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Table Tennis News

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EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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D.D. GOES TOP



Photo by TONY DUFFY of SUTTON, SURREY

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NEW DAWN

The fact that Denis Neale has, for the first time since February, 1966, been demoted lower than No. 2 in the English rankings and that Jill Hammersley, for so long the unrivalled queen of women's play, has been beaten on the home tournament circuit—her last domestic loss being in December, 1972—is a sure sign of the times.

The portends, therefore, are good, for monopolies, in no matter what field, stultify competitiveness, which is the very essence of our game.

How many leagues, for instance, are there up and down the country whose first division has been monopolised for season after season by one particular team who, at the very outset of the season, are the odds-on favourites?

How much better it is for all concerned to have that unpredictable element pervading an atmosphere that all too often becomes stale by a sewn-up state of affairs. From a publicity viewpoint it is the unexpected that makes the news and although one has sympathy with the downing of a champion—if only temporarily—all credit to the likes of Desmond Douglas and Carole Knight who have by their deeds opened up a new and thrilling chapter in the annals of the English Table Tennis Association.

Matters could not have altered at a better time, for with the 1977 World Championships now somewhat more than a speck on the horizon, the new dawn looks promising.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT



by The Editor

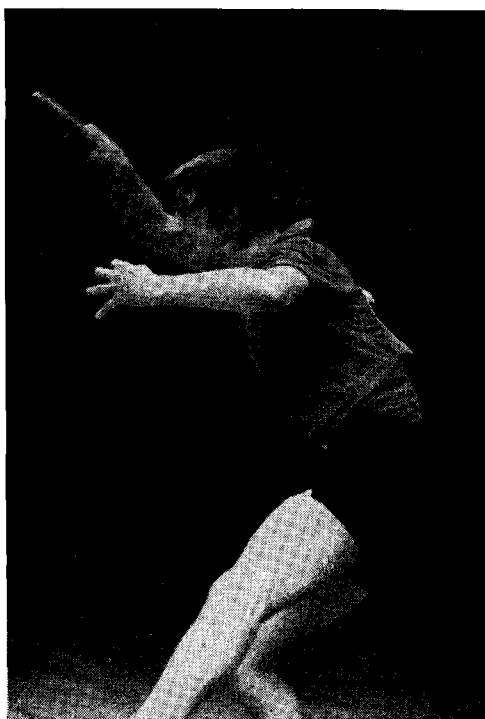
SOVIET LEAD, FRANCE SHOCK

Russia, with successive wins over Yugoslavia (4-3) and Poland (6-1), have established themselves as the pace-setters in the Premier Division of the European League.

It was in Moscow, on October 16, that the U.S.S.R. avenged their 4-3 defeat of last season by beating Yugoslavia after establishing a 3-0 lead and winning the match in the fifth set with victory in the mixed doubles.

Individual scores:—

A. Strokotov bt A. Stipanovic 18, -12, 16.
S. Gomozkov bt D. Surbek 12, 18.
E. Antonian bt E. Palatinus 16, 15.
Gomozkov/S. Sarkhajan lost to Stipanovic/Surbek -15, -19.
Sarkhajan/Antonian bt Stipanovic/Palatinus 17, -20, 11.



Anatoli Strokotov, of the Soviet Union, who had wins over Witold Woznica and Ryszard Czochanski in the European League match against Poland.

Photo by Tony Ross.

Strokotov lost to Surbek 19, -20, -26.
Gomozkov lost to Stipanovic 15, -14, -20.

Leaving Stanislav Gomozkov behind, the Russians, with Bagrat Burnazian as replacement, met with little difficulty in disposing of Poland 6-1 in Warsaw on November 12. It was only in the penultimate set that Witold Woznica put Poland on the map when he beat Burnazian. Zoya Rudnova made a fitting return. Scores:—

W. Woznica lost to A. Strokotov -9, 20, -13.
R. Czochanski lost to B. Burnazian -13, -17.
A. Przygoda lost to Z. Rudnova -10, -12.
A. Baronowski/Czochanski lost to Burnazian/Strokotov -13, -10.
Czochanski/E. Olek lost to Sarkhajan/Rudnova -15, -12.
Woznica bt Burnazian 12, 19.
Czochanski lost to Strokotov -18, -15.

Sweden, the reigning title holders, away to Yugoslavia in Zagreb on November 12, were beaten 4-3 in a match which saw the visitors' former world champion, Stellan Bengtsson twice beaten in singles combat by Dragutin Surbek and Anton Stipanovic. Scores:—

A. Stipanovic lost to K. Johansson 14, -18, -16.
D. Surbek bt S. Bengtsson -16, 20, 13.
E. Palatinus bt A.-C. Hellman -12, 16, 16.
Stipanovic/Surbek lost to Bengtsson/Johansson -14, 14, -18.
Stipanovic/Palatinus bt Bengtsson/Hellman 13, -17, 18.

Stipanovic bt Bengtsson 15, -17, 7.
Surbek lost to Johansson -13, 18, -15.

Biggest shock on the night of November 12, in Szeged, was the 6-1 win obtained by France over a strange Hungarian team whose only winner was Istvan Asztalos, who beat Patrick Birocheau in the second set.

Jacques Secretin made merry against the Magyars as did Claude Bergeret against Gabrielle Szabo, and in the mixed against Janos Molnar and Miss Szabo. Scores:—

F. Timar lost to J. Secretin -12, -9.
I. Asztalos bt P. Birocheau 20, -11, 19.
G. Szabo lost to C. Bergeret -19, -17.
J. Molnar/Timar lost to Birocheau/Secretin -14, -16.
Molnar/Szabo lost to Secretin/Bergeret -18, -9.
Timar lost to Birocheau 18, -18, -14.
Asztalos lost to Secretin -9, -15.

PREMIER TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	2	2	0	10	4	2
Czechoslovakia	1	1	0	7	0	1
Sweden	2	1	1	9	5	1
France	2	1	1	7	7	1
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	7	7	1
Hungary	1	0	1	1	6	0
Poland	2	0	2	1	13	0

Following on their 6-1 defeat by England at Eastbourne, in Division 2 Group A, Denmark entertained Luxembourg in Randers, on November 15, winning 6-1, the only set to escape them being the women's singles in which Annie Larsen lost to Jeanny Dom. Scores:—

C. Pedersen bt A. Hartmann 21, 18.
N. Ramberg bt J. Krier 9, 19.
A. Larsen lost to J. Dom -13, -8.
Pederson/Ramberg bt Hartman/Krier 12, 15.
Ramberg/Larsen bt Krier/Dom -13, 21, 8.
Pedersen bt Krier 17, 11.
Ramberg bt Hartmann 9, 15.

Scores in Ireland's home match against Belgium on October 16, when the visitors won 5-2, were:—

J. Langan bt W. Dugardin 16, 14.
T. Caffrey lost to N. v.d. Walle -12, -19.
K. Senior lost to M.-F. Germinat -10, -16.
Caffrey/Langan bt Dugardin/v.d. Walle -12, 15.
Langan/Senior lost to v.d. Walle/Germinat -16, -12.
Langan lost to v.d. Walle -10, -12.
Caffrey lost to Dugardin 20, -17, -20.



Japanese coaches Takuji Nishimi and Hideyuki Matsumoto, from Tokyo, who spent six weeks in Remlingen, Federal Germany, to help several top European players from England, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, Holland and the host nation. Pictured (centre) is Cor du Buy, of Holland, with the two coaches, one of whose pupils was Desmond Douglas, the current England No. 1.

DIVISION 2A TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	6	1	1
Netherlands	1	1	0	6	1	1
Belgium	1	1	0	5	2	1
Denmark	2	1	1	7	7	1
Ireland	1	0	1	2	5	0
Luxembourg	2	0	2	2	12	0

In Basle, on November 12, Federal Germany again registered a maximum 7-0 scoreline, their victims on this occasion being Switzerland, who failed to take a game. Peter Engel replaced Peter Stellwag to team up with Jochen Leiss and Weibke Hendriksen. Scores: M. Frutschi lost to P. Engel -3, -5. Th. Busin lost to J. Leiss -13, -10. V. Lehmann lost to W. Hendriksen -10, -12. Busin/Barcikowsky lost to Engel/Leiss -13, -12. Frutschi/Luterbacher lost to Leiss/Hendriksen -8, -8. Frutchi lost to Leiss -12, -12. Busin lost to Engel -14, -21.

On the same date, in Athens, Greece went under 7-0 for the second successive time, this time at the hands of Bulgaria. Scores:— D. Zikos lost to G. Damianov 10, -19, -14. E. Diakikis lost to B. Gentchev -14, -13. M. Louka lost to E. Neikova -20, -16. N. Voulgaris/Zikos lost to Damianov/Gentchev 16, -17, -13. N. Costopoulos/Louka lost to Mitev/Neikova -20, 19, -15. Zikos lost to Gentchev -17, 15, -16. Diakikis lost to Damianov -16, -22.

Italy, who were so narrowly defeated for the chance of promotion last season, began with a narrow 4-3 win over Switzerland on October 16, mainly due to the efforts of Stefano Bosi, who figured in three of the home team's four successes. Scores:—

S. Bosi bt B. Chatton 16, 14.
R. Giontella lost to M. Frutschi -14, -17.
D. Carinali lost to T. Foldy -11, -16.
Bosi/M. Constantini bt Chatton/Frutschi 19, 9.
Constantini/Cardinali bt Chatton/Foldy -11, 18, 16.
Bosi bt Frutschi 13, 17.
Giontella lost to Chatton 16, -18, -17.

DIVISION 2B TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Federal Germany	2	2	0	14	0	2
Bulgaria	2	2	0	12	2	2
Italy	1	1	0	4	3	1

Austria	1	0	1	2	5	0
Switzerland	2	0	2	3	11	0
Greece	2	0	2	0	14	0

POLISH OPEN

Milan Orlowski, Czechoslovakia's reigning European champion, was the winner of the men's singles title in the Polish Open, played in Wroclaw over the period October 24-26. In an all-Czech final, Orlowski, despite losing the first game to his compatriot, Jaroslav Kunz, got home in the next three.

Winner of the counterpart women's event was Miloslava Zizkova, also of Czechoslovakia, her final victim being Danuta Calinska, of Poland.

Orlowski and Kunz combined to win the men's doubles beating Per Sandström and Ingemar Vikström, of Sweden, in the final. Again it was Czechoslovakia in the women's doubles, with Zizkova/Cikova beating Olek/Przygoda, of Poland.

Only the mixed title escaped the Czechs when, in an all-Swedish final, Sandström and Birgitta Olsson beat Wikstrom and Eva Ström-vall. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

J. Kunz (Cz) bt S. Fraczyk (Po) 7, 18, 12.
M. Orlowski (Cz) bt P. Sandström (Sw) 11, 12, 19.

Final

ORLOWSKI bt Kunz -22, 13, 13, 22.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

D. Calinska (Po) bt E. Ström-vall (Sw) 12, 16, 15.

M. Zizkova (Cz) bt C. Noworyta (Po) 18, -15, -17, 18, 13.

Final

ZIZKOVA bt Calinska 17, 21, 15.

Men's Doubles—Final

KUNZ/ORLOWSKI bt Sandström/I. Wikström (Sw) 9, 11, 13.

Women's Doubles—Final

CIZKOVA (Cz)/ZIZKOVA bt Olek/A. Przygoda (Po) 11, 11, 9.

Mixed Doubles—Final

SANDSTROM/B. OLSSON (Sw) bt Wikström/Ström-vall 11, 19, -11, -19, 14.

NEW ZEALAND AFFAIRS

The N.Z.T.T.A.'s "Player of the Year" Award has gone to Neti Traill and Ann Stonestreet, beaten finalists in the women's doubles event in the 3rd Commonwealth Championships in

Melbourne. They lost to England's Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard.

Deborah J. Looms (Marlborough) was selected as the "Junior of the Year".

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, in Wellington, on September 18, the following rankings were approved:—

Men

1—G. Murphy, 2—J. Morris, 3—R. Lee, 4—B. Foster, 5—W. Adamson, 6—A. Tomlinson, 7—K. Palmer, 8—R. Blair, 9—M. Burrowes, 10—R. Lassen.

Women

1—J. Morris, 2—A. Stonestreet, 3—N. Traill, 4—Y. Fogarty, 5—K. Fraser, M. Murphy, 7—A. Brackenridge, 8—P. Marks, 9—C. Sole, 10—B. Taylor.

Boys

1—H. Redmond, 2—L. Richards, 3—S. Armstrong, 4—M. Darroch, 5—A. Armstrong, 6—R. Catton, 7—D. Westmoreland, 8—S. Fish, 9—N. Kennerley, 10—D. Duncan.

Girls

1—A. Brackenridge, 2—D. Looms, 3—C. Murphy, 4—S. Palmer, 5—L. Jekel, 6—J. Brant, 7—S. Bing, 8—T. Bargh, 9—K. Kennersley, 10—D. Ord.

SWEDISH RANKINGS

Topping the rankings published by the Swedish Association on October 1 are Kjell Johansson, of the Mölndals BTK club and Ann-Christin Hellman, of Varbergs BTK. Top boy is Tommy Danielsson (Trollhättans BTK) and top girl is Eva Ström-vall (Vaabergs). Leading positions are:—

Men

1—K. Johansson, 2—S. Bengtsson, 3—U. Thorsell, 4—I. Vikström, 5—P. Standström, 6—B. Persson, 7—A. Grönlund, 8—R. Lagerfeldt, 9—A. Johansson, 10—K. Hellström.

Women

1—A.-C. Hellmann, 2—B. Olsson, 3—E. Ström-vall, 4—B. Radberg, 5—U.-M. Gustavsson, 6—M. Neidert, 7—E. Fredenlund, 8—G. Lindström.

Boys

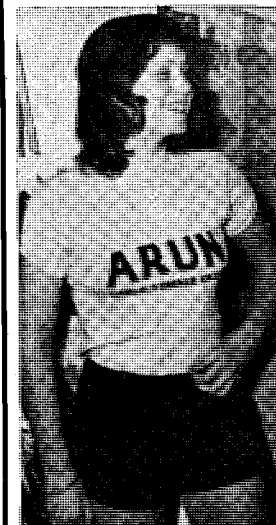
1—T. Danielsson, 2—L. Franklin, 3—C. Tegner, 4—S. Hansfeldt, 5—U. Bengtsson, 6—A. Bylund.

Girls

1—E. Ström-vall, 2—A. Hernvall, 3—M. Lindblad, 4—G. Larsson, 5—G. Fogelberg, 6—K. Nilsson.

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EUROPE CLUB CUP

Dutch Club Tempo-Team, led by Trevor Taylor, from England, brought off an astounding 5-4 win over Bp Vasustas, of Budapest, Hungary, after trailing 1-4! For the winners both Taylor and Nico van Slobbe had two wins with Herman Hopman supplying the other at the expense of a luckless Sandor Herangi. The latter was substituting for Gabor Geragely who, on October 28, was called up for 8 months' military service.

Again in a second round match of the women's competition Tempo-Team accounted for Nord Harrislee, of Federal Germany, 5-3. Ellen Klatt (3) and Marjan v.d. Vliet (2) scored for the winners with Kirsten Kruger (2) and Magrit Trupkovitch (1) replying for the visitors.

In the Dutch domestic league Tempo-Team have maximum points from 9 matches and are sure to become the Autumn champions with Deltalloyd the runners-up.

As part of their training programme leading up to next year's European Championships in Prague (March 27—April 4) the Netherlands international squad recently engaged in matches with Poland.

The first dual engagement was in Heerenveen when the Polish men won 8-1 with Bert van der Helm saving the "whitewash". The Dutch women triumphed 4-1 with Margan v.d. Vliet and Sonja Heltzel sharing the wins.

In Sint-Michielsgestel the Dutch men won 5-4 and the women 3-2. Nico van Slobbe had three wins and v.d. Helm (2) for the men with Bettine Vriesekoop (1), Marjan Wagemakers (1) plus the doubles for the women.

Finally, at Alblusserdam, Poland's men returned to winning ways 6-3 but the Dutch women made it a hat-trick with another 3-2 success with Marjan v.d. Vliet (2) and Marjan Wagemakers (1) carrying the day. Herman Hopman (2) and van Slobbe (1) were the men's winners. The Polish squad comprised Witold Woznica, Stanislaw Fraczyk, Ryszard Czochanski, Ewa Olek and Jolanta Szatko.

GATLEY OUT

In a first round Europe Club match away to Paletta Stave, of Belgium, Gatley T.T.C.'s women were beaten 5-1, the visitors' solitary success being obtained in the third set when Susan Lisle beat Veronique Germiot.

Marie-France Germiot and Corine Dhondt both had two successes with Veronique Germiot winning her second set against Doreen Schofield. Diane Johnson was the Stockport team's other member.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Richard Habgood

WE'VE BEEN TELLING THEM FOR YEARS

Des Douglas No. 1. That news, which came out on Friday, November 7, is perhaps the best shot in the arm this game of ours has had for years. Certainly Des is the first local to make the top spot for close on 30 years—the late Adrian Haydon being No. 1 during the 1940's. Des's rise to the top comes after sweeping successes on the tournament circuit this season. To date Des has won the North of England, Humberside and last, but not least, in front of his own crowd, the Halex Midland Counties Open. His performance was superbly impressive at the Midland, winning three titles. To say he crowned himself "King" that night was an understatement—in successive rounds he defeated Jimmy Walker, Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale, ranked No. 4, 2 and 3 in England—respectively. If that's not proof that you are No. 1 then I don't know what is.

Mentioning the Halex Midland Open, of course, brings to mind that the Birmingham Association took this season's event to a new venue. The Alumwell Centre, Walsall, was enjoyed by all who attended and was a most successful venture. Perhaps this is an appropriate spot to mention Referee Doug Young, of Worcester. His handling of the tournament was excellent. Too often players and the public

alike forget "that man" sitting on the stage, but the mark of a good Ref. is surely the fact that no one was conscious of his presence and hence a smooth operation.

The Warwickshire League has finally got under way in a new and reformed division. With four teams from Birmingham and Nuneaton, Tamworth, Leamington and Stratford competing, it should be very interesting. Somehow or other I can't see the South Birmingham League giving up their "champions" tag very easily. The East Birmingham League will also prove to be tough opposition they've already beaten Stratford 9-0 and the side looks more than useful.

Coventry's Juniors are doing well in the Midland League. In Division 1 their "A" team leads, being so far undefeated. Peter Griffiths, Mark Dexter and Chris Martin also make up the County Junior team and so far it is fitting that they are enjoying their success.

At the other end of the scale Coventry's veterans top the Division One of the Midland League. Alan Bury, Roger Thomas and Arthur Clarke are all good players with excellent records. Strangely none have yet played for the County but so too do some well-known vets from Birmingham—Roger Morris and Jim Airey being two others to add to the list. Together with Jim Peakman, Bill Dawson and Arthur Sutton, who do play, the addition of these aforementioned five would mean Warwickshire having an exceptionally strong pool of players from which to choose.

Belatedly it's a warm welcome, playingwise, to Birmingham's Tony Kinsey. Tony, more famous for being Somerset's leading player in recent years, has already made his mark. Against Gloucester, in a recent "B" team game, he remained unbeaten, showing tremendous form and with victories over Derek Munt and Barry Hayward to his credit in the Birmingham League, it looks that the County have a prize capture.

Finally, don't forget the County Closed Championships on Saturday, January 3, 1976. Entry forms are out now from your League Secretary or directly from the Organising Secretary, 415 Moseley Road, Birmingham, B12 9DA.



WELSH CORNER

THE ABERDARE OPEN

by Michael Prosser

Abergavenny's John Mansfield was a popular winner of the men's singles title at the 11th Aberdare Open played at Michael Sobell Sports Centre, on October 26.

John's fluent game can seldom have been better tuned and in the semis and final, neither of John's fellow Welsh internationals and more familiar marauders of Welsh titles, Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies, could find the answer to it.

Alan tried hard, as he always does, and the semi-final clash between arguably the two most competitive players in Wales, produced some exhilarating rallies before John edged home at 22-20 in the third, but Graham—twice a winner of the Aberdare title—could produce little more than token resistance in a final that proved something of an anti-climax. Graham, below his best, had earlier been a little fortunate in beating Fraser Anderson 22-20 in the third.

In winning the title, his first in a long time, John had also put out Walsall's D. T. Evans, Swansea's Ricky Howell, Tredegar's Geoff Birch, Cardiff's Ken Bull and Worcestershire's Bob Brown.

There was some consolation for Alan and Graham when they picked themselves up to beat Birmingham brother Paul and R. L. Judd in a good men's doubles final—thus retaining the title they won last year.

The women's singles went to Birmingham's Diane St. Ledger, who had little trouble with Newport's Elizabeth Jones in the final—Elizabeth having put out the holder, Karen Groves (Birmingham) in the semis. There was better news for Welsh fans in the women's doubles where the young pair of Cheryl Jewels (Swansea) and Julie Ralphs (East Flint) recorded a highly pleasing win, beating the Essex/Middlesex pairing of Helen Gore and Mandy Reeves in a good final.

Barry's George Evans won his first veterans' title, brushing aside the challenge of Wrexham's J. Bishton—who had put out Brian Everson—to gain some compensation for his quarter-final defeat in the M.S. at the hands of Swansea's Michael Owen.

All four Junior and Cadet titles went over the border—the B.S. to Simon Claxton, the G.S. to Helen Gore, the Cadet boys' to Sam Harmer and the Cadet girls' to P. Townsend, of Swindon—a sad reflection of the current standard of junior table tennis in Wales, although it was pleasing to see Alun Williams, of Rhyl, reaching the final of the Cadet event. He beat M. Owens, of Hereford, an English-ranked cadet.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

J. Mansfield bt A. Griffiths -22, 16, 20.
G. Davies bt M. Owen 15, 19.

Final

MANSFIELD bt Davies 11, 16.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

D. St. Ledger bt J. Wilson (Somerset) 13, 17.
E. Jones bt K. Groves 11, 13.

Final

ST. LEDGER bt Jones 14, 10.

Men's Doubles—Final

DAVIES/GRIFFITHS bt P. Judd/R. Judd -17, 11, 12.

Women's Doubles—Final

C. JEWELS/J. RALPHS bt H. Gore/M. Reeves -14, 13, 15.

Boys' Singles—Final

S. CLAXTON bt M. Owen -16, 15, 23.

Girls' Singles—Final

H. GORE bt M. Reeves 11, -20, 14.

Cadet Boys—Final

S. HARMER bt A. Williams 24, 15.

Cadet Girls—Final

P. TOWNSEND bt Reeves 16, -17, 16.

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table tennis

What the papers say in the West Country

TOP TABLE TENNIS AT MAYFLOWER "Western Evening Herald", Plymouth, 7/11/75

Players and followers of table tennis had the chance to see some of the stars of the game in action in Plymouth on November 6, 1975. Several hundred took advantage of it, attending the Nissen Invitation Tournament, held at the Mayflower Sports Centre.

The tournament was organised by the E.T.T.A. and sponsored by Nissen International, who awarded one of their folding tables to the Pilgrim Table Tennis Club for bringing the most number of spectators to the event.

Cash prizes were presented to the winners and runners-up by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Mr. Frank Milligan.

Denis Neale won the men's singles and £125. The runner-up was Desmond Douglas, the Jamaican-born left-hander, who won £75. Jill Hammersley won the women's singles for the third time running and £75. The runner-up was Linda Howard who won £50. Carole Knight (injured) was substituted by Shelagh Hession and John Kitchener took the place of Trevor Taylor in the original draw.

Scores:—

Men

D. Neale (Cle) bt I. Horsham (Essex) 16, 7.
P. Day (Cambs) bt J. Kitchener (Suffolk) 19, 15.
D. Douglas (Warwks) bt J. Walker (Cle) 14, 21.
A. Barden (Middx) bt N. Jarvis (Cle) 20, -15, 10.

Semi-finals

Neale bt Day 8, 19.
Douglas bt Barden -10, 17, 15.

Final

NEALE bt Douglas -11, 22, 13.

Women

J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt S. Lisle (Ches) 20, 9.
L. Howard (Surrey) bt S. Hession (Essex) 15, 12.

Final

HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 17, 24.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Men	Women
1969 Malcolm Sugden	Mary Wright
1970 Denis Neale	Karenza Mathews
1971 Chester Barnes	Karenza Mathews
1972 No Tournament	No Tournament
1973 Denis Neale	Jill Hammersley
1974 Denis Neale	Jill Hammersley

Laszlo responds

Mrs. Wendy Burbush (nee Woodhead) whose letter headed "I remember it well" was featured in the November issue of "T.T. News", has received the following reply from Laszlo Bellak, at 567 Northeast 109th Street, Miami, Florida, 33157:—

"I was very happy to receive your letter. After all it was a very happy time in our lives. I am still playing table tennis in my spare time and enjoy it. I am in the printing business. Have a wonderful wife, Lilly, and we are quite happy to live here in Miami, Florida.

It would be nice to see you again and I definitely will come to the World Championships in England. Just for the fun of it practice a little if you can and it would be unique after all these years to play in the World again. There is a good chance that Lilly and I will come to Europe in the Spring of 1976".

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

A WINNING START

An 8-2 victory for Suffolk Seniors against Bedfordshire, at Ipswich, was a very encouraging start to the new County Championships season.

John Kitchener and the Suffolk women, Judith Langridge and Janet Faiers, were in a class above their Bedford opponents and helped to win all the doubles sets comfortably. The hard bat of Derek Holden and the speed of Alan Chandler brought Bedford their two victories over Mick Palmer and David Henderson respectively.

Results (Suffolk names first) were:—

J. Kitchener bt A. Chandler 11, 16; bt D. Holden 8, 6.
M. Palmer lost to Holden 24, -13, -20; bt M. Harlow 12, 12.
D. Henderson bt Harlow 9, 9; lost to Chandler -12, -17.
J. Langridge bt S. Sharp 20, 20.
Langridge/J. Faiers bt Sharp/L. Robinson 18, 11.
Palmer/Faiers bt Holden/Robinson 11, 7.
Kitchener/K. Savage bt Chandler/Harlow 18, 19.

In a Suffolk Men's Invitation Top Twenty Tournament, held in the "Dome", Ipswich, John Kitchener beat Rob Milne in the final, third place going to David Henderson with Mick Palmer fourth.

TALENT AWAITING COACHING

The Suffolk Junior Tournament again produced another enthusiastic entry, but unfortunately the lack of coaching within the County is allowing so much of this talent to go to waste.

In the Under-17 group, last season's runners-up, Russell King (Boys) and Debbie Wootton (Girls) both predictably progressed to take their respective titles this season.

Another member of the Palmer family from Lekenheath has now arrived firmly on the County scene. Young Stuart Palmer, still with a further five years to play as a Junior, not only won the U-15 boys' title but was also the beaten finalist in the U-17 boys'.

Russell King, even more composed and confident that last year, completed a hat-trick of titles, winning the boy's doubles, with Stuart Palmer, and the mixed with Louise Harris. The two Lowestoft girls, Debra Hubble and Louise Harris, who contested the U-15 girls' final, are great prospects for the future. The Bury St. Edmunds League also has future stars in Julian Hall and Janet Matthews, the two U-13 champions.

Results:—

B.S. U-17: R. King bt S. Palmer 16, 16.
G.S. U-17: D. Wootton bt J. Newton 15, 17.
B.S. U-15: S. Palmer bt S. Hender 16, 13.
G.S. U-15: D. Hubble bt L. Harris -20, 9, 13.
B.S. U-13: J. Hall bt N. Douglas 21, 12.
G.S. U-13: J. Matthews bt C. Johnson 16, 15.
B.D.: King/Palmer bt R. Burrown/D. Jennings 13, 16.
G.D.: Newton/Wootton bt Harris/Hubble 18, 18.
X.D.: King/Harris bt Palmer/Wootton -17, 10, 20.

EAST ANGLIAN LEAGUE RESULTS

Seniors

Bury St. Edmunds 8, Beccles 2
Kings Lynn 1, Bury St. Edmunds 9
Wymondham 7, Bury St. Edmunds 3
Yarmouth 3, Ipswich 7
Ipswich 4, Cambridge 6
Dereham 7, Ipswich 3

Juniors

Ipswich 8, Lowestoft 1
Ipswich 7, Wisbech 2
Norwich 4, Ipswich 5
Bury St. Edmunds 3, Ipswich 6

The 1-Star Scene

SUSSEX PLAYERS IN COMMAND

Crawley's Keith Horton, winner last season of the Charles Seaman Cup for the top eight men in Sussex, took the men's singles title at the Hastings Tigers' 1-Star Open with a final win over his inter-league colleague, Gerald Pugh, on November 16.

Winner of the counterpart women's event was Carol Randall, of Brighton, who further combined to win the mixed doubles with Pugh. Horton and Pugh combined to take the men's doubles. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

K. Horton (Sussex) bt D. Funnell (Sussex) 17, -16, 13.
G. Pugh (Sussex) bt R. Stace (Sussex) -12, 12, 21.

Final

HORTON bt PUGH 19, 18.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

C. Randall (Sussex) bt D. Gard (Sussex) 21, 11.
B. Godfrey (Sussex) bt L. Wales (Sussex) 23, 19.

Final

RANDALL bt Godfrey -18, 18, 20.

Men's Doubles—Final

HORTON/PUGH bt B. Hill (Hants)/C. Henderson (Surrey) 14, -16, 10.

Women's Doubles—Final

GODFREY/S. KING (Sussex) bt Gard/A. Mock (Sussex) 19, -15, 15.

Mixed Doubles—Final

PUGH/RANDALL bt Stace/L. Wales 15, 20.

BARNES BACK WITH A VENGEANCE

Chester Barnes, making a rare tournament appearance, was the winner of the Men's Singles at the 8th Southend Open on the 15-16 November, 1975.

Lesley Radford, another Essex stalwart, won the Women's Singles title.

A full report and results will appear in the next issue of the "Table Tennis News".

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM TOURNAMENT IN FEDERAL GERMANY

The Hessischer Table Tennis Association is organising an International Junior Team Tournament at Wolfhagen (Kassel District) in the period from 19th July to 26th July, 1976.

The invitation is for regional or city teams to take part, each team consisting of three boys, three girls plus two escorts.

The entry fee is DM.90 per person, and this covers all expenses, such as board and lodging and a coach trip on the 25th July.

The Federal German Table Tennis Association have given their approval to this tournament, provided that no nationally selected teams take part.

No closing date has been quoted, but all enquiries should be directed to:

Herr Peter Bunn,
Apoldaerweg 9,
623 Frankfurt/M — Zeilsheim,
Federal Germany.

Full details of travel directions, draw, etc. will be sent in due course on receipt of entry.

Please inform the E.T.T.A. office once your entry has been accepted.

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KEN MATHEWS, c/o E.T.T.A. OFFICE**

In the Coaching Field

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

The advantages of a player being fit are so obvious that explanations are superfluous. To attain a high level of fitness it requires the individual to do specialised training, and this point does need explanation.

The word specialised means that the person in charge of training must have qualified knowledge in this field, and be aware of the dangers that are present, especially to participants who are not used to doing such training.

The Sports Council are at present carrying out research at Kings College, Cambridge, on back injuries. The second aspect on this matter is what injuries are and not covered by existing insurances and under what circumstances such insurances cover.

Many coaches include fitness training of some kind or other in their programmes and may not be aware of their liabilities should any injury occur.

There are so many things a coach must have knowledge of to be successful other than the ability to teach the various strokes.

Although the course at Lilleshall on January 1-5 is an upgrading course, I am quite sure that somewhere in the programme fitness training, and the dangers of unqualified teachers, could be included. This could be a suitable time to bring up the subject of suitable training for juniors.

Training camps for juniors are an essential

part of the Panels' curriculum, and probably the most beneficial camps are residential. The cost of these venues continues to rise and make the organisation difficult.

One answer is, of course, Sponsorship, and I must agree that the word has become flogged to death lately, especially with the World Championships in the offing and the ever present tournaments.

While so many of us are experiencing such trouble in obtaining financial help, Panel 10 appears to have found the answer. Why they can obtain sponsorship to such an extent, while other Panels find it so difficult, can only mean they have a monopoly or organisation willing to help, or they have a better method of convincing people to part with money.

Recently Panel 10 held training courses costing in the region of £2,000, of which sum approximately 75% was met by sponsorship.

The system by which the list of juniors for the final trials was arrived at for the 1975/76 season will be adhered to for next season. That is to say three assessment camps will be held, one for each of the areas covered by the National coaches, i.e. North, South-East, Midlands/South-West, at which Bryan Merrett will be in attendance.

Bryan will report to the National Selection Committee on the strength of the players on the various camps from which the final list will be drawn up. The fortunate boys and girls will then have to battle it out over the period of the final trials to stake their claim to a place in the National Junior ranking list.

While at Panel level preliminary trials will be held for the Under-13's, from which the top boy and girl will go forward to the National finals.

For those players and coaches who would like to spend part of their holidays at a coaching course, there are such courses available arranged by the Sports Council at Lilleshall.

One such, from July 31-August 7, is a personal performance course for players, with a few places for coaches.

Again at Lilleshall, from August 7-14 there is a coaches and coaching students study course, while at Crystal Palace, from July 18-25, there is a players' and coaches' personal performance course. A similar course is available at Exeter University from July 25-August 1. Places are limited on these courses and interested people should contact The Sports Council, 70 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3.

A National coach will be in charge at each of the foregoing courses and they are being run in conjunction with the E.T.T.A. Residential courses are becoming more difficult to arrange due to escalating costs. Yet the distances to be travelled by some players involved in these training camps makes it essential to have a residential centre.

It is always good to hear of new centres being opened and I believe that the new centre at Hastings could make life a little easier for Panel 1. I am sure Peter Hirst will be pleased to have this venue.

The course held at Lea Green on November 14-16 was attended by 19 coaches, six of whom were diploma 2-star. Of the remainder, the majority were club coaches. The theme of the weekend was "Receive and Return of Service".

Running the course was Peter Simpson, National coach for the North, and Harry Dignan, Northern coaching advisor, whilst Bob Wiley was a most able instructor in the art of physical training, especially in exercises to improve suppleness.

Since so many coaches who attended the course, expressed their satisfaction in the knowledge gained, I am always a little surprised and disappointed at the absence of diploma 1-star coaches who, it would appear, are happy to think their knowledge of the sport complete having gained their coaching qualification!

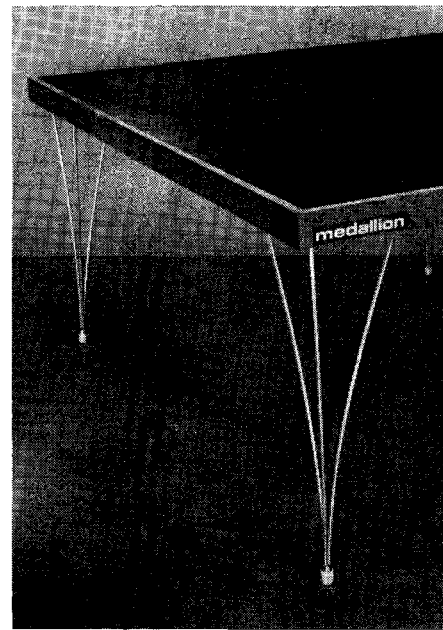
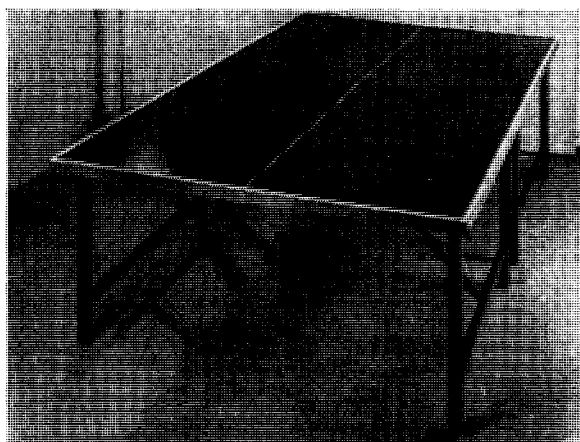
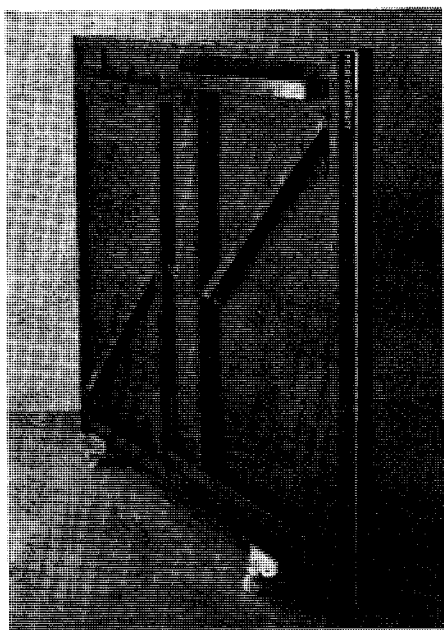


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'NOT ALL BRICKBATS'

by

JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent

'The Daily Telegraph'

It's not all brickbats in this column, although it usually needs a few to get you readers applying pen to paper to send in viewpoints and the continuous debate that I seek to produce. My bouquet of the month must go to England's trainer and captain, Brian Burn.

When at Eastbourne on October 23, at the start of the England v Denmark match in the European League, Brian announced that Des Douglas would be taking the other singles berth instead of Denis Neale, it looked like a highly controversial decision. Mid-way through the match it looked even more dangerous as Des and Denis slid towards defeat in the men's doubles. But from that low point, England, on the night, and Desmond ever since, have never looked back!

Congratulations are due to Brian Burn and a special "Well done" to Desmond on gaining the England No. 1 spot and then winning the Halex Midland Counties 3-Star Open at Walsall, no more than two days after ascending to the top of the tree. I cannot help but recalling the exaltation at Belper, last season, when Des beat Kjell Johansson—the victory that confirmed the Birmingham lad's world-class potential. Des clearly has some difficulty maintaining international standard, but I feel, as many of you do, that he is once again on his way to greater triumphs, along we all hope with Nicky Jarvis, because the last thing we want is a one-man-band at the top—it needs half a dozen Jarvis's and Douglas's at the top of the England tree.

Completely unsolicited, we have this month comments on two subjects I raised last month from an Eastbourne colleague, Mr. Ron Vine, I know he won't mind if I say that he has been around the table tennis scene for many years, even longer than I have, but his views on the topics of the day are always in Eastbourne soundly delivered and well received.

Having said that, you will see that he opposes me on both issues—World Championships and new scoring systems. As we all know, but sometimes forget, in a democracy, it is the will of the majority that prevails, even if it's only 51%! True, the 49% minority are often in a strong position, depending on the issue, to take further action if they are defeated, for example on the levy. They can, of course, refuse to pay and then they may not be able to play!

Let us hope that there is no embarrassing division of opinion that will cause all out strife between those willing to contribute a pound note and those who decline. The chances of the E.T.T.A. obtaining multiple and massive sponsorship in that atmosphere, if it happens, become remote.

Ron Vine makes the point that 100,000 people play the game for pleasure. Quite so, but I say, that asking them to pay an extra £1 perhaps twice in a lifetime in order that we can stage the major world event, is not too great a price to pay for those countless evenings of pleasure! English fanatics, or many of them, will I would think, be able to make the trip to Birmingham in 1977. For those that can't I am sure that the TV coverage on this occasion will be more extensive than most people expect.

Ron Vine comments . . .

It is about time that the E.T.T.A. came out of the clouds and realised that most of the 100,000 players in leagues throughout the country play table tennis for pleasure and because it is one of the best indoor games available. Inter-town and County matches are of no more than passing interest and International matches only slightly more so. The majority will not be able to attend the World Championships nor, if past TV coverage is anything to go by, will they see much of them. Why, therefore, should the average league players be expected to pay for an exhibition by professional players which they will be unable to watch.

Reasons most frequently given for proposals to change from the "2 points a win" system are:—(a) that it is "archaic" or "antiquated", these adjectives being employed because they sound so much worse than "old" which is not in itself derogatory, and (b) that after one side had won 6 sets there is no incentive to play the remaining sets. With regard to (a) the age of the system is, of course, of no consequence, what matters is, does it work? As for (b) players who will not play without further incentives other than those provided by the game deserve no consideration whatsoever.

The object of any competitive game is to play to win, anyone requiring additional incentives should not be playing. Cheltenham's experiences with the "1 point a set" system are hardly encouraging, over 10% of teams finishing in lower positions than teams which had won and/or drawn less matches, and two proposals to alter the system does not suggest that a very good scoring system has been used. As for making the doubles significant, what's wrong with making it one of the first 6 sets to be played? Ken Beeching's report on Hastings' trials of systems suggests that it won't be long before many leagues change to a system of awarding points for winning and drawing matches rather than sets.

Leslie Cross, Gen. Secretary of the Spalding and District League, writes . . .

After consultations with local leagues and writing to random selections of league secretaries, the Spalding and District League adopted a "one point per end won" system for our 1970-71 season and have had great success with that system ever since. It is generally felt that this scoring method promotes team spirit and generally makes matches "a fight to the last". However, not content with this system alone, this season we have a "Super League" where our top six teams play each other four times instead of twice. Two games are played as above with a maximum of 20 points and the other two are played using 6 singles games and 3 doubles matches giving a maximum 18 points. Can any league suggest a more varied system?

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

RELATIVE UPS AND DOWNS

Mixed fortunes for one of Cumbria's numerous brother and sister pairs, Neil and Gail Smith, during the past few weeks. The good news first and following their selection as "Boy" and "Girl of the Week" in the "News of the World" national coaching scheme, at Butlin's Ayr holiday camp during their summer visit, the two have now been chosen among the 16 finalists for the "Boy" and "Girl of the Year" event to be held at Barry Camp next Easter. May I, therefore, say a big "Well done" on behalf of the Cumbria T.T.A. and, of course, wish them every success in the future event.

Both players also featured in the recent 7-3 defeat of the Junior 1st team, away to Derbyshire, and Neil did not have such a happy time, losing to the home No. 3, Stephen Yallop, in straight games and earlier going

down -23, 13, -16 against the No. 1, Robert Allen, after holding a 16-15 lead in the deciding game.

Gail could do no better; early days yet, of course, for the 13-years-old, but she has yet to show her true colours for the County side, going down without much resistance against Linda Holmes. Chris Reed was again outstanding for Cumbria, taking his two singles without conceding a game, to retain his unbeaten record. Ian Reed gained the other success, his first for the County, with a good 2-straight win over Yallop.

The senior team met with even less success in their first championship match, away to Cheshire II, and returned with only one set to their credit, that being a women's doubles win for Jennifer Pachul and Clarice Rose. Brian Towell, John Willis and Alan Fay did not go down without a fight however, against the fancied Cheshire team, taking six of the remaining nine sets to a decider.

Good news for Millom School T.T. Club in the form of sponsorship from Ascot Sports Ltd. The first team will benefit in the way of a table on "permanent loan", tracksuits, bats, replacement rubbers and a supply of T.S.P. balls. A big thing, of course, but something that will be taken as natural progression by this go-ahead club.

UMPIRING CORNER

In last month's edition, following the toss of a coin, it had been decided who was to serve first and at which end of the table the players would take up position. Law 5 of the Laws of the Game begins by saying, "the server shall first make a good service" and this month's question, taken from the current County Umpires' Test Paper, is designed to test your knowledge of what exactly constitutes a "good" service". Remember, the answer in each case is either RIGHT or WRONG.

In a good service

- (a) the ball must be struck while behind the server's end line (or an imaginary extension thereof).
- (b) the ball must be struck within the imaginary extension of the side lines.
- (c) the ball may be struck while rising from the hand.
- (d) the ball need not be thrown straight upwards.
- (e) in a doubles game, the ball may bounce on the centre line, pass over the net without touching it, and bounce on the centre line of the opponents' half of the table.

A.P.

Answers on page 31

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ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

DISASTER DAY

It was disaster day for our County Championships teams on November 1 when Surrey defeated four of our main contenders at four different venues.

The Senior team went down narrowly at Larkhall, where Richard Yule proved to be their main antagonist. David Brown was the pick of our team and with Ian Horsham, notched a singles, and together the men's doubles.

Our Second team had to concede two sets owing to an unfortunate error on our part which gave Surrey II a 6-4 win. David Iszatt, Graham Blomfield and Elaine Tarten all won a singles apiece.

The one bright spot was our Senior third team which travelled to Wisbech to defeat Cambs. 8-2. Skipper Brian Mailey turned in a great performance and was given admirable support from Jeff Drew, Steve Whiteley, Marilyn Nash and Linda Budd.

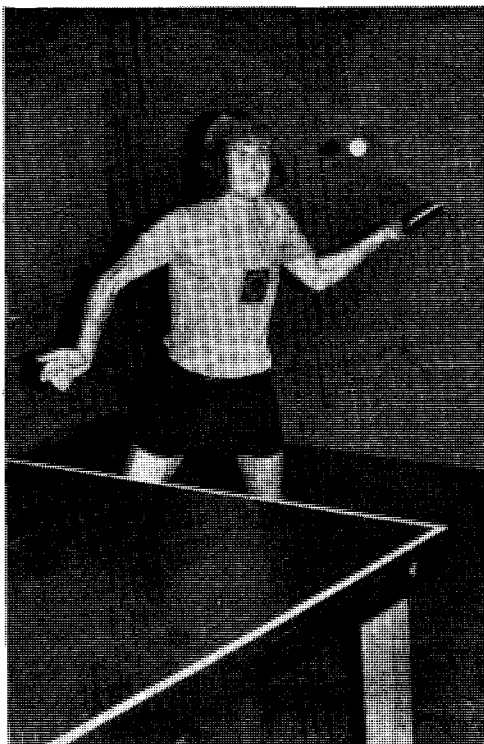
The Juniors had their share of troubles as well, the Premier team never overcoming the indisposition of Sandra Sutton and a late injury to Kevin Caldon upsetting the balance a little. From all accounts we ended dispiritedly and it is now up to our team to make amends in the remaining fixtures.

The Junior second team were also on the receiving end where once again Surrey were in the driving seat. John Iszatt and Janet Boulter played very well in this game with the Iszatt-Stewart encounter proving to be the highlight of the afternoon.

The expected explosion between our two veterans' teams fizzled out with the 1st team getting home comfortably. Two late withdrawals—both No. 1's—upsetting what had promised to be a tense encounter.

Congratulations to Ian Horsham (8), David Brown (10), Shelagh Hession (6) and Janet Hellaby (12) who all appear on the National Senior Ranking List. And on the admin. side, too, congratulations to Gordon Lightfoot, selected Assistant Referee for the Norwich Union English Championships at Luton, and to Mike Watts, as Organiser of the Worthing Junior International Championships.

It is with regret that I heard of the resigna-



Dave Newman, semi-finalist in boys' singles both in the Halex Humberside and Midland Counties 3-Star Opens.

Photo by Jeff Newman.

tion of our Senior Match Secretary, Peter Roden, owing to ill health. Peter has been doing some excellent work and he will be hard to replace. Get well soon, Pete, for all your colleagues on the County Committee will miss you.

A number of our players have done well on the tournament scene to date. Ian Horsham, David Brown, Shelagh Hession always give consistent performances, while Bob Potton, David Newman and Kevin Caldon are beginning to make their presence felt.

Alan Shepherd, our junior supremo, is again organising a coach to the Wayfarers English Junior Championships at Loughborough from

London, and all interested parties should contact him immediately. Phones: 01-529 3811 (home); 01-520 2336 (business).

Chester Barnes and Lesley Radford, the two former Essex whizz-kids, have entered the Southend 2-Star Open, so look out you current leading players, the ex-champions are after you!

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

FINE START

The senior County side started the season in fine style with a closely-fought victory over Nottingham 6-4. This was a fine team win, as all the members won at least one set. Pride of place went to Jean White, who won her singles against Gloria Stocks 19, -15, 19, with the expedite coming into operation at 19-17 to Jean in the final game. Jean combined well with Suzanne Hunt, the County Junior No. 1, in the doubles to win 11, 16. Brian Hill and Mick East won a singles each and together won the men's doubles. The other winning rubber came from Steve Morley and Suzanne with a fine Mixed win over A. Croome/Mrs. S. Ellis. This victory has put Lincs. in good heart for the next match against Northumberland, to be held at the Grimsby Leisure Centre.

On the domestic front, last year's Haigh Cup winners, Wyberton (Hill, East, King) started with a comfortable 10-0 win over Mablethorpe. Mablethorpe were again on the wrong end of a 9-1 scoreline when they visited Lincoln, although they did manage a win over Roy Norton, in the last set of the night. Stamford, in their first game since joining the County, found the going uphill when losing 9-1 to Scunthorpe. Grantham have lost their first two matches 9-1 at Gainsborough and 6-4 at home to Boston.

In the Butcher Cup, Stamford have had better fortune by accounting for Spalding and Scunthorpe, both matches 6-4. Last year's winners, Boston, came unstuck against Grantham 7-3 with Suzanne Hunt showing the Boston boys why she is a champion, with a comfortable maximum. Mablethorpe's team have had better luck than their seniors with 6-4 wins over Wyberton and Lincoln, with I. Willson taking 5 out of 6 singles.

Spalding women have made a sound start in the Butlin Cup with a 7-3 win over Lincoln, and Grantham accounted for Boston by the same score.

The Lincs. Junior Tournament was again a success, well organised by Alan Norman and the Louth T.T.L. The Boys' U-17 title was won by Mark Newbould (Grimsby) over Martin Norman (Louth) 10, 10. Main surprise was the defeat of top seed Keith Eldred by S. Cuthbertson (Scunthorpe) in Round 3. The Girls' U-17 went to Cheryl Buttery (Lincoln) over Susan Radley (Lincoln). Cheryl earned her place in the final by toppling the favourite, Margaret Featherstone (Grantham) in a magnificent semi-final. The previous holder, Suzanne Hunt, was absent owing to illness.

Other winners:—

U-15 Boys: S. Smith (Grimsby). Girls: Miss G. Galloway (Lincoln).

U-13 Boys: R. Duke (Lincoln). Girls: Miss G. Galloway (Lincoln).

U-11 Mixed: C. Bryan (Grantham).

Boys' Doubles: K. Eldred/D. Thacker (Grantham).

Girls' Doubles: M. Featherstone/S. Worrell (Grantham/Lincoln).

Mixed Doubles: Eldred/Featherstone.

Coaching Secretary, Dennis Worrell, and his fellow coaches held another Rally at Lincoln on November 9 for about 50 of the County's best juniors—where would we be without these people who devote all their spare time to pass the game on to others?

Finally, all from Lincolnshire would like to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.



A happy bunch of Essex veterans (from l to r): Ronnie Herber, Vic Ireland, Marie Know, Jack Anker, Phyl Lauder (Essex Veterans' Match Secretary), Fred Lockwood, Laurie Fountain and Daphne Dyball.

Photo by Jeff Newman.

On the 3 Star Front . . .

with Rea Balmford and George Yates

A new name went on the Halex Humberside 3-Star Open Men's Singles trophy over the weekend of October 25-26, when Desmond Douglas, the West Indian left-hander from Birmingham beat first Nicky Jarvis, the holder, in the semi and then No. 1 seed, Denis Neale, in the final.

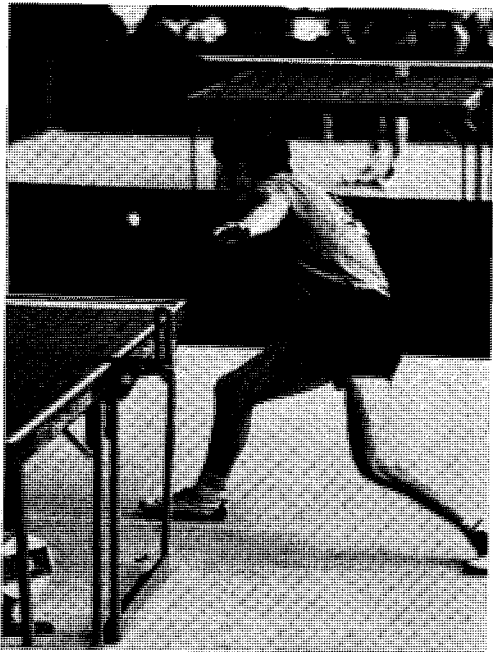
Douglas, whose very sound half-volley game absorbed everything that both Jarvis and Neale could throw at him, needed to call upon all his fighting qualities to get through on to the winner's rostrum, for twice he pulled Jarvis back after the Teassider had established a long lead and then, in the final, he edged home 22-20 in the final game against Neale, who first won this title in the 1962-3 season, and last had his name on the trophy four years back when he got the better of Mike Johns.

With Jimmy Walker going down tamely in the semi and only Ian Horsham, at the quarter-final stage, taking him the distance, Neale had the easier passage to the final, Douglas having to battle through a three-game quarter against Scotland No. 1, Richard Yule.

Young hopes Paul Day and Andrew Barden, who withdrew from the Boys' Singles to concentrate on the Men's event—why did they enter the Junior in the first place if, knowing that they could well reach the quarters, they did not intend to play and thus cause headaches to referee Tony Chatwin and a devaluation of the standards in a 3-Star tournament?—E.T.T.A. officials please note—were beaten by Walker (third game 19) and Jarvis (2-straight) respectively at the quarter-final stage. Pick of the earlier results was the defeat of 9th ranked Donald Parker by David Reeves (-16, 15, 19) before the Berkshire boy fell to Yule in the last 16.

John Hilton, who has risen rapidly in recent months, beat both Tony Clayton and Laurie Landry before going down to Barden, but it was not a happy day for his Cheshire colleague, Nigel Eckersley who, ousted by local youngster Mike Harrison, did not even make the final "pool".

Harrison flattered to deceive, however, showing his lack of relish for chop defence against veteran Wally Allanson in his first round set.



Surrey's Martin Shuttle, winner of the B.S. title at Walsall and victor over Ian Horsham and Graham Davies in the M.S.

Photo by Tony Ross.

PREDICTABLE

The women's event was much more predictable, with holder Jill Hammersley, so obviously a winner from the off and looking to be in a different league from the rest of the field, cruising easily to the singles leg of the "triple crown", while in the opposite half Carole Knight, seeded 2, and Linda Howard (3), took the semi-final places with Linda coming through in straight games to make her third successive challenge for the title.

There was one surprise in Mrs. Hammersley's half of the draw when a confident-looking Karen Rogers shot out first 4th seed Sue Lisle and then Leicester teammate Anita Stevenson before, inevitably, it seemed, going down to the holder, who went on to take the final comfortably against Miss Howard.

In Group 3, top-ranked junior girl Angela Mitchell, had a bad day, losing to both 4th-ranked Karen Witt and then to Bradford's Helen Shields who, although she never made the County side as a junior, is beginning to be talked about beyond the confines of her native city now that she has moved up into the senior ranks.

Shorn of the top seeds—Day and Barden, as already mentioned withdrew, while Chris Sewell, seeded, like Kevin Caldon (joint 5), failed to put in an appearance—the Boys' Singles looked a good bet for either Duggie Johnson or Martin Shuttle.

Dave Newman, however, put an early end to the hopes of Shuttle and went on to overcome Northumberland's Andrew Clark for a semi-final place, but here he was shown the door in yet another upset when the unranked Tony Gelder, from Sunderland, pulled back from a first game defeat to take a final spot.

In the other half, Johnson fell in the quarters to Steve Hazelwood, who in turn, gave best to Chris Rogers, and the Leicester boy, vastly more experienced, sewed up the final against the plucky Gelder without too much difficulty.

The counterpart Girls' event saw yet another defeat for Angela Mitchell, this time at the hands of Angela Tierney, and this let in second-ranked Melody Ludi for a title in her own native county.

All the doubles winners were predictable but, among noteworthy results were the dismissal of Day/Barden by Hilton/John Kitchener and Parker/Peter Taylor by Kent juniors Ian Kenyon/Ian Collins in the Men's and the semi-final defeat of top seeds Neale/Knight by Kitchener/Howard in the Mixed.

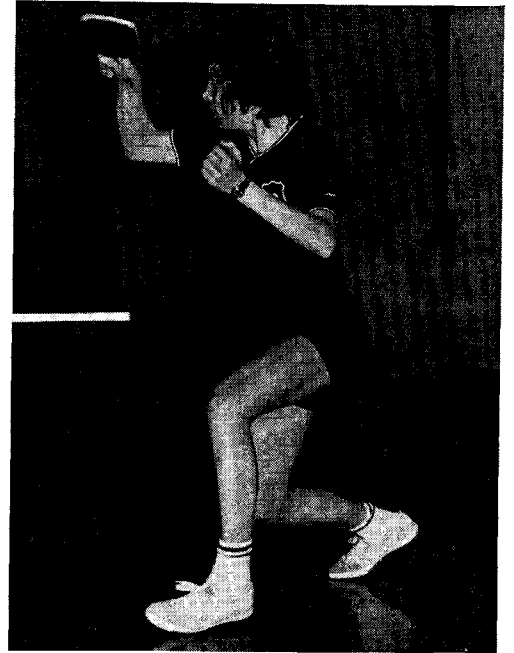
If ever Alan Ransome had occasion to buy flowers the time was never more appropriate than at Walsall over the weekend of November 8-9 when, in the Halex Midland Counties 3-Star Open, Carole Knight won the women's singles title from Jill Hammersley and Angela Tierney ousted Linda Howard in Round 2!

That the younger Cleveland girl went out to Anita Stevenson in the quarters is no matter, she had toppled the second lady in the land. What then of Miss Knight?

One, according to statistician Laurie Landry, has to go back to December, 1972, in the Royal Horticultural Hall at the Middlesex Open to trace the last domestic open defeat inflicted on Mrs. Hammersley and that was by Karenza Mathews, who has since retired.

On this momentous occasion Carole (18), aggressive from the outset, was fully deserving of the fine victory she achieved over two games in which she never allowed the English and Commonwealth champion to settle into her normal defensive rhythm.

Equally forthright was the play of Desmond Douglas who, in celebrating his elevation to the country's No. 1 man, gave a repeat performance of his deeds on Humberside, a fort-



Mike Harrison, of Yorkshire, who had a surprise win over Nigel Eckersley at Hull.

Photo by Tony Ross.

night previously, by coming back from being a game down to beat Denis Neale in the final of the men's singles.

All four top seeds in this event reached their semi-final objectives but in the lower order a few surprises were sprung, all being in the top half of the draw.

The first balloon to be burst was that of Nigel Eckersley, who let the gas escape when opposed by that ace of veterans, Derek Schofield, who subsequently lost to Neale -4, -13! Next to go was Graham Davies, of Wales, who lost to Martin Shuttle in straight games as did Ian Horsham, the pride of Essex.

AVENGING

But it was Robert Potton, another native of that county, whose scimitar struck an avenging blow in despatching Richard Yule, having previously ousted Mark Mitchell and Dave Newman.

Avon's Chris Sewell, top seed in the U-17 boys' singles, suffered a quarter-final defeat at the hands of Ian Kenyon, who subsequently bowed the knee to Shuttle, as did Keith Paxton in the final after the Durham lad had removed Duggie Johnson, the second seed. Chris Rogers, victor in this event at Hull, lost to Newman.

In the counterpart girls' event Beverley Green had a notable success in beating Miss Tierney but failed to stay the pace in final opposition to Karen "of the white socks" Witt.

Lancashire's Tony O'Connor, protege of John O'Sullivan, laid further claim to progression in the boys' U-14 Cadet event with a final victory over Graham Sandley. Likewise, in the Cadet girls' Helen Robinson, yet another Cleveland lass, boosted her stock with a final victory over Jill Purslow. Top seed Alison Gordon fell in the first round to her Berkshire buddy, Gillian Heath.

Predictably, Douglas and Neale had matters all their own way in the men's doubles to win the event without the loss of a game.

Not so Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard, top seeds in the women's doubles. This highly regarded pair fell in the semi to Shelagh Hession and Carole Knight, who lost the final to Susan Lisle and Anita Stevenson.

Again in the mixed the favourites fell at the penultimate fence when Neale and Miss "Tomboy" Knight failed to clear the obstacle provided by the former European Youth Champions, Douglas and Miss Howard, who went on to beat a luckless Nicky Jarvis and Mrs. Hammersley in the final.

In changing venue from the Harry Mitchell Recreation Centre, Warley, to the Alumwell Centre, at Walsall, the organisers put their money on a winner. It was simply great in every respect and more especially in regard to accessibility, for not even Mr. and Mrs. G.R.Y. could lose their way in regaining the M6 North—it was dead easy! The dreaded Bull Ring was miles South.

HALEX HUMBERSIDE 3-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

D. Neale (Cleve) bt I. Horsham (Essex) -16, 8, 15.
J. Walker (Cleve) bt P. Day (Cams) -15, 16, 19.
D. Douglas (Warwks) bt R. Yule (Scot) 10, -19, 11.
N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt A. Barden (Middx) 14, 14.

Semi-finals

Neale bt Walker 10, 18.
Douglas bt Jarvis 22, -18, 19.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Neale -15, 17, 20.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt K. Witt (Berks) 12, 11.
K. Rogers (Leics) bt A. Stevenson (Leics) 7, 12.
L. Howard (Surrey) bt K. Senior (Ireland) 18, 13.
C. Knight (Cleve) bt M. Ludi (Yorks) 21, 19.

Semi-finals

Hammersley bt Rogers 9, 10.
Howard bt Knight 12, 17.

Final

HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 11, 15.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Neale/Yule bt J. Hilton (Ches)/J. Kitchener (Sflk) 8, 13.
Jarvis/Walker bt I. Collins/I. Kenyon (Kent) 12, 13.

Final

NEALE/YULE bt Jarvis/Walker 15, 16.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt S. Lisle (Ches)/Stevenson 11, 16.
Rogers/Knight bt Ludi/Mitchell (Middx) -14, 21, 17.

Final

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Rogers/Knight 13, 13.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Kitchener/Howard bt Neale/Knight 15, 13.
Jarvis/Hammersley bt Day/Ludi -16, 19, 16.

Final

JARVIS/HAMMERSLEY bt Kitchener/Howard 12, 22.

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

A. Gelder (Durham) bt C. Read (Cumbria) -16, 19, 18.
D. Newman (Essex) bt A. Clark (Nthld) 19, -15, 15.
S. Hazelwood (Yorks) bt D. Johnson (Warwks) 19, 17.
C. Rogers (Leics) bt S. Mills (Yorks) 14, 15.

Semi-finals

Gelder bt Newman -18, 20, 14.
Rogers bt Hazelwood 17, 21.

Final

ROGERS bt Gelder 10, 11.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals

Mitchell bt L. Hryszko (Yorks) 13, 14.
A. Tierney (Cleve) bt S. Dove (Middx) 4, 15.
Witt bt B. Chamberlain (Hunts) 21, -16, 9.
Ludi bt D. Ledger (Yorks) 15, 11.

Semi-finals

Tierney bt Mitchell 14, -12, 13.
Ludi bt Witt 19, 15.

Final

LUDI bt Tierney 15, 15.

Veteran Singles—Final

P. D'ARCY (Ches) Winner of Group A bt W. Devine (Yorks) Winner of Group B 9, 14.

HALEX MIDLAND 3-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

D. Neale (Cleve) bt M. Shuttle (Surrey) 6, 17.
P. Day (Cams) bt R. Potton (Essex) 12, -16, 17.
D. Douglas (Warwks) bt J. Walker (Cleve) 20, 16.
N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt A. Barden (Middx) 19, 14.

Semi-finals

Neale bt Day 13, -19, 20.
Douglas bt Jarvis 22, 13.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Neale -17, 10, 18.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt S. Hession (Essex) 15, 10.
A. Stevenson (Leics) bt A. Tierney (Cleve) 16, 12.
S. Lisle (Ches) bt K. Senior (Ireland) 16, 13.
C. Knight (Cleve) bt K. Rogers (Leics) 17, -16, 9.

Semi-finals

Hammersley bt Stevenson 13, 14.
Knight bt Lisle 17, -14, 19.

Final

KNIGHT bt Hammersley 15, 18.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Neale bt Barden/Day 18, 12.
Jarvis/Walker bt M. Mitchell (Middx)/P. Taylor (Beds) 18, -11, 15.

Final

DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Jarvis/Walker 19, 11.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Hession/Knight bt Hammersley/L. Howard (Surrey) -18, 7, 19.
Lisle/Stevenson bt M. Deakin (Derbys)/A. Mitchell (Middx) 18, 18.

Final

LISLE/STEVENSON bt Hession/Knight 17, 15.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Howard bt Neale/Knight 14, -10, 19.
Jarvis/Hammersley bt D. Parker (Lancs)/Stevenson 10, 13.

Final
DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Jarvis/Hammersley 9, 16.

Boys' U-17 Singles—Quarter-finals

I. Kenyon (Kent) bt C. Sewell (Avon) 8, 17.
Shuttle bt M. Owen (Here) 9, 11.
D. Newman (Essex) bt C. Rogers (Leics) 14, 17.
K. Paxton (Durham) bt D. Johnson (Warwks) 20, 18.

Semi-finals

Shuttle bt Kenyon 7, 13.
Paxton bt Newman -14, 12, 13.

Final

SHUTTLE bt Paxton 14, 18.

Girls' U-17 Singles—Quarter-finals

B. Green (Warwks) bt H. Robinson (Cleve) 9, 8.
Tierney bt M. Smith (Berks) 5, 6.
K. Witt (Berks) bt J. Purslow (Berks) 19, 17.
S. Dove (Middx) bt A. Gordon (Berks) 16, 12.

Semi-finals

Green bt Tierney 7, 17.
Witt bt Dove 19, 14.

Final

WITT bt Green 20, 13.

Boys' U-17 Doubles—Semi-finals

Johnson/Sewell w.o. A. Cockerill/M. Langston (Warwks) scr.
Rogers/Shuttle bt A. Clark (Nthld)/Paxton 19, -16, 10.

Final

ROGERS/SHUTTLE bt Johnson/Sewell -14, 9, 23.

Girls' U-17 Doubles—Semi-finals

Gordon/Purslow w.o. M. Ludi (Yorks)/Mitchell v S. Jones (Staffs)/L. Hryszko (Yorks) all scr.
Green/Smith bt Tierney/Witt 19, -20, 14.

Final

GREEN/SMITH bt Gordon/Purslow 12, -14, 14.

Boys' U-14 Singles—Quarter-finals

G. Sandley (Middx) bt K. Nicoll (Nthts) 18, 10.
I. Reed (Cumb) bt R. Albitt (Derbys) 16, 17.
Owen bt P. Iszatt (Essex) 13, -11, 19.
A. O'Connor (Lancs) bt D. Gray (Cumb) 17, 19.

Semi-finals

Sandley bt Reed 13, 21.
O'Connor bt Owen 17, 10.

Final

O'CONNOR bt Sandley 13, 21.

Girls' U-14 Singles—Quarter-finals

G. Heath (Berks) bt Gordon 19, 21.
Robinson bt D. Smith (Wilts) 17, 15.
Purslow bt S. Cain (Staffs) 11, 19.
Smith bt S. Midgley (Yorks) 8, 19.

Semi-finals

Robinson bt Heath 19, 10.
Purslow bt Smith 14, 18.

Final

ROBINSON bt Purslow 14, 19.

Veteran Singles—Final

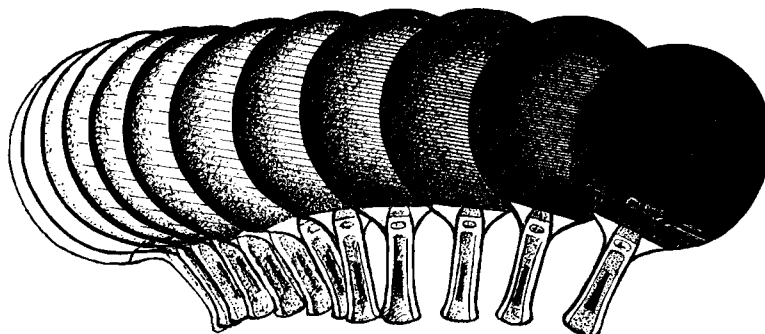
D. SCHOFIELD (Ches)—winner Group 2 bt P. D'Arcy—winner Group 1 19, -17, 8.

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Readers' Letters . .

"KENT T.T. NEWS"

I would like to offer my congratulations to all those concerned with the promotion of the new "Kent Table Tennis News". As an ex-County Official, I was watching with considerable interest the launching of this ambitious venture and was delighted to see such a professional and attractive presentation, with "chatty" contributions stretching from cover to cover.

I understand the revival of a County magazine was the brainchild of the newly-appointed Development Committee, and they, too, must take some of the credit for having the foresight to see that a magazine in this attractive form can only enhance the interest in our sport throughout the County.

It will be the envy of some Associations and hopefully, an inspiration to many others to try to emulate it. The enterprise deserves the fullest support throughout Kent.

CHARLES M. WYLES.

48 Eversfield Place,
St. Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex.

In supporting the views of the E.T.T.A's Chairman one can only hope that the enterprise can be successfully maintained. Copies priced at 15p, plus postage, can be obtained from the Editor, Ken Baker, at 44 Dernier Road, Tonbridge, Kent.—Editor.

FAIR TEST ?

I support, in general, the publication of quizzes to encourage general interest in table tennis. My experience as a County Umpire who has marked theory papers and failed candidates for the County Umpires' Award prompts me to ask if the National Umpires' and Referees' Committee is considering issuing Test Paper No. 7, now that the precise answers are being given to the questions in the current paper No. 6 in "Table Tennis News"?

ALAN J. CAVELL.

Hardwicke Cottage,
Green Lane,
Albrighton,
Wolverhampton, WV7 3BP.

BOUQUET

The Halex Humberside 3-Star Open illustrated to me after watching "the veterans" playing as all tournament competitors played 25 years ago; just how much the game has improved since then.

The officials were well organised, pleasant, punctual and calm even when challenged regarding a point when a ball cracked during play. Congratulations to all concerned.

A SPECTATOR.

72 Church Road,
Gosforth,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FURTHER THE LIMITS

Replying to the feature "COACHING OR CRUCIFYING" reproduced from "Kent Table Tennis News" in the last issue of "Table Tennis News", W. Sichel writes in the November issue of the Kent publication . . .

"As an undergraduate studying Human Biology and Physiology, I feel that I must comment on the use of the word "fit" in the article "Coaching or Crucifying". When considering levels of physical condition and fitness, it must be asked "Fit for what?". Healthy 13 and 14 year olds need no extra physical training in order to be fit for a normal teenager's lifestyle. However, 13 and 14 year olds who want to be fit for table tennis do need physical training as the demands that may be asked

of them are over and above those experienced in ordinary everyday life.

It must also be remembered that the level of physical condition required for the very highest standard of play may take several years of regular training to achieve. Furthermore, the technique of any player can never develop beyond the limits set upon it by the player's physical condition.

So, fellow players, further the limits of your physical condition and allow your techniques to develop further also".

W. SICHEL.

UNIQUE OCCASION

I feel that members of the E.T.T.A. may be interested in a match that took place in early November. It is almost unique in the history of the Staines and District League and could rarely, if ever, have occurred anywhere in the country.

It is simply that four members of the same family played in the same match, two on each side (teams consist of three players in our League). The "1940" Club "D" team, consisting of Muriel Tucker, David Tucker and Reg Irving, played the "F" team comprising Peter Tucker, Ray Tucker and Brian Eames.

Our team had to give them seven start and we managed to win 5-4. Funnily enough though, Dad beat Mum, Mum beat Ray, Ray beat me, and I beat Dad!

There are one or two other points that I thought I would mention. By the end of this season we shall have given 100 years' service to the "1940" Club. Mum and Dad joined in 1939—37 years' service each (they met at our Club!), Ray has been in the Club 14 years and myself 12 years. My Mother has also represented the League at least once in each of four successive decades (40's, 50's, 60's and 70's).

A fifth person playing—Reg Irving—is actually our next door neighbour and he has been in the Club 26 years. Together we are five of the six longest serving members of the Club.

DAVID C. TUCKER.

21 Arnold Road,
Laleham,
Staines, Middlesex,
TW18 1LY.

Obituary

Frank Thomas

Followers of table tennis everywhere will regret to learn of the death of Mr. Frank Thomas, for many years an official of Stockport and District Association, mainly as General Secretary and latterly as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

He was also chairman of Cheshire T.T.A. Writing in the "Stockport Express" of November 6, Bill Egan pays this tribute:

"Frank started playing in the Stockport Area with Reddish Green Methodists, when they joined the league in the late 40's.

His club eventually had to move their premises and settled in at the Whitehall Community Centre, where his quiet efficiency was reflected in his capacity as club secretary.

Some years later, owing to problems with club premises, Frank and a number of his colleagues joined St. Andrew's, where he played for a number of years.

During his playing career at St. Andrew's he became general secretary of the Stockport and District T.T.A., a position which he filled with dignity for about 20 years.

His quiet efficiency was his main asset. This was reflected in the Association and enabled excellent relationships between players and officials to be maintained.

For the past two years he was Chairman of the Stockport Association until he retired from office this year.

At a recent presentation evening, Frank received two copper etchings from the Association, in recognition of his many years' service. We shall miss Frank but he will never be forgotten. The organisation which he pioneered has been well founded and will serve as a memorial to one who was a good and loyal friend to so many in Stockport."

VICTORIAN TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION (Affiliated with A.T.T.A.)

Applications are invited for the position of
STATE DIRECTOR OF COACHING

DUTIES:

To be responsible to the V.T.T.A. for implementing the program of its Coaching Sub-Committee. He will be required to supervise a system for training coaches, to coach State Squad players as required, and to promote the sport during his general duties, particularly in schools.

QUALIFICATIONS:

A good knowledge of Table Tennis with an ability to organise and communicate. It is probable that the successful applicant will have had extensive experience at an international or national level. Applicants must be prepared to travel within Victoria, and be fluent in English, both spoken and written.

SALARY & CONDITIONS:

A salary of A\$10,000 is offered and the V.T.T.A. would be prepared to negotiate an initial appointment of three years. A strong preference will be given to applicants who would be a non-playing coach.

The V.T.T.A. reserves the right to make no appointment or to appoint by invitation.

SECURITY:

Applications are strictly confidential and should state age, qualifications, experience, and list two persons to whom enquiries could be made re the applicant.

All applications and/or enquiries should be forwarded to:—

The Honorary Secretary,
V.T.T.A., P.O. Box 80, South Melbourne, 3205, Victoria.

CLOSING DATE — 15th FEBRUARY, 1976.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

COMMITTEE CHANGES

There are quite a few changes on the Hampshire Committee for the new season. Ray Yates steps up from Chairman to President and his place is taken by Mike Greatrex. How Mike will manage to fit in this job amongst his many other activities in table tennis is beyond me, but it is people like him on whom table tennis administration relies so much. The new County Secretary is Harold Albery, from Gosport, and it is good to see him back in harness after a few years absence. Brian Lamerton takes over the vacant Press Officer's job, although he is leaving me the doubtful honour of writing these notes. By the way, Brian will continue his report on Radio Solent (301 m) every other Saturday evening on the 6-45 p.m. Sports Round-up. The most difficult job this season is likely to be that of Treasurer Marjorie East. The County Association, like many others, is struggling financially, and if things do not improve the County must seriously consider the pulling out of some of the teams in the County Championships next season, as this is the main drain on the resources. Whether the County can afford the luxury of two junior teams and a veterans' team in the future remains to be seen.

The County Trials resulted in the following ranking list being published:—

Men

1. Keith Summerfield (So)
2. Trevor Smith (Bo)
3. Steve Kitcher (Po)
4. Colin Wilson (Bo)
5. Clive Payne (Ba)
6. Barry Hill (Ba)
7. Jim Daly (I.O.W.)
8. Gary Longland (So)
9. Phil Brown (So)
10. Tim Boyle (Ba)

Women

1. Julie Reading (Bo)
2. Joyce Coop (Bo)
3. Christine Davies (So)
4. Linda Wales (Po)
5. Julie Hudson (Bo)
6. Susan Harding (So)
7. Pat Wales (Po)
8. Diane Winmill (Go)
9. Jane Whitcher (So)

Boys

1. Colin Wilson (Bo)
2. Richard Bergemann (Bo)
3. Tim Boyle (Ba)
4. Kevin Batt (Go)
5. Nick Minter (Ba)
6. Steve White (So)
7. Simon Lamb (I.O.W.)
8. Angus McCleay (Ba)

Girls

1. Julie Reading (Bo)
2. Jane Whitcher (So)
3. Deborah James (Ba)
4. Judith Fairhall (Bo)
5. Jacqueline Huggins (Ba)
6. Beverley Nicholson (So)
7. Wendy Fairhall (Bo)

League Key: Ba—Basingstoke, BO—Bournemouth, Go—Gosport, So—Southampton.

At the trials there was little to choose between the results of the top three men with Summerfield remaining unbeaten, but only winning a close game with Smith, and Kitcher only losing to Smith. Hill, who has moved to the County from Surrey, was obviously out of practice and lost three of his four sets, but could be a very useful acquisition once he is back to his known form. Julie Reading gained

her first ever win over Joyce Coop and thereby deposits her as No. 1 woman.

It is good to see Hampshire Juniors well represented in the Junior National rankings, with Julie Reading at No. 9, Colin Wilson in the "A" group and No. 1 Cadet, and Richard Bergemann No. 6 Cadet. They are a credit to the Bournemouth Association.



Julie Reading, of Bournemouth, the undisputed Hampshire No. 1 female.

After the Hampshire first team's good win over Surrey seconds, the County had high hopes of good results against Kent. Unfortunately the Hampshire men were completely out of touch and only Smith, in a good final against Henry Buist, extended his opponent to a third game. The women were completely the opposite, with Christine Davies winning the singles, combining with Julie Reading to win the women's doubles, and Julie combining with Smith to win the mixed. These women's events were all that Hampshire had to show for their endeavours. The junior first team, on the other hand, had a very good 8-2 win over Kent seconds to maintain their challenge for promotion to the Premier Division.

It appears that we in Hampshire are the last to know, but I see from this season's first "21-Up", the Bournemouth Association magazine, that their Editor, Harold Pearce, was elected a Vice-President of the E.T.T.A. at their A.G.M. My congratulations, if somewhat belated, Harold! The fitting end to his first year as Editor and a season when he even topped the averages for his Merton team!

HAMPSHIRE CLOSED

Held once again at Wimbledon Park Sports Centre, Portsmouth, this tournament attracted only just over 100 competitors, which is not good for a county the size of Hampshire.

The top three seeds in the men's singles reached the semi-final, with the No. 4, Kitcher, making an early exit to Steve Harris, of the I.O.W. Barry Hill took advantage of this gap to reach the semis. At this stage, however, he lost to No. 1 seed Chris Shetler 16, -22, -18. In the other half, Summerfield, the No. 2 seed, was extended by Smith before going through 20, -13, 13. The final, which showed some excellent play with Summerfield not really in the second, when he trailed all through before pulling back from 16-19 to win 22-20. In the third Keith gained his second County title with some brilliant tactics, to which Shetler

had no answer, and emerged the victor 21-15.

In the women's singles, new County No. 1, Julie Reading, was top seed, but with past winners with the experience of Joyce Coop, Christine Davies and Sheila Foster in the field, together with the up-and-coming Janet New, the field was wide open. Janet confirmed her No. 4 seeding by beating Sheila Foster in the quarters and looked like creating a major surprise when she extended Julie to -18, 22, 22 in a dour but interesting semi-final. In the other half, No. 2 seed, Joyce Coop, lost to her close rival Christine Davies -9, 17, -17. The final was, I consider, one of the best at County level I have seen.

On one side you had Julie Reading, whose England ranking shows her potential, and on the other Christine Davies, a former Junior International, with a wealth of experience behind her. Play was of a very high standard and no finer compliment can be paid to Julie, the winner at -19, 9, 16, than to say Christine was playing at her best. This win must confirm Julie as the undisputed County No. 1.

A slight turn-up in the men's doubles, when No. 2 seeds Kitcher and Smith beat the No. 1 seeds and former holders, Shetler and Summerfield 17, -12, 22. Similarly, in the women's Doubles the No. 2 seeds came out on top against the No. 1 seeds with hot favourites Joyce Coop and Julie Reading going down to Julie Hudson and Janet New 18, -13, -17. To complete a bad day for top seeds, Joyce Coop and Trevor Smith went out in the semi-final to John Robertson and Janet New, who in turn lost in the final to Phil Brown and Christine Davies -21, -15. Phil and Christine had beaten the County No. 1's, Summerfield and Julie Reading, in the semi-final.

The boys' singles was won by John Robertson, who beat Colin Wilson, the holder, 17, -18, 19 in another excellent final. The junior girls' title went to Julie Reading, who was once again taken to three by Janet New before winning 9, -20, 13. Predictably, Ray Lush won the veterans' singles, although taken close by Bernard Harrison, of Basingstoke, before winning 19, -16, 11.

ANNOUNCING AVON

by M. Hawkins

SEWELL STARS IN DEFEAT

Saturday, November 1st, 1975, saw the first-ever Avon County senior team in action in a Division 3 West County match against Glamorgan II at Homestead Hall, Combe Park, Bath.

Unfortunately for Avon the score was 7-3 in favour of the Welsh side, and gave the new Avon selectors some team problems to sort out. Chris Sewell was the "star" player for Avon, winning both his singles and the doubles, with Barry Brady.

The newly-formed Avon County Juniors also lost by a similar scoreline in their opening fixture away to Gloucestershire, but there were several games which could have gone in Avon's favour, and team manager Mike Lewis was not too disappointed after the match.

The following comprise the Management Council for 1975-76:—President—H. A. Whitmore, M.B.E., Chairman—Reg. Salway, Vice-Chairman—Eric Wynn, Hon. Sec.—Mrs. J. L. Watts, Hon. Treasurer—K. Harrison, Hon. Match Secretary—R. House, Inter-Town League Secretary—P. Baker, Umpires' Secretary—Mrs. A. P. Archdale, Press and Publicity Officer—M. Hawkins, Coaching Officer—M. Lewis, Bristol Representatives—D. Andrews, G. Mortimer, D. Pope, Bath Representative—J. Higgs.

County selectors are: Messrs. House, Lewis, Baker, Hawkins and Mrs. Doreen Henderson; Umpires: Pat Archdale, D. Pope and M. Baker; Tournaments: Messrs. Pope, Higgs, P. Hewitt and Mrs. Archdale; Finance: K. Harrison, together with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Hon. Gen. Secretary; Archives: Dennis Pope and M. Hawkins.

Preliminary rankings are:—

Men

1—Chris Sewell, 2—Lloyd Stewart, 3—Barry Brady, 4—Tony Dimambro, 5—Alan Marsh, 6—Brian Sturgess (all Bristol), 7—Mike Baker, (Midsomer-Norton), 8—Robert Murray (Bath), 9—Ray Philpott (Weston-s-Mare), 10—Jeremy Musselwhite (Bath).

Women

1—Doreen Henderson (Weston-s-Mare), 2—Andrea Seager (Bath), 3—Joan Collier, 4—Wendy Simmons (both Bristol), 5—Linda Porter (Bath), 6—June Watts, 7—Janet Achurch 8—Pat Rowe (all Bristol).

Boys

1—Musselwhite, 2—Paul Lewis, 3—Nigel Stopher, 4—Chris Mayow, 5—Robert Woolfe (all Bristol), 6—Douglas Gerrish (Midsomer-Norton), 7—David Jones (Bath), 9—Kim Morris (Bristol).

Girls

1—Wendy Simmons, 2—Donna Vowles (Bristol), 3—Janet Rodd (Midsomer-Norton), 4—Judy Connors (Portishead), 5—Cara Rowe, 6—Gillian Sparring (both Bristol).

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Colin Hammond

CHANGE OF VENUE

Firstly, a change of venue for the England v Ireland International on December 11. Due to difficulties in transporting seating to Kimberley, the match will now take place at the New Victoria Leisure Centre, on Bath Street, in the Nottingham City Centre. Tickets are available from Mr. H. Taylor, Notts. County Council Leisure Services Committee, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, price £1 and 75p for juveniles (under 17).

The County matches have begun in earnest, with three being played at the same time at Kimberley on November 1. This experiment, as the Clwyd teams will agree, was not too successful, but this was due to circumstances beyond the County Association's control, i.e. lighting promised by Jaques did not arrive in time for the matches. Of the three teams playing, only the first team had correct lighting.

However, the matches were played, resulting in two victories and one defeat. Unfortunately, it was the first team, playing in a different division this season, who went down 4-6 to Lincolnshire. The Notts. men, Alan Croome, Martin Kinsella and Nicki Kirkland (in his first team debut), won 4 out of the 6 men's singles, including a fine victory by Alan over ex-European Junior Champion, Brian Hill. Gloria Stocks suffered her first County singles defeat at the hands of Jean White, but only after a tense struggle, going down 19 in the third, expedite having been introduced at 19-18. Again the reason for the team's defeat was the abysmal doubles record—all three were surrendered with barely a struggle.

The second team did well to win 6-4 against Clwyd. Led by ex-Lincs. player, Cleve Judson, who won his two singles comfortably, Notts. went into a 4-0 lead with a "last gasp" women's doubles success by Mary Saunders and Ann Wass. This was extended to a 6-2 level before the last two singles went down. A solid all-round performance by the team, Judson, David Fairholm, Mary Saunders, Ann Wass and yours truly.

Led by Glen Stredder, the Junior team beat Clwyd 7-3. Glen won his two singles and combined with Steve Inkley to win the boys' doubles. Dave Parsons and Steve Inkley, although inexperienced at this level, played well to take one singles each, and the girls, Elaine Handford and Kathryn Lindley, both did well, Elaine going down in the singles only after retrieving large deficits in both games.

Again I come to the only team whose success we almost take for granted, the Veterans. They have commenced their programme with two crushing 8-1 wins over Clwyd and Leicestershire. John Burraston is as yet undefeated, as is Pat Hammond on the women's side, with

John Ellis and Ron Bolton playing above average supporting roles.

Being based in Nottingham, I have more information about Nottingham Table Tennis available to me than that of Mansfield, Work-sop, Retford, Newark, etc., and I would be grateful for any contributions from these sources.

In the Midland League, Nottingham teams have invariably made promising starts. The Men's "A" earned a creditable draw at Bristol without Croome. Alan gained a maximum in the 7-3 victory over Chesterfield a fortnight later. The Men's "B" went down to a strong Potteries side 2-8, but the "C" team have started well with two victories. The Juniors made a most impressive start with an 8-2 thrashing of Birmingham. However, title hopes were quickly dashed by a surprising 4-6 defeat at the hands of Coventry. Stredder is as yet unbeaten in this division.

The women, despite the loss of all three of last year's team, won their opening match against Walsall 8-2, with Pat Hammond, Mary Saunders and Betty Marriott all making "come-backs"—having played in over 300 Midland League matches between them.

Mention must also be made of the highly successful Veterans' teams, both unbeaten at the time of writing.

Alan Croome unavoidably misses the County match on November 29 versus Durham—he's getting married! Alan has been Nottinghamshire's top player for some seasons now, and has only been beaten by two Notts. players in the last three years. He is unbeaten in representative matches this season, although he insists he is not at his best. I am sure that all his friends from other Counties will join his colleagues in the Notts. and Nottingham Associations in sending him and his "bride-to-be", Julia, their best wishes for the future.

Ranking Lists

Men.—1—Alan Croome, 2—Martin Kinsella, 3—Nicki Kirkland, 4—Phil Spencer, 5—Cleve Judson, 6—David Fairholm, 7—Colin Hammond, 8—Bob Nelson, 9—Rod Corbett, 10—Tony Rusinowski.

Women.—1—Gloria Stocks, 2—Susan Ellis, 3—Mary Saunders, 4—Ann Wass, 5—Jacqueline Moore, 6—Mary Rusinowski, 7—Dianne Chapman, 8—Elaine Handford.

Juniors.—1—Glen Stredder, 2—Dave Parsons, 3—Steve Inkley, 4—Terry Bramford, 5—Alan Smith, 6—Colin Bostock, 7—Trevor Kerry, 8—Tony Evans, 9—Roy Stewart.

Girls.—1—Elaine Handford, 2—Kathryn Lindley, 3—Pauline Cameron.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

IT'S NOW KING ("HOUDINI") CHANDLER!

The great battle at the top of Sussex men's table tennis continued at Hailsham on October 25 when the top eight in the County joined battle for the Seaman Cup—a sudden-death event over five games.

Sussex champion, Roger Chandler, nine times County champ, continued to reign supreme but under enormous pressure from four other contenders, John Clarke, Gerald Pugh, Sam Ogundipe and Robin Stace. It was Ogundipe and Stace who put him under the greater pressure on this occasion.

How Chandler survived is still the talking point round the Sussex clubrooms. In the first round of the Seaman Cup, Roger found himself 11-19 down in the fifth against the ever-green Sam, who was retrieving the Chandler top-spin better than ever. But incredibly Chandler climbed back to win 22-20, which began the chat about the Great Escape! In the semi-final, Chandler really earned the "Houdini" tag when he came back from well over the edge, not once, but twice. This time the assailant was Robin Stace, whose attack is so brilliant at times that it looks as though it could overcome anything, but regrettably, it can rarely be sustained for a long period.

So it happened once more, Stace running the battle royal to his advantage 21-18, 21-12. It looked all over, but back came the fighting Chandler 21-16, 21-13. Again Stace threw it all at Chandler in the fifth to lead 10-2. Again, it looked all over. Once more Chandler summoned every ounce of energy and every scrap of experience and skill to win 22-20. Meanwhile, in the other half, young Pugh, the man most fancied to wear Chandler's crown next, had beaten Clarke late in the fourth when it looked as though crafty Clarke would push it to five sets after a "dodgy" edge or side ball.

For the fourth time in one afternoon, Chandler applied himself to the task of winning the final and this he did 14, 19, 16 against Pugh, who was also visibly tiring. As Chandler went to collect the Cup from donor Charlie Seaman, the former Sussex international, he pretended his knees buckled, but the pretence was not complete! Certainly one of the best rearguard actions I have ever been privileged to witness.

In contrast, the women's event for the Nicholls Cup, lacked all the drama taking place on the other table. A vastly top-heavy draw saw Beverly Godfrey provide twin shocks by taking out Carol Randall 14, 12, and then Diane Gard 15, 21. In the other half Linda Wales demonstrated that her withdrawal from the England junior rankings has in no way lessened her power in Sussex. She sauntered to the final over Anita Gedge and Hazel O'Brien and then coolly dismissed Mrs. Godfrey 13, 12 to win her first major Sussex singles title.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

RECALL FOR DOT

In the first round of County Championship matches, the "B" side and the Juniors were the only Staffs. team to gain points. The "A" team lost 3-7 at Leicester, but Brian Keates, the new captain, performed well to take a singles and the doubles with Steve Rowe. Tony Isaacs was the other winner. As expected, Leics. were too strong for our girls, but I am sure that Janet Carr and Stephanie Jones will make their mark as the season progresses.

Staffs. "B" drew with Warwickshire "C" 5-5. John Riley and Barbara Eardley were the only singles winners and, in the absence of Gail Round, who is currently preoccupied with examinations, the recall of Dot Deeley undoubtedly added the experience to enable Staffs. to take both the women's and mixed doubles. Keith Fellows and Adrian Higgs completed the tally of five with the men's doubles.

The Juniors had an easy 10-0 win against Gwent, but for the Veterans only Barbara Hall came away with credit, winning both her singles and the doubles, with Don Pritchard, in the 7-2 beating by Sir Clwyd.

52 men and 16 women competed in the Malcolm E. Scott Memorial Tournament at the Woodfield Club, Wolverhampton. In the finals Phil Anderson (Potteries) beat David Evans (Wolverhampton) 14, 8, and Sue Watton (Wolverhampton) beat Clare Underwood (Stone) 9, 17. The event continues to provide opportunities for players yet to reach the headlines, and it was interesting to see juniors dominating the women's final for a second year running.

Staffordshire County Association reaches its 25th Anniversary next year and the occasion will be celebrated by a Dinner and Dance at the Mount, Wolverhampton, on May 8. Tickets are £4 per head but for a special occasion such as this plenty of support should be forthcoming.

One should, I think, pause to express regret that Malcolm Scott did not live to see the event, but one other of the three founder members, Roy Colclough, reaches another landmark this year. We all tend to take the work of officials for granted, and certainly the more efficient and thorough the work the less we notice it. On this basis, it is hard to realise

that Roy is in his 21st year as County Secretary, and everyone will join me in congratulating him on reaching his "majority".

Roy had already put in 5 years as Wolverhampton secretary when the three of them (J. Hesford was the third), got together in 1951 to form the County Association. It naturally fell to him to contribute to the secretarial work right from the start and in 1953 he became County Secretary, a post which he has held up to the present, apart from a short interval in 1964 when he took a "rest" as County League Secretary. More recently, since the death of Malcolm Scott, he has added the job of National Councillor. No doubt the assistance given to him by his wife, Marion, is a major contributor to the general efficiency. Marion is currently Minute Secretary and general factotum for the Selection Committee.

Like most administrators, his introduction to table tennis was as a player, way back in 1944 with Fishers (later Fafnirs) in the top divisions of the Wolverhampton League. He retired from good club standard in 1965 and now, to use his own expression, he only plays "for his own amazement". He did, however, confide in me that he does take up his bat on holiday, primarily to "mop up" the top prize in hotel tournaments—hopefully, a bottle of Scotch!

When asked for his views on the current TT scene, Roy admits to being concerned that the aims and intentions of the E.T.T.A. in their attempts to promote table tennis are not being properly communicated to the rank and file. As an example, he quotes the apparent lack of interest in the 1977 World Championships, to be held in Birmingham. This splendid opportunity to see such a wealth of talent right on our doorstep should bring all players and supporters pulling together to ensure its success. I suppose that he is saying that local table tennis can be too parochial in outlook. Certainly, for my own part, I will never forget the fantastic scene set by the Wembley Championships back in the early fifties. Living nearby at the time put me in a favoured position, and a similar opportunity will soon be available to all Midland enthusiasts.

NEW GLOUCESTER GEN

by John Cooper

GOOD START

Gloucestershire Juniors started with a good 7-3 win over Avon, although it might have been a different story if Chris Sewell had played for the opposition! Gloucestershire's new team was G. Greening, the Hodgetts brothers and Miss V. Cruwys (all Cheltenham) and Miss S. Giles (Stroud).

The men did not fare so well against Warwickshire and started with a loss. The team comprised D. Harvey, W. Dawe, R. Peppard, Mrs. S. Mathews and Mrs. J. Golding.

The Warner Shield, given for competition between Gloucester and Cheltenham, is now to be used by including Stroud in the challengers. Please put February 22, 1976, in your diary for the County Closed—at Chosen Hill School, Churchdown.

We are pleased to see Cheltenham's D. Harvey coaching on Wednesday afternoons at Chosen Hill School, and to see Cheltenham Juniors get a win 8-2 over Hereford. The men (Harvey, Collier and Sweeney) achieved a draw at Shrewsbury. The Vets (S. Ewens, P. Slack and J. Poynting) also drew with Birmingham. In a more recent match the men (Harvey, Sweeney and Moreman) had a win 8-2 over Hinckley "B".

For a small town Stroud do well by the number of County Junior and Senior players they produce, but they still went down 4-6 to Notts "C" (men).

Gloucester boys started in the County Junior League with a 7-3 win over Stroud with the latter's Andrew Giles putting up a notable performance. D. Bennett (Gordon League) made his debut for Gloucester. S. Quelch had his debut for Gloucester boys against Derby, who won 8-2. In the County Junior League

Gloucester cannot muster a U-14 girls' team and have had to withdraw. A coaching course for young girls has therefore been organised for January in the new Sports Centre, to see what can be attracted.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE



by Leslie Constable

NEVER IN DOUBT

Cams. made a good start to the season with a 7-3 win over Buckinghamshire in Div. 2 (East) of the County Championships. As Bucks had three players with Premier Division experience in their team, I expected Cams. to be hard-pressed to win, but the result was never in doubt and the match was won as early as the seventh set. Mick Harper, although losing both his singles, was not fully fit, otherwise the result might have been more convincing. Paul Day and Keith Richardson won both their singles and Sally Hirst had a good victory over Miss Williams. Cams. also won the men's and women's doubles, which is a good omen for future matches.

In a Division 3 (East) match Cams. II were beaten 8-2 by Essex III, at Wisbech. Although this was a disappointing result, the one bright feature was the performance of Geoff Davies who won both his singles, being the only Cams. player to win two singles against Essex, apart from Day and John Willis. Already weak in the women's section, Cams. had to draft Jane Hunter, a Wisbech Junior, into the team only two hours before the match started, as Trudie Brewer had to withdraw through family illness.

Cams. Junior second team found the Hertfordshire first team too strong for them and went down 2-8. The Cams. girls did particularly well with Vivienne Rowell beating Frances Stephens in the singles and combining with Joanne Palmer (making her debut) to take the doubles.

In the South East Midlands League, Cambridge women had a 6-4 away victory over Peterborough and so continued their unbeaten run. There is a different story concerning the Juniors in Div. 2. After losing 1-9 to Wisbech in their opening fixture, they were beaten by the same score against Kettering, who included a 12-year-old who won both his singles! Robert Venn and Stephen George were successful in the doubles for an out-of-touch Cambridge team. Coaches David Jarvis and Pat O'Bryne still have a lot to do to bring this team to inter-league standard, although they are still coaching regularly at Cambridge Y.M.C.A. every Saturday afternoon. I have watched these juniors, who have good potential, but only individual attention will bring them up to the required standard. In a Veterans' match against St. Neots, Cambridge won 8-2. John Thurston won his three singles and Ron Nunn and Ken Green lost only to Gordon Cockram.

After their opening 9-1 victory against Kings Lynn, Cambridge were successful against Wymondham and Ipswich, with 6-4 victories in each case, in the East Anglian League. As they were "pipped on the post" last season for the Championship, this run of three successive victories will again make them favourites for the title.

Soham, champions of Division 1 of the Cams. League for the last three seasons, look

set to make it four in a row. In a recent fixture they beat the previously unbeaten New Chesterton Institute II 6-4. The N.C.I. first team kept up their 100% record when they beat Soham II 8-2, while third placed Wilburton kept in the hunt with an easy 9-1 victory over University I. Fisons continue to dominate Division 2 with an 8-2 win over Impington I, giving them a four point lead over their nearest challengers. Horace Saunders and Brian Needham were both unbeaten for the winners, as were David Jarvis and Peter Laughlin in second-placed Telephones' 8-2 win over Y.M.C.A. III.

With his selection for the England team which contested the Hungarian Open Championships at Szaged, Paul Day had his second International call of the season. Although dropping down in the senior rankings, I maintain that Paul is more worthy of a higher position—perhaps this will be evident in the near future.

With the drop in standard over the last two seasons of the Cambridge junior players, it is most essential that every effort be made by qualified coaches to assist David Jarvis and Pat O'Bryne in their immense task of bringing these juniors to competitive league standard. All coaches in the area reading this PLEASE offer your services without delay.

I am increasingly worried by the situation of Cambridge's men players who, in the past, when selected to represent their League, begin to make excuses for non-inclusion in the team. This situation has caused the Cambridge team in the South East Midlands League to drop to Division 2, where they will remain unless a great effort is made to restore their former prestige!

Leading positions Cambridge T.T. League

	DIVISION 1						Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A	
Soham I	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
NCI I	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Wilburton	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
NCI II	5	3	2	0	32	18	8

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Caroline Reeves

WINNERS UNCHANGED

Berkshire have got off to a very good start to the season, winning both their matches in the 2nd Division West, beating Cornwall (10-0) and Gwent (9-1).

The team on both occasions was Simon Heaps, David Reeves, Simon Douglas, Caroline Reeves and Karen Witt. Our Premier Division Junior team also did well to beat Kent 7-3 and our 2nd Junior team beat Hampshire by a convincing 9-1 margin. Unfortunately, our Senior 2nd team did not do so well, losing to Hertfordshire 1-9.

Our Cadet girls, Alison Gordon, Mandy Smith, Jill Purslow and Gillian Heath, have shown their strength by dominating the England Cadet Girls' ranking list. Congratulations must go to Karen Witt, who has recently been ranked at No. 11 in the England Women's ranking list and a mention must go to David Reeves, who recently did well to beat Donald Parker at the Halex Humber-side 3-Star Open.

County rankings are as follows:—

Men	Women
1. S. Heaps	1. C. Reeves
2. D. Reeves	2. K. Witt
3. S. Douglas	3. J. Purslow
4. A. Wellman	4. M. Smith
5. A. Foster	5. A. Gordon
6. R. Chester	6. J. Thorpe
7. B. Sweetzer	7. J. Douglas
8. D. Basden	8. C. Basden
9. C. Finden	
10. D. Wise	
Boys	Girls
1. D. Reeves	1. K. Witt
2. S. Douglas	2. A. Gordon
3. A. Wellman	3. M. Smith
4. B. Dellar	4. J. Purslow
5. M. Beck	5. J. Thorpe
6. R. Johnson	6. J. Douglas
7. B. Johnson	7. G. Heath
8. J. Lisney	

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

LIVELY ENTERTAINMENT

Daventry staged the opening County matches when the visitors were Bedfordshire and Derbyshire II. The 2nd Division East match provided some lively entertainment in a ding-dong struggle ending on a note of parity, when Gary Alden took the final singles to square the contest. Earlier Rod Marchant had registered one of the best wins of his career to beat England-ranked Peter Taylor, although Taylor returned the compliment with interest in a South East Midlands fixture on the following day. Anne Wallis failed to repeat an earlier win against Barbara Hammond, but the home team took all three doubles in convincing fashion to give them sufficient impetus for the remainder of this season's encounters.

Meanwhile the Seconds relied heavily on the experience of John Palmer, who won both his singles after coming from behind, and Brian Dangerfield, who has since recorded a surprise win over Palmer in a local league match. However, the Derbyshire women were too strong and enabled the visitors to triumph 7-3.

The Daventry League has made an enterprising start to the season with four senior divisions for the first time, and a record team entry. The top division is improving in quality with veteran George Tsow joining forces with Roger Castle at Kilsby, and Northampton's John Aspinall supplementing the Long Buckley trio of Peter Harris and Sue and Peter Edwards. Despite all this the B.B.C. team of Alan and John Print, together with Bob Samy, is still most fancied to take the title, and has already beaten closest rivals Long Buckley 7-3.

In the S.E.M.L. Daventry's men lost at St. Neots 4-6, with John Bishop Alan Print Peter Edwards and John Aspinall each winning a singles, with Print and Edwards surrendering what should have proved winning positions in two other sets. The Reserves, unfettered by Women's and Junior teams, have made an impressive start, taking 19 points out of the matches with St. Neots and Kettering.

Two further matches have taken place in the County League with Daventry again to the fore. As anticipated, Daventry Firsts beat Daventry Seconds with the reserves' only success coming when Brian D'Hooghe got the better of Peter Edwards -21 20 13 in the only set needing a decider. Elsewhere, County rankings were justified with Kevin McPartlan beating Nicky Chaplin 11 and 15, and Sue Edwards registering a similar success against Frances Tsow.

For the following week's match with Towcester, Daventry II replaced Bob Samy and D'Hooghe with John Print and Roger Castle. This was the closest match to date, with John Aspinall just settling the issue with two narrow victories, beating Ron Dunkley 21-18 in the third and then just getting the better of Alan Shouler by 21-17 in the decider. Shouler and Dunkley were not to be denied and each recorded a singles win with Dunkley also taking the Mixed with Joyce Porter, before Mrs. Porter took her singles against Frances Tsow 16 and 11. These were to be the only home wins, and the match went to Daventry II 7-4.

The local leagues are also getting under way with the differing talents of John Goodall and Colin Hogg giving U.T.C. "A" an early lead at Northampton, although with such strong opposition, they are unlikely to go through the season unscathed. Meanwhile, Rothborough's abdication from the Kettering Premier Division has ensured a "no contest" with Kettering Town "A", who at one time took the title with monotonous regularity, and who have been runners-up for the past three seasons almost certain to triumph once again.

At Wellingborough, last season's First Division Champions, Compton Nomads "A", will be hard pressed to retain their title. Despite the flair and talent of John Horne, who has come into the side in place of Mick Edwards, they have made a moderate start, and it could

well be that the steadiness and driving force of Edwards will be missed before the season's end. Rothborough, now concentrating on one league, could well take the title, for they have Gary Alden, who is currently unbeatable at this level, well supported by Graham Feakin and Steve West, but Kettering Town and H. W. Chapman should also go close, but could fade as the season progresses.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Moss

VETERANS SHINE

Pride of place for County Championship performances in the past month must go to the Veterans' team. Having only previously won one match since joining the Championships, they have started off this season with two 5-4 victories over Leics. and Warwicks. Barry White has been the star of the team, having lost only one event in these two matches. It was a fine performance to beat Charlie Jacques (Leics.) and he won all his sets against Warwicks. Barry and John Smith have formed a good doubles partnership and have been successful in both matches. Against Warwicks, Beryl Shammon teamed up with Malcolm Crane to win the vital mixed doubles.

The County 1st team has also got back to winning ways. They won by a 7-3 margin against Wiltshire, who have been a "bogey" team over the past few seasons. Simon Claxton won all of his events and Bryan Belcher was in superb form.

The County II team, versus Shropshire, included Lynda Reid. The Association has been pleased to welcome Lynda after a four-year absence. She is an aggressive player with a fine temperament and got off to a good start in winning her events against Shropshire. Sheila Foley was also successful in the doubles events.

It is amazing to realise that with all his experience Claxton is still a junior and a vital part of the County Junior team. He is supported by Nicky Mytton (Evesham) and Garry Dunning (Worcester). The girls (Mandy Mytton, of Evesham, and Lesley Duffield, of Kidderminster) are well experienced and this showed to advantage in the Shropshire junior match which resulted in a draw.

The Team Knockout Championships have attracted about the usual number of entries. There is always good support from Kidderminster teams despite the fact that they have introduced such a competition for teams in their own League. Worcester have also run such a team handicap competition over many years. There will be a trophy, to be known as the "Joe Cukierman" Trophy which will be presented each season to the winning team in the Handicap Competition.

The County League seems to be proceeding smoothly. There is particular interest in the Mixed Division, which did not operate last year. The Hereford, Worcester City and Worcester Civil Service teams were successful in the first round of matches.

Worcester League has already played some of its individual handicap competitions. The final of the Veterans' Open Championship will be between County team veteran John Smith and Bill Smith, who represents Worcester Veterans in the Midlands League.

It seems rather bewildering not to see Claxton's name in the National Junior Ranking List. It seems probable he does not take part in so many tournaments as other juniors, but he has been extremely successful in the County Championships, both for the Juniors and the County I team. He recently won the Junior Championship at the Aberdare Open. He has gained most valuable experience by playing in the Premier (3-a-side) Birmingham League, which includes the best players in the Midlands. A proud father, Frank Claxton, conveys Simon to these and all his other matches, which means that he is occupied most nights of the week! Frank was formerly a Worcester City representative player in the Midlands and Western Counties League.

The County Closed Junior Championship has been arranged to take place at the Lea & Perrins Factory, Worcester, on January 11, 1976.

It is pleasing to hear news of former Worcester County player, Ray Lush, playing for the Hampshire Veterans' team, and Ken Green, former Worcs. Association General Secretary, doing well for Hunts. Veterans.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

POOLE SUBSIDE

Poole, after their surprise opening match of the season win against Bournemouth, entertained the very much strengthened Exmouth side but, after an excellent match, they were beaten 7-2. Both Paddy Shepherd and Paul Stone lost, in turn, to Neville Thorley and John Robinson, but Mike Rattue proved invincible.

Bournemouth made amends by beating Newport 6-3, the Welsh side's victories coming from John Bloomer, Tony Watkins and Michael Nocivelli, all at the expense of Maurice Bardsley. Both Trevor Smith and Colin Wilson recorded maximums.

Weston had a similar success over Newport, who found themselves 0-3 down after wins by Tony Russe, John Hartry and Jimmy Andrews. Then Bloomer and Nocivelli had wins over Hartry and Russe respectively to narrow the gap 3-2. Subsequently Andrews beat Watkins 22-20 in the third to give Weston a lead of 5-2. Bloomer did well to beat Andrews 17 in the 3rd, and the final set went to Weston when Russe beat Watkins in yet another 3-gamer.

The re-entry of West Wilts into the League started well with a fine win at home to Plymouth, who were beaten 6-3. 15-years-old Kevin Edwards was the West Wilts "star", winning all his three sets including a 15, 7 success over Keith James. Roy Smith beat M. Shearman and Mike Short while Joe Anaults also accounted for Shearman.

Newport's women, at home to Bournemouth, found their visitors well on form and went under 1-8, the "whitewash" being saved by Elizabeth Jones beating Janet New. Joyce Coop and Julie Reading had comfortable treble successes. Newbury "B", at home to Salisbury, won 7-2 with Kay Waters and Myra Johnston securing wins over Carol Rogers. Mandy Smith and Joyce Taylor proved far too strong.

All that remains for me now is to wish all secretaries and members alike the very best of seasonal greetings and good luck for 1976.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan J. Cavell

FIRST POINT

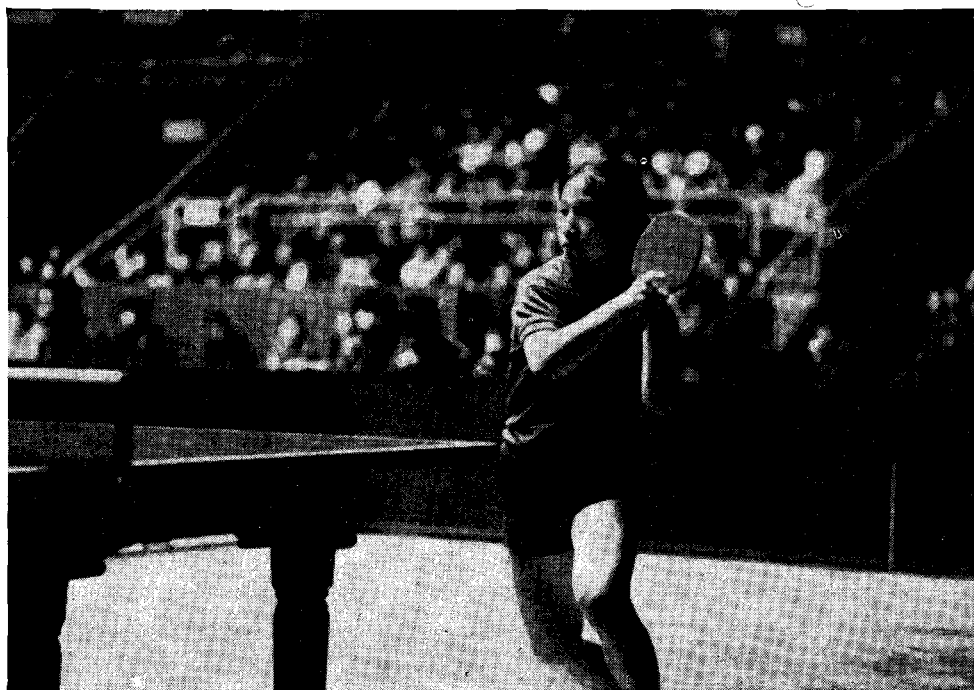
The steady rise in the standard of play of our juniors over the last three years was shown when the County Junior team gained its first point in the County Championships by drawing with Worcestershire. There is no doubt that more will be heard of our boys Malcolm Green, Russell Morgan and Nigel Thomas. The Telford junior David Lloyd, celebrated his 10th birthday by reaching the final of the Boys' U-11 event in the 1st Tettenhall College Open tournament and he also shows great potential.

David Yendell has now become a qualified County Umpire and Trevor Felton has been successful in the theoretical tests and awaits practical tests.

The Shrewsbury T.T.A. now has eight town teams, 2 senior and 1 junior team in the Midland League and 3 senior and 2 junior teams in the Shropshire County League. The officials looking after these teams are: K. Walton, S. Dixon, Mrs. G. Gee, R. Wilson, L. Nevett and N. Maycock.

Table Tennis Championships at China's 3rd National Games

by Li Pao-hua



Women's singles champion Yen Kuei-li.

China's third national games took place in September, 1975, in Peking. Peking's 20-year-old **Yen Kuei-li** won the women's singles title at the games' table tennis championships. On her way to the title she won from many experienced players by her fast and powerful attacking games, dexterous with both forehand and backhand strokes.

A Peking senior middle school student, Yen started to play table tennis four years ago. She was the singles runner-up at the national championships last year.

Her team-mate, Wei Li-chieh, a 17-year-old steady cutting stroke player, won the second place of the event at the games.

Both Yen and Wei — a left-hander — hold their bats with a tennis grip.

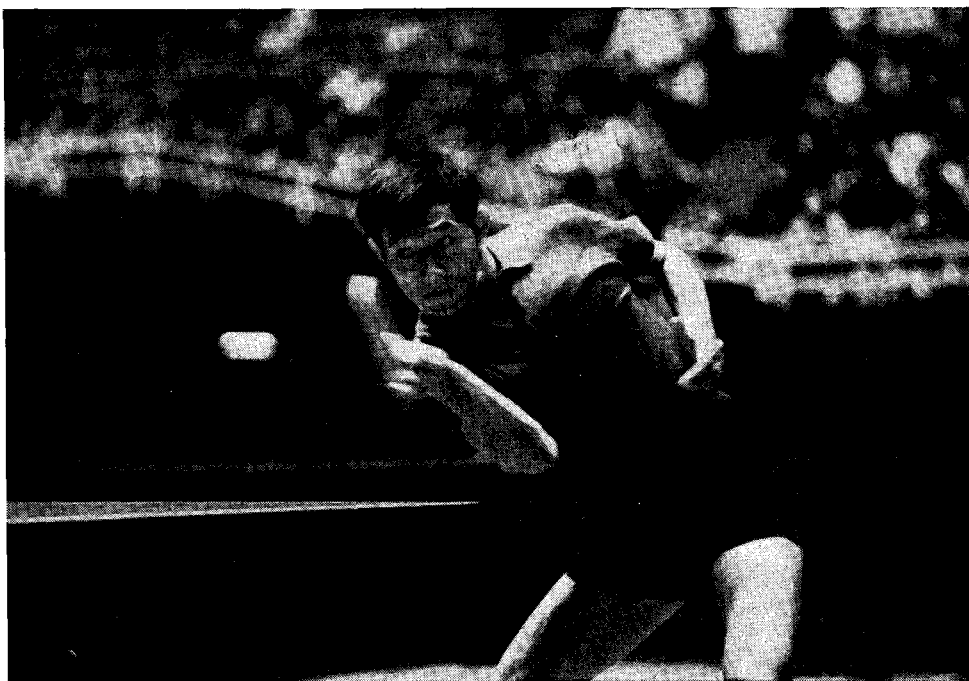
In the men's singles final Kuo Yao-hua, of Fukien province took the first two games using his heavy top-spin drives. In the decisive third **Wang Wen-jung**, of Hopei province, changed his tactics, resorting to more attacks to offset Kuo's drives. Wang took the last three games to win the set and the title.

Nineteen-year-old Kuo is a worker at the Amoy Electric Battery Plant. Influenced by his elder brother, he took up table tennis four years ago and made fast progress at a local spare-time sports school for juniors. At last year's national championships he finished runner-up in the singles.

More than half of the players who finished among the quarter-finalists in all the individual events at the national games' table tennis championships were rising newcomers like Yen Kuei-li and Kuo Yao-hua.

A field of 488 players of 31 teams from various provinces (Taiwan province included), municipalities, autonomous regions and the People's Liberation Army were entered in the championships. Among them 85% were under 22, the youngest being 11 years old.

The championships went on for 11 days. Many matches were held in venues outside big gymnasiums, including rural people's communes, factories, army barracks, government departments and schools. In this way table tennis was made more popular among the masses and the working people got the chance to watch the exciting events near their homes.



Men's singles champion Wang Wen-jung.

The Liaoning men's team and the Honan women's team, which both failed to win a place among the first eight at the last national games, finished first and second respectively in the team events at the third national games. This indicates that table tennis has been spreading from the strong localities of Peking, Shanghai and the province of Kwangtung to other parts of the country and that the gap between them is narrowing.

World women's singles runner-up, Chang Li, helped youngsters from China's most westernmost Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region during recess hours and explained to them how to master the rudiments of fast blocking shots and attacking top-spin drives.

Former world men's singles champion, Hsi En-ting, passed up the third national games but was conspicuously present in giving repeated demonstrations to youngsters from Tibet.

Most of the players stayed close to the table and played an attacking game with emphasis on speed, power, accuracy and flexible tactics, a tradition adhered to and improved by new players. The diversity of play shows an interesting feature of Chinese table tennis, which is aptly described by the Chinese phrase "one hundred flowers blossom".

The players helped one another in training before they met in competition, and after competition, instead of keeping it a secret, exchanged experience in a cordial atmosphere, so as to make common progress.

China's world championships participants, Liang Ko-liang, Chang Li and Ko Hsin-ai, who all lost to younger players in the team events, "like to see more young players who can play better than us". One of them said, "It is a good thing so many young players played better than we do. This shows that a younger generation of table tennis players has come to the fore and Chinese table tennis has made further progress".

COMPLETE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Women's Team Event

1. PEKING
2. Honan
3. Heilungkiang

Men's Team Event

1. LIAONING
2. Kwangtung
3. Kwangsi

Women's Team Event—Juniors

1. SHANGHAI
2. Szechwan
3. Chekiang

Men's Team Event—Juniors

1. KWANGTUNG
2. Honan
3. Shanghai

Women's Singles

1. YEN KUE-LI (Peking)
 2. Wei Li-chieh (Peking)
 3. Yu Chin-chia (Kwangtung)
Huang Hsi-ping (Shanghai)
- Yen Kue-li bt Wei Li-chieh 14, 14, 16.

Men's Singles

1. WANG WEN-JUNG (Hopei)
 2. Kuo Yao-hua (Fukien)
 3. Tiao Wen-yuan (Anhwei)
Wang Chien-chiang (Kwangtung)
- Wang Wen-jung bt Kuo Yao-hua -11, -17, 13, 12, 14.

Women's Doubles

1. LI MING/LIU HSIN-YEN (Liaoning)
 2. Yen Kuei-li/Liu Shih-hsu (Peking)
 3. Yang Ying/Chi Chih-chiang
(Szechwan)
- Ho Tse-ping/Liu Hung-ying
(Szechwan)

Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen bt Yen Kuei-li/Liu Shih-hsu 19, -19, 15, 19.

Men's Doubles

1. LIANG KO-LIANG/LI CHO-MIN
(Kwangsi)
2. Li Chen-shih/Pao Chih-yuan
(People's Liberation Army)
3. Tien Shu-yuan/Lu Chi-wei (Peking)
Ku Chen-kiang/Sung Liang (Liaoning)

Liang Ko-liang/Li Cho-min bt Li Chen-shih/Pao Chih-yuan 16, -19, 23, 15.

Mixed Doubles

1. LI PENG/LI MING (Liaoning)
2. Wang Wen-hua/Yu Chin-chia
(Kwangtung)
3. Chiang Chih-tung/Sun Wei-fen (PLA)
Li Chen-chih/Wu Shih-pao (PLA)

Li Peng/Li Ming bt Wang Wen-hua/Yu Chin-chia 11, -17, 11, 22.

Women's Singles—Juniors

1. TUNG LING (Szechwan)
2. Chang Min (Honan)
3. Kuan Chien-hua (Shansi)
Tsui Hsiao-yen (Peking)

Tung Ling bt Chang Min 3-1.

Men's Singles—Juniors

1. CHOU KO-CHIN (Shanghai)
2. Ou Chin-hui (Kwangtung)
3. Chiang Yi (Shensi)
Cheng Hai (Peking)

Chou Ko-Chin bt Ou Chin-hui 3-2.

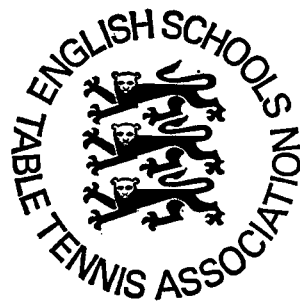
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Team Selections

Jill Hammersley, winner last month of the women's singles title in the Hungarian Open, and Carole Knight, her partner in the English team which took the women's team event, were again due to combine in the Scandinavian Open scheduled to be played in Kalmar over the period November 27-30.

The men due to travel to Scandinavia were Nicky Jarvis, who reached the quarter-final of the recent Yugoslavian Open Championships, and Denis Neale. For Neale it would be the first time this season that he will have represented England in a singles event, for although he was a member of the team that beat Denmark in a European League match in October, he played only in the men's doubles. The team will be led by Trainer/Coach Brian Burn.

On December 11, at the New Victoria Leisure Centre, Bath Street, Nottingham, commencing at 7-30 p.m., England will meet Ireland in a Division 2—Group A European League match. England's team will be:—D. Douglas (Warwks), N. Jarvis and D. Neale (both Cleveland), Jill Hammersley (Bucks) and Linda Howard (Surrey). Brian Burn is the n.p.c.



E.S.T.T.A. "BLACKSPOTS" by David Lomas

According to returns received by National Competitions' Secretary, Eddie Mitchell, there should be a record entry for the 10th National School Team Championships.

Details of the qualifying teams in each of the 50 County Areas are not due in until December 17, but many counties have already indicated that they will have maximum entries in each of the seven events which are for teams of four players ranging from Under-11 to Under-19.

In several counties there have been knock-out competitions taking place during the present term to determine the County champions, but in some areas a one-day k.o. competition is held.

Unfortunately, despite the undoubted popularity of the game throughout the country, there are still some counties who are unable to provide any entries at all. At the time of writing the "blackspots" are: Avon, East Sussex, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Northumberland and North Yorkshire.

The winning teams from each county are due to participate in one of 12 Area Finals throughout the country—the majority of which are scheduled for Sunday, February 1. The winners then go forward to compete in one of three Regional Finals which are planned for February 15, at Leeds, Swindon and Sheffield. The Regional winners play against each other on Saturday, March 20, at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire.

NEWS FROM ASSOCIATIONS

London:

At a meeting held at the I.L.E.A. College of Physical Education, on November 10, it was agreed to form the I.L.E.A. Schools' T.T.A. The Secretary of the new Association is Chris Portch, of Stockwell Manor School, Stockwell Park Road, London, S.W.9. Mr. Portch was previously the E.S.T.T.A. "Correspondent" for the I.L.E.A. area and has already organised a team championships involving 17 I.L.E.A. schools.

Surrey:

Surrey report that 78 schools have affiliated. Their Singles and Doubles Championships are arranged for 21-22 February, at the new Leatherhead Leisure Centre, with strong backing from the Oxshott-based T.T. Medallion Ltd.

Essex County:

Essex County's Individual Championships which last year attracted an entry of over 300 players, take place on February 7, at Billericay.

KENT NOTES

by Ken Baker

THE GRAVESEND TOURNAMENT

The Woolwich Association staged the second Greenwich Tournament recently at Greenwich Baths. An already strong entry in the men's singles was made even stronger when invitations were extended to Surrey players Stevie Lyons, Gordon Chapman and Derek Holman. Practically the whole of the Kent ranking list

entered to try to keep the title at bay from the "foreigners".

There were certainly some exciting games during the early rounds and the first upset came when Terry Fairlie went out to Mike Ellis. Perhaps the best individual performance came from the young five foot nothing Ray Taylor, who put out Tom Adams and then went on to give a scintillating display against Henry Buist. Ray actually led at 19-18 in the third when Henry managed to get only the faintest of edges which was seen only by Ray himself and immediately acknowledged. Henry was very much relieved to come through at deuce after nearly wilting under the barrage of loops and kills thrown at him by Ray.

For this "best performance" Ray was presented with a camera set donated by Mike Briggs. Gordon Chapman did some damage to Kent pride by putting out Paul Beck but finally succumbed in the quarters to Clive Morris who was ably assisted by some rather fortuitous nets and edges. Stevie Lyons put out yours truly before going on to "murder" compatriot Derek Holman in the quarters.

The first semi-final had John Dabin, who had previously accounted for Andy Mitchell, matched against Clive Morris. Although Clive won the first game John gradually began to dominate and won comfortably in the third.

Next Henry Buist had to face newly England-ranked Lyons. Henry soon made it an all-Kent final by completely bamboozling Steve with his rubber bat attack. The final was not particularly outstanding with Henry running out a winner in straight games by rolling the ball consistently and killing anything loose. Nevertheless, it is a remarkable performance by an albeit young veteran.

The women's singles was, as ever in Kent, completely dominated by Joyce Ellis despite the valiant efforts of the young juniors. In the final Carol Payne had no real answer to Joyce's steady defence. The mixed title went to Ian Collins and Audrey Hallet after a closely-fought final with Terry Fairlie and Pat Baker.

The men's doubles went to Dabin and Mitchell when they out-manoeuvred Ray Taylor and Paul Beck in the final. Congratulations are due to the Woolwich Association and in particular to the Koutikoffs, Eileen and Lionel, who managed to find sponsors able to give away very worthwhile prizes:—

M.S.: 20 voucher from John Kent Menswear, of Bromley. R-u: Bathroom Cabinet from Vic Atterano.

W.S.: Top to Toe Beauty Treatment from Pearl International Beauty Salon. R-u: £15 perfumery Charles of the Ritz from Army and Navy, Bromley. Losing semi-finalists: (Men)—£5 petrol voucher, Woods Garage, Bromley. £5 clothes voucher, Daniel Myles, Lewisham. (Women)—£1.25 sports goods each, Soconpop Sports Goods.

M.D.: Christmas spirits — Woolwich League. R-u: £5 vouchers from Bromley Sports.

W.D.: Chanel No. 5 Perfume (Woolwich Committee). R-u: Hamper from Mike Ellis.

X.D.: Hairdoes from Graham's Web. R-u: Theatre Ticket vouchers from Eileen Koutikoff.

£780 PRIZE FUND

Winner of the men's singles event in the County of Cleveland 3-Star Championships, to be played at Thornaby Pavilion over the weekend of January 3-4, 1976, will receive £150, with the runner-up being due for £75.

The overall prize fund totals £780 and the winner of the women's singles will earn herself £80 which is by far the biggest sum ever afforded to women in a domestic open other than the Norwich Union English Championships. The tournament is being organised by the Cleveland County T.T.A. in conjunction with the Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department.

A men's and women's international team event will precede the normal events with intermediate (U-19) men's and women's singles added.

Revised Senior Rankings

No. 1 SPOT FOR DOUGLAS

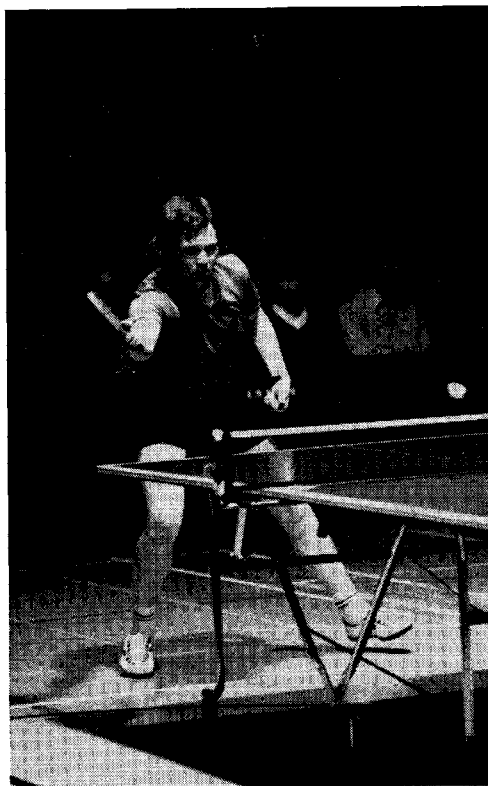
by Mike Lawless

For the first time since February, 1966, Denis Neale, the reigning English champion, is out of the top two in the National Ranking Lists. In the new list, released on November 6, 1975, he appears at No. 3, with the coveted top position being occupied by Desmond Douglas.

The season began strangely for Douglas when he was omitted from the England squad due to uncertainty on his availability for events. He has now been reinstated in the squad and his brilliant performances in the last two months or so have taken him to the top for the first time.

The No. 5 position of Junior champion, Andrew Barden, underlines his continuous improvement. A certain amount of reshuffling in the middle order is due, apart from personal performances, to the non-inclusion of Trevor Taylor, who has signed a contract with the Dutch club, Tempo.

The list also shows the last three places being occupied by previously unranked players to the further exclusion of Mike Johns (Cheshire), previously at No. 15, and David Alderson (Cleveland), previously at No. 17.



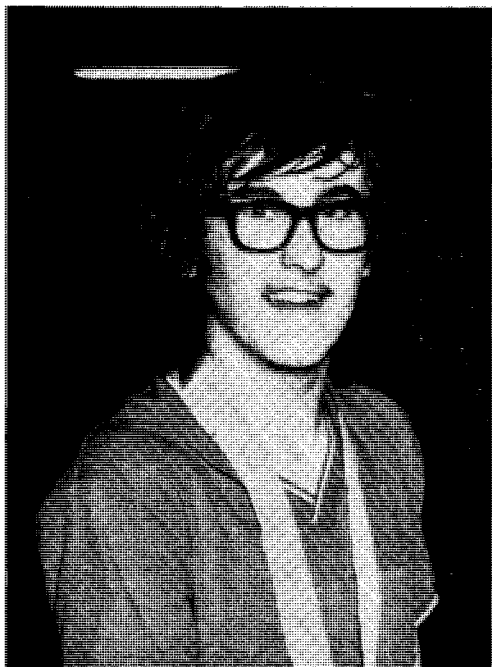
Another Clevelander on his way up—Jimmy Walker—he rises from No. 6 to No. 4.

Photo by Tony Ross.

5. Andrew Barden (Middx) (7)
6. Donald Parker (Lancs) (9)
7. Paul Day (Cams) (5)
8. Ian Horsham (Essex) (8)
9. Peter Taylor (Beds) (12)
10. David Brown (Essex) (13)
11. John Hilton (Ches) (11)
12. John Kitchener (Suffolk) (10)
13. Nigel Eckersley (Ches) (16)
14. Tony Clayton (Yorks) (14)
15. Mark Mitchell (Middx) (18)
16. Steve Souter (Cleve) (—)
17. Steve Lyons (Surrey) (—)
18. Alan Fletcher (Yorks) (—)

Women

1. Jill Hammersley (Bucks) (1)
2. Linda Howard (Surrey) (3)
3. Carole Knight (Cleve) (2)
4. Susan Lisle (Ches) (4)
5. Karen Rogers (Leics) (6)
6. Sheila Hession (Essex) (8)
7. Ani a Stevenson (Leics) (5)
8. Melody Ludi (Yorks) (9)
9. Angela Mitchell (Middx) (11)
10. Angela Tierney (Cleve) (—)
11. Karen Witt (Berks) (—)
12. Janet Hellaby (Essex) (10)



Steven "Sooty" Souter, who, having ousted Denis Neale in the Cumbria 2-Star Open, finds himself in the senior rankings for the first time.

Jill Hammersley still reigns over the women's section but the interesting battle for supremacy between Linda Howard and Carole Knight continues and for the present the advantage lies with the Surrey girl, who takes No. 2 position.

The women's section shows two previously unranked players in the very promising Angela Tierney, of Cleveland, and Karen Witt, of Berkshire. Sue Henderson, previously at No. 7, is the only player omitted from the former list.

Full lists, with previous positions in parentheses, are:—

Men

1. Desmond Douglas (Warwks) (3)
2. Nicky Jarvis (Cleve) (2)
3. Denis Neale (Cleve) (1)
4. Jimmy Walker (Cleve) (6)

MIDLAND NOTES

by Richard Habgood

BRUM SET PACE

With Birmingham in impressive form after two successive victories over Hinckley and Derby by the scores of 8-2 and 9-1, they again must be the side to beat for the top honour in Division 1 of the Men's Section. More so especially if you bear in mind that Leicester now play without the services of Paul Randell, now "transferred" to Hinckley. Birmingham's team of Des Douglas, Derek Munt and Paul Judd have played in both matches so far—it will be interesting to see if they can maintain a team of that standard.

Newly-promoted Wolverhampton and Walsall have also started well. With an excellent 7-3 victory over Bristol, Wolverhampton were ably led by Keith Fellows, who remained undefeated, as was Steve Cartwright, of Walsall, in their 5-5 draw with Derby.

The Potteries will take some stopping in Div. 2. Trevor Burrows, John Riley and Reg Wain are perhaps not their strongest three but even so were too strong for Nottingham "B", winning 8-2. Birmingham "B" also recorded the same score against Leicester "B".

Division 3 sees newly-promoted Shrewsbury "A" doing well. A draw with Cheltenham and a 6-4 victory over Loughborough is not a bad start and augurs well. Nottingham "C" look strong—victories over Loughborough and Stroud by the margins of 9-1 and 6-4 put them firmly on top.

Both Lichfield and Redditch are finding the going tough in Div. 4. Lichfield can consider themselves most unfortunate having lost both their opening fixtures 4-6 to Darlaston and Shrewsbury.

Coventry top both the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the Junior Section, each team having a 100% record. Whatever has happened to Birmingham? Champions of Div. 1 last season, they crashed 8-2 to Nottingham "A" and then just managed to beat Derby "B" 6-4, thanks to an unbeaten Duggie Johnson. Coventry seem to have all the answers but watch Leicester for a surprise.

In Junior Div. 3 Walsall "B", with three boys, S. Bentley, A. Dixon and P. Dawes, aged 10, 11 and 12 years respectively, look to have a fine side for the future. After taking points against Leamington and Nuneaton they have started well, but Derby "C" with victories over Stone 10-0 and Oxford 6-4 look the team to beat.

In the Veterans' Section, Coventry, champions of two seasons ago and then surprise absentees last season, top the table in Div. 1. Champions Oxford have started indifferently, losing to Coventry 4-6 after being held to a 5-5 draw with Nottingham "A". The Notts-Coventry clash early in the New Year looks as though that result will decide the title for this season.

West Bromwich top Div. 2 with 5 points from 3 matches. Only Worcester have managed to contain them and it is quite possible that these two will be fighting it out all season.

CHANGE OF VENUE

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God helps those . . .

by ALAN J. CAVELL

The White Paper entitled "Sport and Recreation," issued by the Department of the Environment in August, 1975, has probably not been read by the bulk of table tennis players. Its implications should, however, be considered by the officials of table tennis clubs.

Most table tennis teams competing in local leagues are probably from clubs which fall into one of the following groups: 1—Works' clubs; 2—School/Youth clubs; 3—Clubs using hired premises; 4—Sections of Social/Church clubs; 5—Multiactivity sports clubs; 6—Single purpose table tennis clubs.

Industrial firms are finding it difficult to retain expensive facilities for sport, as the constant closure of sports grounds throughout the country clearly indicates. Indoor sporting facilities are also costly to maintain. The Sports Council recognises this loss of sporting facilities and hopes that some firms will be able to maintain their sporting facilities by making them available to the general public. As security arrangements will make this impossible in many cases, it can be expected that the sporting facilities offered by firms to their staff will continue to decline.

Rising costs of extra-mural school activities and the steeply rising costs of hired premises, related as they are to the level of wages and salaries, are factors which will influence the number of teams coming from these sources in future.

Teams from clubs with a social or religious objective are usually heavily subsidised by the parent body and are not unduly worried with financial problems.

The clubs best able to comply with the Government's conditions for grant aid are probably the multiactivity and single activity sports clubs. The White Paper indicates that incentives may be forthcoming to major voluntary organisations to encourage them to open their facilities to the whole of the community.

The voluntary single activity clubs which are open to the general public will be eligible for grants if they wish to extend their premises to meet the needs of young players, or to introduce coaching schemes.

The indications are that Government money will be channelled to those sports which have voluntary organised clubs of size and standing. Sports most likely to benefit therefore are those catering for cricket, football, golf, hockey and lawn tennis.

If table tennis is to get a greater share of available money it should consider the formation of local clubs which are open to the public and which are similar in size to those clubs catering for these other sports. Part of any profit arising from the World Championships, if held in Birmingham in 1977, could possibly be used for this purpose.

In an effort to maintain existing services at their present level authorities are, in future, expected to seek greater co-operation from voluntary organisations. Clubs can offer help through local sports advisory councils. In return, clubs can expect limited financial help for selected projects.

This greater co-operation with local authorities may provide great opportunities for sporting bodies to influence local authorities to provide facilities for coaching as well as encouraging them to organise participation courses, organised, of course, with the help of volunteers. These opportunities are well known to all sports represented on local sports advisory councils and I hope that table tennis enthusiasts throughout the country will seize the present opportunity to publicise our sport and to enlarge the playing membership of existing clubs.

HERTFORDSHIRE CLOSED

by BOB BRIDGES

Honours at the Herts Closed Championships at Barnet on October 25-26, were widely shared. The most successful players were Susan Felstead and Jonathan Proffitt, who earned two crowns each.

Men's top seed Chris Pickard, was having it very much his own way until the semi when Richard Jermyn only succumbed -19 in the decider in an exciting encounter; Jermyn had shown his flair earlier in the quarter-final victory over Jack Bender 13, -19, 17. Geoff Giles surprised Simon Proffitt in the other semi-final, coming through with a game-8 win in the third. Giles was no match for Pickard with the ex-Hampshire No. 1 coming through for his second triumph in successive years.

Jonathan Proffitt had been seeded No. 2, but a bad draw saw him go down to veteran wood-bat-man Jack Baxter -8, 19, 13 in the first round! Proffitt scored in both doubles.

Brothers Jonathan and Simon had the edge over Pickard and Barry White, easing home in straight games, and Jon Proffitt and Sylvia Tyler gained success over Liz Hudson and Welshman Andy Thomas in a topsy-turvy Mixed event where top seeds only made one trip to the tables.

Susan Felstead only just proved her position as No. 1 woman with a close win over Janet Rodgers in the singles; the scales may have been tipped if Barbara Peters had not withdrawn at the start of play due to illness, but the move did give Mrs. Rodgers the easier half of the draw.

The doubles win for the North Herts pairing Daphne Baines/Susan Felstead was a painstaking effort over Barbara Peters and Janet Rodgers.

During play there were a couple of performances by players deserving mention. Michael Johnston—a Division III Cheshunt and Division 4 North Middlesex player, beat Andy Thomas; and Colin Williams beat Barry White.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
G. Giles bt S. Proffitt -18, 15, 8.
C. Pickard bt R. Jermyn -13, 8, 19.

Final
PICKARD bt Giles 8, 16.

Women's Singles
S. FELSTEAD bt J. Rodgers -15, 12, 18.

Men's Doubles
S. & J. PROFFITT bt B. White/Pickard 18, 18.

Women's Doubles
BAINES/FELSTEAD bt B. Peters/Rodgers -19, 19, 19.

Mixed Doubles
J. PROFFITT/S. TYLER bt A. Thomas/E. Hudson 18, 14.

Men's Veterans
J. BAXTER bt Derrick Harris 14, 17.

Women's Veterans
KATH ROWDEN (group winner).

Men's Consolation
TERRY PLEASANCE bt Harris 19, 17.

Women's Consolation
TYLER bt Hudson 10, 20.

FORTHCOMING DOMESTIC OPENS

December, 1975

6/7 Middlesex 3-Star, Picketts Lock, London.

12/13 Leinster Open, Dublin.

13 Cardiff Open.

13/14 Wayfarers English Junior Championships, Loughborough.

20/21 Yorkshire 2-Star Junior Select, Hull.

January, 1976

3/4 Cleveland 3-Star Open, Thornaby.

4 Winton 1-Star, Bournemouth.

8/10 Norwich Union International Championships, Brighton.

15/17 Irish International Open, Dublin.

18 Edinburgh 2-Star.

24 Pontefract 1-Star.

24 Glamorgan Open.

24/25 Kent 2-Star, Folkestone.

25 West of Scotland 2-Star, Glasgow.

31 Halax Lancashire 2-Star, Lostock, Bolton.

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A NOSTALGIC WEEKEND

by KEN BAKER

(Editor, "Kent Table Tennis News")

Not having visited an "Open" for a number of years, I was therefore a little apprehensive about entering the "Sussex 2-Star" at Hastings. Would I know anybody there? Would it be a weekend that might have been better spent in trying to iron out the problems with my golf swing?

On the other hand Hastings is only a ¾ hour drive from my home in Tonbridge, and I did have to push the new Kent magazine, "Kent Table Tennis News". So I duly rang my chauffeur, Barry Meisel, and made the necessary arrangements. With instructions to "go the pretty way", Barry drove whilst I sat in the back browsing through the "Financial Times."

Leaving Barry to look after the luggage and to book us into the hotel next door, I ventured cautiously into the White Rock Pavilion. The first thing that struck me was that they'd placed the tables the "other way round". My fears that I would know nobody proved groundless when I espied Laurie Landry and little (now big) David Brown. Several other people had to be assured that "rumours of my death were greatly exaggerated", whilst I made my way to the seats up on the stage to chat to some more old friends.

I was just beginning to enjoy myself when cruelly the announcement came, "K. Baker, Group 34, Table 1". Before I knew it I was playing a 7-foot giant called, somewhat incongruously, Smith. I disposed of said giant with a certain aplomb but my further interest in the singles was halted by a young man called "Dunnett" or "Done It" or something—the eventual winner of the group.

On the next table a World Record was being broken! I refer to the highest aggregate of ages ever recorded in a men's singles group—Gordon Chapman, Terry Kirby and Barry Meisel. Well over a century and a quarter has been notched up by this trio! Now why couldn't I have played that lot instead of "Done It" or whatever his name was? Meisel still can't hold the bat properly, Chapman looks as bad a player as he did twenty years ago and I swear that I actually heard Kirby creaking. Apparently Gordon came through the group eventually.

The evening came and with it the problem of where to eat. We decided on a 50-yard walk to a reasonable restaurant. As our party included the more respectable Derek Holman and his lovely wife, Sheila, I suppose the restaurateur overlooked Gordon and Barry and allowed us in. Choosing from a somewhat restricted menu, due to the fact that a whole flock of Essex gannets had been in before us, we enjoyed a riotous evening. With Henry Buist, Barry and Gordon swapping war-time experiences we youngsters, Derek, Sheila and myself, were kept amused.

Yes, I am young, well youngish, well I'm not that old, a sort of sprightly 35. So much for all those people who thought I'd only come down to Hastings for the Veterans' event! I would also like to categorically deny the rumour, and an ugly one at that, that Gordon Chapman is my brother. Several people asked both Gordon and myself if this was the case. I ask you, how would it be biologically possible for a mother to have two children so far apart?

On Sunday morning I found to my delight, and doubtless his dismay, that I was paired up with Roger Chandler in the Men's Doubles. Now Roger is a fine player but somehow he couldn't seem to counterbalance my failing to get within 20 feet of Nicky Jarvis's loop when we played and succumbed to the Jarvis/Ransome combination.

The game had certainly changed. I was most impressed by Jarvis (a sort of modern-day Errol Flynn) with his speed and energy. Everybody looked disgustingly fit—Eckersley particularly so. Other players who caught my eye were Mitchell and Kitchener, not to mention nasty-serving Ian Horsham. Jarvis, the eventual winner, looked totally unbeatable to my eyes, but I haven't seen all the top players recently. I praise the fellow in spite of the fact that he didn't buy a copy of "Kent Table Tennis News"!

One other thing that had changed dramatically was the sort of price one had to pay for refreshments in the Cafeteria Rip-Off upstairs. When paying some exorbitant price for a paper-thin sandwich and a cup of tea, I enquired whether my bill included the freehold of the pier opposite. And yet my entry fees for singles and doubles were still only 85p. The "Changing Rooms" hadn't altered much, either. Surely there's a lesson to be learned somewhere?

Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable, even nostalgic, weekend. Plenty of copies of "Kent Table Tennis News" were sold and even chauffeur Barry came away with the Vets' Singles title, his second of the season. If he carries on like this he'll be getting ideas above his station and staff are so hard to find these days.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

SET STRAIGHT

I have been called to task, at a very high level, and I speed to put the record right by giving the current list of Surrey Life Members as comprising:—Stan Buchan, Colin Clemmett, Fred Joyce, Percy Lawes, Ron Crayden and Sid Morton.

The County teams had a gala time in early November when at all four levels they were triumphant against Essex, 5-4 for the seniors; 6-4 for the seconds; 9-1 to the junior and 7-3 by the Junior 2. I am very pleased to endorse Mick Kercher's observation that five of the players involved in the opening senior matches plus the second team non-playing captain, were products of the coaching schemes which had been the butt of so much backwoodsmen (my phrase) criticism over recent years.

Two particulars of interest from the latest England ranking lists are the successful result to the hard fight by Linda Howard to regain her No. 2 spot, and the first mention of Steve Lyons who comes into the men's list at No. 17.

News this month from the Croydon Business Houses League, where interest in the game is booming and the six divisions plus one for women show that there is more competition now than they have seen since those far off days when England won the Swaythling Cup. The League was formed in 1946, with one division of ten teams, holds an annual tournament at the end of the season, and has a Christmas draw, run by Jim Teal, Secretary, the proceeds from which go towards keeping down the cost of league fees. Other key officials are Chairman, Keith Munro, and Treasurer, Peter Mitchell, who have been at the helm for many years.

The record of notable players includes Elsie Carrington, Yvonne Baker, Roy Turner and Ken Barrington (where have we heard that name before?).

Bouquets to two Press Secretaries, the only

ones I ever hear about, Bob Pearson, who keeps his Leatherhead local press supplied and his league in-erested in his regular reports and comments, and Joan Oakley, who weekly, covers the whole range of interest over 13 divisions for Guildford, and spells every player's name correctly. There should be special medals struck, for consistency at least, for such volunteer labourers who do so much to keep the game in the local eye.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

FINE START

Leicestershire 1st team got off to a fine start in their 2nd Division (Midland) fixtures when they beat Staffordshire 7-3. It was an excellent, sporting match with the score perhaps being about right. Maurice Newman fought hard for the home side but was unfortunate enough to be involved in all three of the hunting shire's defeats.

The junior team made the long trip to Glamorgan in a Junior 2nd Division Midland fixture but suffered a 7-3 reverse. It was, however, a personal triumph for David Gannon, who was involved in all three of Leicestershire's wins. Leicestershire's weakness here is clearly in the girls' side of the team and after years of success—going back to Margaret Hainsworth and followed by Sue Baxter, Janet Hamer, Karen Rogers and Anita Stevenson. During this period Leicestershire scarcely lost a girls' event but things are different now. True we have two promising youngsters in the pipeline—Julie Revill and Yvonne Hall—but it will be some time before we can expect many wins from this source.

The Veterans—who have never beaten Nottinghamshire—took another beating, this time to the tune of 8-1. It was a scoreline which scarcely did Leics. justice but there was no doubting Notts' all round superiority. Bryan Hall's victory over Ron Bolton was all Leicestershire had to show.

The Leicestershire Towns League—dominated for so many years by Leicester—looks certain to be won by Hinckley. Paul Randell, undisputed County No. 1, is appearing in the South Leicestershire town's colours and with Maurice Newman and John Iliffe to support him, it is difficult to see how they can fail.

In the Midland League, Leicester Men's 1st team did themselves a power of good by beating Wolverhampton 7-3, both Graham Hughes and Chris Rogers being unbeaten. They are, however, by no means out of the wood yet and it will be a fine performance if they are able to retain their 1st Division status. One player who must surely be in contention for a place in the 2nd team is University's Peter Howe, whose form in the Leicestershire Towns League fixtures was a revelation.

The Rose Johnson Bowl has got off to a good start, with several very tight finishes. Members of the Hall family featured strongly in the Knighton Park-Great Glen match where Jean captained the Knighton side and had daughter Yvonne in the side. Appearing for Great Glen was Kevin Hall, Jean's son, and it was he who dominated the match to give Great Glen a very close win.

Congratulations to Paul Randell and Karen Wilson on their engagement, which was announced on the day of the County match with Staffordshire. Fortunately, Paul still intends to carry on with all his table tennis commitments—to the immense relief of everyone within the County!

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Two pairs of identical 16-year-old twins were in the men's doubles semi-finals at the West Yorkshire Closed. Admiring the trophies are, from left: Steve and Robert Hazelwood (winners) and Andrew and Brian Metcalfe.

Photo by courtesy of "Bradford Telegraph and Argus".

5th WEST YORKSHIRE CLOSED

TWINNING AFFAIRS AT BRADFORD

by Steve Nunn (Hon. Organiser)

Played at Parkside Sports Centre, Bradford, on September 28th, prizes were presented by the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Mrs. Doris Birdsall.

With a record entry of 157, the tournament, which is a Twin-Town Fund-raising venture, turned out to be a proper "Twin Affair" with three sets of twins taking part—the Bottomleys of Halifax, the Metcalfes of Leeds, and the most successful pair, the Hazelwoods of Leeds.

All three pairs did well in the men's doubles event, the Bottomleys going out in the semis to the eventual winners, R. and S. Hazelwood, and the Metcalfes just failing in their semi-final to runners-up Jim Yeats and N. Davies. The men's final turned out to be one of the best sets we have seen in these Championships with Stephen Hazelwood taking back to Leeds the BULMER AND LUMB CHALLENGE TROPHY, with a very good performance, defeating D. Lamb, of Halifax, in straight games.

The women's singles Wrose Bowl was won by Leeds-based schoolteacher and ex-Yorkshire women's champion, Lynda Sutton, of Hull, who defeated local girl Sylvia Broadbent. It was a good performance by Lynda considering she has not been available to practice very much whilst studying for her Teaching Certificate. On her way to the final she also defeated the expected winner, Melody Ludi.

Melody did succeed in retaining her girls' singles title, beating Lynda Hryzsko quite convincingly. The boys' event was won by Kevin Beadsley, who beat the men's winner, Stephen Hazelwood. In the veterans' final, G. Summerscales, of Pontefract, defeated Geoff Brook, the latter having held the title for the past two seasons.

A pleasant surprise for me was the announcement during the finals, by Frank Briggs, the Bradford Chairman and Tournament Referee, that I had been awarded the "BROOK MOTORS" Merit Award for starting the West Yorkshire Closed. I was very pleased to accept this Award and only hope that everyone gets the same satisfaction playing as I do organising these Championships. Thanks to all the sponsors who provided the prizes and to

all who helped in making the tournament such a success. Results:—

M.S.: D. Lamb (Halifax) bt R. Shutt (Bradford) 18, 20; S. Hazelwood (Leeds) bt S. Kosmowsky (Bradford) 13, 9.

Final: HAZELWOOD bt Lamb 16, 20.

W.S.: L. Sutton (Leeds) bt M. Ludi (Bradford) -9, 15, 17; S. Broadbent (Bradford) bt H. Shields (Bradford) 17, 18.

Final: SUTTON bt Broadbent 19, -10, 15.

M.D.: R. & S. HAZELWOOD bt N. Davies/J. Yeats 12, 14.

W.D.: BROADBENT/LUDI bt A. Dawson/J. Richardson -18, 9, 10.

X.D.: R. PRIESTLEY/LUDI bt S. Worsman/Broadbent 13, 13.

B.S.: K. BEADSLEY bt S. Hazelwood 18, 19.

G.S.: LUDI bt L. Hryzsko 8, 11.

V.S.: G. SUMMERSCALES bt G. Brook -16, 15, 19.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

CREDITABLE DEBUT

Both the County Senior and Junior teams began their County Championships programme with 5-5 draws. The Seniors, visiting Great Yarmouth to play Norfolk II, were led by Alan Lamprell, who in addition to two singles wins, notched the mixed doubles with Diane Bushby. Jean Allinson had a creditable senior debut, winning the women's singles after suffering a first leg reverse. Jean went on to take the women's doubles with Diane to complete Hunt's scoring. A promising debut from Alan Smith (No. 1 Junior last term) and Len Saywell completed the local County's line-up.

The Juniors, Steven Fisher, Mark Fisher, Leno Coppolaro, Belinda Chamberlain and Melanie Ringrose, went 0-3 down to Herts II in their November 1 fixture at St. Neots. A fine recovery with S. Fisher and M. Fisher (single apiece), Belinda (girls' singles), and with Melanie (girls' doubles) plus M. Fisher/Melanie (mixed) helped Hunts to an all-square result.

The veterans, following on from their win over Wiltshire, were unable to repeat their performance against Oxfordshire, going down 3-6. On Sunday, October 19, the County trials were staged at Peterborough with the following results:—

Men

1. A. Lamprell (S)
2. A. Smith (HC)
3. S. Andrews (HC)
4. T. Speller (HC)

5. L. Saywell (S)
6. S. Fisher (HC)
7. J. Sizer (HC)
8. M. Fisher (HC)
9. A. Albon (S)
10. M. Murden (HC)
11. S. Burgess (HC)
12. P. Berna (P)

Women

1. B. Chamberlain (S)
2. J. Allinson (P)
3. D. Bushby (S)
4. E. Allinson (P)
5. P. Baker (P)

Boys

1. S. Fisher (HC)
2. M. Fisher (HC)
3. L. Coppolaro (HC)
4. P. Barnard (HC)
5. S. Smith (P)
6. D. Stephens (HC)
7. D. Hicks (P)
8. M. Ringrose (HC)
9. M. Bradford (HC)
10. A. Herbert (S)

Girls

1. B. Chamberlain (S)
2. M. Ringrose (HC)
3. J. Cundall (HC)
4. M. Crocker (P)
5. J. Kitchen (P)
6. S. Smith (HC)
7. D. Bird (P)
8. D. Roberts (S)
9. L. Bryan (HC).

Key.—HC—Hunts Central; S—St. Neots; P—Peterborough.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

INTERESTING POINT

Norfolk saw an outburst of County Championships activity on November 1 when they had three teams all playing at home. Their first team, in Div. 2 East, entertained Hertfordshire at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. and were always in arrears until they finally succumbed 3-7. Here the interesting point was the form of England's No. 7 Junior, Jonathan Proffitt, who was making his debut with his County's senior side.

He was first on the table and lost the first game at 11 to Mick Musson, the Norfolk champion. However, he fought back to take the next at 16, and in the decider clinched the set at 21-8. Later, when Norfolk were losing 2-4, he also beat John Fuller 13, 19. Fuller and Musson, our two leading players, received their County colours from Mr. Jack Fuller, the Norfolk Vice-Chairman, after the match.

Norfolk II, in Div 3 East, drew 5-5 with Huntingdonshire at Gt. Yarmouth Power Station. According to Jack Fuller, this was the first County match to have been played at Yarmouth for about 25 years, when Eric Filby, Billy Minors and Gilbert Whittaker represented Norfolk. These names will bring back some memories!

The Norfolk team on this latest occasion was Chris Bensley, Neville Graver, Douglas Bennett, Miss Wendy Hogg and Mrs. Ruth Hogg. Douglas and Wendy had been playing against Warwickshire in the Junior match at Norwich in the afternoon, so Duggie did very well to win both his singles and his doubles, partnered by Bensley.

He had previously won both his singles in the Junior 2 Midland encounter and Wendy won hers, but these three sets were all that Norfolk could manage and they went down 3-7. The Juniors are obviously missing the now over-age Paul Durrant, but David Smith, a 15-year-old left-hander who plays for Hearts in the Norwich league, made a favourable impression.

In the team championships, organised by the Norfolk Schools' T.T.A., U-19, U-16 and U-14 matches are in progress.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

TOP BOY KEVIN

In a minor reshuffle of the County ranking list, the selectors have promoted Kevin Beadsley to the top place in the boys' list, and to No. 3 in the men's, changing places in both cases with Stephen Hazelwood. On 1st November Kevin became the youngest (not 15 until 13th November) and smallest (4ft. 11in.) boy to play Premier Division table tennis for Yorkshire in the County's match against Cheshire at Moor Grange School, Leeds. Kevin's singles performances were a bright spot in an otherwise disappointing match, Cheshire, winning 6-3, with the Halifax youngster beating England-ranked Nigel Eckersley in straight games and losing to Mike Johns over 3. The County's other sets came from the men's doubles and a win by Alan Fletcher over Johns. Congratulations to Alan on his first ever appearance in the senior England ranking list.

Meanwhile, Stephen Hazelwood was leading the senior second team, with the exception of Sylvia Broadbent, an all-junior side, to a convincing 8-2 win over Northumberland at North Shields, where the junior second team also scored an 8-2 win over the home county's junior team. Sheffield's Stephen Mills made his County debut in the latter match, and there were senior County debuts for Mike Harrison (Hull) and Andrew Metcalfe (Leeds) in the senior match.

Yorkshire League champions, Huddersfield, started defence of their title with wins over Bradford I (7-3) and Doncaster (6-4), but could be challenged by Leeds, who triumphed against Bradford II (7-3) and Sheffield I (9-1). Doncaster, by the way, can call upon the services of Nottinghamshire's men's singles champion, Alan Croome. Bradford's selectors were set a conundrum when the Bradford I team went down 6-4 at Hull, but Bradford II, playing the same Hull team later in the day, emerged triumphant 6-4! Mick Stephenson and Jim Yeats each won three sets against the Hull trio of Clive Pollard, Mike Harrison and Dave Boulter. Bob Shutt was unbeaten for Bradford I. After his County first team success, it was back to earth with a bump for Beadsley, twice beaten when Halifax could only draw at Bradford. Kevin's conquerors were Shutt and Richard Priestley, and it was the unbeaten Keith Guy who kept the Halifax flag flying.

In Division 2, Leeds III, Bradford III and Hull II all began with two successive wins. For Hull II, County No. 11 junior, Joe Naser, scored an impressive 3-set maximum against a Huddersfield II side which included experienced campaigner Geoff Brook.

A dramatic recovery by County Social Secretary Richard Scruton in a Division 5 match between Castleford/Pontefract II and Harrogate IV paved the way for the visiting team's second success of the season. With his team leading 4-3, Richard lost the first game to Castleford/Pontefract's Barford and slumped to 9-18 in the second before pulling back to win 21-19 and the decider 21-18! The home side won the ninth set to make the score 4-5, but Harrogate's Clive Brazier snatched both points, winning a tremendous three-game tussle with the home No. 1, Patrick Caunt.

The Wharfedale & Airedale League have withdrawn from the Yorkshire League because of "lack of interest" and because their own local league programme, unusually, does not begin until November.

In the "Montagu Burton" Challenge Cup (men's club championships), the first round has been completed without any major surprises. The draw for the second round, to be completed by 31st December, is:—

Victoria II v Hermits
Clayton Heights v Wadsley Bridge
Bootham Conservatives v Wellesley Park
Fulford Road W.M.C. II v Unity Hall
Brook Motors v Barnsley North End I
Leeds Y.M.C.A. v King Cross Liberals
Moor Allerton v Hull Y.P.I.

Huddersfield Y.M.C.A. v West Bowling
(West Bowling have changed their name from Illingworth Wanderers).

In a season of ailing tournaments, the Yorkshire Junior, a "Select" this season, has been a near casualty on financial grounds, and only a rescue operation which extended for a further occasion a previous agreement on the supply of Stiga tables for a tournament saved the day. Unfortunately (some might say fortunately), financial circumstances mean that no prize money can be awarded, although trophies will, of course, be presented. A brief comment might be appropriate here on Mr. Reg. Hart's letter in the last issue of "Table Tennis News". For many years, the Yorkshire Junior, a popular junior tournament, has been held on the first weekend in January, still in the Christmas school holidays. Last season, the English Open was moved into January and the Cleveland 3-Star applied for the weekend before the Open with the object of inviting foreign players to warm up for the Open by entering the Cleveland. The weekend before the English Open happened to be the Yorkshire Junior's traditional weekend. The Cleveland/Yorkshire Junior clash was the subject of an E.T.T.A. appeal on procedural grounds, but in the event both tournaments were allowed to run on the same dates. This season, it was decided to apply for "Select" status for the Yorkshire Junior and to maintain the date within school holidays, if possible. The Cleveland tournament, being a 3-star, had priority for the January weekend, and as a 3-star senior/"select" junior tournament clash was hardly likely to be allowed, the only alternative weekend was the 20th-21st December. The closeness to the national Junior Closed is unfortunate, but it is unlikely that the Yorkshire Junior would have been held at all on any other date.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

MITCHELLS WIN CLOSED

Mark and Angela Mitchell were successful in the Middlesex Closed at Barnet Centre on November 2. Mark showed a welcome return to form when he beat Robert Aldrich in the semi and former winner, Laurie Landry, in

the final of the men's singles. Angela retained her women's singles title, winning a close final with Sue Dove. Sue, however, won the girls' singles, an event that Angela did not enter.

Alan Lindsay and the writer again won the men's doubles (3rd time in 5 years) and yours truly combined with Angela Mitchell to win the mixed, thus retaining their title. Young Graham Sandley (13) had a good tournament, reaching the semis of the men's singles and final of the doubles with Bryn Tyler. David Wells retained the boys' singles and gets a place in the Junior Premier team as a reward.

The County side suffered another reverse at the hands of Warwickshire, who won 6-3, and will have to do much better in the remaining matches if they are to survive. The 2nd team started the season losing 3-7 to Sussex but the Junior 2nds are still doing well, beating the same county 8-2.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

A LEVY — AN INVESTMENT

The Cleveland County Management Committee have come out in favour of supporting the levy proposed by the Association to raise funds for the World Championships in 1977. The Committee have decided to place the matter before the leagues, together with a strong recommendation from the County for support.

The reasons why we are supporting the levy are not purely charitable. We envisage the 1977 Worlds in England as an investment from which we, as a County, can gain a great deal. The Worlds are to have "blanket" coverage throughout the 10 days of the Championships being broadcast on the two B.B.C. channels, morning, noon and night, which will have a tremendous impact on the popularity of table tennis in this country just as football did in 1966 with the World Cup. We are confident that if we gear our organisation to aim for 100 per cent increase in membership for the beginning of 1977-78 season, then this can be achieved. The World levy, therefore, at 30p per team place for three years, would be the best money we have spent on table tennis to date.

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10th Hungarian Open Championships

Jill retains her title

by The Editor

(in conjunction with Brian Burn)

Doubtless sparked by the "indignity" of losing to Carole Knight in the Halex Midland Counties 3-Star Open, Jill Hammersley came back with a bang on England's behalf in Szeged where, on November 16th, she retained her women's singles title in the 10th Hungarian Open Championships with final victory over Ann-Christin Hellman, of Sweden, currently ranked No. 1 in the European classifications.

Having been demoted from No. 4 to No. 9 in the E.T.T.U. revised rankings, Jill had a case to prove and this she did in full measure by accounting for Hungary's Zsuzanna Ruzsenszky (10, 11, 14), Agnes Hernadi (8, 14, 14) and Gabi Ivasko (19, 14, -17, 13) together with Claude Bergeret, of France (15, 13, 11) prior to her meeting with Miss Hellman in the final, which Jill won 8, -12, 12, 13.

It could well have been an all-England final had Carole Knight not lost to Hellman (-21, 14, 18, -16, -19) in the 3rd round, as she must have stood a great chance against Gabi Szabo and Henriette Lotaller, of Hungary. As it was, Carole did have impressive wins over Yugoslavia's Dubravka Fabri (21, 11, -13, 15) and Blanka Silhanova, of Czechoslovakia (20, 13, 18) before being "pipped" by the Swedish girl.

Together in the women's team championship Jill and Carole made it an event to remember as they swept the board, beating East Germany (3-0, Sweden (3-0) and Czechoslovakia (3-1) before accounting for Yugoslavia (3-2) in a tense final encounter, with Carole winning the third game decider of the final set at 19 against Fabri.

Again in the women's doubles the English pair flourished in reaching the final only to be beaten by Bergeret and Brigitte Thiriet, of France. With both Judit Havas-Magos and Beatrix Kishazi "expecting", England can now lay claim to having the strongest women's side in Europe, which augurs well for the 10th European Championships due to be played in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from March 27—April 4.

French ace Jacques Secretin came out on top in a star-studded men's singles event with final victory over Sweden's former world champion, Stellan Bengtsson, having previously disposed of Kjell Johansson in the semis and Ulf Thorsell in the quarters. It was a complete rout of the Swedes by the champion of France. In reaching the final Bengtsson had overcome the reigning European champion, Milan Orlovski, of Czechoslovakia, as well as Hungary's Janos Börzei, of the crab-like defence.

In such distinguished company it was hardly surprising that England's two representatives, Nicky Jarvis and Paul Day, failed to make much impression. In the men's singles Jarvis fell at the first hurdle to Patrick Birocheau, of France (-13, -14, 7, 17, -17) and Day, after beating Milos, of Hungary (-19, 14, -16, 14, 16), lost to Thorsell (-17, 16, -11, -11).

The pair made a far better showing in the team event by reaching the semi-final following wins over Yugoslavia (Jurcic and Kosanovic) by 3-0, Hungary (Börzei, Timar and Molnar) 3-2 before losing to Federal Germany (Leiss, Stellwag and Engel) 0-3. The event was won by Sweden who beat Federal Germany 3-0.

FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
K. Johansson (Sw) bt J. Kunz (Cz) 3-0.
J. Secretin (Fr) bt U. Thorsell (Sw) 3-0.
M. Orlovski bt Z. Kosanovic (Yu) 3-0.
S. Bengtsson (Sw) bt J. Borzei (Hu) 3-0.
Semi-finals
Secretin bt Johansson 3-0.
Bengtsson bt Orlovski 3-0.
Final
SECRETIN bt Bengtsson 15, 20, -20, -7, 13.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
A.-C. Hellman (Sw) bt H. Lotaller (Hu) 3-1.
G. Szabo (Hu) bt B. Thiriet (Fr) 3-1.
J. Hammersley (En) bt G. Ivasko (Hu) 3-1.
C. Bergeret (Fr) bt E. Palatinus (Yu) 3-0.
Semi-finals
Hellman bt Szabo 3-0.
Hammersley bt Bergeret 3-0.
Final
HAMMERSLEY bt Hellman 8, -12, 12, 13.

Men's Doubles—Semifinals
P. Engel/J. Leiss (FG) bt Bengtsson/Johansson 3-2.
Kunz/Orlovski bt P. Birocheau (Fr)/Secretin 3-2.
Final
KUNZ/ORLOWSKI bt Engel/Leiss 12, 21, -21, -16, 16.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
Bergeret/Thiriet bt Hellman/E. Stromvall (Sw) 3-1.
Hammersley/C. Knight (En) bt U. Hirschmuller/M. Kneip (F.G) 3-2.
Final
BERGERET/THIRIET bt Hammersley/Knight 15, 10 -15, 13.

Mixed Doubles—Final
SECRETIN/BERGERET bt P. Stellwag (FG)/Hirschmuller 16, 16, 5.

ENGLISH RESULTS

Men's Team

Round 1
ENGLAND 3, YUGOSLAVIA 0
N. Jarvis bt D. Jurcic 16, 15.
P. Day bt Z. Kosanovic 8, 17.
Day/Jarvis bt Kosanovic/M. Savnik 19, -10, 9.

Round 2
ENGLAND 3, HUNGARY 2
Day bt J. Borzei 19, -19, 18.
Jarvis Lost to F. Timar -20, 9, -17.
Day/Jarvis bt J. Molnar/Timar 15, -6, 13.
Jarvis bt Borzei 13, 16.

Semi-final
ENGLAND 0, FEDERAL GERMANY 3
Day lost to P. Stellwag 24, -19 -16.
Jarvis lost to J. Leiss -19, 17, -23.
Day/Jarvis lost to P. Engel/Leiss -11, -13.

Women's Team

Round 1
ENGLAND 3, EAST GERMANY 0
J. Hammersley bt Kromnik 10, 7.
C. Knight bt Stephan 15, 12.
Hammersley/Knight bt Kromnik/Stephan 13, 13.

Round 2
ENGLAND 3, SWEDEN 0
Hammersley bt E. Stromvall 11, 20.
Knight bt A.-C. Hellman 21, 16.
Hammersley/Knight bt Hellman/Stromvall 17, 9.

Semi-final
ENGLAND 3, CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1
Knight bt M. Zizkova 19, 13.
Hammersley bt B. Silhanova 14, 16.
Hammersley/Knight bt Fabri/Palatinus -13, 10, 18.
Hammersley bt Zizkova 15, 16.

Final
ENGLAND 3, YUGOSLAVIA 2
Knight lost to E. Palatinus -18, -15.
Hammersley bt D. Fabri 8, 5.
Hammersley/Knight bt Fabri Palatinus -13, 10, 18.
Hammersley lost to Palatinus 16, -14, -22.
Knight bt Fabri -13, 20, 19.

Men's Team Final
SWEDEN 3, FEDERAL GERMANY 0
S. Bengtsson bt J. Leiss -16, 19, 16.
K. Johansson bt P. Stellwag 14, -15, 11.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt P. Engel/Leiss -16, 14, 18.

Women's Doubles
Hammersley/Knight bt E. Jacks/Mayekodum (Nigeria) 11, 13, 15.
bt Merenyi/Tihanyi (Hu) 18, 7, -18, 10; bt Molnar/Csik (Hu) 12, 5, 17.

Semi-final
bt Hirschmuller/Kneip -10, 12, 17, -12, 16.

Final
lost to Bergeret/Thiriet -15, -10, 15, -18.

Men's Doubles
Day/Jarvis lost to Jurcic/Kosanovic (Yu) 11, -13, -20, -19.

Mixed Doubles
Jarvis/Hammersley bt Raue/Stephan (EG) 21, 17, -12, 18.
bt Deutz (FG)/Csoko (Hu) -17, 16, 17, 12.

Quarter-finals
lost to Secretin/Bergeret -19, -10, -16.
Day/Knight bt Lukov/Varbanova (Bu) 17, 13, 18; bt Papp/Hernadi (Hu) 17, 19, -18, 19; lost to Orlovski/Silhanova Cz) -18, -14, -18.

21st Yugoslavian Open

CHINESE WIZARD IN LJUBLJANA

by The Editor

(in conjunction with Brian Burn)

Despite having only one world-ranked player—Li Peng—in their squad of four males and four females, it was the players from the People's Republic of China who dominated affairs in the 21st International Championships of Yugoslavia (Mini Spent 75) played in Ljubljana over the period November 20-22, in which 18 countries were represented.

Although losing to his compatriot, Go Jao-hua—the ultimate winner—in the semi-final of the men's singles event, it was Huan Lan, of China, who created by far the biggest stir.

Here was an "unknown" who, during the course of the men's team championship, recorded wins over Canada's Alex Polisois (6, 11), Federal Germany's Jochen Leiss (11, 10) and Wilfried Lieck (9, 9), Sweden's Stellan Bengtsson (14, 4) and Kjell Johansson (4, 12) and, in the final, the host nation's Dragutin Surbek (19, 11) and Anton Stipanovic (8, 15)!

Again in the men's singles Huan Lan continued on his devastating way—up to his meeting with Go Jao-hua—by accounting for England's Paul Day (12, 14, 15), Johansson, again (14, 11, 10), the Czech No. 2, Jaroslav Kunz (12, 7, 18) and, in the quarters, Milivoj Karakasevic, of Yugoslavia (8, 14, 17).

All failed to fathom the newcomer's service and defensive variations. As soon as they pushed the ball he had the ability to leap very fast or smash it like any good attacking player.

His racket on the backhand side had long, thin, yet small, soft pimples, completely different to any used in Europe, and under this rubber was a 1mm layer of white sponge. The forehand side appeared to be some form of Chinese reversed rubber with 1mm sponge and he consistently changed the racket around during the rally.

Bengtsson was the player to come through to the final, but to no avail against Go Jao-hua, having previously disposed of such stalwarts as Janos Börzei, Milan Orlovski and Surbek, the latter at 19 in the fifth in a tremendous semi-final encounter which had the crowd rocking the hall.

England's Nicky Jarvis performed exceedingly well in such august company, progressing to the quarters, at which stage he lost to Surbek, having just previously accounted for Li Peng who, at one stage led 2-1 in games.

Unfortunately Jill Hammersley contracted a bronchial condition in Yugoslavia, where it was intensely cold, and was unwell throughout the team championships. But even so, she and Carole Knight maintained their winning ways from Szeged by reaching the semis with Jill recording yet another win over Ann-Christin Hellman en route.

It was not on, however, against China I, who without the loss of a set, also accounted for their second string duo in like manner in the final. Jill was subsequently withdrawn from the individual events leaving Carole to carry the flag, which was reduced to tatters by Li Ming, of China, in her first singles engagement.

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NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

STARS ABSENT

A badly-weakened Northumberland County 1st team crashed 2-8 in their opening match of the season against Yorkshire II at North Shields Y.M.C.A.

Neither Ian Robertson nor Barbara Kearney were available for this match, and both players were badly missed. Northumberland's sets were won by Andrew Clark and Alan Jones, who both defeated Michael Harrison, ranked No. 18 in the England Junior list.

Andrew also had a good game against England Junior No. 10, Stephen Hazelwood, although I have to add that a very good set was spoilt by frequent stoppages for towelling by the Yorkshire player. This, unfortunately, seemed to affect Andrew's game at a vital stage, and one wonders what a result might have been had the set been free from interruption.

The Junior team, meanwhile, had fared no better in their afternoon match against the Yorkshire 2nd junior team, losing by the same score. Clark won both his singles against England No. 16 junior Andrew Metcalfe, and Alan Summerscales; one can only envy Yorkshire's apparent strength in depth somewhere when they can afford the luxury of playing an England-ranked junior in their second team!

The County will be hoping for better fortune on November 29 when the first team travel to meet Lincolnshire, the second team open their account at home to Cheshire II, and the junior team travel to meet Cheshire's juniors.

ESSEX 2-STAR OPEN

Due to the Dagenham Tournament being granted 3-star status and now being played on the weekend of February 21-22, the Essex 2-Star Open originally scheduled for February 7-8, will now take place on the dates vacated by Dagenham, i.e.,

MAY 8-9, 1976.

This is to avoid two tournaments in Essex within two weeks of one another.

Round 1
Day lost to Lasisi -17, -18.
Jarvis bt Sunmola 16, 13.
Day/Jarvis lost to Lasisi/Sunmola -17, -14.
Jarvis bt Lasisi 10, 16.
Day bt Sunmola 17, 11.

Round 2
ENGLAND 0, RUMANIA 3.
Jarvis lost to Dobosi -15, -13.
Day lost to Gheorge -17, 20, -19.
Day/Jarvis lost to Dobosi/Gheorge 13, -10, -10.

Women's Team
ENGLAND 3, NIGERIA 0.

Round 1
Hammersley bt Majekodunmi 16, 7.
Knight bt Jacks 16, 17.
Hammersley/Knight bt Jacks/Majekodunmi 17, 18.

Round 2
ENGLAND 3, SWEDEN 1.
Knight lost to Stromvall 12, -19, -16.
Hammersley bt Hellman -14, 14, 13.
Hammersley/Knight bt Hellman/Stromvall 14, 8.
Hammersley bt Stromvall 11, 14.

Semi-final
ENGLAND 0, CHINA I 3.
Hammersley lost to Li Ming -17, 16, -9.
Knight lost to Liu Sin-jen -10, -15.
Hammersley/Knight lost to Li Ming/Liu Sin-jen -17, -18.

TEAM PLACINGS

Men	TEAM PLACINGS	Women
1. China I		1. China I
2. Yugoslavia I		2. China II
3. China II		3. England
4. Sweden I		4. Yugoslavia I
5. France I		5. France
6. Yugoslavia II		6. Yugoslavia II
7. Rumania		7. Rumania
8. Federal Germany		8. Sweden
9. England		9. Bulgaria
10. Bulgaria		10. Czechoslovakia
11. Czechoslovakia		11. Italy
12. Yugoslavia III		12. Yugoslavia III
13. Canada		13. Hungary
14. Hungary		14. Nigeria
15. Poland		15. Poland
16. U.S.A.		16. Federal Germany
17. Austria		17. Austria
18. France II		18. Canada
19. Italy I		19. Scotland
20. Italy II		
21. Nigeria		
22. Scotland I		
23. Scotland II		
24. Tunis		

B.R. REPENT

British Rail, who were to withdraw the facility whereby organisations such as the E.T.T.A. could issue certificates to enable young persons to obtain rail fares at half price to attend tournaments, etc., have had second thoughts and the facility will be continued throughout 1976.

The women's singles final, won by Branka Batinic—she lost to Dana Dubinova, of Czechoslovakia in the 3rd Round of the European Youth Championships in Zagreb—had all the deceptive qualities of being "gift-wrapped" in the name of friendship, but the Chinese quartet had it all to themselves in the women's doubles.

Stipancic and Surbek were the popular winners of the counterpart men's event with Jacques Secretin—beaten over five protracted games by Karakasevic in the singles—again partnering Claude Bergeret to a second successive open mixed title, this time at the expense of Orlovski and Ilona Uhlíkova, the former Miss Vostova, of The Dome, Brighton, fame.

Having been at pains to dispose of Nigeria (3-2) in the first round of the men's team championship, England's Jarvis and Day fell unceremoniously (0-3) to Serban Dobosi and Teodor Gheorge, of Rumania, in the next.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
Go Jao-hua (Ch) bt J. Leiss (FG) 8, 14, 10.
Huan Lan (Ch) bt M. Karakasevic (Yu) 8, 14, 17.
S. Bengtsson (Sw) bt M. Orlovski (Cz) -20, 8, 14, 15.
D. Surbek (Yu) bt N. Jarvis (Eng) 18, 12, -19, 18.

Semi-finals
Go Jao-hua bt Huan Lan 19, 16, -17, 18.
Bengtsson bt Surbek 17, -18, -12, 15, 19.

Final
GO JAO-HUA bt Bengtsson 21, 15, 9.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
Liu Sin-jen (Ch) bt E. Korpa (Yu) 14, 12, -17, 19.
B. Batinic (Yu) bt I. Uhlíkova (Cz) 18, -19, 21, 16.
Cang De-in (Ch) bt E. Palatinus (Yu) 8, 19, 16.
A.-C. Hellman (Sw) bt C. Bergeret (Fr) 16, -18, 12, -14, 17.

Semi-finals
Batinic bt Liu Sin-jen 13, -12, 17, 18.
Cang De-in bt Hellman 11, 19, 19.

Final
BATINIC bt Cang De-in -14, 28, 20, 14.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
Stipancic (Yu)/Surbek bt J. Kunz (Cz)/Orlovski 3-1.
Go Jao-hua/Lao Fu-min (Ch) bt J. D. Constant/J. Secretin (Fr) 3-0.

Final
STIPANCIC/SURBEK bt Go Jao-hua/Lao Fu-min 3-1.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
Cang De-in/Suej Cen-in (Ch) bt E. Jeler (Yu)/Korpa 3-0.
Li Ming/Liu Sin-jen (Ch) bt D. Fabri (Yu)/Palatinus 3-2.

Final
CANG DE-IN/SUEJ CEN-IN bt Li Ming/Liu Sin-jen 3-0.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
Orlovski/Uhlíkova bt W. Lieck (FG)/Hellman 3-0.
Secretin/Bergeret bt Stipancic/Palatinus 3-1.

Final
SECRETIN/BERGERET bt Orlovski/Uhlíkova 3-1.

Men's Team
CHINA I 3, YUGOSLAVIA 2
Huan Lan bt Surbek 19, 11.
Li Peng lost to Stipancic 16, -18, -19.
Huan Lan/Li Peng bt Stipancic/Surbek 16, 15.
Li Peng lost to Surbek -16, -13.
Huan Lan bt Stipancic 8, 15.

Women's Team
CHINA I 3, CHINA II 0
Li Ming bt Cang De-in 18, 19.
Liu Sin-jen bt Suej Cen-in 18, 15.
Li Ming/Liu Sin-jen bt Cang De-in/Suej Cen-in 14, 15.

ENGLISH RESULTS

Men's Singles
N. Jarvis
Round 1
Bye.
Round 2
bt Iothorgosi (Yu) -26, 18, 7, 12.
Round 3
bt Klinger (Yu) 17, 19, 23.
Round 4
bt Li Peng (Ch) -17, 13, -14, 15, 17.

Quarter-finals
lost to Surbek (Yu) -18, -12, 19, -18.

P. Day
Round 1
bt Sercer (Yu) 12, 14, 13.
Round 2
lost to Huan Lan (Ch) -12, -14, -15.

Women's Singles
C. Knight
Round 1
Bye.
Round 2
lost to Lin Ling (Ch) -10, -11, -11.

Men's Doubles
Jarvis/Day
Round 1
bt Dobosi/Gheorge (Ru) 20, -8, -16, 15, 20.
Round 2
bt Juhas/Mesaros (Yu) 11, 17, 16.
Round 3
lost to Asztalos/Horvath (Hu) -17, -19, -5.

Mixed Doubles
Day/Knight
Round 1
bt Siljevski/Simic (Yu) 17, -14, 21, -18, 14.
Round 2
lost to Huan Lan/Liu Sin-jen (Ch) -18, -8, -19.

Men's Team
ENGLAND 3, NIGERIA 2



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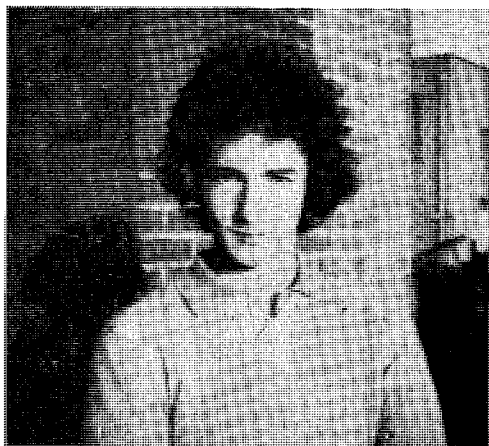
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SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

"Player of the Month" on the Scottish scene is 15-year-old Tom Devers, of Glasgow's Central Club, who maintained early season form to win four successive U-17 titles, twice collecting the scalp of No. 1 Junior, Alan Matthew (Aberdeen) en route, and with club-mate Willie Lochhead, won three U-17 and U-23 Doubles titles from 5 finals appearances.



Tom Devers, of Glasgow, Scotland's "Player of the Month".

Photo by Denis George.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

25 Oct.: North of Scotland Open—Aberdeen

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

P. FORKER (Edinburgh) bt R. Bhalla (WoS) 17, 15.

A. Matthew (Aberdeen) bt M. Thomson (Aberdeen) 16, 12.

Final

FORKER bt Matthew 15, 19.

Women's Singles

P. FLEMING (WoS) bt G. McKay (Edinburgh) 10, -9, 18.

Open Junior Singles

T. DEVERS (WoS) bt A. Matthew -14, 19, 19.

Open Cadet Singles

CAROLE DALRYMPLE (Stirling) bt David McIlroy (WoS) 18, 18.

Open Doubles

R. BROWN (WoS)/A. MATTHEW bt C. Brown/I. Hay (WoS) -17, 18, 19.

1 Nov.: West of Scotland Junior and Youth Open — Glasgow

Open U-14 Singles

D. McILROY bt C. Dalrymple 21, -16, 19.

U-17 Boys' Singles

T. DEVERS bt C. Harkins (Stirling) -19, 19, 10.

U-23 Men's Singles

J. McNEE (Cheshire) bt J. Moir (Aberdeen) 11, -13, 21.

U-17 Girls' Singles

E. HARDY (Stirling) bt C. Dalrymple (Stirling) 10, -21, 19.

U-23 Women's Singles

G. McKAY bt P. Fleming 4, 15.

U-17 Open Doubles

DEVERS/W. LOCHHEAD bt C. Harkins/W. Clarkson (Stirling) 17, -15, 19.

U-23 Open Doubles

DEVERS/LOCHHEAD bt McNee/R. Brown 12, 23.

2 Nov.: Scottish Junior and Youth Closed — Edinburgh

U-15 Open Singles

C. HARKINS bt K. Rodger (Edinburgh) 15, -14, 16.

U-17 Boys' Singles

T. DEVERS bt K. Rodger 16, 19.

U-21 Men's Singles

A. MATTHEW bt A. McCulloch (WoS) 15, 7.

U-17 Girls' Singles

C. DALRYMPLE bt E. Hardy.

U-21 Women's Singles

G. McKAY bt P. Fleming.

U-17 Open Doubles

T. DEVERS/W. LOCHHEAD bt D. McIlroy/F. Stewart (WoS) 17, 19.

U-21 Open Doubles

M. THOMSON/C. MATTHEW (Aberdeen) bt Devers/Lochhead 17, 15.

8 Nov. Midlands Open — Dundee

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

J. McNee bt J. Moir 17, 9.

J. Graham (Lanark) bt D. Fraser (London) 18, -18, 18.

Final

McNEE bt Graham 13, 13.

Women's Singles

P. FLEMING bt G. McKay 10, -17, 19.

U-17 Boys' Singles

A. MATTHEW bt K. Rodger 14, 14.

U-17 Girls' Singles

C. DALRYMPLE bt E. Hardy.

Men's Doubles

R. BROWN/A. MATTHEW bt R. Bhalla/R. Kerr (Edinburgh) 16, -19, 7.

Women's Doubles

P. FLEMING/I. FERGUSON (WoS) bt E. Craig (WoS)/G. McKay -12, 15, 14.

Mixed Doubles

J. WILSON (WoS)/P. FLEMING beat D. McIntosh/M. Neish (Dundee) 18, 20.

EUROPEAN CLUB CUP — Round 1

Glasgow Central v Dusseldorf PSV Borussia

This match was played on October 30 at Bellahouston Sports Centre, Glasgow. A good crowd of about 150 watched this, the first European Cup match ever to be played in Scotland or by a Scottish club. The Central team consisted of John Wilson, Ram Bhalla and Cameron Lang with Russell Brown as reserve. The Germans were Hans Nolten, Jochen Leiss and Eberhard Schöler. In the

first set Wilson gave a good account of himself and went to three ends with Nolten, losing narrowly in the third. The matches to follow were all won in straight games by the Germans. Some good table tennis was played and the crowd were treated to some good rallies. Scores:—

J. Wilson lost to H. Nolten 23, -10, -17.

R. Bhalla lost to E. Schöler -18, -18.

C. Lang lost to J. Leiss -11, -13.

Bhalla lost to H. Nolten -16, -11.

Wilson lost to J. Leiss -9, -6.

PSV BORUSSIA won 5-0.

To round off the evening Leiss played a fiercely contested "exhibition" match with Richard Yule in which the Scottish No. 1 held a 17-13 lead in the third end only to see a very creditable victory slip from his grasp when the German Star won the next eight points in a row. Although losing 0-5, Central can perhaps reflect that in playing this match they took a courageous step. If we are to see top class table tennis in Scotland then we must take the initiative and seize every opportunity of having opposition such as this playing in the country.

International Club

by Laurie Landry

The Club expects to be fairly active later in the season with one or two matches in preparation apart from the Jubilee match with Cornwall on May 1, 1976.

The 5th Annual Rubber Bat Open will be at the Barnet Centre on April 11, 1976, the day after the conclusion of the Norwich Union English Championships at Luton.

More immediately the Club, continuing the policy of helping the game in any way, is to sponsor two juniors for the Wayfarers English Junior Championships over the weekend of December 13-14.

Please note : Owing to the holiday season the January issue of the T.T. News will be published a little later than usual.



John Wilson, of Glasgow Central, who took a game off Hans-Joachim Nolten in the Europe Cup match against Dusseldorf PSV Borussia.

Photo by John Elder.

needed a deciding game!

Worcestershire II 6, Shropshire 4

JUNIOR PREMIER

Surrey 9, Essex 1

M. Shuttle bt K. Caldron 16, 20; bt D. Newman 7, 14.

S. Boxall lost to Caldron -13, -23; bt K. Owers 12, 11.

K. Seager bt Newman 18, -12, 20; bt Owers 10, 20.

Boxall/Seager bt K. Jackson/Owers 13, -18, 10. Miss S. Roebuck bt Miss P. Abbott 16, -14, 19.

Shuttle/Miss J. Mitchell bt Newman/Miss H. Gore -21, 17, 10.

Mitchell/Roebuck bt Abbott/Gore 19, 19.

An injured leg did not stop Kevin Caldron coming back from 12-18 in 2nd v Stephen Boxall, but Essex got no more. G.D. and G.S. both tight, and special mention of Keith Seager for coming from behind to beat David Newman in a fluctuating set. First Surrey win at this level v Essex?

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Essex II 3, Surrey II 7

In his programme notes for the J. Premier match, Mike Kercher drew attention to the four matches between Essex and Surrey that day. It would, he said, be nice to record a quadruple win. I bet it was! Surrey boys too strong here although Essex girls were better (Janet Boulter in powerful mood). John Iszatt got meritorious scalp of Gary Stewart, his angled play just bettering Stewart's fast hitting.

Hampshire 8, Kent II 2

The visitors had expected better, but although Ian Collins (thrashed by Richard Bergemann) beat Colin Wilson, they could add but a singles from the fast-improving Joe Kennedy.

Middlesex II 8, Sussex 2

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Durham 10, Cheshire 0

Lancashire 8, Cleveland II 2

Northumberland 2, Yorkshire II 8

Andrew Clark the only home player with the ability to test an impressive visiting team. He won twice. Andrew Metcalfe and Linda Hryszko in good form for the white rose.

Derbyshire 7, Cumbria 3

Two wins for Chris Reed and the visitors shared the boys' singles. Home girls rather outplayed the younger Cumbrians.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Glamorgan 7, Leicestershire 3

Hertfordshire 8, Cambridgeshire II 2

Cams. brought a large party to Waltham Cross, but were unable to take away more than Vivienne Rowell's two sets as the Herts boys were simply too good.

Norfolk 3, Warwickshire 7

Douglas Bennett took 15 points in a row v Peter Griffiths and won twice; Wendy Hogg outlasted Rachel Mackriell. No support.

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Berkshire II 9, Hampshire II 1

Sussex II 1, Wiltshire 9

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Staffordshire 10, Gwent 0

Shropshire 5, Worcestershire 5

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Bedfordshire 4, Suffolk 6

Huntingdonshire 5, Hertfordshire II 5

0-3 and 1-4 down fought back to draw. Melanie Ringrose had an encouraging 100% debut, Belinda (of course?) also unbeaten, but the point made possible when Stephen Fisher beat Keith Heasman 13, -18, 11 and Irvin Mark beat Terry Pleasance.

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Gloucester 7, Avon 3

Very satisfying for Gloucester, with 3 new players. Two of the visitors wore Gloucester colours last season, two others were ranked by

them, the fifth played for Somerset! The ex-Somerset Jeremy Musslewhite was the best by far for the visitors, whereas the whole Gloucester team played a part in their victory.

VETERAN SOUTH

Essex II 2, Essex I 7

With each team lacking its top player, the match was pretty close with the 2nds very keen to "do down" the 1sts. Vic Ireland and Marie Know did all they could to make sure this didn't happen!

Oxfordshire 6, Huntingdonshire 3

Wiltshire 2, Hampshire 7

VETERAN MIDLAND

Leicestershire 1, Nottinghamshire 8

Staffordshire 2, Clwyd 7

Worcestershire 5, Warwickshire 4

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Brian Kean

SPECULATION ENDED

Following Cheshire's collection of maximum points from three matches, which should be sufficient to secure a further season in the Premier Division, Mike Johns has ended speculation regarding his retirement and officially withdrawn himself from further selection. This is something of a hammer blow to the County as Roger Hampson and your scribe have made similar decisions this season. Derek Schofield's retirement last season was the first step in ending this era which has seen Cheshire lose the services of four top players in the space of twelve months. Mike will undoubtedly be missed tremendously; he has set a standard over the past ten years that will be nigh impossible to follow.

At the moment the Junior ranks are lacking in quality, but never before has there been such a quantity around the 13-14, 15-year-old mark. So eventually the goods should be produced. Trevor Gatley is struggling to improve on the standard attained two seasons ago and number one spot has been taken by John Preston, of Dukinfield. Chasing close on the heels of these two are Mark Hankey and Ross McTarlane, who in their first competitive season are performing admirably in the first division of the Sale League. The young ladies donning Junior colours are Misses McGuire and Deakin. Miss McGuire is a protegee of Wirral coach Fred Hepple, the latter is an offspring of Warrington coach Norman Deakin, who incidentally, like Fred Hepple, is making hearty contributions in the coaching field.

The Stockport Closed Championships were played over the period October 26-31, and was described by both Eric Johnson and Paul Jordan, Chairman and Secretary respectively, as "VERY DISAPPOINTING".

The men's singles was won by Roger Hampson over Derek Schofield at "deuce" in the third. Hampson contained the youthfulness of latest Cheshire recruit Dave Constance in the semi, while Schofield had a repeat of last season's semi in accounting for David Hulme. The women's singles was "scrubbed", as only four entries were received, while the junior event provided no competitors at all, a sad state of affairs.



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DIVISIONAL TABLES
as at November 15th, 1975

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	18	9	6
Cleveland	2	2	0	0	14	4	4
Essex	2	1	0	1	11	7	2
Warwicks	2	1	0	1	9	9	2
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Surrey	3	1	0	2	11	16	2
Middlesex	2	0	0	2	7	11	0
Lancashire	2	0	0	2	3	15	0

2nd SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Kent	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Surrey II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Hampshire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Essex II	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Middlesex II	1	0	0	1	3	7	0

2nd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Berkshire	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Devon	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Somerset	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Worcester	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Wiltshire	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Gwent	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
Cornwall	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

JUNIOR PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Yorkshire	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Berkshire	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Essex	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Middlesex	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Kent	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Cleveland	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Cambridgeshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Hampshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Surrey II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Essex II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Kent II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Sussex	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Dorset	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lancashire	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Yorkshire II	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Durham	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Cumbria	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Derbyshire	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Cleveland III	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Northumberland ..	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Cheshire	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertfordshire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Warwickshire	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Glamorgan	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Leicestershire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Northants	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Norfolk	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Cambridge II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

VETERAN SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	2	2	0	0	15	3	4
Hampshire	1	1	0	0	7	2	2
Kent	1	1	0	0	6	3	2
Hunts	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Oxfordshire	2	1	0	1	7	11	2
Wiltshire	2	0	0	2	6	12	0
Essex II	2	0	0	2	5	13	0

VETERAN MIDLAND

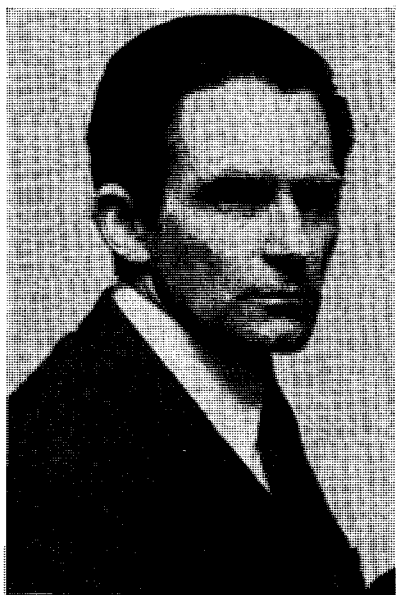
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottinghamshire ..	2	2	0	0	16	2	4
Worcestershire	2	2	0	0	10	8	4
Cheshire	1	1	0	0	5	4	2
Clwyd	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Warwickshire	2	0	0	2	8	10	0
Leicestershire	2	0	0	2	5	13	0
Staffordshire	1	0	0	1	2	7	0

ANSWERS

(a) Right; (b) Wrong; (c) Wrong; (d) Right; (e) Right.

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT



JOHN WRIGHT, WHO SIGNS OFF AFTER 11 YEARS AS ADMINISTRATOR.

After over 11 seasons of writing this column I now hand over to another scribe, and next month's "Round-up" will be written by the new Championships Administrator, Bob Bridges. I have, in the main, enjoyed my period of office and hope that Bob will do likewise. I certainly wish him every success. In conclusion, I would like to thank those colleagues in various parts of the country for their co-operation over the years.

SURREY'S QUADRUPLE SUCCESS OVER ESSEX

Unusually, Surrey met Essex four times on the same day and must have been delighted to be met by success each time. Not unexpected was the Junior Premier result as the talented squad of young Essex players is now mainly out of Junior ranks, and Surrey must have hoped for the 2nd team win which they also achieved. The splendid Premier result was, however, one they would not have made a "banker" and much was owed to maximum records from Richard Yule and Linda Howard. The Senior 2nd result was aided by an unfortunate Essex administrative error, but what a good day!

Despite this, Surrey languish near the bottom of the Premier table, which is headed by Cheshire and Cleveland.

Nominations for the Leslie Forrest Memorial Award should be made to the Administrator by the end of this year.

PREMIER DIVISION

Lancashire 1, Cleveland 8

D. Parker lost to D. Neale -22, -9; lost to N. Jarvis -16, -18.

P. Bowen lost to Neale -14, -15; lost to J. Walker -8, 18, -11.

N. Hallows lost to Jarvis 17, -14, -14; lost to Walker -16, -15.

Bowen/Parker bt Jarvis/Walker 11, 12.

Miss B. Williams lost to Miss C. Knight -7, -19. Hallows/Williams lost to Neale/Knight -11, -15.

Surrey 5, Essex 4

R. Yule bt I. Horsham 9, 14; bt D. Brown -19, 14, 14.

S. Lyons lost to Horsham -19, -20; lost to R. Potton -19, -14.

D. Weltsman lost to Brown 11, -18, -9; bt Potton 13, 19.

Lyons/Welmsman lost to Brown/Horsham 17, -17, -15.

Miss L. Howard bt Miss S. Hession -17, 16, 8. Yule/Howard bt Potton/Hession 9, 8.

Warwickshire 6, Middlesex 3

D. Douglas bt A. Barden 20, 17; bt D. Tan -16, 14, 11.

D. Johnson lost to Barden -10, -9; bt R. Aldrich 13, 11.

D. Munt bt Tan 14, 12; bt Aldrich 16, 17.

P. Judd/Douglas bt Aldrich/Tan 11, 14. Miss B. Green lost to Miss A. Mitchell -6, 14, -14.

Johnson/Green lost to Barden/Mitchell -16, -8.

Knowing the Middlesex weakness against defenders, Warwicks included two who picked up 3 of their 4 sets. Dougie Johnson, earlier crashed off by Andy Barden, later picked up his first Premier scalp and Derek Munt, as consistent as ever, made a triumphant return to the team. Bob Aldrich disappointing for the visitors.

Yorkshire 3, Cheshire 6

L. A. Clayton lost to J. Hilton -17, -19; lost to N. Eckersley 19, -13, -15.

A. Fletcher lost to Hilton 19, -18, -15; bt M. Johns 13, 12.

K. Beadsley bt Eckersley 18, 18; lost to Johns 18, -17, -18.

Clayton/Fletcher bt Eckersley/Hilton 18, 17.

Miss M. Ludi lost to Miss S. Lisle -14, -8. Beadsley/Ludi lost to Johns/Lisle -11, -17.

Red letter day for Kevin Beadsley, on senior debut; he started by running Mike Johns very close and closed with a straight win over Nigel Eckersley. Not bad for a 15-year-old! The overall strength of the Cheshire team, with Susan Lisle again good, was too much.

2nd SOUTH

Essex II 4, Surrey II 6

Janet Hellaby had told the Essex officials she was not available, but they misread and did not replace her; this cost Essex any chance of W.D. and X.D. and Surrey's Gail McCulloch did not reach the table.

Hampshire 3, Kent 7

Middlesex II 3, Sussex 7

Great fight shown by Dave Jemmett to beat Gerald Pugh and take the 2nd game from Roger Chandler. Sue Dove, after having looked a winner in the 1st v Diane Gard, always trailed in 2nd and went down -24, -17; she and Marilyn Sangster comfortably took W.D. Wally Mascarenhas, very nervous early v Chandler, took the last set from John Clarke with the Sussex player apparently "resting".

2nd NORTH

Durham 4, Cleveland II 6

Northumberland 2, Yorkshire II 8

Lacking top man and woman, the hosts were well beaten by keen young visitors. Two tough sets for Andrew Clark v ranked Junior opponents; he beat Mike Harrison 15, -15, 21 but lost to Stephen Hazelwood -18, 18, -19. Sylvia Broadbent and Julie McLean far too good for the home women.

Nottinghamshire 4, Lincolnshire 6

The greater strength of Lincs. women decided this; they were unbeaten, although Jean White needed expedite to overcome Gloria Stocks. The expected Alan Croome v Brian Hill highlight disappointed; Croome led 13-1 in 2nd and won -15, 8, 16.

2nd MIDLAND

Glamorgan 4, Derbyshire 6

Gloucestershire 2, Warwickshire II 8

Narrow opening set defeat -17, 23, -20 for Dave Harvey at hands of Pat Glynn, and then Warwicks quickly added the next 5 to lead 6-0. Gloucs. fought back (nice win for Bill Dawe 16, -20, 20 over Glynn) to a score which, even so, did not do them full justice. Unbeaten "debut" for Tony Kinsey, ex-Somerset.

Leicestershire 7, Staffordshire 3

2nd EAST

Cambridgeshire 7, Buckinghamshire 3

Mick Harper, dogged by injury and sickness, out of touch but Paul Day, Keith Richardson and Sally Hirst all in top form. Nice to see Alec Watson in action again.

Norfolk 3, Hertfordshire 7

Jonathan Proffitt showed class, ending home No. 1, John Fuller's long run of success, but the best set was M.D. won by Fuller and Mick Musson 17, 19 over Barry White and Chris Pickard. Unusual blank evening for Norfolk women.

Northamptonshire 5, Bedfordshire 5

After trailing 0-3 and 2-4 Northants did well to draw a fine match. Good win 13, -18, 13 by Rod Marchant over Peter Taylor was crucial. Impressive 1st team debut for Gary Alden; nice double for visiting Charlie Major a few of the highlights of a match where almost everything was close.

2nd WEST

Berkshire 10, Cornwall 0

Cornwall tried very hard, but lacked the basic ability to really trouble the Division champions. Berkshire did not allow them even a game.

Devon 8, Gwent 2

First ever match at Stokenham and an excellent venue and good crowd inspired the players of both teams to heights rarely reached. Devon had the edge but that great tryer, Barry Davis, had to pull out everything to overcome John Bloomer -15, 16, 17 after trailing 5-11 in 3rd. This match showed just how good our sport can be—more, please.

Wiltshire 3, Worcestershire 7

Ample revenge here for Worcs. who lost this match 2-8 last season — young Simon Claxton played a very large part in their success. The home women played to top form with Mrs. P. Oung successful in both doubles.

3rd SOUTH

Hertfordshire II 9, Berkshire II 1

Berkshire did not deserve so crushing a score — 6 sets needed a decider. Richard Jermyn on this form must be in the running for a Herts 1st team place; those selectors could have problems on whom to omit.

Kent II 9, Oxfordshire 1

Cecil Jackson at the venue but too ill to play, gave Kent three walkovers.

3rd NORTH

Cheshire II 9, Cumbria 1

Cleveland III 5, Lancashire II 5

3rd MIDLAND

Northamptonshire II 3, Derbyshire II 7

Two nice wins by John Palmer failed to save the hosts. Stronger Derbyshire women were the key.

Warwickshire III 5, Staffordshire II 5

3rd EAST

Cambridgeshire II 2, Essex III 8

Two good M.S. wins for Geoff Davies in only 2nd senior match but Essex, as usual, too strong, particularly in women's events.

Norfolk II 5, Huntingdonshire 5

Norfolk should have won this one! Douglas Barnett did his bit on senior debut with 2 x M.S. (both straight) and M.D. with Chris Bensley. But from 3-2 the next 3 sets went: Wendy Hogg, although a game and 20-15 up on Jean Allinson, went down, so did Bensley to "Digger" Lamprell at -20 in 3rd and X.D. went to the visitors at 21 in 3rd.

Suffolk 8, Bedfordshire II 2

Although they dropped the first set, the result never really in doubt. The women's sets provided most interest and Judith Langridge had nice 20, 20 win over Sue Sharp.

3rd WEST

Avon 3, Glamorgan II 7

A maximum by Chris Sewell for his new county but no scoring support.

Dorset 6, Herefordshire 4

Four sets to the visitors—all those which

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