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No Mean Achievements

To win three titles in last month's Norwich Union International Championships was just the fillip that table tennis in this country needed in pursuance of making the shop window more attractive to would-be sponsors for next year's World Championships in Birmingham.

All praise then to Jill Hammersley for her success in winning the women's singles title at Brighton and to Desmond Douglas and Denis Neale who, not content with winning the men's team event, also triumphed in the men's doubles—a notable double indeed.

But the performance of Jill Hammersley in bridging a gap of eight years since last England won a singles title—by Mary Wright in 1967—was pre-eminent such being her determination to win the final encounter against Sweden's Ann-Christin Hellman, who was submerged 3, 10 and 13!

Wins by Nicky Jarvis over beaten men's singles finalist, Anton Stipanovic, of Yugoslavia, and by Paul Day over the French No. 2, Christian Martin, provided further deeds to spotlight as indeed were the efforts of Susan Lisle and Karen Rogers in reaching the final of the women's doubles with a penultimate stage win over Miss Hellman and Birgitta Olsson, of Sweden. No mean achievements to be sure.

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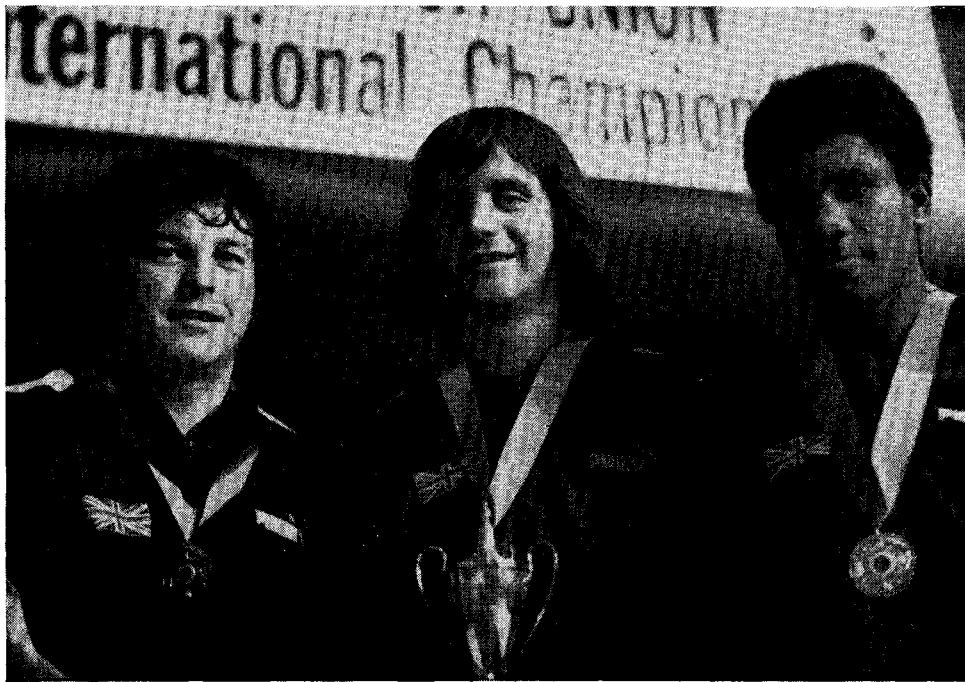
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Norwich Union

International Championships



Denis Neale, non-playing captain, Brian Burn and Desmond Douglas pose for the camera after the presentation of the men's team trophy.

Photo by Peter Madge.

TEAM EVENTS

Anti-climatic win for England men

By JOHN WOODFORD

A victory by England in the final of the men's international team championship at Brighton would, in the normal course of events, be an excuse for celebrations. On this occasion, however, the champagne did not flow, it was left in the crate until 48 hours later when Jill Hammersley won the singles title.

England I, represented by Desmond Douglas and Denis Neale, found the first major obstacle removed from their path when Hungary failed to make the journey to Brighton. Hungary would have been operating in the bottom half, so it looked as though Sweden I (Stellan Bengtsson and Kjell Johansson) would be the biggest stumbling block.

But, surprise, surprise, by 11 a.m. on that Thursday morning, Desmond and Denis found themselves fighting for survival against unrated Austria, comprising Rudolf Weinmann and Gunter Muller. Douglas was beaten 19, 19 by Muller for starters, and then Neale, barely awake, went crashing down to the inspired Weinmann 13, -12, -19. "I thought it was going to be easy," said Neale, rubbing the sleep from his eyes.

From that low point England staged the essential recovery operation by taking the men's doubles after dropping the middle game. The reverse singles saw Desmond winning 18, 10 over Weinmann and then Denis, finally reaching third gear to clinch the match by halting Muller 17, 14.

One of the biggest disappointments at Brighton this year was the absence of Jacques Secretin, for France. Martin and Constant

are nevertheless players who can never be taken too casually. Martin's attack had Neale scrambling again but once Denis grabbed the first 24-22, it was an easy 21-10 in the second. Douglas, improving all the time, floored Constant 13, 18. England romped home 10, 12 in the doubles.

Tracing the progress of Sweden to the semi-finals there was a major shock for Bengtsson. He was brought down 4, -16, -17 by the literally unknown Dutchman, Herman Hopman!

The Swedes then advanced with a 3-0 success over Czechoslovakia, but Johansson dropped the first game to Zlamal -18, getting home at 18 in the third. At that stage there was nothing to suggest that well within 24 hours Johansson would be flying home to Sweden nursing a damaged knee.

Neale improved throughout the day. In the semi-final he immediately placed England in a strong position with a great victory over Johansson 12, -20, 10. Bengtsson then hit back in spectacular style, flooring Douglas 13, 9. In the doubles Johansson began to show signs that his knee was beginning to trouble him as Neale and Douglas raced to victory 13, 18. As Douglas was all set to tackle Johansson, came the dramatic announcement that Sweden had conceded the tie to England as Kjell was unable to continue.

Both England III and England II recorded successes in the bottom half. When England III eliminated Belgium 3-0, the most notable win was by Andrew Barden 10, 16 against the defensive expert, Norbert van de Walle. Not forgetting a smart win for Jimmy Walker over Nassaux 13, 16. Barden and Walker found themselves in much deeper water as they bowed out 3-0 to the Swedish second team of Sandström and Lagerfeldt.

Nicky Jarvis and Paul Day, a new England team combination, looked sharp as they cleared their first hurdle 3-0 against the French second string of Vinitzki and Hatem.

GREAT MOMENT

Then came one of those great moments in

table tennis . . . England II, not expected to beat Yugoslavia as the team contained No. 1 singles seed, Anton Stipanovic. Jarvis took entire match by storm. The Cleveland man reminded us that he is a world-class player throughout. He started by up-ending Zoran Kosanovic 17, -15, 18.

Yugoslavia drew level as Paul Day, trying hard as always, succumbed to the mighty Stipanovic -14, -15. The cat was then put amongst the pigeons in the doubles, Jarvis and Day racing through 18, 16.

Providing one of the biggest galleries of the tournament, Jarvis then faced Stipanovic. Ranked No. 2 in the world, Stipanovic started in that vein by winning 21-10. But gradually Jarvis found his confidence, winning the second 21-15 and then squeezing home 22-20!

A final between England I and England II then seemed to be on the cards, but it was Sweden II (Sandström and Lagerfeldt) who triumphed 3-2 over Day and Jarvis in the semi-finals. It was another great occasion, the second of the day for Jarvis. He stopped Lagerfeldt 12, 17.

In the doubles Day and Jarvis were in tremendous accord to win 9, 14. At that point England II were poised to go through to the final round as the rampant Jarvis faced Sandström. It was another fierce battle but this time Nicky went down -19, 14, -22, leaving Day the unenviable task of winning a place in the final by putting down Lagerfeldt. But the Soham village lad was sunk 13, 16.

Regrettably, it was a poor men's team final. The Dome crowd was in a subdued mood as Douglas and Neale showed that they knew too much for Sweden II who bowed out 3-0. Douglas beat Sandström 7, 18. Neale took Lagerfeldt 16, 12 and the doubles was completed by exactly the same score. An anticlimatic end to the men's event in the team championship that produced an England victory, but not one that will live long in the memory of the players or the spectators, except perhaps, just one exception, that win by Jarvis over Stipanovic.

WOMEN'S EVENT

The withdrawal of Hungary in the women's team event left three strong contenders, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and England I. All three had a star player, Ann-Christin Hellman, Ilona Uhlíkova and, of course, Jill Hammersley for England. No player remained unbeaten throughout the day. Sweden's final triumph was only 3-2 over the Czechs and it all hinged on the fifth tie between the two second strings, Blanka Silhanova and Birgitta Olsson. The tiny Swedish girl, well beaten in the first tie 6, 11 by Mrs. Uhlíkova, had her moment of glory when she overcame Miss Silhanova 15, 17.

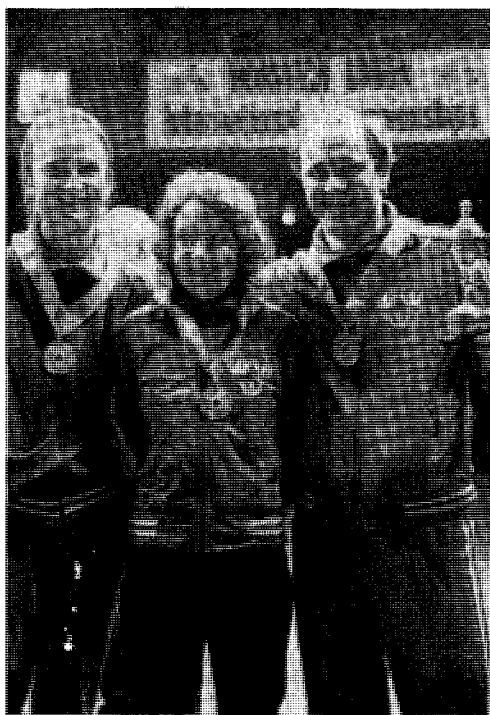
England I (Jill Hammersley and Carole Knight), due to the withdrawal of Belgium, found only Poland between them and the semi-finals. Poland came up with a new face—Czesława Noworyta who, according to Ron Crayden's programme preview, is a fine defensive player of the old school. Playing with pimped rubber, Miss Noworyta made quite an impact later in the tournament when she reached the semi-finals of the women's singles, giving Miss Hellman many anxious moments.

Carole Knight put England on the winning path when she came through a long loop versus chop battle, winning -18, 19, 15 against Miss Noworyta. Linda Howard made her appearance in the doubles when, with Mrs. Hammersley, they scrambled through the doubles 14, -6, 23, putting England through 3-0.

In the semi-final England were defeated 3-2 by Czechoslovakia. Mrs. Uhlíkova (formerly Miss Vostova) knew too much for Carole Knight and it was left to England champion, Jill Hammersley, to stop Miss Silhanova -19, 16, 13. Hopes of England making the final were high when the doubles pairing of Hammersley-Howard were again successful, but the crunch came as Jill went down -12, -19 to Mrs. Uhlíkova, a defeat which was handsomely avenged in the semi-finals of the women's singles on the following day.

It was then left to Carole Knight to face Silhanova. Once again, the Ormesby girl fought bravely, but in this class of play a powerful

loop-drive is just not enough. There have to be other weapons in the armoury, strong enough to break the tactical plans of the opponent. Losing the first -15, Carole recovered to win the second 19, but failed the third -18.



Ann-Christin Hellman (left) and Birgitta Olsson, of Sweden, with the women's team trophy held by Hans Alser.

Photo by Peter Madge.

GRATEFUL

Sweden can perhaps be grateful that in winning the women's team championship they did not have to face England, in particular Jill Hammersley's defence. Many people must have wondered why in the final of the women's singles on the Saturday, Ann-Christin Hellman did not change her tactics against Jill after losing the first game, winning only three points and doing little better in the second.

The answer, with acknowledgement to the valued opinions of Alan Ransome, is apparently that the Swedes in general have built themselves a top-spin dominated game designed primarily to succeed against speed and top-spin. They rarely have the chance to practice against world-class defensive players and when they do they frequently come unstuck, men as well as women.

It may be recalled that Jill Hammersley has always beaten Miss Hellman. 13 times in a row after this latest triumph in the singles final at Brighton.

So it seems that Miss Hellman, the European champion no less, was completely unable to offer anything in terms of other tactics, even if it meant pushing for expedite rules.

Christer Johansson and Hans Alser must be the best coaches in the world. Their theory must therefore be: "Press on with the top-spin game, you might eventually beat the world. On the way up to the top you might lose heavily to world-class defenders like Alexandru in the past and Jill Hammersley at present". It must, however, be daunting, to say the least, when as the holder of the European title you lose 3, 6 and 13.

THE PRESS TOURNAMENT

Seven players competed in the Norwich Union International Press Tournament at Brighton. The four "amateurs", Ron Moseley (Press Association), Bryan Cutress (Exchange Telegraph), Dicky Rutnagur (Daily Telegraph) and Mike Lawless (E.T.T.A.) started level, whilst the three "professionals" were handicapped thus—Brian Spicer (E.T.T.A.) -15, Richard Hapgood (Birmingham Radio) -15, John Woodford (E.T.T.A.) -12.

There were some very close games, two ending after 20-all in the third. The finalists were Ron Moseley and John Woodford.

Result of Final:

RON MOSELEY bt John Woodford (-12) 4, -20, 16.

TEAM EVENT RESULTS

MEN

Round 1

Netherlands I 3, Scotland I 2

Hopman lost to Yule -19, -20; bt McNee 17, -14, 18.

Hijne bt McNee 11, 18; lost to Yule -17, -16.

Hijne/Hopman bt McNee/Yule 19, -15, 15.

France I 3, Wales 0

Martin bt Davies 10, 11; Constant bt Griffiths -18, 11, 15.

Constant/Martin bt Davies/Griffiths 13, 17.

Austria 3, Canada 0

Muller bt Chow 9, 13; Weinmann bt Normandin 15, 10.

Muller/Weinmann bt Chow/Normandin 13, 13.

England III 3, Belgium 0

Walker bt Nassaux 13, 16; Barden bt v.d. Walle 10, 16.

Barden/Walker bt Nassaux/v.d. Walle 10, 15.

Sweden II 3, Scotland II 0

Sandstrom bt Wilson 9, 16; Lagerfeldt bt Brown 11, 9.

Lagerfeldt/Sandstrom bt Brown/Wilson 13, 11.

Poland 3, Ireland 1

S. Fraczyk bt Cairns 15, 10; bt Langan 12, 21.

Z. Fraczyk lost to Langan -17, 19, -18.

Fraczyk/Fraczyk bt Cairns/Langan 13, 20.

Round 2

Sweden I 3, Netherlands I 1

Johansson bt Hijne 16, -13, 13.

Bengtsson lost to Hopman 4, -16, -17; bt Hijne 15, 17.

Bengtsson/Johansson bt Hijne/Hopman 15, 17.

Czechoslovakia 3, Yugoslavia II 0

Schenk bt Jurcic -19, 15, 12; Zlamal bt Kalinic 18, 19.

Schenk/Zlamal bt Jurcic/Kalinic -18, 7, 18.

France I 3, Scotland II 0

Constant bt Rodgers 6, 19; Martin bt Devers 11, 11.

Constant/Martin bt Devers/Rodgers 8, 10.

England I 3, Austria 2

Douglas lost to Muller -19, -19; bt Weinmann 18, 10.

Neale lost to Weinmann 13, -12, -19; bt Muller 17, 14.

Douglas/Neale bt Muller/Weinmann 9, -17, 10.

England III walk-over Hungary (Scratched)

Sweden II 3, Netherlands II 0

Gronlund bt v.d. Helm -20, 13, 14; Lagerfeldt bt v. Slobbe

11, 16.

Gronlund/Lagerfeldt bt v.d. Helm/v. Slobbe 11, 19.

England II 3, France II 0

Jarvis bt Vinitzki 12, 17; Day bt Hatem 14, 9.

Day/Jarvis bt Hatem/Vinitzki 11, 13.

Yugoslavia 3, Poland 0

Kosanovic bt S. Fraczyk -18, 19, 22.

Stipanovic bt Z. Fraczyk 7, 17.

Kosanovic/Stipanovic bt Fraczyk/Fraczyk 17, 18.

Quarter-finals

Sweden I 3, Czechoslovakia 0

Johansson bt Zlamal -18, 12, 18; Bengtsson bt Schenk 14, 11.

Bengtsson/Johansson bt Schenk/Zlamal 15, 14.

England I 3, France I 0

Neale bt Martin 22, 10; Douglas bt Constant 13, 18.

Douglas/Neale bt Constant/Martin 10, 12.

Sweden II 3, England III 0

Sandstrom bt Barden -18, 17, 16; Lagerfeldt bt Walker 11, 22.

Lagerfeldt/Sandstrom bt Barden/Walker -18, 13, 14.

England II 3, Yugoslavia I

Jarvis bt Kosanovic 17, -15, 18; bt Stipanovic -10, 15, 10.

Day lost to Stipanovic -14, -15.

Day/Jarvis bt Kosanovic/Stipanovic 18, 16.

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Semi-finals
England I 3, Sweden I 1
 Neale bt Johansson 12, -20, 10.
 Douglas lost to Bengtsson -13, -9; w.o. Johansson (Scratched)
 Douglas/Neale bt Bengtsson/Johansson 13, 18.
Sweden II 3, England II 2
 Sandstrom bt Day 19, -19, 16; bt Jarvis 19, -14, 22.
 Lagerfeldt lost to Jarvis -12, -17; bt Day 13, 16.
 Gronlund/Sandstrom lost to Day/Jarvis -9, -14.
Final
ENGLAND I 3, Sweden II 0
 Douglas bt Sandstrom 7, 18; Neale bt Lagerfeldt 16, 12.
 Douglas/Neale bt Gronlund/Sandstrom 16, 12.

WOMEN
Round 1
Poland 3, Scotland I 0
 Noworyta bt Fleming 18, 7; Pryzgoda bt Smith 21, -23, 17.
 Noworyta/Pryzgoda bt Fleming/Smith 13, 10.
Netherlands 3, Canada 0
 v.d. Vliet bt Nesukaitis 7, 7; Heltzel bt Plucas 8, 9.
 Heltzel/v.d. Vliet bt Nesukaitis/Plucas 12, 19.
Czechoslovakia 3, Ireland 0
 Uhlíkova bt Senior 8, 9; Silhanova bt Dorrian 18, 10.
 Silhanova/Uhlíkova bt Dorrian/Senior 15, 13.
Sweden 3, Scotland II 0
 Hellman bt Craig 5, 5; Olsson bt Dalrymple 8, 7.
 Hellman/Olsson bt Craig/Dalrymple 9, 4.
England III walk-over, Belgium (Scratched)
France 3, Austria 0
 Poinard bt Fetter -16, 13, 17; Gourmelon bt Wirnsberger 19, 9.
 Gourmelon/Poinard bt Fetter/Wirnsberger 13, -18, 21.
England II walk-over, Hungary (Scratched)
Quarter-finals
England I 3, Poland 0
 Hammersley bt Pryzgoda 6, 14; Knight bt Noworyta -18, 19, 15.
 Hammersley/Howard bt Noworyta/Pryzgoda 14, -6, 23.
Czechoslovakia 3, Netherlands 1
 Uhlíkova bt Heltzel 9, 16; bt v.d. Vliet 10, 13.
 Silhanova lost to v.d. Vliet 11, -15, -12.
 Silhanova/Uhlíkova bt Heltzel/v.d. Vliet 12, 17.
Sweden 3, England III 0
 Hellman bt Ludi 15, 18; Olsson bt Mitchell 10, 11.
 Hellman/Olsson bt Ludi/Mitchell 20, 17.
England II 3, France 0
 Lisle bt Poinard 11, 11; Rogers bt Gourmelon 8, 8.
 Lisle/Rogers bt Gourmelon/Poinard 16, 15.
Semi-finals
Czechoslovakia 3, England I 2
 Uhlíkova bt Knight 8, 20; bt Hammersley 12, 19.
 Silhanova lost to Hammersley 19, -16, -13; bt Knight 15, -19, 18.
 Silhanova/Uhlíkova lost to Hammersley/Howard -11, -20.
Sweden 3, England II 1
 Olsson lost to Lisle -13, 16, -19.
 Hellman bt Rogers 8, 15; bt Lisle 12, 20.
 Hellman/Olsson bt Lisle/Rogers 7, 9.
Final
SWEDEN 3, Czechoslovakia 2
 Olsson lost to Uhlíkova -6 -11; bt Silhanova 15, 17.
 Hellman lost to Silhanova 17, -20, -10; bt Uhlíkova 10, 15.
 Hellman/Olsson bt Silhanova/Uhlíkova 24, 19.

England triumph in Individual Events

at Norwich Union International Championships

writes Philip Reid



"Sign please" is the cry after Jill Hammersley's victory in the women's singles.

Photo by Peter Madge.

For once in a while England were well to the fore in the prizewinners at this season's excellent Championships.

First, however, I should like to offer the opinion that whilst—as many people were only too ready to say—the foreign entry was not as strong as in most seasons, it was a pretty formidable entry all the same.

Let us straight away congratulate Jill Hammersley on a magnificent win in the Women's Singles. Many times Jill has threatened to take this title but somehow has fallen at the last hurdle. To my mind the most impressive feature of her play was her readiness to hit the loose ball.

It was very clear that Jill must have spent many hours improving this aspect of her game, but it certainly paid off. Nobody troubled her much on her way to the semi-final where her opponent was the redoubtable Ilona Uhlíkova, better known under her single name of Vostova.

In the team event Mrs. Uhlíkova's lone defeat was at the hands of Ann-Christin Hellman and amongst her victories was one of 12 and 19 over Jill. In her semi-final, however, Jill made the best possible start, winning 21-11, but the lightning reflexes of the Czech girl put her in front when she took the next two games.

At this juncture it looked to be the old story of "so near and yet so far", but Jill, playing intelligently and looking for ways to break up the formidable attack of Uhlíkova and at the same time defending with great skill, took the fourth and proceeded to take the fifth in great style.

Of the other England players, Carole Knight went out in the second round to European No. 17, Blanka Silhanova, whilst Susan Lisle lost to her colleague, Uhlíkova,

at the same stage. Linda Howard lost three very close games to Miss Hellman, whilst Karen Rogers went under to Jill Hammersley. Another English head to fall in the quarters was that of Melody Ludi, who beat local girl Diane Gard after trailing two games to one, but then lost in three to Uhlíkova.

Perhaps the most improved player around these parts, however, is Ireland's Karen Senior, who played quite superbly in the first two games against Miss Hellman.

ANTI-CLIMAX

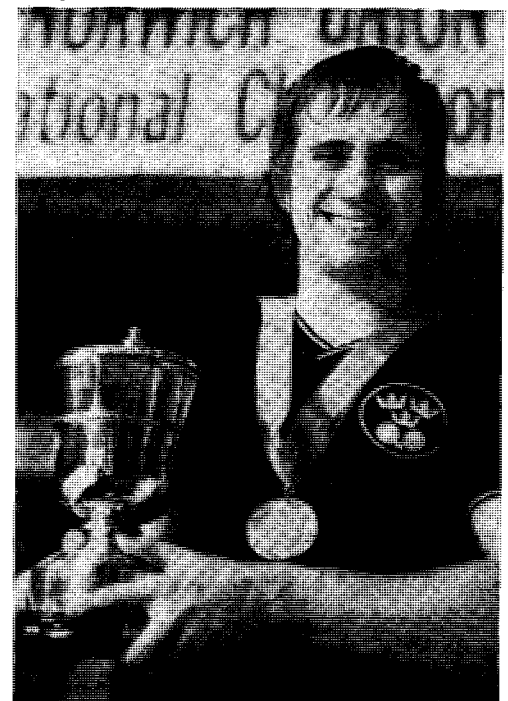
The final, however, proved something of an anti-climax, simply because Jill was playing so well. I have never seen her play better. Hellman is ranked No. 1 in Europe. Yet against Mrs. Hammersley there was only one player in it—and it wasn't Miss Hellman.

Jill started off chopping well and with great variation. Miss Hellman had practically no idea how to handle it. The shots she didn't put in the net she put up in the air and Jill scored many winners with well-hit kills down either wing. 21-3 was the astonishing score in the first and the second took the same pattern.

Miss Hellman fought gamely yet she never looked like upsetting the composure of Mrs. Hammersley. Occasional glances at captain Hans Alser betrayed her nervousness and though there were more rallies in the third, most of them were won by Jill, who went on to win 21-13, much to the delight of the large crowd. A worthy and modest champion.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Turning to the Men's Doubles, it was obvious England's chances of success were improved immeasurably by the unfortunate withdrawal of the Bengtsson/Johansson partnership. The latter had suffered a strain and was already on his way home by the time



Stellan Bengtsson, a smiling champion, at Brighton.

Photo by Peter Madge.

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the event started. It meant, in fact, that Douglas and Neale were favourites to reach the final—a stage they reached without as much as dropping a game.

Meanwhile, in the other half, Zoran Kosanovic and World No. 2, Anton Stipanovic, were doing almost as well, their only dropped game being to the Surrey pairing of David Welsman and Steve Lyons.

In the final the Yugoslav pair won the first game but then the English duo started hitting with the consistency which was a feature of their play. Counting in their team events doubles this pair played nine sets, won them all and returned a score of 23 games against two. No wonder Graham Davies told me he thought they were one of the best doubles pairs in Europe. In particular Neale played quite brilliantly. Even the mighty Stipanovic left him unbothered and his careful hitting brought many winners.

After the first game the Neale/Douglas partnership never looked in difficulties and they won a title last held by an English pair in 1960 (a year when there was no foreign entry). One has to go back as far as 1954 to find England being successful against a foreign entry. That year Brian Kennedy and Aubrey Simons won it.

England's No. 2 pair, Nicky Jarvis and Paul Day, rather surprisingly lost at the first hurdle to the Dutch pairing of Bert van der Helm and Nicco van Slobbe, by three games to nil.

Two very successful pairings in this event. The partnership of John Kitchener and Donald Parker was required to compete in the qualifying rounds where they not only qualified but beat the Swedish No. 2 pair, Grönland and Sandström and the England No. 3 pair, Barden and Walker, before narrowly going out to Kosanovic/Stipanovic. The scratch pairing of Martin Shuttle and Jim Langan was another successful one. First they beat Ian Horsham and David Brown three straight and followed with a 3-1 win over van der Helm and van Slobbe. Next they turned their attention to Roger Lagerfeldt and Bo Persson, where they took the Swedish pair to five.

Whilst Langan, as usual, hit some tremendous kills, the consistency of hammer-grip Shuttle really took the eye. Not attempting anything too clever, he played better than I have ever seen a junior play previously in doubles and certainly made a great impression on Irish skipper Cecil Walker.

PLACE IN FINAL

The Women's Doubles brought England a place in the final. Jill and Linda were the top seeds but made a semi-final exit to the consistent Czech girls, Uhlíkova and Silanova. In the other half, Carole Knight and Karen Rogers lost the first two games to Patrice Fleming and Elaine Smith (Scotland) before getting in their stride to take the next three. A comfortable victory over Canadians Christine Forgo and Violetta Nesukaitis followed but then followed one of the tournament upsets. Ann-Christin Hellman and Birgitta Olsson had beaten Melody Ludi and Angela Mitchell before being confronted with the Knight/Rogers pairing.

The English pair dropped the first game -11 but came into their own more in the second. Carole hit some shots of ferocious power whilst Karen, in the main, concentrated on keeping the play going. Second game to Knight and Rogers 21-19. The third was also close but this time it was the Swedish pair who were successful. The fourth game was as closely fought as the previous two but this English pair showed great determination to clinch a very good game.

Everyone prepared for a ding-dong battle in the fifth, but nothing of the sort happened. Instead, with Carole killing almost everything and Karen playing with increasing confidence, the match suddenly became very much England's as one winner followed another. Amidst tremendous applause the Knight/Rogers partnership took the fifth game at 21-9.

The final of the Women's Doubles was tele-

vised and as such the table was placed in the centre of the Dome and there were many comings and goings with the television authorities. I felt this might have an unsettling effect on the English pair but they took the first easily enough, aided by some magnificent forehands from the bat of Carole.

The second and third were both closely won by the Czechs—but in fairness one must say they were playing with much more confidence than the English pair. The fourth game, however, saw the England pair playing very much better and Karen—who had made very few kill shots—started to attack more freely, a ploy which gave Carole even more chance to exploit her forehand. The fifth, however, was easily taken by the visiting pair. England's two stars made a bad start and appeared to lose confidence as a result.

Nothing can take away the fact this pair played really impressively, however, and both Miss Knight and Miss Rogers can be well pleased with their displays.

TRUE TO FORM

England have never been conspicuously successful in Mixed Doubles and, sure enough, this tournament ran true to form. Only once in the last 15 years have England won this event (when Denis Neale and Mary Wright won it in 1970) and none of the England pairings reached the semi-final.

Neale and Carole Knight had a nasty fright in the first when they trailed 1-2 to Ian Robertson and Janet Hellaby, but came back to win 21-17 in the fifth. After disposing of the Austrian pair Müller and Anna Fetter, in three straight, they went down in three games to the top seeds, Bengtsson and Hellman. The English seeded pair, Nicky Jarvis and Jill Hammersley, lost in the second round to the Czech duo of Zlamal and Silhanova, although the set went the full distance with all four players on good form.

The other Czech pairing, Schenk and Uhlíkova, recovered from a deficit of two games (9-21, 10-21) against No. 2 seeds Douglas and Linda Howard, to move into the semi-final in a set which was dominated to some extent by some excellent hitting from Uhlíkova.

The English pair which went closest to gaining a place in the last four was Parker and Anita Stevenson. This pair went through the formalities of the qualifying competition before beating Jimmy Walker and Susan Lisle

in a set with plenty of action and then got the better of David Iszatt and Sandra Sutton.

Their next opposition was provided by the classy left-handed defender Christian Martin and the highly-promising Pascale Poinard, from France. A 21-7 win in the first game for the English pair promised much and although they dropped the second they took the third with enough confidence to suggest a victory was in the offing. However, it was not to be. The fourth went to the French pair and the fifth developed into a terrific battle with both Parker and Anita unleashing the full fury of their attacks.

Martin, however, by this time was defending with confidence and skill and his partner, too, was playing well. When at 23-22 another England attack broke down the French pair were there but it could so easily have gone the other way. Martin and Poinard were then engaged in another marathon which went to 21-19 in the fifth—against Schenk and Uhlíkova—but on this occasion they were the losers after taking the first two.

In the other half there had been nothing like the same excitement. Bengtsson and Hellman had dominated everything and reached the final without as much as the loss of a game. The final itself proved very exciting in an event not famous for nerve-tingling finishes.

The Swedish pair looked well in control with Bengtsson the dominating figure. Moving well, he covered immense areas of ground and with a 2-0 lead the match looked set for an early finish. The Czech pairing, however, had other ideas. Ilona Uhlíkova is always likely to explode on to the scene and this is what happened. Hitting well down both wings she found a willing ally in Miroslav Schenk.

The result was that by the end of the fourth game the scores were level. The fifth game was as good as the previous four—which was pretty good—and either pair could have won. The main difference between the teams was Bengtsson. The Swedish ex-World Champion knew just how much to attempt and his constant encouragement brought out the best in Miss Hellman. If the last game was close—21-18—there is little doubt the stronger pairing won.

MEN'S SINGLES

The Men's Singles provided precious little relief for England although two players did reach the semi-final. For me the best per-



Cheques for £100 each for Jill Hammersley and Denis Neale, as the best English performers, presented by John McDonnell, Public Relations Manager, Norwich Union Insurance Group.

Photo by Peter Madge.

formance came from the Soham left-hander, Paul Day. After beating the Austrian Müller over five games he next played Martin, always a difficult player to beat.

Day took a game to weigh up the situation and then took the next two. It nearly became a 3-1 win but Martin played well to take the fourth. The effort, however, had taken too much out of him and after holding Day up to the half-way in the fifth, he found the consistent attack of Day just too much for him.

Eventually Day went out to Bengtsson but not before he had taken a game off him. Both Jarvis and Neale reached the semi-finals. On the way Neale dropped only one game (to Jurcic, of Yugoslavia). Jarvis had more trouble than that. Herman Hopman, a late replacement in the Dutch side, had already achieved fame by defeating Bengtsson in the team event. In the Men's Singles Hopman first defeated Constant (France) before turning his attentions to Jarvis.

To start with Jarvis' loop availed him nothing. The under-rated Dutch star took the first two games before Jarvis got a look in. Even then there was a crucial point when Jarvis was awarded a point—the umpire indicating it hit the edge—whereas Hopman clearly thought it had not. Eventually the Redcar player got home at 22-20 in the fifth.

He then beat the Austrian Weinmann (who had beaten Neale in the team event) and then outlasted Yugoslavia's Kalinic, who had ousted Andy Barden in the previous round. The mighty Stipancic, however, had very little trouble in coping with Jarvis, hitting well and consistently down both wings. Stipancic is not the most elegant of players but not many hit with more power and accuracy.

DECISION

An important change was made in the draw. With three of the four seeds in the bottom half absent (Vikström, of Sweden, and the Hungarian, Timar, never came at all, and Johansson withdrew owing to injury) referee John Wright made an important decision. He considered the draw to be seriously unbalanced and switched Bengtsson to the bottom place, where Johansson was previously positioned. This move, one would think, would scarcely have been welcomed with open arms by Neale, the only seed remaining in the bottom half. Despite the vocal support of Jim Langan, Denis failed to take a game against Bengtsson, although he came mighty close in the second.

The biggest disappointment was Desmond Douglas. Unseeded, he needed to beat Kosanovic to qualify to play Bengtsson in the second round. There were those who thought Desmond might even make the final, but in fact the Yugoslav summarily dismissed the England No. 1 three straight in a match which Desmond will surely wish to forget.

For a really close game one would need to go a long way to better the one between Walker and Schenk. The scores of 20, -19, -19, 18, 19 indicate how close the set was and, incidentally, what a good temperament the Middlesborough player now has. It meant, however, that he had scarcely had as much rest as he would wish before he played Ake Grönlund—a match which had some good play but one which Grönlund always looked like winning.

The final itself was a fine match. Both left-handers, they provided an excellent contrast. The burly Stipancic, a powerful hitter but sometimes temperamental. The quicksilver Bengtsson with the graceful style.

In the first game Stipancic hit with such venom that only one result looked possible. One hit followed another and even the mercurial Bengtsson was powerless to stop them. It is a remarkable thing but Yugoslavia have only once won the Men's Singles since the competition started in 1922. On that occasion it was by Vogrinc Markovic and that was as long ago as 1961.

The second game was close but Bengtsson always seems to excel in these situations

where his excellent temperament reaps rich dividends. Having won that he promptly sailed into the attack and there was little Stipancic could do to stop him. However, after the break Stipancic returned full of vigour, clearly determined to justify his higher ranking. Hammering fierce kills with equal aplomb down both wings, the big Yugoslav levelled the scores.

Both players fought hard to establish a lead in the fifth but gradually Bengtsson pulled ahead and with shots flowing from his bat, dominated the exchanges in the closing stages to win the title for the third time. An interesting tournament and if there were fewer "name" players than usual, then the Championships suffered nothing in excitement value.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Men's Singles—Round 3

- A. Stipancic (Yu) bt A. Grönlund (Sw) 5, 14, 16.
- P. Sandstrom (Sw) bt B. v.d. Helm (Ne) -13, 9, 19, 20.
- N. Jarvis (En) bt R. Weinmann (Au) 10, 16, 12.
- Z. Kalinic (Yu) bt A. Barden (En) -14, 8, 6, 18.
- D. Neale (En) bt R. Lagerfeldt (Sw) 15, 17, 20.
- F. Vinitzki (Fr) bt D. Iszatt (Essex) 10, 15, 16.
- P. Day (En) bt R. Yulle (Sc) 18, 18, 18.
- S. Bengtsson (Sw) bt J. Zlamal (Cz) 18, 12, 14.

Quarter-finals

- Stipancic bt Sandstrom 15, 17, -17, 14.
- Jarvis bt Kalinic -18, 16, -16, 8, 13.
- Neale bt Vinitzki 15, 10, 12.
- Bengtsson bt Day 10, -20, 16, 15.

Semi-finals

- Stipancic bt Jarvis 12, 12, 15.
- Bengtsson bt Neale 13, 20, 13.

Final

BENGTSSON bt Stipancic -14, 19, 13, -13, 16.

Women's Singles—Round 2

- A.-C. Hellman (Sw) bt K. Senior (Ir) 17, 20, 9.
- L. Howard (En) bt I. Wernsberger (Au) 5, 14, 14.
- C. Noworyta (Po) bt V. Nesukaitis (Ca) 16, 12, 13.
- B. Silhanova (Cz) bt C. Knight (En) 17, -19, 13, 15.
- J. Hammersley (En) bt B. Olsson (Sw) 16, -20, 16, 16.
- K. Rogers (En) bt S. Heltzel (Ne) 11, 11, 17.
- I. Uhlíkova (Cz) bt S. Lisle (En) 15, 9, 6.
- M. Ludi (En) bt D. Gard (Sussex) -19, 9, -16, 9, 13.

Quarter-finals

- Hellman bt Howard -19, 17, 13, 16.
- Noworyta bt Silhanova -18, 18, 19, 16.
- Hammersley bt Rogers 4, 10, 7.
- Uhlíkova bt Ludi 14, 10, 12.
- Uhlíkova bt Ludi 14, 10, 12.

Semi-finals

- Hellman bt Noworyta -19, 17, 13, 16.
- Hammersley bt Uhlíkova 11, -10, -17, 13, 15.

Final

HAMMERSLEY bt Hellman 3, 10, 13.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals

- D. Jurcic (Yu)/Kalinic bt A. Fletcher (Yks)/P. Glynn (Wks) 12, -17, 18, 15.
- D. Douglass (En)/Neale bt S. Fraczyk/Z. Fraczyk (Po) 13, 17, 17.

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JILL HAMMERSLEY

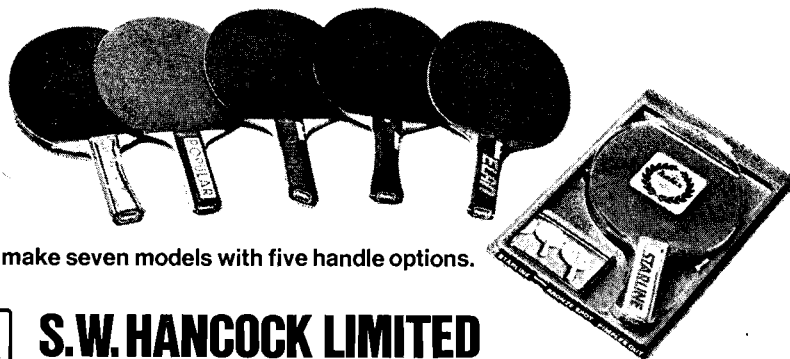


DENIS NEALE

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. Congratulations Jill - Now Europe's No. 1!

Lagerfeldt/B. Persson (Sw) bt J. Langan (Ir)/M. Shuttle (Surrey) -18, 12, 12, -14, 14.
Z. Kosanovic (Yu)/Stipanovic bt J. Kitchener (Sfk)/D. Parker (Lancs) 20, 15, 21.

Semi-finals
Douglas/Neale bt Jurcic/Kalinic 15, 21, 10.
Kosanovic (Yu)/Stipanovic bt Lagerfeldt/Persson 14, 10, 15.

Final
DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Kosanovic/Stipanovic -18, 15, 15, 17.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals
Hammersley/Howard bt Heltzel/M. v.d. Vliet (Ne) 15, 15, 15.
Silhanova/Uhlikova bt Lisle/A. Stevenson (En) 16, 11, 17.
Hellman/Olsson bt Ludi/A. Mitchell (En) 13, 17, -17, 19.
Knight/Rogers bt C. Forgo (Ca)/Nesukaitis 15, 17, 16.

Semi-finals
Silhanova/Uhlikova bt Hammersley/Howard -18, 16, 11.
Knight/Rogers bt Hellman/Olsson -11, 19, -17, 19, 9.

Final
SILHANOVA/UHLIKOVA bt Knight/Rogers -15, 18, 19, -17, 8.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals
Bengtsson/Hellman bt Neale/Knight 12, 22, 19.
Z. Fraczyk/A. Pryzgodna (Po) bt Zlamal/Silhanova 14, -15, 18, 20.

C. Martin/P. Poinard (Fr) bt D. Parker/A Stevenson -7, 19, 17, 15, 22.

M. Schenk (Cz)/Uhlikova bt Douglas/Howard -9, -10, 16, 17, 15.

Semi-finals
Bengtsson/Hellman bt Fraczyk/Pryzgodna 8, 14, 9.
Schenk/Uhlikova bt Martin/Poinard -21, -17, 19, 18, 19.

Final
BENGTSSON/HELLMAN bt Schenk/Uhlikova 17, 18, -19, -18, 18.

Men's Veteran Singles—Final
H. BUIST (Kent) bt G. Chapman (Surrey) 13, 16.

Women's Veteran Singles—Final
D. GRAY (Hants) bt J. Williams (Bucks) 14, 10.

Men's Consolation Singles—Final
N. v. SLOBBE (Ne) bt D. Nassaux (Bel) 18, 11.

Women's Consolation Singles—Final
PRYZGODNA bt v.d. Vliet 17, 22.

TEAM SELECTIONS

An England team comprising Des Douglas, Andy Barden, Paul Day, Carole Knight and Susan Lisle was selected for a three-match tour of the Netherlands, leaving England on January 26 and returning on the 30th.

The National Selectors have chosen six men and six women to represent England in the Stiga Welsh Open, to be played at the National Sports Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, from February 6-8. Jill Hammersley, winner this season of two international Open Championships, will be defending the title she won last season, and will again have the opportunity of trying to overcome Asian players, as the Chinese People's Republic are also sending a team. Players chosen are:—

Men

Des Douglas, Denis Neale; Nicky Jarvis, Andrew Barden; Paul Day, Chris Sewell. N.P.C.: Brian Burn.

Women

Jill Hammersley, Carole Knight; Linda Howard, Melody Ludi; Angela Mitchell, Angela Tierney. N.P.C.: Bryan Merrett.

UMPIRING CORNER

The more so at local league level, where umpires are usually "pressed" into the job, mistakes may happen with the order of serving or the fact that players have failed to change ends when they should have done so. What action should the umpire take if one of these situations should arise?

Two questions from the recently-superseded County Umpires' Test Paper No. 6 will set you thinking:—

1.—If it is discovered that, by mistake, the players have not changed ends when they should have done so,

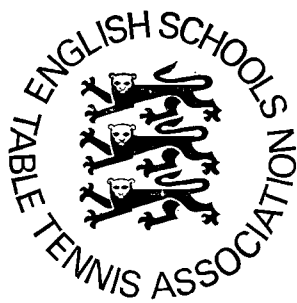
(b) ends are always changed as soon as the mistake is discovered — RIGHT or WRONG?

(a) the points scored before the discovery still stand — RIGHT or WRONG?

2.—Regarding the serving out of order, let us assume an imaginary match situation in which Alan is playing Bill. Alan serves first and wins the first five points. He serves a sixth time and Bill's return goes into the net before the umpire realises that the wrong player has served. Alan then tells the umpire he served out of turn by mistake. What must the umpire now do? Must he call a "let" and play the point again? Must he give the point to Alan or must he award it to Bill?

A.P.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 30.



by David Lomas

When entries finally closed for the National School Team Championships, only five County areas were not represented. They are: Hampshire, Leicestershire, Isle of Wight, Northumberland and North Yorkshire. But in spite of these absences there is still a record entry of teams hoping to win their way to a national title at Lea Green, Matlock, on Saturday, March 20th.

Twelve Area Finals were scheduled for completion by February 1st, with Regional Finals at Leeds (Moor Grange High School), Swindon (Wroughton Sports Hall) and Shenfield (Shenfield Sports Hall) on February 15th.

A coaching course has been arranged for the day following the National Finals—at Lea Green also—under the direction of Peter Simpson. A limit of 40 places has been placed so only half the teams involved on the Saturday will be able to take part.

It is possible that a coaching course for leading schools players will be held in 1977—details will be announced as and when available.

Because of the World Championships next year it is likely that the National School Team Championships will be held a month earlier—in February—with Area Finals in early January.

NEWS FROM COUNTIES

Hertfordshire

Mr. Peter Webb, Secretary of Bishops High Table Tennis Club, has written to point out that my reference (December issue) to Herts. being a "blackspot" is incorrect. A Hertfordshire Schools' Association was formed in December and Mr. Webb's school have entered two teams in the national competition. He also says that his school club owns nine tables and enters up to nine teams in the local league and with membership limited to 50, he claims it to be the largest school club in the country. Any rival claims?

Inner London

Mr. Chris Portch, Secretary of the newly-formed I.L.E.A. Schools' T.T.A., tells me that 38 teams were involved in their knockout competition. Westminster City School won the Boys' U-19 but only after totalling up points after drawing 4-4 on sets and games against Battersea County. The Boys' U-13 was won by his own school, Stockwell Manor, who beat Hill House 7-1, having reached the final without losing a game.

HANDBOOK AMENDMENTS

Please note the following changes to the list of Associations:

07 Cleveland—M. Vickers, 9 Grange View, Coundon Gate, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham.

14 East Sussex—A. Bates, Uckfield School, Sussex.

19 Hampshire—K. Dimmer, 249 Kingsclere Avenue, Weston, Southampton.

21 Herts.—A. Parkinson, Grange Park School, Watford.

25 Kent County—D. L. Tyler, 219 Dale Street, Chatham.

45 Tyne & Wear—R. Sinclair, Southmoor School, Ryhope Road, Sunderland.

48 West Sussex—C. R. Fox, The Grammar School, Steyning, Sussex, BN34, 3LB.

News and items of interest regarding schools table tennis activities are invited for this column. Please send to: D. A. Lomas, E.S.T.T.A. Press Officer, Shirley High School, Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5EF.

STOP PRESS

Millom School will have four teams in the North Regional Final after winning at Bishop Auckland on January 24. As well as national title holders in the Boys' U-16 and U-13 events they will have U-16 and U-13 Girls' teams involved.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

COMMENT

by TOM BERGIN
(Editor, "Salford City Reporter")

I first became aware of table tennis as a small boy in the late 'twenties when my father, who had been an outstanding Rugby Union player and a boxing champion with the Royal Navy, came home after a convivial evening with friends and said that he had been amazed to find grown men wasting their time knocking about a small white ball on a table.

There was almost contempt when he described it as "Ping Pong" and what made it worse—in his eyes—was the fact that it was being demonstrated by members of the medical staff in the Prestwich Mental Hospital.

That did not prevent him buying me a "set" and many evenings were spent with the net stretched across the dining room table and the ball causing many strange naval oaths as he crawled between chairs and sideboard to retrieve it.

Later I can remember fierce arguments with friends as we debated the merits of rubber-backed bats and those with a kind of emery paper finish or the pen-grip compared with the tennis grip.

I was happy to have among my close friends such players as John Overfield and the Mitchell family (eventually three generations shone at the game) and we played at the club-house of the old Claremont Golf Club, which had become a Scout Den. As time went on I loftily professed a preference for Badminton, but that was probably because I had neither the quickness of eye nor speed of reflexes to be anything other than a kitchen table player, but I watched with reflected pride the improvement made by my friends.

All this will convince you that I am no expert on table tennis, but I find one of the most thrilling sporting spectacles is to see two top-ranked players moving on quick-silver feet as they smash and retrieve with an athleticism undreamed of in my younger days. I can even remember a protest made to the committee when a player had the audacity to remove his pullover during a match.

National Under 13 Championships

The following players have been nominated to go forward to the National Finals of the Under-13 competition, on May 22:—

Boys

Graham Sandley (Middlesex)
Colin Wilson (Hampshire)
Richard Bergemann (Hampshire)
Michael Owen (Herefordshire)
John Souter (Middlesex)
Paul Whiting (Devon)

Girls

Helen Robinson (Cleveland)
Alison Gordon (Berkshire)
Mandy Reeves (Middlesex)
Gillian Galloway (Lincolnshire)
Lorraine Garbet (Surrey)
Helen Williams (Middlesex)

Pine the Powerhouse

by Tournament Referee Brian T. Worts

Nicola Pine, of Plymouth Public Secondary School, beat Elaine Lamb -14, 19, 16 to win the Girls' Under-16 Singles in this season's Devon Schools' Individual Championships. When she climbed the Olympic-style rostrum to receive her medal, the crowd and Elaine gave her a wonderful ovation.

The powerful aggression of Nicola, tempered with subtlety, was not only too much for Elaine to cope with, but also wrought havoc amongst the boys in the Intermediate Singles. As if Elaine's scalp was not enough for one day, she beat John Ley, of South Devon Technical College 13, -17, 21. John was not only the top seed in this event but had already captured the Under-19 title earlier in the day. Twelve-year-old Carol Butler, of Tamar Secondary School, also caused the lads some embarrassment and dismissed 18-year-old 5th-seeded David Blackler. In total six boys finished their matches at the wrong end of the scoreline against these girls. It's the year of the sex discrimination act!

The exploits of the girls almost overshadowed a respectable and solid performance by Terry Fairbanks (Sutton High School) who won the prestige event—the Advanced Singles—and the Under-16 Boys' Singles. In both events he beat Michael Shearman, of Penlee Secondary School, in the final.

From an entry of 130 players, 27 collected 38 medals. A high shareout from an Association that has something to offer for players of all ability levels. For example, the largest entry was for the Introductory Singles for players making their tournament debuts at County level. It drew 65 players. The final was a see-saw event between Kevin Constantine, of Ilfracombe School, and Stephen Black, of

Torquay Grammar School, the latter spending much of his time some considerable distance from the table using an acrobatic, spinless, balloon defence. Constantine's determination and unwaning energy proved too much for his agile opponent and he won 10, -17, 10.

Gold medals dropped around the necks of Graham Craig (Intermediate), Caroline Trainer (Girls' 11) and Gary Lambert (Boys' 11) for the first time, whilst Paul Whiting had a gold and a bronze from the Under-13 and Advanced respectively. Paul usually goes home with a pocketful of trophies but the new-style championships restrict every player to two singles events only.

Results

Advanced Singles—Semi-finals

M. Shearman bt P. Whiting 21, -19, 20.

T. Fairbanks bt E. Lamb 18, -11, 18.

Final

FAIRBANKS bt Shearman 11, -18, 21.

Boys' U-19—Semi-finals

J. Ley bt P. Bathard -17, 17, 16.

J. Coker bt D. Blackler 9, 15.

Final

LEY bt Coker 17, 21.

Boys' U-16—Semi-finals

Shearman bt G. Craig 10, -18, 8.

Fairbanks bt M. Hunt 10, 15.

Final

FAIRBANKS bt Shearman 12, 14.

Girls' U-16—Semi-finals

N. Pine bt D. Roberts 13, 12.

E. Lamb bt J. Worts 7, 12.

Final

PINE bt Lamb -14, 19, 16.

Boys' U-13—Semi-finals

C. Bunch bt P. Perry 8, 17.

Whiting bt P. Waldron -16, 5, 19.

Final

WHITING bt Bunch 16, 11.

Intermediate Singles—Semi-finals

Craig bt Pine 17, 18.

Bathard bt I. Bellingham 7, 12.

Final

CRAIG bt Bathard 19, 7.

Boys' U-11—Semi-finals

G. Lambert bt P. Barrett 16, 19.

M. Ellett bt M. Healey 9, 11.

Final

LAMBERT bt Ellett 14, 15.

Girls' U-11 (Round Robin)

1st—C. TRAINER; 2nd T. Drummond.

Unique features of the Championships were the introduction of quality events, personal match schedules and free drinks for all players. Repeat features were no coaching (thus giving all players equal opportunity and allowing them to think for themselves), Olympic-style rostrum presentations and bronze medals for all semi-finalists regardless of size of entry.

Twenty-seven out of 130 players received prizes and this number would have been 33 had Girls -19 and U-13 events received support. The quality events produced an entry of 65 players who had not previously played in the Devon Junior Closed or this tournament. It also brought boys and girls in direct competition, which was most successful as the results show.—Ed.

IRISH TITLE FOR NEALE

Denis Neale captured the men's singles title in the Irish Open, played in Dublin, on January 17, with a final 13, 15 win over his one-time Yorkshire team-mate, Alan Hydes.

Other results:—

W.S.: K. SENIOR bt A. Leonard 7, 14.

M.D.: J. LANGAN/T. LANGAN bt T. Caffrey/
D. Weir 14, 8.

W.D.: D. KILPATRICK/LEONARD bt Senior/
M. Wright 20, 18.

X.D.: J. LANGAN/SENIOR bt Neale/L. Cash
18, 8.

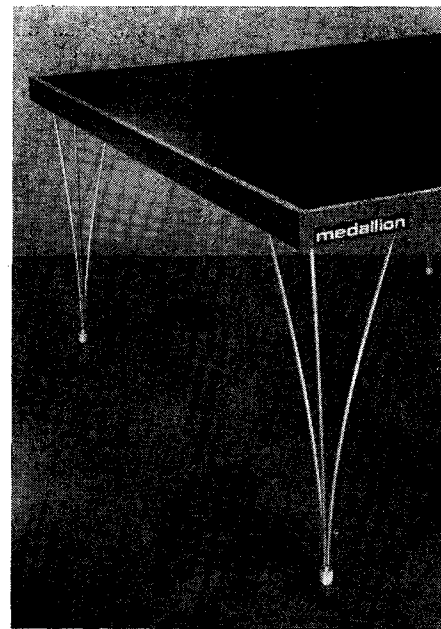
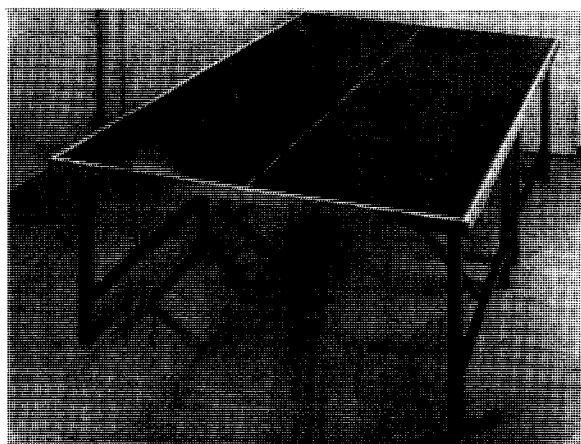
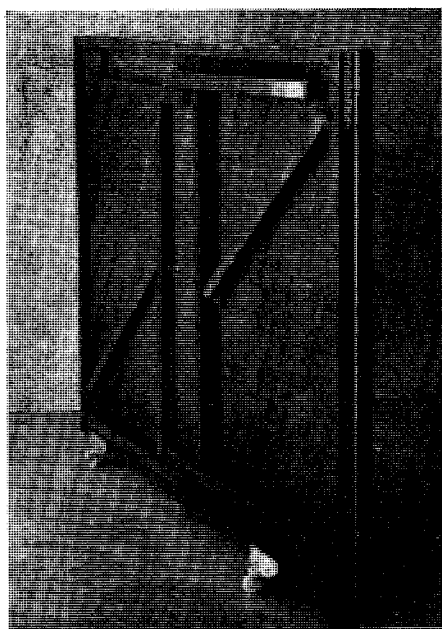


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In the Coaching Field

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

In the three national coaching areas Panel chairmen have been holding joint meetings to formulate inter-panel activities. One such meeting held in the South-East Region, has started an U-14 championship with Mike Kercher, Chairman of Panel 1, doing the preparation.

All counties in the region have accepted the invitation to compete and play is being organised on a group basis. Panel I have been running Cadet weekends, one in December held in Hastings, and a further date has been arranged during February at Gravesend with National Coach Peter Hirst in charge.

With the increase in coaching activities, especially with the formation of Cadet squads, the demand for coaches is becoming more urgent. But the Coaches' Course on January 16-18, at Leatherhead, should have helped to alleviate the position.

Teachers' courses have also been arranged at Chelsea College of P.E. (January 22-25) and, in Panel 2, at London Borough of Hillingdon, Middlesex, during February and March.

Panel chairmen also met in the Northern Region and arranged three inter-panel weekends during March, April and May, which should provide National Coach Peter Simpson with a ranking list for use when the Assessment Camps come along.

These arrangements are also being repeated in the South-West under the auspices of National Coach Bryan Merrett, who will also be present at all the Assessment Camps.

Also on the national front, the U-13 championships will be held on May 22, and each panel will have a play-off of allocated players on March 21. The 10 boys and girls who win through the regional "play-offs" plus the six boys and six girls nominated by the National Selection Committee, will make up the final 16 to compete in the finals.

We are now approaching the Area final stage of the National School Team Championships and I have been informed that entries are running at a record level. I have received a list of affiliated schools which stands at 726, made up from 49 counties.

But there are still some areas which appear to have either no schools' table tennis, or no participation in the National Team event. Such places include Northumberland, North Yorkshire and Gloucestershire, while Merseyside can only manage two.

I have again received the year's programme from Bishops High T.T.C. This school club is probably one of the best organised in the country. With the hope of nine teams in the local league, claims are made that they may be the biggest school club in the land.

They certainly do not have as many members as Millom, in Cumbria, but they could have more teams than any other club. Their method of issuing news sheets to both parents and boys is an excellent idea, as this will prevent anxious parents wondering if their boys will be home late because of league matches.

Trips are also arranged to such events as the Norwich Union International Championships, in Brighton. Forms are prepared giving travel arrangements, places of accommodation and the cost of the venture, plus a place for the parents to sign giving their son permission to attend.

This must save a lot of trouble and 'phone calls, and may I thank Peter Webb, secretary of the club, for taking the trouble to send me this information. Maybe I will see a team from Bishops High at the School Championships.

For those coaches looking to improve their knowledge, there is a course at Lilleshall from May 10-14. Application forms can be had from Jack Carrington at 71 Maplin Way, Thorpe Bay, Essex. ('Phone: 037 084771).

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan J. Cavell

SPORT FOR ALL

Each year considerable financial help is given by the Shropshire Playing Fields Association to sports clubs in the county. Help is either by direct grant or by loans at very low interest rates. The Association organises an annual fund-raising event and this year, for the first time, a table tennis club is one of the joint organisers. Apart from the Albrighton T.T.C., cricket, hockey, football, rugby football and lawn tennis clubs from Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury are helping.

This year's fund-raising event will be a barbecue, with bar, linked with demonstrations of various sports, at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre. Derek Tremayne organised a very successful OPEN DAY there last summer when table tennis was one of the many sports presented to the public.

Derek Tremayne is now on the Executive Committee of the Wrekin and District Sports Advisory Council. The various Shropshire S.A.C.'s are now organising competitions between themselves in as many sports as possible. Although billed as the Shropshire Olympics, table tennis will be included. The finals will be held during the 1976 Sport for All Week, beginning Sunday, September 12. The activities are designed to encourage more people to participate in sport; plans to open club and sports centres to the general public are now being made.

The Telford T.T.A.'s annual American tournament, restricted to players who have not played in any town or County team, was again well supported. The last eight were: D. Allen, M. Chambers, D. Clibbon, R. Hambleton, M. Langford, G. Phillips, P. Richards and G. Walker. In the final Martin Chambers beat Graham Walker 22 and 17.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by O. A. Reeves

DEATH OF CHAIRMAN

Reports from this part of the country have been very few this season, so I want to put matters to rights in this issue.

Firstly, it is with deep regret that I have to record the death of our County Chairman, Eric Howe, who died suddenly following a heart attack on Christmas Eve. Eric had been Chairman for the past two seasons and was for many years a very active member of the Bedford Town League. The sympathies of all associated with Table Tennis in Bedfordshire are extended to his family.

At the beginning of the season Trevor Taylor informed us that he would be moving to Holland and therefore would not be available for the County and at the beginning of January Peter Taylor decided to join him. This has considerably weakened our County team. Peter has been a very loyal player over many years with the County side, both as a junior and senior team member, and we wish him well in his new venture.

As a consequence of these moves our senior team have been struggling in their County Championship matches in 2nd Division East and must improve their performance in the remaining matches against Bucks and Cambs if they are not to finish in the relegation position. The second senior team and the juniors have managed to "hold their own" in their respective divisions and we hope to see some of these players challenging for a first team place before very long.

Following the efforts of Mike Kercher in organising an Under-14 County Championship within the Eastern region, Bedfordshire decided to give their support and competed in the first series of matches on 11th January. On

4th January the selection committee organised a trial and 26 youngsters, each eager to wear the County colours, turned up to show their skills. A ranking list consisting of 12 boys and 5 girls was issued as follows:—

Boys: 1—S. Barby; 2—D. Sharpe; 3, D. Foster; 4—A. West; 5—D. Fiske; 6—P. Marlowe; 7—O. Prervett; 8—R. Cheese; 9—A. Johns; 10—A. Reeves; 11—P. James; 12—S. Reeves.

Girls: 1—L. Clarke; 2, J. Bellinger; 3—S. Shaw; 4—T. Ashton; 5—C. Prervett.

On 11th January the first 5 boys and 3 girls travelled to Rushden. In the first match they were defeated by Northampton but they subsequently recorded a very creditable win over Huntingdonshire—well done!

The County "Closed" has been arranged for 22nd February and will be played at the new Stopsley Regional Sports Centre (the same venue as the English Closed) using 14 tables. For the first time this tournament will include junior events for the under-15 and under-13 age groups.

Trofeo Caballero

by David Brown

After travelling via Harwich-Hook of Holland, fellows Cranleigh T.T.C. arrived at 6-30 a.m., Friday, December 19, to take up their invitation to play in the sponsored Caballero Tournament (Caballero are, in fact, the trade name for cigarettes made by the Dutch company, E.D. Laurens, who had sponsored the tournament to the tune of £1,000 approx. I believe).

The rest of Friday was spent by the team (Lesley Radford, Janet Hellaby, Ian Horsham and myself) sleeping off the journey (8 hours at sea) and practising while the team manager, Nicky Heaps, put the time to good use by phoning around his female acquaintances!!).

The tournament consisted of 12 teams, 4 groups of 3, the two top teams going through from each group to the final stages on a K.O. basis.

After a fairly comfortable 5-0 win against Hooze Huys, Cranleigh then took on the Dutch No. 2 side, Delta Lloyd, with Ian Horsham beating Bert van der Helm in a really superb manner, I beat Bert Schoofs, combining to win the men's doubles, and the women chipping in with their doubles—Cranleigh scraped through 4-3, putting them in the quarter-finals against the Dutch No. 3 side, Middenstandsbank. A good win here with everybody playing well, resulted in a 4-1 win and a place in the semi-finals against the top team in the competition from Sweden, Sparvagens.

This team, however, proved too strong for the London side but not before Ian, really playing well, and hitting powerfully on both wings, had the Swedish No. 4, Roger Lagerfeldt, 17-13 in the third. Unfortunately Ian could not clinch it and lost -19. Match score 0-5.

Cranleigh's final game was a play-off for 3rd or 4th place, again against Delta Lloyd (this team had gone through from the group as the second place team). Almost the same result here but van der Helm got his revenge on Ian. This was cancelled out by Lesley Radford beating the Dutch No. 1, Sonja Heltzel (a really nice win here) and an added bonus of Janet Hellaby also gaining her revenge over Ann Moorst. I again beat Bert Schoofs, the women won the doubles to clinch the match at 4-2.

A marvellous reception followed in the evening at which Nick Heaps cheered C. J. Vos and his band of gallant helpers for the work done to make the tournament a success and in making Fellows Cranleigh's visit so enjoyable.

Sparvagens (Stockholm) were the ultimate winners with a 5-2 win over Tempo Team who, at one stage, led 2-0. Roger Lagerfeldt, Christer Hafn, Marita Neidert and Eva Fredenlund made up the winning team with Tempo represented by Nico van Slobbe, Herman Hopman, Marian v.d. Vliet and Mieke Arntz.

REVISED RANKINGS

by Mike Lawless

There is very little change at the top of the senior men's ranking list, but the two juniors, Andy Barden (Middx) and Paul Day (Cambs), each advance one place, in keeping with the experience they are gaining in senior play.

Although there is very little to choose between them, Carole Knight (Cleveland) snatches the No. 2 spot from Linda Howard (Surrey) in the women's list. Making a successful return to the tournament scene after motherhood, Lesley Radford (Essex) steps in at No. 5, forcing everyone else down one place.

In the junior boys, Paul Day loses his No. 1 spot to Andrew Barden, in line with the senior rankings, and below them it is "all change" as is customary in the fast-changing world of junior play. Notable advances have been made by Keith Paxton (Durham) and David Reeves (Berks).

The opportunities afforded to Melody Ludi (Yorks) have been well taken and as a result she takes over the top spot from Angela Mitchell (Middx). The biggest leap in the junior girls' section is undoubtedly that of 13-years-old Helen Robinson (Cleveland) who comes in at No. 10.

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

SENIORS

Men

1. Desmond Douglas (Warwks) (1)
2. Nicky Jarvis (Cleve) (2)
3. Denis Neale (Cleve) (3)
4. Andrew Barden (Middx) (5)
5. Jimmy Walker (Cleve) (4)
6. Paul Day (Cambs) (7)
7. Donald Parker (Lancs) (6)
8. Ian Horsham (Essex) (8)
9. Mark Mitchell (Middx) (15)
10. David Brown (Essex) (10)
11. John Hilton (Ches) (11)
12. John Kitchener (Sfk) (12)
13. Tony Clayton (Yorks) (14)
14. Nigel Eckersley (Ches) (13)
15. Robert Potton (Essex) (—)
16. Steve Lyons (Surrey) (17)

Women

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

Boys

1. Andrew Barden (Middx) (2)
2. Paul Day (Cambs) (1)
3. Martin Shuttle (Surrey) (5)
4. Chris Sewell (Avon) (3)
5. Keith Paxton (Durham) (11)
6. Douglas Johnson (Warwks) (4)
7. Chris Rogers (Leics) (6)
8. Stephen Hazelwood (Yks) (10)
9. David Reeves (Berks) (19)
10. Kevin Caldon (Essex) (8)
11. Jonathan Proffitt (Herts) (7)
12. Ian Kenyon (Kent) (13)
13. Ian Smith (Lancs) (9)
14. Kevin Beadsley (Yks) (A)
15. Tony Gelder (Durham) (—)
16. David Newman (Essex) (12)
17. Chris Reed (Cumb) (20)
18. Andrew Clark (Nthd) (15)
19. Michael Harrison (Yks) (18)
20. Andrew Metcalfe (Yks) (16)

Group A Boys

- S. Boxall (Surrey)
- D. Camiade (Sussex)
- I. Collins (Kent)
- K. Edwards (Wilts)

- J. James (Middx)
- R. Jermyn (Herts)
- B. Metcalfe (Yks)
- A. O'Connor (Lancs)
- I. Plummer (Cleve)
- A. Proffitt (Middx)
- K. Seager (Surrey)
- G. Stewart (Surrey)
- C. Wilson (Hants)
- R. Hazelwood (Yks)
- K. Richardson (Cambs)
- S. Douglas (Berks)
- G. Sandley (Middx)

Girls

1. Melody Ludi (Yks) (2)
2. Angela Mitchell (Middx) (1)
3. Angela Tierney (Cleve) (3)
4. Karen Witt (Berks) (4)
5. Beverley Green (Warwks) (5)
6. Suzanne Hunt (Lincs) (6)
7. June Williams (Cleve) (7)
8. Julie Reading (Hants) (9)
9. Jane Skipp (Cleve) (8)
10. Helen Robinson (Cleve) (A)
11. Elaine Lamb (Devon) (10)
12. Julie McLean (Yks) (16)
13. Susan Dove (Middx) (18)
14. Alison Gordon (Berks) (11)
15. Mandy Smith (Berks) (12)
16. Janet New (Dorset) (14)
17. Mandy Reeves (Middx) (—)
18. Jill Purslow (Berks) (17)
19. Linda Hryszko (Yks) (A)
20. Mandy Wallis (Nths) (A)

Group A Girls

- J. Campion (Middx)
- N. Carne (Cleve)
- B. Chamberlain (Hunts)
- S. Dickerson (Yks)
- I. Douglas (Berks)
- H. Gore (Essex)
- S. Head (Surrey)
- S. Jones (Staffs)

- J. Mitchell (Surrey)
- W. Parker (Wilts)
- S. Roebuck (Surrey)
- S. Sutton (Essex)
- J. Thorpe (Berks)

CADET (UNDER-14) RANKINGS

Boys

1. G. Sandley (Middx) (2)
2. C. Wilson (Hants) (1)
3. A. O'Connor (Lancs) (4)
4. A. Proffitt (Middx) (3)
5. I. Reed (Cumb) (—)
6. R. Bergmann (Hants) (6)
7. M. Laird (Cleve) (5)
8. S. Harmer (Beds) (7)
9. M. Owens (Herefd) (8)
10. C. Papantonion (Middx) (—)

Girls

1. H. Robinson (Cleve) (4)
2. A. Gordon (Berks) (1)
3. M. Smith (Berks) (2)
4. M. Reeves (Middx) (6)
5. J. Purslow (Berks) (3)
6. G. Heath (Berks) (5)
7. N. Pine (Devon) (—)
8. G. Galloway (Lincs) (—)
9. L. Garbett (Surrey) (—)
10. S. Midgley (Yks) (—)
11. H. Williams (Middx) (—)
12. P. Townsend (Wilts) (8)

GWENT OPEN

Run by the Newport and District League, this season's Gwent Open will again be held at Cwmbran Sports Stadium, as last year, on Saturday, March 27, 1976. Events comprise: MS, WS, MD, WD, XD, BS and GS and entries close on March 13, to the tournament secretary, Mr Grove Motlow, 29 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Gwent, NPT 8NX. (Phone: Newport 71964).

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Yorkshire Junior 'Select' Open

By REA BALMFORD

UNENVIABLE TASK

The Yorkshire Junior Open, played this season as one of the three 2-Star Select Junior tournaments, attracted an entry of well over 300 youngsters and left the organisers with the unenviable task of deciding whether to restrict entries drastically or to cancel certain events.

In the end it was felt that the Team Events should go and the Mixed Doubles be moved forward to the Saturday evening session, although it was realised at the time that this would have its inevitable effect on the X.D. entry.

Another disappointment was the withdrawal through injury or illness of two of the Junior International Squad girls, Angela Mitchell and Karen Witt which necessitated a complete reappraisal of the seeded positions in the Singles and left the Doubles somewhat unbalanced.

The squad players held a virtual monopoly of the Under-17 finals, the only challenge coming from members of the Federal German entry from the province of Hesse, with Angelica Schreiber, winner of the Girls' Singles and on the losing side in both Doubles, outstanding.

As expected, Paul Day and Andrew Barden lined up for the Boys' final, with second-seeded Barden, who dropped the first game to Martin Shuttle in the semi, getting the verdict in three close games. Shuttle earned his semi-final spot by dismissing the higher ranked Duggie Johnson in a straight games quarter.

First of the seeds to take his leave was Chris Rogers, who gave best to Simon Douglas in Round 2, the Berkshire boy in turn falling to Dave Newman, while in the following round Douglas' Berks colleague despatched the Federal German No. 1, Michael Martin, and the home county's Steve Hazelwood accounted for Chris Sewell.

Kevin Caldon put out Jonathan Proffitt to complete the demise of the seeds, Hazelwood beat Reeves to take a semi-final place, but all came right in the end with Day and Barden meeting in the final.

Stars in the girls' event were Angelica Schreiber, who well deserved her title wins

over England's No. 3, Angela Tierney (semi-final) and Melody Ludi (final), but full marks to No. 4 cadet and Group A ranked Helen Robinson, who won her group with a -19, 19, 19 win over Sandra Sutton and went on to take a semi-final place at the expense of Julie McLean before going down to Miss Ludi.

Shock in Round 2 of the Cadet Singles when Marcus Fischer, from Germany, went out at the first time of asking to Cumbria's Diccon Gray, who was then beaten by Paul Rainford, but otherwise the event went according to plan with the exception of the ousting of the No. 4 seed, Tony O'Connor, in the quarters by another Cumbrian, Ian Reed.

Top two cadets, Colin Wilson and Graham Sandley, duly came through to the final, the No. 2 again coming out on top in an exciting match.

In the parallel Girls' event the expected Berkshire clash between No. 1, Alison Gordon, and No. 2, Mandy Smith, materialised, with the top seed taking the honours, and the surprise here the dismissal of Helen Robinson, who had done so well at Under-17 level, by Gillian Galloway from the other side of the Humber, in Lincolnshire.

Top seeds won all the Doubles events, but among Under-17 successes to note were those by Yorkshire pair Kevin Beadsley/Joel Naser, who reached the Quarters before falling to Shuttle/Rogers, by Linda Holmes (Derbys)/Cheryl Buttery (Lincs), who put out Belinda Chamberlain/Elaine Sayer, Sandley/Miss Gordon, who reached the semi of the Mixed via the seeded Johnson/June Williams, and Bryn Tyler/Mandy Smith, who shot out Sewell/Stephanie Jones in the same event.

To close, the writer (and Tournament Organiser) would like to comment on the appreciation shown by those players who, during the Sunday session, vandalised the windscreens wipers on his van, successfully putting it out of action for a period.

JUNIOR EVENTS—U-17

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

A. Barden (Middx) bt K. Caldon (Essex) 11, 19.

M. Shuttle (Surrey) bt D. Johnson (Warwks) 8, 19.

S. Hazelwood (Yorks) bt D. Reeves (Berks) -12, 21, 10.

P. Day (Cambs) bt D. Newman (Essex) 19, 13.

Semi-finals

Barden bt Shuttle -10, 16, 11.

Day bt Hazelwood 12, 11.

Final

BARDEN bt Day 20, -17, 15.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

A. Schreiber (Fed. Germany) bt A. Tierney (Cleve) 15, 17.

M. Ludi (Yorks) bt H. Robinson (Cleve) 13, 16.

Final

SCHREIBER bt Ludi 9, 17.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals

Day/Barden bt M. Martin/Fischer (Fed. Germany) 11, 18.

Shuttle/C. Rogers (Leics) bt Johnson/C. Sewell (Avon) 14, 19.

Final

DAY/BARDEN bt Shuttle/Rogers 16, 12.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals

Ludi/Tierney bt Hunt (Lincs)/J. Williams (Cleve) -18, 19, 16.

Schreiber/M. Schafer (Fed. Germany) bt L. Holmes (Derbys)/C. Buttery (Lincs) 11, 13.

Final

LUDI/TIERNEY bt Schreiber/Schafer 12, 18.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Day/Ludi bt Rogers/Hunt 15, -18, 18.

G. Sandley (Middx)/A. Gordon (Berks) bt Johnson/Williams 19, -16, 14.

Final

DAY/LUDI bt Sandley/Gordon 15, 16.

CADET EVENTS—U-14

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

C. Wilson (Hants) bt S. Harmer (Beds) 12, 11.

Sandley bt M. Laird (Cleve) 22, 13.

A. Proffitt (Middx) bt P. Rainford (Lancs) 14, 13.

I. Reed (Cumb) bt A. O'Connor (Lancs) -11, 18, 22.

Semi-finals

Wilson bt Proffitt 14, 16.

Sandley bt Reed 11, 13.

Final

SANDLEY bt Wilson 20, 22.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

Gordon bt J. Purslow (Berks) -12, 20, 16.

M. Smith (Berks) bt G. Galloway (Lincs) 10, 11.

Final

GORDON bt Smith 17, 20.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals

Wilson/O'Connor bt N. Harris/A. Hill (Yorks) 12, 16.

Fischer/R. Albutt (Derbys) bt N. Edgecock/P. Russam (Yorks) 9, 15.

Final

WILSON/O'CONNOR bt Fischer/Albutt 7, -21, 16.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals

Purslow/Gordon bt G. Smith/E. Mathie (Cumb) 14, -16, 9.

S. Midgeley (Yorks)/H. Williams (Middx) bt M. Smith/G. Heath (Berks) -17, 20, 19.

Final

PURSLOW/GORDON bt Midgeley/Williams 11, -20, 10.



Stephen Hazelwood, of Leeds, who was beaten by Paul Day in the semi-final of the Boys' Singles.

Photo by Tony Ross.

International Club

by Laurie Landry

On January 2, a most wonderful Charity Table Tennis match was played against Essex All-Stars. Some first class play, both old style and new, was witnessed by about 120 people and also was raised some money for the Greenham Centre in aid of the disabled of Newham.

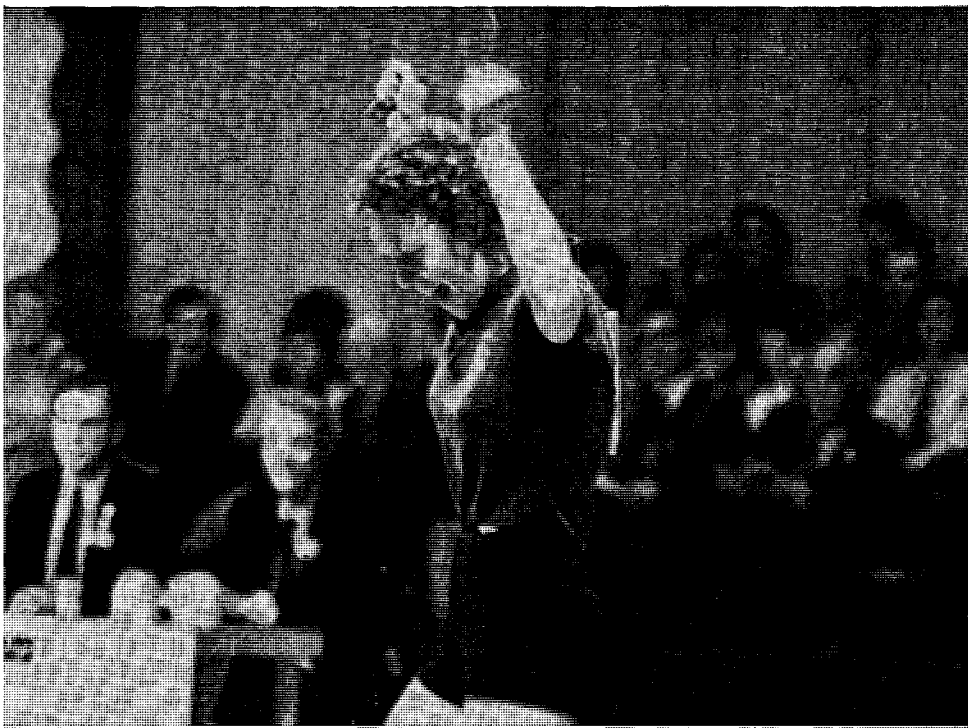
Playing for the Club were Stuart Gibbs (new style), Alan Lindsay (old style) and myself (something in between) as well as the now retired Sue Henderson (what a good mover!). The Essex side was: Captain, David Brown, Bob Potton (there's a future for him in cabaret) and Bobby Stevens, together with Lesley Radford. Essex won 5-4 but it was the play that really won.

The Club's Hard Rubber Bat Open will be held at the Barnet Centre on April 11, which is the day after the Norwich Union English Championships at Luton. What a great day this promises to be, so get your entry forms from me at 29 Ravenshaw Street, London, NW6 1NP.

Another big event is the Jubilee match against Cornwall at Helston on Cup Final day, in the afternoon. Our team will be Mark Mitchell, Tony Clayton and myself, and it is hoped that this will provide a great match for the local supporters.

Fifty Years After

by H. Roy Evans
President, I.T.T.F.



"Yip-ee" could well be the shout of Jill Hammersley upon winning the Norwich Union title and again at becoming the European No. 1.

Photo by John Downer, Peacehaven, Sussex.

E.T.T.U. Classifications

JILL REIGNS SUPREME

by The Editor

Having in their previous findings demoted England's Jill Hammersley from No. 4 to No. 9, the Classification Committee of the European Table Tennis Union have more than adequately put the record straight by promoting the English champion to No. 1 in their revised lists released on January 26—a notable first in the annals of the E.T.T.A.

In retaining her Hungarian Open title last November and adding that of the Norwich Union International Championships more recently—beating the former No. 1, Ann-Christin Hellman, on both occasions—Jill's track record this season against European opposition has been most impressive but nothing short of winning the European title in Prague (March 27-April 4) will suffice for the Bucks international to keep this most exalted of positions. Here's hoping she will.

In the revised classifications Miss Hellman has been demoted to No. 4, Judit Magos-Havas and Maria Alexandru having been left undisturbed at Nos. 2 and 3 respectively. Only Federal Germany's Edit Wetzl, formerly at No. 20, is missing from the previous list, the newcomer being Ilona Uhlíkova (née Vostova) now coming back into the reckoning with wins over Mrs. Hammersley (Brighton team event) and Elmira Antonian, of the U.S.S.R. (European League) to her recent credit and a No. 8 ranking.

In the men's list Denis Neale retains his 14th position but the Commonwealth champion, Trevor Taylor, now furthering his career with the Tempo Team in Holland, is dropped from No. 16 to No. 20. Istvan Jonyer, despite a leg injury, retains his top position, the defending European champion, Milan Orłowski, being brought back to No. 2 in front of Anton Stipančić.

New rankings, with previous position in brackets, are:—

Men

1. Istvan Jonyer (Hungary) (1)
2. Milan Orłowski (Czechoslovakia) (5)
3. Anton Stipančić (Yugoslavia) (2)
4. Stellan Bengtsson (Sweden) (6)
5. Dragutin Surbek (Yugoslavia) (3)

6. Kjell Johansson (Sweden) (4)
7. Jacques Secretin (France) (9)
8. Jaroslav Kunz (Czechoslovakia) (8)
9. Gabor Gergely (Hungary) (7)
10. Sarkis Sarkhojan (USSR) (10)
11. Stanislav Gomozkov (USSR) (11)
12. Jochen Leiss (Federal Germany) (12)
13. Anatoli Strokotov (USSR) (13)
14. Denis Neale (England) (14)
15. Janos Börzsei (Hungary) (15)
16. Peter Stellwag (Federal Germany) (17)
17. Milivoj Karakasevic (Yugoslavia) (18)
18. Ferenc Timar (Hungary) (19)
19. Ulf Thorsell (Sweden) (20)
20. Trevor Taylor (16)

Women

1. Jill Hammersley (England) (9)
2. Judit Magos-Havas (Hungary) (2)
3. Maria Alexandru (Rumania) (3)
4. Ann-Christin Hellman (Sweden) (1)
5. Elmira Antonian (USSR) (4)
6. Wiebke Hendriksen (Fed. Germany) (5)
7. Tatjana Ferdman (USSR) (6)
8. Ilona Uhlíkova (Czechoslovakia) (—)
9. Zoya Rudnova (USSR) (7)
10. Henriette Lotaller (Hungary) (8)
11. Blanka Silhanova (Czechoslovakia) (17)
12. Erzebet Palatinus (Yugoslavia) (10)
13. Hana Riedlova (Czechoslovakia) (11)
14. Claude Bergeret (France) (15)
15. Alica Grofova (Czechoslovakia) (12)
16. Beatrix Kishazi (Hungary) (13)
17. Svetlana Federova (USSR) (14)
18. Asta Gedraitite-Stankene (USSR) (16)
19. Albertine Rangelova (Bulgaria) (18)
20. Magalena Leszay (Rumania) (19)

Winton 1 Star

Staffordshire's Tony Isaac travelled down to Bournemouth to capture the men's singles title at the Winton 1-Star Open, played on Sunday, January 4, beating Mick Harper (Cams) 8 and 19 in the final.

As in the Merton 1-Star, Joyce Coop won the women's singles, her final victim being Jayne Mitchell (Surrey) beaten 11 and 14. Colin Wilson, another local, won the junior singles, beating Ian Collins (Kent) 22-20, 30-28. Results of the doubles were:—
M.D.: R. BROWN (Worcs)/A. ISAAC (Staffs) bt C. Payne/C. Sargeant (Hants) 10, 14.
W.D.: COOP/J. HUDSON (Hants) bt J. Kelly (Essex)/Mitchell -18, 14, 15.
X.D.: T. SMITH (Hants)/COOP bt Isaac/D. Coulthard (Wales) 12, 18.

Born in 1926, the International Table Tennis Federation is now celebrating its 5th Anniversary, and it is appropriate that the year should see us embarking on a highly significant new era in our history.

Starting with nine founder members—Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Germany, Hungary, India, Sweden and Wales, the Federation now has over 120 in its ranks. Yet in all that time the Officers have been real amateurs, doing a highly important and ever more complicated job in their spare time. For sixteen years I was the Honorary Secretary, with Ivor Montagu as our President.

Came 1967 and my elevation to the Presidency, with Bill Vint, Honorary Treasurer at the time, taking over the Secretaryship. Yet, with negligible paid help in my time, and only part-time help for Bill, the ever-increasing work of the Federation has been accomplished with an efficiency and despatch which is rarely in evidence amongst the majority of the other Federations whom we meet within the General Assembly of International Federations.

But the work has become too much to continue being done as at the moment, and so the Council agreed in Dublin in 1974, and the Biennial General Meeting confirmed the decision in 1975, that the I.T.T.F. should set up its own professional secretariat.

We made a start by buying some office premises in St. Leonards-on-Sea, almost a part of Hastings, purchase being a better deal than renting, and we followed that by appointing the Federation's first professional Secretary-General. He is Mr. Tony Brooks, who has had a successful career as an Overseas Sales Director and Export Manager with a great deal of travel experience, and speaks fluent French. Mr. Brooks takes up his duties on 1st March, and he will, of course, work closely with Bill Vint in the run-up to the next Biennial Meeting of the Federation at the World Championships in 1977. Before then he will meet the Council at its next meeting in Damascus in June.

It is the duty of the present Officers of the I.T.T.F. to ensure that the work of the Federation, the third largest sport organisation in the world, should continue to be executed with the efficiency and objective judgment with which we have tried to administer in the past. We expect that the creation of this professional core to our organisation will guarantee such aims for the future.

FORTHCOMING TOURNAMENTS

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Mar. 6 | Yorkshire 2-Star (Rothwell, Leeds) |
| 7 | Fenland 2-Star (Kings Lynn) |
| 7 | Lancashire 2-Star Junior (Bolton) |
| 14 | East of England 2-Star (Scunthorpe) |
| 20 | Salford/Eccles 1-Star Open (Stretford) |
| 20-21 | Strathclyde Open |
| 20-21 | Newbury 2-Star (R.A.F., Greenham) |
| 27 | Middlesex 2-Star U-15 (Picketts Lock) |
| 28 | Middlesex Authorised Junior (Picketts Lock) |

EXHIBITIONS
OF WORLD CLASS TABLE TENNIS
STAGED BY
THE ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL
SQUAD
DETAILS FROM SQUAD MANAGER
KEN MATHEWS, c/o E.T.T.A. OFFICE

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

SKILL AND ENDURANCE

Roger Chandler, 32 this month, the man with the skill and endurance capability, won the Sussex Closed Championships at Brighton Corn Exchange on January 11, taking the men's singles crown for the tenth time. His strength, as always, was his left-handed loop-drive plus the stamina to pile on accurate pressure with the clock well past midnight, whilst his opponents fade away, looking as though they had lost a night's sleep.

As far as I can recall, the 1976 Sussex Closed was the longest marathon of the seventies, 15 hours play on 16 tables. I suppose eventually, this tournament will find another venue as many closed tournaments have, that allows it to be spread over two days to relieve the physical strain. Until that time, those who aspire to Roger Chandler's crown will be seeking a way to hold enough physical and nervous energy in hand to be able to seriously contest the last two rounds.

Chandler's final victim was John Clarke, beaten 17 and 12. The former Lancashire man had beaten Gerald Pugh 15, 11 in one semi-final whilst Chandler had taken out the surprise semi-finalist, Andy Meads, -20, 10, 13.

Meads won the special award for the "best performances of the day", an award richly deserved because he not only reached the semi-finals of the men's singles but he powered his way through to the later stages of both the men's and mixed doubles.

"Match-of-the-day" was, without doubt, the 22-20 in the third victory by Meads over the No. 2 seed, Sam Ogundipe. This happened in the earlier stages of the men's singles. Expedite was called at 6-4 in the first game. Meads trailed 18-20 in the decider in a match that ended after 70 minutes play! But those who know Sussex table tennis will have remembered that Meads has beaten Ogundipe before and is always capable of causing an upset.

Gerald Pugh, of Crawley, is still my favourite tip as a senior Sussex champion of the future, when he learns how to pace himself and to discard unimportant events to retain his zip, showed great determination. When he met Clarke in the semi-final of the M.S., it was the less energetic tactics and the steadiness that triumphed.

For ten years Diane Gard has been in the shadows of her predecessors, Judy Williams and Suzanna Kavallierou. But with Judy in Holland and Suzanna in Canada, Diane is the new women's champion, stopping her doubles partner, Angela Mock, in the final 12 and 16. Just before the Sussex Closed, Diane had a great run in the Norwich Union International championships, taking out Judith Walker and only losing in five to Melody Ludi. This gave the Hailsham girl, now 26, a big advantage, having accustomed herself to the pace of the tables.

Miss Mock, out of favour with the Sussex selectors throughout the season, almost assured herself of a place in next season's premier county events by beating Carol Randall. Biggest shock of the women's singles was by Anita Gedge, of Hastings, when she beat Worthing's young star, Linda Wales.

Young Linda gained some consolation by winning the women's doubles partnered by her mother, Pat. They finished by halting surprise finalists Pauline Murrell (Hailsham) and Alison Terry, of Crawley.

Keith Horton (Crawley) and Steve Marley (Chichester) retained their men's doubles title over the new and dangerous combination

of Chandler and Emile Emezc. The former Hungarian player is having a fine season. Playing in the Wilmott Cup a few weeks ago, he won a maximum for Crawley against Southend, whilst Pugh, still apparently recovering from exhaustion, failed to score.

A report on the Sussex Closed would not be complete without a special bouquet to the organisers, the dozen-strong committee from the Brighton and District League headed by David Woosnam, who succeeded in bringing 15 hours of non-stop play to its conclusion in the early hours of the Monday morning.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
R. Chandler bt A. Meads -20, 10, 13.

J. Clarke bt G. Pugh 15, 11.

Final

CHANDLER bt Clarke 17, 12.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

A. Mock bt A. Gedge 11, 16.

D. Gard bt C. Randall 18, 11.

Final

GARD bt Mock 12, 16.

Men's Doubles—Final

K. HORTON/S. MORLEY bt Chandler/E. Emezc 19, -14, 18.

Women's Doubles—Final

L. WALES/P. WALES bt P. Murrell/A. Terry 13, 12.

Mixed Doubles—Final

CLARKE/J. PATCHING bt S. Ogundipe/Randall -18, 12, 20.

Intermediate Men's Singles—Final

PUGH bt G. Gillett 14, 15.

Intermediate Women's Singles—Final

GEDGE bt H. O'Brien 19, 19.

Veteran Men's Singles—Final

W. NEWMAN bt D. Levene 8, 17.

Veteran Women's Singles—Final

J. REEMAN bt D. Cameron 20, 3.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

NOT FOUND WANTING

The first shots have been fired in the new Eastern Division Cadet County Championships and Northants has not been found wanting in the opening encounters against Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire. Represented by the Nicoll twins, Keith and Ken, Tim Forster, Frances Tsow and Helen Cottier, Northants easily won both matches, with superb unbeaten performances from Keith Nicoll and Forster, with the remainder of the team giving excellent support. However, the big guns are yet to come, but whatever the outcome, this new competition seems certain to stimulate interest for players and spectators alike, although for the hard-working officials, it could be the final straw.

The latest round of championship matches produced some welcome success for the County Firsts, who after early set-backs, came back with a vengeance to beat Bucks 8-2, with Gary Alden in a starring role, together with the women—Anne Wallis and Connie Bane. Clear-cut wins by these exponents of such contrasting styles, are indicative of the present County sides, for even in the defeats of the County Seconds and Juniors, Glennis Hooper, Valerie Feakin and Frances Tsow reigned supreme, making it extremely difficult for Mandy Wallis, possibly the most improved of our County representatives, to gain a place worthy of her talents, and her No. 20 England Junior ranking. However, this has not prevented her from helping sister Anne and Dusty Marsh to take Wellingborough into the Third Round of the Rose Bowl, with a fine win against near neighbours Northampton, nor from leading her club side, Wellingborough Town, into the semi-final stages of the National Club Competition, with Anne and Glennis Hooper in support.

The County League becomes clearer without any real indication of the season's winners. It is now apparent that it rests between Daventry and Kettering, who meet each other shortly, in what should prove to

be the best match of the series. Although this match will be close, Daventry still have a second bite at the cherry, for Kettering's final match will be against Daventry Seconds, while Daventry Firsts visit Northampton, who have used the competition to give representative experience to a selection of their league players. Daventry, therefore, must be favourites and could gain a second major honour if their Reserve side maintain present form in the South East Midlands League.

Rothborough "A" intend to make no mistake this year and have now opened up a clear gap at the top of Wellingborough's First Division. This improved situation results from a competent 7-3 win against rivals Kettering Town "A", followed by the Kettering side's draw with Compton Nomads "A" in a titanic struggle, which leaves these two sides bracketed in second position. Gary Alden, who has remained undefeated for almost two seasons, should prove to be the deciding factor.

In Northampton, U.T.C. "A's" dominance could be ended by Compton "A's" side, which contains Bucks County player Tony Clark. At the last time of reckoning these sides led the field with an equal number of points

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

UNDER-ESTIMATED

A junior player again heads the list of credits in Staffordshire this month. In the Panel 7 area trial, covering Staffs., Salop, Warwks. and Leics., the Cadets was won by Andrew Bellingham, of Bilston. This was a fine performance and, I am told, rather unexpected, which suggests that our strength at the Under-14 level may be under-estimated. Prakesh Patel, another Staffs boy, took ninth place.

Jim Hayward, the County Coach, reports considerable improvement in the standard of junior boys after a couple of seasons in the doldrums, and it may well be that we can look forward to a really strong junior side in two or three years' time. The girls from the Wolverhampton centre continue to dominate the West Midland area, so the overall picture is promising. The County's next Lilleshall weekend is in April, and players under 21 interested in attending should write to Jim Hayward at 26 Limes Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.

The gap in County Championships fixtures enables me to report on the Leagues in the north of the County. In the Potteries there is a close contest between Norton, Spode "A" and Bradwell "A" for honours in the Premier Division. Ken Johnson, who reports regularly in the local "Sentinal", tells me that the decision to increase the size of the Premier Division has led to a restructuring of all the divisions, and most are now split in two halves, the top dominating the bottom. It may take a year or two to sort itself out. Their committee, recognising that they are somewhat isolated from other table tennis centres, have a progressive policy of encouraging juniors and looking outward. Although knocked out early in the Wilmott Cup, this year they have also entered the Carter Cup and the Midland League to provide further competition for their top players. Increasing spectator support at these events has given them useful encouragement.

The Potteries' Bloore Cup has been won for the fourth time by Tony Isaac (Norton) and another player from the same club, Stan Deakin, won the Buxton Shield at the first attempt. Isaac has also done well in tournaments round the country, winning three titles at the Winton (Bournemouth) 1-Star event, and partnering the England No. 1, Desmond Douglas, in reaching the final of the Men's Doubles in the 3-Star tournament at Cardiff.

One of the leagues where the effect of junior coaching is most evident is Stone and District. Albert Ikins, their Press Secretary, tells me that there are now three players—Clare Underwood, David Ward and David Wright—playing in the first division, all having benefitted from Ron Harvey's coaching at Alleyne's School. The all-junior side of Star "C" (Russell Hadley,

Terry Taylor and Susan Dyke) tops the 3rd Division and Alleynes have their own school-boy side playing in the same division. Heading Division 1 is Barlaston "A" (Keith Shackleton, Steve Davies and John Whiston) but the likely champions are again Meaford "A" (Brian Lockett, Steve Willis and Emlyn Williams) who have matches in hand. Willis, who beat John Griffiths in the final, and Elva Parry, who beat Mrs. Shirley Boon, took the individual honours in the local championships, and Willis and Griffiths (Men's), Williams and Miss Parry (Mixed) and Russell Hadley (Juniors) won the other titles.

At Stafford, the 1st Division continues to be dominated by John Taylor, Barry Donnelly and Simon Probert, playing as Riverside "A" this season. Whether as Burton Manor, Trades and Labour or Riverside, this team, occasionally assisted by Barry Hughes, has topped the Stafford League for nearly a decade. Paul Beeston (Universal) and Jack Oughton (Nomads) provide competition for them, but as a team they are near certainties for the top position as long as they stay together.

Finally, in the County League, 100% records are still held by Potteries "B" and West Bromwich (Div. 1), Potteries "C" and Wolves "B" (Div. 2), Leek "A" (Div. 3), Cannock "C", Bridgnorth "A" and Stone "C" (Div. 4) and Wolves "D", Leek "B" and Darlaston "B" (Div. 5).

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

EVERY INCENTIVE

Lincolnshire, in naming their Junior Team for the match against Clwyd announced two changes, the side being strengthened by the return of Suzanne Hunt to partner Marie Featherstone. The boys were Mark Newbould (Grimsby), Martin Norman (Louth) and due to make his County debut at No. 3 was Stephen Cuthbertson (Scunthorpe) who had some impressive results in two recent County tournaments.

Although only making a draw with Cleveland III in their first match, Lincs. have since been awarded the match 6-4, after it was found by the County Championships Administrator that Cleveland had played an ineligible player. It gave Lincolnshire every incentive to win their first-ever match against Clwyd.

On the domestic front the competitions have nearly reached the half-way stage. In the Haigh Cup the holders, Wyberton (Hill, East, King), are again heading the League, having won their five matches. Grimsby are also 100% after three matches, their latest victory being an 8-2 win over Gainsborough, Steve Morley and Matt Shearer both being unbeaten for Grimsby. Lincoln (Radley, Norton, Oglesby) lost their first encounter of the season to Wyberton (Hill Croome, King) 1-9, having previously won their first four matches. It is noted that Wyberton called on the services of the experienced Nottinghamshire player, Alan Croome, with Mick East unavailable.

The Butlin Cup again appears to be heading Spalding's (J. White, M. Burgess, M. Green) way; they head the table after the first two matches. They had a 7-3 victory over Grimsby (J. Hackford, M. Connell, J. Parker) with Jean White being the only unbeaten player. Lincoln (R. Nelson, A. Gunthorpe, P. Fowler) had a close 6-4 win over Grantham (S. Staight, M. Featherstone, P. Bullock) with Marie Featherstone taking her three and playing with Sally Staight, won the doubles.

The Butcher Cup is proving the most open competition with Grantham (K. Eldred, M. Leverett, D. Thacker, Miss S. Hunt) at present the only 100% team after four matches. They can expect a strong challenge from Grimsby (M. Newbould, J. Bray, R. Blow, S. Barr) who after a 4-6 defeat by Skegness have won their next four games. The holders, Boston (P. Cater, S. Daffurn, D. Cooper, N. Fossitt) lost their first match 3-7 at Grantham, but have come back with four straight wins. At the bottom Wyberton are the only team without a point, although Mrs. B. Voss has only lost one set out of 12 played, Paul Cater (Boston)

beating her 14, 19.

HAIGH — League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wyberton	5	5	0	0	47	3	10
Lincoln	5	4	0	1	31	19	8
Grimsby	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Gainsborough	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Boston	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Scunthorpe	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Stamford	4	1	0	3	7	33	2
Grantham	4	0	0	4	8	32	0
Mablethorpe	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

BUTLIN — League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spalding	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Lincoln	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Grantham	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Boston	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Grimsby	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

BUTCHER — League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grantham	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Boston	5	4	0	1	39	11	8
Grimsby	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Stamford	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Lincoln	6	3	0	3	26	34	6
Mablethorpe	5	3	0	2	21	29	6
Spalding	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Scunthorpe	4	1	0	3	21	19	2
Gainsborough	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Skegness	5	1	0	4	10	40	2
Wyberton	5	0	0	5	15	35	0

72-year-old Boston Veteran, Cyril Wain, became a Yorkshire Television celebrity when he showed his skills against one of his young team-mates. Cyril still plays each week in the Boston 4th Division.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

BAD TO WORSE

After a promising start to the season, the first County team have gone from bad to worse. In fact you could not get much worse than the 0-10 defeat by Sussex. I cannot remember Hampshire ever getting trounced by Sussex in this way. Even more depressing, however, was the junior team's defeat 3-7 by Sussex. The County had high hopes of this team, but now! A pity the junior and senior matches were played on adjoining tables at the same time. This meant some juggling of the two teams as Julie Reading was required in both matches. It is unfortunate that some opponents are this unco-operative!

On a brighter note, the Veterans gained a very good 6-3 win over Essex II with Ray Lush, Don Cartridge and Len Plant all only losing one singles and Daphne Gray her usual dependable self, unbeaten.

The first session of inter-town matches produced predictable results. Southampton lead the mixed Div. 1 with three 11-1 wins over Isle of Wight, Basingstoke and Portsmouth "A". In the Isle of Wight match the island team fielded a very strong men's team of Les Eadie, Jim Daly and Steve Harris. Unfortunately, they did not rank newly-acquired Eadie and his win over County champion Keith Summerfield, was to no avail. Bournemouth were also unbeaten with wins over Basingstoke and Portsmouth "B". All is now set for when these two teams clash at Wimbledon Park, Portsmouth on February 15.

Basingstoke "B" and Aldershot after their drawn match are level on points at the top of the second mixed division and this promotion place will doubtless be decided by their second meeting at Aldershot. Basingstoke also lead the men's division and again their closest rivals are Aldershot but here Basingstoke have already beaten Aldershot 8-2.

The junior first division is predictably dominated by Bournemouth "A" with only one set dropped in their three matches to date, and that was to their second team. Basingstoke are second, also unbeaten, and included in their three wins was a 7-3 defeat of Southampton. This defeat was a disaster for Southampton with none of their boys recording a singles win and only Jane Whitcher

carrying the flag with a singles and two doubles wins.

Aldershot lead the second junior division with five wins followed by Basingstoke "B". Portsmouth "A" and Bournemouth "A" are each unbeaten at the top of the Veterans' Division with Basingstoke in third place.

A final word of praise to Daphne Gray on her fifth successive win in the English Open Veterans' Singles. This must be a record for any event!

NEW GLOUCESTER GEN

by John Cooper

BIGGER "BURFORD"

279 entries! 12 tables instead of 8. 3 halls instead of 2. The fact that this was a joint venture between Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire is probably not the reason for this tremendous increase in numbers—a record. This always was a popular junior tournament, well organised by Jack Chalk, but perhaps the move to Gloucestershire has meant an easy connection to the motorway system.

Cheltenham's D. Harvey, S. Moreman, B. Caine, A. Vale and D. Sweeney tasted the talent at the Cardiff tournament and found themselves wanting. Cheltenham did, however, have time to draw with West Bromwich, even if Dave Harvey did lose his 100% record. If Cheltenham can draw with the strong West Brom team, the promotion chances are there.

Gloucester's coaching is suffering under the Sex Discrimination Act in that the Press would not accept an advert for coaching girls only. Apparently one must not discriminate even if in favour of the weaker sex! Jumping from the young to the Veterans, they lost 2-8 to West Bromwich.

Stroud have only had time to lose 0-10 to Shrewsbury!

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Moss

CONTINUED SUCCESS

The County Veteran's team still continue on their successful way, which is such a change in fortune over the previous seasons. Their last match was a convincing 8-1 win over Staffs. The team was strengthened by Brian Belcher, who also represent the County I team.

The County I team is also in a winning streak, having had 9-1 and 10-0 wins over Devon and Cornwall respectively. Belcher has been in superb form, having won all his eight singles this season. The next match, against Berks., is the vital one.

The County Junior team, in the same winning vein, has had a very good 7-3 win against Oxfords.

In the County League the Worcester team is dominating the scene through recent wins of 9-1 against Dudley and 10-0 against Kidderminster. In the Mixed Division of this competition the Worcester Civil Service team has caused mild surprise. They had a very good 6-4 win over Worcester. The next match, versus Hereford, was a vital one. However, this had to be called off at 2-2. It was played on the night of the wild gales and the lights failed at this vital stage. The match will be replayed starting again from the 2-2 scoreline.

There was an intriguing match in the Worcester City Team K.O. Handicap Competition when St. Martin's "A" (rec. 50) met W.R.S.C.D.P. (rec. 200). After the final event it was thought that W.R.S.C.D.P. had won by one point but after a recount it was found that St. Martin's had actually won by one point.

In the next few weeks there is quite a series of tournaments and players will be kept busy. During week commencing 16th February, the Worcester City Championships are played on every night of the week. This is immediately followed by the County Closed Championships on 22nd February. These are,

as in the past few seasons, to be held at Leys High School, Redditch. Bob Brown has won the singles championship for the past three seasons and it will be interesting to see how he fares this season. He will certainly get strong opposition from Simon Claxton and Belcher and this year Derek Baddeley will be playing, which will certainly add to the strength of the opposition.

The County Junior Championships were recently held at the Lea & Perrins factory, Worcester. These proved to be outstandingly successful for Mandy Mytton and Claxton. The results were as follows:—

J.B.S.: SIMON CLAXTON bt Nicky Mytton 9, 11.

J.G.S. MANDY MYTTON bt Lesley Duffield 12, 14.

Junior Doubles: CLAXTON/MYTTON bt N. Mytton/N. Oakley 15, 10.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by Leslie Constable

NICELY PLACED

At the half-way stage Cambs' first team were nicely placed in Div. 2 (East) of the County Championships, without defeat, and looking forward with every confidence. The team of Paul Day, Keith Richardson, Mick Harper, Sally Hirst, Valerie Scripps and Ruth Newman should be capable of winning their remaining matches.

The second senior team, who have yet to win since their inception, will face the coming weeks with more confidence bearing in mind their improving form during the first half of the season.

The junior first team, in the Premier Division, will be without the services of Day from now on and will have all their work cut out to hold their status.

The junior second team have not been having a good season, but in their last fixture in December they had a creditable 5-all draw against Glamorgan, who included four Welsh internationals—here's hoping for better things.

In the National Competitions, Cambridge had varying successes in their first round matches. In the Wilmott Cup they were well and truly beaten by Cheshunt at Cambridge Y.M.C.A. The only home success was by veteran John Thurston, who beat Jack Bender. In the first round of the Carter Cup, Cambridge were never in the hunt against Bedford and failed to win a single set. In the Bromfield Trophy there was more heartening news when Cambridge overwhelmed Ipswich 9-0. Ruth Newman, Susan and Carol Ellis played particularly well and only Debbie Wootton offered serious opposition from Ipswich. Cambridge drew a bye in the first round of the Rose Bowl.

In the South-East Midlands League, Cambridge are again having varying fortunes. The Men, who were demoted to Div. 2, at present lie second but the juniors are having a very harassing time, having won only one match against St. Neots. The Women are in a good position and I am sure they will be fighting it out with Wellingborough for honours at the end. The team of Janet Rodgers, Valerie Scripps and Sally Hirst must be congratulated again on their fine performances. Cambridge are well-placed in the Veterans' Section, so far without defeat—as are Northampton—but Cambridge have a better set average, which may well see fresh champions. Ely were also beaten in Div. 1 of the Junior section, which will make their task more formidable, bearing in mind that Hunts Central are leaping ahead without defeat.

Wisbech, at the time of writing, had only played one match in Div. 2 in the Men's Section and lie bottom, but in Div. 2 of the Junior Section they are unbeaten and have a good chance of attaining promotion.

Cambridge are again doing well in the East Anglian League and with victories over Bury St. Edmunds (9-1) and Bedford (10-0), they look like regaining the championship that they so narrowly lost last season.

Keith Richardson lost for the first time in

the Cambridge League when he was beaten by Tim Speller, of Wilburton, but Soham still won (9-1) to retain their place at the top with 18 points. New Chesterton Institute are right behind them and I have just read that in a recent fixture these teams drew 5-5, so both remain unbeaten. Three wins from A. Thomas gained Y.M.C.A. II their first point of the season in a draw with University, but they stay bottom, 4 points adrift of Torchbearers and University.

Telephones II took over the leadership of Div. 2 following their 7-3 win over Cambridge Evening News, but Fisons are only one point behind with two matches in hand. In Div. 3a, Haverhill II and Impington II both had narrow 6-4 wins over Melbourn and Press III respectively, with Danny Page winning three for the Suffolk club and Bernard Adams being unbeaten for Impington. Sid Dunster was beaten for the first time by R. Trigg, of Bassingbourn, but Torchbearers II still won 8-2 to keep top place in Div. 3b. Grant Social, leaders in Div. 4a, narrowly beat their close rivals, Saffron Walden, with Ludovic Chapman winning 3 for Grant. This division recently produced one of the closest sets for many years when David Oates, of St. George's, beat D. Honour, of Pye, 24-26, 25-23, 31-29! Pye I retained their 100% record in Div. 4b with a 7-3 win over Sawston and although Wesley Parkside hammered Fisons III 10-0, to keep up their challenge, Pye were successful 6-4 when these two teams met in the last match before Christmas.

The only unbeaten player in the whole of the Cambs. League is Mick Palmer, of Soham, now that Puddick has lost his record in Div 5a and Palmer heads the averages in Div. 1. Veteran Horace Saunders, of Fisons, heads the averages in Div. 2.

Frank Pettitt, who has just retired as Secretary of the St. George's Club, had served in this capacity for 26 years and during this period he not only served his club well but also did a tremendous amount of work in transportation of League and County Teams. Another facet of his devotion to table tennis throughout his period of office was the unstinting work he did in connection with Closed Championships and Lincoln Handicap Draws—well done, Frank. We still, however, do not intend to let Frank slip away completely, as he is now Vice-Chairman of the Cambridge League.

It is with great sadness that I learned of the death of Elsie Cousins, former secretary of the N.A.L.G.O. Club, and who also served on the Cambs. Executive Committee for several seasons. Her loss at the age of 51 was a great blow and our sympathy goes out to her husband, Ken. Despite much pain Elsie carried on cheerfully and I will always remember her as a most helpful and lovable character.

The burning question of umpires still persists in Cambridgeshire circles and, as an umpire of long standing, would suggest that would-be umpires should take their task very seriously, as an umpire's job is a very exacting one—especially in representative matches. Some applicants have been rather shocked when they have not passed the written test, feeling that they know enough about the job, but I would suggest that they persevere and then they will succeed in both oral and practical examinations.

I am often taken to task for not including news of leagues—other than Cambridge—in the magazine. There is one simple explanation—if I am not given any news I can't very well include it and I hope that this article will satisfy the leagues concerned. Secretaries—if you want your teams to be noticed in the magazine—keep it coming.

Coaching is still going on at the Cambridge Y.M.C.A. with the object of producing juniors who can lift Cambridge out of the doldrums, and once again compete with confidence against higher teams. This is a gruelling time for Cambridge coaches, Pat O'Byrne and David Jarvis, and I hope that they will stick to their task. I am sure that they will succeed and I would also emphasise the fact that more coaches are desperately needed in order that our juniors should have the fullest opportunity of improving their game.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

ACE IN THE PACK

A second round Carter Cup clash between two of the Cumbria leagues produced a close 5-4 win for Carlisle over the Barrow league. An unexpected result really, considering the Barrow team consisted of the Nos. 4, 6 and 7 County-ranked juniors in Diccon Gray, Andrew Pachul and Ian Harrison respectively, and Carlisle only able to boast the No. 10 junior in Paul Watson.

The ace in their pack was the young Scot, Malcolm Wallace, who emerged as the only undefeated player on the day. The two sides had matched each other win for win right up to the final set when Wallace and Gray, also unbeaten up to that point, met to decide the match.

The two proved to be very evenly matched, in fact, the set echoing the general tightness of the match with Gray reaching "match point" before Wallace edged home -22, 16, 22. In the next round Carlisle will face either the Millom or Northumberland teams who are sure to provide much stiffer opposition.

In the inter-league competition, Millom called upon the services of Millom School's semi-retired "stars", Peter Polczynski and Martin Barry to help defeat Workington 11-1, playing alongside Ian Harrison, the only set that Millom failed to win being the men's doubles when Richard Johnstone and Charlie Butler took a well-deserved 20, 19 win over "Polly" and Ian.

The Workington side unfortunately conceded two sets due to the unavailability of a woman player. With two wins from two games Millom lead in the competition and their next match against Barrow will prove their stiffest task yet, the outcome almost certainly having a bearing on the final positions.

Although National School Team champions in both the boys' U-16 and U-13 classes for the 74-75 season, Millom School failed to make sufficient impression on the public of Furness to gain any awards at the recent Furness Sports Personalities Awards night. Consolation though, in the fact that coach John Reed (also Barrow League chairman) received a special award for "contribution to table tennis" in the area.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

ORDER OF THE DAY

National competitions seem to be the order of the day as all three member leagues of the County Association have been fulfilling fixtures over the past month.

Hunts Central, champion club N.C.I., competing in the Club competition, overcame their first hurdle by disposing of the King's Lynn champs, Tydo Trojans, 5-3. John Thurston was unbeaten whilst two wins came from County vice-chairman, Ken Green. An out-of-touch Stephen Andrews lost both the singles he was required to play.

Peterborough's top club, "City Club", went down at the first stage when represented by Peter Berna, David Obee and Dean Hicks. They fell 1-8 to the strong Soham Club. A particularly good straight games win by Berna over Cambs. champion, Keith Richardson, provided a bright spot for the local side.

St. Neots' men, competing in the Wilmott Cup, crashed to Bedford whilst, in a Bromfield Trophy match, the Hunts Central girls' trio of Belinda Chamberlain, Melanie Ringrose and Julie Cundell went down 4-5 to North Herts. Two from Belinda and one each from her 12-years-old colleagues kept the result always in doubt.

Competing in the English Junior Closed at Loughborough, Belinda, partnered by Ian Collins, of Kent, reached the semi-final of the mixed. In the semis they lost to Chris Rogers and Suzanne Hunt at 18 in the third.

On Sunday, January 11, a team of young

cadets joined players from Beds. and Northants for their first matches in the U-14 competition. Although losing both matches, 4-6 to Beds. and 2-8 to Northants, the chance to give these youngsters inter-county play at an early age plus the work of the Northants officials at Wellingborough on the day, makes this a very worthwhile venture.

Although we took only one boys' singles (that from Gregg Baker), our girls, Melanie Ringrose (2 singles and 2 girls' doubles) and Julie Cundell (2 girls' and 1 mixed doubles), results proved very encouraging. Keith Willett and Paul Roberts undoubtedly found good experience and there have been signs of late that Gregg is returning to some of his form of a couple of years ago.

In recent S.E.M. League matches Hunts Central Veterans held neighbours St. Neots to a 5-5 draw. The latter league were without Gordon Cockram and Stan Roberts for this fixture and this undoubtedly stopped them from taking the expected larger share of the points. Hunts Central men, Alan Smith, Sid Burgess, Steven and Mark Fisher, were surprise winners over Nth Herts (7-3) in Div. 1 of the men's section in which both leagues fielded below strength line-ups. Good maximums from the Fisher twins whilst Richard Jermyn accounted for Smith and Burgess.

Hunts Central Juniors "A" lost their unbeaten record, going down 3-7 to North Herts. A fortnight earlier Central's juniors, the Fishers and Leno Coppolaro, were 8-2 victors over Peterborough whilst the latter league had to wait for the doubles to get a solitary point against Aylesbury.

Finally the St. Neots League will be holding another Dinner/Dance this year after the success of its initial venture last year. This season's dance will be held at Little Paxton Village Hall on Friday, March 26 (7-30 p.m.). Tickets priced at £2.50 are available from Mr. L. McGuigan, 8 Church Close, Little Paxton, St. Neots. (Phone: Huntingdon 76016).

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

CHALLENGING POSITION

Leicestershire recorded their second successive 10-0 win in the 2nd Division (Midland) when they accounted for Gloucestershire. This leaves Leicestershire in a good position to challenge for the Championship of the Division but they realise only too well they still have to play the two strongest teams—Derbyshire and Glamorgan. The Junior team drew with Norfolk in the Junior 2nd (Midland) Division. It was a fine sporting match with a fair result. Chris Rogers won two again but David Gannon continues to impress in this team. In six outings to the table he has not so far been defeated.

Although the Veterans' team lost an excellent match with Cheshire, Phil Overend had what he must surely regard as the best victory of his career—a win over Derek Schofield. Phil has long been a model of sportsmanship and loyalty and this win will please plenty of other people besides himself. Schofield has played against Leicestershire several times and is himself one of the most popular of players.

The Rose Johnson Bowl has now reached the semi-final stage, so this competition should be concluded well before the end of the season.

The re-emergence of "TOP-SPIN" — the magazine of the Leicester & District Table Tennis League has been greeted with enthusiasm. Ian Holdridge certainly has done an excellent job and one can only hope he can keep up the high standard. Congratulations are in order to Karen Rogers who, in partnership with Carole Knight, reached the final of the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton recently. I was fortunate enough to be there to see the final and so was unable to see the television broadcast. I gather, however, it came over very well. Many people have no idea how much good this does for local table tennis—to see one of their own league players on television, like a

well-known beverage, "Works Wonders!" It has certainly been the talking point in local table tennis circles for the past weeks.

In the Leicester League 1st Division, Loughborough have surely clinched the title for the first time. If this prediction is true—and it seems a pretty logical one—then the 1st Division title will have changed hands for each of the last four seasons. Previous winners have been Leicester Y.M.C.A., Knighton Park and Cedars Heathfield. This surely cannot be bad for table tennis—monopolies in table tennis are never a good thing!

Loughborough and Triangle are jointly contesting the leadership of the Loughborough 1st Division, although Loughborough do not have the team of the strength of Donald Parker, Anita Stevenson and Brian Mayfield in this division!

A word must be said about Parker. The best player ever to appear regularly in local table tennis, he has not only gained respect for his ability but also for his modesty and sportsmanship. Nobody will mind how long he stays in the area—it can only do good for table tennis.

Interest in the World Championships is starting to build up in the county—as some of our members live less than 20 miles from the venue this is only to be expected. The 1977 Worlds is going to be a big thing—I think a lot of local players will be there to see it... they might never get the chance again!

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

"DISASTER DAY"

Saturday, January 17, proved to be "disaster day" for the three Northumberland County teams, as both the senior first and the junior team lost 2-8 at home to Durham, while the second team were also well beaten 1-9 away to Lancs. II.

The Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was the excellent new venue for the senior "derby" match, and for the first time for many years, attracted an almost full house. It was a pity that Northumberland, who won the corresponding fixture 8-2 last season, could not produce a better performance on this occasion; only Barbara Kearney, who easily beat Brenda Murtagh in the women's singles, and Andrew Clark, who won the last men's singles of the evening against Ian Svenson, seemed to be on form. Barbara and Pat Small should have taken the women's doubles, but squandered a sizeable lead in the last game and finally lost at -19 in the third.

The second team made the long trip to Eccles, Manchester, to take on Lancs. II, and were well beaten 1-9, with Carol Little winning the women's singles from Jennifer Dixon to take the only set. I cannot help but feel that with most of the attention given to the first team and the junior team, the second team—who, in view of previous results, must be on trial at present—appear to receive very little encouragement in view of the fact that they were forced to make their own way by train without even an official Committee member to accompany them.

The junior team, minus Glenn McCardle (on second team duty) and Eddie Thomas (injured) entertained Durham juniors at another new venue, Woodlands Park Community Centre, but lost the match by 2-8, Andrew Clark taking two boys' singles with wins over Tony Gelder and Peter Masters. Roger Bambrough, playing in only his second match, and Mark Kimberley, making his debut, tried hard, but were unable to make much impression against a strong Durham side. Both teams, however, did equal justice to the excellent tea provided after the match.

In the Newcastle Schools' T.T. League Championships, ably organised by Phil Clark, the St. Cuthbert's Grammar School team of Andrew Clark, Bernard Diffin and Tony Crilley were the first winners of the new trophy. The Shield was presented to them by Sunderland soccer star, Bryan "Pop" Robson, at the Lightfoot Sports Stadium, Walker.

The introduction of the League was a com-

plete innovation in schools' competitions, and it is hoped to have a similar event for junior schools (under 15) together with appropriate coaching, beginning in March. Any schools who are not already involved and interested should contact Mrs. Clark at Gosforth 843381.

P.S.—Having just received the E.T.T.A. Junior Ranking Lists for January, 1976, Andrew Clark's straight games win over Tony Gelder in the aforementioned Junior County match will have given him extra satisfaction, as the Durham player has taken over Andrew's old position at No. 15, with Andrew dropping to 18th position.

The final placing were:—

	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
St. Cuthbert's	9	8	1	75	15	17
R.G.S.	9	7	1	72	18	15
Heaton	9	6	2	59	31	14
St. Mary's Tech.	9	5	2	55	35	12
Benfield	9	3	3	44	46	9
West Denton	9	3	2	39	51	8
Kenton	9	3	0	32	58	6
Slatyford	9	1	3	32	58	5
Walker	9	1	2	28	62	4
St. Augustine's	9	0	0	14	76	0

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

PROMOTIONAL BOOKLET

With the object of spreading the gospel, a promotional booklet entitled "Table Tennis in Cleveland. How? When? Where?" has been produced jointly by the County Association and the Leisure and Amenities Department. This booklet, which has 40 pages, gives full details of the administration, the officials, the County teams and matches, the top players, the coaching scheme and sessions, the Proficiency Award Scheme, the umpiring scheme, Ormesby Table Tennis Club, tournaments within the County, Schools' Association, in addition to the rules of the game and what to look for in table tennis equipment.

The booklet, attractively designed, with an action shot of Carole Knight on the cover, is to be distributed throughout the County so that anyone interested in table tennis will have full details of what is available. In addition, a supply is to be given to each sports retailer so that as any person buys items of table tennis equipment one of these booklets can be provided free.

It is intended to regularly update the booklet and keep it as a permanent promotional item for table tennis in the County. If any person would like a copy, please write to me at 21a Church Lane, Ormesby, Cleveland.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

With victories by 6-3 for the Senior Premier team over Surrey and by 8-2 for the 2nd team over Hampshire, new hope has been given to these two teams to stave off fears of relegation. The young first team of Barden, Mitchell and Tan really clicked and could well be in contention for the County title within a couple of years.

The win over Hampshire was the first one for the 2nds and it was really the good form of Aldrich and Jemmett, who won five between them, that clinched this one. The juniors had a good month, Premier team drew with Kent and the 2nds won 6-4 against the same county. Michael O'Mahony was the star in the Premier match.

The U-14 team won their group at Harlow with a 6-4 win over Essex and 9-1 over Herts. Our team of Graham Sandley, Adam Proffitt and Costas Papantonion, Mandy Reeves and Helen Williams are all ranked in the National U-14 lists. For these two matches, however, Lesley Tyler played in place of Mandy to gain valuable experience.

In the new ranking lists it is wonderful to see Andy Barden and Mark Mitchell at Nos. 4 and 9. Barden tops the Boys for the first time and Sandley tops the U-14's. Congratulations to these two especially.



✠ T. E. SEARS 1911-1975

An Appreciation

by Hon. Ivor Montagu

Founder President, I.T.T.F.

"Mr. T. E. (Tommy) Sears, born 1911 in Dublin, and one of the best English table tennis players of the 1930's, died in Swindon on December 6, after a long illness. He played many times for England, and won an English Open National doubles title in partnership with Victor Barna.

"During the war he served in the Royal Corps of Signals and was taken prisoner by the Japanese at Singapore. Respected by all as a shrewd and quietly humorous judge of the game, he led the women's team to many post-war successes as a non-playing captain, and made a speciality of youth training. He spent his working life of 40 years with one firm, W. H. Smith, retiring as manager of the company's principal warehouse, and leaves a wife, son and daughter."

One hundred and thirty words in the "Times" obituary column to summarise a rich, full, useful, happy life. Is this enough? Our pages must have more.

English table tennis has been fortunate in counting many paladins of the game whose attachment did not flicker when their best playing days were over but brought other qualities to its service. Such a one was Tommy.

As a player and as a man, he was astute, deep, economical of movement, a stylist, a strategist, resolute, conscientious in all he undertook, unobtrusive, unselfish, loyal, a philosopher, a true friend, a model linch-pin of a model family.

I did not always appraise him with such an unmixt catalogue of virtues. Yet the boy was father to the man. Before me, as I write, is a small pile of yellowing table tennis documents that Tommy accumulated. Among them is one marked **CONFIDENTIAL** he evidently savoured (yes, it is not only in modern U.S.A. that top secrets cannot be kept secret). It is one I must have written in 1934, evidently for circulation to the N.E.C. and the Selection Committee about the problems of international play when both of us were in our twenties.

HIGHEST ORDER

"Tommy was one of our biggest disappointments. When he first came into table tennis it was at once apparent that he had an all-round stroke equipment of the highest order. Alas, he is too easy-going. His best, or only really good performances have been achieved when, for some odd reason, he really wanted to win. The trouble is that, as a rule, you

can't imagine him getting so vitally excited over any game that he really gets nervous or yellow and worries about whether he wins or not.

"Of course, he may be right. One may get more fun out of life that way. But one doesn't play well enough to reach the top flight in a sport either. If he took the game seriously, no England team, not even the best we had, could have afforded to leave him out. But he plays in a dream. If he cares to dream, just for one year, that this nonsense we call table tennis is the most vital thing in this world, that for eight weeks nothing matters but winning table tennis matches, that if he loses a single one the universe is shattered, then he can or could walk not only into our team but any team in any country. But can he? Or is the world-weariness (or just weariness) or whatever else it is, invincible? It's for Tommy to say."

I can see now that it was I, a few years older, who was the immature one for asking such questions. Already, albeit unconsciously, on an important plane he was answering them. His life shows he was right.

Tommy played best when he was playing for others. As a member of a team in a hole. As a doubles partner (not because his strokes were specially suited to doubles, but because his range was so wide that he could fit in with and play for his partner). As a captain and as a mentor of youth. Leading our team of girl-geniuses. And he could not have done this if he had not been modest but definite in manner, thoughtful and principled in action. As the Romans put it: *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*.

I remember when he appeared to us, in the year 1930. As often happened in those early days, we had built up a splendid team, a young team supposedly with many years ahead, and then suddenly lost it to the big world, the insistencies of growing up and earning one's living. We did not have left one single team-member from among those who had done so well just before. We had to scrape the novice-barrel for unknown talent at the trials.

That year the championship took place in Berlin. I could not captain, I was on my way to Hollywood, but I managed to look in on the first day. Tommy got thrown in at the deep end. He had never seen, let alone participated in, anything but league or club level. The Hungarian captain could see the rawness of our resources and said to me: "Out of respect to England, we must, however, field our strongest side".

DIGNITY

Tommy got Bellak in his first match. As the shots whistled past, his lids lowered as though he was trying to fathom what was happening to him. He certainly did not reach double figures in either game, but he did not lose his 19-year-old dignity.

Within a very few years he was winning, not the big tournaments or ranking-list places, but successful surprises—usually when something happened to rile him or get under his skin—even in top company. In 1933 he reached the English Open doubles final with his off-time partner, R. D. (David) Jones; in the two succeeding years (not just one as the "Times" obit. has it), he won with Barna, and Victor in those days always picked himself the best.

What sort of a player was T. E. Sears in his heyday? He stood up to the table, but valued—and later taught youngsters the value of—footwork above all else. Without it he could not have moved to intercept, and keep down, hard hits at him a few inches behind the table, so retaining his attacking position. From this position he missed few chances of the offensive.

His range of stroke enabled him to vary tactics. In those days I could sometimes give a fair push to defensive players and even some plain hitters, but I always used sponge, and when I played or knocked up against Tommy, he laughed and fed me high loops till my returns crept upward and then he hit straight down in front of me or cross-hit wide to the corners. (Some 30 years before sponge became fashionable and loops perforce re-"discovered").

I rifle through the pile of papers. This is in no way the collection of a pot-nunter. There is not a word here about his three wins in succession of the London Business Houses title. (I reckon he made himself do well there so as not to disappoint his friends). So long as his work at Smith's left him in London, and long after he had given up ambitions as a player, he played on afterwards for the pleasure of it. And took part in friendlies and exhibitions, not as a "professional" but in such company as Barna, Szabados, Vana and Bellak, Liebster and Bergmann. (And, with such consorts present, programmes often cited him yet the one to demonstrate attack).

The heap includes programmes of the ten world championships he took part in, as player or as N.P.C. Here is his certificate as a coach, and records of the 16 junior and 7 senior international matches he captained in the ten years between 1948 and 1958. It was he who developed to an art the system of captain's reports on matches and tours, analyses of players, conditions, etc., with constructive suggestions, that is maintained so usefully as a captain's normal duty to this day.

He sat regularly on E.T.T.A. selection committees and, as E.T.T.A. representative, initiated and helped develop the I.T.T.F. Youth Commissions. One letter from the E.T.T.A. reports an N.E.C. instruction (in 1957 when Tommy moved to Swindon) to thank him for all the work he has carried out in this service and ends up: "May I therefore thank you most warmly for all the help and guidance which you have given us during the past years . . . Many, many thanks, Tommy, for everything."

CONTRIBUTIONS

But there is no doubt about the most arduous and exacting of his contributions. This was his non-playing captaincy of our women's team in the second half of that decade, the close of the reign of the Rowe twins, the rise of Ann Haydon and Kathie Best. Four prima donnas in one team. (No, I must not say that exactly, for on none of these very eager girls would such a label have been fairly merited). But every impresario of opera or ballet will recognise the problems.

At least this is fair: four varied geniuses, and only two to play at a time, in singles as in doubles. Every girl had her own character and personality. Every one, omitted or included, must be cherished, encouraged, brought to and maintained at her best for every match and every next match—none neglected. It says much for all of them—especially the captain—that all five survived.

What does Kipling say about "the two imposters"? 54 Wembley—the great triumph—all four English girls (one still only 16) sharing the doubles final. 57 Stockholm—the greatest disappointment—Ann in three finals, every one going to five games and every one lost. (Let us hope that never again does an I.T.T.F. plan, and I.T.T.F. technical or appeals committee assent to so inhuman a schedule).

All three years—54, 55 Utrecht and 57—so near and yet so far with the Marcel Corbillon Cup—pipped again and again by all-conquering Japanese. I wonder how many Wembley spectators knew, when the English Corbillon Cup team beat the Japanese but lost the resulting triple tie on points aggregate, that the non-playing captain, had, so briefly before, returned from 3½ years spent in Far East P.O.W. camps and on the Burma Road? Calm and imperturbability are precious gifts indeed.

RESPECT

I shall say little more. A business lifetime with one firm, and qualities that earned respect no less in business administration than in our raggedly and rickety sporting world.

Promotion and with it the change from London to the country. A warm circle of new friends, separation from the old ones—that is, physical separation, Xmas card distance—contact maintained by our magazine, the International Club and memories. A blessedly united family, retirement, the prospect of an Indian summer with Ethel in a spot looking out upon the downs, the birds coming to the garden to sing and chatter and take their ration.

(Continued next page)

But it was not to be. Not as long as it should have been. One of those illnesses that afflict us and, once begun, however bravely resisted, can end but in one way. We met towards its close. As we sat talking we ranged the wide world and spoke not of the past but of the future. Through my mind kept running Shakespeare's line about Falstaff at this time: "His nose as sharp as a pen". Our Tommy's wits, and wit, were as sharp as ever, too. I shall not easily forget that house of love and courage. It was a good life. He chose well.

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WELSH CORNER

H. Roy Evans

After good results in the Cleveland Open and reasonable ones at Brighton, certainly in doubles, Welsh fans had looked forward to more determined resistance to the English attack on Glamorgan Open titles. But it was not to be, and further disaster befell when Alan Griffiths, playing in the quarters of the men's doubles with Graham Davies, twisted his ankle and took no further part in the event.

But we were unlikely to have taken the men's singles anyway because England No. 1, Desmond Douglas, literally blasted his way through Alan Fletcher in the semi-final and Tony Clayton in the final.

And as if to demonstrate that losing the Cardiff Open doubles to Clayton and Fletcher was a mistake, Desmond teamed up with Pat Glynn and gave Alan and Tony a taste of some really fast hitting.

As is becoming depressingly customary, the young Midland female contingent descended on us and again took all the titles.

Bev Green, after disposing of the last Welsh survivor, Sandra Pickering, went on to beat Diane St. Ledger, to add to the Junior Girls' title she had already taken at the expense of Helen Gore.

The "old firm" of Margaret Phillips and Sandra Pickering looked as if they might upset Diane St. Ledger and Karen Groves, taking the first game in the final, but the Birmingham duo won in the third.

Susan Hemmings beat the Penarth girl, Susan Jones, in the cadet event, but the latter had looked quite good, and if she sticks at it, could be a good player. Rhyl's Alun Williams again impressed in cadets and juniors, but his cadet final win was not without a struggle against the rapidly improving Brian Jeans from Eastern Valley.

The Boys' Singles final was a fine battle between Chris Sewell and Kevin Edwards, of Wiltshire. Chris had to fight all the way, and on this form Kevin must surely climb the English ranking ladder.

It was only in the Mixed Doubles that Wales gained any real consolation, Davies teaming up with Cheryl Jewels to a final success over Clayton and Karen Groves.

Results

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

Douglas bt Fletcher 11, 5.

Clayton w/o Griffiths (scratched).

Final

DOUGLAS bt Clayton 9, 17.

Women's Singles—Final

B. GREEN bt D. St. Ledger 10, -17, 13.

Men's Doubles—Final

DOUGLAS/GLYNN bt Clayton/Fletcher 9, 18.

Women's Doubles—Final

ST. LEDGER/GROVES bt Phillips/Pickering -15, 16, 15.

Mixed Doubles—Final

DAVIES/JEWELS bt Clayton/Groves 18, -12, 15.

Junior Boys' Singles—Final

SEWELL bt Edwards 21, -20, 14.

Junior Girls' Singles—Final

GREEN bt Gore 24, 9.

Cadet Boys'—Final

WILLIAMS bt Jeans 13, 8.

Cadet Girls'—Final

HEMMINGS bt Jones 20, 9.

Welsh Rankings

The Welsh Selection Committee have issued the following Senior Rankings:—

Men: 1—Alan Griffiths; 2—Graham Davies;

3—John Mansfield; 4—George Evans; 5—Michael Owen; 6—Robert Bishop; 7—Walter Hussey; 8—John Bloomer; 9—Jeff Bowden; 10—Ken Bull; 11—Andrew Evans; 12—Colin Rees; 13—John Hardiker; 14—Michael Nocivelli.

Not ranked because of insufficient evidence—Fraser Anderson.

Women: 1—Julie Ralphs; 2—Cheryl Jewels; 3—Sandra Pickering; 4—Margaret Phillips; 5—Elizabeth Jones; 6—Kim Wheatley; 7—Betty Gray; 8—Val Duffin; 9—Pat Perrett; 10—Glenys Thomas.

Open Tournaments 1976-77

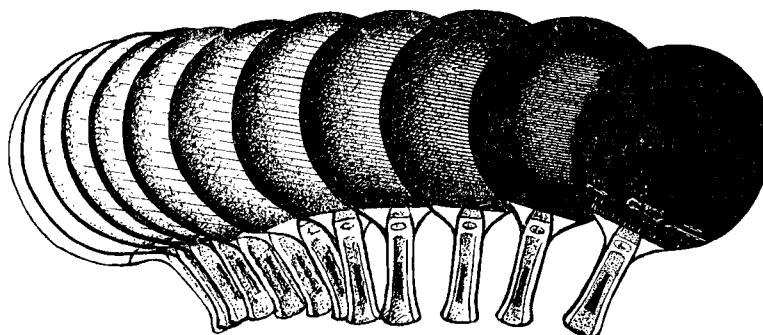
Final date for the submission of Open Tournament dates for Season 1976-77 is March 24, 1976. They should be sent to Mike Watts, Glenagles, 25 Church Green, Sycamore Way, Canewdon, Essex. (Phone: Canewdon 429).

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Europe Club Cup

Ormesby ousted after hustle

by Alan Ransome

Cleveland organisation was put to its most severe test on January 6 when the semi-final of the Europe Club Cup was played in front of 500 spectators at Eston Sports Centre, arranged inside 24 hours. The match itself was a cracker, perhaps the best and most exciting seen in the North East. Sparta Prague led by Milan Orlowski, ran out 5-2 winners after more than half the sets had been decided on "deuce".

Ormesby officials received the shock of their lives when Sparta Prague arrived at Teesside Airport at 7.30 p.m. the previous evening, totally unannounced, to play the match with no arrangements made. Ormesby's Team Manager, Alan Ransome, cabled the Czechs offering four dates in January for the match to be played, including the 6th, but had received no reply. He had even contacted the European Table Tennis Union and Mrs. Nancy Evans had also cabled Prague on Ormesby's behalf.

The Czechs claimed that they had replied by cable accepting the 6th, but this had not been received at Ormesby. Matters were made worse by the fact that Denis Neale had returned to Lancashire and Nicky Jarvis had already set off for Brighton when the news that the Czechs had arrived came through. Both players were contacted and asked to return immediately.

No venue had been arranged for the match, but Langbaugh Council Recreation and Amenities Department's top officials were contacted and they agreed to cancel all bookings at Eston Sports Centre and give their staff instructions to prepare the hall for the big game.

All of this was arranged by midnight and the morning newspapers and radio stations were informed. First thing next morning the television stations and evening newspapers were told of the happenings. All gave maximum co-operation to the Ormesby Club with both B.B.C. and I.T.V. carrying 4-minute pieces on the match in the evening news bulletins.

On the radio stations, both independent and B.B.C., gave details at least hourly throughout the day.

Teesside table tennis fans responded and as it happened, the largest crowd so far for a European Club Cup match appeared at Eston and were not disappointed. The match had everything; from beginning to end it was a cliff-hanger.

Jarvis opened the scoring by recovering in both games to beat Pavel Ovcarik on "deuce". Orlowski levelled for the Czechs but was pushed by Jimmy Walker all the way. Neale gave up big leads in both games before losing to Jaroslav Kunz, then Orlowski put Sparta 3-1 in front by beating Jarvis after saving several game points.

Neale bounced back, beating Ovcarik "deuce" and 18, then Walker served off on "deuce" in the third to lose to Kunz. The Czechs ran out 5-2 winners with Orlowski beating Neale yet again on "deuce".

The evening itself was one of the best in the history of Teesside table tennis. The organisation, although last-minute, ran faultlessly, which shows what can be done in a short time with full co-operation. The event was attended by the Mayor of Langbaugh, Councillor Jack Morgan, and the Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, Councillor Bill Herlingshaw, the man who gave the word for the Centre to be used.

Individual results:—

N. Jarvis bt P. Ovcarik 20, 21.
J. Walker lost to M. Orlowski -19, -16.
D. Neale lost to J. Kunz -20, -16.
Jarvis lost to Orlowski -21, -16.
Neale bt Ovcarik 21, 18.
Walker lost to Kunz -12, 17, -20.
Neale lost to Orlowski -14, -21.

JUNIOR ASSESSMENT CAMPS 1976

The revised system of assessing junior talent during the summer of 1975 proved satisfactory to the Committee and future methods will remain basically the same.

Regional Assessment (Panels)

The 10 coaching panels are asked to maintain a continuous assessing process through the panel squad system and then to submit to the Regional Adviser (with a copy to the National Selection Committee Secretary) by the 1st June, 1976, a list in order of merit of players whom they consider to be worthy of assessment at regional level, up to a maximum of 10 boys and seven girls. Any player included in positions 1 to 10 on the Under-17 National Ranking List (NOT Group "A" or Cadets) should be excluded from these regional assessments.

Regional Assessment (Regions)

Each of the three coaching regions are asked to organise a one-day assessment event for a maximum of 30 boys and 20 girls. As a seeded group system of play will be used, it is therefore necessary for a Jury comprising of the Regional Adviser, the National Coach and the Panel Chairman to compile a list in order of merit of the recommended juniors within the region immediately prior to the Regional Assessment Day. The nationally ranked juniors, as mentioned in the previous paragraph, should still be excluded at this stage.

In view of the need for financial economy, it is hoped that regions will be able to arrange their Assessment Day at minimum cost to the E.T.T.A., but bearing in mind that the venue must be capable of holding at least 10 tables for a period of 10 hours. A qualified Referee and an Organiser for each event should be appointed who will both be supplied in advance with details of the Group System to be used. In order to allow a member of the National Selection Committee to be in attendance at each Regional Day, the following dates have been chosen:—

Midlands and South-West Region—
3rd July, 1976
Northern Region—
4th July, 1976
East and South-Eastern Region—
11th July, 1976

Details of the arrangements made and the persons nominated as Referee and Organiser, should be sent to the Secretary of the National Selection Committee by the 1st April, 1976.

At the conclusion of each Regional Assessment Day, the full results are to be sent to the Secretary of the National Selection Committee, together with an opinion from the Jury on the probable placing of any player who was genuinely unable to attend.

Intermediate Assessments

These will consist of boys only, split into two three-day residential camps, each having 20 boys playing a "round-robin" system. Included in these 40 boys will be those players occupying 1 to 10 on the Junior Ranking lists, provided they are eligible for junior play in 1976-77.

Final Assessment Camp

Twenty girls, made up of Junior girls occupying positions 1 to 10 on the Junior ranking list (provided they are eligible for junior play in 1976-77) plus the appropriate number selected from the regional assessments will attend a three-day residential camp, playing a "round-robin" system. Twenty boys, selected from the two Intermediate Assessments, will also attend a separate three-day residential camp immediately following that for the girls.

Both Intermediate and Final Assessment Camps will take place at one venue within the month of August.

General

At all levels, assessment will be based on match play, best of three games.

The National Selection Committee will pay accommodation costs only at the Intermediate Camps, with travel being the responsibility of the players, but it is hoped that Leagues, Counties or Panels will assist where cases of hardship are known to exist.

Players selected to attend the Final Assessment camp will be accommodated at E.T.T.A. expense and will have their travel costs reimbursed.

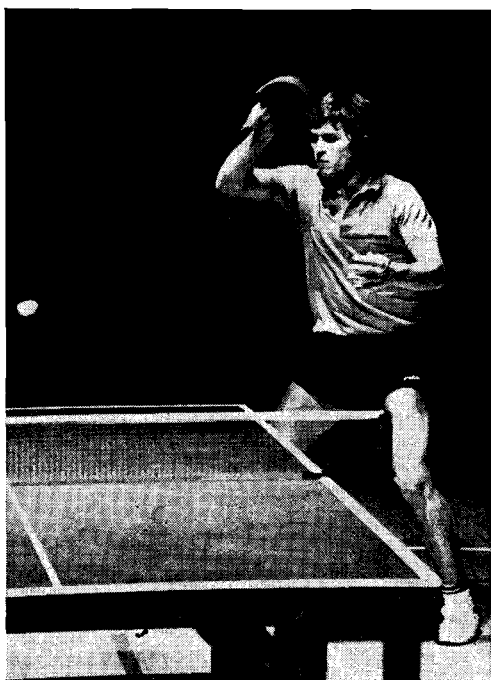
Any queries arising from the above proposals should be addressed to the Secretary of the National Selection Committee.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAMS

The following teams have been chosen to represent England at the European Championships to take place in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from March 27 to April 4:—

Men: Desmond Douglas, Nicky Jarvis, Denis Neale, Andrew Barden and Paul Day. N.P.C.: Brian Burn.

Women: Jill Hammersley, Carole Knight and Linda Howard. N.P.C.: Bryan Merrett.



Milan Orlowski who, next month, becomes due to defend his European title in Prague.

Photo by Dennis Weller,
Publicity Department,
Langbaugh Borough Council,
Cleveland.

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New Appointments

Selection Committee, through fund-raising, to acting as Master of Ceremonies at international events.

With a handicap of 14, golf is now vying with table tennis as his favourite leisure occupation—he is Secretary and founder member of the Ping Golfing Society—and although he hopes eventually to obtain a lower handicap figure, his over-riding ambition is now to improve communication between table tennis players and officials at local level and the National body.

Miss Scrivens, 26, has been with the Association over three years, the majority of this time acting as personal secretary to the General Secretary, but recently her responsibilities became more widespread.

Although born in Woodford Green, Essex, she comes from a family with long ties to Hastings and has a great interest in local history. She also confesses to being a scrabble fanatic! She is a member of both local Preservation Societies and the Borough Museum Association.

She is a passive table tennis enthusiast, as she enjoys watching and loves the atmosphere of international events.

Before joining the Association, she worked in financial and commercial concerns, but says that she now has what was lacking in previous employments—job satisfaction.



On January 24, the National Council of the English Table Tennis Association appointed Albert Shipley as General Secretary with effect from February 1, 1976. He replaces E. R. Taylor, who resigned towards the end of last year.



At the same meeting, Cynthia Scrivens was appointed Administrative Secretary with effect from February 1.

Albert Shipley is 45 and is a life-long enthusiast of table tennis and still plays in a local league, as do his wife, Betty, and two daughters, Janice (23), married and living in Sevenoaks, and Christine (21), living at home.

Prior to his joining the Association's professional staff as Administrative Secretary in 1967, he was for five years the Honorary Secretary of the Bromley & District League (Kent) and in 1966 was appointed personal assistant to the organiser of the European Championships held at Wembley.

During his years with the Association, apart from normal work, his services have been varied, ranging from being Secretary to the

3rd MIDLAND
Feb. 14—Clwyd v Staffordshire II
Nottinghamshire II v Derbyshire II
Warwickshire III v Northampton II
Mar. 13—Derbyshire II v Warwickshire III
Northamptonshire II v Clwyd—H. W. Chapman Ltd., Irthlingborough Road, Wellingborough, 7-00 p.m.
Staffordshire II v Nottinghamshire II—Great Wyrley T.T. Club, Great Wyrley, Near Cannock.

3rd EAST
Feb. 14—Norfolk II v Essex II
Suffolk v Huntingdonshire—The Dome, 193 Defoe Street, Ipswich, 6-30 p.m.
Feb. 15—Bedfordshire II v Cambridgeshire II
Mar. 13—Huntingdonshire v Cambridgeshire II
Mar. 14—Bedfordshire II v Essex III

3rd WEST
Feb. 14—Avon v Hereford
Shropshire v Glamorgan II
Mar. 6—Hereford v Glamorgan II—Vicarage Farm, Allensmore, Hereford, 6-30 p.m.
13—Shropshire v Dorset
27—Worcestershire II v Avon

JUNIOR PREMIER
Feb. 14—Berkshire v Cleveland
Cambridgeshire v Yorkshire—Y.M.C.A., Gunville Place, Cambridge, 2-30 p.m.
Essex v Middlesex—Plume School, Malden, 2-30 p.m.
Kent v Surrey—Milton Barracks, Waterloo Street, Gravesend, 2-30 p.m.
Kent v Cleveland—Milton Barracks, Waterloo Street, Gravesend, 7-00 p.m.

Mar. 12—Essex v Berkshire
13—Cambridgeshire v Kent, Y.M.C.A., Gunville Place, Cambridge, 2-30 p.m.
Cleveland v Middlesex
Surrey v Yorkshire—Tweeddale Infants' School, Paisley Road, Carshalton, 3-00 p.m.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH
Feb. 14—Kent II v Sussex—Milton Barracks, Waterloo Street, Gravesend, 6-30 p.m.
Surrey II v Dorset—Tweeddale Primary School, Paisley Road, Carshalton, 3-00 p.m.
15—Middlesex II v Essex II

Mar. 13—Dorset v Essex II
Middlesex II v Hampshire
Sussex v Surrey II

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH
Feb. 14—Cheshire v Derbyshire—Runcorn (Castlefields) County Youth Centre, Kingshead Close, Runcorn, 2-30 p.m.
Cleveland II v Northumberland
Lancashire v Durham—Briarcroft Youth Centre, Leigh Road, Atherton, 2-30 p.m.
Yorkshire II v Cumbria—Moor Grange School, Parkstone Avenue, Leeds, 2-15 p.m.

Mar. 13—Cumbria v Cheshire—Millom School, Millom, 2-30 p.m.
Derbyshire v Cleveland II
Durham v Yorkshire II
Northumberland v Lancashire

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND
Feb. 14—Cambridgeshire II v Warwickshire
Glamorgan v Hertfordshire
Northamptonshire v Norfolk—Recreation Centre, Northampton Road, Kettering, 3-00 p.m.
Mar. 6—Hertfordshire v Leicestershire—Braughing Sports & Social Centre, Green Lane, Braughing, Ware, 2-30 p.m.
13—Norfolk v Cambridgeshire II
Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH
Feb. 14—Buckinghamshire v Hampshire II
Sussex v Berkshire II
Mar. 13—Berkshire II v Buckinghamshire
Hampshire II v Wiltshire—Tanners Brook Infants' School, Elms Drive, Millbrook, Southampton, 3-00 p.m.

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH
Feb. 14—Cleveland III v Clwyd
Lincolnshire v Cumbria II
Mar. 13—Clwyd v Cumbria II
Nottinghamshire v Cleveland III

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND
Feb. 14—Oxfordshire v Staffordshire—St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford, 6-00 p.m.
Mar. 6—Worcestershire v Gwent
13—Shropshire v Oxfordshire
Worcestershire v Staffordshire

JUNIOR 3rd EAST
Feb. 14—Essex III v Bedfordshire—Mid-Essex Transport Wanderers T.T.C., Goldhanger Road, Heybridge, 6-00 p.m.
Suffolk v Huntingdonshire—The Dome, Defoe Street, Ipswich, 2-30 p.m.
Mar. 13—Hertfordshire II v Suffolk—Letchworth Settlement, Nevilles Road, Letchworth, 2-30 p.m.
Huntingdonshire v Essex III

JUNIOR 3rd WEST
Feb. 14—Avon v Devon
Gloucester v Cornwall—The Boys' Club, Nailsworth, 2-30 p.m.

VETERAN SOUTH
Feb. 14—Hampshire v Oxfordshire—S.E.S.A. Club, Lower Drayton Avenue, Cosham, Portsmouth, 7-15 p.m.

Mar. 13—Essex v Huntingdonshire
Essex II v Huntingdonshire
Kent v Hampshire
Wiltshire v Oxfordshire

VETERAN MIDLAND
Feb. 14—Staffordshire v Leicestershire
Worcestershire v Cheshire
Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
Mar. 13—Clwyd v Leicestershire—Coventry Co-op Holiday Camp, Kinnel Bay, Rhyd, Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire
Staffordshire v Cheshire—Gt. Wyrley Table Tennis Club, Great Wyrley, Near Cannock.

COUNTY TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fixtures for February and March, 1976

PREMIER DIVISION
Feb. 14—Cheshire v Cleveland—I.C.I. Sports Hall, Newton Works, Talbot Road, Hyde, 7-15 p.m.

Essex v Middlesex
Surrey v Lancashire—Royal Philanthropic School, Philanthropic Road, Redhill, 7-00 p.m.

15—Warwickshire v Yorkshire
Mar. 13—Cheshire v Essex
Cleveland v Middlesex
Lancashire v Warwickshire—De La Salle R.C. School, Carr Lane East, Liverpool, 6-30 p.m.
Surrey v Yorkshire—Bellfields Youth Centre, Hazel Avenue, Guildford, 7-00 p.m.

2nd SOUTH
Feb. 14—Kent v Surrey II
15—Middlesex II v Essex II
Mar. 13—Middlesex II v Kent
Sussex v Surrey II
Essex II v Hampshire

2nd NORTH
Feb. 14—Cleveland II v Northumberland
Durham v Lincolnshire
Yorkshire II v Nottinghamshire—Moorgrange School, Parkstone Avenue, Leeds, 2-30 p.m.
Mar. 13—Lincolnshire v Cleveland II
Northumberland v Nottinghamshire
Yorkshire II v Durham—Hermits T.T.C., Bradford, 2-30 p.m.

2nd MIDLAND
Feb. 14—Glamorgan v Gloucestershire
Derbyshire v Leicestershire
15—Staffordshire v Warwickshire II—Woodfield S.C., Wolverhampton, 5-30 p.m.
Mar. 13—Gloucestershire v Staffordshire—Chosen Hill School, Churchdown, Gloucester, 7-00 p.m.
Leicestershire v Glamorgan—Knighton Park T.T.C., 168 Avenue Road Extension, Leicester, 7-15 p.m.
Warwickshire II v Derbyshire

2nd EAST
Feb. 14—Buckinghamshire v Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire v Hertfordshire, Y.M.C.A., Cambridge, 6-30 p.m.
Northamptonshire v Norfolk—Recreation Centre, Northampton Road, Kettering, 7-00 p.m.
Mar. 13—Cambridgeshire v Bedfordshire—Y.M.C.A., Cambridge, 6-30 p.m.
Hertfordshire v Northamptonshire—Letchworth Settlement, Nevilles Road, Letchworth, 6-45 p.m.
Norfolk v Buckinghamshire

2nd WEST
Feb. 14—Cornwall v Somerset
Mar. 13—Cornwall v Wiltshire
Gwent v Wiltshire—Santons Works Canteen, Spytty Road, Corporation Road, Newport, 6-15 p.m.
Somerset v Berkshire—Grammar School Hall, Furnham Road, Chard, 7-00 p.m.
Mar. 14—Devon v Wiltshire—Devonport Guildhall, Plymouth, 3-00 p.m.

3rd SOUTH
Feb. 14—Sussex II v Berkshire II
Feb. 28—Hertfordshire II v Kent II—The Cheshunt Club, Albury Ride, Cheshunt, 7-30 p.m.
Mar. 13—Kent II v Sussex II
Oxfordshire v Hertfordshire II—St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford.

3rd NORTH
Feb. 14—Cheshire II v Lancashire II
Northumberland II v Cleveland III

T.S.P. BALLS

Would all members please note that the trade name of these balls has been changed from "T.S.P. Astoll" to "T.S.P. Ascot", but they are still the same ball and as such are still licensed for play in this country.

CONTROVERSY

'Mistaken Identity'

by

JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
'The Daily Telegraph'

Once upon a time there was a County closed table tennis tournament. It was a one-day event with many tables, well over 200 players, with play spreading over 15 hours. In the men's singles group a Mr. X beat both his opponents. For the next two hours he played some doubles and sat down to rest in between sets.

Being such a large tournament many an Umpire did not know the identity of the players. In this case, when our Mr. X played Mr. Y, it is true that both men were of similar appearance and both were defenders. Both had dark, medium-length hair and were dressed mainly in blue. You must have guessed what happened! Instead of putting Mr. X down as the winner on the scoresheet, this Umpire, a man of experience, put down Mr. Y.

Not unexpectedly, the team of helpers on the control table, not knowing many of this vast army of players, failed to spot the error until an hour or so later. During that time Mr. Y had, according to him, assumed that there was a situation where each player in the group had recorded one victory. He had, he thought, gone through on sets or points average.

So, when his name was called out to play, he did so, twice, and eliminated (illegally, so to speak) two players, before falling to the losing finalist.

Mr. X, of course, failed to do two things. He could have checked the scoresheet to see that the right name went through, or he could have nipped out to the foyer where the progress of the events was being recorded in the usual way. Perhaps he thought he was better known than he really is!

However, the error is discovered and the controversy begins . . . Mr. Y pleads his innocence, some believe him, others are not so sure. The honorary referee finds himself in a very tricky situation indeed. Replay or not to replay? In his wisdom, he decided that things must stay as they are with three men never properly eliminated. Mr. X accepts a refund of his event entry fee. Perhaps that was another mistake.

I know it sounds like a lot of people making a lot of mistakes. The question is now, should any penalties be imposed? Second question: had Mr. X been one of the leading players perhaps one of the 16 seeds, or even the favourite, would the referee have made the same decision? The answer is that probably it wouldn't have happened, because someone would have spotted the error before further "matches" had been played.

It seems as though this situation would make an excellent test question on a paper for budding referees.

I would imagine that when the tournament is held in 1977 there will appear on the scoresheets a space for the winning player to sign and so confirm his right to continue challenging.

This is a true story, of course. It could happen in almost any tournament. But I doubt if it will happen in this one again for a long time. It certainly fits the title of this column. The sequel is still to come!

May I again take up your invitation to comment on the points scoring system, particularly on the problem encountered by our colleagues in Eastbourne (writes John Boyd, Hon. Sec., Cheltenham T.T.A.).

We in Cheltenham likewise used to have that same problem: indeed we even had occa-

sional instances where a team, for genuine reasons (e.g. authenticated unexpected illness) were unable to play a fixture and could not give proper notification for postponement—according to our rules, at least 4 days before the date of the fixture—and their opponents refused to re-arrange the fixture, intending thereby to get the maximum 10 points rather than the lesser number they would have got had the match been played.

We therefore introduced the following rule: "Any club failing to fulfil a scheduled fixture shall be fined £1.50. No team shall have the right to claim points from a fixture that was not played through no fault of its own. In the event of a fixture not being played, every effort must be made to re-arrange the match; only when the Management Committee are certain that every effort has been made, will they consider awarding points for an unplayed fixture. They are not obliged to award maximum points to the innocent team."

Another rule gives the Management Committee, in the event of a disagreement between the teams, the power to set a date and venue for a fixture. After all, we feel that promotion should be won, or relegation avoided, on the basis of matches played, not matches claimed, and indeed the precedent has been by now so well established that points are not awarded in cases that can affect promotion or relegation.

May I add what we believe to be a further advantage of the point or set system. It can often happen under the 2 points for a win system, that the Division 1 championship is decided on the fixtures between the top 3 or 4 sides who beat all the other teams in the division. Knowing this, these teams can be tempted to replace the weaker member or members of their side by importing star players from another league to play in these crucial matches only. (We have even had a Birmingham Closed champion signed on to play against the top team only).

But with each set worth one point, championships depend not only on matches between the top teams but also on how decisively the top teams beat the weaker teams. Thus a team that wins all its games against the 8 weaker teams averaging 9-1, has 144 points; a team, likewise winning all its games, but averaging 7-3, has 112 points.

A "star import", if he plays only in the remaining six games, can only win 18 singles and six doubles—not enough to close the gap, and so we have found that teams are no longer able to "buy" a championship. But if one gets two points for a win, those two teams would be level on points and therefore, the intervention of the "star import" could well be vital. My personal sympathies would certainly be with the side of three local players who were beaten to the championship because a weaker team was strengthened in the few vital matches by outside players.

New Tournament

The Salford, Eccles and District League are to promote their first 1-Star Open on Saturday, March 20, 1976, at Stretford Sports Centre, Great Stone Road, Stretford, Manchester, commencing at 9-30 a.m., with the finals scheduled for 7-30 p.m.

Entries close on Friday, March 5, to Harry Shaw, 1a Balliol Street, Swinton, Manchester (Phone: 061-793 0416). Cash prizes total £122 (men's singles £30, women's singles £15). Map-sport tables are to be used and T.S.P. Ascot 3-star balls.

The date is one vacated by the Blackpool and District League, whose 1-Star Open, scheduled for March 20-21, has been cancelled.

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL OPEN

Arrangements have now been finalised for the major event of the Scottish T.T.A. programme. The International Championships will be held at Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, from Wednesday, April 21 to Friday,

April 23, 1976. The team event will be held on Wednesday and will be tele-recorded by B.B.C. T.V. for screening later in the week. The Individual Events will be on Thursday and Friday.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

The Table Tennis Federation of India supply the information that a full-length documentary film on the 33rd World Table Tennis Championships, held at Calcutta, in February, 1975, titled "LOVE ALL AT INTAB '75" and produced by the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, is now ready for distribution and sale. The following are the particulars:—

Length—3,000 metres in 35 m.m.; 1,200 metres in 16 m.m.

Number of Reels—10.

Running Time—1½ hours.

Colour—Black and White.

Price—35 m.m.—£500.00; 16 m.m.—£250.00; ex-India Forwarding/Freight extra.

Those interested in buying a copy of the film are requested to contact the Indian Federation supplying a bank draft favouring "Table Tennis Federation of India" for the value of the film required. The address is:—

National Stadium,

Post Box 282,

New Delhi 1,

India.

1st Hartlepool Championships

AN ALL-ORMESBY AFFAIR

by Alan Ransome

Nicky Jarvis beat his Ormesby team-mate, Jimmy Walker, in the final of the first Hartlepool Table Tennis Championships, played at the Town Hall, on Sunday, January 18.

The Hartlepool Championships were jointly sponsored by the Hartlepool Borough Council and the Cleveland County Council Leisure and Amenities Departments. The event received a good entry and was successful throughout, so that it is now hoped that it will become a permanent fixture in the table tennis calendar.

The final itself was a good contest between two of the England players. The first set was level throughout with Jarvis winning at the post 21-19. Having gained command, the England No. 2 never looked back and won the second set by a greater margin.

In the semi-final Jarvis beat Cleveland's second team captain, Tony Martin, whilst Walker ousted another Ormesby player, Stephen Souter.

Angela Tierney took full advantage of Carole Knight's withdrawal from the Championships and won the women's singles in addition to taking the girls' singles where she was top seed. In the final of the women's singles Angela beat Jane Skipp, who showed her best form for some time.

The junior boys' singles was won by Michael Laird, after a cliff-hanger final against Synthonia's Mark Murphy. Murphy won the first game and had a substantial lead in the second before the Ormesby boy pulled back to "deuce" and won after saving 3 set points.

Having been let off the hook once, Laird was not prepared to give Murphy another chance and was a convincing winner in the decider.

LANCASHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

The 8th Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open will take place at Bolton Institute of Technology Sports Hall, on Sunday, March 7, 1976, commencing at 9-30 a.m. Entries to Mr. C. H. Minta, Physical Education and Recreation Unit, Institute of Technology, Deane Road, Bolton, Lancs., close on Saturday, February 14. The eight events are confined to U-17 and U-14 singles and doubles, no mixed. No charge will be made for admission to the venue. Plaques, Cups and Medals will be awarded to winners and runner(s)-up.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT



by *The Editor*

CZECHS LEAD

Czechoslovakia consolidated their leadership of the Premier Division in the European League when, in Prague, on January 21, they beat the defending title holders, Sweden, 4-3.

Milan Orłowski had wins over both Kjell Johansson and Stellan Bengtsson and partnered Ilona Uhlíkova to a further success in the mixed. The other Czech win came from Mrs. Uhlíkova, who accounted for Ann-Christin Hellman after losing the first game. Individual scores:—

J. Kunz lost to S. Bengtsson -17 -18.
M. Orłowski bt K. Johansson 16, 16.
I. Uhlíkova bt A.-C. Hellman -19, 18, 11.
Kunz/Orłowski lost to Bengtsson/Johansson -15, -20.
Orłowski/Uhlíkova bt Bengtsson/Hellman -13, 18, 14.
Kunz lost to Johansson -15, 17, -12.
Orłowski bt Bengtsson 20, 15.

Yugoslavia took over second position with a 4-3 win over France, in Paris, on January 20, when Dragutin Surbek registered wins over Jacques Secretin and Patrick Birocheau, the latter also falling to Anton Stipančić. Erzebet Palatinus played her part in beating Claude Bergeret. Scores:—

J. Secretin lost to D. Surbek -13, -17.
P. Birocheau lost to A. Stipančić 19, -15, -23.
C. Bergeret lost to E. Palatinus -19, -17.
Birocheau/Secretin bt Stipančić/Surbek -14, 13, 11.
Secretin/Bergeret bt Surbek/Palatinus 16, 19.
Secretin bt Stipančić -16, 13, 17.
Birocheau lost to Surbek -16, -16.

Hungary, bringing back their ace defender, Janos Börzsei, brought off their first win but only by a 4-3 margin, Börzsei sealing their success over Poland with a last set win over Witold Woznica. Scores:—
S. Fraczyk lost to J. Börzsei -12, -14.
W. Woznica bt F. Timar 12, -14, 14.
C. Noworyta lost to G. Szabo -11, -20.
S. Fraczyk/Woznica bt T. Asztalos/Timar 19, -14, 12.
R. Czochanski/E. Olek lost to Timar/H. Lotaller 20, -20, -19.
S. Fraczyk bt Timar 18, 14.
Woznica lost to Börzsei 10, -14, -16.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	3	3	0	15	6	3
Yugoslavia	4	3	1	17	11	3
Sweden	4	2	2	19	9	2
Soviet Union	3	2	1	13	8	2
France	3	1	2	10	11	1
Hungary	3	1	2	6	15	1
Poland	4	0	4	4	24	0

In Division 2—Group A, wins by Marie-France Germiot, both in her singles and mixed, with Norbert van de Walle, was all that Belgium could extract from the Netherlands, who won 5-2, thus maintaining their challenge to England whose next fixture is away to Luxembourg on February 25. Scores:—
N. v.d. Walle lost to B. v.d. Helm -13, -13.
W. Dugardin lost to N. v. Slobbe -19, -6.
M.-F. Germiot bt S. Heltzel 17, 19.
Dugardin/D. Nassaux lost to v.d. Helm/v. Slobbe -16, -18.
v.d. Walle/Germiot bt v.d. Helm/Heltzel 19, -13, 16.

v.d. Walle lost to v. Slobbe 18, -12, -18.
Dugardin lost to v.d. Helm -18, -19.
Ireland chalked up their first win on January 21 when, in Omagh, they beat Luxembourg 6-1, the one that got away being the final set when Jean Krier, the one-time Hull University student, beat Tommy Caffrey. Scores:—
J. Langan bt J. Krier 14, 15.
T. Caffrey bt C. Putz 15, 8.
K. Senior bt J. Dom 12, -19, 13.
Caffrey/Langan bt A. Hartmann/Krier 14, -18, 11.

Langan/Senior bt Krier/Dom 12, 9.
Langan bt Putz 14, -16, 11.
Caffrey bt Krier -19, 21, -15.

DIVISION 2—GROUP A

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	18	3	3
Netherlands	3	3	0	15	6	3
Belgium	4	2	2	11	17	2
Denmark	3	1	2	10	11	1
Ireland	3	1	2	10	11	1
Luxembourg	4	0	4	6	22	0

“Dark horses” Bulgaria brought off their fourth successive win in Division 2—Group B when, in Sofia, on January 21, they beat Italy 5-2. Stefano Bosi was the only Italian to savour success when he beat Bojidar Gentschev and Djewat Hasanov. Scores:—
D. Hasanov bt R. Giontella 14, -13, 17.
B. Gentschev lost to S. Bosi -9, -10.
E. Neikova bt F. Saporetto 9, 20.
Hasanov/P. Mitev bt Bosi/Giontella -19, 12, 19.
Mitev/Neikova bt Giontella/Saporetto 17, 10.
Hasanov lost to Bosi 17, -19, -17.
Gentschev bt Giontella 16, 17.

Austria, away to Switzerland, on January 23, brought off their first win by 5-2 anchoring their hosts firmly to the foot of the table. Scores:—

T. Busin bt G. Müller 17, -15, 19.
B. Chatton lost to R. Weinmann -12, -12.
T. Foldy bt J. Fetter -13, 19, 14.
Busin/M. Fruttschi lost to Müller/Weinmann -14, -20.
Fruttschi/V. Lehmann lost to Weinmann/Fetter 18, -15, -15.
Busin lost to Weinmann -12, -7.
Chatton lost to Müller 20, -17.

DIVISION 2—GROUP B

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	4	4	0	23	5	4
Federal Germany	3	3	0	19	2	3
Austria	3	1	2	9	12	1
Italy	3	1	2	8	13	1
Greece	3	1	2	5	16	1
Switzerland	4	0	4	6	22	0

Fixtures for February are:—

Premier Division
Feb. 25 Czechoslovakia v Hungary
Sweden v Soviet Union
France v Poland

Division 2—Group A
Feb. 24 Denmark v Belgium
Netherlands v Ireland (Hoogezand)
25 Luxembourg v England

Division 2—Group B
Feb. 25 F. Germany v Bulgaria (Dusseldorf)
Greece v Switzerland
Austria v Italy

MINISTER FOR SPORT

Chuang tse-tung, thrice a winner of the

world men's singles title, has been appointed as the Minister for Sport (Minister in charge of the Physical Culture and Sports Commission) in the Government of the People's Republic of China. He was also a member of the funeral committee set up on the death of Chou En-lai.

SYDNEY ENGAGEMENT

At a party in his flat overlooking Sydney Harbour, Eric Coster, the one-time Herts and Middlesex player, announced his engagement to Miss Sachiko Yokota, of Japan, who is currently ranked No. 12 in the I.T.T.F. classifications. At this stage they propose to get married after the 1977 World Championships.

Eric, a former coach with the Irish Table Tennis Association, is now the State Coach/Administrator for New South Wales in Australia.

E.T.T.U. BIENNIAL

The Biennial General Meeting of the European Table Tennis Union will be held in the Conference Hall of the Intercontinental Hotel, Praha, on March 28, 1976, commencing at 9 a.m.

A new handbook will be published after this Meeting, and all member Associations are asked to approach their Sports Manufacturers to obtain Advertisements. Details from the Gen. Sec., Mrs. Nancy Evans, 198 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff, Wales, CF2 6BQ. (Phone: Cardiff 757241).

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Czechoslovak T.T.A. are organising the 10th European Championships in the Sports Hall C.S.T.V. Prague from March 27 to April 4. The draw will be held on February 18, 1976, at the Park Hotel, Praha 7, Veletržní 20, under the control of the E.T.T.U. Executive Committee and Chairman of the E.T.T.U. Technical Committee.

Accommodation ranging from 37 American dollars (de Luxe) to U.S. \$6.10 per person per day (half board) can be arranged through the Sports-Turist Travel Agency, Narodni 33, 112 93 Praha 1. Entrance tickets for all sessions are priced at U.S. \$20 or, alternatively U.S. \$10 for the team championships and U.S. \$15 for the individual events which commence on April 2 after the rest day on April 1. The finals of the individual events are scheduled to commence at 3 p.m. on April 4.

SWISS OPEN

The Swiss Open, due to be held on the 20th-22nd February, 1976, has been cancelled.

CANADIAN POST

The Canadian Table Tennis Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Miss Ginny Sims to the position of Recreation Development Officer.

Ginny has a solid background in recreation, having obtained her academic training from the University of Guelph, Recreation Diploma Course and experience as Special Activities/Programme Co-ordinator in the towns of Brampton and Oakville.

The responsibility of our Recreation Development Officer will be to develop and conduct table tennis recreation leadership courses for students of recreation and physical education, and to introduce table tennis to industry as a beneficial employee recreation.

Ginny Sims will work out of the Canadian Table Tennis Office at the National Sport and Recreation Centre in Ottawa.

This position is made possible through a grant for salary and travel expenses from Recreation Canada.

GUARANTEE ASSURED

At a Special General Meeting of the English Table Tennis Association, held on Saturday, January 24, in London, there was an overwhelming vote (14,084 to 3,386) in favour of a returnable guarantee fund being raised by its members to be set against any losses incurred in the staging of the World Championships in Birmingham in 1977. The voting of nearly 80% for the resolution means that up to almost £80,000 could be collected if required.

Cleveland 3 Star Open

DOUGLAS SCOOPS THE POOL

by Alan Ransome

With the highest prize fund for an open championship in Britain so far, the Cleveland 3-Star Open was successfully staged at Thornaby Pavilion over the weekend of January 3-4.

Although Cleveland is well-known for its top players, the lion's share of the prizes went to players from outside the County, with Desmond Douglas winning the £150 Men's Singles prize and Jill Hammersley the £80 Women's Singles prize.

Douglas, in fact, only lost one game, in the final against Nicky Jarvis, on his way to winning the title disposing comfortably of Richard Yule in the quarters and Paul Day in the semis. Day, a round earlier, took full advantage of Denis Neale's generosity. Day won the first against the English Champion at 19, but Neale levelled at 16 in the second. The set looked won for Neale when he led in the decider by 17-9 and 19-14, but the Cambridge boy fought back when Neale lost his concentration and went on to win on "deuce".

In the lower half of the draw Jarvis came through only being troubled by Ian Horsham in the third round. 4th seed Jimmy Walker was beaten in the quarters by Andrew Barden 18 in the third. But the Middlesex boy was unable to find the same form against Jarvis in his next set.

Neale's generosity extended into the Men's Doubles when playing with Douglas. They had the final sewn up against Jarvis and Day, only to lose it from a large lead in the decider.

The Women's Singles was won by Jill Hammersley, who never looked in trouble. She won a good final against Linda Howard 17 and 18. Mrs. Hammersley's chief danger in the championship, local girl Carole Knight, fell to Linda Howard in the semi-final, whilst 4th seed Susan Lisle was beaten earlier by Middlesex junior Angela Mitchell, who went on to meet Mrs. Hammersley. Another junior, Chris Rogers, of Leicester, took the £20 prize for the Intermediate (U-19) Men's Singles. In the final Rogers beat local player Robert Wiley, who came through after beating second seed Stephen Souter, in the quarters.

In the Intermediate Women's Singles, Carole Knight won without dropping a game, beating Melody Ludi in the semi-final and Anita Stevenson in the final.

A new feature of the championship was the "staged" semi-final session, which included the Men's Singles quarter-finals. These matches were presented Super League style on three tables at 2 p.m. on Sunday and they attracted a crowd of 500 people who stayed on to watch the finals which immediately followed. This experiment met with the approval of players and spectators alike and is likely now to be a permanent feature of the Cleveland Championships.

The event was sponsored by Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department, for whom Councillor Mrs. Keenan, the Committee Chairman, and Councillor M. Lennon, Vice-Chairman, presented the awards. This year's co-sponsor was Stiga, who substantially assisted with the prize fund.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

D. Douglas (Wks) bt R. Yule (Scot) 13, 15.
P. Day (Cams) bt D. Neale (Cleve) -19, 16, 20.
A. Barden (Middx) bt J. Walker (Cleve) -17, 16, 18.
N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt G. Davies (Wales) 14, 12.

Semi-finals

Douglas bt Day 13, 17.
Jarvis bt Barden 16, 15.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Jarvis 19, -17, 10.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt H. Shields (Yks) 10, 5.

A. Mitchell (Middx) bt J. Williams (Cleve) 22, 11.

C. Knight (Cleve) bt A. Stevenson (Leics) 19, 7.

L. Howard (Surrey) bt J. Skipp (Cleve) 8, 7.

Semi-finals

Hammersley bt Mitchell 8, 13.

Howard bt Knight -13, 19, 8.

Final

HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 17, 18.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Neale bt Davies/A. Griffiths (Wales) 16, 4.

Day/Jarvis bt Barden/Walker 13, 17.

Final

DAY/JARVIS bt Douglas/Neale -13, 17, 20.

Womes's Doubles—Semi-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt S. Lisle (Ches)/Stevenson -16, 12, 17.

M. Ludi (Yks)/Mitchell bt B. Kearney (Nthld)/Knight 14, -17, 19.

Final

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Ludi/Mitchell 11, 18.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Howard bt Day/Ludi 13, 18.

Neale/Knight bt Jarvis/Hammersley 6, 16.

Final

DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Neale/Knight 17, 16.

Intermed. M.S. (U-19)—Quarter-finals

A. Clark (Nthld) bt N. Hallows (Lancs) 20, -13, 14.

C. Rogers (Leics) bt B. Metcalfe (Yks) 13, 14.

A. Metcalfe (Yks) bt N. Ward (Australia) -16, 15, 16.

R. Wiley (Cleve) bt S. Souter (Cleve) 21, 12.

Semi-finals

Rogers bt Clarke 13, 14.

Wiley bt A. Metcalfe 19, -22, 12.

Final

ROGERS bt Wiley 12, -15, 16.

Intermed. W.S. (U-19)—Semi-finals

Knight bt Ludi 19, 9.

Stevenson bt Williams 17, -15, 15.

Final

KNIGHT bt Stevenson 11, 13.

Veteran Singles—Semi-finals

P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt K. Skipp (Cleve) 11, 9.

T. Wilkinson (Nthld) bt J. Eckersley (Yks) 4, 8.

Final

D'ARCY bt Wilkinson 11, 14.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

DEATH OF FRED JOYCE

News from Surrey this month is shadowed by the death of Fred Joyce, a long term stalwart on the County scene, and the man who had been the kingpin around who the County Committee was sustained for many a difficult year. Fred was a jovial M.C. at County matches, a kindly Chairman, a reliable Treasurer, and a good friend to all who knew him. He will be missed.

Individual tournament time is now upon us. The County competitions will soon be taking place, split, as last year, between Junior and Senior on differing dates. The Redhill and Reigate League are holding theirs on March 20-21 at the Royal Philanthropic School, Redhill, with a handicap event mixed in with the usual categories.

Guildford recently held their Handicap Singles and Doubles tournaments, with a large entry of 162, and nine hours of play on the Saturday, but, because of an early(?) start of 0900 hours on the Sunday, managed to see the finals over by 6 p.m. that day. The handicap doubles trophy went to a scratch pair of Terry Haley and Sue Cudden, who pipped by one point, Messrs. Teague and Cossins. The singles trophy, in its second year, nearly returned to the mantelpiece of its first winner, 17-year-old Simon Vine, who was narrowly beaten by 11-year-old Mark Oakley, playing with a seven points start in each game.

The Guildford coaching scheme takes some satisfaction from the record that in the County Under-14 squad their Stephen Woodgate, Mark Oakley, Russell Taylor, Steven Baggott, and David Oakley are partnered by Steve Holloway and Peter Bruntnell, while of the three girls in the squad, Lorraine Garbett is joined by Guildford's Sarah Cresswell and Kerry Merritt



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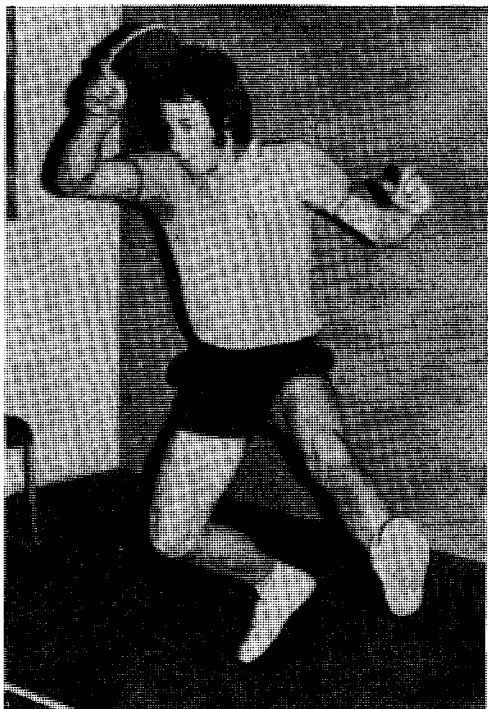
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ESSEX NOTES
by Geoff Newman



Graham Blomfield, Essex 2nd team skipper, a determined fighter who has been putting in some good performances.

Photo by Geoff Newman.

CHANCES GONE

Our chances of major County Championship honours are gone for this season but our teams have been playing well without making too much of their own luck.

Deprived of David Brown and Shelagh Hession for the Yorkshire match, we just went down 4-5. Poor Ian Horsham just cannot get things together at present and he was just pipped in both singles at 'deuce' in the third.

Bob Potton (what an improved player he is this season) and Elaine Tarten really had some excellent wins in this match, Elaine doing well to beat Melody Ludi, whilst Bob won both his singles in devastating fashion. David Iszatt, promoted to the side, overcame an early attack of stage fright to defeat Alan Fletcher.

Our second team were pipped on the post by Sussex with their lion-hearted skipper, Graham Blomfield, once again doing well, ably backed up by David Bowles and Brian Mailey. The senior thirds are back on form this season and their success undoubtedly stems from their consistency, in particular Steve Whiteley and Marilyn Nash, who have been having a ball this term.

Our juniors lack that strength in depth that we have had in the past, but I am certain we shall come again in this sphere in the not too distant future. Against Yorks. the first team lost all the early close ones and it was left to Kevin Caldon to fly the flag. Our second team came back well against Sussex after trailing 1-3, John Iszatt and Leon Smith winning very important sets. The third team also notched a draw at Suffolk with Elaine Sayer again showing true potential.

The veterans' first team were right on track against Hants with a 6-3 win, Vic Ireland and Marie Knoy winning the mixed, an event that Hants have not conceded in five seasons of County play. Our cadet squad (U-14) figured in their first round of matches in the new U-14 County competition and went down 4-6 to Middlesex but beat Herts 8-2. But what a revelation they proved to be.

None less than Desmond Charlery, who scored outstanding wins over Graham Sandley and Adam Proffitt. None of our team had ever played in a County match before and Alan

Shepherd was absolutely delighted with their performances. Incidentally, our junior secretary, whose endless enthusiasm never ceases to amaze me, was in charge of a coachload of hopefuls from Essex, Herts and Middlesex for the Junior Closed and led a squad of a dozen Essex juniors who were County-sponsored to the Yorkshire "Select" a week later.

Alan will also be running a coach to the Reading "Select" and any interested parties should ring him at 01-529 3811 (h) or 01-520 2336 (b). There was a very pleasing match recently when Essex All-Stars met the International Club to celebrate David Brown reaching the milestone of 10 years' County play. During the course of the evening David was presented with a suitably engraved tankard, while David's wife, Hazel, was also the recipient of an Essex badge with No. 1 Supporter embroidered on it—a fact that will not have gone unnoticed to our senior team's opponents.

Nearly all our leagues are preparing for their own closed championships and most report very large entries indeed. It will be interesting to see the final outcome of them all. Our own Essex League programme is well under way, the only unbeaten teams in the Senior Division 1 are Dagenham "A" who defeated Chelmsford 7-3 and Southend "A" who beat Romford "A" 6-4. Dagenham "B" continue to struggle and went down 4-6 to Harlow who had David Iszatt and Neil Brierley unbeaten. Div. 2 leaders are Billericay "A" who gained full points against Walthamstow and from the closeness of the other results so far played in this section this victory may well clinch the title.

Harlow "B" and Ilford "A" remain unbeaten in Div. 3 with Harlow having the advantage after a resounding 9-1 win over Southend "C". The veterans' title has been thrown wide open following Billericay's 5-4 win over Dagenham "A", the last set of the evening being won 21-19 in the third by Vic Ireland and Fred Lockwood over Laurie Fountain and Ken Reynolds. This leaves Romford "A", who have already beaten Billericay 5-4, as the only undefeated team in the division. Basildon "A" continue to have problems and look the most likely candidates for relegation.

Dagenham "A" are strong favourites to retain their junior title following 8-2 wins over Barking and Chelmsford. All the other teams have tasted defeat at least once. Following their promotion from Div. 2, Ilford have suffered two 2-8 reverses and will have to improve considerably to remain in the top strata. In the second division Billericay and Harlow have gained maximum points and their meeting will certainly decide the issue in this section.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

NOCIVELLI INSPIRES

Newport men, at home to Poole, had to make last-minute changes when No. 1, John Bloomer, and No. 3, Tony Watkins, cried off. Replacements were Ray Goulding, from their Welsh League "B" team, and their No. 1 Youth and County player, Kevin Baulch.

But mainly as a result of Michael Nocivelli's efforts, Newport succeeded in beating the much-improved Poole team, 5-4 with Nocivelli recording a treble and Goulding supplying the other two.

Swindon established a 4-2 lead over visitors Plymouth, who subsequently recovered to win 5-4 with Terry Fairbanks winning the vital 9th set. Tony Reeves, David Reeves and David Wise shared the home wins over Bournemouth, whose Trevor Smith was unbeaten when Newbury won 6-3.

West Wilts recorded another good home win with a comfortable 7-2 success over visitors Weston, whose team members all bent the knee to 16-years-old Kevin Edwards—yes, even Tony Russe.

Russe's anti-loop tactics proved of no avail against the "A" Group England junior whose team-mates Roy Smith and Bob Murray, both

accounted for Jim Andrews and Ray Philpott.

Poole, at home to Swindon, had a treble winner in Graham Hill when they just made it 5-4 with John Robinson claiming the other two, Michael Hughes having a luckless time of it. Ken Harrison (2), Frank Bailey (1) and Bushell (1) scored for Swindon.

Three teams still claim unbeaten records in the men's section with Exmouth in the lead over West Wilts and Newbury, who have matches in hand as the pot begins to boil.

In the women's section, Newbury "A" and Bournemouth have maximum points, the former recently recording a 9-0 win over Salisbury, who could only muster 2 players in Kay Waters and M. Baker, who failed to stop the gallop of Newbury's Carol Houghton, Jackie Godwin and Caroline Reeves. Leading positions:—

Men	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Exmouth	5	5	0	35	10	10
West Wilts	4	4	0	27	9	8
Newbury	3	3	0	17	10	6
Plymouth	4	2	2	19	17	4

Women	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury "A"	2	2	0	18	0	4
Bournemouth	2	2	0	16	2	4
Swindon	3	2	1	13	14	4
Newbury "B"	2	1	1	9	9	2

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by Laurie Selby

5th TIME LUCKY

It was fifth time lucky for Kenny Harrison when he became Swindon men's singles champion. Harrison, four times a runner-up, won the title for the first time when he beat Frank Bailey, who defeated him in last season's final.

Wendy Parker retained the women's title which she won last year. In the final she beat Mrs. Pam Oung, who took the first game. The veterans' singles went to Lew Bues for the fifth time after his exciting victory over Ken Whitehall.

Bailey and Harrison retained the men's doubles title and Miss Parker and Beverley Keeble won the women's doubles by beating Mrs. Gwen Hazell and her daughter, Kenwyn, in the final. Whitehall and Claire Maisey (14) survived a match point before winning the mixed final against Brian Hey and Mrs. Hazell. Speedway star, Martin Ashby, presented the trophies.

NEW I.T.T.F ADDRESS

The office of the International Table Tennis Federation has moved to 53 London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN37 6AY. Telephone: Hastings (0424) 430971. Cables: INTABTEN, HASTINGS.

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SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

EDINBURGH OPEN — Meadowbank — Edinburgh — 18 January, 1976.

Edinburgh's Terry Forker, enjoying his best season for many a year, having already won the North and East Men's Singles titles, won his third title without dropping a set to maintain his 100% tournament record. His victims included Tony Gelder (quarter-final), Eric Sutherland (semi-final) and Jim Graham in the Final. In the other half, young Tom Devers had a good 2-0 win over Ram Bhalla (quarter-final) before losing -19 in the third to Graham in the semi-final; Jim had beaten Bert Kerr 2-0 in his quarter-final.

Grace McKay and Patrice Fleming continued their rivalry in the Women's Singles, disposing of Moira Brown and Elaine Craig respectively in the semis for Grace to win the Final 2-0.

The Handicap Singles, an unusual event in an open tournament, with handicaps ranging from -19 (John Wilson and Peter McQueen) to +10, was won by David Svenson (-14) from Tom Devers (-13).

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

T. Forker (Edinburgh) bt E. Sutherland (Edinburgh) 16, 11.
J. Graham (W. of Scotland) bt T. Devers (W. of Scotland) -17, 20, 19.

Final

T. FORKER bt J. Graham 15, 10.

Women's Singles

G. McKAY (Edinburgh) bt P. Fleming (W. of Scotland) 21, 18.

Men's Doubles

T. FORKER/E. SUTHERLAND bt R. Brown/D. Fraser 18, 12.

Women's Doubles

G. McKAY/E. CRAIG bt I. Ferguson/L. Davidson 8, 15.

Handicap Singles

D. SVENSON (Sunderland -14) bt Tom Devers (W. of Scotland) -13) 23-21, 22-17.

NORWICH UNION INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A mini-bus load of Scottish players travelled down to Brighton where they gained valuable experience of international competition. Once again our best achievements were provided by Richard Yule, who won his two sets in Scotland 1's 2-3 defeat by Netherlands I, and reached the last 16 of the Men's Singles by virtue of a good win over the ace defender Norbert van de Walle, before losing 0-3 to Paul Day. Elaine Smith and Patrice Fleming's defeat by Carole Knight and Karen Rogers 2-3, having led 2-0 at one stage, was a creditable performance, as this pair went on to narrowly lose in the Final.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

LEEDS CHALLENGE

In Division 1 of the Yorkshire League, Leeds are mounting a strong challenge to title-holders Huddersfield. Both teams are still unbeaten (at the time of writing) and so their scheduled meeting in March could produce fireworks when the sharp hitting of the Leeds youngsters comes up against the experienced consistency of the Huddersfield "oldsters" (if they will pardon the expression). Leeds II are Division 2 title contenders, and Halifax II top Division 3. In the Women's Division, Bradford's clear lead is explained by the number of Bradford players in the women's County rankings, and for a similar reason the Leeds juniors head Junior Division 1. After many lean years in the junior sphere of activities, Huddersfield are making a strong bid for the Junior Division 2 title. The Veterans' Division is dominated by South Yorkshire teams Doncaster and Barnsley.

The leaders in mid-January were:

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huddersfield I	5	5	0	0	36	14	10
Leeds I	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Bradford I	5	2	1	2	28	22	5

Division 2

Leeds II	5	4	1	0	40	10	9
Bradford III	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Huddersfield II	4	3	0	1	23	17	6

Division 3

Halifax II	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Rotherham I	6	4	0	2	33	27	8
Leeds III	6	4	0	2	31	29	8

Division 4

Doncaster III	5	5	0	0	33	17	10
Barnsley IV	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Huddersfield III	5	3	0	2	29	21	6

Division 5

Rotherham II	6	5	1	0	48	12	11
Harrogate IV	6	4	2	0	45	15	10
Selby I	6	4	1	1	39	21	9

Women's Division

Bradford	5	5	0	0	47	3	10
York I	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Hull II	6	4	0	2	33	27	8

Junior Division 1

Leeds I	6	6	0	0	43	11	12
Hull I	5	4	0	1	36	9	8
Leeds III	7	4	0	3	36	27	8

Junior Division 2

Huddersfield	4	4	0	0	31	5	8
Sheffield II	3	3	0	0	20	7	6

Veterans Division

Doncaster	7	7	0	0	57	13	14
Barnsley I	7	6	0	1	59	11	12

The quarter-final draw for the senior Yorkshire Club Championships is:

Hermits v Wadsley Bridge
Moor Allerton v Barnsley North End
Leeds Y.M.C.A. beat Wellesley Park 7-2
Huddersfield Y.M.C.A. v Unity Hall

In Round 2, Leeds club, Moor Allerton (Len Browning, Nicky Davies, Alan Jones) scored a surprising 5-0 win over the Hull Y.P.I. trio of Dave Bartlett, Dave Boulter and Mike Harrison.

In the Premier Division of the Hull League, Harrison's unbeaten record was demolished on 21st January by Clive Pollard. Mike's team, Y.P.I. Corinthians, could only draw with Hull Sports Club Leopards and lost ground in their bid for the Premier Division title. Y.P.I. Spartans, led by Essex player Dave Boulter, currently at Hull University, now head the title race.

New County rankings were issued on 1st January, as follows:—

Men: 1—Tony Clayton (Bath) (1); 2—Alan Fletcher (Birmingham) (2); 3—Stephen Hazelwood (Leeds) (4); 4—Michael Harrison (Hull) (6); 5—Kevin Beadsley (Halifax) (3); 6—Andrew Metcalfe (Leeds) (7); 7—Malcolm Mear (Huddersfield) (—); 8—Nicky Davies (Leeds) (8); 9—Richard Priestley (Bradford) (10); 10—Robert Shutt (Bradford) (9); 11—Michael Stephenson (Bradford) (—); 12—John Kedge (Huddersfield) (12).

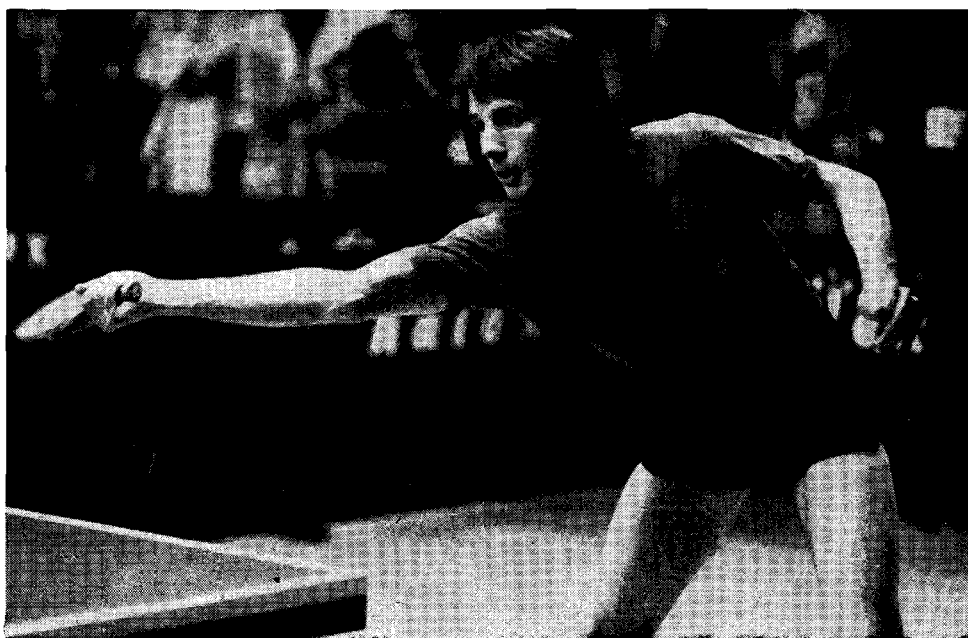
Women: 1—Melody Ludi (Bradford) (1); 2—Julie McLean (Hull) (2); 3—Sylvia Broadbent (Bradford) (4); 4—Helen Shields (Bradford) (5); 5—Jeanette Richardson (York) (6); 6—Lynda Sutton (Leeds) (8); 7—Linda Hryszko (Bradford) (9); 8—Carole Grayson (Hull) (10); 9—Pat Waldron (Doncaster) (7).

Boys: 1—S. Hazelwood (2); 2—Harrison (3); 3—Beadsley (1); 4—A. Metcalfe (4); 5—Robert Hazelwood (Leeds) (7); 6—Stephen Mills (Sheffield) (8); 7—Brian Metcalfe (Leeds) (9); 8—Alan Summerscales (Doncaster) (6); 9—Joe Naser (Hull) (11); 10—Jeffrey Beecroft (Barnsley) (10); 11—Chris rindar (Hull) (13).

Girls: 1—Ludi (1); 2—McLean (2); 3—Hryszko (3); 4—Cathryn Haworth (Leeds) (4); 5—Sally Dickerson (Bradford) (6); 6—Sally Midgeley (Bradford) (9); 7—Hilary Dorman (Wakefield) (5); 8—Lynne Beadsley (Halifax) (7); 9—Dawn Ledger (Hull) (10); 10—Carole Ingram (Leeds) (8).

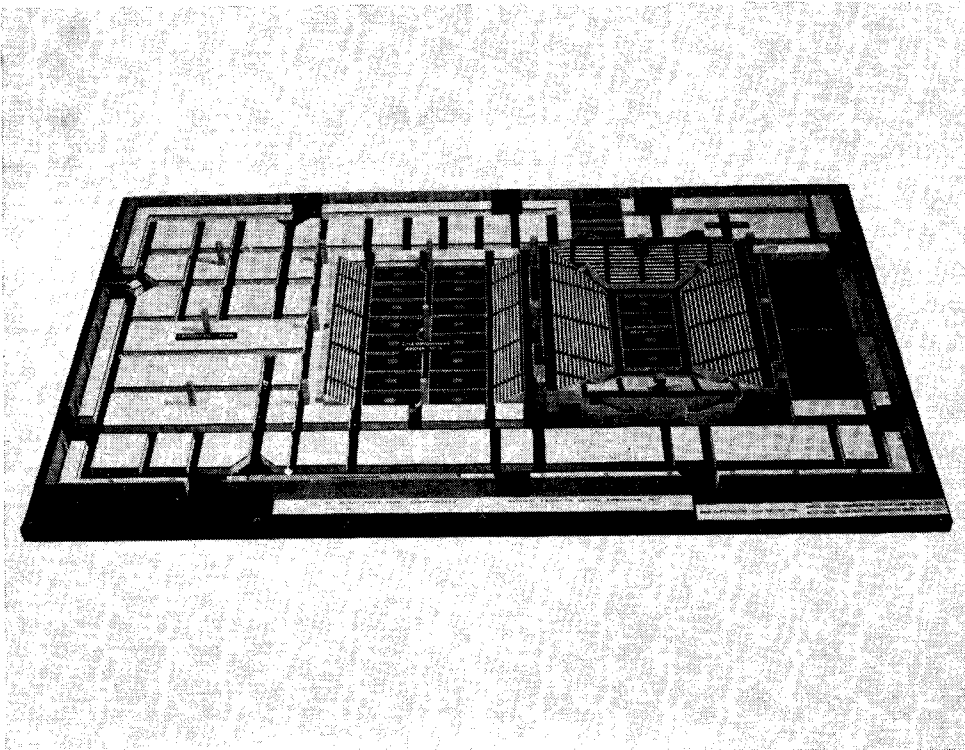
Helped by the absence of David Brown and Shelagh Hession, the County senior first team gained two more vital points at the expense of Essex at Doncaster on 17th January. In a match of fluctuating fortunes, Stephen Hazelwood and Julie McLean scored another important mixed doubles win. A word of praise for the exhilarating play of the visitors' Bob Potton, whose two wins cancelled out the home team's two successes over Ian Horsham. The two junior teams both continued their run of successes.

My apologies to Richard Priestley and Helen Shields, who were given in last month's notes as losing the final of the mixed doubles of the Yorkshire Closed. They did, in fact, win.



Richard Yule, chief standard bearer for Scotland at Brighton.

Photo by Tony Ross.



MODEL SETTING AT BICKINHILL

Pictured herewith is the model that has been constructed showing the layout of the courts in Hall No. 5 at the National Exhibition Centre, for the forthcoming World Championships in Birmingham next year. The right hand arena is based on the Wimbledon Centre Court conception, with four tables, the other sixteen being located in Arena No. 2, on the left of the picture.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

YOUNGEST-EVER CHAMPION

The Norfolk Closed championships were held at the University of East Anglia Sports Centre, on December 13-14. On the second of these dates Douglas Bennett, born 21st January, 1961, became the youngest-ever Norfolk champion, beating the No. 3 seed, ex-Berkshire player, Bob Thornton, in the quarter-final, the No. 1 seed and defending champion of the last two seasons, Mick Musson, in the semis, and John Fuller No. 2 seed in the final. Thus there was no mistake!

Fuller, now in his second year at University, was the previous youngest champion, when he won the title the day before his 15th birthday.

Betty Cassell emerged victorious in yet another clash with Edna Fletcher in the Women's final, and these two joined forces to take the Doubles title. These two successes won for Betty the Victor Ludorum.

At the close of the Championships, Stan Ford, National Umpire and Tournament Referee, who was leaving Norfolk for RA Lyneham, was presented with honorary county colours. Results:—

M.S.: D. Bennett bt J. Fuller 17, 20.
 W.S.: Mrs. E. Cassell bt Mrs. E. Fletcher -11, 17, 18.
 V.S.: L. Holdom bt V. Bennett -19, 13, 13.
 M.D.: C. Bensley/M. Broughton bt R. Thornton/R. Annison 11, 12.
 W.D.: Cassell/Fletcher bt Mrs. R. & Miss W. Hogg -19, 18, 11.
 X.D.: R. Thornton/Miss W. Hogg bt D. Bennett/Miss P. Ribbans 9, 15.

At the East Anglian League individual championships, at King's Lynn Y.M.C.A., on January 4, it was Bob Thornton who came out on top, retaining both his singles and men's doubles titles and beating Douglas Bennett on the way. Mrs. Cassell retained her title too. Results:—

M.S.: R. Thornton (N) bt J. Fuller (Y) 14, 15.
 W.S. Mrs. E. Cassell (KL) bt Miss J. Langridge (Bury) 12, 19.

M.D.: Thornton (N)/R. Annison (W) bt D. Bennett (N)/P. Durrant (Y) 12, 10, 19.
 W.D.: Mrs. R. & Miss W. Hogg (N) bt Mrs. E. Cassell (KL)/Mrs. E. Fletcher (Y) 13, 19.
 X.D.: J. Fuller/Mrs. E. Fletcher (Y) bt S. Palmer/ Miss J. Langridge (Bury) 14, 19.
 Restricted Singles: C. Wilkes (N) bt K. Green (C) 16, 13, 14.

Key: N—Norwich; Y—Yarmouth; KL—King's Lynn; C—Cambridge.

Letter to the Editor

HAPPY TO LEARN

As a non-player but a very interested table tennis supporter, I wonder if one of your correspondents would be kind enough to explain the Junior Ranking system, especially regarding Cadet girls. I realise with girls of such immature years results are liable to be somewhat erratic and the selectors can have no easy task.

Since the start of the current season there have been three "Select" tournaments. As a result of the "Essex" combined with previous selection camps, the following cadets were ranked in descending order: Alison Gordon, Mandy Smith, Jill Purslow, Helen Robinson, Gillian Heath and Mandy Reeves. The top three, Berkshire girls, were also ranked 11, 12 and 17 respectively in the U-17's while Helen was "A" listed and Mandy Reeves only on the Cadet list.

There was no "Cadet" competition at the English "Wayfarers" for these girls to compete against each other, although Jill Purslow had a good victory over Jane Skipp (8) in the U-17's. Mandy Smith's results have been excellent, beating Julie Reading, Angela Tierney, Suzanne Hunt and Elaine Lamb, all girls ranked above her.

At the Yorkshire, the "Cadets" was won by Alison Gordon, who beat Jill Purslow in the semis, and Mandy Smith in the final. Helen Robinson did not reach the semis and Mandy Reeves did not put in an appearance.

The non-"Selects" have been mainly very

fruitful for the Berkshire girls, Alison winning the U-14 and U-17's at Newbury, and the U-14 at Cleveland. The Kent tournament, however, proved less fortunate. Alison lost to Mandy Reeves who, however, was beaten by another Berkshire player, "A"-listed Jo Douglas, in the next round. I am afraid I am ignorant of Mandy Reeves' other results but they must be quite outstanding to put her into the U-17 ranking lists as well as pushing Jill Purslow down to No. 5 in the current list of Cadets.

I shall be very happy to learn why the latest rankings read:—Helen Robinson (1), Mandy Smith (3), Mandy Reeves (4) and Jill Purslow (5). It can't be just because Berkshire is in the southern half of the country.

N. M. DOUGLAS (Mrs.).

11 Evendons Lane,
 Wokingham,
 Berkshire.

S.E. MIDLAND LEAGUE CHATTER

by Leslie Constable

WELL ESTABLISHED

In Div. 1 of the Men's Section North Herts are well-established at the top but, surprisingly in second position, are Milton Keynes, who had victories over Hunts Central and Ely—the latter being most outstanding bearing in mind that Ely easily won the title last season. In Div. 2 Northampton "B" are in the lead and, I think, that apart from St. Neots there will be little challenge. In Div. 1 of the Junior Section Hunts Central and North Herts hold the leading positions, without defeat, and here again I feel that these two teams will be fighting it out at the season's close. In Div. 2 (Junior) it is a different story as all teams, bar one (St. Neots), have won at least one match. My selections are either Wisbech or North Herts.

Wellingborough head the Women's Section without defeat, but Cambridge are offering strong challenge and I think we shall see a very exciting finish at the end of the season. Ely have withdrawn. Northampton and Cambridge are running neck-and-neck in the Veterans' Division, with Cambridge having the slight edge on set average. These two old rivals are again serving up high-class table tennis and it is anybody's guess who will succeed at the end of the season. St. Neots, who hold third place, are also doing well with only one defeat but I am afraid the pace will be too hot in the second half of the season.

A feature of the League has been the decline of Cambridge in both Senior and Junior sections, as they now compete in Div. 2 in each case and are having a hard time in holding their positions. Ely, champions for several seasons in the Men's Section, are faltering and it looks as though the League is producing new names at the top, which is all to the good.

LEAGUE TABLES

(Leading positions as at 31st Dec., 1975)

Division 1—Men	P	W	D	L	Pts
North Herts	3	3	0	0	23
Milton Keynes	4	3	0	1	22
Wellingborough	3	2	0	1	17
Division 1—Junior					
Hunts Central "A"	4	4	0	0	33
North Herts "A"	3	3	0	0	25
Bedford	3	2	0	1	23
Women					
Wellingborough	5	4	1	0	32
Cambridge	3	2	0	1	17
Bedford	5	1	1	3	17
Veterans'					
Northampton	5	5	0	0	40
Cambridge	4	4	0	0	36
St. Neots	5	4	0	1	34

ANSWERS

- 1—(a) RIGHT.
- 1—(b) WRONG.
- 2—Point to Alan.

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

DOWNWARD STEP

Lancashire took another step towards the second division when they couldn't follow up the good start made by Phil Bowen and Donald Parker against Cheshire when the score stood at 2-0. Cheshire got it together to set the stage for the "biggie" against Cleveland on February 14 with both teams unbeaten.

Whilst Cleveland seniors are flying high in their divisions, their juniors are having it far from their own way, and only the absence of Paul Day from Cambridgeshire enabled them to secure their first win in the Junior Premier Division by a slender 6-4 margin. Now four Counties are separated only by sets average on two points each at the foot of this division, with Kent only slightly better off with three points above them, and the remaining matches will see a scramble to avoid the drop.

CHALLENGE MATCHES

Arrangements to play both sets of Challenges have been made, to be played at Shenley Hospital, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, and we are indebted to Halex, who have agreed to provide tables and surrounds.

As reported last month, the Senior Challenge will be held over the weekend of April 24-25, with the Junior Challenge a week later, May 1-2.

PREMIER DIVISION

Cleveland 7, Warwickshire 2

N. Jarvis bt D. Munt 11, 13; bt P. Judd 11, 14.
J. Walker bt Munt 17, 17; bt D. Johnson 13, 14.

S. Souter lost to Judd -15, -16; bt Johnson 12, 12.

Miss C. Knight bt Miss D. St. Ledger 13, 8.
Souter/Miss Knight lost to Judd/Miss St. Ledger 15, -13, -19.

Lancashire 3, Cheshire 6

D. Parker lost to J. Hilton -18, -17; bt N. Eckersley 16, 12.

P. Bowen bt J. Hilton -11, 14, 15; lost to J. McNee 17, -12, -20.

J. Marshall lost to Eckersley -15, -13; lost to McNee -18, 12, -13.

Bowen/Parker bt Eckersley/Hilton 11, 20.

Miss J. Dixon lost to Miss S. Lisle -9, -4.
Marshall/Miss Dixon lost to McNee/Miss Lisle -10, -12.

Middlesex 6, Surrey 3

A. Barden bt R. Yule 12, 18; bt S. Lyons 19, 9.
M. Mitchell lost to Yule -20, -22; bt Welsman 15, 12.

D. Tann bt Lyons 13, 10; bt Welsman 18, 9, -18.

Barden/Tann bt Lyons/Welsman 15, 13.
Miss M. Walker lost to Miss L. Howard -13, -9.
Mitchell/Miss Walker lost to Yule/Miss Howard -15, -16.

Yorkshire 5, Essex 4

A. Clayton bt I. Horsham -13, 12, 20; lost to R. Potton -9, -17.

A. Fletcher bt Horsham -19, 17, 20; lost to D. Iszatt -20, -17.

S. Hazelwood lost to Potton -13, -14; beat Iszatt 19, 17.

Clayton/Fletcher bt Horsham/Potton -17, 17, 13.

Miss M. Ludi lost to Miss E. Tarten 19, -20, -16.

Hazelwood/Miss J. McLean bt Iszatt/Miss Tarten 16, 18.

This was one of the most entertaining matches seen in a long time. Ian Horsham, although unsuccessful in his three visits to the table, was in fine form and Fletcher's win over Horsham was the win of the night.

2nd SOUTH

Hampshire 2, Middlesex II 8

First win of the season for visitors, for whom Laurie Landry and Dave Jemmett were untroubled. Keith Summerfield took Bob

Aldrich close, but it was Julie Reading that figured in both Hampshire's wins.

Essex II 4, Sussex 6

Sussex fought hard for a 6-1 lead (four successes requiring the decider), then allowed hosts the last three sets!

2nd NORTH

Northumberland 2, Durham 8

Northumberland's largest crowd since their Premier Division heydays saw the most disappointing result for a long time. Durham's men dominated, "Benny" Robinson out of touch.

Nottinghamshire 2, Cleveland 8

2nd MIDLAND

Leicestershire 10, Gloucestershire 0

A one-sided match, but sportingly contested. Only Bill Dawe able to take as much as a game for the visitors. One can hope but for a return to their former glories for Gloucestershire—who can fail to remember the halcyon days of Merrett, Harrison, Morley, Griffin, Edwards, Tarlin and Bevan? (and none from Bristol either!).

Staffordshire 2, Derbyshire 8

Warwickshire II 4, Glamorgan 6

2nd EAST

Buckinghamshire 2, Northamptonshire 8

Bucks led 2-1 with wins by Tony Clark and Robert Harman, but Northants were fortunate to weather some close finishes for a flattering 8-2 win.

Bedfordshire 2, Hertfordshire 8

Visitors raced into a 3-0 lead, but Barbara Hammond just failed to level 3-3 by losing to Susan Felstead 15, -17, -17, after which Bedfordshire were never given a chance. Richard Jermyn on Herts first team debut.

Norfolk 4, Cambridgeshire 6

2nd WEST

Worcestershire 10, Cornwall 0

Ray Bunt so very nearly prevented the "whitewash" by holding two advantage points before going down to Bob Brown -24 in the third after the best rallies of the evening. Simon Claxton celebrated his seventeenth birthday in fine form.

Devon 8, Somerset 2

Great display by the home team to inflict such heavy defeat on old rivals. Full praise to a fine sporting Somerset team who took their defeat well.

Wiltshire 4, Berkshire 6

3rd SOUTH

Berkshire II 4, Kent II 6

Sussex II 10, Oxfordshire 0

Only W.D. went full distance, in all other departments the visitors were completely outplayed.

3rd NORTH

Cumbria 8, Cleveland III 2

A unique treble for Cumbria completed with this, their third win of the day over Cleveland—the others in two junior matches.

Lancashire II 9, Northumberland II 1

3rd MIDLAND

Clwyd 7, Warwickshire III 3

Home side benefiting from a Warwickshire side minus third man.

Derbyshire II 9, Staffordshire II 1

Northamptonshire II 4, Nottinghamshire II 6

The familiar pattern—Northants 0-3 down and Glennis Hooper and Valerie Feakin hit back to equalise 3-3 and 4-4. Stronger Notts men clinched match after a very sporting encounter.

3rd EAST

Essex III 8, Huntingdonshire 2

Norfolk II 4, Bedfordshire II 6

Beds trailed 1-3 and led 6-3, and that wasn't

the only amazing reversal—Mrs. S. Allen was trailing 8-19 to Susan Sharp and won 22-20! (but lost the set -16, 20, -9).

3rd WEST

Glamorgan II 9, Dorset 1

Shropshire 1, Avon 9

Worcestershire 7, Herefordshire 3

JUNIOR PREMIER

Cleveland 6, Cambridgeshire 4

I. Plummer lost to K. Richardson 18, -16, -14; bt G. Davies 19, 15.

M. Laird lost to Richardson -16, -19; bt S. Calvert 12, 9.

M. Murphy lost to Davies 15, -11, -14; bt Calvert 11, 7.

Laird/Murphy lost to Davies/Richardson 15, -9, -12.

Miss A. Tierney bt Miss C. Ellis 15, 13.

Plummer/Miss H. Robinson bt Calvert/Miss J. Palmer 8, 12.

Miss Robinson/Miss Tierney bt Miss Ellis/Miss Palmer 14, 18.

Cleveland's first success in their bid to escape relegation. Results of February matches (Cleveland travel to both Berkshire and Kent) crucial.

Middlesex 5, Kent 5

A. Barden bt I. Kenyon 15, 7; bt V. O'Brien 10, 16.

D. Wells lost to Kenyon -6, 13, -21; lost to J. Kennedy -16, -13.

M. O'Mahoney bt O'Brien -14, 14, 17; bt Kennedy 16, 15.

O'Mahoney/Wells lost to Kennedy/Kenyon -18, -18.

Miss J. Campion lost to Miss M. Heffernan -12, -17.

Barden/Miss M. Reeves bt O'Brien/Miss C. Colegate 12, 16.

Miss Campion/Miss Reeves lost to Miss Colegate/Miss Heffernan -9, -11.

Surrey 9, Berkshire 1

M. Shuttle bt D. Reeves 16, 22; bt S. Douglas 13, -13, 17.

S. Boxall bt Reeves 20, 16; bt A. Wellman 18, 7.

K. Seager bt Douglas 22, 16; bt Wellman 13, 13.

Boxall/Seager bt Douglas/Wellman -14, 14, 13.

Miss S. Roebuck bt Miss J. Purslow -16, 18, 17.

Shuttle/Miss J. Mitchell bt Reeves/Miss A. Gordon 13, 14.

Miss Mitchell/Miss Roebuck lost to Miss Gordon/Miss Purslow -8, -18.

Yorkshire 8, Essex 2

S. Hazelwood bt D. Newman -13, 15, 21; lost to K. Caldor -10, -17.

M. Harrison lost to Caldor -20, 21, -19; bt K. Jackson 7, 8.

K. Beadsley bt Newman 18, 19; bt Jackson 17, 8.

Beadsley/Harrison bt Caldor/Newman 12, 18.

Miss M. Ludi bt Miss S. Sutton 20, 21.

Hazelwood/Miss J. McLean bt Jackson/Miss P. Abbott 7, 17.

Miss Ludi/Miss McLean bt Miss Abbott/Miss Sutton -17, 15, 18.

Fine win by Yorkshire, the first two sets highlighting the match which was first class.

Kevin Beadsley back to form, but Kevin Caldor terrific. The fine behaviour of the young spectators was a credit to the local clubs and was a feature of the proceedings.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Dorset 6, Hampshire 4

Two evenly matched sides both looking for success in this local "derby", but Dorset made it—their first win this season.

Essex II 5, Sussex 5

Kent II 4, Middlesex II 6

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Cheshire 1, Yorkshire II 9

Cumbria 8, Cleveland II 2

Derbyshire 3, Lancashire 7

Northumberland 2, Durham 8

A convincing win for the visitors, without their No. 1, over a weakened home side.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Leicestershire 5, Norfolk 5

Northamptonshire 2, Hertfordshire 8

Continued on page 31