notts. 2nd team, also without a win (on paper), went down in a close tussle with Staffs. 2nd. Phil. Spencer and Dave Fairholm had a singles victory each.

Notts. Juniors have been surprisingly successful this year and have not been defeated, their latest triumph being a crushing 9-1 defeat of Cumberland 2nd. Owing to the fact that although they defeated Clywd in their first match of the season, this match being awarded to Clywd on appeal due to poor match conditions, the question of their promotion remains in the balance. Fine all round performances from Glen Stredder, Terry Bramford, Roy Stewart, Elaine Handford and Kathryn Lindley.

The Veterans beat Worcestershire 8-1 to retain their unbeaten record, John Smith of Worcs. winning the only singles for the visitors by defeating John Ellis. The league will be decided (as for the last few seasons) by the match between Notts. and Cheshire in April.

The Nottingham Closed Championships, held at Carlton Forum, Nottingham on the 14th March, was the most open for many years and attracted a large entry. Martin Kinsella retained his Men's Singles title, beating Nicki Kirkland in the final — played at the unearthly hour of 1 a.m. Nicki had reached the final by virtue of a 'first time' victory over Alf. Saunders in the semi-final. Martin also retained his intermediate title, again beating Nicki in the final.

Pat Hammond won the Women's Singles title in defeating Christine Jacopi, the latter having knocked out second seed Mary Saunders in the semi-final.

With Alan Crooms and Roger Dawkins non-entries, the men's doubles was thrown open, Kirkland and yours truly coming out on top against Ron Bolton and John Ellis.

Stredder retained his Junior singles title, as did Elaine Handford in the girls. Glen combined with

Roy Stewart to win the Junior doubles. The surprise success of the Junior event was Ransford Scott, who disposed of both second and third seeds, Roy Stewart and Terry Bramford on his way to the final.

The evergreen Ron Bolton clinched the Veterans' singles, defeating surprise finalist Len Mayfield.

The Women's doubles was won by University girls Christine Jacopi and Linda Stalbow, and Saunders made up a 28 point deficit in the final of the handicap singles, taking the title 41-37.

Somerset Closed Championships

by Dennis Pope

Brian Reeves (Failand) won three titles in the Somerset Closed Championships played at Taunton Y.M.C.A. Jill Wilson (Bridgwater) also appeared in three finals, but was only successful in the women's doubles, partnered by Alma Taft-Heath (Taunton).

This was the first Somerset County Closed since the reorganisation of county boundaries, and although the entry for the senior events was disappointing, the Junior Boys turn out of under fifteen-year-olds was very promising, mainly due to the efforts of Regional Coaching Advisor, Doreen Henderson.

In the men's singles, No. 2 seed, John Hartry made an early exit from the competition, losing to Jeff Andrews -19, -14. Andrews also had a good win over Ron Bowles, with the first game going to expedite. Andrews finally lost to Roger Pendleton at the semi-final stage 12, -19, -15. Roger Pendleton was not ranked due to insufficient knowledge of current form by the selectors, but Pendleton had a good victory over No. 3 Colin Feltham -8, 11, 17, but was no match for Reeves in the final. Reeves not dropping a game in reaching the final.

The women's singles caused no surprises, although Susan Beazer took a game off Jill Wilson in the semi-final. In the women's doubles final No. 2 seeds Susan Beazer and Betty Norman took the first 21-18, but the experience of Alma Taft-Heath and Jill Wilson finally told and they won in three.

Reeves partnered by clubmate Feltham, won the men's doubles title, but they had a hard tussle in the semi-final against Vernon Adams and Ron Bowles before winning closely in the third, and then in a close and tensely exciting final, they beat Hartry and Jim Andrews.

Pat Reeves and husband Brian, were unable to defend the mixed title, but Brian paired up with sister-in-law, Susan Beazer and won the event to keep the title in the family.

There were very good entries in both the boys' Under-15 and Under-17 singles, and after many interesting battles in the early rounds, thirteen-year-old Andrew Castle from Taunton confidently won the final of the U-15 singles, 6, 16, against Nicholas Banwell. In the U-17 event Ashley Roberts (Chard) took the title.

The tournament was once again well organised with the finals starting on time, and for this, a word of thanks must be given to Ray Philpott and Doug Beazer.

RESULTS

B.S. U-15: A. Castle (Taunton) bt N. Banwell (Bridgwater) 6, 16.
B.S. U-17: Ashley Roberts (Chard) bt John Dibble (Bridgwater) 14, 9.
G.S. U-17: Fiona Craig (Wells) bt Sally Malcolm (Wells) 20, 16.
M.S.: B. Reeves (Failand) bt R. Pendleton (Taunton) 9, 8.
W.S.: A. Taft-Heath (Taunton) bt J. Wilson (Bridgwater) 16, 18.
V.S.: Tony Hills (Bridgwater) bt Reg. Garrett (Bridgwater) 16, 14.
M.D.: Reeves/C. Feltham bt J. Hartry/J. Andrews 19, -7, 14.
W.D.: Taft-Heath/J. Wilson bt S. Beazer/E. Norman -18, 14, 15.
X.D.: Susan Beazer/Brian Reeves bt Jill Wilson/John Hartry 17, 19.

RESULTS OF OPEN TOURNAMENTS

SOUTH YORKSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
J. Walker (Cleve) bt D. Svenson (Durham) 11, 15;
A. Hydes (Sussex) bt I. Warner (Derbys) -20, 13, 5;
J. Hilton (Ches) bt L. Landry (Middx) 6, 16;
A. Fletcher (Yorks) bt R. Hampson (Ches) -10, 14, 13.
Semi-finals:
Walker bt Hydes 17, 14;
Hilton bt Fletcher 20, 17.
Final:
Hilton bt Walker 17, 15.
Women's Singles Quarter-finals:
S. Lisle (Ches) bt D. Schofield (Ches) 5, 6;
A. Stevenson (Leics) bt M. Mellor (Derbys) 17, -13, 20;
J. White (Lincs) bt A. Marples (Derbys) 12, 5;
K. Rogers (Leics) bt J. Carr (Staffs) 18, 21.
Semi-finals:
Lisle bt Stevenson 19, 15;
Rogers bt White -14, 17, 14.
Final:
Rogers bt Lisle 19, 17.
Men's Doubles Semi-finals:
Hydes/D. Parker (Lancs) bt P. Cawser (Yorks)/Fletcher -24, 12, 9;
K. Beadsley/K. Guy (Yorks) bt Hampson/D. Schofield (Ches) 18, -21, 11.
Final:
Hydes/Parker bt Beadsley/Guy 9, 12.
Women's Doubles Semi-finals:
Lisle/Stevenson bt Marples/C. Moran (Lincs) 10, 19;
G.G. Stocks (Notts.)/White bt. Mellor/Rogers -12, 15, 13.
Final:
Lisle/Stevenson bt Stocks/White 12, 11
Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:
Parker/Stevenson bt M. Askham (Yorks)/Stocks 11, 19;
Hilton/Rogers bt Hampson/Lisle -24, 21, 14.
Final:
Hilton/Rogers bt Parker/Stevenson 20, 9.
Veteran Singles Semi-finals:
G. Summerscales (Yorks) bt J. Mason (Ches) 17, 13;
P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt L. Browning (Yorks) 27, 15.
Final:
D'Arcy bt Summerscales -14, 14, 11.

YORKSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
J. Walker (Cleve) bt S. Souter (Cleve) 17, 11;
A. Hydes (Sussex) bt D. Neale (Cleve) 16, 20;
N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt A. Fletcher (Yorks) 17, 13;
J. Hilton (Ches) bt M. Harrison (Yorks) 12, 8.
Semi-finals:
Walker bt Jarvis -21, 19, 12;
Hydes bt Hilton 8, 11.
Final:
Walker bt Hydes 12, 19.
Women's Singles Semi-finals:
L. Howard (Surrey) bt M. Lüdi (Yorks) 12, 12;
C. Knight (Cleve) bt S. Lisle (Ches) 14, 5.
Final:
Howard bt Knight 16, 12.
Men's Doubles Semi-finals:
N. Eckersley (Ches)/Fletcher bt Jarvis/Walker 16, 20;
P. Bowen (Lancs)/P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt A. Martin (Cleve)/Souter -19, 17, 12.
Final:
Eckersley/Fletcher bt Bowen/D'Arcy 14, 20.
Women's Doubles Semi-finals:
Howard/Knight bt S. Jenkins (Durham)/D. Schofield (Ches) 23, -18, 13;
Lüdi/J. McLean (Yorks) bt Lisle/M. Mellor (Derbys) 11, 13.
Final:
Howard/Knight bt Lüdi/McLean 17, 13.
Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:
Jarvis/Howard bt Hydes/Lisle 13, 19;
S. Hazelwood (Yorks)/McLean bt A. Isaac/S. Jones (Staffs) 10, 11.
Final:
Jarvis/Howard bt Hazelwood/McLean 12, 8.
Veteran Singles Semi-finals:
Schofield bt G. Brooks (Yorks) 18, -15, 15;
L. Browning (Yorks) bt D'Arcy -14, 18, 11.
Final:
Schofield bt Browning 19, 15.

EAST OF ENGLAND 2-STAR

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
R. Hampson (Ches) bt B. Hill (Lincs) -6, 16, 17;
K. Beadsley (Yorks) bt A. Summerscales (Yorks) 19, -9, 14;
A. Hydes (Sussex) bt P. Bowen (Lancs) 9, 15;
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt A. Croome (Notts) 18, 12.
Semi-finals:
Beadsley bt Hampson 13, -14, 15.
Hydes bt Eckersley 19, 14.
Final:
Hydes bt Beadsley 6, 16.
Women's Singles Semi-finals:
M. Lüdi (Yorks) bt S. Lisle (Ches) 19, 8;
A. Stevenson (Leics) bt K. Rogers (Leics) -15, 14, 21.
Final:
Stevenson bt Lüdi 12, 13.
Men's Doubles Semi-finals:
Bowen/P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt P. Cawser (Yorks)/J. Hilton (Ches) 19, 17;
Eckersley/Hydes bt Hampson/D. Schofield (Ches) 18, 11.
Final:
Eckersley/Hydes bt Bowen/D'Arcy 22, 13.
Women's Doubles Semi-finals:
Lisle/Stevenson bt J. White (Lincs)/G. Stocks (Notts) 18, 17;
S. Hunt (Lincs)/Rogers bt Lüdi/J. McLean (Yorks) -9, 14, 16.
Final:
Hunt/Rogers bt Lisle/Stevenson 19, -20, 15.
Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:
Hilton/Rogers bt Bowen/Stevenson 16, 18;
Beadsley/L. Hryszko (Yorks) bt Eckersley/B. Voss (Lincs) 16, 19.
Final:
Hilton/Rogers bt Beadsley/Hryszko 12, -19, 13.
Boys' Singles Semi-finals:
A. Metcalfe (Yorks) bt Beadsley 19, 11;
S. Hazelwood (Yorks) bt R. Hazelwood (Yorks) 13, 14.
Final:
Hazelwood bt Metcalfe 13, 13.
Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
Lüdi bt McLean -18, 13, 16;
Hunt bt B. Green (Warwks) 15, -13, 20.
Final:
Lüdi bt Hunt 16, 13.
Veteran Singles Semi-finals:
D'Arcy bt M. Shearer (Lincs) 14, -19, 18;
D. Marples (Derbys) bt Schofield 16, 17.
Final:
D'Arcy bt Marples 10, 18.

LANCASHIRE JUNIOR 2-STAR

U-17 EVENTS
Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
K. Paxton (Durham) bt M. Harrison (Yorks) 10, 14;
R. Hazelwood (Yorks) bt S. Hazelwood (Yorks) -18, 14, 23;
K. Beadsley (Yorks) bt I. Smith (Lancs) -11, 15, 19;
D. Johnson (Warwks) bt A. Gelder (Durham) 16, 18.
Semi-finals:
Paxton bt R. Hazelwood 10, -22, 15;
Beadsley bt Johnson 20, -13, 10.
Final:
Beadsley bt Paxton 20, 14.
Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:
A. Tierney (Cleve) bt C. Buttery (Lincs) 16, 15;
L. Hryszko (Yorks) bt G. Smith (Cumbria) 10, 9;
J. Skipp (Cleve) bt F. Brown (Derbys) 14, 16;
B. Green (Warwks) bt J. McLean (Yorks) -19, 10, 19.
Semi-finals:
Tierney bt Hryszko 19, 15;
Green bt Skipp 15, 13.
Final:
Green bt Tierney 21, -21, 15.
Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:
Gelder/Paxton bt Johnson/P. Rainford (Lancs) 20, -11, 14;

R. Hazelwood/S. Hazelwood bt Harrison/Smith 19, 14.
Final:
Hazelwood/Hazelwood bt Gelder/Paxton -18, 15, 18.
Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:
S. Dickerson/S. Midgley (Yorks) bt Buttery/S. Radley (Warwks) -19, 5, 17;
Green/McLean bt J. Black (Lancs)/Skipp 12, 7.
Final:
Green/McLean bt Dickerson/Midgley 18, 8.
U-14 EVENTS (Cadets)
Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
A. O'Connor (Lancs) bt R. Albutt (Derbys) 13, 17;
A. Gamblen (Derbys) bt P. Garvin (Lancs) 10, 18;
M. Laird (Cleve) bt N. Bailey (Yorks) 15, 16;
I. Reed (Cumbria) bt G. Black (Lancs) 12, 18.
Semi-finals:
O'Connor bt Gamblen 9, 9;
Reed bt Laird 10, 11.
Final:
O'Connor bt Reed 9, 14.
Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:
H. Robinson (Cleve) bt S. Hunter (Lancs) 8, 17;
G. Galloway (Lincs) bt E. Mathie (Cumbria) 9, 13;
Midgley bt L. Beadsley (Yorks) 11, 9;
G. Heath (Berks) bt S. Hemming (Warwks) 13, -15, 10.
Semi-finals:
Robinson bt Galloway -21, 13, 17;
Midgley bt Heath 6, 13.
Final:
Robinson bt Midgley -18, 16, 14.
Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:
Black/P. Coyle (Lancs) bt J. Clifford/M. Lowe (Cleve) -17, 15, 13.
D. Gray (Cumbria)/I. Reed bt O'Connor/Rainford 18, 15.
Final:
Gray/Reed bt Black/Coyle 16, 12.
Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:
Mathie/G. Smith (Cumbria) bt Heath/Hemmings 19, 15.
Beadsley/Midgley bt Galloway/S. Worrall (Lincs) 6, 8.
Final:
Beadsley/Midgley bt Mathie/Smith 13, 19.

Letter to the Editor

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Having derived enjoyment from playing table tennis with some success over the past ten years or so I cannot help feeling just a little saddened with the game today.

Where are the modern day counterparts to the likes of "Connie" Warren, Chester Barnes, Alan Lindsay, Ralph Gunnion, Stuart Lennie and Stuart Gibbs? All were great players no longer in the limelight but with their departure from the competitive field so too has the entertainment and showmanship vanished. Only Denis Neale is left (bless him) to provide the entertainment value for the cash customers.

Please do not think I am knocking the top players of today with their stereotype style but surely there will come a time when the entertainers will return to put life and laughter back into the art once more.

PAT GLYNN.

2 Cherwell Court,
Garrard Gardens,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.

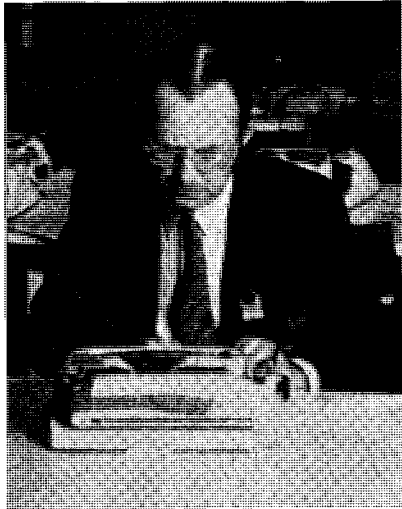
CLOTH CLUB BADGES

made to your own design — Low prices — Quick Delivery

S. A. CORY and COMPANY LIMITED

23A MILE END, BRANDON, SUFFOLK, IP27 0NX

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT



By THE EDITOR

DETAILED SCORES

Individual scores of the **European League** matches played on March 4 reveal that, in the **Premier Division**, only two sets were taken to a deciding game when Russia beat Hungary 7—0 in Moscow. In both cases it was Istvan Asztalos who proved difficult to shake off as Sarkis Sarkhoyan, in particular, and Anatoli Strokotov found. Scores:—

A. Strokotov b Takacz 18, 16;
S. Sarkhoyan bt I. Asztalos 16, -20, 20;
E. Antonian bt G. Kuchar 15, 14;
S. Gomozkov/Sarkhoyan bt Asztalos/J. Guttmayer 11, 10;
Sarkhoyan/Antonian bt Takacz/Kuchar 19, 18;
Strokotov bt Asztalos 17, -7, 14;
Sarkhoyan bt Takacz 6, 11.

Poland's two sets taken from Yugoslavia in Osijek were the two doubles in which Ryszard Czochanski and Zbigniew Fraczyk beat Dragutin Surbek and Anton Stipanovic and, in the mixed, Czochanski and Ewa Olek accounted for Stipanovic and Erzebet Palatinus both at 22-20 in the third! Scores:—

D. Surbek bt R. Czochanski 8, 15;
A. Stipanovic bt S. Fraczyk 20, 12;
E. Palatinus bt E. Olek 13, 11;
Stipanovic/Surbek lost to Czochanski/Z. Fraczyk -16, 14, -20;
Stipanovic/Palatinus lost to Czochanski/Olek -16, 13, -20;
Surbek bt S. Fraczyk -13, 15, 18;
Stipanovic bt Czochanski 17, 15

Milan Orlowski was the player that Czechoslovakia missed when beaten 6—1 by France in Pelhrimov and not Istvan Jonyer as wrongly stated in last month's issue.

Ireland in their final match in **Division 2 Group A** did well to beat Denmark 4—3 in Lisburn pulling back from a 0—2 deficit to take the next four sets for a decisive 4—2 lead. The one that really mattered was the mixed doubles in which Jim Langan and Karen Senior only just managed it over Claus Pedersen and Annie Larsen 25—23 in the decider. Scores:—

J. Langan lost to C. Pedersen 13, -14, -7;
T. Caffrey lost to N. Ramberg -14, -17;
K. Senior bt A. Larsen 13, 11;
Caffrey/Langan bt Pedersen/Ramberg 18, -20, 19;
Langan/Senior bt Pedersen/Larsen -11, 18, 23;
Langan bt Ramberg 6, 19;
Caffrey lost to Pedersen -13, -19.

FINAL TABLE — GROUP A

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
England	5	5	0	30	5	5
Netherlands	5	4	1	21	14	4
Denmark	5	2	3	19	16	2
Ireland	5	2	3	16	19	2
Belgium	5	2	3	12	23	2
Luxembourg	5	0	5	7	28	0

Federal Germany's 7—0 slaying of Austria in Innsbruck was clinical and clean, not one set going to three. Scores:—

H. Schluter lost to P. Stellweg -10, -18;
R. Weinmann lost to J. Leiss -19, -16;
R. Gerich lost to U. Hirschmuller -11, -6;
Schluter/Weinmann lost to Engel/Leiss -20, -20;
Schluter/Gerich lost to Engel/Hirschmuller -4, -15;
Schluter lost to Leiss -21, -18;
Weinmann lost to Stellweg -15, -19.

Details are still not to hand in respect of Italy's 4—3 win over Greece but the final table reads:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Fed. Germany	5	5	0	33	2	5
Bulgaria	5	4	1	23	12	4
Italy	5	3	2	16	19	3
Greece	5	2	3	15	20	2
Austria	5	1	4	12	23	1
Belgium	5	0	5	6	29	0

EUROPE CLUB CUP

GSTK Vjesnik of Zagreb, Yugoslavia took the men's team title of the **Europe Club Cup** competition when, in Zagreb on Mar. 6 they beat Sparta Praha, the holders, of Hungary, 5—1. Scores:—

D. Juric lost to P. Ovcarik -16, -18;
D. Surbek bt Karka 7, 8;
A. Stipanovic bt J. Kunz 16, -17, 18;
Surbek bt Ovcarik 9, -17, 17;
Juric bt Kunz -17, 18, 15;
Stipanovic bt Karka 3, 9.

Illness prevented Milan Orlowski from representing the Czech team but the win of Damir Juric over Jaroslav Kunz was a notable achievement. Vjesnik were previous winners in seasons 1972/73 and 1973/74, Ormesby's season of glory being in 1971/72.

Hungary's Statisztika Club of Budapest won the women's team title, beating the holders, Sparta Praha who relinquished a second title when going down, like their men, 1—5.

EUROPE FAIRS CITY CUP

Quarter-final ties in respect of the men's competition, due for completion by April 1, had the following clubs in opposition:—

Spartacus, Budapest v. Grun/Weiss, Bad Hamm Ganz Mavag, Budapest v. SSV Reutlingen
Boo Kfum, Stockholm v. VfL Osnabruck
1.FC Saarbrucken v. Meiderlicher TTC

By the same date the semi-final ties in the women's competition were also scheduled for completion. They were:—

Delta Lloyd, Amsterdam v. Olympia, Koblenz
Weiss-Rot-Weiss, Kleve v. DSC Duisburg-Kaiserberg

The finals will be played in Malta on June 12, 1976. Winners last season were — Men: Vasutas SC, Hungary. Women: 31 Epitok, Hungary.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPS

This season's European Youth Championships are to be played in Krems, Austria over the period July 10—18, 1976.

DUTCH CUP WINTER CIRCUIT

Bert van der Helm won the 1st Round of the **NTTB CUP** in Maastricht when, in his last set of a round robin involving 9 players, he beat Trevor Taylor -18, 15, 15, 13 to preserve a clean sheet. Finishing positions:—

	W	L
1. B. v.d. Helm (Deltalloyd)	8	0
2. T. Taylor (Tempo Team)	7	1
3. H. Hopman (Tempo)	6	2
4. N. v. Slobbe (Tempo)	5	3
5. R. Jens (J.C.V.)	4	4
6. H. v.d. Broek	3	5
7. H. Lingen (Korenbeurs)	2	6
8. K. Solka (J.C.V.)	1	7
9. H. v.d. Zee (J.C.V.)	0	8

Rene Hijne was a non-starter through injury. In the counterpart event for the **LIMBURG CUP**, 14-year-old Bettiene Vriesekoop shared a ratio of 8 wins to 1 loss with Sonja Heltzel who the youngster beat 14, 17, 15; her one loss being

to former English international Judy Williams who won 3—1.

Placings in the first series were:—

	W	L
1. B. Vriesekoop (Avanti)	8	1
2. S. Heltzel (Deltalloyd)	8	1
3. J. Williams (Deltalloyd)	7	2
4. M. Wagemakers (Tanaka)	5	4
5. M. Arntz (Tempo)	5	4
6. M. v.d. Vliet (Tempo)	4	5
7. J. Nitisusanta (Phoenix)	3	6
8. A. v. Moorst (Deltalloyd)	3	6
9. W. v.d. Helm-Kort (Deltalloyd)	2	7
10. J. Noordam (Tanaka)	0	9

FEDERAL GERMAN OPEN

Sweden's Kjell Johansson and Stellan Bengtsson carried off the men's team championship title in the 28th Federal German Open played in Hannover from Feb. 27-29 when, in the final they beat China 3—0. Scores:—

Bengtsson bt Li Te-yang 12, 16;
Johansson bt Wang Tsien-chiang 16, -15, 18;
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Li Te-yang/Wang Tsien-chiang 15, 11.

China won the women's team event with a 3—1 victory over Korea R.O. in the final. Scores:—

Chang Li bt Lee Ailesa 16, -18, 15;
Chu Hsiang-yun bt Chung Hyun Sook -13, 13, 14;
Chang Li/Chu Hsiang-yun lost to Lee/Sook -13, -23;

Chang Li bt Chung Hyun Sook 11, 12.
Korea R.O. ousted England 3—2 in Round 2 after a first round bye. Scores:—

D. Neale lost to Choi Sung Kuk 13, -13, -19;
D. Douglas bt Lee Sang Kuk 19, 16;
Douglas/Neale bt Choi Sung Kuk/Jii Yong Ok -20, 14, 17;

Douglas lost to Choi Sung Kuk 18, -16, -12;
Neale lost to Lee Sang Kuk 19, -19, 13.

In the counterpart women's event England had 3—0 wins over Luxembourg and Austria before falling, by a similar score, to China.

Scores:—

v. **Luxembourg**
C. Knight bt B. Krier 12, 6;
L. Howard bt J. Dom 10, 15;
J. Hammersley/Howard bt Dom/C. Risch 15, 4.

v. **Austria**
Knight bt J. Fetter 18, 12;
Hammersley bt R. Gerich 10, 8;
Hammersley/Howard bt Fetter/Gerich 9, 14.

v. **China**
Knight lost to Chang Li -18, -14;
Hammersley lost to Chu Hsiang-yun 17, -19, -4;
Hammersley/Howard lost to Chang Li/Chu Hsiang-yun -11, -14.

Johansson won the men's singles title beating Jacques Secretin of France who, in partnership with Patrick Birocheau and Claude Bergeret, took both the men's and mixed titles. Results:—

M.S. s-fs:
J. Secretin (Fr) bt D. Surbek (Yu) 20, 14, -7, 19;
K. Johansson (Sv) bt Fu Yung-shih (VC) 15, 10, -15, 13.

Final: Johansson bt Secretin 17, 19, 17.

W.S. s-fs:
Lee Ailesa (RK) bt China Li (VC) 14, 16, -15, 18;
Chung Hyun Sook (RK) bt Chu Hsiang-yun (VC) -14, 16, -23, 20, 19.

Final: Lee Ailesa bt Chung Hyun-sook 12, -20, 15, 19.

M.D: P. Birocheau (Fr)/Secretin bt P. Engel/J. Leiss (FD) 13, -16, 17, -20, 16.

W.D: Chang Li-Yang Ying (VC) bt Chung Hyun Sook/Lee Ailesa 15, 14, 13.

X.D: Secretin/C. Bergeret (Fr) bt Wang Tsien-chiang (VC)/Chang Li 23, 20, 3

Desmond Douglas after beating Pal Guttormsen of Norway (-16, 18, -15, 16, 9) was in turn beaten by Anton Stipanovic of Yugoslavia (-18, -20, -19). Nicky Jarvis fared similarly beating Orlando Sana of Spain (10, 14, 10) before losing (-18, -15, 20, 12, -19) to Milan Orlowski, the defending European title holder. Nicky held a lead 8-2 in the fifth but could not get home.

Denis Neale after beating Ferenc Timar of Hungary (-17, 17, -15, 15, 16) lost, disappointingly, to Peter Stellweg of the host nation (18, -17, -18, -16).

Jill Hammersley did all that was expected of her in reaching the quarter-final of the women's singles there to be beaten by Chu Hsiang-yun of China (-19, -12, -17). Her previous victims were

Daniela Cardinali of Italy, beaten 7, 14 and 6; Edit Wetzel (Fed. Germany) beaten -16, 8, 10, 5 and Lee Ki Won of Korea R.O. who went under 20, 19 and 17.

Carole Knight lost to Henriette Lotaller of Hungary (-18, -12, -16) in her first excursion to the table and Linda Howard after beating Montserrat Sanahuja of Spain (7, 9, 17), went down to Chang Li of China (-16, -10, -6). The Chinese girls would certainly appear to have more than an edge over the English women.

Neale and Douglas were partnered in the men's doubles but after beating Bert v.d. Helm and Nico v. Slobbe of the Netherlands (14, 21, 12) they succumbed to Peter Stellwag and Wilfried Lieck of Federal Germany (-18, -19, -18).

Jarvis was paired with none other than Ebby Schöler but, sad to relate, they took a first round departure losing (-23, -7, -18) to the Koreans Choi Sung Kuk and Jii Yong Ok.

Even more regrettable was the second round defeat of Jill and Linda in the women's doubles when they lost (18, 18, -17, -19, -23) to Ursula Hirschmuller and Kirsten Kruger of Fed. Germany after beating Carine Risch and Lea Zeimet of Luxembourg 7, 14 and 16 in the first round.

Carole had Ireland's Karen Senior as her partner but, after beating Czeslawa Noworyta and Anna Przygoda of Poland they fell to Maria Alexandru (Rumania) and Wiebke Hendriksen (FD) -21, 13, 16, -12, -14.

In the mixed Douglas and Linda started out well with a win (8, 16, 8) over Ingemar Vikström/Eva Strömvall of Sweden but then lost (-18, -16, -17) to Wang Tsien-chiang and Chang Li of China.

Jarvis and Jill met with an immediate rebuff when beaten (-19, 19, -15, -17) by Stellwag/Agnes Simon of Fed. Germany in Rd. 1 but Neale and Carol survived one round, beating Ryszard Czochanski/Przygoda of Poland, before going under (-13, 16, -22, -15) to the host nation's Lieck/Hendriksen.

CARIBBEAN ENCOUNTERS

Recently returned from a visit to the Caribbean Micky Thornhill, Sales Manager — Export of Dunlop Sports Co., came across a couple of TT enthusiasts who wish to be remembered to their many friends in English TT circles.

In Jamaica, Micky met O.B. 'Les' Haslam who is the National Coach to the Jamaican TTA. He is very enthusiastic about his work and has undoubtedly done a great deal to promote Table Tennis in Jamaica. He is ably and enthusiastically supported by their president Roy Hylton and during Micky's visit a weekend tournament was attended with an entry of well over 300 individual players including 69 in the boys' U-13 singles event illustrating the growth of popularity of the game in Jamaica.

"It was great to see 'Les' (writes Micky) not only acting as Captain to some of the boys but generally assisting in the running of the tournament, the organisation and the presentation of the finals was first class by anybody's standards. I certainly saw a number of very young promising players and perhaps all they now lack is International experience.

"In Bermuda I had the pleasure of meeting Maurice Bergyl who was a stalwart of the English International Teams just prior to and immediately after the last war and I believe one of his treasured memories is the fact that during an International match against Hungary he beat during one evening Barna, Szabados and Bellak. Some performance!

"Maurice like myself was a Middlesex man and in fact won the Middlesex Championships six times in succession. He hopes to be over here for the World Championships in 1977 and looks forward to meeting some of his old friends such as Ivor Montagu, Bill Vint, Nancy and Roy Evans and all the other enthusiasts from those days. Maurice is of course a member of the Swaythling Club and in fact attended the World Championships in Nagoya, Japan".

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

STOP PRESS

By virtue of their 6-4 victory over Essex, Cleveland won the Premier Division Championship.

Lancashire's first and only success in the Premier Division saved Essex from the possible drop and made Yorkshire go to the Senior Challenge matches at Shenley on April 24/25.

Final tables will be published next month, but latest results are:

Premier	5	Warwickshire	4
Surrey	4	Lancashire	5
Yorkshire	4	Cheshire	5
Middlesex	4	Cleveland	6
Essex	3		
2nd West			
Berkshire	7	Devon	3
Gwent	10	Cornwall	0
Wiltshire	4	Somerset	6
3rd North			
Cleveland III	6	Cheshire II	4
Cumbria	6	Northumberland II	4
3rd East			
Suffolk	8	Norfolk II	2
3rd West			
Worcestershire	7	Avon	3
Junior Premier			
Surrey	5	Cambridgeshire	5
Yorkshire	7	Kent	3
Berkshire	5	Middlesex	5
Essex	6	Cleveland	4
Junior 2nd South			
Essex II	5	Kent II	5
Hampshire	5	Surrey II	5
Sussex	6	Dorset	4
Junior 2nd North			
Cleveland II	6	Cheshire	4
Derbyshire	8	Northumberland	2
Yorkshire II	8	Lancashire	2
Durham	9	Cumbria	1
Junior 2nd Midland			
Cambridgeshire II	1	Leicestershire	9
Glamorgan	5	Northants	5
Warwickshire	6	Hertfordshire	4
Junior 3rd North			
Lincolnshire	9	Nottinghamshire	1

Veteran South			
Kent	3	Essex	6
Huntingdonshire	0	Hampshire	9
Oxfordshire	6	Essex II	3
Veteran Midland			
Cheshire	4	Nottinghamshire	5
Warwickshire	6	Staffordshire	3
Worcestershire	5	Clwyd	4

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

FIRST-TIME SUCCESS

It was a first-time success for **Desmond Douglas** in the men's singles event of the Norwich Union English Championships played at Stopsley Sports Centre, Luton over the period April 8/10, 1976. In the final Douglas beat Nicky Jarvis 18, 11, -18, 7.

Jill Hammersley won her fourth women's singles title in a row when she finally accounted for Linda Howard 19, 17, 14. The pair combined to beat Angela Tierney and Karen Witt in the women's doubles final 19, 11, 16.

Douglas and Denis Neale beat Jarvis and Paul Day in the final of the men's doubles (-14, -17, 11, 17, 13) and Douglas took his third title when, with Linda Howard, final victory was achieved over Jarvis and Jill Hammersley 19, 20, 14.

A full report with detailed scores will appear in the May issue.

ALAN HYDES JOINS DUNLOP SPORTS COMPANY

Table-tennis star Alan Hydes, 27, has joined Dunlop Sports Company as product manager — table tennis. Although associated with the Company for many years, his new position is full-time and it will include responsibility for the sales and marketing of Dunlop bats, balls and other table-tennis equipment.

FORTHCOMING TOURNAMENTS

May 8/9 The Birstow Eves Essex Open
Barking Sports Centre, Barking (side)
15/16 WORTHING JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL

APRIL/MAY ONLY - VERY SPECIAL OFFERS

DEFINITELY CLOSE MAY 31st

TABLE TENNIS SHIRTS (Navy, Royal, Green and Red)

Sizes available: Small and medium only.

Normally £1.65 each

Special Offer — £1.20 including V.A.T.

Plus postage

HANNO CONTINENTAL BATS (Erlich, Brook and Walczak)

Used by top Continental players

Special fast reverse sandwich 1½ or 2 mm.

Normally £11.50 each

Offer price — £6.50 each, including V.A.T.

Postage free

We now specialise in Badges, Ties and Trophies

Write for new catalogue

ALEC BROOK of A.D.B. (LONDON) LTD.

31 Ebury Street, Victoria, London, SW1W 0NZ.

Telephone: 01-730 0394 (5 lines)

2nd World Students Championships

by Derek Oldman

With all the championships and titles having now been decided the Table Tennis season in University circles is about over — but not quite. The news that the 2nd World Student Championships are to be staged by Israel during the first week of May came as something of a surprise particularly as members of FISU (World Student Organising Body) had thrown out the idea on political grounds when it was first mentioned last year. It is very gratifying to know that in our sport, as least, politics have not been allowed to interfere in a major sporting occasion.

The British Student Sports Association is the organising Authority at this end, and this means of course that not only is the event for University Students, but also for members of Polytechnics and Colleges likewise, the result of this being that the British Squad will be considerably stronger. Another FISU regulation allows one year down students to compete, i.e. those who ended their studies last July. As well as the usual individual tournaments there will be team competitions run on the lines of the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup events. The teams selected are as follows:—

MEN: Donald Parker (Loughborough Colleges and Lancashire); Alan Fletcher (St. Peters, Saltley and Yorkshire); John Fuller (Warwick University and Norfolk); Clement Lo (Bradford University).

As there appears to be a great doubt whether Clement Lo is eligible owing to his Hong Kong nationality, Peter Edon of Birmingham University and Durham is standing by ready to step up at a moment's notice.

WOMEN: Susan Lisle (Edgehill College and Cheshire); Karen Rogers (Leicester Polytechnic and Leicestershire); Janet Carr (Manchester University and Staffordshire).

In addition yours truly has been invited to accompany the teams as Manager.

The timing of the championships clashes with final examinations at many places and a notable absentee because of this, is the Scottish No. 1 Elaine Smith. However without Elaine the women still appear quite formidable.

At the time of writing fifteen countries have entered including Brazil and Mexico who are participating in both men's and women's events.

Back now to the domestic scene and we find that East Anglia have won the men's UAU team championship for the first time. In the final they beat Bath University 9-3 after surviving a tremendous battle with Sheffield in the Semi-Final. The final score was 8-7 with the fifteenth set being decided 21-18 in the 3rd. The other semi-final between Bath and Cardiff was even closer, again by 8-7 but this time 23-21 in the 3rd was the score in the 15th set.

With all the stars being evenly spread around, this year's Championship has been the closest I can remember. Indeed East Anglia's victory was entirely due to a team effort with no individual standing out above the rest.

Meanwhile the final stages of the Women's team event were held at Aberystwyth at the end of February and Nottingham took the title which had been held by Leeds during the past three years. In the final they beat University of Sussex after having defeated Birmingham in the Semi. The other beaten semi-finalist was Liverpool University.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

Congratulations to our two junior teams on their well-earned achievements in carrying off the Junior Premier Division and Junior North Division titles. There have also been fine performances from our juniors, particularly the boys, for the senior second second team, who finished runners-up in the Second Division (North). This latter achievement

has softened the blow of the first team's relegation somewhat, as it has made it possible for the county to participate in the challenge matches and hopefully to restore our Premier Division status. It will be bad news for the second team if the challenge fails, as the team would then have to drop down to the third division, where the opposition would hardly extend them.

The problem with the first team has been at No. 3, particularly in the vital matches against Warwickshire, Surrey and Lancashire, though Kevin Beadsley can look back on his Premier Division debut against Cheshire with satisfaction.

On the domestic front, a number of leagues have held their annual closed championships. In Leeds, Steve Hazelwood held on to his men's and boys' titles, beating Andy Metcalfe in the final of both events, but only just — in the men's final, Metcalfe had three match points. John Troughton, from Ferensby near Knaresborough, won the York men's title, beating ex-Kent man John Owen, now of Malton, in the final. Shocks in the Hull Closed men's singles, won by 15-year-old Joe Naser after he had ousted top seed Mike Harrison in the semis. In the later boys' singles final the result was reversed, Julie McLean took all four titles open to her, and Bill Devine made it 12 in a row in winning the veterans yet again. In Halifax, Kevin Beadsley retained his men's singles and doubles titles, beating his doubles partner Keith Guy in the men's final.

LEEDS

M.S. Semi-finals:
S. Hazelwood bt R. Hazelwood 14, -20, 12.
A. Metcalfe bt N. Davies 14, -22, 8.
Final: S. Hazelwood bt A. Metcalfe -20, 26, 17.
W.S.: Mrs. L. Simpson bt Miss L. Barras 18, -14, 11.
M.D.: R. & S. Hazelwood bt A. & B. Metcalfe -16, 8, 14.
X.D.: R. Hazelwood & Miss L. Barras bt N. Davies & Mrs. L. Simpson 21, -16, 19.
B.S.: S. Hazelwood bt A. Metcalfe -16, 16, 16.
G.S.: Miss C. Haworth bt Miss C. Ingram 9, 8.
V.S.: L. Browning bt G. Barras 10, 19.

YORK

M.S. Semi-finals:
J. Owen bt W. Hulmes 17, 7.
J. Troughton bt R. Lowery 20, 15.
Final: Troughton bt Owen -12, 18, 15.
W.S.: Miss J. Richardson bt Miss M. Bird 8, 18.
M.D.: J. Suchecki & G. Carr bt Troughton & G. Skaife -13, 21, 10.
X.D.: K. Bojars & Miss Bird bt Suchecki & Mrs. B. Norman 15, 16.
Inter S.: K. Hayes bt Miss Richardson 20, 17.
V.S.: J. D. Cram bt T. Adams -15, 20, 9.

HULL

M.S. Semi-finals:
J. Naser bt M. Harrison -16, 18, 18.
C. Boothby bt R. Storer 18, 19.
Final: Naser bt Boothby 17, 18.
W.S.: Miss J. McLean bt Miss C. Grayson 17, 11.
M.D.: D. N. Bartlett & C. Pollard bt Harrison & M. Anderton 16, 19.
W.D.: Miss McLean & Miss A. Kennedy bt Miss Grayson & Miss J. Kinnerley 7, -15, 14.
X.D.: Bartlett & Miss McLean bt Naser & Miss K. Wilson 24 19.
B.S.: Harrison bt Naser 20, -16, 17.
G.S.: Miss McLean bt Miss Wilson 15, 9.
V.S.: W. Devine bt P. Smith 18, 13.

HALIFAX

M.S. Semi-finals:
K. Guy bt D. Lamb.
K. Beadsley bt S. Milnes.
Final: Beadsley bt Guy 17, 11.
W.S.: Mrs. M. Morton bt Mrs. J. Bottomley -13, 12, 14.
M.D.: Beadsley & Guy bt Lamb & B. Dawson 15, 15.
W.D.: Mrs. B. Gee & Mrs. Bottomley bt Mrs. B. Beadsley & Miss B. Warne -10, 21, 15.
X.D.: A. Bottomley & Mrs. Gee bt D. Bottomley & Mrs. Bottomley 12, -19, 21.
Y.S.: D. Bottomley bt A. Bottomley -18, 19, 22.
V.S.: G. Kidd bt E. Walker 7, 14.

Final Yorkshire League results and positions will appear in the last Yorkshire Notes of the season. Don't forget the county annual dinner-dance on Friday, 7th May, at Horsforth Aire Leisure Centre. Tickets at £3.25 from Social Secretary Richard Scruton, 79 Kingsley Road, Harrogate, HG1 4RD. (Tel. 886406).

READING JUNIOR 'SELECT' OPEN

ANDY DISPLAYS PENMANSHIP

by Alan Dines

The reading Junior 2-Star 'Select' Open Championships were played on the week-end of Feb. 27/29 at Meadway Sports Centre, Reading. The Championships were organised by I.M.P.A.C.T. (Institute of Match Play And Coaching Technics)

in conjunction with Reading and District T.T.A. and the Organising Committee again successfully staged the 11 events for which 330 players competed. The £200 prize money and Papermate pens for all finalists were donated by Gillette Industries Limited.

RESULTS

JUNIOR BOYS' SINGLES

Quarter-Finals
A. Barden (N. Middx.) bt D. Reeves (Newbury) 14, 12.
D. Newman (Chelmsford) bt C. Sewell (Bristol) 19, 20.
M. Shuttle (Thames Valley) bt S. Hazlewood (Leeds) 13, 16.
D. Johnson (Birmingham) bt J. Proffitt (N. Middx) 11, 16.
Semi-Finals:
Barden bt Newman 11, 13.
Shuttle bt Johnson 19, 12.

Final:
Barden bt Shuttle 19, 16.

JUNIOR GIRLS' SINGLES

Quarter-Finals:
C. Verachtart (Belgium) bt M. Lüdi (Bradford) 16, 11.
J. Williams (Ormesby) bt J. McLean (Hull) 14, -13, 20.
K. Witt (Reading) bt S. Jones (Wolverhampton) 17, -18, 12.
A. Mitchell (N. Middx) bt E. Lamb (Plymouth) 11, 19.
Semi-Finals:
Verachtart bt Williams -16, 12, 14.
Mitchell bt Witt 19, -19, 17.

Final:
Mitchell bt Verachtart 17, 16.

JUNIOR BOYS' DOUBLES — Final:

Barden/K. Paxton (Sunderland) bt Sewell/Johnson 12, 17.

JUNIOR GIRLS' DOUBLES — Final:

Verachtart/C. D'Hondt (Belgium) bt A. Gordon (Reading) & J. Purslow (Reading) 16, 11.

JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES — Final:

Barden/Mitchell bt A. Proffitt (N. Middx)/Lüdi 17, 18.

CADET BOYS' SINGLES

Quarter-Finals:
D. Leroy (Belgium) bt R. Bergemann (B'mouth) 9, 7.
A. Proffitt bt C. Wilson (B'mouth) 10, -10, 16.
A. O'Connor (Liverpool) bt N. Stratton (Harrow) -21, 12, 17.
G. Sandley (N. Middx) bt M. Laird (Ormesby) 7, 10.

Semi-Finals:
Leroy bt Proffitt 14, 8.
Sandley bt O'Connor 9, -17, 17.

Final:
Leroy bt Sandley 20, -10, 18.

CADET GIRLS' SINGLES

Quarter-Finals:
H. Robinson (Ormesby) bt L. Garbett (Thames Valley) 18, 20.
M. Reeves (N. Acton) bt N. Pine (Plymouth) 12, -9, 14.
M. Smith (Newbury) bt S. Midgley (Bradford) 8, 16.
Gordon bt E. Bolton (Gravesend) 19, 13.

Semi-Finals:
Robinson bt Reeves 14, -16, 15.
Smith bt Gordon 18, 10.

Final:
Smith bt Robinson 4, 18.

CADET BOYS' DOUBLES — Final:

I. Reed/D. Gray (Millom) bt Wilson/O'Connor 19, -14, 17.

CADET GIRLS' DOUBLES — Final:

Smith/G. Heath (Newbury) bt H. Williams (N. Middx)/Reeves 19, -13, 20.

BOYS UNDER-11 SINGLES

Semi-Finals:
A. Dixon (Walsall) bt D. Sharpe (Luton) 14, 13.
S. Palmer (Bury St. Edmunds) bt G. Russell (Guildford) 17, 9.

Final:
Dixon bt Palmer 17, 16.

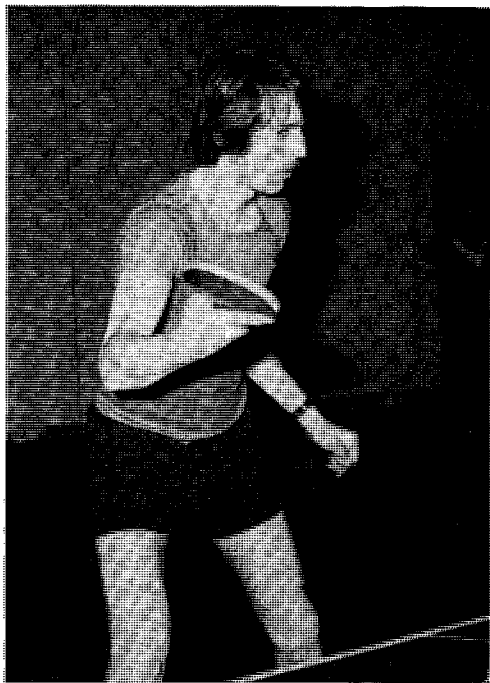
GIRLS' UNDER-11 SINGLES

Semi-Finals:
B. Lippens (Belgium) bt J. Marsh (Gravesend) 6, 1.
S. Cresswell (Guildford) bt L. Green (Reading) 5, 7.

Final:
Lippens bt Cresswell 17, 10.

HEAPS OF TALENT

by Ruddy Otter of the Post Office
'Courier'



Simon Heaps, a rangy 20-year-old postman from Reading HPO, won the men's singles final of the national Civil Service table tennis tournament after a great fight at King Edward Building, London recently.

Heaps, a former England junior star, European cadet champion and junior international, needed all his skill and cunning to outwit THQ's Henry Buist, who took the first game of the all-Office final 21-16. Heaps, slipping and sliding around the floor, pipped the second by a nail-biting 19, and finished the exciting decider 21-16 ahead.

"How do I feel about winning the title?" he told Table Tennis News. "Well, it's much better than losing! I play almost every night of the week".



Photos by courtesy of the Post Office

Earlier, in the two semi-finals, Heaps hammered John Dabin of London Telephones' City Area 16, 13, and Buist beat C. Strathearn of DHSS 22, 19.

Another Post Office victory was in the mixed doubles final, when the devastating Dabin and nimble Marie Know (Telecomms Headquarters), a former Post Office personality girl, hammered the holders F. Murphy and B. Clayton 14, 16. A few weeks previously, Dabin and Know won the Post Office mixed doubles title.

Post Office losers included London Postal Region's Alan Carroll who was beaten by the Department of Employment's F. Murphy 21-9, 21-18 in the veterans' singles final, and LPR's Margaret Cherry who lost to Ministry of Defence's B. Clayton -8, -10 in the women's singles final.

Cherry and Know were beaten by Employment's J. Ralphs and C. Davies -18 and -20 in the women's doubles final.

In the men's doubles final, Buist and Murphy beat LPR's Stuart Gibbs and Cabinet Office's Len Adams 16, -25, 13.

CONTROVERSY

by

JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
'The Daily Telegraph'

Occasionally I am completely mystified by a situation. Currently, the biggest mystery in my notebook is item No. 13 on the E.T.T.A. Information Bulletin No. 5. This concerns Open Tournament facilities being rejected by a local council because in the last three hours of the day's play, only one table is in use for the finals session! This decision is so incredibly stupid that it would bring a smile to the face of almost anyone inside table tennis.

It exposes a complete lack of understanding not only of table tennis but of sport in general. But, I can understand to some extent, the thinking behind the move and it is one of the bugbears of the sports centre situation where every square metre has if possible to be used for as long as possible for economic reasons.

Very careful handling is needed by the organiser of the tournament to avoid making the local council representatives feel two inches high when common sense finally breaks through. The way I would suggest handling it is to ask them to compare the situation with The All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon. The situation is virtually identical and is always on our television screens as proof. Towards the end of the Wimbledon fortnight play is gradually drawn in towards the Centre Court and Courts 1 and 2, finally the most important and last matches are played only on that Centre Court. Now, if anyone is incapable of understanding that tennis and table tennis and other sports have this in common, then I give up!

Yet another comparison could be made with the Cup Final at Wembley. As we all know, hundreds of grounds in every corner of the country are used in the earlier stages. At the end, the final is played at Wembley. So how anyone can fail to understand that tennis and football finals end at Wimbledon and Wembley and that our big events terminate in an identical manner, I really cannot imagine.

But, there is a lesson here for tournament organisers, especially those operating at sports centres. I was at a tournament recently at a sports centre that was running late. As the tables were deleted, so badminton nets were erected in the wide open spaces and in the end, several games had to be finished in a smaller hall. The lesson is, do not try and run too many events. Fortunately, in junior tournaments the introduction of cadets has meant the elimination of one junior age group. I would also advocate a restriction in the number of events that youngsters are permitted to enter.

Four should be the maximum. Too much physical punishment is involved when a youngster is involved in as many as six events. Up-and-coming lads and lassies should not fail in four out of six finals as I witnessed last month, through running out of steam.

Now for the bouquet of the month. This goes to the Norwich and District Table Tennis League for their organisation at the Lads Club on 4th March of the England v Netherlands European League match. The size of the hall, capacity around 500 was excellent. Almost every seat taken, clearly great support from the local players, superb lighting which I understand results from big boxing promotions. The only thing that almost went wrong was that there was no private telephone for the use of the national press. But fortunately, there was a public line in a reasonably isolated corner that enabled Fleet Street to receive their reports and results within two minutes of the match finishing. Organisers of international matches for next season, please put this high on your list of priorities!

NEW GLOUCESTER GEN

by John Cooper

REDUCTION PROPOSED

Gloucestershire, now much reduced in size since the formation of Avon, still has to travel far in pursuit of County Championship matches. At today's cost this is an expensive item when the number making up the team demands the necessity of two cars. Accordingly the County propose that the composition of all Junior teams next season should be reduced to 3 boys and 1 girl. Any views?

The County Closed championships were decided as follows:—

- M.S: W. Dawe bt D. Harvey 19, -12, 22
- W.S: J. Golding bt S. Mathews
- M.D: Harvey/S. Moreman bt Dawe/S. Griffin
- W.D: S. Giles/Golding bt J. Hall/K. Robb
- X.D: Moreman/Mathews bt Dawe/Giles
- V.S: B. Merrett bt S. Ewens
- B.S: A. Vale bt M. Hodgetts
- G.S: V. Cruwys bt Robb
- J.D: Cruwys/G. Greening bt A. Golding/Giles
- U-14 BS: A. Golding bt D. Morgan
- U-14 GS: S. Giles bt J. Phillips

These championships were a financial success due to a various combination of beneficial factors which may not recur and it would be nice to know that we could follow other counties who manage to get sponsorship.

Cheltenham, in the Midlands League are still unbeaten having obtained 4 wins and 2 draws. Most recent success was 8-2 against Stroud. Cheltenham also played Stroud in the local Warner Shield and won 9-1. In the County Junior League Cheltenham's U-14 boys also had a good win 9-1 over Stroud.

Stroud, however, showed their strength in the U-17 girls by holding Cheltenham's girls to a draw thanks to fine effort by Susan Giles. Stroud also losing 0-9 to Plymouth, Jean Golding gave Elaine Lamb a close fight. In my haste in a previous month, I was a bit brief and curt about Stroud and hereby tender my apologies. However I am open to a take-over bid if there are any volunteers.

Gloucester Vets beat Derby 9-1 and Oxford 7-3 but Gloucester's boys lost 1-9 to Birmingham "A".

CLUB BADGES

- * Attractive Cloth Badges, made to your own design, in any quantity from 10 upwards.
- * Suitable for Blazers, Sweaters, etc.
- * LOW PRICES AND QUICK DELIVERY

S. A. CORY & CO. LTD.

23a Mile End, Brandon, Suffolk,
IP27 0NX

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Moss

YOUNGEST-EVER WINNER

The County Closed senior championships were played at Abbey Stadium, Redditch on Feb. 22. Ten tables were in use, the results being:—

M.S: S. Claxton bt R. Brown 22, 16
W.S: Mrs. J. Lloyd bt Miss J. Hunt -16, 12, 10
M.D: Brown/Claxton bt D. Baddeley/N.
Bottomley 17, 19
W.D: Hunt/Lloyd bt Miss J. Foley/Miss J. Watte
-16, 19, 18
X.D: Baddeley/Hunt bt A. Oakley/Mrs. B.
Shammon 15, 20
VMS: J. E. Smith bt B. Belcher 19, 18
VWS: Shammon bt Mrs. D. Moss 16, 15
V.D: Belcher/M. Wood bt D. Buston/D. Reynolds
9, 16

Simon Claxton, at 17 years of age, became the youngest player ever to win the County MS championship. Earlier in the season he had won the Junior singles title, Bob Brown, the losing finalist, had won this singles championship for the past three years. The best table tennis and the most exciting match of championships came in the clash between Brown and John Cane (Dudley). There were three 'deuce' games with Brown just scraping home.

Joyce Lloyd continues to dominate in the women's singles. She again beat Janet Hunt in the final after losing the first game. Janet was the only player to be in three finals, being successful in the women's and mixed doubles.

There was an excellent performance from John Smith (Worcester), who plays at No. 3 for the County Veterans' team, to win the Veterans' singles championship. He beat Mervyn Wood (County II team) and then Brian Belcher (County I team) in the final.

The County first team concluded their programme with a very good 8—2 win over Gwent at Newport. The results of Devon's last two matches against Wiltshire and Berkshire are awaited to see which team will be runners-up in Div. 2 (West). Worcs, first team men each had good performances in singles events throughout the season their records being:—

	P	W	L
B. Belcher	12	10	2
S. Claxton	12	9	3
R. Brown	12	8	4

In the County League Div. 1 the Worcester and Halesowen teams are both unbeaten. The result of their clash is likely to decide the championship. In the Mixed Division, Worcester Civil Service are still unbeaten and have one match, against Kidderminster, to play.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

FIRST DEFEAT FOR WEST WILTS

Poole, who have had a far better season than last, did well to beat Plymouth 6—3 although it must be appreciated that the Devon team did not have the services of their top players Keith James and Bob Parkins, in fact both sides had young players. Graham Hill, Neville Thorley and John Robinson did well for the home team each obtaining 2 wins while Maurice Birrell won two and Mike Shearman one for Plymouth.

At last West Wilts have lost their first match, against Newbury at Trowbridge 2—7. For the Wiltshire team 16-years-old Kevin Edwards, who has had an excellent season, beat Simon Heaps but "blew up" against David Wise and could only offer token resistance against David Reeves. Maybe it was the County match the night before at

Newport against Gwent that caught up with him.

Bob Murray certainly did well to beat Wise but went down to Heaps and Reeves as did Roy Smith who also lost to Wise. The pair had no answer to the 'loop' of Heaps.

Exmouth, still unbeaten, extended their run by beating Bournemouth 6—3 the visitors providing the "man-of-the-match" in Trevor Smith who accounted for Mike Rattue, Paul Stone and Paddy Shephard. Neither Cyril Bush nor Steve Wilson were able to claim a win.

Next away to Newport, the bottom league, Exmouth were contained to no more than a 5—4 win. John Bloomer was the star for the home team with wins over Rattue and Shephard, losing only to Paul Stone who claimed a treble for the visitors whose recognised No. 1 Rattue obtained the other two.

Now that West Wilts have lost their first match much will hang on the result between them and Exmouth for should the latter win the championship title will be theirs.

Leading positions:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Exmouth	7	7	0	44	19	14
West Wilts	5	4	1	29	16	8
Newbury	5	4	1	28	17	8
Poole	7	3	4	27	36	6

In the Women's section it came as a shock to receive from Kay Waters, at this late stage of the season, the withdrawal of Salisbury. I certainly appreciate her problem but with the promise of extra players for next season, I look forward to their re-entry.

I might point out that when fixing fixtures occasionally there have been delays by visiting teams in replying which results in 'lost' venues that have been provisionally booked. It is not always possible to confirm by return of post, but there is an urgency in notifying acceptance.

Newbury "A", at home to Devizes, won 7—2 with Alison Boyce, the Wiltshire No. 1, being the only stumbling block to the Berkshire girls beating Carol Houghton and Jackie Godwin. Caroline Reeves was on top form being quite 'untouchable'. Young Kenwyn Hazell had hard luck in her set with Mrs. Godwin losing -19 in the third, while Helen Rusby went to -18 in the third against the same opponent.

Bournemouth, at home to Newbury "B", also produced a 7-2 result in their favour, Jean Smith taking the place of Janet New for the homesters played well losing only to Mandy Smith, -18 in the 3rd, beating Joyce Taylor and Carol Rogers. Mandy Smith, for the visitors beat Julie Reading, but Bournemouth's Joyce Coop won all her three. For Newbury, Carol Rogers tried hard to add to Mandy's two wins but Joyce Taylor was below par and played poorly.

Once again the title will depend on the outcome of the match between Newbury "A" and Bournemouth as it did last season. The match is scheduled to be played in Bournemouth. Leading positions:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury 'A'	3	3	0	25	2	6
Bournemouth	3	3	0	23	4	6
Swindon	3	2	1	13	14	4
Newbury 'B'	3	1	2	11	16	2

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

100% RECORD

Leicestershire concluded their fixtures in the 2nd Division (Midland) by beating Glamorgan 6-4 to complete their season with a 100% record. By dropping four sets Leicestershire dropped more than they had dropped in all their preceding matches added together but there were two reasons. One was the eleventh-hour absence of Maurice Newman, a 'flu victim. His deputy Philip Smith played magnificently in beating Micky Owens, so fortunately the absence of one of Leicestershire's keenest players was not as bad as it might have been. The second — and main — reason the county lost four sets was the magnificent display by Alan Griffiths who gave the best performance against Leicestershire for many seasons. He hit superbly, looked one of the fittest

players to visit us for some time and showed a superb temperament when the chips were down. His wins over Paul Randell and Chris Rogers were the first (and last) they suffered in the 2nd Division this season and he then went on to play equally well in the Men's Doubles which brought another victory to Glamorgan. Davies beat Smith to bring Glamorgan's other win.

The Juniors continue to play well and their draw with Hertfordshire was very satisfactory. David Gannon lost his first set of the season, but as expected, Rogers kept up his 100% record.

The Veterans travelled to Rhyl to play Clwyd but all they could manage was two sets. Philip Overend won one whilst Bryan Hall and Glenys Odams kept up their 100% Mixed Doubles record this season.

The Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy — one of the big social occasions of the local calendar — was won by Yvonne Hall who thus reversed her defeat in the final last season by Barbara Holt.

In the Loughborough League Championships, Brian Mayfield defeated Philip Smith in a final which tended to be dominated by the defensive skills of Mayfield. Smith, however was successful in winning the Intermediate Singles where he beat Steven Kenney in a three game final and paired with Kenney to take the Men's Doubles. For Kenney it was a very successful day. Besides the Men's Doubles, he also won the Boys' Doubles (with Steven Day) and the Junior Singles (where he triumphed over Day), Bruce Johnson and Karen Mayfield won the Mixed title whilst Rosemary North retained her Women's Singles title with a victory in the final over Carol Percival.

John Wilkins became Veterans Singles Champion when he got the better of Dick Johnson who had earlier had an excellent win over Brian Mayfield. The third member of the Johnson family to be involved in a final was Glenn, who beat Trevor Kerslake in the Under-15 Singles. It was a splendid game and both players look destined to go a long way in the game.

The Rose Johnson Bowl has now reached the final stage and two young teams will be contesting the final. One is last season's winners, Jones and Shipman and the other team is Loughborough.

All in all it has been a pretty good season for Leicestershire — a successful challenge for the Premier Division would really put the icing on the cake!

'Town & Country' Leicestershire Closed Results

M.S: P. Randell bt M. Newman 13, 14.
M. D. Randell/Iliffe bt Newman/Haines 8, 12.
W.S: Mrs. Glenys Odams bt Miss Gillian
Sinkinson 10, 18.
W.D: Mrs. Shaler/Miss Brown bt Mrs. Odams/
Miss Want 15, 15.
X.D: Truman/Mrs. Odams bt G. Hall/Mrs. Hall
18, 19.
B.S: Steven Kenney bt David Gannon 19, 14.
J.D: Day/Kenney bt S. Hall/K. Hall 15, 14
G.S: Jackie Want bt Yvonne Hall 22, -11, 15.
I.S: Grahame Hall bt Philip Smith 19, -18, 14.
U-14 S: Simon Hall bt Glenn Johnson 15, 15.
V.S: Philip Overend bt Harry Ward 10, 18.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan J. Cavell

TELFORD TOPICS

The most talked-of player in the Telford league this season is undoubtedly the diminutive 10-year-old David Lloyd. Playing with his 13-year-old brother Paul and the brothers Keith and Paul Ryder, aged 13 and 12 respectively, he has gained the best record in Division 4 and his team Albrighton "F" has topped the division.

In the final of the boys' junior event of the Telford Closed tournament he had a remarkable win over the holder, 17-year-old Geoffrey Clibborn who plays for Albrighton "C", the top team in Div. 2. The score -17, 21, 27 reflects the tenseness of the struggle: the standard of play was very high. David Lloyd is probably the youngest of the many promising and talented juniors now playing in Shropshire and I predict a great future for him.

The secretary of the Telford TTA, Graham Finch, has presented a trophy for the best schools

team in the league. This has been won by the Grammar/High 'A' team, consisting of Nicholas Charnley, Graham Siddle and Andrew Sneade. These young players have also rapidly improved during the last few months.

Mrs. Gwen Charnley has now taken over the organisation of the Telford Schools' tournament: the age groups have been changed, the U-11 events have been separated from the main tournament and will be held at the Grammar/High school. The main tournament, for which over 200 entries have been received will be held at the Wrekin Youth Centre. The Telford TTA is again assisting this tournament with finance and helpers.

Mrs. Charnley's efforts to organise and popularise table tennis in Telford schools have been very successful. The enthusiasm of the pupils for table tennis and the quality of the table tennis equipment at the schools she is associated with, New College and the Grammar/High, are both very high.

At the Telford Closed tournament David Gray from R.A.F. Cosford retained the men's singles title by beating Tony Horobin and then combined with him to take the men's doubles title. Mrs. Susan Shield, the ex-Staffordshire county player and seven times winner of the Wolverhampton women's title before her marriage, competed for the Telford title for the first time.

She won the women's singles title by beating another newcomer, Mrs. Pat Willcocks from Wycombe, in the final. Both finalists in the junior girls, a new event, were from the Grammar/High school. Vicki Bale beat Jane Felton. Reg Smith from Albrighton won the veterans' singles.

The Droitwich building firm, Harrison Development, which is now building in the Telford area, has generously offered sponsorship to the Telford TTA. This Association has been pursuing a progressive expansionist policy over the last few years and this additional financial support is most welcome.

Substantial sponsorship has again been given to the Albrighton TTC by Sheba World Travel. This club has now been in existence 21 years and two of its former members, Esme and Alan Cavell, are still very active. Esme Cavell has served continuously as its honorary secretary since its inception in 1955 and Alan Cavell has been the club's coach for much of that time and the club's treasurer since 1959. The premises which the club bought just twelve months ago have now been completely redecorated and refitted for table tennis. With a membership now standing at well over 100, and still increasing, the club is now the largest table tennis club in Shropshire.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

LUCKY FOR SOME

Saturday, March 13 proved to be a lucky day for the Northumberland County first team in their final match of the season at home to Nottinghamshire. All the disappointments of an indifferent season in Div. 2 (North) were swept away by an emphatic 8-2 win in this vital relegation decider, although it must be said that Nottinghamshire were without their No. 1, Alan Croome. Ian Robertson (making a welcome return to his best form), Barbara Kearney and Phil Clark were all undefeated, while Andrew Clark and Alan Jones both failed to solve the problems created by Alf Saunders' anti-loop bat, although the set between Jones and Saunders did go to "expedite" at 11-18 in the third game.

Sadly, this match also marked the last appearance of Northumberland's No. 1 woman, Barbara Kearney, for at least some time, as she is due to leave for Australia sometime during April. There is no doubt that her departure will leave a tremendous gap in County table tennis circles, and her presence in the team will be greatly missed. I am sure that all players and officials will wish to join me in wishing her "bon voyage".

The second team did not have a fixture this month—their last match will be away to Cumbria on April 3rd—but the junior team lost an absorbing match at home to Lancashire Juniors earlier in the day by 4-6, after being 4-3 in the lead at one stage. Andrew Clark was again undefeated in two boys' singles encounters, which included a

win over Ian Smith, ranked at No. 13 in the England junior rankings. He was also successful in the boys' doubles with Glenn McCardle, while the other set was gained by Valerie Smith and Julie Hobson in the girls' doubles. There is no doubt that Byker Community Centre, with its new table and lighting, has proved an excellent new venue at reasonable cost for its allocated County matches.

Northumberland's venture into this season's Rose Bowl Competition turned out to be rather a disaster. A better performance must surely have been expected as for a change they had avoided the powerful North Yorkshire side in the draw and instead came up against new entrants Sunderland. However, in the match at Brian Mills Ltd., Sunderland, the Northumberland team of Pauline Jackson, Carol Little and Christine Joyce lost by the disappointing margin of 1-5 against Lynn Bainbridge, Brenda Murtaugh and Cynthia Mason (née Waite) of Sunderland, with Christine Joyce salvaging some of Northumberland's pride by winning the last set against Cynthia Mason.

The leading positions in the Northumberland League, as received on March 13th, are as follows: **Premier Division:** Briarside and Reyrolles 'A'. **Div. 1:** North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'B' and Byker C.C. 'C'. **Div. 2A:** St. George's 'A' and D.H.S.S. 'B'. **Div. 2B:** Prudhoe East Y.C. and Woodlands Park 'A'. **Div. 3A:** Newbiggin Hall and North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'D'. **Div. 3B:** Arden House and Telephones 'B'. **Div. 3C:** Postal Clerks 'C' and Maccabi 'A'. **Div. 4A:** D.H.S.S. 'E' and Thompson's. **Div. 4B:** Gosforth C.S. 'B' and Sterling Winthrop 'B'.

The Knock-out Cup has reached the quarter-final stage, and the draw is as follows: Telephones v. B.B.C. House; South Shields Y.M.C.A. v. Arden House; Tyne Dock v. Revac; Byker C.C. v. Spittal.

All trophies will be presented to the winners at the N.T.T.A. Annual Dinner Dance, which will again be held at Parrish's "Highlight Suite", Shields Road, Byker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Friday, 7th May, at 7-30 p.m. Tickets, price £3.75, are available from Bill McMaster, 11 Cochrane Park Ave., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 7. (Tel. 665559).

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

The County Championships, staged at Daventry this year, emphasized still further the emergence of the younger brigade, who promise a rosy future for the playing side of table tennis in Northamptonshire. As always Gary Alden and Anne Wallis were well to the fore, winning everything in sight, with the exception of the Mixed Doubles, in which that tried and trusted, and well nigh unbeatable combination of Connie Bane and Steve Lyon reigned supreme.

Gary Alden has come a long way in the last few years, and will travel still further, if he is able to sacrifice local honours, for more fertile fields of action. His Men's Singles Final with three times winner Rod Marchant, full of scintillating attacking play, shone like a jewel from the sombre confines of the Daventry Youth Centre, and the brilliance of both players deserved rather more than the sparse but appreciative audience, who remained to witness the beginning of a new era.

Anne Wallis is Alden's counterpart in the Ladies' sector, and although she too is young enough, and dedicated enough to improve, she has the misfortune to have younger sister Mandy waiting impatiently in the wings, not to mention the quietly motivated and highly successful Valerie Feakin. Perhaps Anne's resilience will enable her to weather the storm, and thereby not suffer the same fate as other potential County players of not so long ago, who were unable to counter similar family problems.

As anticipated Anne took the Ladies title, after Dorothy Marsh had ousted Connie Bane, before herself being summarily despatched by Valerie Feakin in the semi-final. Valerie, in her turn, could not get to grips with Anne in the final, her customary ice-cool composure deserting her when it was most required. Earlier Anne had done well to overcome her sister Mandy, who had previously gone down in the Junior Girls Singles to Valerie Feakin. However, putting these defeats

behind her, Mandy joined Anne, to take the Ladies Doubles, showing no mercy to Joyce Porter and Margaret Maltby, as the Wellingborough pair won with consummate ease.

Elsewhere it was Alden, all the way, and only age prevented him from taking the Veteran's Singles, won yet again by Colin Hogg in an interesting final with Cliff Bull (shades of Animal Farm), and the Under 14 Singles where the up and coming Keith Nicoll, definitely a threat on Alden's horizon, accounted for Tim Forster.

The tournament was capably and efficiently organised by Bob Samy, assisted by new County Umpires Secretary Roger Castle, who both did their utmost to overcome acoustic problems, which added to indifferent lighting, made playing conditions difficult for all except those players whose class shone through the gloom, and who eventually dominated the final exchanges.

From Daventry to Wellingborough, and although during the intervening four weeks, the light outside had improved, the same could not be said for conditions prevailing at Weavers' Sports Hall. For here, as daylight fades without, many a serious championship contender fades within, and even the cheerful efficiency of that most capable of tournament organisers — David Byrom, is unable to cast a glow over the proceedings. Maybe it was the inadequate lighting which caused the elimination of seven of the eight men's seeds before the semi-final stage was reached, but their early abdication was more likely caused by the dim sight of Gary Alden despatching a variety of victims on his way to his third major title in six weeks, for with the finals being staged under a bank of lights in contrast to the earlier presentation, few of the contenders could have relished a finals encounter with a player who now stands head and shoulders above everyone in the Wellingborough League. Under these circumstances, congratulations are extended to losing semi-finalists Mick Edwards and Mick Deacon, who fell heroically at the penultimate hurdle, and Rusden's John Sims, who went one stage further, before trying to beat Alden at his own game, went down with honours in what was almost certainly the quickest final on record, with the first game accounting for just 3 minutes 40 seconds of the nine minutes total playing time.

Alden was again the central figure of this tournament, taking the Junior Singles in a one-sided encounter with Mandy Wallis, breaking in a new partner Ken Nicoll (who played superbly), to win the Junior Doubles from Miss Wallis and Valerie Feakin, and finally reversing last season's result in the Men's Doubles, when after a close struggle had seemed imminent, he and Graham Feakin raced away in the third from veteran opponents and previous holders Terry Sutton and Dennis Millman. Sutton had earlier beaten his doubles partner in the final of the Veterans' Singles, to add the Wellingborough title to the Kettering one he had won earlier in the year from the same opposition.

In the Ladies events it was the Wallis family making a clean sweep as before, with Anne taking the Ladies Singles for the fourth time, after being made to struggle by sister Mandy, and the sisters getting together to take the doubles against Christine Price and Glennis Hooper. For the first time the Wellingborough Tournament included handicap events for each division, and sensibly these seemed to favour the less talented performers. The winners of these competitions, in descending order of seniority were Alan Hawes, Ken Nicoll, Bill Norman, Colin Ealey, Pankaj Jadedda, Helen Cottier and Steve Towler. These events were well supported and although a Mixed Doubles has also been suggested, upon reflection it would only have added to the laurels of the aforesaid Alden and Anne Wallis, who already have difficulty in accommodating their numerous trophies.

David Byrom, ably assisted by Arthur Palmer, produced the best of Wellingborough's many tournaments, but even he can have little influence on architects of Sports Halls up and down the country, who make no effort to produce adequate lighting for what they consider a minority sport. Let us hope that the 1977 World Championships influence future thinking along the right lines.

In the County League, Kettering clinched the title with a brilliant display against Daventry II. Needing an 8-3 win to secure an outright

victory the Kettering side of John Palmer, Terry Sutton, Dennis Millman, Anne Wallis and Keith Nicoll reeled off the first nine games, and although Brian De Hooghe pulled one back for Daventry it was too late. Ironically Daventry Firsts, who in their final game beat Northampton 8-3, had to play it without the services of Peter Edwards, the Daventry League Chairman, the man who has been instrumental in restoring the County League to its former status, and has high hopes of encouraging both Wellingborough and Northampton to treat it seriously next season.

Final League Table

	P	W	L	Pts
Kettering	4	4	0	36
Daventry I	4	3	1	33
Daventry II	4	2	2	17
Towcester	4	1	3	12
Northampton	4	0	4	12

Meanwhile the County representative sides have been producing improved results, with the First Team well to the fore. The team of Rod Marchant, Gary Alden, Steve Lyon, Anne Wallis and Connie Bane has found a remarkable balance, and added Hertfordshire to its scalps in the final match of the season, with contributions from all the players against strong opposition. This win puts the team in joint second place, and merits our congratulations to the players, and to Match Secretary Tom Tye, who has contributed much to the smooth running of all the County sides. The Cadet side has also covered itself with glory, but a small but lingering doubt persists with the Seconds and the Juniors, where too often some names are missing from the team sheets, particularly for away matches involving excessive travel.

On the League front the position is much clearer. Kettering Town 'A' has taken the Premier Division title at Kettering with three weeks of the season still remaining, while at Wellingborough, Rothborough 'A' are near certainties, with the runners-up position between Kettering Town and Compton Nomads 'A'. At Daventry BBC 'A' with Alan Print, John Print and Bob Samy, look likely to do the double for having already taken the cup by beating holders Staverton 'A' 5-4, they also lead in the league with an easy programme to come. Only at Northampton is there any doubt, but after a lean spell, it looks as if UTC 'A' will again take the honours.

CLEVELAND VIEW

By Alan Ransome

NEW EVENT

A new table tennis event, the Doyen Cleveland Championships, is to be held in the Town Hall, Middlesbrough, on May 9/76, co-sponsored by Doyen and Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department.

Open to all table tennis players in Cleveland, the Championships will be the biggest of its kind ever held in Britain and the total prize fund of £500, which has been contributed by Doyen, will ensure the entry of all Cleveland's International stars including Nicky Jarvis, Denis Neale, Jimmy Walker and Carole Knight.

The Championships have been brought about following negotiations between the Cleveland County T.T.A., Cleveland's Leisure and Amenities Department and Doyen (Consultants) Limited. It is the introduction of substantial commercial sponsorship into the world of local table tennis. In addition to the prize fund Doyen have donated the trophies for both the Men's and Women's singles.

Doyen are a Cleveland based firm that provide technical services and extend throughout the U.K.

Doyen staff are engaged at various engineering levels on Design, Manufacture, Construction and Commissioning in the Chemical, Pharmaceutical North Sea Oil, Iron and Steel, Machine Tool and Electrical Industries.

Mr. Des. Davies, the Managing Director of Doyen says "In awarding the two major trophies for an annual table tennis competition in Cleveland, and co-sponsoring this event with Cleveland Leisure and Amenities Department, the Company recognises the exceptionally high standard of Table Tennis that has been achieved in the area and hopes to encourage the younger players, who

have an extremely important contribution to make to the future of the sport".

Although the Championships will obviously attract all the County's cream, it is aimed at players of all levels.

Two new events have been introduced to encourage the rank-and-file members to participate. A Handicap Competition with a first prize of £25 is to be played for and in addition the County Leisure and Amenities Department have donated a trophy for an Inter-Borough Competition in which every participant will have the opportunity of scoring points for the district in which they reside.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

SHIRLEY TO THE RESCUE

Congratulations to Wolverhampton girls on their exciting 5-4 win over Lincoln in the quarter-final of the Bromfield Trophy, and particularly to Shirley Cain for winning through in the nerve-racking final decider -20, 22, 18. Star of the Wolves team was, of course, Stephanie Jones, who was unbeaten in her three sets, and Sue Watton contributed the other win. They have reached this stage by wins over Birmingham and Northampton, and even if the Trophy is not theirs this year, the team will be together for another year or two, and it must surely come their way before long.

The same girls took all the honours in the junior girls' events at the County Closed Championships, and Sue Watton showed her potential as well as a fine temperament in her junior final with Stephanie. Not many mature players, let alone juniors, would have given such a generous smile with an edge against them at "deuce". Potteries boys took the other junior titles, Peter Machin (Potteries) and Paul Drisley (Wolves) both conquering their tiredness to give a fine junior final. It was a long day for all, with 14 hours of play on ten tables for the 14 events and 390 entries. A fast and exciting men's final between Tony Isaac (Potteries) and Steve Rowe (Potteries) brought the day to a grand close.

On the night, Steve was a worthy winner, his calm and economical half-volley play controlling the game at the table, whilst Tony moved quite brilliantly at times to retrieve, defend and even attack from a distance. Trailing 9-16 in the first game, he fought back to level the score, but failed to unsettle Rowe who took it at 19. Isaac was always behind in the second, but he staged a grand rally to win three in a row at 20-16 before again losing -19. The women's final was also full of tension, but of a different kind. Stephanie Jones was not at all happy against the anti-loop bat and experience of Dot Deeley (W.Brom.), and despite her fine play earlier in the day she was unable to develop her fluent style and lost on two "deuces". Stan Deakin (Pott.) brought off the surprise of the day, beating seeded Brian Keates (Walsall), the County Captain, in the first round of the men's.

Results:

M.S: S. Rowe bt A. Isaac 19, 19
 W.S: D. Deeley bt S. Jones 20, 21
 M.D: Isaac/Rowe bt R. Dixon (Wolves/P. Eaton (W.Brom.) 13, 15
 W.D: Deeley/J. Alderton (Wolves) bt P. Harris/J. Russell (Walsall) 11, 6
 X.D: Isaac/Jones bt B. Keates/B. Eardley (Pott.) 12, 11
 B.S: P. Machin bt P. Draisey 19, 19
 G.S: Jones bt S. Watton 21, 15
 U-15 B.S: M. Evans (Pott.) bt E. Wilkes (Pott.) -18, 15, 20
 U-15 G.S: Watton bt S. Cain 19, 17
 J.D: Wilkes/Machin bt Draisey/A. Rich (Wolves) 20, -15, 20

Other winners were Reg Wain (Pott.)—Veterans and Men's Consolation, Steve Rowe—Intermediates, and Mrs. J. Wedge — Women's Consolation.

Staffs. "A" side had their first win against Warwicks. II in the County Championship, a close win, deuce in the third, by Steve Rowe in the final set giving them both points, the final score being 6-4. Tony Isaac contributed two wins, Janet Carr and Brian Keates one apiece and Isaac and Rowe won the men's doubles. Staffs. Juniors continued their winning way with another

crushing win, this time against Oxfordshire 10-0. They are obviously far too strong for the 3rd Division and without doubt can look forward to better competition next season. Staffs. "B" lost 2-8 to Clwyd, having been troubled by team selection problems which will have to be sorted out if they are to be re-entered next time.

Andrew Dixon (Wolves) is proving himself to be the top Under-11 in the country, his latest wins including both the Burford 2-star and top Junior 2-star Tournament at Reading. He has victories over several County No. 1's of the same age group. Stephanie Jones has also registered some good wins on the tournament circuit, including a win over the ranked Beverley Green, and Jim Hayward, our County coach, is confident that Stephanie will soon appear in the junior ranking list.

In the County League Division 1, West Brom. still have a 100% record and top the Division with Wolverhampton "A", Wolves "B" (Div. 2), Leek "A" and Walsall "C" (Div. 3), Stone "C" (Div. 4), and Wolves "D" and Darlaston "B" (Div. 5) are the other teams with unbeaten records. Darlaston appear to have overcome the team problems which dogged them in previous seasons and both their teams are doing well.

In the Potteries, Norton regained the Sentinel Cup in a final against Spode which contained most of the Staffs. County players. But star of the evening was Phil Anderson, who completed a hat-trick again Brian Keates, Adrian Higgs and John Riley in Norton's 5-2 win. Spode's victories came from Brian Keates who beat both Tony Isaac and Steve Rowe to upset the County form book completely.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

BEST EVER SEASON

A great finale by our County senior and junior teams both recording wins at the expense of Cambs II (7-3) and Essex III (6-4) respectively. In Div. 3 East, Hunts have finished with 6 points with two wins and having drawn two celebrated their best ever season. Against Cambs Alan Lamprell won both his singles, Tim Speller and Len Saywell once apiece, Jean Allinson took her fourth women's singles partnering Diane Bushby for a doubles success. Lamprell and D. Bushby kept their 100% record in mixed to complete the scoring.

The juniors, not to be outdone by their elders, beat Essex III, with Mark Fisher turning in his best performance to date winning both his singles. Stephen Fisher won a singles and partnered Leno Coppolero for a duo gain. Belinda Chamberlain was victorious in the girls' singles and with Melanie Ringrose kept their 100% record in doubles this term. Young Stuart Smith came in to take the 3rd boys' position and played well on debut without success.

Hunts Central Juniors, Stephen and Mark Fisher and Leno Coppolero have reached the zone final of the Carter Cup after defeating Milton Keynes 8-1. Central now meet North Herts. Against Milton Keynes, Stephen and Mark were unbeaten. The County Cadet teams suffered heavy defeats at the hands of Sussex (2-8) and Surrey (0-10). Again it was the girls, Melanie Ringrose and Julie Cundell who were responsible for the 2 points gained.

Two Leagues held their tournaments during the last month, the same players appearing on several occasions in both tournaments. Lamprell (men's singles), Belinda Chamberlain (women's singles), and Mark Fisher (junior boys) were winners in both the Hunts Central and St. Neots closed. A surprise win from 12-year-old Melanie Ringrose over Belinda at St. Neots in the final of the junior girls, but ample consolation for the latter taking 6 titles from the two tournaments. Stephen Fisher came from an unseeded position to contest, at St. Neots, the men's final. Results:—

HUNTS CENTRAL —

M.S: A. Lamprell (St. N) bt T. Speller (St. Ives)
 W.S: B. Chamberlain (St. N) bt D. Greenwood (St. Ives)
 B.S: M. Fisher (St. Ives) bt S. Fisher (St. Ives)
 G.S: Chamberlain bt R. Newman (Cambridge)
 V.S: G. Cockram (St. N) bt K. Green (N.C.I.)
 M.D: Cookram/Lamprell bt M. Byrd/M. Murden (Phones/St. Ives)

W.D: Chamberlain/M. Ringrose (St. Ives) bt Greenwood/P. Norman (St. Ives)
X.D: L. Saywell (St. N)/Chamberlain bt R. Pettitt/Newman (Camb)
Div. 1: I. Wylie (Monks Wood) bt M. Peacock (Montagu)
Div. 2: K. Chamberlain (Silent Channel) bt J. Timms (H.P.R.)
Div. 3: T. Bass (Wyton) bt E. Beeches (Wyton)
Div. 4: A. Orr (St. Ives) bt R. Wells (St. Ives)
Div. 5: T. Mansfield (Police) bt R. Harvey (Police)

ST. NEOTS

M.S: Lamprell bt S. Fisher 15, 16
W.S: Chamberlain bt B. Pace (St. N) 15, 13
B.S: M. Fisher bt S. Fisher -16, 18, 16
G.S: M. Ringrose bt Chamberlain -18, 13, 13
V.S: Cockram bt D. Harris 5, 17
M.D: Lamprell/Saywell bt M. Murden/A. Smith (St. Ives)
W.D: D. Bushby/B. Pace bt T. Albon/Chamberlain
X.D: Saywell/Chamberlain bt L. McGuigen/Pace
Div. 2: S. Evans (St. N) bt Ringrose

Melanie Ringrose competing in the Reading Junior Open reached the last 16 in the U-14 age group. In the latest South East Midland League matches St. Neots women beat Peterborough 8-2, Belinda Chamberlain (3) and two apiece from B. Pace and D. Bushby were the victors.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

MIXED FORTUNES

The County teams experienced mixed fortunes on March 13th, when the afternoon saw the chance of the championship of the Junior Premier slip away as a result of a 4-6 defeat by Yorkshire, and the evening witnessed a 7-2 win by the Seniors, again against Yorkshire, which leaves Surrey with an excellent chance of holding on to their premier status.

For the Juniors Martin Shuttle (2), Steve Boxall and Keith Seager, one each, were the successful and Suzanne Roebuck did well to take Melody Lüdi to -18 and -15.

The match between the Seniors was a spectacular affair and deserved a larger audience than the 50-odd spectators, an audience which would have been much larger if the usual reliable liaison between the Guildford League and the local Press had not broken down on this occasion. For Surrey Richard Yule was in top form, disposing of Alan Fletcher and, as usual, Tony Clayton, but the performance of the night was the two-win debut appearance of young Shuttle, against Stephen Hazelwood and Alan Fletcher. His 20, 21 win over Alan brought the audience to the edge of their seats. In the Women's set Linda Howard proved far too good for Melody Lüdi, and she and Yule joined to take the mixed from Hazelwood and Julie McLean.

Tournament time is with us again. I have news from the ever-reliable Bob Pearson of the Leatherhead and Epsom League, whose headline was that Jimmy Moore had failed to win the Men's Singles. Perhaps the banner should have stated that Ian Girdler beat Jimmy in the final 16, 9. The Women's title went to the greatly-improved Elaine Starr in a rather stilted manner over Gail McCulloch, and other winners were, respectively: Angie Bott and Jean Nicholson in the Women's doubles, Jimmy Moore in the Veterans', Chris Thorns and Mike Fisher in the Men's Doubles, Stephen Boxall in the Juniors, and Moore and Gail McCulloch in the Mixed.

Never mind, Jimmy, there is still the Guildford title to win before you hang up your bat, and you must be the favourite for that title. Guildford are one third of the way through their Tournaments, having separated the Juniors events, and picked about the coldest Sunday of the year for the occasion. There were no real surprises, except, perhaps that none of the organising committee expired from hypothermia, and because two or three finals have been left over to take place on the Sunday evening of the Senior weekend I will leave the roll call of winners until the next issue.

As communication across the County appears to be difficult, insofar as, with notable exceptions, very few leagues appear to be the slightest bit press conscious, I wonder whether an appeal for copy to players in Surrey who are amongst our

readers would bring me some news of what is going on outside Leatherhead and Guildford and Mick Kercher's Coaching Schemes? I can guarantee, at least, to get their names in print, and often to spell them correctly.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by Leslie Constable

ALL SET FOR CHALLENGE

In the County Championships Cambs have won the Eastern Division by virtue of their wins over Hertfordshire (8-2) and Bedfordshire (9-1). Herts. were completely destroyed in the first five sets by a superb team effort which saw every member of the team with at least one win to their credit. In the Beds. game Cambs. again were completely in command and won the first seven sets with their team of Paul Day, Keith Richardson and Mick Harper, supported by Sally Hirst and Valerie Scripps. The only set conceded was the Mixed which could have been won with a little more enterprising play! Cambs. are now all set for the Challenge matches and should again give a good account of themselves.

After fifteen matches without a win Cambs II finally made it 8-2 over Beds II at Luton. This win followed a creditable draw against Suffolk, but in a recent fixture against Hunts they lost 3-7, despite victories by Brian Jones, Geoff Davies and Brian Richardson. For the first time since 1971 all three women's sets were won against Beds and this was achieved by 16-year-old Vivienne Rowell from Wisbech and 15-year-old Joanne Palmer from Soham.

The Juniors were well beaten by Yorkshire in the Premier Division 10-0 but Cambs were without their three top players Day, Davies and Hubble. They again lost 4-6 to Kent but had Day been available this would surely have meant victories by Keith Richardson, Davies and Andy Withers, they could not quite make it. The second Junior team were beaten 10-0 by Warwickshire and consequently have only one point from four matches, which means that both Junior teams are in deep trouble.

In the South East Midlands League, Cambridge Men and Juniors have failed in their quest to gain promotion from Div. 2, and the Women also have failed in their bid to win their section, despite a brave attempt by Sally Hirst, Valerie Scripps and Janet Rodgers. It is pleasing to report that the Veterans have won their section with recent victories over R.A.F. (8-2) and Northampton (8-2). The victory over Northampton was very creditable as both teams had been running neck-and-neck for the whole of the season. Congratulations to the team of John Thurston, Ron Nunn and Ken Green.

Cambridge had a double success in the National League Championships when the women's team beat Cheshunt 6-0 in the Rose Bowl and the Girls beat North Herts 5-4 in the Bromfield Trophy. In the Women's match, played at the Cambridge Y.M.C.A., Sally Hirst, Valerie Scripps and Janet Rodgers each won two sets, although the home team was somewhat flattered by the score, with several 'deuce' games going their way. The Girls had a much closer match in their zone final at Letchworth, with North Herts taking the match to the final set before conceding defeat. Cambridge's match winner was Susan Ellis, who won her three sets, including the vital ninth when the score stood at 4-all, Carol Ellis and Ruth Newman gave good support with one win each and their quarter-final match will be against Reading.

Cambridge won the East Anglican League when they beat their closest rivals Dereham 7-3. Dereham fought hard to halt their opponents run of 8 consecutive wins, but the fine form of Harper, Sandra Harding and Sally Hirst, all of whom were unbeaten, saw Cambridge home. Albert Jackson was beaten for the first time in the League this season when he lost to Turner and Hardy, while Thurston was also beaten by Hardy. Cambridge previously won the League in the 1973/74 season and last season finished second to Norwich.

In Division 1 of the Cambs League, Soham I and N.C.I. I are still level top, both having dropped one point and the title looks like being decided in the last week of the season when the two teams meet again. In the top-of-the-table

clash in Div. 2, Telephones II thrashed Fisons 9-1 to go top on sets average, both teams having 27 points from 16 matches. Fisons are sadly missing Horace Saunders, suffering from Tennis Elbow, but should still gain promotion. Haverhill II have chalked up 15 consecutive wins in Div. 3a and are now the only team in the 8 divisions with a 100% record. Impington II are in second place, three points behind. Torchbearers II dropped their first point in Div. 3b when they drew with University III, but are four points clear of Fire Service, who are one point better than third-placed Melbourn II.

Grant Social Club and Press IV share the lead in Div. 4a, with Saffron Walden close up and these three teams are only only ones concerned in the promotion race. In Div. 4b Pye I still hold the lead, although dropping a point to Haverhill III, and, despite losing 4-6 to Sawston, Wesley Parkside I are in a comfortable second position. In Div. 5a N.C.I. III were surprisingly beaten for the first time by Pye IV and Telephones III lost at home to Wesley Parkside II, who, despite a disastrous start to the season, are chasing second position, thanks mainly to the efforts of Reg Goddard. L.P.A. (Saffron Walden) are the only unbeaten team in Div. 5b and should easily hold their position over runners-up Shire Hall to the end of the season.

In the Wisbech League, Institute head Div. 1 and look set for the title following a 7-3 defeat of Workers Club. Geoff Davies, Geoff Calvert, John Buck and Bob Littlechild can prepare the sideboard for a winner's medal for the second year.

Davies and Day shine at Kings Lynn

Davies and Day carried the Cambridgeshire flag with dignity and aplomb at the Fenland Open, with Davies breaking his "duck" by capturing the Boys' Singles title and thus becoming the first Wisbech player to win an open title in the history of the association. Davies gained creditable wins over England-ranked juniors Kevin Caldon in the semi-final, thus reversing the men's singles results, and Richard Jermyn in the final. Surely he must now be thought worthy of a mention in the England ranking lists? As ever, Day gave his usual competent performance, combining dedication to table tennis with similar concentration on his 'A' level Physics Textbook! In the Men's Singles, Day carried too many guns for John Fuller in the quarters and was too sharp for Ian Horsham in the semis. Alas the consistent heavy top-spin forehand of Nicky Jarvis proved too much for the Soham boy in the final.

Some consolation for Day as he and his victor combined to take the Men's Doubles title, with Cambridgeshire's Harper gaining Runners-up place in liaison with David Reeves. Special mention of Keith Richardson for extending Jarvis to 27-29 in the opening game; to Steve Palmer on a fine win over Caldon and to Pat Tingey on reaching the quarter-finals of the Girls' Singles.

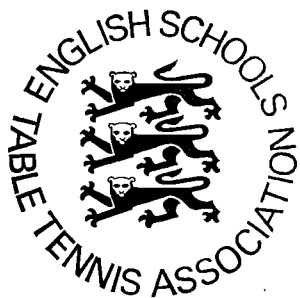
Davies was also in fine form in the Lloyds Bank National Championships played at Beckenham, lifting the Men's Singles title at his first attempt.

In the East Anglican League Wisbech has struggled, but with Jane and Joyce Hunter now regularly available, one looks for a more settled team to give Barry Wilson, Peter Laughlin and Derek Kiddle support. Paul Jackson has led the second team well all season and with support from Geoff Ward, Cyril Halstead, Arthur Rudd and Dianne Tooke, runners-up place seems a possibility.

Congratulations to Hereward School, March, on winning Area 9 of the English Schools Team Championships. Take a bow Robert Swift, Michael Jackman, Paul Stacey and Gary Jordan.

In the quarter-final match of the National Club Championship between Soham and Colebridge from the Birmingham League, played at King's School, Ely, the Midlands team were successful 7-2. Although Day beat Alan Fletcher and Paul Judd he could not make any impression on Desmond Douglas who won comfortably. With Richardson and Palmer losing all their sets, the result was never in doubt. The game was watched by nearly 400 spectators, who were a little disappointed that the Soham Club could not match their more illustrious rivals.

WANTED!!! U R G E N T!!! Umpires and Coaches.



NATIONAL SCHOOL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS 1976

by David Lomas

The climax of the tenth National School Team Championship Finals held at Lea Green, Matlock on Saturday Mar 20 was the winning of the U-19 Girls' event by local favourites Henry Fanshawe School, Dronfield.

The Derbyshire girls and Tolworth Girls' School, Surrey, both defeated holders Highfields School, Wolverhampton by 5-3 margins and then they drew 4-4 with each other, so a "sudden death" doubles was necessary. It couldn't have been a closer verdict. After nailbiting games which ended by 22-20 verdicts, the Henry Fanshawe pairing of sisters Mandy and Lindsey Mellor trailed 2-10 in the deciding game but fought back to win 21-18 over Elaine Starr and Susan Walker. The Surrey duo gave nothing away but lost point after point when Mandy Mellor dominated the game by using the "loop".

The match became the focal point for many of the spectators. No doubt the Chairman of the County Council, The Chairman of the Education Committee and the Director of Education, who were amongst the V.I.P.'s were hoping for a first-ever win by a Derbyshire team.

The new "county" of Surrey Metropolitan had some consolation when the "in-depth" team from Beverley Boys' School, New Malden won the U-19 Boys' event.

For the first time ever all seven titles were shared by seven different counties but even allowing for the end of Newham's domination of previous championships the "Essex" London Borough preserved their record of producing a winner in every championship since the E.S.T.T.A. inaugurated the competition in 1967. Their winners were Brampton Manor Comprehensive School, who successfully defended their Girls' U-13 crown.

Millom School also defended their Boys' U-16 title with success but their girls' U-16 team were no match for Highfields School, Wolverhampton, who also proved too strong for 1974 winners, Westlands High School, Sittingbourne. The Kent girls fielded the same team that began their unbeaten run when they won the U-11 event at Middletune Avenue Primary School in 1971.

Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone put the name of Kent County on the Boys' U-13 event for the first time whilst U11 winners St. Felix Middle School, Newmarket, became the third of Suffolk's first-time winners following Northgate G.S., Ipswich who won the Boys' U-19 title in 1973 and 1974.

Even if — according to one well-informed observer — the overall standard was slightly down on previous years, several of the players will undoubtedly be on the selectors' short-list for the International encounter against Scotland in Edinburgh at the end of June.

It was a most successful and enjoyable return to Lea Green thanks to the hospitality provided by the principal, Peter Townend, and his hard-working staff who had to cope with the influx of visitors.

E. S. T. T. A. Competitions Secretary, Eddie Mitchell, was the organiser and teamed up with Referee Ian Crickmer for the fifth successive year.

BOYS UNDER-19:

1. BEVERLEY BOYS, NEW MALDEN (Surrey)



Richard Rumbelow from Caistor Joint C.E./Methodist Primary School, Lincs., receives the President's Trophy from Mr. Gerald Gurney, President of the E.S.T.T.A.

Metropolitan) (Steven Boxall, Gary Stewart, Steven Critchley, David Hillson)

2. Moor Grange High, Leeds (West Yorkshire) (Stephen Hazelwood, Robert Hazelwood, Glenn Hinchcliffe, Glen Wainwright, Neil Wainwright)
3. Stoke-on-Trent VI Form College (Peter Machin, John Boumford, Nicholas Tunstall, John Simpson)

Moor Grange 6 Stoke 6th Form College 2
Beverley Boys 7 Stoke 6th Form College 1
Moor Grange 3 Beverley 5

Beverley's superior sets win over Stoke meant that they only needed a draw against Moor Grange and the Beverley No. 4, David Hillson pulled off two fine wins and Stephen Boxall (Group "A") took England Junior No. 8, Stephen Hazelwood to three games. John Simpson was Stoke's only winner.

The Norman Cook Cup was presented by England No. 2, Nicky Jarvis, who led St. Mary's College, Middlesbrough to victory in this event in 1972.

GIRLS UNDER-19:

1. HENRY FANSHAW, DRONFIELD (Derbyshire) (Mandy Mellor, Lindsey Mellor, Wendy Brown, Allyson Siddall)
2. Tolworth Girls, Tolworth (Surrey Metropolitan) (Elaine Starr, Susan Walker, Jane Redford, Jane Grove)
3. Highfields, Wolverhampton (West Midlands) (Rosamund Hodgkiss, Janine Alderton, Frances Carr, Elizabeth Ford, Alyson Griffiths)

Highfields 3 Tolworth 5
Henry Fanshawe 5 Highfields 3
Tolworth 4 Henry Fanshawe 4

Mandy Mellor was unbeaten for Henry Fan-



Beverley Boys' School, New Malden, who received the Norman Cook Cup from Nicky Jarvis for winning the Boys' Under-19 event.



Stiga Marketing Executive, Martin Foulser, presents the "Stiga Trophy" to Allyson Siddall of Henry Fanshawe School, Dronfield.

shawe with Wendy Brown scoring a good win over Alyson Griffiths who replaced Highfields No. 4, Elizabeth Ford in their second match. In the "crunch" draw each of the Tolworth girls won one set. And then came that doubles!

Councillor G. C. Coleman, Chairman of Derbyshire County Council, presented the Claud Kitchenside Cup and plaques.

BOYS UNDER-16:

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
(Christopher Reed, Neil Smith, Ian Reed, Diccon Gray)
2. Trinity, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
Stephen Low, Leon Smith, Ronnie Turner, Mark Nightingale)
3. Woodlands Comprehensive, Coventry (West Midlands)
(David Ward, Chris Hughes, Gerald Taylor, Steven Cadden)

Woodlands 3 Trinity 5
Millom 6 Woodlands 2
Trinity 3 Millom 5

England-ranked Junior Chris Reed was unbeaten for Millom although Woodlands' No. 1 David Ward took a game off him. All four Millom players had previously been members of a national champions' team.

Mr. C. W. Phillips, Derbyshire Director of Education presented the Leach-Carrington Cup.

GIRLS UNDER-16:

1. HIGHFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON (West Midlands)
(Stephanie Jones, Suzanne Watton, Shirley Cain, Joanne Chubb)
2. Westlands High, Sittingbourne (Kent County)
(Diane Collar, Maureen Clout, Valerie Clout, Karen Holtam)



All smiles from Under-19 Girls' winners, Henry Fanshawe, Dronfield, as they receive the Claude Kitchenside Cup from Councillor G. C. Coleman, Chairman of Derbyshire County Council. (Left to right: Mandy Mellor, Lindsey Mellor, Allyson Siddall, Wendy Brown).

3. Millom (Cumbria)
(Gail Smith, Miranda Gray, Carol Tyson, Elaine Mathie)
- Millom 1 Highfields 7
Westlands 5 Millom 3
Highfields 7 Westlands 1

The Wolverhampton girls were convincing winners with Stephanie Jones and Joanne Chubb scoring maximums. Only Westlands' Diane Collar and Millom's Miranda Gray took sets off Highfields. This was Westlands' first defeat in five national finals.

The Mick Betts Memorial Cup was presented by E.T.T.A. National Coach, Bryan Merrett.

BOYS UNDER-13:

1. HARVEY GRAMMAR, FOLKESTONE (Kent County)
(Keith Chamberlain, Christopher James, Andrew Gardiner, Paul Hatcher)
 2. The Boulevard Junior High, Hull (Humber-side)
(Sean Madden, Alan Platten, Glen Matfin, Ian Radmore)
 3. Washwood Heath, Birmingham (West Midlands)
(Kevin Grundy, Neil Thomas, Carlos Harris, David Thomas)
- The Boulevard 4 Washwood Heath 4
Harvey 5 The Boulevard 3
Washwood Heath 1 Harvey 7

Harvey's superior all-round strength helped them to victory but their No. 1, Keith Chamberlain lost his side's only set to Kevin Grundy of Washwood Heath after being 20-14 up. The Boulevard came second by virtue of better sets ratio.

Mr. Charles M. Wyles O.B.E., Chairman of the E.T.T.A. presented the T. Austin Harrison Cup to the Folkestone boys and revealed that he was an old boy of the school.

GIRLS UNDER-13:

1. BRAMPTON MANOR COMPREHENSIVE, NEWHAM (Essex Metropolitan)
(Maxine Abbott, Karen Turner, Pauline Abbott, Sharon Deal)
2. Penhill Secondary, Swindon (Wiltshire)
(Pauline Townsend, Debra Smith, Joanne Andrews, Wendy Lucas)
3. St. Richard's R.C. Junior High, Hull (Humber-side)
(Angela Hudson, Anita Genter, Maria Whiteley, Claire Sanderson)

St. Richard's 2 Penhill 6
Brampton Manor 6 St. Richard's 2
Penhill 3 Brampton Manor 5
Sharon Deal and Maxine Abbott scored maximums for the Newham holders and their match against the Wiltshire debutantes would have been drawn had their No. 3 Joanne Andrews won against Sharon Deal.

The Hartshill Cup was presented by Mr. Peter Townend, Principal of Lea Green.

BOYS UNDER-11:

1. ST. FELIX MIDDLE, NEWMARKET (Suffolk)
(Steven Green, Shaun Carvalho, Andrew Bentinck, Raymon Thorpe, Jason Darnell)
 2. Burlington Primary, Birmingham (West Midlands)
(Ivor Wekpe, John Cleary, Shon Alam, Keith Collins)
 3. Caistor Joint C of E/Methodist (Lincolnshire)
(Gary Bryan, Philip Lusby, Duncan Fraser, Richard Rumbelow)
- Caistor 0 Burlington 8
St. Felix 5 Caistor 3
Burlington 3 St. Felix 5

St. Felix No. 3, Andrew Bentinck won vital games to back up Nos. 1 & 2 Steven Green and Shaun Carvalho who were unbeaten.

An unusual feature was that both finalists had been filmed prior to the finals by BBC TV's 'Nationwide' cameras for screening on the 'Midlands Today' and 'Look East' programmes.

The Chairman of Derbyshire Education Committee, Mrs. J. Platts, presented the Irene Elliott Cup.

"BEST PERFORMANCE" AWARDS

(Boys) — Mr. G. N. Gurney, President of the E.S.T.T.A. presented his trophy for the outstanding sporting performance to 10-year-old Richard Rumbelow of Caistor Joint C of E/Methodist Primary School, Richard was the only member of his Under-11 side to record two victories.

(Girls) — Allyson Siddall, the Henry Fanshawe No. 4 received the "Stiga Trophy".

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

GOOD NEWS . . . AND BAD

First the good news, the tournament scene in Essex looks bright indeed. The Dagenham League have successfully staged the first 3-Star Open in our county and now we have excellent news of our own Open tournament which is to be played over the weekend of May 8/9 at the Redbridge Sports Centre, Barkingside

Following a meeting between Ted Pritchard (Chairman) and Alan Shepherd with the Directors of Birstow Eves Ltd, it seems certain that this season's affair will be the best yet.

The tournament is to be fully sponsored with prize money of some £450, and its title will be the Birstow Eves Essex Open. It is hoped to attract all the country's leading players.

Our sponsors, as many of you will know, are one of the largest estate agents in our county with branches in every major town. They have been generous to us in the past but this is by far their biggest involvement to date, and we are sincerely grateful for their magnificent support.

Now the bad news . . . it seems almost certain that our Premier senior team is doomed and relegation to Div. 2 looks a near certainty. Whereas last season everything went for our teams, this season has been the complete opposite with Lady Luck definitely not smiling on us. Once again the first team were forced to field a reserve against Cheshire and despite a magnificent all-round effort

yet again we went down 4-5. Ian Horsham was back at his best with two fine wins while Bob Potton did all that was asked of him. Lesley Radford, back to her no-one-better-in-the-county, so nearly defeated Susan Lisle while late replacement for the indisposed Dave Brown, Graham Blomfield, so nearly brought off what would have been a sensational win over Nigel Eckersley in the final set, Graham losing 27-29 in the third!

The second team are also booked for the drop and disappointingly went down 4-6 to Hampshire. Dave Iszatt played with a refreshing sense of urgency to notch both his singles while Brian Mailey and Dave Bowles won one each. Our third team swamped Beds 10-0 to remain supreme in Div. 3 East and look likely to be disbanded for their efforts.

This team of Brian Mailey, Steve Whiteley, Jeff Drew, Peter Hunt, Linda Budd and Marilyn Nash have really played their hearts out this season and deserve every accolade for their excellent team spirit and performance.

The Junior position is no less dismal. The first team held Berkshire to a well-earned draw, Kevin Caldron and Dave Newman shining in obtaining a point that could stave off relegation. The second team were well beaten by Dorset and look booked for the drop while the third team inexplicably went down to Hunts 4-6, a result that has cost them the Div. 3 title.

The veterans' teams both 'whitewashed' Hunts and the first team's clash with Kent will decide the divisional title.

In the Essex Leagues, major honours look likely to go to Southend (Premier 1) Dagenham (Junior 1) and Romford (Veterans 1). I will give a full resume next month.

The Essex Tournament of Champions will be staged by the Southend League on Sept 25/76.

S.E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE CHATTER

By Leslie Constable

Milton Keynes, Ely and North Herts are the leading contenders for the 1st Division Men's Section title and it is anybody's guess who will succeed.

Wisbech, St. Neots and Northampton head the Men's Div. 2 and here again it is going to be a very close affair. North Herts have the Junior Div. 1 in hand and it looks as if Peterborough are doomed to be relegated.

North Herts "B" are well placed in Junior Div. 2 although at the time of writing Milton Keynes and Wisbech head the division. Wellingborough lead the Women's Division and I feel they will still be there at the end of the season.

Dunstable are still in with a chance although they have played less matches. Cambridge have won the Veterans Division and beat Northampton 8-2 in a vital fixture. There are several matches for which no card has been received by the Hon. Secretary which does not help in the compilation of up-to-date league tables the leading positions being:—

MEN Div. 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Milton Keynes	6	5	0	1	38
Ely	5	3	0	2	33
Nth. Herts 'A'	5	4	0	1	32

Div. 2

Wisbech	5	3	1	1	33
St. Neots	5	4	1	0	32
Daventry	6	3	0	3	28
Northampton 'B'	4	2	1	1	26

WOMEN

Wellingboro'	6	5	1	0	38
Dunstable	4	3	0	1	29
Cambridge	5	3	0	2	29
Nth Herts	4	2	1	1	24

Obituary

WALTER THOMAS SHARPLES

Table tennis players throughout Cheshire and indeed throughout the country will be saddened at the news of the death of Walter T. Sharples on April 5 in Park Hospital, Davyhulme, Manchester. Wally had been ill for two months and it was hoped he had got over the worst of his illness when he had a relapse and died at the age of 64.

He had been President of the Cheshire Table Tennis Association from the time they assumed a separate identity from the joint Lancashire and Cheshire League and had indeed been connected with the running of the Cheshire league for many years previous.

Wally never accepted the position of President as that of a figure head and he always attended executive meetings always available to give of his wealth of experience to guide and advise.

When the Stockport League reformed after the war, Wally organised and played for the Post Office team where he worked. It was with this knowledge of the work the unsung secretaries have to do that kept him so much in touch with the average league player for whom he always had an encouraging word of praise.

He joined the Stockport committee where his warm sociable nature made him a natural for the social organiser's job which he filled for many years with great success.

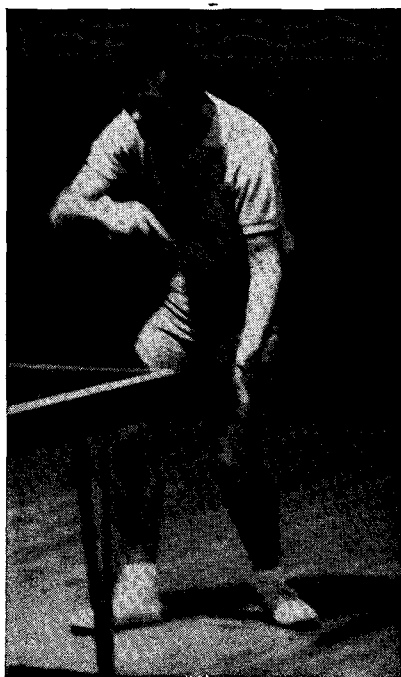
When the time came that he felt he should hand over to a younger man the Stockport Committee realised that in Wally Sharples they had an ideal President and he held the office from 1964 until his death.

All county sides who have visited Cheshire will well remember the warmth with which he personally greeted them for he never missed a game without good reason. It is at this time as the season draws to a close that he will be greatly missed in the county for he is his home league of Stockport or Macclesfield, Crewe or Hyde — or indeed any of the leagues who invited him to make the presentations at the end of the season dance he was sure to be there, such was the man.

It is most certain that without the devoted help of his wife Isobel he could never have done so much so well and it is to her our deepest sympathy goes at this sad time.

There is no question that Wally will be missed, but one thing is certain that wherever table tennis is played in the county he will always be remembered.

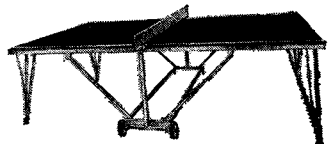
PETER STAFFORD.



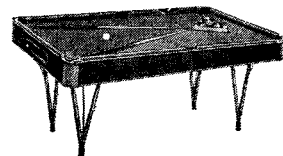
Brian Brumwell, one of Essex's most loved players and still full of courage. A regular Essex Premier Division player for 19 seasons until 1967. A former England international who was also England's Junior captain 1959-62.

Photo by Geoff Newman.

THE KINROSS AUTOMATIC ROLL-AWAY FOLDING TABLE TENNIS TABLE. 9' x 5'. UNIQUE HOMESPORT ALL STEEL PATENTED FRAMEWORK DESIGN FOLDS THE TABLE WITH PLAYING SURFACES FACING FOR STORAGE. FITTED WITH TWO PLAIN WHEELS AND TWO STEERABLE CASTORS FOR EASY MANOEUVREING. VERY STABLE WHEN FOLDED DUE TO LOW CENTRE OF GRAVITY. HIGH DENSITY (650 kg/m³) 16 MM COMPOSITE TOURNAMENT TOP MOUNTED ON 30 x 3 MM PLATED STEEL ANGLE SIDE FRAMES TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE WARPAGE PROBLEMS. BUILT-IN NET SUPPORTS AND FINGERTIP FOLDING CONTROL. RUGGEDLY ENGINEERED TO WITHSTAND THE MOST ARDUOUS USAGE AND SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO ENABLE NEW TOPS TO BE FITTED, IF REQUIRED, OVER THE YEARS. BRITISH MANUFACTURE PROBABLY MAKES THE KINROSS THE MOST COMPETITIVELY-PRICED TOP QUALITY ROLL-AWAY TABLE ON THE U.K. MARKET.



THE VARSITY POOL-SNOOKER-BILLIARDS TABLES. BRILLIANT NEW HOMESPORT DESIGN ENABLES THESE TABLES TO BE PUT UP OR FOLDED ENABLING FOR STORAGE IN SECONDS. MAKING THEM IDEAL FOR CLUB OR HOME USE. AVAILABLE IN 6' x 3' AND 8' x 4' SIZES AND SUPPLIED COMPLETE WITH ALL ACCESSORIES INCLUDING A FULL SET OF 2 1/8" DIAMETER BALLS. FITTED WITH THE UNIQUE HOMESPORT QUIET, FAST, AUTOMATIC BALL RETURN SYSTEM TO GIVE THE SAME STANDARD OF GAME AS EXPENSIVE COIN-OP TABLES. THE 6' x 3' SIZE REQUIRES A PLAYING AREA OF ONLY 13' x 10". SOUNDLY CONSTRUCTED WITH A COMPOSITE BED FOR LIGHTNESS AND DEEP SIDE PANELS TO VIRTUALLY ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBILITY OF BED WARPAGE. OUTSTANDING VALUE FROM BRITAIN'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF NON COIN-OP TABLES.



SEND NOW FOR
BROCHURES

HOMESPORT LTD.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS
Sales 7 GANDER GREEN LANE, CHEAM, SURREY

Factory: GLENROTHES, FIFE, SCOTLAND

Telephone: 01-642 4373

Editor's Postbag

DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT

I would like to present a different viewpoint to the 1977 World Championships controversy.

The levy of £1.20 per team of four to last for two, maybe three years, will have a very undesirable effect on the popularity of Table Tennis in England. My reasons for stating this are:—

1. Last year many leagues affiliated to the E.T.T.A. and their local county associations had to increase their fees by a high margin in order to maintain the facilities they were providing (like junior coaching and sponsorship of juniors in tournaments etc.). These increases were generally paid because although the members of these leagues did not like having to pay more, they appreciated that inflation was making life very difficult for the organising committees. Doubtless there were a few choice words exchanged at some of last year's A.G.Ms. This year, not only is inflation still around the 25% p.a. mark which is likely to mean further increases in fees, but an additional £1.20 per team is required. This will result in many privately run clubs reducing the number of teams they register, especially where a large number of junior players are involved.

2. Many local league committees must now be looking at ways in which they can reduce (or at least not increase) their fees. Also they may be taking an inward look at the objectives they have and asking themselves whether they are existing to organise table tennis leagues and competitions in their local area or are acting as a source of income for the competitions that the E.T.T.A. see fit to promote. I suggest that there is a large silent majority that joins a league so that he/she can "get out" one night a week in the winter and meet people with a common interest. A small minority have plans to represent their town, county or even country.

For this reason these same local leagues may be considering that next season they will not be affiliated to the E.T.T.A. and/or county association in order to decrease their running costs. As an "outlaw" league, they will find that they cannot participate in competitions organised by the E.T.T.A. The hub of good players will therefore take themselves off to a league that is still affiliated which will result in fewer recognised leagues and less money for the E.T.T.A. The "outlaw" leagues will, I think, continue to operate.

The 1977 World Championship Fund therefore has less contributors meaning that those left will have to pay more!!

It is my considered opinion that the £150,000 needed to finance the 1977 World Championships should come from either or both of two sources: a) The International Table Tennis Federation are surely responsible for organising events of this stature and should plan accordingly by at least having a pool into which all member countries contribute and use this pool to finance (in part or whole) for international events. b) The government (taxpayer) has a Ministry of Sport, £150,000 would surely not empty that bank balance!

I would like to pose some questions and hopefully receive some convincing answers.

Why should someone who plays Table Tennis for entertainment in an affiliated league (the majority I would suggest) have to pay so a few hundred people can play in a World Championship and we can be allowed the rare privilege of seeing perhaps 60 minutes of table tennis on television?

Why should the E.T.T.A. request such action without apparently considering the consequences of diminishing leagues and the possible appearance of "outlaw" leagues?

Why do the E.T.T.A. organise a lottery on the Lincoln which is based on the same system that lost them money on a raffle not four months beforehand?

Surely some very fundamental thinking is needed to promote the 1977 event in the best possible way.

Finally may I say that I am in favour of the Championships provided that its side effects do not adversely affect the formation of organising bodies throughout the country.

I'm sorry to have got carried away with words but it is difficult to express the way I feel in "simple words and few".

MALCOLM MUNDTY.

13a Warrington Spur,
Old Windsor, Berks.

REDRESS THE BALANCE

I am grateful to Peter Simpson for his thoughtful and interesting reply to my own earlier notes. He answers many questions but poses many more to which our sport will have to find answers.

There is unfortunately a great deal wrong with our Game, Michael Lawless tells us that the forthcoming World Championships will be BIG, and that there will be room for 13,500 spectators. Forty years ago a similar event was watched by 16,000, and financing it, to put it mildly, despite the economic depression of the day, presented fewer difficulties than it does in today's more affluent circumstances. That, however, is a unique event. International matches, or the English Open, attract a few hundred; County matches seldom more than a few dozen; inter-Town matches (with luck) a couple of relatives. It is likely that there is something very wrong with a sport, reasonably well understood by most, that has lost so much popular favour. Should we not ask ourselves what has changed since those heady days when it seemed so much more attractive and bigger?

Table Tennis has become dull. Legislators have become afraid to act, seeking to justify their existence by ruling on such trivia as the colour of shirts and not on the basics of the sport. In the Thirties, when the sport became boring, swift action was taken. Finger-spin services were made illegal because they turned the game into a farce. Stonewallers who played out single points for hours, were rightly penalised for the harm they were doing to the Game. Expedite rules were introduced and, most important of all, the net was lowered from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6".

Subsequently the sandwich bat was introduced, producing infinitely more top spin than had ever been possible with the previous hard bat, and it became all too easy for almost any ball to be hit for a winner if the attacker was proficient enough. The pendulum swung crashingly against Defence as a winning method. This is still the case, and because players like to win and because Coaches like to produce winners, they both opt for the obvious method. Great defenders are now the exception, and it is only because a minority of humanity enjoys doing things the hard way, i.e. climbing a mountain instead of getting to the summit by cable car, that defenders exist at all. When they do, the game seems to recapture some of its former glories.

There is an almost electric excitement in the crowd when a Secretin or Surbek wins points yards away from the table with top-spin lob defence, or when a world-class Japanese scrapes the fiercest hits off the floor with back-spin play. This excitement is generally absent when two attackers, no matter how good, play each other. I have been told that the average such game lasts 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes of which two are spent picking the ball off the floor or towelling down. Both players, though of undoubted skill and athleticism, will endeavour to kill anything that appears to offer them a more than 50-50 chance of success because that is today the winning game. At the highest level almost anything is hittable; indeed, it is foolish not to hit.

We must not be surprised that many young players leave the Game, tired of the sterile monotony we have produced; still less that spectators in any number have long ago stopped coming to watch.

Two factors keep the Game alive — (1) The Local Leagues, with their infinitely lower levels of skill, which makes it impossible to kill practically every ball. So you get a longer, more balanced game and ever-renewing grass roots. (2) the equipment makers who extract large sums from hopeful players and plough a little back into the Game.

Top players, without a sponsor, remain grossly

under-paid because there are few spectators to generate the necessary funds. It is less clear why today's legislators are unwilling or unable to take the steps or make the experiments that would make the Game more interesting and bring both spectators and finance back into the Game.

Surely it is obvious that, just as it was a good thing to lower the net at one time, it would now be a good idea to raise it, if only to prolong the rallies and introduce an element of craft and intelligence. Perhaps further limitations are needed on equipment, i.e. thickness of permitted sandwich, or possibly a lighter ball. All ball games are ruined and lose favour if either Defence or Attack is too dominant. It is the duty of legislators to redress the balance. Let us hope they do, as their predecessors once did. Otherwise, I foresee only a slow downward journey for our Sport.

JOHN PREAN

12 Marlborough Road
RYDE IW PO33 1AA

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

As a spectator at the England v Netherlands match at Norwich on March 4, 1976, I became concerned at the problems inherent in umpiring international matches.

a) **Ridiculing of Umpires** — When Denis Neale was rightly warned for not throwing the ball up properly he immediately threw the ball many feet into the air for his next service — incidentally amusing some of the crowd, including momentarily myself. But, on reflection, I realised that this amusement was at the expense of the umpire's authority. Neale was apparently not reprimanded by his captain, who was surely duty-bound to insist on respect of the umpires from his players.

b) **Inconsistency of Umpiring** — Different interpretation of rules by two umpires ought to be avoided: one umpire petulantly insisted on his own failure to see a net service (not in itself a crime), but certainly he was wrong not to call the point void when the player who benefitted from his mistake (Mrs. Hammersley) graciously and courteously requested that he call the let, a request supported by her opponent. In contrast, another umpire immediately accepted his mistake when a similar incident occurred in the men's singles, and naturally did not forfeit any authority thereby. Lest they be accused of partiality, the umpires must be consistent in their interpretation of the rules.

c) **Foul Play** — Be that as it may, my main cause for concern is not the inconsistency, but the absolute consistency of all umpires in never calling a foul service "foul". In the first set Van der Helm, and in the second (as above) Denis Neale, were properly warned by means of a "let" plus advice to throw the ball up, etc., but thereafter neither umpire (nor any subsequent umpire) called "foul service". Now I would like to believe that none had cause to . . .

However, by the number of calls of "let" when the ball did not appear to touch the net, I gained the impression that each umpire in turn was using this call in reaction to a foul or suspect service. Now surely such a call has no validity — either the service is correct and play continues, or it is foul and the server forfeits the point.

I would be pleased if the referee would confirm that my impression was mistaken. Otherwise, I fear the implication is that the umpires were acting under instructions never to call "foul service" lest an "incident" be caused. As a County Umpire myself, I readily admit that I would prefer only to have to add up the points and never have to invoke any potentially contentious rule. But if someone does foul-serve or infringe any other rule, then it is the perpetrator who caused the incident, not the umpire, whose duty to both players is to ensure that the match be played fairly.

It is with some trepidation that I think ahead to the World Championships, when the umpires must be seen to interpret the rules correctly, authoritatively, impartially, courageously — and unanimously.

JOHN R. MOORHOUSE.

14 Dawnay Avenue,
King's Lyn, Norfolk PE30 3BZ

PLAYER DRAIN

I found Alan Ransome's comments very relevant and they should be heeded by all table tennis enthusiasts. My own views on the subject are as follows:—

Table Tennis in this country although now a professional sport is treated in a very amateurish way by the media. Television at present seems to cover most sports except table tennis. Series have been made round individual sports e.g. Indoor League, Pot Black, Sportstown. I am positive that if snooker can be made presentable to the general public, then so can table tennis. (I am interested in snooker but feel that as a spectator sport it only interests fellow players).

I do not feel that more money and interest can be given to our top players until the general public and media become involved.

With the World Championships to be held in 1977 this is surely an ideal opportunity to get the public interested before and after the championships. I would be very interested to know whether a television company could be approached to run a competition on the lines of the 'Pot Black' series.

TWO DIVISIONS — comprising of 4 players each. Every player in a division plays against one another on a league basis. The top two in each division go forward into a knock-out competition. The whole contest could be played in one evening therefore cutting down on expenses.

The total number of games involved would be 15 and these could be screened over 7 weeks, 2 games per week with the final programme showing the semi-finals and final.

Prize money could be large enough to attract six top international players and two British players. Special prizes could be given to stimulate extra interest:—

- 1) Most points in succession
- 2) Biggest win
- 3) Best point
- 4) Best rally
- 5) Most spectacular shot

Table tennis in this country can be publicised extensively as it will be something new to the general public. Which other sport in the country can involve the national team and still only get 2/3 lines in the national press. If the World Championships and the British table tennis organisations are to flourish at international level then the media have got to get involved.

Another idea which table tennis administration can consider is a special competition involving the best players in the country who would play each other during the season on an individual league basis.

Venues could be spread round the country with all the players playing their matches together at one of these venues. For a start the venues would have to be in areas where table tennis is flourishing. Advantages:—

- a) Would insure that the top players are playing at the top level at regular intervals.
- b) By moving round the country MAY involve the general public more and create interest.

STEPHEN AIREY,
Hon. Secretary,
Burnley & Dist. TTL.

38 Leamington Avenue,
Burnley, Lancs.

SPORTING GESTURE

I would be grateful if I could say thank you via your columns to Reading's Miss Karen Witt.

Miss Witt is of course currently ranked No. 12 in the English Senior rankings and in the Girls' U-19 Doubles event in the recent Berks Schools Championships she could have virtually had her choice of partner. However Miss Witt left it up to the Berks coaches to find her a partner who might benefit from the experience.

My 12-year-old daughter was fortunate to be given the opportunity and, whilst there was no story book ending — losing 18-21 in the third to the No. 1 seeds in the semi-final, this was the highlight of my daughter's short career to date, and we were both most appreciative of Miss Witt's sporting gesture.

BRUCE MCKENZIE

45 London Road, Thatcham,
Newbury, Berks.

CLEVELAND VIEW No. 2

By Alan Ransome

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS

With the various Annual General Meetings soon upon us again, we in Cleveland are proposing alterations to the Rules which we feel will benefit the game in this country.

Our main proposal this year, with the ETTA's National Council having taken up our case to make payment to the players possible, is along the lines of improving the lot of the women with regard to the County Championships. That we now campaign.

At present we feel the women's role, whilst being vital in certain matches, in the majority is hardly worthwhile. A girl player can at present travel the length of the country for two games of doubles or, at the best, one game of singles and one doubles.

We feel that it is a tremendous waste of time and money to travel say for four hours to play for a possible thirty minutes then travel back another four hours.

In the Senior Premier Division, it can be argued that spectators come to most matches and that

nine games is quite sufficient. The public, as a whole, come to watch the Men's Singles sets and we think that this is a reasonable point of view for these matches so we propose no alteration in this Division.

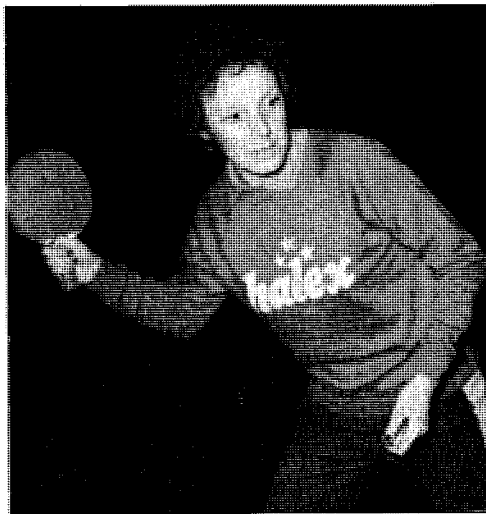
The area where we do want some change is in the Second Division and at all Junior levels where spectators of any number are few and far between. In these Divisions ten sets lasting say three hours are played at present.

We would suggest adding just thirty minutes to increase the number of games played to twelve. Cut out the Mixed Doubles and play two women each playing two singles each and the Women's Doubles. We feel that this would then be worthwhile from their view point.

We are not proposing any alterations to the Men's Singles or to the Men's Doubles. All it will mean is that the eight hours of travel will bring about three and a half hour's play rather than eight hours of travel and three hours of play.

If you support our view then encourage your County's Representative at the County Championships AGM to support us when this item is raised in June. If you disagree and want things left the way they are then please write and tell us why.

Europe's top players choose Halex bats.



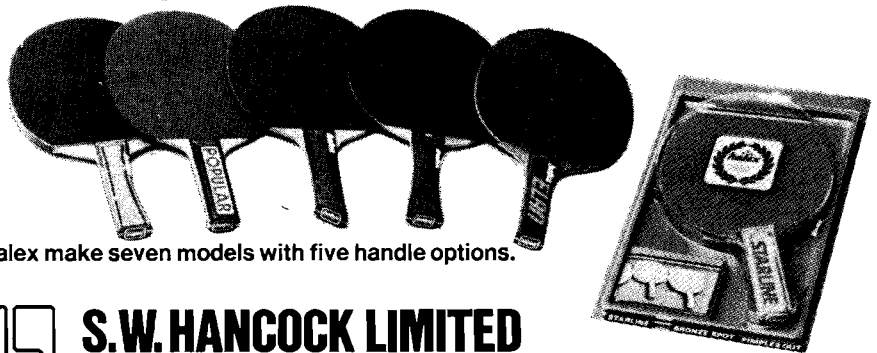
JILL HAMMERSLEY



LINDA HOWARD

At Prague on April the 4th Jill Hammersley won the European Championship and partnered Linda Howard to win the doubles.

Both girls played with Halex Tri-Star bats covered with Halex Midas Silver Spot rubber. We would like to congratulate both Jill and Linda on their terrific successes.



Halex make seven models with five handle options.



S.W. HANGCOCK LIMITED

Homefield Road, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8QR and 44-46 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6EE.

STOP PRESS. JILL HAMMERSLEY NOW EUROPE'S NO. 1.

Middlesex Championships

MIDDLESEX UNDER-15 & UNDER-13 MIDDLESEX JUNIOR & CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS

by John Wright

Set with 16 Halex tables, the main Sports Hall at Picketts Lock looked most impressive for the Fifth Middlesex Junior Championships on 27/28 March. This writer did not greatly care for the appearance of the Halex table with its white drop but very much approves of the dark painting being used on the most recent batch, particularly when the table name is in yellow — classy! Some malfunctioning of the public address system caused the first 30 or so sets to be called without aid, but it was noticeable that when that system was used players responded more quickly than did some when the more conventional approach was eventually adopted.

Cleveland players took both the U-15 Singles titles, living up to their top seeding, neither Ian Plummer nor Angela Tierney dropping a game on the way to £8 Curry Gift Vouchers. Angela, paired with Helen Robinson (who in general had a disappointing weekend) also picked up the Doubles title. Graham Sandley twice got the better of Colin Wilson although Colin (with Anthony O'Connor) won the U-15 Doubles. Mandy Reeves had 5 straight game wins on her way to the U-13 Singles title and in the final had a splendid win over Helen Robinson, who had been stretched by Helen Williams. The Middlesex pair had comparatively little trouble in capturing the U-13 Doubles.

The Sunday play, 36 boys in first stage groups of 6, going through to second stage groups of 6; Cadet boys in first stage groups of 5, going to second stage groups of 5; similar arrangements for girls and Cadet girls, was not an unqualified success. For various reasons not all the players were able to finish the course and the play ran very late due partly to the slowness of players in reporting to tables; partly to a schedule which, even though it allowed a normally generous 17½ minutes, could not fully cope with the long matches; and partly to difficulty with umpires. The few adult umpires worked both hard and well but calls for umpiring assistance were in the main ignored by players despite a 10p refreshment voucher. It is a sad fact that, countering the co-operative players like Jill Purslow, Lesley Tyler, Paul Hindle, the Nicoll Brothers, and a handful of others, there are too many players unprepared to give any assistance to organisers who are, after all, trying to help them.

Despite two singles defeats, Kevin Caldon won the top £20 Currys voucher. A first stage defeat by Ian Kenyon was wiped out when Ian went down to Gary Stewart. Runner-up was Steve Hazelwood who also dropped a set (to Keith Richardson) in his first group. Andrew Metcalfe also made the final group despite going down to Steve Boxall, but there was no reprieve for Martin Shuttle who was taken comfortably by Kevin Beardsley. Chris Rogers and David Wells (dropping 4 games!) completed the final group. The top second stage group was hard fought, with 8 of the 15 sets needing a deciding game; no player was unbeaten or without a win the closest being Caldon's -22, 13, 21 win over bottom placed Wells.

Form was more truly followed in the Girls' event, where all 6 players in the top second stage group were unbeaten in their early group. Angela Mitchell failed to survive going down -13, 16, -17 to Janet New but the other 5 top seeds survived. Janet kept up the good work in the second stage, going down only to winner Karen Witt and runner-up Suzanne Hunt. Suzanne lost only to Karen, Beverley Green to the three placed above her, and Angela Tierney notched but one win, against Melody Ludi who was without a success. After her recent ill health, few (even of her rivals) would grudge Karen her success: four of her sets in the final pool were over three games all at either 17 or 18 in the third. But spare also a thought for the top ranked girls who did not do so well — unlike some of the boys they were prepared to risk their reputations and give others the chance to shoot them down. This must be what the game is about?

The top Cadet boys all came safely through first groups and although Sandley lost to County colleague Adam Proffitt he again beat Wilson and pipped the Hants boy on game average. The top Cadet girls likewise qualified for the final pool (Sarah Cresswell taking advantage of the illness of Alison Gordon) and as Helen Robinson had opted for the junior event the way was left clear for Mandy Smith to take the title. Although taken to three by Jill Purslow, Mandy made few mistakes and duly collected a £5 Currys voucher. Jill lost also to Mandy Reeves who had a splendid weekend.

RESULTS

Boys' U-15 Singles

Quarter-finals:

I. Plummer (Cleveland) bt K. Jackson (Essex) 13, 10.

A. O'Connor (Lancashire) bt R. Bergemann (Hampshire) 19, -12, 14.

G. Sandley (Middlesex) bt M. Laird (Cleveland) 19, 9.

C. Wilson (Hampshire) bt B. Tyler (Middlesex) 18, 18.

Semi-finals:

Plummer bt O'Connor 17, 19.

Sandley bt Wilson 14, 18.

Final:

Plummer bt Sandley 17, 11.

Boys' U-15 Doubles

Semi-finals:

O'Connor & Wilson bt M. Owens (Herefords) & Bergemann 11, 20.

Sandley & Tyler bt Laird & Plummer -14, 17, 14.

Final:

O'Connor & Wilson bt Sandley & Tyler 17, -18, 16.

Boys' U-13 Singles

Semi-finals:

Sandley bt B. Johnson (Berkshire) 15, 17.

Wilson bt J. Souter (Middlesex) 19, -20, 13.

Final:

Sandley bt Wilson -18, 16, 17.

Boys' U-13 Doubles

Semi-finals:

Johnson & Owens bt R. Seymour (Surrey) & Sandley -14, 17, 15.

Bergemann & Wilson bt P. Stratton (Middlesex) & Souter 20, 18.

Final:

Johnson & Owens bt Bergemann & Wilson 17, -11, 21.

Girls' U-15 Singles

Quarter-finals:

Angela Tierney (Cleveland) bt Linda Hryszko (Yorkshire) 17, 15.

Sally Midgley (Yorks.) bt Mandy Reeves (Middx) -17, 17, 10.

Helen Gore (Essex) bt Elaine Bolton (Kent) 11, 13.

Mandy Wallis (Northants) bt Elaine Handford (Notts.) 12, 16.

Semi-finals:

Tierney bt Midgley 13, 16.

Gore bt Wallis 19, 14.

Final:

Tierney bt Gore 7, 17.

Girls' U-15 Doubles

Semi-finals:

Helen Robinson (Cleveland) & Tierney bt Gore & Wallis 14, 15.

Gillian Heath (Berkshire) & Midgley bt Yvette Brown & Julie Dowsett (Essex) 16, 10.

Final:

Robinson & Tierney bt Heath & Midgley -14, 14, 11.

Girls' U-13 Singles

Semi-finals:

Reeves bt Lorraine Garbet (Surrey) 16, 17.

Robinson bt Helen Williams (Middx.) 15, -20, 17.

Final:

Reeves bt Robinson 16, 12.

Girls' U-13 Doubles

Semi-finals:

Reeves & Williams bt Karen Payne (Derbyshire) & Lesley Tyler (Middx.) 15, 11.

Carol Butler (Devon) & Garbet bt Carla Wilson (Kent) & Bolton 19, 16.

Final:

Reeves & Williams bt Butler & Garbet 17, 11.

Consolation Singles

Boys' U-15 Final:

S. Harmer (Bucks.) bt R. Turner (Essex) 14, 17.

Boys' U-13 Final:

G. Russell (Surrey) bt K. Solder (Essex) 13, 16.

Girls' U-15 Final:

Wilson bt Vanessa Cruwys (Gloucs.) 11, 16.

Girls' U-13 Final:

Dowsett beat Tyler 13, 22.

MIDDLESEX JUNIOR & CADET

AUTHORISED TOURNAMENT

LIST OF FINAL PLACINGS (1—12)

Junior Boys

Kevin Caldon E

Steve Hazelwood Y

Kevin Beardsley Y

Chris Rogers Le

Andrew Metcalfe Y

David Wells Mi

Martin Shuttle Sy

Danny Cammiade Sx

Stephen Boxall Sy

Ian Kenyon K

Kevin Edwards Wi

Keith Paxton Du

Cadet Boys

Graham Sandley Mi

Colin Wilson Ha

Adam Proffitt Mi

Anthony O'Connor La

Sam Harmer Bu

Bryon Johnson Bk

Desmond Charlery E

Terry Dowsett E

Mark Oakley Sy

Ricky Burrett Y

Junior Girls

Karen Witt Bk

Suzanne Hunt Li

Janet New Do

Beverley Green Wa

Angela Tierney Cv

Melody Ludi Y

Angela Mitchell Mi

June Williams Cv

Linda Hryszko Y

Julie Reading Ha

Julie McLean Y

Susan Dove Mi

Cadet Girls

Mandy Smith Bk

Mandy Reeves Mi

Jill Purslow Bk

Lorraine Garbet Sy

Sarah Cresswell Sy

Sally Midgley Y

Elaine Bolton K

Carol Colegate Bk

Gillian Heath K

Carol Butler Dv

SLOUGH AND DISTRICT CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS 1975-76

Played at Montem Sports Centre, Slough
on Sunday, 21st March, 1976

RESULTS OF FINALS

M.S.: Final: **B. Sweetzer** (N.W.C.A.) bt S. Brindle (N.W.C.A.) 16, 6.

Semi-finals: Brindle bt D. Poutney (Stag Meadow) -12, 16, 18. Sweetzer bt F. Earis (Cippenham) 13, 20.

W.S.: **Miss M. Reeves** (Slough Jun. T.T.C.) bt Miss J. Williams (Pinewood) 9, 13.

M.D.: **Brindle/Sweetzer** bt Earis/J. Souter (Slough Jun. T.T.C.) 21, -11, 15.

W.D.: **Mrs. B. Stevens/Mrs. J. Thomas** (both Calor Gas) bt Miss Reeves/Miss L. Smith (Slough Jun. T.T.C.) 20, 7.

X.D.: **Souter/Miss Reeves** bt A. Duffield (Beaconsfield Nalgo)/Mrs. J. Gloster (Cippenham) -24, 19, 17.

V.S.: **Duffield** bt F. Walker (Pinewood) 19, 15.

B.S.: **Souter** bt M. Bartholomew (Cippenham) 21, 11.

G.S.: **Miss Reeves** bt Miss C. Bahryj (Cippenham) 11, 16.

J.D.: **Souter/Miss Reeves** bt R. Clapton/K. Chick (both Cippenham) 13, -20, 15.

C.S.: **H. Bartholomew** (Cippenham) bt S. Brown (Cippenham) 18, -18, 16.

Div. 1 Singles: **Pountney** bt Earis 15, 18.

Div. 2 Singles: **D. Cook** (Cippenham) bt B. Blackmun (Beaconsfield Nalgo) 18, 11.

Div. 3 Singles: **Souter** bt Miss Reeves 15, 16.

Div. 4 Singles: **P. Small** (Calor Gas) bt Miss E. Williamson (Calor Gas) 8, 13.

Div. 5 Singles: **D. Hyder** (A.C.O.) bt R. Hyder (A.C.O.) 26, 16.

OLYMPUS SPORTS

THE TABLE TENNIS SPECIALISTS

Check with us when the others are out of stock
PLEASE QUOTE ITEM REQUIRED — NO LISTS

9 HEADSTONE DRIVE, WEALDSTONE, HARROW, MIDDLESEX
Phone — 01-863 2455

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Richard Habgood

WARWICKSHIRE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

MUNT REIGNS SUPREME

Played at the Sports Hall of the High School, Stratford-upon-Avon on Sunday, 28th March, Birmingham's Diane St. Ledger and Derek Munt took the top honours in their respective singles events. Both players were top seeded for their events and in winning the Women's Singles, Diane did so without dropping a game and Munt just one — in his semi-final clash with Birmingham's Tony Kinsey.

However, it was the Men's Singles that was full of incident and it was Munt's opponent in the final Richard Mountford, currently ranked No. 5 Junior who did all the damage.

In successive rounds Mountford ousted No. 8 seed Kevin Pilgrim 16, 17; No. 3 seed Pat Glynn 21, 21; and in the semi-final Dougie Johnson 17, 11. Revenge was sweet for Mountford over Johnson for earlier Johnson had performed equally creditably in defeating Mountford in the semi-finals of the Junior Boys' Singles.

The final itself was a different kettle of fish with Munt always in control leaving the crowd highly appreciative of his skills.

Without a doubt Munt's hardest game had come just one round earlier when that champion over defenders Tony Kinsey had lead by 8-3 in the third game. With a subtle change in tactic Munt ran out by 21-14 thus adding fuel to his claim of being England's best defensive player.

What of the other events? With the exception of just one event all the titles ended up firmly in the hands of those holding the No. 1 position. That one exception being when Leamington's Henry Strasinskas defeated Birmingham's Jim Peakman for the Veteran's Singles.

RESULTS were as follows:—

Men's Singles

Semi-finals:

D. Munt (B'ham) bt A. Kinsey (B'ham) 17, -17, 14.
R. Mountford (B'ham) bt D. Johnson (B'ham) 17, 11.

Final:

Munt bt Moutford 14, 12.

Women's Singles

Semi-finals:

D. St. Ledger (B'ham) bt A. Lloyd (B'ham) 15, 20.
D. Griffiths (B'ham) bt K. Groves (B'ham) 15, -12, 15.

Final:

St. Ledger bt Griffiths 6, 16.

Men's Doubles

Semi-finals:

Munt/Johnson bt R. Habgood/P. Glynn (B'ham) 17, 16.
Mountford/P. Burwell (B'ham) bt A. Cotton/R. Prosser (B'ham) -21, 13, 17.

Final:

Munt/Johnson bt Mountford/Burwell 12, 14.

Women's Doubles

Final:

D. St. Ledger/K. Groves bt L. Beesley/S. Beesley (B'ham) 18, 14.

Mixed Doubles

Final:

K. Groves/D. Johnson bt D. Griffiths/B. Hayward (B'ham) -8, 13, 15.

Junior Boys

U-17 Semi-final:

Johnson bt Moutford 15, 13.
P. Griffiths (Cov.) bt C. Hughes (Cov.) 15, 21.

Final:

Johnson bt Griffiths 21, 12.

U-14 Final:

A. Cockerill (Stratford) bt S. Finch (Cov.) 18, -17, 15.

Doubles Final:

Johnson/Mountford bt C. Hughes/D. Abbey (Cov.) 19, 14.

Junior Girls

U-17 Semi-final:

R. Mackriell (Leam.) bt S. Beesley (B'ham) 16, 10.
J. Harper (B'ham) bt S. Hemming (B'ham) 19, -7, 15.

Final:

Mackriell bt Harper -21, 12, 18.

U-14 Final:

S. Hemming bt J. Williams (Stratford) 7, 8.

Doubles Final:

S. Whitehall (B'ham)/R. Mackriell bt S. Hemming/J. Harper 12, 13.

Veteran Singles

Final:

H. Stratinskas (Leam.) bt J. Peakman (B'ham) 23, 14.

The County Club Championship for the Bernard Mackie Cup has now reached its final stage and the final to be played in April is between Longacre (B'ham) and Phoenix "A" of Coventry. Longacre have a good record against Phoenix this season and have defeated their "B" and "C" teams already in this competition — time will see if they can go the whole distance.

STOP PRESS!

Congratulations to Barry Hayward on his selection for the County "A" team for their remaining

fixture against Surrey. Persistence has long been Barry's motto and perhaps never has a case been more deserved!!

DIPLOMA 2-STAR ASSESSMENT— PRELIMINARY NOTICE

Please note that we propose to hold an Assessment Session

on SATURDAY, 22nd MAY, 1976
(about 1-30—5 p.m.)

at a Venue in BIRMINGHAM.

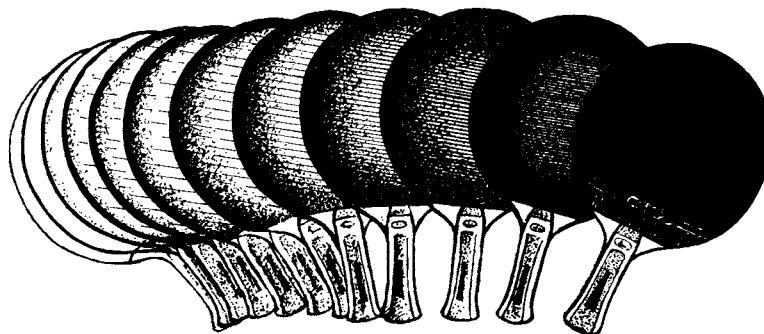
If you have not received fuller details by 1st May, please check the situation with me or one of the National Coaches.

ELSIE CARRINGTON,
(Coaching Scheme Administrator)
71 Maplin Way,
Thorpe Bay,
ESSEX.
Tel. 03708 4771.

for greater ball control
choose a
COMBI bat

Latest addition to the famous

J Line range



COMBI bats are fitted one side with Sriver "Butterfly" rubber and the other with "Anti-Loop" medium rubber

The perfect combination for
killing spin or applying it

Ask at your usual sports shop for
the full range of J Line Bats

SRIVER COMBI BUTTERFLY
YOSHINO YAMATAI
ANTI-LOOP
(MEDIUM)

habgood
jacques

& Son Ltd.

THORNTON HEATH, SURREY CR4 8XP. TEL.: 01-684 4242

CRICHTON CUP HAT TRICK FOR NAVY

by Sqn. Ldr. G. W. Millward

The 1976 Women's Inter-Services Table Tennis Championships took place at RAF Hereford on 19 Feb 1976. This annual battle for the Crichton Cup was won by the WRNS for the third successive year. This year's tournament, however, was a much closer affair than that of 1975 with the WRAF pressing the WRNS closely in the middle stages and just pipping the WRAC for runners-up slot. The WRAC received some consolation by the selection of two of their players to represent the Combined Services in a match against Herefordshire following the tournament, which was won by the Combined Services.

Results

WRNS 6	WRAF 3
WRNS 6	WRAC 3
WRAF 5	WRAC 4
Combined Services 7	Herefordshire 3

WRNS Team	Won	Lost
1. PO Wren P. Williams	4	0
2. PO Wren M. Arnott	0	4
3. Chief Wren M. Fox	4	0
4. L/Wren E. Kaczor	2	2
Doubles: Williams/Fox	2	0

WRAC Team	Won	Lost
1. Capt. M. King	2	2
2. Sgt. M. Mullaney	2	2
3. L/Cpl. S. Wareing	2	2
4. Pte. M. Male	1	3
Doubles: Sgt. J. Thompson/ L/Cpl C. Rolfe	0	2

WRAF Team	Won	Lost
1. SACW S. Birch	3	1
2. Cpl(W) J. Haslam	1	3
3. WO(W) P. Hughes	0	4
4. WO(W) B. Bogue	3	1
Doubles: Birch/Haslam	1	1

Combined Services Team	Won	Lost
1. PO Wren P. Williams	1	1
2. Capt. M. King	1	1
3. SACW S. Birch	2	0
4. Sgt. M. Mullaney	2	0
Doubles: Birch/Mullaney King/Williams	0	1

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

INEVITABLE PROMOTION

The Reed brothers are again making the headlines in Cumbria table tennis and Chris, unbeaten after five junior county matches, has gained an almost inevitable promotion from 20th to 17th place in the English Junior ranking list. Congratulations also to younger brother Ian who has joined Chris in the English rankings with his inclusion at No. 5 in the Cadet list.

Ian has since, more than justified his new status when he and Diccon Gray combined in a tremendous performance to win the U-14 doubles at the Reading Junior Select. The unseeded pairs' final win at 18 in the third against No. 2 seeds O'Connor and Wilson followed wins over Owens/Bergemann in the semis and No. 1 seeds Sandley/Proffitt in the quarters.

Both brothers featured in the County Junior first team's 8-2 defeat against Yorks II but Chris was the only one to cause the home side any trouble and took the two wins which included a 17, -13, 11 success over fellow-ranked junior Andrew Metcalfe.

The Junior second team collected their third point from as many matches with a 5-5 draw against Lincs. at Grantham. The Lincolnshire hospitality, excellent as it was, did not extend to giving any points away however and outstanding performances by Gray and Ian Harrison, who took the five sets between them, were needed to secure the point. Andrew Pachul took each of his singles and the mixed with Elaine Mathie to the decider but unbeaten performances from the Lincs girls, Marie Featherstone and Cheryl Buttery, proved a great boost for the home side.

Milom School, have just clinched their third successive Div. 1 title in the Barrow and Dist. League following a decisive 10-0 win over second-placed Vickers-Town Institute. More success for the youngsters at the recent Millom League closed, when Millom School players, respondent in their Ascot-Butterfly sweat shirts, took all but one of the titles available. Neil Smith won the men's comfortably, 16, 14, over Diccon Gray. The No. 1 seed and strong favourite for the title, Chris Reed, went out at 15, -19, -24 to the unseeded Graham King in the upset of the day.

King then went out to Gray in the semis with Smith beating Ian Reed 19, 22 in the other half. Chris Reed made amends in the junior event, however, and beat Smith 21, 11 in the final.

Jennifer Pachul took the women's with a 2-straight win over Gail Smith.

Following their transfer to Area 10 Coaching Panel, Cumbria look forward to many years happy association with the other members of the area, hoping to make a useful contribution to raising the standards of table tennis in the panel, and as a result also improve play within our own county.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

DESERVED TITLE

Following easy wins against Gwent, Shropshire and Oxfordshire, our County Juniors needed only a draw against Worcestershire in their last match to win the 3rd Division (Midland) of the Junior County Championship, but when Worcs. went into a 5-3 lead, it looked long odds on a defeat. The team of Paul Draisey, Peter Machin, John Boumford, Shirley Cain and Susanne Watton have played together for the whole season, and the team spirit which has developed undoubtedly helped to pull them through to a 5-5 draw and deservedly give them the league title. Team captain Wilf Hadley has been very pleased with the performance of all five players and the benefit gained from having a stable side, and makes particular mention of Machin in his last season as a junior. He already has his County Badge, and congratulations are due to the other four players who are now awarded theirs.

In their second win of the season, the County "A" side ensured a reasonable position in the 2nd Division (Midland) and easily avoided relegation. Although Tony Isaac chose the match against Gloucestershire to have an off day and to lose both his singles, the rest of the team took complete charge to give Staffs. an easy 8-2 win. Gloucs. are one of the counties to be severely affected by the county boundary changes, and it is a pity to see them sliding down the table from their strong position in the sixties. Staffs. is another county which could suffer in the same way, but so far there is no indication that any of the leagues in the south of the county wish to move over to West Midlands.

Congratulations to West Bromwich in winning County League Div. 1. They beat Stone "A" to clinch the title by an easy 7-2 win, and at the other end of the division, Stafford "A" finished up without a win to prop up the table. John Taylor, stalwart of the Stafford side, regained the men's title in the Stafford Closed, a title which he had held for a decade until Paul Beeston took it from him last year.

Highfields School, Wolverhampton, have once again shown their strength at table tennis in the National School Team Championships. They reached the final in both the Girls U-19 and U-16 and finished with a first and second place. Stoke 6th Form College also had a team in the final of the Boys' Under-19.

UMPIRING CORNER

Answers

No. 1 WRONG. The law interprets a 'good return' as one made by the racket, carried in the racket hand or with the racket hand BELOW the wrist. Note however that a stroke made with the hand alone after dropping the racket is not 'good'.

No. 2 RIGHT. The Law clearly states that a player shall lose a point if, before the ball in play shall have passed over the end lines or side lines not yet having touched the playing surface on his side of the net since being struck by his opponent, it comes in contact with him or anything he carries or wears.

No. 3 RIGHT. In this context, the Law makes no allowance for unfortunate circumstances or accidental happenings. To quote, 'a player loses a point if he, or his racket, or anything that he wears or carries, move the playing surface whilst the ball is in play'.

No. 4. The umpire should take NO ACTION for Alan has not contravened any of the Laws. He has not in fact moved the playing surface and the hand that touched the table was the racket hand whilst holding the racket.



Crichton Cup winners at Hereford (left to right)—Back Row: PO Wren Pat Williams and L/Wren "Eddie" Kaczor. Front Row: Chief Wren "Mo" Fox, Wren Davies (Reserve) and PO Wren Mary Arnott.

Photo by M. Roch MOD Rep S (Bath).



WELSH CORNER

H. Roy Evans

SIGNIFICANT FACTS

Some significant facts from the recent Welsh Closed Championships — of the 112 entrants in the Men's and Women's Singles events 74 were Juniors and of those 38 were also cadets! Moreover 27 of the entrants came from North Wales, and they went home with three titles and were runners up in four other events! There's plenty to think about in those statistics.

Alan Griffiths regained the Welsh Closed title, only Walter Hussey, playing well, getting anywhere near him. This was in the quarters and one could wish that Walter, who has been very keen all the time, would at last make a break through. Alan beat George Evans in the semi-final and Graham Davies the holder, in the Final, fairly comfortably.

Robert Bishop played well to reach the semi, where he lost to Graham, but he had a hard quarter-final battle with Michael Nocivelli, who has returned to the game with considerable success.

Sandra Pickering, always a better tournament player than in a match, demonstrated this again by taking the women's singles. Cheryl Jewels looked like being a danger to Sandra, but the Swansea girl frittered away a long lead in the second game after losing the first at 19. Julie Ralphs, the holder, took the first from Sandra in the Final, but lost her grip just at the end of the decider, and Sandra was very happy to capitalise.

Jonathan Hardiker took the junior boys' event, but Rhyl's Garry Jones gave him a hard fight. Sandra Coulson won her first title with a girls' singles win over Janet Parry (Clwyd), who had eliminated Debbie Coulthard in the semi. North Wales took both the cadet events, Alun Williams beating fellow North Walian Mark Thomas in the boys' and Sandra Bennett (Clwyd) beating Cathryn Jones (Swansea) in the girls'.

In the Club Team Championships Finals which followed on Sunday, North Wales again demonstrated their junior strength by beating Tele Techs, Merthyr and Swansea YMCA. The Men's Team event went to 53 Cardiff (Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies) who beat Post Office Cardiff (George Evans and Ken Bull) 3/1. The 53 club had had a semi-final walk-over because Clwyd did not turn up, whilst Post Office beat Rhyl Labour 3/0.

The Women's Team event provided an exciting final. Park Club Penarth (Glenys Thomas and Kim Wheatley) beat Caergwle (Julie Ralphs and Nalda Jones) in one semi-final, and Sketty Court, Swansea (Betty Gray and Cheryl Jewels) beat NHSCB, Newport (Barbara Roden and Pat Perrett) in the other. The Final went to 2-all, with Glenys Thomas to face Betty Gray, who hadn't ever lost to Glenys. But there's always a first time, and Glenys won easily in the third to take the title to Penarth.

The promotion play-offs in Division 2 of the Welsh League saw Bridgend, A Section winners, withstand the challenge of Swansea "C" (No. 2 in the B Section), but Barry, B Section winners, went down to Swansea "B", second in Section A. So Bridgend and Swansea "B" are promoted to Division 1.

Welsh Closed Results.

MS. SF: A. Griffiths bt G. Evans 12, 14.

G. Davies bt R. Bishop 12, 15.

Final: Griffiths bt Davies 12, 14.

WS. SF: Julie Ralphs bt Margaret Phillips 13, 12

Sandra Pickering bt Cheryl Jewels 19, 20

Final: Pickering bt Ralphs -16, 13, 19.

MD. F: Griffiths/Davies bt Bloomer/Owen 10, 16
WD. F: Pickering/Phillips bt Gray/Jones 15, 8
XD. F: Davies/Jewels bt Griffiths/Ralphs 18, 14
JBS. F: F. Hardiker bt Garry Jones -11, 21, 16
JGS. F: Sandra Coulson bt Janet Parry 12, 19
Cadet B: Alun Williams bt Mark Thomas 17, 14.
Cadet G: Sandra Bennett bt Cathryn Jones 13, 19.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

FEAST OF PLAY

NORFOLK had a feast of good table tennis during March. First, the Div. 2A European League needle match between England and the Netherlands on March 4th, when 600 spectators at Norwich Lads' Club saw England triumph 6—1 to earn the right to a play-off with Div. 2B winners Federal Germany, for a quick return to the Premier Division.

Secondly, there was the Fenland 2-star Open at the Corn Exchange, King's Lynn, three days later, which attracted a number of nationally-ranked entrants. Here, England players Nicky Jarvis and Linda Howard, both of whom had been seen in action at Norwich, each gained a triple crown.

In the Men's Singles Jarvis beat Paul Day in two straight. He next teamed with Day to overcome David Reeves and Mick Harper, also in two games; then, playing with Linda Howard he disposed of Lincolnshire's Brian Hall and Jean White.

Linda, in her Singles final, deposed the holder, Karen Rogers, and, partnered by Anita Stevenson accounted for Karen Rogers and Lesley Radford.

In the mid-February County Championship matches, Norfolk first team drew 5—5 with Northants at Rushden, as did our Juniors, at the same venue. Norfolk II lost 2—8 to Essex III at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S., where we were pleased to welcome the Essex Chairman, Mr. Ted Pritchard.

Cambridge, as expected, clinched the East Anglian League title with a 7—3 win over their nearest rivals, Dereham.

Douglas Bennett, the 15-year-old Norfolk champion, won the Norfolk Schools U-16 championship for the third time in five years. He is at Sproston High School.

Ken Turner, National Umpire, tells me he has resigned his position as Norfolk Umpires' Organiser, due to business reasons. We recently lost Norfolk's other National Umpire, Stan Ford, so there will be work to do to recover lost ground.

Historic Occasion

by Malcolm Hartley

County match history was made — surely? — in the Division Two North match between Yorkshire and Durham in that five of the six young men taking part were twins.

Yorkshire No. 1 was 16-year-old Andy Metcalfe, whose brother Brian, the younger by 15 minutes, was playing the same day against Durham in Junior Division North.

Robert Hazelwood, also 16, is less well-known than his brother Steve, who is at No. 8 in the national boys' rankings, but is himself a Group "A" player.

Durham No. 1 was Peter McQueen (20), whose twin Tony plays in the Sunderland League; and he was supported by David and Ian Svenson, born in Sunderland of a Swedish father. They took up table tennis comparatively late and are now 21.

David first arrived on the county scene last season and Ian joined him this time to help Durham's bid for a place in the promotion play-offs.

Situation Vacant

The Director of the World Table Tennis Championships and Exhibition is looking for a personal assistant. The post, based in Hastings with occasional travel, calls for a person with tact and administrative ability. Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing marked personal and confidential to the Director of the World Table Tennis Championships, 21 Claremont, Hastings, TN34 1HA.

A FILM TO AID THE HARD-PRESSED COACH!

TABLE TENNIS

A FOUR-PART FILM PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Script and Technical Adviser
LES GRESSWELL

*"I am of the opinion that these films can only
do good wherever they are used."*
John O'Sullivan, Table Tennis News

Each film is 13 minutes in duration * in Eastmancolour
16mm with optical soundtrack * 8mm with magnetic soundtrack
delivered with teaching notes

All these films are for sale OR hire. For full details write or phone

GERARD HOLDSWORTH PRODUCTIONS LIMITED
31 Palace Street, London, SW1E 5HW 01-828 1671



JUBILEE OCCASION

A smiling Devon County President, Mrs. Frances Jarvis, with members of the County Senior and Junior "A" teams who won the "Cornwall Jubilee Cup" and the "Tempest Trophy" respectively at the Cornwall Silver Jubilee tournament to mark the 25th anniversary of the Cornwall Table Tennis Association, held at St. Austell, on Saturday, March 6th, 1976.

Pictured (left to right) are: Paul Stone, Keith James, Katherine Rowe, Elaine Lamb, Mike Rattue, Mrs. Jarvis, Susan Tilley, Terry Fairbanks, Michael Shearman, Keith Ponting (Hon. Secretary) and Barry Davis.

Barry Davis won the Men's Singles, Elaine Lamb the Women's Singles, Michael Shearman the Boys' Singles, whilst Mike Rattue and Susan Tilley were runners-up in the Men's Singles and the Girls' Singles.

Photo by courtesy of Robert Roskrow, Truro, Cornwall.

SALFORD and ECCLES I-STAR OPEN

CHESHIRE DOMINATE

by George R. Yates

Cheshire county players dominated the inaugural Salford and Eccles 1-Star Open championships played at Stretford Sports Centre on March 20 claiming four of the five titles at stake, the only one to elude them being the women's doubles won by Susan Dove and Marilyn Sangster of Middlesex.

Nigel Eckersley brought off his first open tournament singles success of the season when in the final of the men's he beat his Hyde colleague John Hilton. Again in the women's singles final it was an all-Cheshire affair with Susan Lisle, England-ranked at No. 4, proving far too experienced a campaigner for Wendy Shaw of Swinton.

Results:

M.S. Quarter-finals:
J. Hilton (Ches) bt N. Hallows (Lancs) 13, -19, 11;
R. Hampson (Ches) bt K. Beadsley (Yorks) -17, 8, 13;
A. Fletcher (Yorks) bt D. Constance (Ches) 17, 16;
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt C. Heap (Lancs) 8, 16;
Semi-finals:
Hilton bt Hampson 13, 19;
Eckersley bt Fletcher 18, -18, 19.
Final:
Eckersley bt Hilton 10, 15.
W.S.: Semi-finals:
S. Lisle (Ches) bt S. Dove (Middx) -21, 10, 8;
W. Shaw (Ches) bt D. Schofield (Ches) 19, -21, 13.
Final:
Lisle bt Shaw 6, 10.

M.D: Semi-finals:
Eckersley/Hilton bt Hallows/I. Smith (Lancs.) 19, -20, 9;
Constance/B. Kean (Ches) bt Hampson/D. Schofield (Ches) 13, 19.
Final:
Eckersley/Hilton bt Constance/Kean 22, 15.
W.D: Semi-finals:
Lisle/Shaw bt J. Scragg/M. Turner (Ches) 16, 10;
Dove/M. Sangster (Middx) bt J. Dixon/J. Evans (Lancs.) 19, 17.
Final:
Dove/Sangster bt Lisle/Shaw 10, 19.
V.S: Semi-finals:
Schofield bt M. Tew (Ches) -19, 19, 16;
P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt J. Clewitt (Lancs) 18, 12.
Final:
Schofield bt D'Arcy 16, 18.

THE HALEX DAGENHAM 3-STAR OPEN

FINAL CONCEDED by Bernard Chatterley

Despite losing seeded players such as Andrew Barden, John Hilton, Shelagh Hession, Chris Sewell and Melody Lüdi — all victims of the 'flu epidemic, the Halex Dagenham Three Star Open at Redbridge Sports Centre over the weekend of February 21-22, was an enormous success. With unranked players also dropping out there was a continuous stream of hopefuls arriving at Redbridge in the hope of getting into the event on "scratch".

The quarters were contested by Richard Yule and Nicky Jarvis, who produced a magnificent set which saw the Cleveland man come through in three. Denis Neale played Martin Shuttle and found the Surrey youngster much improved since he last played him in the Midland Open. After

leading most of the way through the first the junior finally succumbed to the superior skills and experience of the No. 1 seed. Jimmy Walker progressed to the semi-final with a win in three games over Essex No. 1 Ian Horsham. The last quarter-final was a good set in which Desmond Douglas defeated Paul Day.

And so to the finals session on Sunday evening with a fantastically encouraging crowd of around 500 people crowded around the court to watch England's top players in action. Neale opened the proceedings with a quick-fire win over Cleveland colleague Walker by 5, 16, and as usual the set between Jarvis and Douglas was a good one with the latter coming through 12, -19, 17.

The Women's Doubles followed with the favourites, Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard crashing by a -15, -17 margin to Carole Knight and Karen Rogers.

In the Men's Doubles, Douglas and Neale added the Dagenham crown to their collection in an exciting set against Day and Jarvis. The pair scraped through the first 23-21, were hammered 21-14 in the second and then picked themselves up to take the third 21-16.

The Junior Boys' and Girls' Singles were, as ever, keenly contested and the culmination of the two events was the crowning of Shuttle, champion by virtue of a fine 20, 19 win over Ken's Ian Kenyon and the victory of Berkshire youngster Karen Witt by identical scores over Angela Tierney of Cleveland. When one considers that Karen has only been out of hospital after two operations for some four weeks her victory was even more impressive particularly as she also knocked No. 4 seed Lesley Radford out of the Women's Singles.

In the Mixed event Neale and Carole Knight had a close two straight victory over Douglas and Linda Howard, 22, 19.

European No. 1 Jill Hammersley came to the table against England No. 2 Carole Knight for the Women's Singles event. With the thought in her mind that Carole had been the only player to inflict defeat upon her for some years Jill began nervously and was soon well behind in the first, but her pride, fighting spirit and, perhaps most important, skill, rallied her and she took the first 21-18. In the second it was the Cleveland girl's turn to be behind and this time she fought back only to falter again at the later stages with the title going to Mrs. Hammersley 21-17.

The Men's Singles final began with a bang and ended with a whisper with Douglas taking a closely contested first 21-19 and then suffering a painful elbow injury in losing the second 8-21 and being forced to retire so giving Denis the title. Disappointing for Desmond, disappointing for the large crowd which had waited all evening for the clash of giants, but perhaps more disappointing for Denis who is a man who likes to win his title by points rather than retirements.

Super TURBO

The world's first foam rubber surface with a layer of 100% CAOUTCHOUC. Dispensing with synthetic rubber, this surface has an unexcelled gripping quality, elasticity and durability. The extremely compressed foam rubber layer makes the surface super fast. TURBO SUPER is an exclusive worldwide development for

JOOLA

table tennis

Norfolk 10 Cambridgeshire II 0

Warwickshire 7 Northamptonshire 3
Warwickshire's weakness in girls evident with Bev Green absent, on senior duty. Visitors three successes in girls events. No trouble for home boys.

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Hampshire II 0 Wiltshire 10

Berkshire II 6 Buckinghamshire 4

Home side required draw from this match to secure Divisional Championship and went 5-1 up, but it was only Robert Johnson's win over Steve Brown in the tenth set that gave them victory after a good recovery by the visitors.

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Clwyd 6 Cumbria II 4

Nottinghamshire 9 Cleveland III 1

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Worcestershire 6 Gwent 4

Shropshire 8 Oxfordshire 2

Worcestershire 5 Staffordshire 5

Staffordshire had previously conceded only one set in their previous three matches and were surprised that Worcestershire really had something to offer.

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Hertfordshire II 4 Suffolk 6

Good-quality performance from both sides in an interesting encounter between top and bottom teams in the section. Veteran 12-year-old Stuart Palmer gave visitors victory with a last set win over Terry Pleasance with rather more 'towel-ling-down' than one would normally expect.

Huntingdonshire 6 Essex III 4

Hunts built up a 5-1 lead with wins by Mark and Stephen Fisher and the girls matches, but a brave fight by Essex put them in with a chance, but Mark Fisher's win in the final set gave Hunts their first win of the season.

VETERAN SOUTH

Essex 9 Huntingdonshire 0

Essex II 9 Huntingdonshire 0

Kent 4 Hampshire 5

Wiltshire 2 Oxfordshire 7

VETERAN MIDLAND

Clwyd 7 Leicestershire 2

Nottinghamshire 9 Worcestershire 0

Incorrect playing order deprived Worcestershire of their only actual success on the table.
Staffordshire 0 Cheshire 9

TABLES FOR MATCHES UP TO MARCH 14th
subject to ratification

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cleveland	6	5	0	1	40	14	10
Cheshire	6	5	0	1	30	24	10
Middlesex	6	4	0	2	32	22	8
Warwickshire	6	3	0	3	27	27	6
Surrey	6	3	0	3	26	28	6
Essex	6	2	0	4	29	25	4
Yorkshire	6	2	0	4	20	34	4
Lancashire	6	0	0	6	12	42	0

2nd SOUTH (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sussex	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Kent	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Surrey II	5	2	1	2	22	28	5
Middlesex II	5	2	0	3	26	24	4
Hampshire	5	2	0	3	17	33	4
Essex II	5	1	0	4	22	28	2

2nd NORTH (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cleveland II	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Yorkshire II	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Lincolnshire	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Durham	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Northumberland	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Nottinghamshire	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

2nd MIDLAND (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leicestershire	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Glamorgan	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Derbyshire	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Staffordshire	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Warwickshire II	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Gloucestershire	5	0	0	5	4	46	0

2nd EAST (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambridgeshire	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Hertfordshire	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Northamptonshire	5	2	2	1	26	24	6
Norfolk	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Bedfordshire	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Buckinghamshire	5	0	0	5	13	37	0

2nd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Berkshire	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Worcestershire	6	4	0	2	40	20	8
Devon	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Wiltshire	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Somerset	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Gwent	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Cornwall	5	0	0	5	3	37	0

3rd SOUTH (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sussex II	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Kent II	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Hertfordshire II	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Berkshire II	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Oxfordshire	4	0	1	3	8	32	1

3rd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire II	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Lancashire II	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Cleveland III	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Cumbria	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Northumberland II	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

3rd MIDLAND (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Derbyshire II	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Clwyd	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Warwickshire III	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Staffordshire II	5	2	1	2	21	29	5
Nottinghamshire II	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
Northamptonshire II	5	0	0	5	15	35	0

3rd EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex III	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Huntingdonshire	5	2	2	1	25	25	6
Suffolk	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Cambridgeshire II	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Norfolk II	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Bedfordshire II	5	1	1	3	15	35	3

3rd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Glamorgan II	5	5	0	0	37	13	10
Avon	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Dorset	5	2	1	2	22	28	5
Worcestershire II	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Herefordshire	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Shropshire	5	0	1	4	18	32	1

JUNIOR PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	6	6	0	0	46	14	12
Middlesex	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Surrey	6	4	0	2	40	20	8
Kent	6	3	1	2	30	30	7
Berkshire	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Essex	6	1	1	4	25	35	3
Cambridgeshire	6	1	0	5	19	41	2
Cleveland	6	1	0	5	18	42	2

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex II	6	6	0	0	42	18	12
Surrey II	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Sussex	5	2	2	1	27	23	6
Hampshire	5	2	0	3	26	24	4
Dorset	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Kent II	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Essex II	5	0	1	4	15	35	1

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancashire	6	6	0	0	43	17	12
Yorkshire II	6	5	1	0	47	13	11
Durham	6	4	1	1	42	18	9
Cumbria	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Derbyshire	6	3	0	3	30	30	6
Northumberland	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Cleveland II	6	0	0	6	14	46	0
Cheshire	6	0	0	6	7	53	0

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hertfordshire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Warwickshire	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Norfolk	5	2	2	1	36	24	6
Leicestershire	5	2	2	1	25	25	6
Northamptonshire	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Glamorgan	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Cambridgeshire II	5	0	1	4	9	41	1

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Berkshire II	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Wiltshire	4	2	1	1	27	13	5
Buckinghamshire	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Sussex II	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Hampshire II	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

JUNIOR NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Clwyd	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Nottinghamshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Lincolnshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Cumbria II	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Cleveland III	4	0	0	4	11	29	0

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Staffordshire	4	3	1	0	34	6	7
Worcestershire	4	2	2	0	23	17	6
Gwent	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Shropshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	2
Oxfordshire	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

JUNIOR 3rd EAST (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Suffolk	4	3	1	0	23	17	7
Essex III	4	1	2	1	23	17	4
Bedfordshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Huntingdonshire	4	1	1	2	19		

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

CLEVELAND SLIP

Premier Division matches played over the weekend of March 13th/14th set the fuse for one of the biggest explosions in CITC history. Looking forward to April matches Essex would appear favourites for the drop into the second division, they play Cleveland, whilst Yorkshire's future is in their own hands for the clash with Lancashire. Yorkshire should win and Essex should lose; I will refrain from further comment as Cleveland should have beaten Middlesex — and they didn't.

The Junior Premier Division has finally been settled with Yorkshire coming out on top and Middlesex could finish as runners up.

PREMIER DIVISION

Cheshire 5 Essex 4

J. Hilton lost to I. Horsham -20, 8, -19; beat R. Potton -22, 14, 18.

N. Eckersley lost to Horsham -13, 17, -16; beat G. Blomfield 19, -18, 27.

R. Hampson lost to Potton -14, -19; beat Blomfield 15, 15.

Eckersley/Hampson lost to Blomfield/Potton -19, -19.

Miss S. Lisle beat Mrs. L. Radford -10, 12, 19. Hilton/Miss Lisle beat Horsham/Mrs. Radford 14, 19.

Lesley Radford brought in to beat Sue Lisle, a play that failed and with the score at 4-all Nigel Eckersley edged home against Graham Blomfield 29-27 in the decider! It's a thin line separating victory from defeat.

Cleveland 3 Middlesex 6

J. Walker beat A. Barden 13, 10; beat M. Mitchell 10, 17.

A. Ransome lost to Barden -11, -16; lost to D. Tan -21, -17.

S. Souter lost to Mitchell -16 -12; beat Tan -18, 13, 17.

Souter/Walker lost to Mitchell/Tan -19, 13, -17. Miss C. Knight lost to Miss A. Mitchell 15, -15, -16.

Ransome/Miss Knight lost to Barden/Miss Mitchell -9, -14.

Neale and Jarvis struck down with 'flu and after Angela Mitchell's win over Carole Knight, Cleveland had had it.

Lancashire 1 Warwickshire 8

D. Parker lost to Douglas -16, 7; beat P. Judd 14, 10.

P. Bowen lost to Douglas -8, -17; lost to D. Munt 19, -19, -13;

N. Hallows lost to Judd -4, 14, -18; lost to Munt -16, 16, -20.

Bowen/Parker lost to Douglas/Judd -17, -15.

Miss B. Kirkman lost to Miss B. Green -14, -19. Hallows/Miss Kirkman lost to Munt/Miss Green -19, -13.

Surrey 7 Yorkshire 2

R. Yule beat A. Clayton 12, -12, 12; beat A. Fletcher 12, -19, 9.

D. Welsman lost to Clayton -10, -13; beat S. Hazelwood -19, 15, 13.

M. Shuttle beat Fletcher 20, 21; beat Hazelwood 18, 13.

Shuttle/Welsman lost to Clayton/Fletcher -16, -17. Miss L. Howard beat Miss M. Ludi 15, 9.

Yule/Miss Howard beat Hazelwood/Miss J. McLean 8, 19.

Fine first team debut for Martin Shuttle.

2nd SOUTH

Essex II 4 Hampshire 6

Women's Doubles proved the turning point after Keith Summerfield had given the visitors the start they needed, winning 21-19 in the decider over David Bowles.

Sussex 9 Surrey II 1

Middlesex II 7 Kent 3

2nd NORTH

Lincolnshire 6 Cleveland II 4

Northumberland 8 Nottinghamshire 2

Hosts able to play their strongest possible side

for the first time this season, and happy that at least this, their only win, will keep them in the second division for a further season at the expense of their visitors.

Yorkshire II 8 Durham 2

Yorkshire obtaining some insurance against possible first team relegation from the Premier — they qualify for the Challenge matches should it be necessary otherwise Lincolnshire challenge.

2nd MIDLAND

Gloucestershire 2 Staffordshire 8

Improved performance from home side, but only able to pick up a couple of sets, from William Dawe and David Harvey over Tony Isaac.

Leicestershire 6 Glamorgan 4

No doubt about the 'man of the match' here — Alan Griffiths was brilliant! Neither Rogers nor Randell had lost a set this season — he beat both of them, Promising debut for Philip Smith with a good win over Micky Owens.

Warwickshire II 6 Derbyshire 4

2nd EAST

Cambridgeshire 9 Bedfordshire 1

All too easy for Cambridgeshire as they romped to their second successive championship.

Hertfordshire 4 Northamptonshire 6

Rod Marchant beat Richard Jermyn two-straight to open proceedings, and later lost to Jonathan Proffitt two-straight. All others went the full distance and Northants worthy winners.

Norfolk 6 Buckinghamshire 4

Doubles the key to Norfolk's success.

2nd WEST

Cornwall 0 Wiltshire 10

Gwent 2 Worcestershire 8

Only John Bloomer able to make any impression against visitors.

Somerset 2 Berkshire 8

Devon 4 Wiltshire 6

Well deserved win for visitors with Chris Shetler in sparkling form; Pam Oung also impressive. Devon tried hard but it was Wiltshire's day.

3rd SOUTH

Hertfordshire II 1 Kent II 9

Kent never allowed the home side into the game, and Herts never looked like troubling the visitors, Kent's men miles ahead.

Kent II 3 Sussex II 7

Oxfordshire 5 Hertfordshire II 5

First Oxfordshire match for ex-Surrey Paul Bishop — and first point this season for hosts.

3rd MIDLAND

Derbyshire II 6 Warwickshire III 4

Registration mix up in Derbyshire and their 8—2 win on the table reduced to 6—4 after Miss A. Fearnough's matches were counted out.

Northamptonshire II 3 Sir Clwyd 7

Home side's three all won at 19 in the decider in a sporting encounter played under first class conditions at Wellingborough.

Staffordshire II 7 Nottinghamshire II 3

3rd EAST

Huntingdonshire 7 Cambridgeshire II 3

Bedfordshire II 0 Essex III 10

3rd WEST

Herefordshire 1 Glamorgan II 9

Shropshire 5 Dorset 5

JUNIOR PREMIER

Essex 5 Berkshire 5

K. Calden beat D. Reeves 11, -15, 18; beat A. Wellman -20, 18, 11.

D. Newman lost to Reeves -19, -15; beat S. Douglas 14, 17.

K. Owers lost to Wellman -18, -13; lost to S. Douglas -11, -20.

Caldon/Newman beat Douglas/Wellman 16, 13.

Miss S. Sutton lost to Miss K. Witt -17, -15.

Owers/Miss P. Abott lost to Reeves/Miss M. Smith 22, -16, -15.

Miss Abbott/Miss Sutton beat Miss Smith/Miss Witt -16, 17, 19.

Cambridgeshire 4 Kent 6

K. Richardson lost to I Kenyon -15, 19, -14; beat I. Collins 19, 9.

G. Davies lost to Kenyon 19, -9, -9;

beat J. Kennedy -31, 21, 19.

A. Withers beat Collins 8, 14;

lost to Kennedy -10, -7.

Davies/Richardson beat Collins/Kenyon 14, 18.

Miss V. Rowell lost to Miss C. Colegate -12, -4.

Withers/Miss J. Palmer lost to Kennedy/Miss G. Ballard -10, -14.

Miss Palmer/Miss Rowell lost to Miss Ballard/

Miss Colegate -14, -17.

Cleveland 1 Middlesex 9

I. Plummer lost to A. Barden -9, -15;

lost to D. Wells -17, -17.

M. Laird lost to A. Barden -13, -13;

lost to M. O'Mahoney 19, -13, -10.

M. Murphy lost to Wells -13, 15, -11;

lost to O'Mahoney -16, 16, -15.

Laird/Murphy lost to O'Mahoney/Wells

17, -11, -13.

Miss A. Tierney beat Miss A. Mitchell 15, 18.

Plummer/Miss H. Robinson lost to Barden/Miss

M. Reeves 17, -15, -13.

Miss Robinson/Miss Tierney lost to Miss

Mitchell/Miss Reeves -10, -21.

Surrey 4 Yorkshire 6

M. Shuttle beat S. Hazelwood 12, 14;

beat M. Harrison 17, 18.

S. Boxall lost to Hazelwood 16, -8, 16;

beat K. Beardsley 17, -16, 18.

K. Seager lost to M. Harrison -18, -12;

beat Beardsley 15, 19.

Boxall/Seager lost to Beardsley/Harrison -16, -20.

Miss S. Roebuck lost to Miss M. Lüdi -18, -15.

Shuttle/Miss J. Mitchell lost to Hazelwood/Miss

J. McLean -20, -16.

Miss Mitchell/Miss Roebuck lost to Miss Lüdi/

Miss McLean -6, -10.

Yorkshire good value for their win in a rather 'Mistake-ridden' match, probably due to its importance. Melody, Julie and Martin were above this sort of thing with Mike Harrison showing signs of joining them. On this evidence, Kevin Beardsley is over-rated on the England list and the Yorkshire selectors have obviously got him and Harrison in the right order.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Dorset 8 Essex II 2

At times this match did not betray the tensions that come with the few matches of the season. After a hesitant start, Dorset gained confidence and reeled off the last six sets.

Middlesex II 6 Hampshire 4

Sussex 5 Surrey II 5

Fine recovery by Sussex, who were 1—4 down before GS.

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Cumbria 9 Cheshire 1

Chris Reed stretched his unbeaten run in County Matches to 12 games, whilst 13-year-old Gail Smith registered her first singles victory in the Championships. Cumbria too strong for a Cheshire side in the process of rebuilding. Ross McFarlane looks a good prospect.

Derbyshire 8 Cleveland II 2

Visitor's wins by Stephen Holden and Paul Hindle over Derbys No. 1 Robert Allen were all they got, while Steve Yallop's win over Holden (23, -21, 11) produced the best rallies of the match.

Durham 5 Yorkshire II 5

Keith Paxton back in action gave Durham the fillip they needed, but Yorkshire won all three girls sets.

Northumberland 4 Lancashire 6

Home side might have given high flying visitors a shock, but their 4—3 lead was smashed when the last three sets went to Lancashire.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Hertfordshire 5 Leicestershire 5

A cracking match which required a decider in seven sets, but it was the boys games which stood out, especially Jonathan Proffitt v Chris Rogers (13, -18, -22).

Continued on page 31