

Next time you or your friend require insurance advice, try a little name dropping

BARRY MEISEL

**PARKSIDE
INSURANCE
AGENCY**

Telephone : 01-857-8589 or 01-699-7193
Honestly, it's the best policy

Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

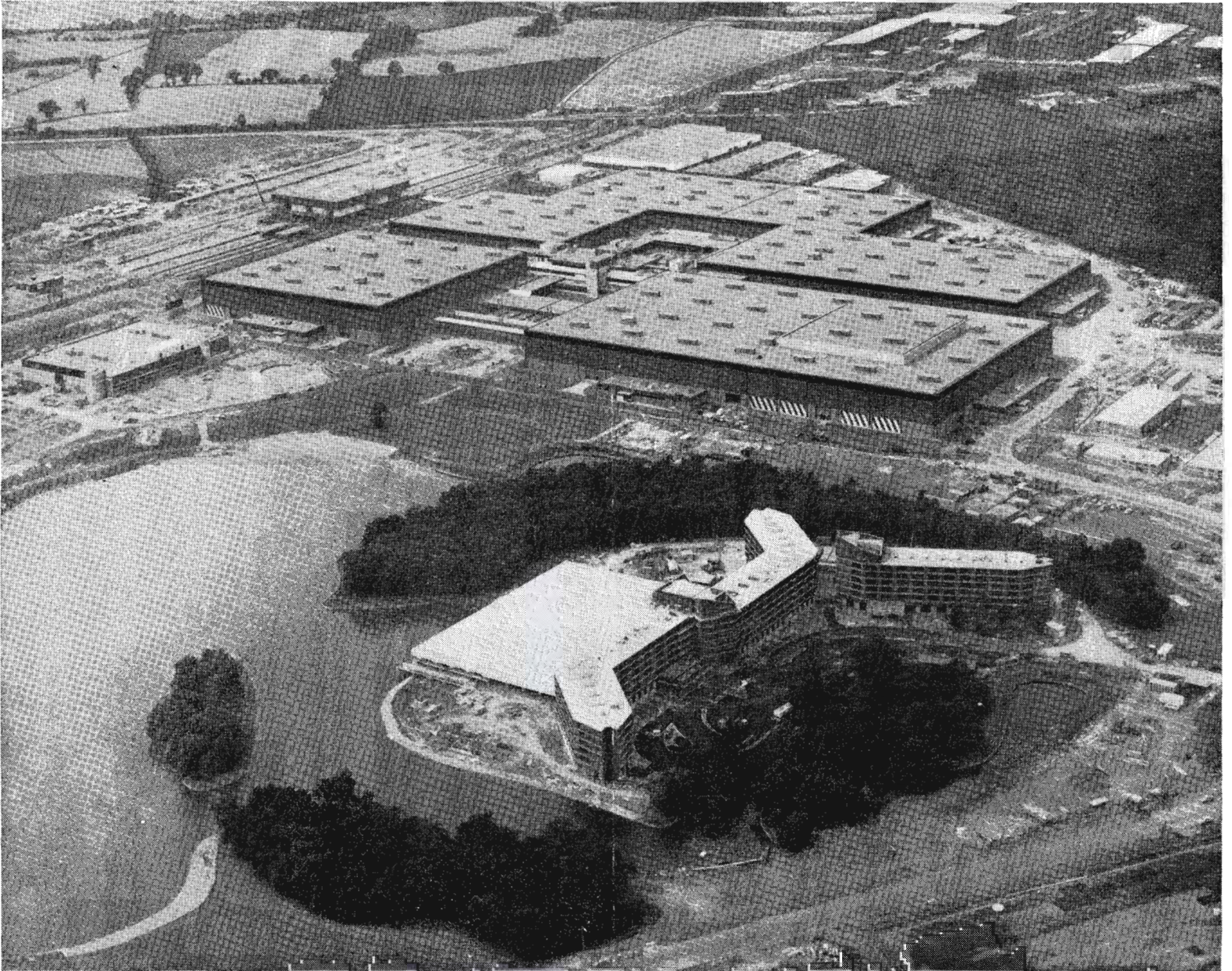
EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 76

January 1976

Price 20p

World Venue at Bickenhill



British and best - by

Jaques

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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

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

Circulation: Albert W. Shipley, Administrative Secretary, E.T.T.A., 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA. 'Phone: Hastings (0424) 433121.

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

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

CHAIN-MAIL

On January 24, at the Hotel Russell, in London, the English Table Tennis Association are to hold a Special General Meeting for the purpose of introducing a new rule calling on member leagues for a contribution to the 34th World Championships Guarantee Fund at the rate of 30p per team place, plus one reserve, for three seasons commencing with the 1976-77 season, when such contributions would become due on November 15 of this year.

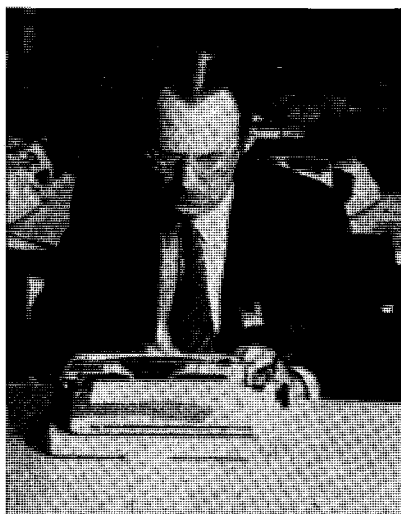
What in essence is being asked for is a guarantee fund which would only be used in the event of a major financial loss, happily not envisaged, otherwise all such contributions would be returnable and indeed not called for subsequent to the event, should more recent expectations come to fruition.

All the English Table Tennis Association is seeking is not to have the strength of the insurance companies around them, but the strength of their own member leagues whose contributions would provide that all-important link of faith in the chain now in the process of being forged for a successful 1977 World Championships at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.
 President: M. Goldstein.
 Life Vice-President: Hon. Ivor Montagu
 Chairman: C. M. Wyles, O.B.E.
 Deputy Chairman: G. R. Yates.
 Hon. Treasurer: T. Blunn.
 Management Committee:
 M. Goldstein, L. F. Landry, A. E. Upton and K. Watts.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT



by The Editor

CLEAR LEAD ESTABLISHED

With their victory 7-0 over Belgium in Baileux on December 19, England established themselves as clear leaders of **Division 2, Group A** of the **European League** following earlier wins over Denmark (6-1) and Ireland (5-2), the latter being reported elsewhere in this issue.

Likewise in **Group B**, Federal Germany, with wins over Greece (7-0), Switzerland (7-0) and, more recently, over Italy (5-2), have also laid claim to similar superiority with an Anglo-German play-off more than ever likely to regain Premier Division status next season at the probable expense of Poland, who have managed to win only one set in the three reverses they have so far suffered.

Denis Neale was brought back into the reckoning for the match in Baileux, to the exclusion of Desmond Douglas from singles play, and he, like Nicky Jarvis and Jill Hammersley, showed scant regard for the Belgians, as indeed did Douglas himself when paired with Neale in the men's doubles.

Not one set went into a deciding game, 15

points being the most obtained in any one and that in the second game of the first set when Norbert van der Walle went under to Jarvis. Individual scores:—

- N. v.d. Walle lost to N. Jarvis -11, -15.
- R. Schalley lost to D. Neale -13, -13.
- M.-F. Germiot lost to J. Hammersley -12, -14.
- D. Nassaux/Schalley lost to D. Douglas/Neale -11, -7.
- v.d. Walle/Germiot lost to Jarvis/Hammersley -14, -14.
- v.d. Walle lost to Neale -10, -14.
- Schalley lost to Jarvis -13, -11.

In their previous match, away to Luxembourg on December 11, Belgium just managed to nose home 4-3 and this was the score that the Netherlands obtained against Denmark in Beverwyk on December 13 when, in the final set, Bert van der Helm had a 2-straight win over Neils Ramberg to maintain their unbeaten record. Scores:—

In Luxembourg:—

- A. Hartmann bt W. Dugardin 19, -15, 17.
- S. Schreiner lost to N. v.d. Walle -18, -18.
- J. Dom bt M.-F. Germiot 18, 12.
- Hartmann/Schreiner bt D. Nassaux/v.d. Walle -15, 19, 18.
- Hartmann/Dom lost to v.d. Walle/Germiot -13, -9.
- Hartmann lost to v.d. Walle 15, -20, -20.
- Schreiner lost to Dugardin 16, -19, -17.

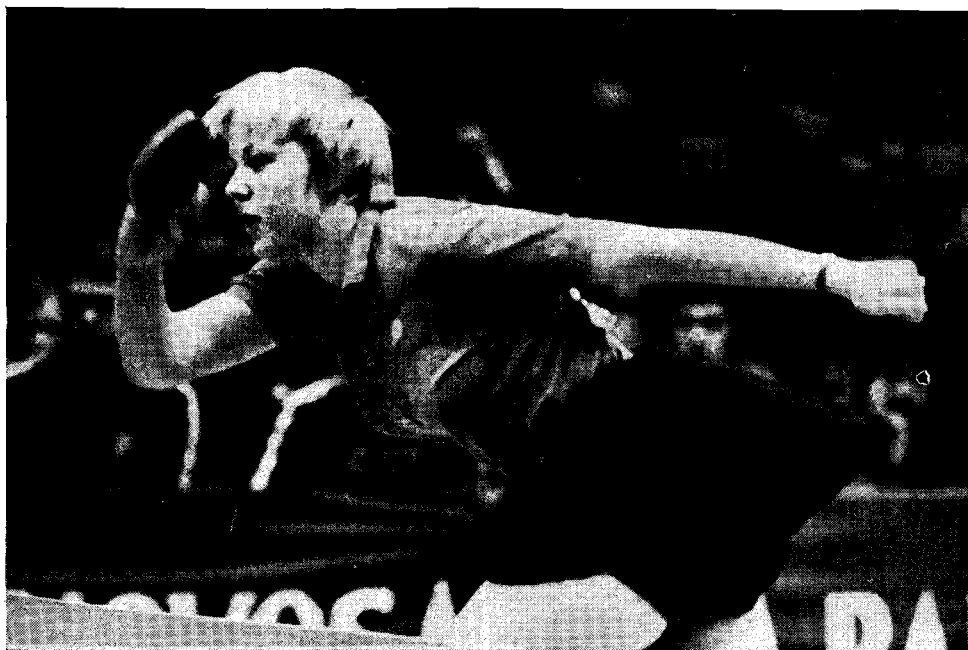
In Beverwyk:—

- N. v. Slobbe bt N. Ramberg 11, 16.
- B. v.d. Helm lost to C. Pedersen -7, 18, -9.
- S. Heltzel bt A. Larsen 20, 14.
- v.d. Helm/v. Slobbe lost to Pedersen/Ramberg 6, -11, -10.
- v.d.Helm/Heltzel bt Pedersen/Larsen -13, 11, 17.
- v. Slobbe lost to Pedersen -14, -15.
- v.d. Helm bt Ramberg 17, 19.

DIVISION 2 — GROUP A

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	18	3	3
Netherlands	2	2	0	10	4	2
Belgium	3	2	1	9	12	2
Denmark	3	1	2	10	11	1
Ireland	2	0	2	4	10	0
Luxembourg	3	0	3	5	16	0

Manfred Baum suffered the two reverses in Trieste, going down to Stefano Bosi and Roberto Giontella, but sandwiched between



Judit Magos-Havas, of Hungary, sadly missed in her national team whilst becoming a mother.

were the five wins obtained by Federal Germany against Italy. Scores:—
 S. Bosi bt M. Baum 13, 19.
 R. Giontella lost to J. Leiss -19, -14.
 A. La Gioia lost to U. Hirschmüller -5, -6.
 Bosi/Giontella lost to P. Engel/Leiss 19, -17, -13.
 S. Malesci/S. Milic lost to Engel/Hirschmüller -11, -5.
 Bosi lost to Leiss 20, -7, -19.
 Giontella bt Baum 19, 18.

Meantime, in Sofia, Bulgaria brought off their third successive win in beating Switzerland 6-1, the one to get away being the first set in which Thomas Busin beat Bojidar Gentchev. Scores:—
 B. Gentchev lost to T. Busin -16, -21.
 D. Hasanov bt M. Frutschi 9, 6.
 E. Neikova bt V. Lehmann 12, 18.
 G. Damianov/Gentchev bt Busin/Frutschi 8, 18.
 Mitev/Neikova bt Frutschi/Lehmann 14, 20.
 Gentchev bt Frutschi 13, 19.
 Hasanov bt Busin 15, 16.

Austria, in Judenberg, went down to their second successive defeat when beaten 5-2 by Greece, whose first win it was. Scores:—
 R. Weinmann bt C. Priftis 15, 13.
 G. Müller lost to D. Zikos -8, -17.
 D. Fetter lost to M. Louka 10, -13, -16.
 F. Thallinger/Weinmann lost to Zikos/N. Voulgaris 14, -11, -18.
 Müller/Fetter lost to Priftis/Louka -12, -17.
 Weinmann bt Zikos -15, 20, 18.
 Müller lost to Priftis -14, 15, -10.

	DIVISION 2 — GROUP B					A	Pts
	P	W	L	F	A		
Federal Germany	3	3	0	19	2	3	
Bulgaria	3	3	0	18	3	3	
Italy	2	1	1	6	8	1	
Greece	3	1	2	5	16	1	
Austria	2	0	2	4	10	0	
Switzerland	3	0	3	4	17	0	

As the result of beating the Soviet Union 4-3 in Moscow on December 11, Czechoslovakia put themselves in the reckoning for honours, being the only unbeaten team in the **Premier Division**. The Russians were taken by storm, being 0-3 down following wins by Miroslav Schenk over Stanislav Gomozkov, Milan Orlovski beating Sarkis Sarkhojan and Ilona Uhlíkova (née Vostova) overcoming Elmira Antonian.

There followed a fightback by the Russians but curtains came in the penultimate set when Orlovski, the European champion, brought about a second reverse for Gomozkov.



Jochen Leiss (Federal Germany) who had wins over Stefano Bosi and Roberto Giontella, of Italy, in the European League, at Trieste.

Photo by Denis George.

Scores:—
 S. Gomozkov lost to M. Schenk -15, -20.
 S. Sarkhojan lost to M. Orlovski -18, -20.
 E. Antonian lost to I. Uhlíkova -16, -19.
 Gomozkov/Sarkhojan bt Orlovski/Schenk -19, 13, 13.
 Sarkhojan/Antonian bt Orlovski/Uhlíkova 10, -14, 19.
 Sarkhojan bt Schenk 16, 13.

Poland, the promotees, were welcomed to the Adalshallen, Kramfors, on the same date and were afforded the doubtful pleasure of pitting their strength against the likes of Kjell Johansson, Stellan Bengtsson and Ann-Christin Hellman—no mean trio! In a 7-0 slaying, the Poles were left to console themselves with the crumb of a first game success in the mixed doubles. Scores:—
 K. Johansson bt W. Woznica 12, 21.
 S. Bengtsson bt Z. Fraczyk 11, 11.
 A.-C. Hellman bt C. Noworyta 14, 17.
 Bengtsson/Johansson bt S. Fraczyk/Woznica 13, 16.
 Bengtsson/Hellman bt Woznica/Noworyta -16, 15, 17.
 Johansson bt Z. Fraczyk 12, 10.
 Bengtsson bt Woznica 15, 9.

Hungary, in Budapest, went down to their second successive 1-6 defeat, this time to Yugoslavia, whose Open champion, Branka Batinic, lost to Henriette Lotaller. With the world champion, Istvan Jonyer, still nursing an injured leg and Gabor Gergely doing national service, Ferenc Timar, Istvan Asztalos, Zoltan Horvath and Janos Molnar are finding life somewhat difficult. Scores:—
 F. Timar lost to D. Surbek -17, 21, -16.
 Z. Horvath lost to A. Stipanovic -10, -12.
 H. Lotaller bt B. Batinic -16, 11, 16.
 J. Molnar/Timar lost to Stipanovic/Surbek -11, -12.
 Timar/Lotaller lost to Stipanovic/E. Palatinus -15, -13.
 Timar lost to Stipanovic -14, -18.
 Horvath lost to Surbek -10, -8.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	2	2	0	11	3	2
Sweden	3	2	1	16	5	2
Soviet Union	3	2	1	13	8	2
Yugoslavia	3	2	1	13	8	2
France	2	1	1	7	7	1
Hungary	2	0	2	2	12	0
Poland	3	0	3	1	20	0

Fixtures for January 21, 1976:—

Premier Division

- Poland v Hungary
- Czechoslovakia v Sweden
- Yugoslavia v France
- Division 2 — Group A**
- Ireland v Luxembourg
- Belgium v Netherlands
- Division 2 — Group B**
- Bulgaria v Italy
- Switzerland v Austria

EUROPE CLUB CUP

Men

Round 2

- Sparta Praha 5, D.T. Schifflange 0
- Molndals 5, St. Kuchl 0
- P.S.V. Borussia Dusseldorf 5, Glasgow Cent. 0

Ormesby 5, Wlokniarz 2

- Kremlin Bicetre (Paris) wo Panathinaicos (Athens) (scr)

- Tempo (Amsterdam) 5, Vasutas (Budapest) 4
- Banik Havirov wo Stiga (Finland) (scr)

- G.S.T.K. Vjesnik (Yugoslavia) 5, C.U.S. Firenze 0

Round 3

- Kremlin Bicetre 5, Tempo 2
- P.S.V. Borussia 2, Ormesby 5

Women

Round 1

- Ballerup 5, Polizei (Vienna) 3
- Statistika (Budapest) 5, Berne 0
- Palette Stave 5, Gatley (Stockport) 0

Round 2

- Sparta Praha 5, Ballerup 3
- Pochtenez (Bulg) 5, Panellinos (Athens) 0
- Proleter Coka 5, Spojnia Poland 2
- D.T. Echternach 5, Boulogne 4
- Tempo Amsterdam 5, Nord Harrislee 3

Barcelona wo Spartak Vlasim (scr)
 B.T.K. Varberg 5, Palette Stave 4

SCANDINAVIAN OPEN

Following final defeats in the Hungarian and Yugoslav Opens, **Stellan Bengtsson** made no mistake against his compatriot, Kjell Johansson, in the **Scandinavian Open** played in Kalmar, Sweden, over the period November 27-30. The top Swedes had it all to themselves in the final after the holder, Dragutin Surbek, of Yugoslavia, had been ousted in the semis by Bengtsson, who turned a 0-2 deficit into his favour.

England's Denis Neale distinguished himself by beating, in straight games, China's Huang Liang, the player who had caused such havoc in Ljubljana. But, in the quarters it was Surbek who ousted the experienced Clevelander, whose colleague, Nicky Jarvis, had been hit "out of sight" by Johansson in the previous round.

China's Liu Hsin-yen won the counterpart women's event, beating her compatriot, Chang Te-ying, in the final. Jill Hammersley lost to the eventual winner in the quarters, with Linda Howard going out in the previous round to Federal Germany's Wiebke Hendriksen, but only after a titanic struggle which went the distance of 5 games.

Sponsored by Van Allan, Yorkshire's Melody Ludi and Suzanne Hunt, of Lincolnshire, were also taken under the wing of Brian Burn on this trip and it was Melody who enhanced her considerable prospects by being voted the prize for the best performance by a female in the Championships.

Young Melody reached the quarter-final after wins over S. Korea's Yoo Soon Kuem and Sui Chien-ying, of China, and putting up a fighting performance against Blanka Silhanova, of Czechoslovakia. But, once again, as will always happen in present times, a question mark must hang over the validity of her victory against the Chinese player.

Neale and Jarvis, in the men's doubles, came up against Bengtsson and Johansson, who won in straight games, but were unable to stop Stipanovic and Surbek in the final. Chinese pairs won both the women's and mixed doubles, the surprise finalists in the latter event being the Canadians Errol Caetano and Mariann Domankos.

China also captured both team titles, their men beating Sweden 3-1 and their women 3-0 winners over South Korea. Final scores were:

Please send for our Table Tennis Price List

MS



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

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

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

All our prices include Postage, Packing & VAT.

maclaren sports

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

Men

Kuo Yao-hua bt K. Johansson 11, 11.
Li Peng bt S. Bengtsson 20, 17.
Huang Liang/Li Peng lost to Bengtsson/
Johansson -19, -5.
Kuo Yao-hua bt Bengtsson 8, -15, 18.

Women

Chang Te-ying bt Son Hye Soon 15, 13.
Liu Hsin-yen bt Kim Soon Ok 21, 20.
Li Ling/Liu Hsin-yen bt Kim Soon Ok/Son
Hye Soon -14, 16.

After beating Finland 3-0, England's men
went out 1-3 to Sweden, the scores being:—
D. Neale lost to Bengtsson -15, -16.
N. Jarvis lost to Johansson -14, 17, -9.
Jarvis/Neale bt Bengtsson/Johansson -12, 18,
19.
Jarvis lost to Bengtsson -19, -14.

Afforded the benefit of a first round bye,
England's women had a heartening victory
3-2 over Federal Germany with the following
scores:—

L. Howard lost to W. Hendriksen -11, 10, -9.
J. Hammersley bt M. Kneip 17, 10.
Hammersley/Howard bt Hendriksen/Kneip
14, 14.
Hammersley lost to Hendriksen -14, -19.
Howard bt Kneip -14, 15, 17.

There was little change, however, in the
semi-final meeting with China, who won 3-0.
Scores:—

Howard lost to Chang Te-ying -14, -14.
Hammersley lost to Liu Hsin-yen -12, -19.
Hammersley/Howard lost to Li Ming/Liu
Hsin-yen -18, -13.

In the women's doubles Jill and Linda
reached the semis, losing to Li Ming and Liu
Hsin-yen -19, -12, -15, Melody and Suzanne
went out to Birgitta Olsson and Ann-Christin
Hellman, of Sweden, -8, -10, -12 in Round 2.

Nicky and Jill were ousted by the Canadians
Caetano/Domonkos in Round 2 of the mixed
at which stage Denis and Linda fell foul of
Li Peng and Li Ming who, in the previous
round, had disposed of Melody, paired with
Lars Franklin, of Sweden, 15, 23, 18. Suzanne
was also paired with a Swede, Ulf Bengtsson,
but they lost in the first round to Huang Liang
and Liu Hsin-yen.

Individual results were:—

Men's Singles—Round 4

D. Surbek (Yu) bt I. Vikstrom (Sw) 15, 14, 19.
D. Neale (En) bt Huang Liang (Ch) 19, 14, 14.
Kuo Yao-hua (Ch) bt B. Persson (Sw) 11, 17, 14.
S. Bengtsson (Sw) bt S. Fraczyk (Po) 11, 12, 16.
K. Johansson (Sw) bt N. Jarvis (En) 7, 15, 12.
Liao Fu-min (Ch) bt J. Kunz (Cz) 19, -17, 15, -25, 16.
Li Peng (Ch) bt P. Sandstrom (Sw) 19, 12, 12.
A. Stipanovic (Yu) bt R. Lagerfeldt (Sw) 14, -18, 21, 22.

Quarter-finals

Surbek bt Neale 15, 14, 21.
Bengtsson bt Kuo Yao-hua 9, 19, 14.
Stipanovic bt Li Peng -7, 16, -16, 16, 17.
Johansson bt Liao Fu-min 7, -15, 16, 17.

Semi-finals

Bengtsson bt Surbek -17, -16, 16, 8, 16.
Johansson bt Stipanovic 18, 14, -18, 15.

Final

BENGTSSON bt JOHANSSON 13, 10, 19.

Women's Singles—Round 4

M. Ludi (En) bt Sui Chien-ying (Ch) 19, 20, -14, 17.
B. Silhanova (Cz) bt M. Neidert (Sw) 12, 11, 11.
Liu Hsin-yen (Ch) bt M. Grefberg (Fi) 9, 4, 5.
J. Hammersley (En) bt B. Radberg (Sw) 9, 16, 10.
W. Hendriksen (Gr) bt L. Howard (En) -17, 9, 18, -14, 15.
Li Ming (Ch) bt A. Cikova (Cz) 11, 13, 19.
Chang Te-ying (Ch) bt H. Lotaller (Hu) 16, 19, 18.
A.-C. Hellman (Sw) bt Son Hye Soon (Kr) 13, 16, 17.

Quarter-finals

Silhanova bt Ludi 9, 18, 17.
Liu Hsin-yen bt Hammersley 16, 16, 15.
Li Ming bt Hendriksen 7, 17, 12.
Chang Te-ying bt Hellman 13, -15, -17, 12, 22.

Semi-finals

Liu Hsin-yen bt Silhanova 12, 21, 13.
Chang Te-ying bt Li Ming 16, 18, 17.

Final

LIU Hsin-yen bt Chang Te-ying 20, 12, 12.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals

Bengtsson/Johansson bt Jarvis/Neale 14, 16, 16.
Kunz/M. Orlovski (Cz) bt Kuo Yao-hua/Liao Fu-min 8, 19, -18,
-17, 20.

Huang Liang/Li Peng bt C. Hafn/S. Hansfeldt (Sw) 19, 6, 11.

Stipanovic/Surbek bt A. Gronlund (Sw)/Sandstrom 16, 14, 12.

Semi-finals

Bengtsson/Johansson bt Kunz/Orlovski 14, 10, 17.

Stipanovic/Surbek bt Huang Liang/Li Peng -22, 15, 13, 15.

Final

STIPANOVIC/SURBEK bt Bengtsson/Johansson 16, 17, -19, -11, 15.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals

Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen bt Kim Soon Ok (Kr)/Son Hye Soon 18,
19, 11.

Hammersley/Howard bt M. Domonkos/V. Nesukaitis (Ca) 6, 16, 7.
Hellman/B. Olsson (Sw) bt Kim Kye Soon/Yang Sook Hee (Kr)
14, 14, 10.

Chang Te-ying/Sui Chien-ying bt Lotaller/G. Szabo (Hu) 16,
14, -12, 12.

Semi-finals

Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen bt Hammersley/Howard 19, 12, 17.

Chang Te-ying/Sui Chien-ying bt Hellman/Olsson 9, -21, 19,
-19, 19.

Final

CHANG TE-YING/SUI CHIAN-YING bt Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen
14, 16, 18.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals

Li Peng/Li Ming bt M. Baum (Gr)/Hendriksen 12, -24, 19, 16.

Liao Fu-min/Chang Te-ying bt K. Nesse/A. Schierning (No) 15,
5, 11.

Huang Liang/Liu Hsin-yen bt F. Timar (Hu)/Lotaller 7, 21, 4.

Caetano/Domonkos bt Kuo Yao-hua/Sui Chien-ying -17, 15, 14, 17.

Semi-finals

Li Peng/Li Ming bt Liao Fu-min/Chang Te-ying 12, 19, 14.

Caetano/Domonkos bt Huang Liang/Liu Hsin-yen 12, 17, 12.

Final

LI PENG/LI MING bt Caetano/Domonkos 10, 18, 14.

JUBILEES

The Federal German T.T.A. celebrated its
50th birthday with a very auspicious gathering
in West Berlin in late October (writes **H. Roy
Evans**, I.T.T.F. President).

Many members of the Deutsche Tisch
Tennis Bund, and a lot of guests, stayed at
the Schweizerhof Hotel, and the first evening
of this celebration was spent amongst some
3,000 spectators, watching a match between
Sweden and Federal Germany, an anniversary
of the first international match played
between these two countries.

The next day was the birthday proper. A
large crowd gathered at the Congress Hall,
in the once famous Tiergarten, within sight
of the Reichstag across "The Wall" in East
Berlin, and now rebuilt as a museum.

There were several speeches, artistically
broken up with music by Beethoven, Haydn
and Mozart, by a string quartet. The Mayor
of West Berlin spoke, and referred, as so
often happens, to relations between Berliners
both sides of "The Wall", and of the efforts
made to stabilise contact between the sports-
men of both sides.

* * *

In Prague's Hotel International, on Decem-
ber 6, the Czechoslovakian T.T.A. celebrated
its 50th birthday with an equally impressive
gathering presided over by PhDr. Ernest
Demetrovic, President V.S.S.T. U.V. C.S.T.V.
who, in his opening address, ranged over the
many feats performed by the Czech Associa-
tion's players since 1925—a formidable task.
Medals had been struck for the occasion, two
outside recipients being Jupp Schlaf, Presi-
dent of the E.T.T.U., and Secretary Nancy
Evans. A meeting of the E.T.T.U.'s Manage-
ment Committee was held in the Park Hotel
during the course of the Czech celebrations—
truly a weekend to remember.



WELSH CORNER

H. Roy Evans

This season's Stiga Welsh Open looks like
being the best ever. With continued sponsor-
ship by the Swedish Manufacturers, we have
attracted a truly top-class entry. The Hungar-
ians will be with us, Jonyer back after a leg
operation, to defend their titles. And defend
them right well they will have to because
those two strong men of the World, Stellan
Bengtsson and Kjell Johansson are also
coming, and from Yugoslavia, Stipanovic and
Surbek will be entering the lists for the title
and the £100 first prize.

The tournament takes place at the National
Sports Centre in Cardiff on February 6-8.
There will be team events on the Friday,

together with any preliminary games neces-
sary to reduce the men to 64 starters, and the
individuals go on throughout Saturday and
Sunday morning, with the Finals on Sunday
afternoon.

Preceding the Welsh Open there will be the
matches in the West European Group of the
European League with Norway, Scotland,
Jersey, Guernsey and Wales competing. All
these, together with England, Federal
Germany, Belgium and Ireland will be in the
Team Events and Individuals of the Welsh
Open.

THE CARDIFF OPEN

There was little reward for Welsh effort in
this event, with all the senior titles going
across the border. England's new No. 1, Des
Douglas, was the star attraction and he had
little trouble until he got to the Final, where
the title-holder, Tony Clayton, gave him a
hard fight in an entertaining final.

But Desmond didn't take the men's doubles,
and he and Tony Isaacs, after looking good,
went down to Clayton and Alan Fletcher, the
latter not quite able to understand why they
won so comfortably!

The Welsh No. 1, Alan Griffiths, lost to
Clayton in the semi-final, but John Mansfield,
defending brilliantly, gave Clayton a tough
three-game battle in the quarters. Graham
Davies went out rather easily to Fletcher.

It was again all England in the women's
singles, Diane St. Ledger, of Birmingham,
beating Kay Rowe, of Plymouth, and Diane,
teaming up with Karen Groves, also of Bir-
mingham, to take the women's doubles against
the Welsh pair, Julie Ralphs and Cheryl
Jewells.

Fletcher took another doubles title when
he and Karen beat Paul Beck and Marjorie
Walker in the mixed.

The only Welsh successes came in the
Junior and Cadet events, Jonathan Hardiker
taking the boys', and Alun Williams playing
well to beat Alan Coulthard in the cadet.
Swindon's Clare Maisey took both girls' and
cadet titles.

Scores:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

Douglas bt Fletcher 11, 13.

Clayton bt Griffiths 14, 10.

Final

DOUGLAS bt CLAYTON 18, 15.

Women's Singles—Final

ST. LEDGER bt ROWE 12, 15.

Men's Doubles—Final

CLAYTON/FLETCHER bt Douglas/Isaacs 15,
13.

Women's Doubles—Final

ST. LEDGER/GROVES bt Ralphs/Jewells 19,
-19, 12.

Mixed Doubles—Final

FLETCHER/GROVES bt Beck/Walker 22, 16.

Junior Boys' Singles—Final

HARDIKER bt OWEN 9, 13.

Junior Girls' Singles—Final

MAISEY bt Coulson 13, -19, 17.

Cadet Boys' Singles—Final

WILLIAMS bt Coulthard 16, 24.

Cadet Girls' Singles—Final

MAISEY bt Townsend 17, 13.

STOP PRESS

CHINESE FOR CARDIFF

The People's Republic of China have
accepted the invitation of the Table Tennis
Association of Wales to participate in the
Stiga Welsh Open Championships being played
at the National Sports Centre, Cardiff, from
February 6-8, 1976.

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

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1977

THAT IS BIG!

by Michael Lawless

(Director of World Championships)

EXTRACT FROM FRANK BUTLER'S COLUMN — "NEWS OF THE WORLD" — NOVEMBER 9, 1975

"The Birmingham venture — which will take place over 10 days from March 26 to April 6 — will be the biggest thing that has happened in table tennis".

There is no need for me to tell you that Frank Butler is referring to your Association staging the 34th World Championships, but I can and should tell you why it will be the biggest thing that has happened in table tennis.

The World Table Tennis Championships have grown continually and we are expecting teams from between 75 and 100 countries to visit us in 1977. This means, in terms of country participation, the largest single sport event ever held in England, and possibly in the world. **THAT IS BIG!**

The venue is Hall No. 5 in the £50M National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham. The Hall has an area of nearly 25,000 sq. metres—five soccer pitches side by side—and in this shell we will be building two arenas with seating for approximately 8,500 and 5,000 spectators. We will also be constructing the numerous administration offices, players' and officials' lounges and all the other facilities required to accommodate the army of people who will be present. **THAT IS BIG!**

Nevertheless, this instant village and the arenas will fill but half of the hall! Therefore alongside the World Championships your Association, in conjunction with two of the largest companies in exhibition organisation and construction, will mount a unique sport and leisure exhibition. Unique in that never before has there been such an extravaganza of sport and leisure activities, as is envisaged for 1977, presented in this country. **THAT IS BIG!**

B.B.C. television cameras will be at the Championships in force throughout the 10 playing days and extensive coverage is likely for home and overseas consumption. Journalists, photographers and commentators from many countries in the world will be covering the event and for all these people we will be building a vast media complex incorporating work, communications and interview rooms and all their other requirements. **THAT IS BIG!**

No one hotel in Birmingham could accommodate even just the players and we are literally taking over Birmingham University who have changed term dates to allow this—for the duration. While this solves the problem of housing everyone under the same roof, it also necessitates a huge fleet of coaches being arranged and time-tabled to move players and officials from "home to work". Through our travel agent we have provisionally reserved all the major hotels in Birmingham to accommodate I.T.T.F. officials, Press, etc., and also allow spectators from all corners of England and overseas to take advantage of a "package" deal that will be offered. **THAT IS BIG!**

The World Championships will cost some £400,000. **AND THAT IS VERY BIG!**

Of course they could be staged more cheaply, but why should they? Your Association has never undertaken any project without doing it properly, so there can be no reason whatsoever for changing policy when faced with the task of organising such a prestigious event as the World Championships.

The money required will be raised from a number of sources, commercial sponsors, the exhibition, sale of T.V. rights, merchandising, Birmingham Corporation, Sports Council, etc., and the Management of your Association are confident that each member will wish to make a contribution towards the mammoth sum required. You will see from other sources the exact wording of a new Rule concerning a guarantee fund, which will be proposed at a Special General Meeting on January 24, 1976.

What this means in terms of money is that the Members of the Association, in the season leading up to the Championships, will contribute some £25,000 or one sixteenth of the total cost.

What is probably more important is that the contributions after the event will enable the Association to be financially strong to cope with the inevitably rapid development of the sport following the World Championships. **AND THAT WILL BE BIG!**

I have tried to give you a broad outline of what arrangements are being made to stage the 34th World Table Tennis Championships and I will issue from time to time further bulletins, so that you are kept fully informed on progress. The next bulletin will, hopefully, carry details of prices of admission and availability of tickets to members of the Association.

In the meantime, I think you will agree that Frank Butler chose his words well.

Cover Picture

HOW SUITABLE IS THE N.E.C. AS A VENUE?

by Alan Fletcher
(Yorkshire County Player)

For the first time in 20 years, the World Table Tennis Championships are coming to England, and they take place in April, 1977, at the National Exhibition Centre, Bickenhill—just how well adapted is the Centre for such an important event?

The £50M complex officially opens in February, 1976, and is ideally situated. It is just 9 miles from the centre of Birmingham, a city of over a million people and a commercial, cultural and industrial centre of world importance. The venue is strategically located alongside Birmingham Airport and will have its own railway station—to be known as the Birmingham International Station; moreover, the M1, M5 and M6 motorways are all nearby.

Approximately a hundred nations are expected to send their star players to compete, so can the centre accommodate the numerous players, officials and spectators who will be present? The playing area is ideal, since play will take place in the largest hall there, Hall 5, and this is larger than Wembley Stadium, covering an area of 270,000 sq. ft. Moreover, it has been fitted with over 100 air-conditioning units at a cost of £1M. Such a pleasant environment should help to produce some excellent table tennis.

I believe that the future of the game depends on the success of these championships, and on the way we use the tremendous facilities offered by the N.E.C. With good T.V. and press coverage, sponsorship and organisation, table tennis can gain the prestige it so thoroughly deserves.

UMPIRING CORNER

In the two previous issues of "Table Tennis News", we have decided on the position of the players and how the ball is correctly put into play by way of "service". Now, to quote the immortal bard, "the game's afoot" and play continues as each player makes "good" returns. But what decides whether a return is "good" or "faulty". Numerous factors, but here are four imaginary situations which could arise in match play. To test your knowledge of this aspect of the Laws of the Game, the answer in each case is RIGHT or WRONG.

A return from a wide-angled shot lands on

the opponent's side of the table. It is not "good" if—

- It passed round the side of the net;
- it passed round the projection of the net beyond the table;
- it passed through a gap between the net and the supporting post;
- it came off the wrist of the racket hand.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my satisfaction that Alan Cavell finds value in a quiz of this nature (Readers' Letters—December issue) and assure him that the National Umpires' and Referees' Committee is, in fact, discontinuing County Umpires' Test Paper No. 7.

Lastly, may I, on behalf of the N.U.R.C., express the hope that 1976 will prove a happy and successful year for all umpires.

A.P.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 30.

Obituary

HARRY SWETMAN

It is with profound regret we have to announce the death of one of our Founder Members so quickly after the sad loss of his dear wife. Harry passed away on November 19 following a heart attack.

I first met Harry through an "Evening News" lawn tennis tournament when we were drawn against each other in an early round of the 1927 competition.

It was not too long after this when I realised Harry was, to say the least, very interested in table tennis. In his usual persuasive manner, Harry soon got me interested in table tennis, nominating me as a sectional secretary of the London League in season 1928-29.

It was indeed fortunate meeting Harry as he was able to start not only me but our club off on the right footing by seeing table tennis as it should be played.

Harry was a member of the Clapham T.T. Club along with M. A. Symonds, G. T. Symonds and J. Coquet. This team played in the London League Premier Division, against such teams as Kingsway, Indian Students, West Ealing, etc., all top teams of the day.

Harry was one of those select band of persons who gave their all to the game both in playing and administration and could always be relied upon to give anyone who so desired it the benefit of his vast knowledge of the game.

He also had the distinction of being one of the very few English players to take a game off the immortal Victor Barna when Victor was in his prime in 1935-36, I think.

How far could Harry have gone is anyone's guess if he had not had that unfortunate accident which necessitated a silver plate in his wrist which stopped him playing for a couple of seasons.

Upon his demob from the R.A.F. he was soon back in the game and was instrumental in helping to form the Surrey T.T.A. When the County Championships were formed Harry was elected County captain, a post he held with distinction for some years both as playing and non-playing captain.

As his playing ability diminished he turned more to the administrative side, his greatest interest being in the Junior field of table tennis. Many Surrey boys' clubs now participate in "Swetman Trophy" competitions for various trophies donated by Harry.

Apart from having been one of our stalwart committee members he was also a vice-president of our Association and Fund-Raising Secretary until his untimely death.

His knowledge and wise counsel will be sadly missed by his many friends in table tennis.

FRED JOYCE,
Hon. Treasurer,
Surrey T.T.A.

8th Southend Open

by Mike Watts

Chester Barnes and Lesley Radford, for a long time the Table Tennis supremos of Essex and England, proved that they still have a lot to give to the game with superb performances at the Southend Open, held on the 15-16 November, 1975. The tournament, sponsored by H. W. Stone Sports & Leisure, Leigh-on-Sea, attracted a good entry of 240 players, which included six ranked men, and three ranked women.

Barnes, making a rare tournament appearance, was seeded seven, but in reaching the final overcame John Hilton, the fourth seed, in the quarters, and Ian Horsham, the second seed, in the semi-finals. His opponent, the No. 1 seed and holder, Andrew Barden, had qualified for the final by beating Nigel Eckersley in the quarters, and County team colleague, Mark Mitchell, in the semi-final. In this set Mark fully stretched his team-mate, winning the first game easily, and only just going down in the other two after holding good leads in both. Earlier Mark had secured a brilliant win over David Brown after being 12-19 down in the third. The final was a classic, with Andrew attempting to wear down Chester with quick decisive hitting, but Chester was at his most brilliant best, only faltering in the second to a sustained burst of quick hitting from his youthful opponent. The final point was greeted with thunderous applause for both players, but no doubt the majority were appreciating the fact that Chester was back with a vengeance.

Lesley Radford took the women's singles from the No. 4 seeding position without drop-

ping a game, beating Belinda Chamberlain in the semi-final and Irish girl Karen Senior in the final. Earlier Karen had beaten the top seed, Shelagh Hession 17, -15, 12 in the quarters, and Angela Mitchell in the semi-final.

Other titles were spread out. In the Men's Doubles both the men's singles finalists were in opposition once again, and the title went to Barnes, partnered by young Bob Potton, over Barden and Ian Kenyon, the Kent junior. The top seeds here, Horsham/Brown, were ousted in the quarters by Mark Mitchell and Bob Aldrich, who in turn, went down at the next hurdle to Barnes/Potton. The second seeds, Hilton/Eckersley, reached the semis before losing to Barden/Kenyon. The final was an all-action affair, with Barnes/Potton gradually getting on top in the third game to finally win comfortably.

The Women's Doubles was won by Janet Hellaby and Elaine Tarten, 19 in the third, from top seeds Shelagh Hession and Lesley Radford. Local player Marilyn Nash gained some success in partnership with Elaine Sayer when they knocked out the second seeds, Angela Mitchell and Sandra Sutton, in the second round, only to be knocked out themselves to the youthful Cambridge Juniors, Ruth Newman and Sue Ellis.

Shelagh Hession, always a popular player at this tournament, finally made it third time lucky when, in partnership with Hilton, the second seeds got home 22-20 in the third against David Randall and Janet Hellaby. There were many close games, particularly in the top half of the draw, where Mark Mitchell and Jane Livesey knocked out the top seeds and holders, Barden/Miss Mitchell, 22-20 in the third, only to lose 22-24 in the third to Randall/Miss Hellaby. The Boys' Singles was won by Kenyon, comfortably, from David Newman. Kenyon had earlier disposed of top seed Kevin Caldon.

The Girls' Singles ran to form with Angela

Mitchell being the only holder to retain her title, her final opponent being Sandra Sutton.

Perhaps the biggest cheer of the evening was reserved for the finalists of the Veterans' Singles where Peter D'Arcy finally overcame Vic Ireland, the Essex veteran, 22-20 in the third game of an absorbing final full of good play and sportsmanship.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
 A. Barden (Middx) bt N. Eckersley (Ches) 20, 15.
 M. Mitchell (Middx) bt D. Brown (Essex) -20, 14, 21.
 C. Barnes (Essex) bt J. Hilton (Ches) 15, 18.
 I. Horsham (Essex) bt K. Caldon (Essex) 17, -15, 11.

Semi-finals
 Barden bt Mitchell -11, 16, 17.
 Barnes bt Horsham 14, 16.

Final
 BARNES bt Barden 7, -19, 8.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals
 K. Senior (Ireland) bt A. Mitchell (Middx) 19, -17, 17.
 L. Radford (Essex) bt B. Chamberlain (Hunts) 20, 16.

Final
 RADFORD bt Senior 17, 12.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
 Barnes/R. Potton (Essex) bt Mitchell/R. Aldrich (Middx) 18, 18.
 A. Barden/I. Kenyon (Kent) bt Hilton/Eckersley -19, 13, 16.

Final
 BARNES/POTTON bt Barden/Kenyon 17, -16, 13.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
 S. Hession (Essex)/Radford bt Senior/S. Dove (Middx) 16, 15.
 J. Hellaby/E. Tarten (Essex) bt R. Newman (Cams)/S. Ellis 14, 12.

Final
 HELLABY/TARTEN bt Hession/Radford -15, 18, 19.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
 D. Randall (Essex)/Hellaby bt Mitchell/J. Livesey (Essex) -12, 23, 22.

Final
 Hilton/Hession bt Horsham/Radford 21, 19.

Final
 HILTON/HESSION bt Randall/Hellaby 20, -18, 20.

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals
 Kenyon bt Caldon 19, 19.
 D. Newman (Essex) bt G. Davies (Cams) 16, 12.

Final
 KENYON bt Newman 14, 14.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals
 Mitchell bt M. Wallis (Northants) 20, 9.
 S. Sutton (Essex) bt J. Dowsett (Essex) 12, 9.

Final
 MITCHELL bt Sutton 12, 11.

Veterans' Singles—Semi-finals
 P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt L. Fountain (Essex) 13, 14.
 V. Ireland (Essex) bt A. Shepherd (Essex) 17, 20.

Final
 D'ARCY bt Ireland -16, 19, 20.

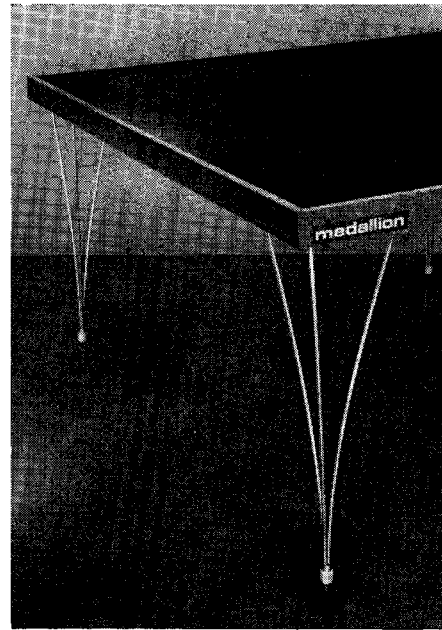
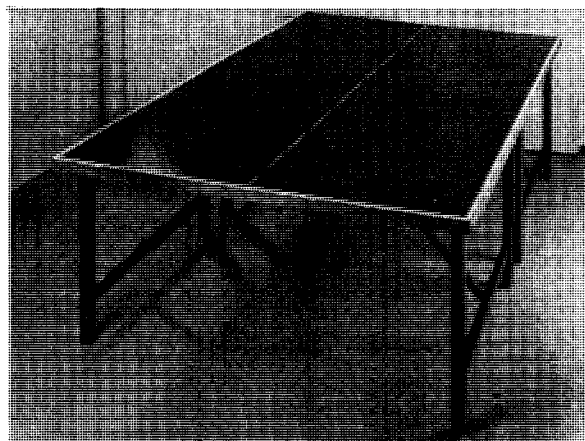
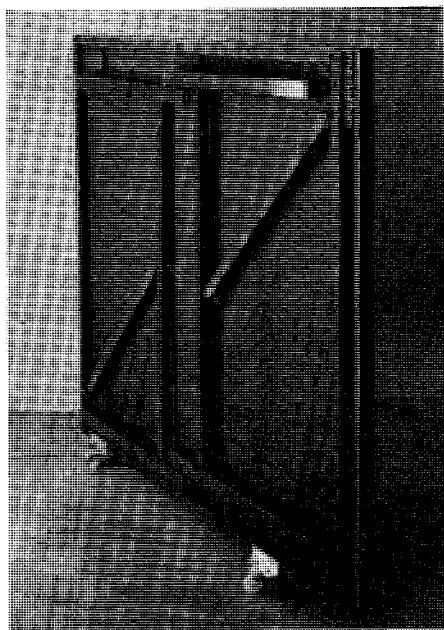


Table Tennis Tables manufactured with British know-how and thoroughness up to a quality rather than down to a price. Every table we produce conforms to the standards and specifications laid down by the English Table Tennis Association. Frames and leg assemblies are soundly constructed from high-grade materials and the finished product is a sturdy and durable piece of equipment.

For Clubs and Coaching Establishments we supply a table fitted with a simple roll-away system at a specially economical price. Other products from the medallion range include Chess Boards, Table Skittles and a complete range of equipment and accessories for Badminton, Croquet, Tennis, Football, etc. All medallion manufactured products are guaranteed.

T. T. medallion Ltd.

MEDLOW HOUSE HEATH ROAD OXSHOTT SURREY

Tel: Oxshott 2113

THE WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

by PHIL REID

PAUL AND MELODY CALL THE TUNE

The "Wayfarers English Junior Championships" provided few surprises and a domination by the two England No. 1's—Paul Day and Melody Ludi. These two players were involved in every title, although neither had things all their own way.

The late arrival of Andy Barden, holder of the Boys' Singles, eliminated the player most likely to beat Day, whilst two of the top girls—Angela Mitchell and Karen Witt—were indisposed. First, however, the Boys' Singles. Of the seven top seeds remaining, six reached their appointed place. The exception, much to the disappointment of the locals—was Chris Rogers. Placed in the same quarter as Duggie Johnson (who he has beaten the last eight times) his chances of reaching the last four must have been good if he could reach the last eight. However, Rogers had his own "bogey man" to contend with—Yorkshire's Michael Harrison. Rogers has never beaten Harrison in a tournament and certainly Harrison played with all the confidence in the world. Even a 11-21 reverse in the second failed to un-nerve him and he went on to win a close third.

His success, however, was short-lived, for he lost to fellow Tyke Steven Hazelwood in the next round. In the quarter-finals, three of the four sets went the full distance. The exception was Day's game with Kevin Caldon. The Cambridge left-hander hit with great power and consistency, and Caldon, who had sailed through his four previous sets, rarely got a look-in. David Reeves took full advantage of the absence of Barden to reach the last eight and then go a step further by defeating Jonathan Proffitt in a splendid game. The ever-improving Martin Shuttle was involved in a real battle with Chris Sewell, Avon's only representative at the championships.

Shuttle, whose fingers are all round the handle ("hammer grip") rather than the "shake hands" grip, hit very consistently and got some very good angle shots but he could never match the ferocity of Sewell's forehand although it took three gruelling games to settle it. Perhaps the best match of the whole tournament, however, was the one involving Steven Hazelwood and Duggie Johnson. Johnson, of course, defended most of the time but Hazelwood himself was in no hurry and he played a very sensible game indeed. It paid off in the first game where careful build-ups followed by thundering kills gave him a 21-16. A bad start cost him dearly in the second. Both players had now reached peak form and were prepared to fight for every point. The accurate, determined play of Hazelwood always had Johnson struggling to keep him out but that he did was a credit to his speedy footwork and sound defence.

ADVANTAGE

Whilst Johnson was prepared to defend for long periods, Hazelwood was always looking for openings and when he found them it was always his forehand which finished them off. At 19-17 in the third it looked as though the Yorkshire boy might bring it off but his nerve appeared to go and Johnson took full advantage to collect the next four points. This match had everything and was the type the pre-sandwich people talk about. A good mixture of attack and defence. A close match. And—a point sometimes overlooked—sportsmanship of the highest standard. Whilst Johnson will be pleased to have won, Hazelwood himself came out of the match with a great deal of credit.

Both the semi-finals went to three. Reeves continued to show fine form and Sewell was fully extended to keep him out. Similarly Johnson had Day in some trouble (it was

Johnson who beat Day at this stage the previous season) but it was Day's power which finally gave him a deserved win.

Incidentally, six of the seven sets from the quarter-finals onwards went to three—which can't be bad!

NON-ARRIVAL

With the non-arrival of the No. 2 seed, Angela Mitchell (injured), Angela Tierney was switched to the other half of the draw. As such she had not the slightest trouble reaching the final, her closest call being in the semi-final where she beat Devon's much-improved Elaine Lamb 16 and 13. Melody Ludi, by comparison, had not had things all her own way. Her Yorkshire team-mate, Linda Hryszko, for instance, took her to 21-19, 22-20, which must have been too close for comfort. Suzanne Hunt hit so well in the first game against Miss Ludi in the semi-final that it looked as though it could be a repeat of last year's final but once the Bradford girl got her hits going right she never looked like losing.

The Mixed Doubles provided considerable excitement. First shock was the elimination of the seeded Johnson/June Williams pairing by Martin Shuttle and Julie Reading. This pair, in fact, went on to reach the semi-final before falling to the Day/Ludi pairing who themselves had been fully extended by Ian Plummer and Angela Tierney. In the other half, the absence of Andy Barden and Angela Mitchell in the bottom section brought a surprised but very deserved pairing in Ian Collins and Belinda Chamberlain forward. Their first match brought them a very close win against David Newman and Susan Dove but the next three rounds gave them no trouble at all. Against the seeded Rogers and Suzanne Hunt, they set off at the same pace and took the first game at 11, but the Leics/Lincs pair fought back although it was only by the narrowest of margins they triumphed in the third. The left-handed Collins looked particularly impressive and with Miss Chamberlain prepared to work hard as well, this partnership looks a very good one indeed.

In the Boys' Doubles only one of the eight seeds failed to reach their appointed place in the quarter-finals. Paxton/Clark had two close games against Beadsley/Nasser but the latter pair won them both. In the quarters, though, they were no match for Day/Barden. Another result against the seeding list was the defeat of Caldon/Newman by Proffitt/Jermyn in the best of the quarter-final sets. None of the four players was afraid to put the ball away and some pretty good stuff it was to watch. Rogers/Shuttle had twice been to three by the time they reached the last eight and it happened again when they played Collins/Kenyon. Although it went to three none of the games were close—9, -13, 11—once one pair established a lead it was simply a case of building on it. The biggest shock, however, was the elimination of No. 2 seeds Sewell/Johnson by the Hazelwood twins, Steven and Robert. Incidentally, also in this half of the draw were another pair of identical twins from Yorkshire who also reached the last 16—Andrew and Brian Metcalfe. The Hazelwoods, however, had not finished there for they went on to reach the final with another two-straight win over Rogers/Shuttle.

ABSENCE

In the Girls' Doubles the absence of Karen Witt and Angela Mitchell gave Melody Ludi/Angela Tierney the chance to play together and they duly reached the final, though not before Alison Gordon/Jill Purslow had given them a good run. In the other half Beverley Green/June Williams started favourites but they were beaten by Helen Robinson/Jane Skipp, this pair then losing in the semi-finals to Susan Roebuck/Jayne Mitchell.

The finals themselves were not as good as many in the past have been. The Girls' Doubles brought a win for Melody Ludi/Angela Tierney. Whilst the Surrey pair fought hard and played well, the two Northerners always seemed to have something in hand.

In the Boys' Doubles Day/Barden, playing well and for each other, were too strong for the Hazelwood brothers who, however, put up

easily the best performance against the winners in the competition.

The Girls' Singles provided more interest. In the first Angela Tierney just could not go wrong and Melody Ludi must have wondered what had hit her. In the next two games though, the Yorkshire girl was able to work the ball cleverly for her forehand kill and when the chance came she rarely missed. As a result the fearsome forehand of Miss Tierney rarely got a chance to function much after the first game.

A shock, too, looked possible in the Boys' Singles where Sewell was far from over-awed by the situation. Indeed, in the first game he looked the more confident of the two. Hammering away with a forehand as fierce as anything seen in the competition, he matched Day shot for shot and deservedly won the first 21-19. Day, however, is not the England No. 1 for nothing. Moving the ball well and hitting with increasing power, he never looked in much trouble in the next two although to his credit, Sewell fought hard to the end.

It only remained then for Paul/Melody to take the Mixed for a clean sweep of the titles. When Rogers/Suzanne Hunt built up a 9-1 lead in the first it seemed as though the exertions of the earlier matches may have taken its toll of their opponents. However, they systematically fought back and after a very long first game—26-24—they hit with all the confidence in the world in the second to win 21-7.

So ended another English Junior Closed. Well organised but perhaps lacking the sparkle of some previous "Closed" Championships.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles

Round 4

P. Day (Cams) bt S. Mills (Yorks) 8, 22.
K. Caldon (Essex) bt K. Beadsley (Yorks) 13, 9.
S. Hazelwood (Yorks) bt M. Harrison (Yorks) 11, 20.
D. Johnson (Warwks) bt I. Kenyon (Kent) 16, 15.
C. Sewell (Avon) bt D. Newman (Essex) -17, 15, 18.
M. Shuttle (Surrey) bt I. Smith (Lancs) 19, 12.
J. Proffitt (Middx) bt K. Paxton (Durham) 12, 16.
D. Reeves (Berks) bt S. Boxall (Surrey) 14, 13.

Quarter-finals

Day bt Caldon 10, 16.
Johnson bt Hazelwood -16, 15, 19.
Sewell bt Shuttle -19, 14, 17.
Reeves bt Proffitt -19, 16, 15.

Semi-finals

Day bt Johnson 17, -17, 11.
Sewell bt Reeves 12, -15, 16.

Final

DAY bt Sewell -19, 13, 10.

Girls' Singles

Round 3

A. Tierney (Cleve) bt S. Roebuck (Surrey) 16, 9.
A. Gordon (Berks) bt S. Dickerson (Yorks) 21, 9.
E. Lamb (Devon) bt M. Smith (Berks) 16, 8.
S. Dove (Middx) bt E. Handford (Notts) 13, -15, 12.
J. Mitchell (Surrey) bt H. Gore (Essex) 13, 17.
S. Hunt (Lincs) bt J. New (Dorset) 17, 16.
B. Green (Warwks) bt S. Sutton (Essex) 10, 12.
M. Ludi (Yorks) bt N. Pine (Devon) 11, 9.

Quarter-finals

Tierney bt Gordon 13, 8.
Lamb bt Dove -12, 13, 19.
Hunt bt Mitchell 15, 16.
Ludi bt Green 12, 11.

Semi-finals

Tierney bt Lamb 16, 13.
Ludi bt Hunt -13, 13, 15.

Final

LUDI bt Tierney -9, 14, 16.

Boys' Doubles—Quarter-finals

A. Barden (Middx)/Day bt Beadsley/J. Naser (Yorks) 13, 4.
C. Rogers (Leics)/Shuttle bt I. Collins (Kent)/Kenyon 9, -13, 11.
R. Jermyn (Herts)/J. Proffitt bt Caldon/Newman 17, -13, 15.
R. Hazelwood (Yorks)/S. Hazelwood bt Johnson/Sewell 14, 21.

Semi-finals

Barden/Day bt Jermyn/Proffitt 16, 17.
Hazelwood/Hazelwood bt Rogers/Shuttle 19, 14.

Final

BARDEN/DAY bt Hazelwood/Hazelwood 17, 14.

Girls' Doubles—Quarter-finals

H. Robinson/J. Skipp (Cleve) bt Green/Williams -13, 21, 15.
Mitchell/Roebuck bt Dove/L. Hryszko 17, 19.
Gordon/J. Purslow (Berks) bt New/J. Reading (Hants) 18, 18.
Ludi/Tierney bt J. Douglas (Berks)/Smith 15, 13.

Semi-finals

Mitchell/Roebuck bt Robinson/Skipp 10, 16.
Ludi/Tierney bt Gordon/Purslow 19, -16, 13.

Final

LUDI/TIERNEY bt Mitchell/Roebuck 19, 17.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals

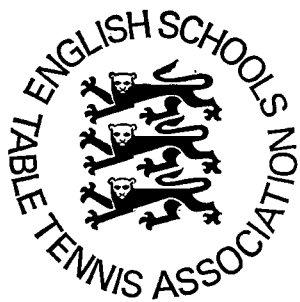
Day/Ludi bt Harrison/Green 16, 13.
Shuttle/Reading bt Jermyn/W. Parker (Wilts) 10, 19.
Rogers/Hunt bt C. Leslie (Bucks)/C. Buttery (Lincs) 11, 21.
Collins/B. Chamberlain (Hunts) bt K. Seager (Surrey)/Mitchell 18, 12.

Semi-finals

Day/Ludi bt Shuttle/Reading 15, 13.
Rogers/Hunt bt Collins/Chamberlain -11, 6, 18.

Final

DAY/LUDI bt Rogers/Hunt 24, 7.



by David Lomas

A record total of more than 200 teams from 40 county areas have qualified to take part in 12 Area Finals of the 10th Annual National School Team Championships (sponsored by Stiga A.B.) which take place at the end of this month (January).

The four-player teams of girls and boys ranging from Under-11 to Under-19, will be competing in seven events for a place in the three Regional Finals scheduled for February 15, and thence to the National Finals, which take place at Matlock on Saturday, March 20.

Four of the National champions are defending their titles. They are: Highfield School, Wolverhampton (G U-19), Brampton Manor School, Newham (G U-13) and Millom School, who defend two titles, the U-16 and U-13 boys' events.

In addition to the familiar names there are new appearances from Dorset, East Sussex, Kent Metropolitan, Northamptonshire and Wiltshire, and there are maximum entries from 11 counties.

The General Secretary, John Arnold, reports that more than 700 schools have affiliated for the current season.

Details of Entries

NORTH REGION

Area 1—January 24 at Bishop Barrington School, Woodhouse Lane, Bishop Auckland. Organiser: G. Thatcher, 22 Windermere Drive, West Auckland, Co. Durham (Bishop Auckland 832777). Cumbria (6), Durham (3), Northumberland (—), Tyne & Wear (4).

Area 2—February 1 at Moor Grange High School, Parkstone Avenue, Leeds, LS16 6 EW. Organiser: R. Balmford, 30 Glebe Road, Wawne, Hull, Humberside, HU7 5XR (Hull 821279). Cleveland (5), Humberside (7), N. Yorks (—), West Yorkshire (7).

Area 3—February 1 at Stretford Sports Centre, Manchester. Organiser: R. Wood, 5 South Square, Blackpool (Blackpool 31138). Cheshire (5) Greater Manchester (6), Lancashire (6), Merseyside (2).

Area 4—February 1 at The Drill Hall, Grantham. Organiser: F. W. Whittle, 2 Debdale Road, Barrowby, Grantham, Lincs. (Grantham 4657). Derbyshire (6), Lincolnshire (6), Notts. (7), South Yorkshire (3).

MIDLANDS & WEST REGION

Area 5—January 31 at Brandwood School, Sunderton Road, Birmingham, B14 6JQ. Organiser: A. Evans, Brandwood School (021-444 3820). Leicestershire (—), Salop (3), West Midlands (7).

Area 6—January 31 at Brandwood School, Sunderton Road, Birmingham, B14 6JQ. Organiser: A. Evans, Brandwood School (021-444 3820). Gloucestershire (—), Hereford & Worcester (2), Northants (2), Oxfordshire (5), Warwickshire (5).

Area 7—February 1 at Exmouth School, Exmouth. Organiser: B. Worts, 18 Danby Terrace, Exmouth, EX8 1QS (Exmouth 74301). Avon (1), Cornwall (5), Devon (6), Somerset (5).

Area 8—February 1 at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton. Organiser: A. Wettstein, 15 Guildhall Road, Southbourne,

Bournemouth (Bournemouth 46853). Dorset (7), Hampshire (6), Isle of Wight (—), Wiltshire (3).

SOUTH & EAST REGION

Area 9—February 1 at the Isle of Ely College, Wisbech. Organiser: I. Marshall, 38 Lerowe Road, Wisbech, Cambs (Wisbech 61547). Cambs. (7), Essex County (7), Norfolk (3), Suffolk (7).

Area 10—February 1 at Maiden Erlegh School, Earley, Reading. Organiser: A. Dines, 37 Avalon Road, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 2NR (Reading 61746). Bedfordshire (7), Berkshire (7), Bucks (—), East Sussex (1), West Sussex (7).

Area 11—February 1 at Barnett T.T. Centre, Barnet Lane, Barnet. Organiser: J. Randall, 9 Greystoke Gardens, Hanger Lane, London, (01-997 1294). Essex Met. (7), Hertfordshire (—), Inner London (6), Middlesex (7).

Area 12—February 1 at Monks Hill Sports Centre, Farnborough Avenue, South Croydon. Organiser: B. Turner, "Orchards", Stockers Hill, Rodmersham, Sittingbourne, Kent (Sittingbourne 23722). Kent County (7), Kent Met. (2), Surrey County (5), Surrey Met. (6).

In the Coaching Field

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

It was upon us, that which can be referred to as the festive season, time of Good Will to all men, or just plain Xmas. Usually during this time most people want to relax and overeat. That is everybody except the Junior table tennis players who may have aspirations to make the national ranking list.

The Wayfarers English Junior Championships took place at Loughborough in a gymnasium which must have one of the best floors in the country, for doing gymnastics, that is. Unfortunately, table tennis balls won't bounce on it.

It has been discussed before in these notes that a coach's job does not end with the coaching of stroke play, but must prepare his charge to play under all conditions. I still think it would be difficult to find a floor which reduces the vertical movement of the ball so efficiently, while at the same time offers such little friction to the feet.

Straight from this tournament, played over the weekend of December 13-14, the juniors attending the national training camp had to make their way to Lea Green. There, under the guidance of Brian Burn, they spent the week burning up vast amounts of energy to finish up, we hope, better players. From Lea Green the next port of call was Hull for the Yorkshire Junior "Select", by which time they would have completed nine successive days of table tennis.

It is at times like this that players find out just how fit they are, and I am sure they would require the Christmas holiday to recoup. For juniors not attending the training camp we are now approaching the time for the Panels to submit their ranking list to the National Coaching Advisors.

Selections will then be made for attendance at assessment camps in each of the areas run by the three National Coaches, all camps having Bryan Merrett in attendance. The camps will be organised as last year with the successful few attending the final trials.

Over the weekend of December 27-28 Panel 8 were due to hold a training camp at Millom, in Cumbria, with the object of bringing the Panel ranking list up to date. Juniors from Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire were invited. The final ranking list will be submitted to Harry Dignan, the National Coaching

Advisor for the North, for consideration of invitees for the assessment camp.

At the Kent 2-Star Junior Open I saw a young Belgian boy, under 13, who appeared to be causing havoc with his style of play. His bat of anti-spin and conventional rubbers, proved too much of a hurdle for all our U-13's, including Graham Sandley, in the final, but Graham did get his revenge by reversing the result in the U-15 event.

The Belgian boy, by name of D. Leroy, appeared to be a miniature Duggie Johnson, without curly hair, and he was even causing difficulties for the U-17's. Surely we should be able to combat anti-spin rubbers by now. I do not mean to imply that Leroy lacked talent, for he returned many superb shots and would be a useful player regardless of his type of bat.

But there is no doubt in my mind that the anti-spin rubber created more problems than it should.

At the same tournament Alison Gordon, although making her exit early in the rounds, assured me that she had not played badly. It was a baffling case of a table that continually changed its length, width and height from the ground, making it extremely difficult to keep the ball on the table, especially as the net alternated in height, too!

Over the country as a whole, the Panel system is proving most successful. There are, however, black spots due to geographical and population concentrations. Panel 8 is one such area to suffer from these problems.

To try and alleviate the problem of excessive travel, a coaching organisation based on Merseyside has been formed. Coaches from both Lancashire and Cheshire have got together to hold joint coaching sessions in this area.

Sessions will be held approximately every four weeks at the Kirby Sports Centre with about 12 coaches willing to provide the help required for this sort of venture. Enthusiasm, as shown in its inauguration, is encouraging to say the least. Further information will be supplied when available.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Colin Hammond

CLUE GIVEN

Quite the most active month in Notts. Table Tennis for some time. Firstly, we must mention the first international to be held in the County for some years. A report of this match appears elsewhere in the magazine, but mention should be made of the excellent Douglas/Langan contest which should have given the attackers amongst the spectators a clue as to what is required!

On the County scene the Seniors went down heavily in both the first and second team matches—2-8 to Durham and 3-7 to Warwicks 3rd. Only Gloria Stocks and Sue Ellis met with success in the first team match, the men being no match for McQueen and the Svensons. In the second team the honours were shared, Clive Judson and David Fairholm both taking one single, and Ann Wass and Jacqui Moore taking the women's doubles.

The Junior team, after the disappointment of conceding the first match, came back with a bang against Cumbria, winning 8-2. With Glen Stredder unavailable, Terry Bramford came in and won both his sets. It is encouraging that the girls are meeting with success, Elaine Handford won the girls' singles in the Cumbria match, whilst Kathryn Lindley is as yet unbeaten in County matches.

The Veterans continue their winning ways, their latest success being 6-3 against Staffs. Pat Hammond kept her 100% although she had to go to the first expedite of her long career to do so.

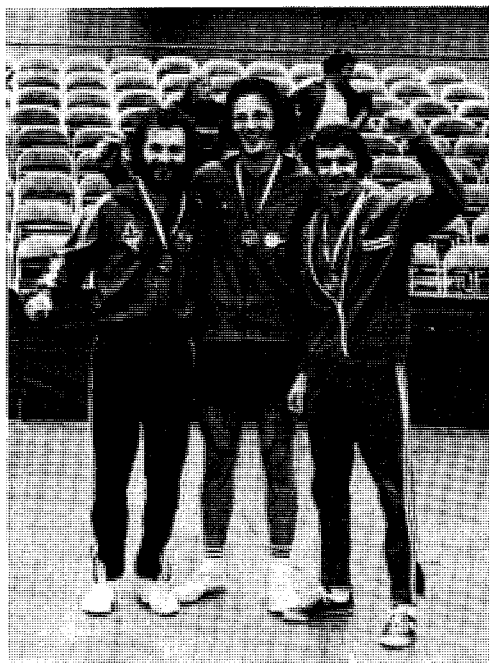
In the Midland League, Nottingham Men's "A" team and the Veterans' "A" team are both unbeaten, and although the other sides are not doing as well, none seem in danger of relegation.

U.S. OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Mal Anderson

Chairman, Photographic Committee, U.S.T.T.A.

VIVE QUEBEC



Quebec's winning male trio of (left to right): Adham Sharara, Rod Young and Guy Germain.

Teams from Quebec dominated the 1975 United States Open Team Championships, winning the Men's and Junior's divisions and finishing second in the Women's. In the Men's final, Quebec beat Pennsylvania 5-3. (All divisions are played Swaythling Cup style).

Guy Germain gave Quebec a 1-0 lead when he beat Sam Balamoun (an Egyptian now living in King of Prussia, Pa.) 14, -12, 20. Adham Sharara (an Egyptian now living in Montreal) then beat Hamid Hayatghaib (an Iranian now studying dental surgery at U. of Pa.) 17, 12. Adham's "soft" game had Hamid's loop and drives just missing the table—Rod Young's powerful hitting was too much for Bill Sharpe's blocking game, 15 and 18, and Quebec had a 3-0 lead.

Pennsylvania then came back and tied the score—Hamid out-hit Germain 17, 13; Balamoun chopped down Young -13 19, 21; Sharpe's blocks and hits beat Sharara 17, 7. At 3-all, Young won the first game from Hayatghaib at 16, Hamid then won the second at 12 and led 17-13, then 20-17 in the third, but Rod pulled it out 22-20. Germain was too fast for Sharpe in the 8th match, winning 16 and 18, and Quebec won the title (and \$800) 5-3.

The Pennsylvanians were disappointed it didn't go to 9 matches—we think our Egyptian would have beaten their Egyptian! The Chicago I team finished third—one member was Brian Mitchell, the former English Junior international.

The Women's division was won by Arlington (Faan Yeen Liu, Barbara Taschner, Carol Cook) over Quebec (Pauline Johnson, Sonia Duwel, Francine Theoret).

The Junior division winners were Quebec I (Pierre Normandin, Marc Le Siege, Christine Forgo) over Arlington (Faan Hoan Liu, Joe

Yoon, John Yoon). Defending champions, Pennsylvania I, beat the winners but lost to Arlington and to Pennsylvania II (!) to finish 4th.

The "Most Valuable Player" in the Men's was Apichart Sears, a former Thailand junior champion now living in Minneapolis. The Women's "M.V.P." was Francine Theoret, and the juniors' "M.V.P." was Bruce Plotnick, of Pennsylvania I. Bruce had a 23-1 record, yet he lost rating points! The M.V.P.'s are selected by a vote of the team captains.

U.S.T.T.A. AND C.T.T.A. RATINGS

The fact that Quebec beat Pennsylvania I in the finals to win the United States Open Team Championships didn't surprise us—the U.S.T.T.A. Rating Chairman, Neal Fox, predicted this result. After reading the letter from Mrs. P. Wales in your June issue, and the article on graded events by Tony Ross in your November issue, I think that your Association should know about this system. Briefly, every player in the U.S. has a numerical rating, which changes every time he plays in a tournament. I'm including a short article by Mr. Fox on how rating changes are calculated. As you can see, with two even players the winner gains 8 points, the loser loses 8. If one player is more than 250 points above his opponent and wins, no points change hands. However, if the lower player wins this match, 32 points are exchanged—this is the maximum that can be won or lost in one match. The term "32 point upset" is already part of our T.T. vocabulary. Mr. Fox has a computer programmer that computes these changes, and also estimates ratings for new players, allows for rapidly improving players, adjusts the ratings for one region versus the others, etc. This programme is presently being translated into standard Fortran, and should be available soon.

In a typical U.S. entry blank we have Men's singles, also Class A, Class B, C, D, E, F, G and N. To play in Class A you must be rated below 2100, for Class B less than 2000, etc. This is much better than our former method, where anyone seeded in the Men's couldn't play in Class A, anyone seeded in Men's or A's couldn't play in B's, etc. That method was based on people's opinions of how good a player is, the ratings are based on the mathematics of how he is playing.

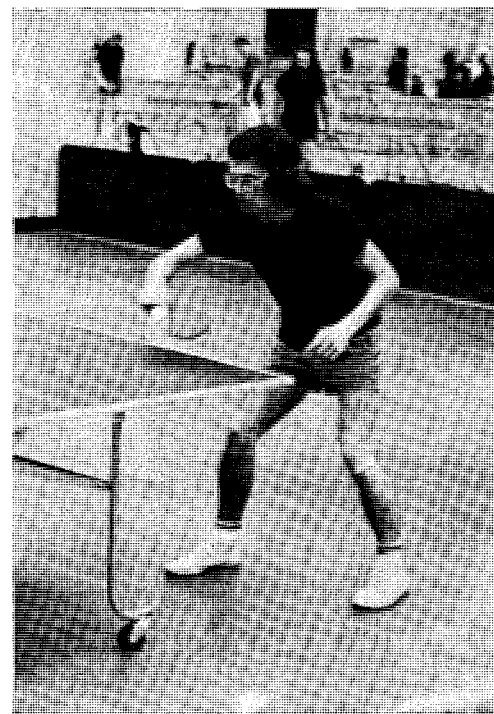
The U.S. has been using this system for over five years now. When it first started, the Rating Chairman looked at the U.S. Junior Ratings and said: "This can't be right—there's



Faan Yeen Liu, who spearheaded Arlington to the Women's team championship.

a kid in the top ten I never heard of." He then checked the records and found out it was right—a good youngster from an outlying region (no "press agent") was one of our 10 best.

An example of the widespread acceptance of this system over here was seen at the 1974 U.S. Open. Two Canadian boys were accidentally not seeded in the Boys' Under-15 event—the draw was already posted. Where to seed them? Canada has ratings similar to ours—slightly different system but comparable numbers. Based on these ratings one of these boys was seeded 2nd, the other 4th. They didn't complain, our juniors didn't complain, the parents of our juniors didn't complain! (The No. 4 seed made the semis, the No. 2 seed won it).



Brian Mitchell, a former English Junior international, who has since returned to England and taken up an appointment at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London, on December 15.

PHOTOS BY MAL ANDERSON.

Results from three different tournaments are needed to accurately rate a player. Even so, we calculated ratings on the players in the last Worlds. These showed that our No. 1 player, Dan Seemiller, was higher than two of the S. Koreans at the 1975 U.S. Open, but lower than their top man. None of us were surprised when, in the team event, Dan lost to their top player and beat the other two. We also noticed that Dan was rated higher than the Hungarian chopper, Börzei, but had no chance against him. This tells everyone what Danny's followers already know; he is much weaker against a chopper than against a hitter or spinner.

We used ratings to evaluate our players' performances at the last Worlds. We knew enough from the 1974 U.S. Open, and from the U.S. and Canadian players' ratings, to rate all our opponents. From this we calculate our players' final ratings after the Worlds, and if they gained or lost. The final rating tells us how well they played, and the gain or loss tells us if they play better or worse at the Worlds, compared to home.

It helps the average player also—you can tell if you are improving or not, and it's handy when you travel. If I made a trip to California (2,500 miles) and walked into a club there, the members, of course, want to know "How good are you?" I can now give them an exact answer: "1850" (meaning "not

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

too good") instead of saying "I've beaten 'A' . . . but lose to 'B' . . .", whom they haven't heard of anyhow.

The cost is slight—each player who enters a tournament pays an extra 50 cents (approximately 25p) "Rating Fee" that pays for the keypunching, computer time, etc. For what it can do, this is a bargain!

I want to mention that a Rating is not a Ranking. Ratings indicate a player's current level of play, while Rankings indicate the player's overall level for the entire season. We still have our Ranking Committee which is separate from, although it works with, the Rating Committee.

We hope that this system will be adopted world-wide.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE RATINGS

1. What are my chances of being a higher-rated player? The following chart gives the probabilities of an upset.

Rating Difference	Probability of an upset
0	50
12	44
25	40
37	37
50	34
62	31
75	28
87	25
100	22
112	20
125	17
137	15
150	12
162	10
175	8
187	6
200	4
212	3

These probabilities are theoretical and represent the average probability. They do not take into account style differences in individual matches.

If you have a style advantage, your probability of winning is more. If you are at a style disadvantage, it is less.

These probabilities are for players who are stable.

2. How does my rating change when I win or lose matches?

HOW YOUR RATING CHANGES PER MATCH

Rating Point Diff.	R.P. Change	
	Normal Outcome	Upset
0.24	8	8
25.49	7	10
25.49	8	10
50.99	5	12
100-149	3	15
150-199	2	20
200-249	1	26
250 plus	0	32

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

Exmouth, at home to Weston, had an excellent win 8-1. They had unbounded confidence as exemplified by Mike Rattue and Paul Stone, who both gained maximums, and Paddy Shephard not disgraced in losing to "evergreen" Ray Philpott, Weston's only winner. It proved a luckless evening for Joe Garland and Jimmy Andrews.

Plymouth's home encounter with Bournemouth resulted in the visitors being beaten 7-2 with Keith James paving the way with three good wins, while Michael Short and Michael Shearman each won two. Bournemouth had in their side a famous name in Richard Bergemann. What a thrill if he can emulate the deeds of "The Richard". Only Colin Wilson and Trevor Smith won for Bournemouth, beating Short and Shearman respectively.

West Wilts secured a good home win over Newport 7-2. For Newport, Michael Nocielli played well to beat the 15-years-old West Wilts star, Kevin Edwards, whilst John Bloomer just lost to Edwards -20, -20. Robert Murray did well for the home team with three wins, while Kevin Edwards and Roy Smith each won two.

What a close match between Plymouth and Exmouth. Keith James and Michael Shearman gave them a 2-0 lead beating Paddy Shephard and Paul Stone, then Exmouth took a grip on themselves to run out winners 5-4.

Newbury women's "A" team beat Swindon 9-0, being on top throughout with Caroline Reeves, Jackie Godwin and Carol Houghton playing brilliantly. No disgrace to the Swindon trio of Wendy Parker, Ruth Farmilo and Dorinda Sherman. They tried hard.

Devizes easily put paid to a very weakened Newport team who were without their normal Nos. 2 and 3. Newport's only win was by Elizabeth Jones, the recognised No. 1, who beat Kenwyn Hazell in a good set. How nice it is to see Kenwyn playing in the Western League. Her mother, Gwen, of course, still plays for Swindon as often as possible, but, best of luck, Kenwyn. Once again Alison Boyce in excellent form as was Helen Rusby; they won three each.

Thanks Angela, Helen and Kenwyn for kind remarks on score sheet.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Christopher Hillan

SILENCE BROKEN

The long silence from Bucks is finally over. After a season in the wilderness without a team in the County Championships, we have a new-look team of young, eager faces ably supported by the remaining "old hands".

With both Les Wooding and Paul Shirley sadly losing their interest in the competitive game, the County trials resulted in the following ranking lists:—

SENIORS

Men	Women
1. A. Watson	1. J. Williams
2. D. Berry	2. L. O'Donoghue
3. T. Clark	3. S. James
4. R. Harman	4. S. Lines
5. J. Leith	
6. J. Cooper	
7. D. McGarry	
8. P. Dickinson	
9. A. Shouler	
10. C. Leslie	
11. J. Davey	
12. D. Noakes	

JUNIORS

Boys	Girls
1. S. Harmer	1. S. Lines
2. C. Leslie	2. C. Bahryj
3. D. Good	3. L. Smith
4. S. Brown	4. J. Noakes
5. C. Noakes	5. N. Hamilton
6. I. Haines	6. P. Noakes
7. C. Duffin	
8. P. Gorman	

The top players in the rankings were then selected for the seniors' first match of the season, away to Cambridgeshire, and although they went down by 7-3, they showed promise of better things to come.

The two most experienced players, Alec Watson and Jean Williams, proved to be the backbone of the team and Tony Clark gained a win over an off-form Mick Harper on his debut.

But since then it has been nothing but frustration for County Match Secretary Mick Willett and his fellow selectors. Alec was unavailable for the second senior match, against Hertfordshire, and Jean played in great pain from an injured leg. It says much for her courage and concentration that she was nevertheless able to win her singles, but that one win was all that Bucks could manage as a succession of close finishes went the wrong way, leaving the only comfort for the

writer in the excellent bar at Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

The pressure is now on the senior team to win their forthcoming match against Northants, but Alec Watson is already a certain non-starter with cartilage trouble. Finding successful doubles pairs has been a problem this season and three new pairs are to be used against Northants.

It must be hoped that some of our juniors will be challenging for places in the senior side fairly soon, but the total number of really up-and-coming juniors in the County is very small. Our first task seems to be to encourage a greater number of youngsters to take up the game and to recruit coaches to ensure that talent is not wasted.

We have a strong inter-league competition this season, with High Wycombe, Slough, Milton Keynes and Maidenhead in the forefront. The Milton Keynes League has developed greatly over the past couple of years, and by the end of this season should reach the £1,000 mark in its fund-raising scheme to finance, among other things, a new coaching scheme. It has raised another £400 through a sponsored competition to buy a Stiga Robot, and has kitted out its inter-league teams in a very noticeable all-red strip.

Shortly before Christmas, Milton Keynes became the first team for four years to beat Ely in the South-East Midlands League. They won by 6-4 with Les Wooding, playing for the first time for nine months, emerging as man of the match, along with Doug McGarry. Les and Doug were both unbeaten and teamed up to win the deciding doubles.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY . . .

Bill for Table Tennis — £138,000

Birmingham ratepayers are being asked to underwrite the World Table Tennis Championships at the National Exhibition Centre in 1977 up to a maximum of £138,000.

The city's Leisure Services Committee has unanimously agreed to shoulder this responsibility for the cost of hiring the huge No. 5 hall at the N.E.C., for the event in which nearly 120 countries will be taking part.

It did not, after being told that the actual losses that the city will have to bear are likely to be considerably less than £40,000, because of other money-making events to be staged in the hall during breaks in the 11-day championships, including possibly a major boxing promotion.

And Councillor Ken Barton, the Committee Chairman, said it was estimated that over £1,000,000 would be spent in the city by overseas visitors to the championships, which would help Britain's balance of payments.

In addition, the value of the publicity that would accrue to Birmingham and the National Exhibition Centre from the championships with television and Press coverage to 120 countries by some 500 journalists, would be incalculable.

8,000 SEATS

The cost of hiring the hall, together with heating and lighting and cleaning services, over a total of 28 days from March 16 to April 12, is estimated at £168,000. But the English Table Tennis Association, who are organising the event, are letting some space for a leisure exhibition that would reduce the maximum liability to £138,000.

A further reduction in costs is expected from staging a large-scale sporting event during the rest of the day in the 8,000-seat main arena and also, possibly, letting the space during the seven-day break down at the end of the championships.

A Conservative spokesman, Councillor Ted Hanson, who is Vice-President of the Birmingham Table Tennis Association, endorsed the move and said the event would give "an enormous fillip" to table tennis clubs.

"Birmingham Evening Mail", Jan., 1976.

KENT 2 STAR JUNIOR OPEN

FOUR TITLES FOR CARINE

by The Editor

Belgium's starlet, Carine Verachtert, took Folkestone by storm over the weekend of December 22-23 when, in the Kent 2-Star Junior Open she won both the girls U-17 and U-15 singles titles and added, with the assistance of Mandy Wallis and Sam Harmer, two U-15 doubles titles to her impressive haul.

Another Belgian to get in on the act was Didier Leroy, who captured the boys' U-13 singles title from Graham Sandley, England's No. 2 Cadet.

Kevin Caldron put England on the map in the main boys' U-17 singles event with end victories over Liverpool's Tony O'Connor, Ian Kenyon and, finally, the higher-ranked Jonathan Proffitt, whose younger brother, Adam, took the U-15 title with Sandley again a defeated finalist. The Middlesex boy did, however, collect three half titles in the boys' U-17 mixed, with Alison Gordon, the boys' U-15 title, with Bryn Tyler and the boys' U-13 doubles with C. Oliver, yet another of his Middlesex colleagues.

UNDER-17 EVENTS RESULTS

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
J. Proffitt (Herts) bt T. Marsh (Essex) 14, 13.
R. Jermyn (Herts) bt I. Collins (Kent) 11, -11, 10.
I. Kenyon (Kent) bt K. Seager (Surrey) 16, 14.
K. Caldron (Essex) bt A. O'Connor (Lancs) 18, -24, 19.

Semi-finals
Proffitt bt Jermyn 11, -17, 20.
Caldron bt Kenyon 19, 12.

Final
CALDRON bt Proffitt -18, 14, 10.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
S. Roebuck (Surrey) bt H. Gore (Essex) 20, -16, 15.
M. Wallis (Nthnts) bt J. Purslow (Berks) 16, 5.
C. Verachtert (Belgium) bt J. Douglas (Berks) 21, 8.
J. Mitchell (Surrey) bt M. Smith (Berks) 16, -16, 19.

Semi-finals
Roebuck bt Wallis 13, 19.
Verachtert bt Mitchell 9, -17, 16.

Final
VERACHTERT bt Roebuck 11, -17, 12.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals
Caldron/K. Richardson (Cambs) bt O'Connor/A. Proffitt (Middx) -19, 19, 13.
Collins/Kenyon bt G. Gillett/N. Standen (Sussex) -11, 16, 9.

Final
COLLINS/KENYON bt Caldron/Richardson 13, 16.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals
Mitchell/Roebuck bt A. Gordon (Berks)/Purslow 19, 15.
Verachtert/Wallis bt Douglas/Smith 15, 19.

Final
MITCHELL/ROEBUCK bt Verachters/Wallis 20, -21, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
G. Sandley (Middx)/Gordon bt Caldron/Purslow 12, -18, 15.
Collins/M. Heffernan (Kent) bt J. Proffitt/Mitchell 18, 15.

Final
SANDLEY/GORDON bt Collins/Heffernan -18, 19, 18.

UNDER-15 EVENTS

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
O'Connor bt S. Low (Essex) 13, -17, 14.
A. Proffitt bt J. Weinglass (Middx) 18, 16.
Sandley bt S. Daniel (Middx) -19, 19, 13.
D. Leroy (Belgium) bt S. Kimm (Essex) 3, 6.

Semi-finals
Proffitt bt O'Connor 15, 18.
Sandley bt Leroy 17, -15, 17.

Final
PROFFITT bt Sandley 14, 17.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
Wallis bt M. Reeves (Middx) 20, 17.
Verachtert bt N. Pine (Devon) 17, 8.
Purslow bt Douglas 9, 14.
Gore bt S. Head (Surrey) 17, 9.

Semi-finals
Verachtert bt Wallis -16, 10, 9.
Purslow bt Gore 16, 13.

Final
VERACHTERT bt Purslow 22, 17.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals
Sandley/B. Tyler (Middx) bt S. Brown (Bucks)/Weinglass 16, 12.
Leroy/E. Lorand (Belgium) bt O'Connor/A. Proffitt 14, -17, 7.

Final
SANDLEY/TYLER bt Leroy/Lorand 10, 15.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals
Verachtert/Wallis bt Gordon/Purslow 17, -18, 12.
Douglas/Smith bt C. Butler (Devon)/Pine 11, 12.

Final
VERACHTERT/WALLIS bt Douglas/Smith 9, 10.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
S. Harmer (Beds)/Verachtert bt Sandley/Gordon 16, -16, 16.
Tyler/Smith bt O'Connor/Purslow 12, 11.

Final
HARMER/VERACHTERT bt Tyler/Smith 13, -19, 13.

UNDER-13 EVENTS

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
Sandley bt R. Halter (Middx) 9, 13.
J. Souter (Middx) bt I. Attridge (Essex) 18, 17.
M. Oakley (Surrey) bt M. Pay (Kent) 15, 14.
Leroy bt C. Cooper (Kent) 2, 6.

Semi-finals

Sandley bt Souter 13, 11.
Leroy bt Oakley 8, 5.

Final
LEROY bt Sandley 16, 19.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
Reeves bt B. Lippens (Belgium) 12, 9.
L. Garbet (Surrey) bt H. Williams (Middx) 13, 15.
E. Bolton (Kent) bt Butler 9, 10.
M. Abbott (Essex) bt L. Tyler (Middx) 15, 16.

Semi-finals
Reeves bt Garbet 18, 9.
Bolton bt Abbott 10, 17.

Final
REEVES bt Bolton 21, -17, 12.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals
C. Oliver (Middx)/Sandley bt M. Dare/M. Harris (Essex) 11, 18.
Attridge/Souter bt Halter/P. Stratton (Middx) 16, 18, 16.

Final
OLIVER/SANDLEY bt Attridge/Souter 9, 15.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals
Bolton/C. Wilson (Kent) bt Lippens/Reeves 12, 13.
S. Cresswell/M. Bland (Surrey) bt S. Carter/L. Pilcher (Kent) 13, 8.

Final
BOLTON/WILSON bt Bland/Cresswell 14, 12.

ANNUAL UAU/WIVAB TABLE TENNIS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 75-76

by DEREK OLDMAN

The annual individual championships were held over the weekend 29-30 November in the very spacious and most splendid sports hall at Bath University. The excellent co-operation of the players, together with the most helpful nature of the University Staff, made this tournament very comparable with other successful events held in previous years. Originally the entry was a record 134 in the men's events and 45 in the women's singles but several withdrawals cut down this number considerably. The entire entry—11 in all—from Hull University, failed to put in an appearance and as three seeded players were included in this number it seemed at the time that the overall quality of the tournament would be severely damaged. However, true to form, there were several "dark horses" hiding in the draw, many of these being full of "Eastern promise". Seeding players for any university tournament is a very hazardous exercise. With such a large turnover of players, many appearing for one year only, the tournament organisers are very much "Aunt Sallies". To their credit it must be said that all seeded players remaining in the event after the withdrawals reached the quarter-finals of the men's singles, while the finals of both singles events were contested by the Nos. 1 and 2 seeds.

Emerging from the group singles and reaching the quarter-finals in the positions left vacant by non-appearing seeded players were the Birmingham pair, R. Boyne and S. Sawyer, J. Abrahams, from East Anglia, and P. Day, of Bristol. Sawyer reached the semis with a victory over Abrahams where he was joined by the No. 1 seed, Clement Lo, from Bradford, John Fuller, of Warwick, and Norfolk, and Peter Edon, of Birmingham and Durham County. Lo proved to be too strong for Sawyer and Fuller's defence, together with the occasional winning smash, was too good for Edon in a very entertaining match. The final was dominated by Lo, Fuller never being able to get up to the table as he had done in the semi-final. The speed and tremendous reactions of the Bradford student made him a very worthy champion.

The top seed in the women's singles was Manchester University fresher, Janet Carr, the Staffordshire County player, who had very little difficulty reaching the semi-finals. The second seed, Christine Iacopi, a former Gloucester junior, also reached the last 4 without much concern. Joining these two were Nicola Bean, of Birmingham, who ousted the No. 4 seed and obviously below form Linda Crosby, of Exeter and "Lolly" Stalbow, representing Nottingham. The two top seeds qualified to meet each other in the final, both

getting through convincingly, Carr beating Bean and Iacopi overcoming Stalbow. For a time it seemed that Christine Iacopi could spring a surprise, but as the match wore on the Manchester girl gradually got on top, eventually running out a fairly comfortable winner.

Surprise winners in the men's doubles were the East Anglian pair, Lam and Ho. Both had fallen early in the singles but when coupled together they became very formidable. Their victims included the holders, Fuller and Mohamed Shaban, of Warwick in the quarters, the Sussex pair M. Williams and P. Schwitzer, in the semis, and M. Penney and C. Hai-Ng in the final. The Sussex and Manchester pairs were both unseeded and their success underlines how difficult it is to spot good doubles pairings. Penney and Hai-Ng had earlier had an excellent semi-final victory over the seeded Birmingham pair, Edon and Steve Sawyer.

The women's doubles event had taken a very severe hammering from withdrawals, several amendments having to be made to the original pairings. Christine Iacopi and "Lolly" Stalbow predictably reached the final but the second seeds, Janet Carr and S. Korman, were dismissed in the quarters by the eventual finalists, J. Wall and S. Wellman, from Sussex. The final, although always entertaining, was won very comfortably by the Nottingham pair, incidentally the only holders to retain their title.

Late withdrawals also affected the mixed but all remaining seeds reached the quarters. Winning through to the semis were Edon and H. Beeson, from Birmingham, who met Penney and J. Carr, of Manchester, and Fuller and C. Daybell, of Warwick, meeting the unseeded Sussex pair, P. Schwitzer and J. Wall. Predictably Fuller and Daybell beat Schwitzer and Wall but Penney and Carr caused a minor upset by knocking out Edos and Beeson in a close match. The obvious ability of Janet Carr seemed to get through to Michael Penney, who was most impressive in this event. After recovering from 15-20 down to win the first game, the Manchester pair fought tenaciously, just losing the second but eventually getting on top when it mattered towards the end of the third.

The smooth running of the tournament was in no small way due to the very efficient referee, Tony Chatwin, assisted by Brian Kean and the author. All the finals were impeccably umpired by the local Avon official, Mrs. Pat Archdale.

The fact that the dates of these championships clashed with a County Championship weekend robbed the tournament of Donald Parker but Fuller and Janet Carr chose to miss the County matches. Maybe in future years it may be possible to include the event in the E.T.T.A. calendar, thus enabling every selected player to represent his or her County and at the same time try to win a title for his or her university.

Results:—

Men's Singles
CLEMENT LO (Bradford) bt John Fuller (Warwick) 18, 13.

Women's Singles
JANET CARR (Manchester) bt Christine Iacopi (Nottingham) 18, 13.

Men's Doubles
H. HO/K. LAM (E. Anglia) bt M. Penney/C. Hai-Ng (Manchester) 18, 21.

Women's Doubles
C. IACOPI/L. STALBOW (Notts) bt J. Wall/S. Wellman (Sussex) 9, 15.

Mixed Doubles
PENNEY/CARR bt Fuller/C. Daybell (Warwick) 20, -18, 15.

YORKSHIRE JUNIOR SELECT

Andrew Barden just got the better of Paul Day to win the boys' singles title at the Yorkshire Junior Select, played over the weekend of December 20-21, at Hull. Winner of the counterpart girls' singles event was Angelica Schreiber, of Federal Germany, a member of the visiting Hessischer T.T.V. Club, from the province of Hesse, who beat Melody Ludi in the final. A full report (by Rea Balmford) will appear in the February issue.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

CHRIS STILL TOPS

Chris Reed, playing for both the Senior and Junior teams, was once again the Cumbrian who met with most success in the latest County matches.

The Senior team went down 2-8 to Lancashire II, away, and Chris, playing his first game for the senior side, took one of the wins with a 16, 17 success over the home No. 1, John Marshall, the other win coming from the combination of Jennifer Pachul and Clarice Rose, who gained a women's doubles success. The remaining sets did not produce much joy with Chris and John Willis providing the only bright spots by taking the No. 2, Graham Hoy, to a decider.

The Junior first team, who were also away to Lancashire, fared little better, but went down by the narrower margin of 4-6. Chris remained unbeaten, however, and extended his clean sheet for the juniors to three matches. His two singles wins, including a fine 17, 16 victory over Lancashire star Ian Smith, the current England No. 9 junior. The other two wins came from Chris and Neil Smith in the doubles, and Neil, with surprisingly his first singles win for the County, over the home No. 3, Clive Strettle, 14 and 13.

The Junior second team, at home to Nottinghamshire, could do no better, and after the first few keenly-contested sets, fell away to finish the match on the wrong side of an 8-2 scoreline. Diccon Gray made his County debut a memorable one by taking two wins for the home side. The Cumbria team never seemed to recover, Diccon apart, from the narrow defeat of Ian Harrison by his opposite No. 3, Terry Bramford, at 19 in the decider in the third set of the match with the score at one each.

The four main contenders for the Inter-league title clashed in the two opening matches and Millom emerged as table leaders, being the only team to collect 2 points after their 7-5 win over Westmorland. Barrow and Carlisle drew 6-6.

A few surprises were produced in the Westmorland v Millom match and Neil Smith set the pattern in the opening set by beating County No. 2 senior, Brian Towell, 17 and 19. Further shocks came with the defeat of Smith by David Pearson 12, 18, and Millom (Chris Reed, Smith, Ian Reed and Jennifer Pachul) going down in both doubles. Towell, Ron Wilson, Pearson and Lois Lewthwaite fought hard for the home side.

Recent performances from Alan Fay, the Barrow No. 1, ranked No. 4 in Cumbria, have set a poser for the County selectors for the next County team to play Cleveland III on January 17. An unbeaten performance from Alan, including a 2-straight win over Willis, Cumbria No. 3, was the main reason the Barrow team were able to take a point off last season's champions, Carlisle.

This, following his victory over Chris Reed (his first league defeat of the season), when playing for Vickers S.C. against Millom School in the Barrow & District League.

The inclusion of Adele Pettifer, formerly Adele Wood, the one-time English Junior champion, in the Barrow team must strengthen their chances considerably. Adele had no trouble gaining a women's singles win and also took the mixed with Stan Halesworth in her debut match for the said league.

Two points of interest arising from the County Management Committee meeting, held

recently, and Cumbria will be giving their support for the proposed 30p levy to help finance the 1977 World Championships following almost unanimous support from the separate leagues.

Another proposal, however, did achieve unanimous support, and that was to nominate Ron Rigg for the Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy awarded for outstanding services to County associations. Ron has been the "guiding light" behind Cumbria and Cumberland for the past 15 years or so, being one of the main figures behind the County's reformation around 1960, acting as Secretary for the following 10 years, then Treasurer, as he is now, as well as Tournament Organiser, Selection Committee Chairman, etc. The former County junior has lost none of his enthusiasm for the game on either side of the umpire's table.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

FINE WEEKEND

Belinda Chamberlain (No. 1 Junior) turned in a fine performance at the Southend Open during mid-November, reaching the semi-final of the women's singles. After winning her group she overcame the No. 2 seed, Janet Hellaby (England ranked) -17, 13, 16. After beating M. Nash (Kent) she finally fell at the last four stage to Lesley Radford -20, -17.

Belinda also reached the quarter-final of the junior girls, where she only just went down at 17 in the decider to national No. 1, Angela Mitchell. A fine weekend was completed when, partnered by Ian Collins, of Kent, they reached the semi-final of the mixed doubles, losing out to Ian Horsham and Mrs. Radford.

The County senior team drew 5-5 with Beds. in their home fixture at Peterborough. Les Saywell gave a fine display, winning both his singles. Jean Allinson took her second women's singles in successive matches and Alan Lamprell won a singles and partnered Diane Bushby for a mixed win. Best set of the day between the two No. 1's, Lamprell and Dave Rawlinson, gave the latter a narrow win.

The Junior teams of these two counties met in their fixture at Bedford the following day. A very disappointing performance from the Hunts team brought a 4-6 defeat, Steven Fisher being the lone boys' singles winner. Belinda Chamberlain took the girls' solo set whilst the boys' doubles Fisher/L. Coppolero, and girls' doubles Chamberlain/M. Ringrose, completed our scoring. All credit to the Bedford hosts, who managed to line both sides of the hall with spectators on a very foggy Sunday afternoon.

In National competitions only St. Neots men have been in action. They went out at the first hurdle to Bedford, losing the first five sets played. Hunts Central's men visit either Ipswich or Lowestoft after Basildon had conceded their first round fixture. Central's boys got a bye and travel to Ipswich in their next round match, whilst the same league have entered the girls' competition for the first time. They play at home to North Herts with Belinda Chamberlain, Melanie Ringrose and Julie Cundell the likely trio to do battle.

South-East Midlands League play has seen Peterborough Veterans' 8-2 win over Bedford as that league's lone success in 11 matches their various teams have played. However, the women's team led by County player Jean Allinson, had creditable draws against Bedford and Northampton, losing narrowly 4-6 to Cambridge.

St. Neots men are unbeaten after two matches in Div. 2, beating Daventry 6-4 and Cambridge 7-3. In the latter match former Hunts Central player, Albert Jackson, proved the main foil, beating St. Neots' 1 and 2, Lamprell and Cockram. St. Neots Vets., after suffering an early reverse to Cambridge 2-8, have scored three successive wins at the expense of Ely (8-2), Bedford (8-2) and R.A.F. (6-4).

Hunts Central juniors are unbeaten in the first division of the Junior Section, beating Ely (9-1) and Aylesbury (10-0), both lacking their top players. Their third win came over Bedford 6-4, which saw the same six boys in competition that had played a fortnight earlier in the County game. This time it was the Hunts' boys who came out on top.

The Central men's team have still to win their first match, their nearest result being a 4-6 reverse at the hands of Milton Keynes.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE



by Leslie Constable

SHOW OF STRENGTH

Cambridgeshire's top three boys, Paul Day, Keith Richardson and Geoff Davies showed their strength when they won every singles and doubles set, at both senior and junior level, in the County Championships against Northamptonshire and Berkshire. Day and Richardson spearheaded the 8-2 win over Northamptonshire, which put the seniors on top of Division 2 (Midland) with four points from two matches. After lifting the seniors to the top, Day and Richardson, ably assisted by Davies, helped the juniors to crush Berkshire 8-2, to give the juniors their first points in the Premier Division. These points were welcome after two heavy opening defeats against Essex and Middlesex, which were played without the assistance of Day.

Despite winning all his sets for the second Senior Team, Davies was unable to prevent another defeat for this team. Their 4-6 defeat by Norfolk II now extends their run of matches without a win to 14, although I am sure that this season will see a turn of fortune. In the match against Glamorgan the Cambridgeshire second team did a tremendous job by holding their Welsh junior opponents to 5-all. As the Glamorgan team boasted four Welsh junior internationals, this was a memorable day for the Cambridge lads. With four newcomers this season, the second junior team are putting up a good show in the very strong Midland Division, against other Counties' first teams, and although they lost 2-8 against Northamptonshire, the point gained against Glamorgan should give them encouragement for future matches.

Vivienne Rowell and Joanne Palmer have settled in well as partners and are unbeaten in the two matches they have played together. Now that Stuart Calvert and Andy Willis have gained their first County wins, they should have more confidence for the tough matches ahead.

Cambridge, who so narrowly lost their East Anglian League title to Norwich last season, are again challenging strongly for honours after winning their four opening matches. In their last fixture against Lowestoft they were successful 9-1, the only defeat coming when Norfolk County player, Mick Broughton, beat Chris Boothby. The team of John Thurston, Mick Harper, Boothby, Sandra Harding and Karen Garner, was probably the strongest ever fielded in this competition. After an absence of two years, it was good to see Karen Garner, a former County junior champion, playing regular representative table tennis once more.

In the South East Midlands League, Cambridge were defeated 3-7 by St. Neots, despite

singles wins by Albert Jackson, who beat Alan Lamprell and Gordon Cockram, and also a win from David Jarvis over McGuigan. There will need to be a big improvement if they are to return to Division 1, but they have earned two draws against Northampton "B" and Peterborough. In the Junior section (Division 2) Cambridge had a good win over St. Neots, after defeats in their first two matches. In the match against St. Neots, Stephen George won three while Robert Venn and Keith Randall gave good support with two each. However, in a recent match against Milton Keynes they went down 3-7 and so look doomed to remain in Division 2 for this season. A big improvement is needed here if the juniors are to climb back again to Division 1.

In the Cambs. League, Soham I and New Chesterton Institute I continue to challenge for top place in Division 1, N.C.I. trailing, at the moment, by two points, but with a game in hand. Both kept their 100% records intact when Soham beat Guildhall 7-3 and N.C.I. beat University I 10-0. Richardson and Mick Palmer kept their unbeaten records for Soham, but there was a rare upset for Steve Palmer. Y.M.C.A. II are still pointless at the bottom after losing their sixth consecutive match 1-9 to Telephones. Despite three wins by A. Thomas, Y.M.C.A. III were unable to stop Fisons notching their seventh consecutive win in Division 2, while G.O.R.D. gained their first points in this division by beating "Cambridge Evening News" 7-3. Only two points now separate the bottom five clubs and a grim struggle for survival appears likely. Haverhill II still dominate Division 3a with seven matches without defeat and in their latest match against St. George's II they were successful 7-3, Geoff Newman being unbeaten, but Bobby Warner lost his first set of the season when he went down to Mike Jackson.

Gerald Coteman, former Cambridgeshire Table Tennis Coach, has been invited to help the Guernsey national team prepare for the proposed Commonwealth Championships in St. Peterport in 1977.

CAMBS. TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Leading Positions

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soham I	7	7	0	0	56	14	14
N.C.I. I	6	6	0	0	54	6	12
Wilburton	7	4	2	1	46	24	10
N.C.I. II	7	3	3	1	41	29	9
Phones I	7	4	1	2	40	30	9

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

SHIRLEY IN DEMAND

The recent round of County matches surely produced something of a record in Staffordshire table tennis. As chance would have it, Shirley Cain, an up-and-coming 13-year-old, from Wolverhampton, played for three County sides within the space of two days. Janet Carr, the County No. 1, who is studying at Manchester, could not travel down for the home match against Glamorgan, and with her replacement unfortunately having to withdraw at the last moment, Shirley was the next available in the ranking list.

In the afternoon she played for the Juniors in a match against Shropshire, which they won easily 9-1, and she then stayed on for the evening match to partner her fellow junior, Stephanie Jones, in the "A" team. This was a match from which Staffs. should have gained a point, despite fielding a weakened side. The men, Tony Isaac, Steve Rowe and Brian Keates, each won one of their singles, Brian gaining a very creditable victory over Glamorgan's John Mansfield. Stephanie had a good singles win against Cheryl Jewels, from Swansea, but the crucial set came in the mixed where Shirley, partnered by Isaac, lost narrowly in the third to Mansfield and Mrs. Wheatley. In this first appearance for the "A" side Shirley showed a mature and even temperament besides putting up a good performance, and it was particularly pleasing for the spectators to see someone

playing in top representative table tennis so obviously enjoying her game.

With such an approach to the game, Shirley was happy to again turn out for the County in the "B" side match against Northants the following day, a match which brought them two points by the winning margin of 6-4, the same margin by which the "A" side had lost to Glamorgan.

Shirley learnt her table tennis at Highfields School, in Wolverhampton, and is now being coached by Jim Hayward at the Woodfields Club. She currently holds second place in the County Junior ranking list and sixth in the Ladies. I would think that Shirley is the youngest player to play for the County "A" side for many a year, and certainly the only one to combine this with three appearances within two days.

The Veterans have still to gain a point. Peter Hancock had two wins and Alan Buxton one in the 3-6 defeat at Nottingham.

The County now appear to have adopted the Great Wyrley Club as their regular home venue, partly due, no doubt, to the support given them by Gordon Brookes, who is Secretary of the club and no stranger to County administrative circles in past years. The Club was formed in 1963 with only three members, but together with Frank Scott, Chairman, and Chris Bradbury, Treasurer, and other members, Gordon has built up the playing membership to 30, ages ranging from 13 to near 50. The pre-World War I building now houses possibly the best playing facilities in the area, and reflects great credit on those who have contributed physical effort and financial assistance. Visiting teams from local areas are welcomed—contact the Secretary at 484 Pye Green Road, Hednesford, telephone Hednesford 2491. They have a strong junior section, and currently provide the full Walsall junior side. Ex-County juniors, Steve Nickless and Neil Rafferty are also members.

Geoff Williamson, reporting on the County League, tells me that West Brom "A" had a good 5-4 win against Wolverhampton "A", but Walsall "A" and Potteries "B" head Division 1 with four points each, both wins against Stone "A" and Stafford "A". Leek "A", newly-promoted to Division 3, are off to a flying start with wins against Darlaston "A" and Stafford "B".

Ernie Coggins has returned to playing for the Lichfield "B" side after a season's lay-off. I seem to remember forecasting that a player of his ability and interest in the game would not retire for long.

How many teams in the country play all their matches at home? This tailpiece to my column has a simple answer; the clue lies in the name of the home "club", and there must be a number up and down the country. The particular club I am referring to is Swinfen Hall Prison. They joined the Lichfield League this year and, to date, have a 100% (home) record, thanks due to a number of ex-league players who are just visiting!

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

ANOTHER VICTORY

In the second series of County matches, Lincolnshire gained another 6-4 victory, this time over Northumberland. This was again a fine team win, with Brian Hill (Wyberton) winning both his singles, including an easy win, 12, 16, over the Northumberland No. 1, Ian Robertson. The men's doubles (Hill and East) and the women's doubles (White/Voss) also resulted in wins for Lincs. Jean White (Spalding) won a tense match against Barbara Kearney in the third game. Victory came to Lincs. when Morley/Voss won the mixed.

The Lincolnshire Closed Championships produced a major shock with the third round defeat of the champion of the last 10 years, Brian Hill, by his old adversary, Peter Skerratt (Scunthorpe). Not only did Peter beat Brian but he went on to win the Men's Singles title, beating Mick East (Wyberton) in the final. Although now in the Veteran class

(he also won the Veteran Singles) Peter can still show the younger players how footwork plays a vital part in the game of Table Tennis. It is exactly 25 years since Peter first won the Men's Singles title.

The Women's Singles title was duly retained by Jean White, who went on to complete a lifetime's ambition by also winning the two doubles events, with Mary Burgess (Spalding) in the Women's Doubles and with Steve Morley (Grimsby) in the Mixed. After several close tries Jean finally completed the treble.

The Men's Doubles was retained by Hill/East, and the Junior events were won by the top seeds, Mark Newbould (Grimsby) and Suzanne Hunt (Grantham).

The Stamford players, who were able to compete for the first time, found the going hard, but thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and only wished they had affiliated 10 years ago.

Final Results:

M.S.: P. Skerratt bt M. East 17, -18, 11.

W.S.: J. White bt S. Hunt 15, 13.

M.D.: Hill/East bt Morley/Moran (Grimsby) 11, 16.

W.D.: White/Burgess bt Hunt/Featherstone 16, 10.

X.D.: Morley/White bt Hill/Voss -19, 25, 10.

B.S.: M. Newbould bt S. Cuthbertson (Scunthorpe) 15, 6.

G.S.: Hunt bt Featherstone 11, 16.

V.S.: Skerratt bt A. Biggadake (Spalding) 8, 17.

The Junior team had their first match of the season when they visited Cleveland, which resulted in a 5-5 draw. Newbould and K. Eldred each won one singles and together won the doubles. Marie Featherstone had a good win in the Girls' Singles over Norma Carne, and partnered by Cheryl Buttery, won the Girls' Doubles.

In the Haigh Cup the Champions, Wyberton (Hill, East, King) had two 10-0 victories over Boston (Robinson, Brown, Armstrong) and Grantham (McDonald, Eldred, Brown) respectively. Grimsby (Allison, Morley, Shearer) beat Scunthorpe (Szenher, Boyd, Burlincon) 9-1, and Lincoln (Radley, Norton, Banks) beat Gainsborough (Edlington, Patrick, Slater) 6-4. In the Butcher Cup, Mablethorpe (Edwards, Houlby, Willson) had a close 6-4 win over Skegness (Sayer, Birks, Gardner), while Boston (Cater, Daffurn, Fossitt) easily beat Lincoln (Chesworth, Johnson, McClean) 10-0.

Entry Forms are now available for the East of England Tournament, to be held at Scunthorpe, on Sunday, March 14th, from the Organiser, Mrs. Joan Robinson, at 13 Croppers Way, Freiston, Boston, Lincs. (Phone: Butterwick 267). It would help if you could send a stamped addressed envelope when requesting forms.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Brian Kean

RUN ENDED

The old Railway club now competing as Miles Druce in the Sale League lost an unbeaten run that spanned over three years.

Their conquerors were Urmston C. & L.T.C. and the event was the final of the Sale League Cup—scoreline 5-3. Interesting point here is the improvement of Miles Druce No. 1, Brian Clements who, in actual fact, is a Lancastrian, and has claimed the scalp of Lancs. No. 2, Phil Bowen, twice in five days, performances I am sure of our worthy "oppo" selection committee notice.

The Cheshire Closed was played on Saturday, December 13, and provided few shocks. Main surprises were sprung in the junior event where dark horse Paul Steele quietly collected the B.S. title. He ousted Messrs. Gatley and Hankey, who are, of course, junior team members.

The most enjoyed final was the Youths' event which brought together Scotland's new No. 2, John McNee, and Sale's up-and-coming starlet, Dave Constance. As expected, Susan Lisle won the women's singles, Nigel Eckersley retained the men's singles title and the M.D. was won by Roger Hampson and Derek Schofield.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

RISE TO OPTIMISM

Although County Championship results to date have been somewhat disappointing, the performances of the younger players give rise to optimism. This applies particularly to Mandy Wallis and Valerie Feakin, whose simultaneous rise in the County rankings has been achieved in vastly differing ways. Both players have matured in the past six months, as Mandy has kept on the tournament circuit, and received specialist coaching, while Valerie has relied more on local assistance, aided by her own perseverance and dedication. The rewards are beginning to come, with Valerie playing in three County matches in two days without defeat, and Mandy's recent successes in the Kent Junior 2-Star Open, in which, partnered by C. Verachtert, of Belgium, she won the Under-15 Doubles and reached the Final of the Under-17 Doubles, while also reaching the semi-finals of the corresponding singles events, with wins over England-ranked Alison Gordon and Jill Purslow in the process. It will be interesting to see which plan of campaign will eventually produce the better results.

Meanwhile, following Wellingborough's decision not to enter the re-constituted County League, the competition has been further devalued by Northampton not fielding their strongest side at Towcester, who celebrated with a narrow 6-5 win, despite Alan Shouler failing to win a game. Ron Dunkley gained some reward for his efforts with a singles, and a shared doubles with S. Lines, who was also involved in two successes in the women's events, while G. Street made an impressive debut for Towcester with two convincing singles victories. With the vital matches yet to come, the League Table now reads:—

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Towcester	3	1	0	2	11
Daventry I	1	1	0	0	10
Kettering	1	1	0	0	10
Daventry II	2	1	0	1	8
Northampton	1	0	0	1	5

This season the Northamptonshire T.T.A. Championships are to be staged earlier than usual, at Daventry, on Saturday, February 21. Entry forms are now available from all League Secretaries, or direct from the Tournament Organiser, Bob Samy, 3 Swann Dale, Daventry (Tel.: Daventry 3509) and it is hoped that the organisers will receive a good entry for the first ever County Championship tournament to be staged outside the big three of Northampton, Wellingborough and Kettering.

The South East Midlands League has been slow to get into its stride this season, with a reduced number of teams in each division, but local leagues have made an excellent start with Wellingborough women taking pride of place as they head their division, and would appear to have an excellent chance of maintaining their position. Northampton also figure prominently in the latest charts, holding second place in the Men's and Juniors' First Divisions, and the Veterans' League, while the "B" side led Men's Division 2 until, fielding only two players against Daventry, they were soundly beaten, to give a John Bishop-inspired Daventry their second win of the campaign, two more than in the whole of last season.

On the League front the Wellingborough League Division 1 is as close as ever, with the usual teams leading the way as follows:—

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Rothborough "A"	8	8	0	0	70
Kettering Town "A"	8	8	0	0	67
Compton Nomads "A"	8	7	0	1	61

In Kettering the following entries from the latest Premier Division league table tells its own story:—

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kettering Town "A"	8	8	0	0	77
Market Harborough W.M.C.	9	6	0	3	48
Wellingborough Town "A"	7	5	1	1	48

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

TABLE TENNIS CENTRE FOR HARTLEPOOL

As a result of discussions between County, Local League and Local Authority officials, a Table Tennis Centre is likely to be opened in Hartlepool early this year.

The Hartlepool League has been operating successfully since 1933 but when the new Centre is opened the popularity of the game in the town should increase rapidly and the standard of youngsters should be higher than in the past.

Premises for the Centre will be located in the Gymnasium on the second floor of the Town Hall. The playing area will be sufficiently large for 6 tables for coaching purposes, 4 tables for League matches and 1 table, with ample spectator accommodation, for County matches.

It is intended to use the Centre mainly for coaching purposes and to put on a series of courses for players of different levels.

The first competitive event to be held at the Centre will be the Hartlepool Table Tennis Championships on January 18, 1976. These Championships will be open to all players within Cleveland, and will incorporate the Hartlepool League closed event. In addition to the Gymnasium the main hall of the building will be used to accommodate a further 6 tables.

The Championships, like the Centre, are to be sponsored by the Hartlepool Leisure and Amenities Department with a prize fund of £100. It is hoped that this will be the first of many such ventures by the District Council.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

RANDELL DOMINATES

Leicestershire will be well satisfied with their recent county fixtures with Warwickshire. The Juniors had a totally unexpected win against a team which looked—on paper—far superior in all aspects. Yet Leicestershire recovered from 2-4 down to win 6-4. Chris Rogers, as one would expect, gave a very polished display, winning two singles (including yet another victory over Duggie Johnson) and a fine mixed doubles win with Jackie Want as his partner. The basis of the home side's success though was the boys' singles with five wins out of six. Two wins from the rapidly-improving David Gannon were backed by another from Steve Kenney. 11-year-old Yvonne Hall, making her singles debut, gave a highly promising performance.

The Veterans recorded their first-ever win over Warwickshire where skipper Bryan Hall won two. With George Webster making a sound debut and both doubles being won by Leicestershire, the result was rarely in doubt. The 1st team played Warwickshire II at Tamworth, and although the result—a win—was expected—the margin, 10-0, certainly wasn't. Paul Randell—by popular opinion the greatest player Leicestershire has ever had—again gave a dominating display and Chris Rogers continues to improve at this level. Hard-working Maurice Newman had his first-ever victory over Barry Hayward and both Karen Rogers and Anita Stevenson—as one would expect—were more than equal to the occasion.

The Rose Johnson Bowl Competition continues to produce exciting finishes and of the eight teams remaining, four come from two clubs—Post Office and Jones & Shipman. Last season's runners-up, Great Glen, are still going strong whilst the young Loughborough I side, Belgrave St. Michael's and Belgrave Constitutional complete the list.

Welcome news is that "TOPSPIN", the Newsletter of the Leicestershire and District League, is to resume production. John Bowness has so many commitments that the magazine has not actually got off the ground this season, but a volunteer—Ian Holdridge, the

League Treasurer, has offered to start the ball rolling and the first issue will be out in January. Meanwhile, Loughborough continue to issue their excellent newsletter—"Behind The Serve".

Congratulations are in order to Karen Rogers, selected for England in the Norwich Union International Championships, at Brighton. There has been very little to choose between Karen and Anita Stevenson over the past two or three years, but now Karen has gone ahead in the Ranking List, taking No. 5 position, whilst Anita is at No. 7.

In the Loughborough League, a new club—Snipe—have reached the final of the Loughborough Handicap Cup at the first attempt. Whilst they are playing in the 2nd Division it will come as no surprise to find they have done so well when one sees their team.—Phil Smith, Steven Kenney and Ian McKelvey. Not unnaturally they top the 2nd Division, having so far this season dropped only one set.

There will clearly be many close finishes in the Leicester and District League—Loughborough (Division 1), Barwell Liberals (2), Rolls Royce (3), K.R.R. W.M.C. II (4), British Shoe (6), Grattan (7), Thorn Lighting (8), Belgrave St. Michael's (13), St. Margaret's (14), and Magna Travellers (16) all lead their respective divisions, although in the majority of cases by only a slender margin.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan J. Cavell

GREEN STARS

The results at the Shropshire Closed tournament confirmed the prediction I made last month that more would be heard of Shropshire's junior players. The gap between the general standard of play of the top men players and the coached juniors has been steadily closing over the last five years. The capture of the men's singles title by Malcolm Green is the first breakthrough of the current teenage players.

Green's victory was well earned. In the last 16 he beat Chris Neal, the current top-ranked senior player. He then demolished County player Clive Roberts. In the semi-finals he beat Anthony Smith, the County champion of two years ago. The other finalist was veteran Albert Hiscock, who has been winning titles and representing various Midland towns for over 25 years.

Green was certainly not overawed by the occasion or the reputation of his opponent. He took the game to Hiscock from the start of the final, played to a pattern and hardly made an error. Hiscock's defence was just not good enough on this occasion and he lost in two games. Green's ability to concentrate is certainly exceptional in one so young and I predict that this will be only the first of many triumphs for him.

Chris Neal and Keith Walton retained the men's doubles title. The final of the veterans, by far the longest match in the tournament, was between two contestants who did not avail themselves of the recently-amended expedite rule. Jim Bishton outlasted Harry Brannick.

The women's events continue to be dominated by the experienced players. Last year's winner, Mrs. Joyce Jones was knocked out by Mrs. Ann Dodds, who subsequently lost to the eventual winner, veteran Mrs. Sheila Rogers. Mrs. Rogers partnered Jim Bowden to win the mixed doubles. Veteran Mrs. Grace Gee and Miss Sue Evans, won the women's doubles.

Scores:—

M.S.:	M. Green bt A. Hiscock 13, 15.
W.S.:	S. Rogers bt S. Evans 17, 12.
M.D.:	C. Neal/K. Walton bt G. Cheetham/A. Smith -20, 12, 9.
W.D.:	Evans/G. Gee bt C. Ashley/M. Cartwright 14, -9, 14.
X.D.:	J. Bowden/Rogers bt Smith/J. Jones 21, -9, 14.
V.S.:	J. Bishton bt H. Brannick 10, -10, 16.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

OUTSTANDING WIN

Norfolk have played three County Championship matches since my last notes were written. Their first team's away win against Bedfordshire was outstanding, since their women were prevented by fog and breakdown from reaching their destination (A.R.A., Bedford). This meant that they started 0-3 down. However, Mick Musson, John Turner and Chris Bensley (promoted from the second team in the absence of John Fuller) all won both their singles and Norfolk ran out winners by 6-4.

Norfolk II had an away win against Cambridgeshire II by the same margin. As Douglas Bennett and Wendy Hogg were playing for the Juniors, Trevor Bunn and Susan Allen made their County debuts, and Bob Mitcham came in for Bensley.

Norfolk Juniors had a very comfortable win over Glamorgan at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. In this first encounter between the two counties, it must have been most discouraging for our visitors to travel such a long way to be trounced 9-1.

The first East Anglian League tables show Cambridge, winners two seasons ago and runners-up on sets average last term, once again to be in the lead, but they are very closely challenged by Dereham. Both have won all their four matches. In Dereham's outstanding win over Ipswich, John Turner beat John Kitchener, No. 12 in the England rankings. Norwich, last season's winners, suffered a reverse 3-7 at Bury St. Edmunds, which may well cost them their Div. 1 title. Norwich "B" and Yarmouth "B" head Div. 2; Ipswich and Yarmouth lead Junior "A", and Yarmouth "B" and Norwich "B" top Junior "B".

In the Wymondham League, Saints "A" and Old Buckenham lead Div. 1, whilst Old Buckenham "B" are well ahead in Div. 2, and Nomads "C" are two points ahead of Golden Palace in Div. 3.

The Norwich Union, now associated in the minds of table tennis players with the International and English Championships, run several teams in the Norwich League. For their Premier Division side they have just signed Mick Musson, the Norfolk champion.

KENT NOTES

by Ken Baker

THE WAR AGAINST APATHY

Apathy at all levels exists in all counties and Kent, although enjoying a reputation of being an "enthusiastic" County, still has its share of this destructive and contagious disease.

The old "us and them" situation still exists in the players/officials relationship. Players still ask why "they" don't do this or that whilst committees might just as well be discussing shove ha'penny in many cases for all the relevance their deliberations have towards the central and most important character—Table Tennis itself.

The obvious answer is perhaps to involve the players more in the administration of their sport and many of our leagues' committees do have prominent players in active administration roles. It is recognised, however, that the player involved in playing say three nights per week and still ambitious to reach his or her ultimate playing standard, just does not have sufficient time to devote to the administrative side of things. The net result is that more officials are "doubling up" the number of tasks that they have to perform and before long the whole of their spare time is spent in administering the game, so much so that understandably, they often can't see the wood for the trees.

Apathy is born out of a lack of communication and at the risk of over-simplifying the case we, in Kent, will be stepping up the efforts to try to rectify this, which we believe

to be the root cause. To some extent we have already begun by producing a magazine as a medium through which players and officials can air their views. Many of our leagues produce Newsletters which go far beyond simply showing league tables and match results. The Maidstone League have recently brought out their version which includes some informative and humorous articles in addition to the day-to-day results.

We feel that we must make the players realise that "they", the officials, are people that often have responsible positions outside of table tennis and thus dispel the old myth that only by officiating at table tennis events can they find an outlet for their secret yearnings for power. It must also be brought home to the player the extent of the "unseen" work that is required before a player can play in a match or a tournament and precisely who is responsible for this.

Equally we must impress upon committees that players are not all cretins whose only ability is to be able to manoeuvre a piece of celluloid more adroitly than perhaps they themselves are able and that the main objective is not to run competitions with military-like precision just to complete a tournament or league programme.

It has been said many times that "the game is about players"—this is just not true! The game is about players and the administrators. The two are interdependent and what is needed is simply a better understanding between the two factions who must be made to realise they are on the same side after all.

By articles in magazines and newsletters and by the seemingly long lost art of conversation, the situation can be remedied if people are prepared to read and listen. All of this has been said before many times but the Kent Development Committee will be endeavouring to win at least a few battles throughout the remainder of the season if not perhaps the whole war.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

MODERATE SUCCESS

The County sides are having a moderately successful season without much prospect of high honours to come. So far, the senior side has won one out of three, the seconds two out of three, and both juniors have been successful twice in three outings. In their last match the junior premier team had a bad day against a fairly strong Middlesex, and only David Wells will want to hold on to memories of that day. The other junior side fared little better against their Middlesex opponents but put up a far braver performance. In this first defeat since the opening match of the previous season, Gary Stewart won both singles, Steve Critchley and Simon Vine one each.

The senior seconds had a good win at Guildford against Middlesex by 6-4, in which seven sets went to the best of three, and Ian Girdler pipped Cosmo Graham 24-22 in the third (after losing three points for not showing the service ball to the umpire) and was edged out in turn by Dave Jemmett 23-21 in the last set. Jayne Mitchell, in her first match for the seconds, helped Jenny Vass to a good doubles win, but it was Bob Aldrich who hit the shot of the night. Although the attendance was meagre, the match was most entertaining and played in a very good spirit. The referee was Tony Broderick and the umpires were Trevor Channing, Jimmy Anderson and Colin Henderson (his debut).

Although efforts had been made to organise a knockout inter-league club competition to take the place of the various inter-league competitions which had earlier been suspended through lack of participant interest, even these modest plans came to nought and the County Committee is now resolved to do all it can to reactivate the old competitions in 1976-77. The Committee, whose meetings are usually enlivened by sharp expressions of contrasting views on financial matters and the

coaching of juniors, are expecting fireworks when, at the next assembly, the subject of the E.T.T.A.'s proposed levy will be the only item on the Agenda. The arguments are so foreseeable that I could provide the script, even if I could not supply the passion and volume with which it will be rehearsed.

Peter Keepen has sent me news of the Redhill and Reigate League, which will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary in 1976. The league now has five divisions with 339 registered players, and the present Secretary is Ray Brown. There is no record of internationals from its ranks nor County players in its present strength. There are hopes that local products of County Coach Mick Kercher's training schemes, Chris Keepen, David Hannah and others, will break through to County standard before long. Present holders of their Closed Championships are, respectively, Keith Horton and Hazel O'Brian, with Alan Hayes (veterans) and Chris Keepen (juniors). The League are holders of the Inter-league trophy, the Percy Johnson Cup—and may continue to be if the County are unable to start the competitions going again. On February 14 they will be hosts to a Senior County match against Lancashire.

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by Laurie Selby

SURPRISE WINNER

Fourteen-year-old Jonathan Chandler became the surprise winner of the Under-17 singles championship when the Wiltshire junior tournament was played at Swindon.

Chandler, the No. 6 seed, put out top seed Terry Ashe and went on to beat Kevin Mayes, the holder, in the final.

Earlier Chandler was beaten in the Under-15 singles final by Kevin Satchell, who also won the Under-13 mixed singles.

Wendy Parker took three titles in the Under-17 section and Pauline Townsend (12) justified her No. 1 seeding in the Under-15 singles.

The Under-17 boys' doubles title went to John Townsend and Ian Whitehall. Townsend teamed with Miss Parker to win the mixed title.

Winning combination in the girls' doubles was Miss Parker and Beverley Keeble, whom Miss Parker beat in the singles final. Adrian Law won the consolation singles.

S.E. MIDLAND LEAGUE CHATTER

by Leslie Constable

COMFORTABLE LEADERS

North Herts are comfortably leading the Men's Section (Division 1) and had good victories over their nearest rivals, Milton Keynes and Wellingborough, by 7-3 and 8-2 respectively.

In Division 2 of the Men's Section, Northampton "B" have a good lead but were recently held to a 5-5 draw by Cambridge. St. Neots are running them close and had a very good 7-3 victory over Cambridge, who are struggling.

Bedford lead the Junior Section (Division 1) from Northampton and North Herts, but the latter team are well placed should the leaders slip. In the Women's Section Wellingborough lead from Cambridge and these two teams look like battling it out for honours at the end of the season, although Wellingborough beat Cambridge 6-4 and so must be considered favourites.

Leading positions:—

Men—Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
North Herts	2	2	0	0	15
Northampton	2	1	0	1	12

Women—Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wellingborough	4	4	0	0	28
Cambridge	3	2	0	1	17



SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

THE NATIONAL SQUAD: Tom Devers (Glasgow) and John McNee (Birkenhead) have joined the National Squad following their good form in early season tournament play.

YUGOSLAVIAN OPEN: Richard Yule, John McNee, Keith Rodger, Elaine Craig and Carole Dalrymple represented Scotland in this important international event. In the Men's Team event Scotland I lost 0-3 to China II with Yule taking an end of Liao Fu-Min, and Scotland II lost 0-3 to Poland. The ladies lost 0-3 to Yugoslavia III. In the individual events our best result was Richard Yule's Round 2 win over Miroslav Cich (Czechoslovakia); however, he lost in Round 3 to the ultimate winner—China's Kuo Yao-Hua.

EAST OF SCOTLAND OPEN—16th November—Edinburgh: A large number of players from England, including Mrs. Reay's usual coachload from Tyne & Wear, came up for this popular tournament but, except for Fiona Brown's (Chesterfield) victory in the U-17 Girls' Singles, they had to return south empty-handed.

Terry Forker (Edinburgh) continued the good form which gave him the North of Scotland title, defeating Tony Gelder 2-0, Peter McQueen 2-1 and Bert Kerr 2-1 to reach the final of the Men's Singles. In the other half Ian Robertson beat John Moir (Aberdeen) 2-0, Billy Gibbs (Edinburgh), Keith Paxton 2-1 and Alan Matthew (Aberdeen) 2-1 in the semi-final. The Final between the two left-handers, was a hard-hitting affair with Forker trailing in both sets but recovering each time to win 21-19, 22-20.

Elaine Smith (Edinburgh) played confidently to win the Women's Singles title without dropping a game.

Tom Devers' (WoS) run of success in U-17 events was ended by Gelder 14 and 11 in the Boys' Singles semi-final. Alan Matthew, however, won the Final, beating Gelder 18 and 19.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

P. Forker (Edinburgh) bt R. Kerr (Edinburgh) 19, -16, 14.

I. Robertson bt A. Matthew (Aberdeen) 19, -17, 14.

Final
FORKER bt Robertson 19, 20.

Women's Singles

E. SMITH (Edinburgh) bt M. Cuthbertson (Grangemouth) 8, 12.

Junior Singles

A. MATTHEW bt A. Gelder 18, 19.

Men's Doubles

R. BROWN/A. MATTHEW bt J. Moir/B. Morgan 17, 17.

Mixed Doubles

J. WILSON/E. SMITH bt E. Robertson/V. Smith -20, 13, 11.

Veterans' Singles

R. KERR bt A. Endready (Dumfries) 16, 13.

GLASGOW OPEN — 29th November —

Glasgow: Nigel Eckersley's run of Scottish successes was in danger of "arrest" at the hands of hard-hitting P.C. John Hawkins, of Glasgow, an international several seasons ago but now playing "for fun". In the Men's Singles quarter-final it was not until 12-10 in the 3rd that Nigel got the ascendancy and went ahead to win 21-13. Bert Kerr was Eckersley's semi-final victim and in a light-

hearted final he defeated compatriot John Hilton 8 and 20.

Carole Knight took the Women's Singles title but dropped the first game to Elaine Smith and only narrowly won the second.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

N. Eckersley bt R. Kerr 15, 16.

J. Hilton bt R. Brown 12, 20.

Final

ECKERSLEY bt Hilton 8, 20.

Women's Singles

C. KNIGHT bt E. Smith -19, 17, 12.

Junior Singles

A. MATTHEW bt W. Lochhead 7, 15.

Men's Doubles

ECKERSLEY/HILTON bt J. Wilson/A. McCulloch 13, 19.

Mixed Doubles

C. BROWN/C. KNIGHT bt J. Graham/E. Smith 12, 15.

S.T.T.A. TEAM CUP—6th December—Edinburgh: This annual competition is open to the two top teams in each affiliated league. In the semi-finals Central (West of Scotland) beat Redpath (Lanark) 6-0 and Swifts (Aberdeen) beat Y.M.C.A. (Edinburgh) 5-3.

Central (J. Wilson, R. Brown, T. Devers and J. Whyte) retained their title by defeating the Swifts (J. Moir, B. Morgan, M. Singer and A. Matthew) 5-3. In the vital 8th tie Russell Brown defeated Alan Matthew 19 and 16 to clinch the match. This victory will give Central the right to challenge in next season's Europe Club Cup.

MID-SEASON TOURNAMENT RANKING LIST

Men

1—Richard Yule (London); 2—John McNee (Birkenhead); 3—Patrick Forker (Edinburgh); 4—Alan Matthew (Aberdeen); 5—Robert Kerr (Edinburgh); 6—Ram Bhalla (Glasgow); 7—James Graham (Glasgow); 8—David Fraser (London); 9—Russell Brown (Glasgow); 10—John Moir (Aberdeen); 11—John Wilson (Glasgow); 12—Archie McCulloch (Glasgow); 13—Thomas Devers (Glasgow); 14—Michael Thomson (Aberdeen); 15—Charles Brown (Glasgow), James Wallace (Dundee); 17—Cameron Lang (Glasgow); 18—James O'Neill (Hamilton); 19—Brian Morgan (Aberdeen); 20—Keith Rodger (Edinburgh).

Women

1—Elaine Smith (Edinburgh); 2—Patrice Fleming (Glasgow); 3—Grace McKay (Edinburgh); 4—Elaine Craig (Glasgow); 5—Carole Dalrymple (Falkirk); 6—Mabel Neish (Dundee); 7—Margaret Cuthbertson (Grangemouth); 8—Eleanor Hardy (Falkirk);

Junior Boys (Under-17)

1—Alan Matthew (Aberdeen); 2—Thomas Devers (Glasgow); 3—Keith Rodger (Edinburgh); 4—Colin Harkins (Falkirk), Anwar Majid (Edinburgh); 6—William Lochhead (Glasgow); 7—Fraser Stewart (Glasgow); 8—Earl Black (Edinburgh); 9—David McIlroy (Glasgow); 10—Kenneth McLean (Glasgow); 11—Matthew Wallace (Dumfries); 12—Gary Allan (Elgin); 13—Walter Clarkson (Falkirk); 14—William Loch (Edinburgh), Graham Lundie (Edinburgh); 16—Edward Scott (Edinburgh); 17—James Robb (Glasgow); 18—Kenneth Henderson (Glasgow).

Cadet Boys (Under-14)

1—David McIlroy (Glasgow); 2—Alastair Davidson (Aberdeen), James McAteer (Glasgow); 4—Michael Aitken (Aberdeen), W. Taylor.

Junior (Under-17) and Cadet (Under-14) Girls

1—Carole Dalrymple (Falkirk); 2—Eleanor Hardy (Falkirk); 3—Maureen Thomson (Aberdeen).

LANCS. & CHESHIRE LEAGUE CLOSED

The 2nd Lancashire and Cheshire League Closed Championships, originally scheduled to take place on May 2, has been re-dated for the following Sunday, May 9, at Bolton Institute of Technology's Sport Hall. Entries close on March 31, to Gordon Campbell, Esq., 10 Newton House, Red Bank School, Newton-le-Willows, Lancs. (Phone 092-52 21057).

Europe Club Cup

ORMESBY MARCH ON

by Alan Ransome

English champions, Ormesby T.T.C., marched into the semi-final of the Europe Club Cup on December 3, when they visited Federal German champions, P.S.V. Borussia, Dusseldorf, and won 5-2.

Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale were in excellent form for Ormesby, Jarvis scoring a hat-trick, all in straight games, including a 14, 12 triumph over the legendary Ebby Schöler. Nicky had an equally convincing win over Jochen Leiss, who he had never previously beaten. Denis, too, did well to beat Leiss, but his victory was far closer.

The Germans' two victories were both at the expense of Jimmy Walker, but exceedingly close on each occasion. Walker had several opportunities to clinch the first set against Leiss before going down 23-25 and then, in a rather turbulent set with Schöler, he won the middle game at 18.

The match order worked out very much to the advantage of Ormesby, having all their bankers in the first five encounters. In the semi-final the English champions will meet either the present holders, Sparta Prague, whose team includes Milan Orłowski and Jaroslav Kunz, or Sweden's top club, Mölnåls B.T.K., who have on their books such players as Kjell Johansson and Ake Grönlund.

Individual results in Dusseldorf were:—
R. Wosik lost to D. Neale -17, -10.
J. Leiss bt J. Walker 23, 16.
E. Schöler lost to N. Jarvis -14, -12.
Leiss lost to Neale -22, -16.
Wosik lost to Jarvis -16, -19.
Schöler bt Walker 14, -18, 16.
Leiss lost to Jarvis -10, -15.

National Team Competitions

Some 122 Leagues have entered teams into the four Competitions comprising the National Leagues Championships, the composition being:—

Wilmott Cup	103
Rose Bowl	69
Carter Cup	86
Bromfield Trophy	41

82 Leagues have entered their Champion Club in the National Club Championships as follows:—

Men's competition	81
Women's competition	15

Super TURBO

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

JOOLA

table tennis

CLEVELAND 3-STAR

Desmond Douglas brought off his third 3-Star Open men's singles success when, at Thornaby Pavilion, over the weekend of January 3-4, he finally accounted for Nicky Jarvis to take the £150 first prize.

Still without an open tournament success to his name this season, Denis Neale was ousted in the quarters by Paul Day, the English Junior champion, who bridged a deficit of 8 points in the deciding game to account for the former England No. 1 with scores of -19, 16, 20.

Jill Hammersley maintained her winning ways, re-established in the Middlesex 3-Star to again account for Linda Howard in the women's singles final after the latter had eliminated Carole Knight -13, 19, 8.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

D. Douglas (Warwks) bt P. Day (Cambs) 13, 17.

N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt A. Barden (Middx) 16, 15.

Final
DOUGLAS bt Jarvis 19, -17, 10.

Women's Singles

J. HAMMERSLEY (Bucks) bt L. Howard (Sy) 17, 18.

Men's Doubles

DAY/JARVIS bt Douglas/D. Neale (Cleve) -13, 17, 20.

Women's Doubles

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt M. Ludi/A. Mitchell (Middx) 11, 8.

Mixed Doubles

DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Neale/C. Knight (Cleve) 17, 16.

A full report will appear in the February issue.

Yorkshire & Humberside Sports Council

SPORT FOR YOUTH

Courses in Squash, Tennis, Badminton and Table Tennis have been arranged by the Yorkshire and Humberside Youth Organisations' Sports Association in conjunction with the Sports Council (Yorkshire and Humberside).

These courses will be held over a one weekend period—18th June to 20th June, 1976, at the National Recreation Centre, Crystal Palace, and have been arranged to give Leaders and Members of Youth Clubs the opportunity to receive coaching and training in the sport of their choice.

The fee of £16.50 (inclusive of V.A.T.) covers transport for the return journey to London, full accommodation and instruction. Those applying are recommended to make enquiries re possible grant assistance from their local authority.

Why not join the course and improve your game, or learn a new one, in the company of other young people with similar interests. This type of course is always popular and early application for a place is, therefore, recommended.

Application forms can be obtained from:—

THE SPORTS COUNCIL
(Yorkshire & Humberside),
5 ST. PAUL'S STREET, LEEDS,
LS1 2NQ.

Telephone: Leeds 36443.

Letter to the Editor . .

ENJOYMENT MARRED

In company with many others, I enjoyed the presentation of the Norwich Union Open finals on Saturday last, but for me, the enjoyment was marred by one thing—the absence of any of the visiting umpires from the staged finals. I have been privileged to attend several overseas events, and in every case the hosts' appreciation of their guests' assistance was shown in this way. I was, therefore, pained by what I, and perhaps our guests, thought was a lapse of courtesy. This is quite apart from any question of preferring a neutral umpire when a British player is involved in a final.

Perhaps it would be possible through your columns to discover whether or not others share my view, as in either case this should give guidance to those organising future events.

S. E. FRANCIS (I.U.).

"Rusthall,"
Maplescombe,
Farningham,
Kent.



The Norwich Union English Table Tennis Championships 1976

to be held at

LUTON REGIONAL SPORTS CENTRE
(STOPSLEY), ST. THOMAS' ROAD,
LUTON

APRIL 8th to 10th, 1976

FINALS

SATURDAY, 10th APRIL, at 1-30 p.m.

Referee: L. PILDITCH (N.R.)

Assistant Referee: G. LIGHTFOOT (N.R.)

Organiser: J. P. HERITAGE

Assistant Organiser: Mrs. A. WATERS

Tournament Committee:

G. M. Daniels, J. P. Heritage, M. J. Lawless,
G. Lightfoot, L. Pilditch, A. W. Shipley, Mrs.
D. Stannard, Mrs. A. Waters, M. Watts, J.M.
Wright.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

21 CLAREMONT, HASTINGS, SUSSEX

Telephone: Hastings 433121

Last date for receipt of Entries:

THURSDAY, 26th FEBRUARY, 1976

CHINESE NAMES FOR CARDIFF

The Chinese squad visiting Cardiff for next month's Stiga Welsh Open Championships includes two members, in Liang Ko-liang and Li Chen-chih, from their winning men's team, and one member, Miss Yan Kui-li, of the women's team event winners in last year's World Championships in Calcutta.

Other members of the Chinese team are Hu Wei-hsin and Yao Kuo-tsai, who complete the four-strong men's entry, and Miss Yu Chin-chia, Miss Sun Min and Miss Sha Min, who make up the rest of the women's squad. The team leader is Chang Hsieh-lin and the coach will be Yao Kuo-chih.

COUNTY TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fixtures for January-February, 1976

PREMIER DIVISION

Feb. 1—Yorkshire v Cleveland—Abbeyle Club, Abbeyle Road, Topley, Sheffield, 2-30 p.m.

14—Cheshire v Cleveland

Essex v Middlesex

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

Warwickshire v Yorkshire

2nd SOUTH

Feb. 14—Kent v Surrey II

15—Middlesex II v Essex II

2nd NORTH

Feb. 7—Yorkshire II v Lincolnshire

14—Cleveland II v Northumberland

Durham v Lincolnshire

Yorkshire II v Nottinghamshire

2nd MIDLAND

Feb. 14—Glamorgan v Gloucestershire

Derbyshire v Leicestershire

Staffordshire v Warwickshire II

2nd EAST

Jan. 18—Bedfordshire v Hertfordshire

Norfolk v Cambridgeshire

Feb. 14—Buckinghamshire v Bedfordshire

Cambridgeshire v Hertfordshire

Northamptonshire v Norfolk—Recreation Centre, Northampton Road, Kettering, 7-00 p.m.

2nd WEST

Jan. 24—Berkshire v Worcestershire

Feb. 14—Cornwall v Somerset

Gwent v Wiltshire—Santon's Works Canteen, Spytty Road, Corporation Road, Newport, 6-15 p.m.

3rd SOUTH

Feb. 14—Sussex II v Berkshire II

28—Hertfordshire II v Kent II—Cheshunt Club, Albury Ride, Cheshunt, 7-30 p.m.

3rd NORTH

Feb. 14—Cheshire II v Lancashire II

Northumberland II v Cleveland III

3rd MIDLAND

Feb. 14—Clwyd v Staffordshire II

Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire II

15—Warwickshire II v Northants II

3rd EAST

Jan. 31—Cambridgeshire II v Suffolk

Feb. 14—Norfolk II v Essex III

Suffolk v Huntingdonshire

15—Bedfordshire II v Cambridgeshire II

3rd WEST

Jan. 31—Dorset v Worcestershire II

Feb. 14—Avon v Herefordshire

Shropshire v Glamorgan II

JUNIOR PREMIER

Feb. 14—Berkshire v Cleveland

Cambridgeshire v Yorkshire

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.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Feb. 14—Kent II v Sussex—Milton Barracks, Waterloo Street, Gravesend, 2-30 p.m.

Surrey II v Dorset—Tweeddale Primary School, Paisley Road, Carshalton, 3-00 p.m.

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Feb. 14—Cheshire v Derbyshire

Cleveland II v Northumberland

Lancashire v Durham—Briarcroft Y.C., Leigh Road, Atherton, 2-30 p.m.

Yorkshire II v Cumbria

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Feb. 14—Cambridgeshire II v Warwickshire

Glamorgan v Hertfordshire

Northamptonshire v Norfolk—Recreation Centre, Northampton Road, Kettering, 3-00 p.m.

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Feb. 14—Buckinghamshire v Hampshire II

Sussex II v Berkshire II

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Feb. 14—Cleveland III v Clwyd

Lincolnshire v Cumbria II

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Feb. 14—Oxfordshire v Staffordshire—St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford.

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Feb. 14—Essex III v Bedfordshire—Mid-Essex Wanderers Transport T.T.C., Goldhanger Road, Heybridge, 6-00 p.m.

Suffolk v Huntingdonshire

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Feb. 14—Avon v Devon

Gloucestershire 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.

Wiltshire v Kent

VETERAN MIDLAND

Feb. 14—Staffordshire v Leicestershire

Worcestershire v Cheshire

15—Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

EAST OF ENGLAND 2-STAR

Sponsored by Scunthorpe Borough Council, this season's East of England 2-Star Open will take place on Sunday, March 14, 1976, at High Ridge Sports Hall, Jackson Road (near to Football Ground), Scunthorpe, commencing at 9-45 a.m. Entries close on February 27, 1976, to Mrs. A. J. Robinson, 13 Croppers Way, Freiston, Boston, Lincs, PE22 0QT (Phone: Butterwick 267). Men's singles prize is £30 and the women's £20.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

HULL'S FIRST MEN'S COUNTY CHAMPION

The name of a Hull player went for the first time on the men's singles trophy at the Yorkshire Closed Championships, held at Parkside Sports Centre, Bradford, on 30th November, 1975. Joining famous names like Brian Kennedy, Ray Hinchliff, Denis Neale and Alan Hydes will be that of 16-year-old **Mike Harrison**, the County's current No. 3 junior.

In the absence of Tony Clayton and Alan Fletcher, who were unable to play, the four seeded players in the men's singles were all juniors, for the first time in the history of the Championships.

Seeded No. 3, Harrison struggled to win a tight 3-game set with Tony Morris (Leeds) in Round 3, but then never looked back, defeating fellow juniors Brian Metcalfe in the quarters, Stephen Hazelwood in the semis, and Robert Hazelwood in the final.

Top seed was Halifax's Kevin Beadsley, defeated -18, -16 in Round 3 by Phil Cawser (Sheffield), who was then himself dismissed in a deuce-in-the-third Round 4 set by Robert Hazelwood. Second seed Stephen Hazelwood had little difficulty in reaching the semi-final, putting out holder Bob Shutt in the quarters. No. 4 seed Andrew Metcalfe (Leeds) went out in Round 3 to Richard Priestley.

The same four seeds were drawn in the same order in the boys' singles, but the results were different. Only seed to fall early was none other than Harrison, who lost to Brian Metcalfe in the quarters in an exact reversal, even to the scores, of the earlier men's singles clash. The winner was **Beadsley**, with a final victory over Stephen Hazelwood.

Melody Ludi's absence in Sweden promoted Hull's Julie McLean, the holder, to top seed in the women's singles, but Julie's first visit to the table surprisingly proved to be her last in this event, for it was Bradford's Linda Hryszko who was marginally the more consistent player in a tense Round 2 clash. Miss Hryszko was then herself eclipsed in Round 3 by another Hull County player, Carole Grayson, who went on to reach the final. The winner, though, was **Judith Walker**, of Sheffield, who took the title without the loss of a game and went on to achieve triple champion status with the acquisition also of the women's and mixed doubles titles. The final of the girls' singles saw **Julie McLean** beat Linda Hryszko in a close reversal of the earlier result in the women's singles.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

R. Hazelwood (Leeds) bt J. Naser (Hull) 20, 19.

S. Kosmowsky (Bradford) bt R. Priestley (Bradford) -15, 11, 19.

M. Harrison (Hull) bt B. Metcalfe (Leeds) 20, 11.

S. Hazelwood (Leeds) bt R. Shutt (Bradford) 21, 11.

Semi-finals

Harrison bt S. Hazelwood -15, 13, 14.

R. Hazelwood bt Kosmowsky 16, -18, 21.

Final

HARRISON bt R. Hazelwood 15, 11.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

C. Grayson (Hull) bt H. Shields (Bradford) -11, 14, 17.

J. Walker (Sheffield) bt S. Broadbent (Bradford) 17, 11.

Final

WALKER bt Grayson 15, 8.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

N. Davies (Leeds)/J. A. Yeats (Bradford) bt B. Dawson/D. Lamb (Halifax) 13, -9, 8.

R. and S. Hazelwood bt A. and B. Metcalfe (Leeds) 14, 21.

Final

DAVIES/YEATS bt Hazelwood/Hazelwood 18, 19.

Women's Doubles—Final

BROADBENT/WALKER bt J. McLean (Hull)/P. Dawson (Bradford) 16, -18, 13.

Mixed Doubles—Final

P. CAWSER (Sheffield)/WALKER bt Priestley/Shields 18, 19.

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

K. Beadsley (Halifax) bt Naser 16, 16.

A. Metcalfe bt R. Hazelwood 17, 14.

B. Metcalfe bt Harrison 20, 11.

S. Hazelwood bt S. Mills (Sheffield) 20, 18.

Semi-finals

Beadsley bt A. Metcalfe -13, 16, 13.

S. Hazelwood bt B. Metcalfe 18, 15.

Final

BEADSLEY bt S. Hazelwood 19, 14.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

McLean bt S. Dickerson (Bradford) 16, 9.

L. Hryszko (Bradford) bt C. Haworth (Leeds) 7, 11.

Final

McLEAN bt Hryszko 20, -17, 16.

Veterans' Singles—Final

G. BROOK (Huddersfield) bt L. Browning (Leeds) 17, 9.

With the aid of sponsorship, generously provided by the Hull supermarket chain, Wm. Jackson & Son Ltd., the County was able to promote a visit by a West German regional side, Hessischer T.T.V., to participate in the Yorkshire Junior Select Open, on 20-21 December, at Hull, and to play a junior "County" match at Moor Grange School, Leeds, on the Friday before the tournament. The visit was very successful, both competitively and socially, and the Yorkshire Junior girls' singles title crossed the North Sea, carried off by Angelika Schreiber. The result of the County match was Yorkshire 6, Hessischer T.T.V. 3.

Details:—

K. Beadsley bt M. Fischer 18, 19; bt M. Martin 13, -13, 17.

S. Hazelwood bt Martin 19, 14; bt Fischer 19, 18.

Miss J. McLean lost to Miss A. Schreiber -19, 14, -18; bt Miss M. Schäfer 14, 9.

Miss M. Ludi bt Miss M. Schäfer 18, 18.

Beadsley/Hazelwood lost to Martin/Fischer 5, -20, -14.

Hazelwood/McLean lost to Martin/Schreiber -17, -15.

The possibility of a return visit to West Germany next summer by a Yorkshire side is being examined.

The four Yorkshire leagues who entered the Wilmott Cup had mixed fortunes in their first round matches, with the most meritorious performance coming from Harrogate, who defeated Blackpool 5-4, John Troughton and Vic Smith contributing 2 sets each, and Peter Campkin one. Halifax, minus Kevin Beadsley, lost to Liverpool, and Leeds' fate at Lytham St. Annes was unknown at the time of writing. Travelling to Bolton, for whom Nigel Hallows scored a maximum, Bradford went down 4-5, Mick Stephenson winning two, and Richard Priestley and Bob Shutt one each.

The first round of the Carter Cup put Hull and Halifax in opposition, and in a December calendar desperately short of vacant dates, this match was played on the Monday after the English Junior Closed, the result going 5-1 in Hull's favour. The vital set was that between two of the County's leading juniors, Harrison and Beadsley. It was the Hull player who won, in straight games, taking the second 21-14 from 4-14 down, with Beadsley seemingly unable to win another point! Kevin did score Halifax's only success, over Chris Pindar.

Fixture congestion also forced a number of the County's top juniors to play two Yorkshire League Junior Division 1 matches, one of which virtually decided the winners of this division, on the Saturday of the Yorkshire Junior Open, while the cadet events were being played in the tournament. Four teams

were involved—Hull I, Hull II, Leeds I and Leeds II—the vital match being that between Hull I and Leeds I. The Leeds team were easy 7-2 winners, and took all the boys' singles sets, including wins by Steve Hazelwood and Andrew Metcalfe over Mike Harrison. Hull's only successes were the girls' singles and mixed doubles.

Following the match against the West German team on the Friday, the Yorkshire League matches on the Saturday and the Yorkshire Junior Open on the Saturday and Sunday, came the weekend's finale in the form of a Junior Premier Division County match in Hull on the Monday morning against Berkshire, whose players had been participating in the Yorkshire Junior. A farewell Sunday night social call, which lasted well into Monday morning, by the West German visitors on the McLean residence, where Steve Hazelwood and Melody Ludi were also staying, cannot have improved the County's performance against Berkshire. With Beadsley unwell, it was Harrison's maximum two sets which steered Yorkshire towards a 7-3 win after a shaky start, to maintain the title challenge in this division.

In the three County matches against Cleveland at the end of November, the senior second team lost 3-7 at Ormesby, whilst the junior first and second teams won at Huddersfield Y.M.C.A. Although without success, Steve Hazelwood turned in a spirited performance for the senior second team, and Julie McLean scored a rare victory over Angela Tierney. In the junior matches, Cleveland's stronger girls won the visitors' sets.

ADVICE DURING PLAY

by H. ROY EVANS
(President, I.T.T.F.)

I regret having to refer once again to the continued flagrant violation of the Law on this matter. At most of the major tournaments I have recently attended, non-playing captains make little or no attempt to confine their advice-giving to the statutory times, and some captains have kept up a practically continuous flow of advice throughout the play. Nor have Umpires made much effort to stop this. The opportunities for advice-giving are clearly laid down in our Regulations, and the intent of them is summed up in Regulation 7.5.2—“Otherwise attempts, whether by captain or others to advise or influence the play after the match has started are **improper** and must be discouraged by Associations and by Umpires”.

I appreciate, of course, that trainers, coaches and non-playing captains are judged by the results their teams produce, but in the constant projection of their own plans into the playing area they are becoming almost as important as the players themselves! If we are to have a law on the subject, then it must be obeyed and it is of little value if Associations vote enthusiastically for such a Law, then turn a blind eye when their own non-playing captains become culprits.

International Umpires will be instructed by the I.T.T.F. to interpret the Law with greater force, but Umpires at all levels must be aware that they have the authority to stop non-playing captains calling out advice during the actual play. It is to be hoped that all Associations will make the position clear, not only to their own Umpires, but also to their non-playing captains.

CLOTH CLUB BADGES

made to your own design — Low prices — Quick Delivery

S. A. CORY and COMPANY LIMITED

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

A PROBABLE SOLUTION TO JUNIOR QUALITY LEVELS

by Brian Worts

(Tournament Referee, 2-Star Diploma Coach)

When Under-13 and Under-11 events were first introduced into Junior Tournaments it was to encourage young players to enter the competitive arena knowing that they had a chance of making some progress through the rounds. Inevitably, and thankfully, a higher quality and quantity of young players have emerged. It was equally inevitable that within the country, county and local league structures the under-13 groups would produce young players capable of beating their older colleagues. Whilst this would, and did happen without the introduction of lower level age events, it certainly did not happen so frequently and over such a wide area as it now occurs.

Dominance by a few

In terms of Singles events only it is not uncommon to find one player winning several prizes.

Age grouping was originally a system of tiering quality but has lost its effectiveness.

Equal opportunity

To attempt to overcome this problem the Devon Schools' Table Tennis Association are experimenting with a new system for their annual championships, which take place at Exmouth School on January 11. The effect, it is hoped, will be to spread the prizes among a greater number of players without any serious restriction on the prospects of the top quality players. It also ought to allow the older player who hitherto had played in one event (and probably lost in the first round), the equal advantage of playing in the same number of events as his younger colleague.

The System

Basically the system is to retain the age groups but to restrict the players to playing only in the one age group into which their age places them. At the same time there are three events, all mixed singles, Advanced, Intermediate and Primary, and these events require certain levels of achievements and participation. The Primary level is a modified version of the Beginners' Event which has already been in successful operation in previous Devon Schools' Tournaments and is open to players taking part in their first-ever tournament. The Advanced Singles is for players who have previously appeared in a final, in an equivalent level or previous Devon Schools' Tournament, at the following age groups:—Boys: 19, 17, 16, 15; Girls: 19, 17. For future events the finalists of the Intermediate Singles would also qualify for the Advanced.

The observant eyes of Tournament Organisers will have also noticed that the problem of overlapping events and programming play is considerably easier.

The results of the experiment will be reported in the February issue, but in the meanwhile, any interested organisers may have a copy of the entry form by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Secretary of the D.S.T.T.A., S. Sweeney, Esq., 2 Olga Terrace, Longmeadow, Lympstone, Exmouth, Devon.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

THRIVING SCENE

225 entries for a County closed tournament is a thriving scene. The 1976 Sussex Closed Championships, due to be played immediately after the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton Corn Exchange, on January 11, has this record number of entries. This means that the 16 tables are going to be in continuous use for most of 13 hours—too much of a marathon for most people, but what

is the answer this time—it's much too expensive to hire for two days.

Roger Chandler bids for his ninth title, whilst his most probable successor, Gerald Pugh, moves closer each week to that coveted crown. Chandler is No. 1 seed, Pugh No. 2. There are 16 seeds in the men's singles. In the women's singles there is bound to be a new champion, with Diane Gard seeded to meet Linda Wales in the final.

The new County boundaries, dividing East and West Sussex, is to lead to the revival of a pre-war tournament—the East Sussex Closed Championships—to be held at Lewes Corn Exchange, next November. The event used to be on six tables, but unless it can be held over two days, the chances are high of the entry being swamped before the closing date as the area includes Brighton, Hove, Eastbourne and Hastings.

Unbeaten Sussex, leading Division 2 (South) are riding higher than for five years after lashing Hampshire 10-0. Promotion must be the goal, but the biggest snag of all is in April, at the County Championships play-off matches. I would like to say I am confident in a return to the Premier Division, so I'm honest, I'm not.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George Yates

CRUNCH MATCH AT ECCLES

Without a win to their name in the Premier Division of the County Championships, Lancashire are hopeful of breaking their duck at Eccles Youth Centre on January 17 when they entertain their near neighbours, Cheshire (6-30 p.m.).

Unchanged for the fourth occasion, Donald Parker will again spearhead the side with Phil Bowen, Nigel Hallows and Brenda Williams. Cheshire will have to provide a replacement for the retired Mike Johns, who could have either brother Brian or Anglo-Scot John McNee alongside John Hilton, Nigel Eckersley and Susan Lisle.

Terry Marsh, the Lancashire County Match Secretary, has removed to 1 Banham

Avenue, Winstanley, Wigan (Phone: Wigan 212498).

At a specially convened meeting of the County Association, at Leigh on January 6, Lancashire decided in favour of the World Championship levy, the voting being 37-19.

All is now set for the Halex Lancashire 2-Star Open, at Hawker Siddeley Dynamics, Lostock, Bolton, on Saturday, January 31, 1976. Prize money totals £130 and entries close on January 16 or up until 9 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, January 18, when the draw will be made at 43 Knowsley Road.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

JUDITH THE OUTSIDER

In their only match during the past month Suffolk Seniors put up a most encouraging performance against Essex at Gt. Dunmow. In an evening of very entertaining table tennis seven of the 10 sets were decided in the third game.

Although beaten 7-3, Suffolk shocked the powerful home side by taking a quick 2-0 lead. John Kitchener beat S. Whiteley and then the Suffolk skipper, Mick Palmer, followed with victory over J. Drew, the Essex No. 1. Kitchener's second singles victory was Suffolk's only other success. Palmer lost narrowly to B. Mailey and Judith Langridge went down to Mrs. M. Nash at 18 in the 3rd. All the doubles events went to Essex, indicating that Suffolk should concentrate harder at this particular aspect of their game.

Individual scores (Suffolk names first):—John Kitchener bt S. Whiteley -11, 16, 17; bt J. Drew 14, 10. Mick Palmer bt Drew 20, -16, 11; lost to B. Mailey -19, 10, -16. David Henderson lost to Mailey -13, 18, -19; lost to Whiteley -20, 21, -13. Judith Langridge lost to M. Nash -19, 10, -18. Janet Faiers/Langridge lost to L. Budd/Nash -18, -11. Palmer/Faiers lost to Whiteley/Budd -18, -14. Kitchener/Kevin Savage lost to Drew/Mailey -20, 12, -15.



INTRODUCING — A NEW SERVICE !

The name of your Club or Team, silk-screen printed
(washable) on a first-class Table Tennis Shirt

These shirts, as worn by the English team, are available in Navy, Royal Blue, Green and Red. Prices: 6 only (minimum) each £2.45 and 12 each £2.40. Non-printed £1.65 each.

ALEC BROOK
A.D.B. (LONDON) LTD., Dept. T.T.N.

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

Telephone: 01-730 0394 (5 lines)

Badges, Ties, Trophies are our specialities
Write for Catalogue enclosing S.A.E.

COACHING IN PERSPECTIVE

by PETER SIMPSON
(National Coach)

I would like to answer the two letters printed in the October issue of the "Table Tennis News" from R. F. Bowles and John Pream.

First and foremost, it is the policy of the National Coaching Scheme that at beginner to intermediate standard a player should be taught an all-round game. This means both BACKSPIN and TOPSPIN so that the player is given a solid foundation on which to build their game. It is at intermediate standard that the player should be guided into a specific type of game such as BACKSPIN, TOPSPIN, DRIVE, BLOCK, etc. The type of game taught should correlate with the player's physical and mental abilities. In theory, this is a good system, but in any organisation, and in particular amateur organisations, there are always some who do not conform, for various reasons.

One of the reasons why some coaches only teach the topspin game is that it is the quickest way to success for both the coach and his charge. A player using topspin can be successful, to a limited degree, after about two years of coaching, and going around the tournament circuit, THE PLAYER IS BEING NOTICED, but for a backspin player it takes much longer.

Also, many parents insist that their child must be taught the topspin game, irrespective of their physical and mental abilities and whether or not they match up to requirements. It does not help the coach if the parents of the child sees in cartoon-type strips that "DEFENCE IS OUT".

I understand that at the last European Junior Championships the majority of teams, including Sweden, included a backspin player.

Another factor to take into consideration is—do manufacturers of bats cater for the backspin player? (Please do not include anti-loop).

To further clarify the position, here are a few extracts from the Basic Coaching Award:

Method of Coaching

One of the most important aspects in coaching is that the Coach should always have an OPEN MIND when coaching the basic principals.

Teaching and Coaching

The player should be allowed the freedom of INDIVIDUAL FLAIR and the TECHNIQUE that is used in the stroke should be developed and not retarded by dogmatism and over-coaching.

Method of Observation

The coach should always allow the player PERSONAL FLAIR and not be misled by personal mannerisms in the player's movements. IF A PLAYER IS GIVEN INDIVIDUAL FLAIR, STEREOTYPE PLAYERS WILL NOT BE PRODUCED.

With regard to the instruction given to coaches on service—again I quote from the Basic Coaching Award:—

Introduction of Service and Receive

The coach should know the rules on service. The coach should see that the rules are adhered to at all times, and also that the player is familiar with them.

Service

The first essential factor is to get over to the player that the service is not just a way of putting the ball into play, but is the FIRST CHANCE OF WINNING A POINT. It is essential that the player takes the initiative from the service. The service should be thought of as a stroke, this means that the stroke will not only come from the arm, but also incorporate the whole body.

There is a need today for players to produce a strong service. The Chinese are masters

at this, but they do not have to revert to cheating. There are several reasons why a player cheats:—

1. If the player is taught the "win at all costs" attitude.
2. If the player's skill does not match up to that of their opponent.
3. If the player is undisciplined.
4. If the player's skill does not match the task in hand (Technically, Tactically, Physically).
5. If the player is given an inexperienced umpire.

I hope that from these brief extracts it can be seen the teaching that the coaching scheme is advocating, but the Scheme cannot be held responsible for individual teaching preferences of coaches and trainers, and by the same token, cannot be responsible for the policies of the selectors, whose decisions are final.

On the point of losing players from the sport—which I agree that we are and this is happening in all sports—should we not look a little further than "service and wallop" and look at our structure of organisation taking in all agencies and see if we could improve the system and make it more attractive to players.

There are various reasons why we are losing players and I feel that the first point we must remember, which is often forgotten, is that coaching is not only to produce CHAMPIONS as many people, including some coaches think, COACHING IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE SPORT, especially at grass roots level where the majority of the DEVELOPMENT WORK is done by the coaching scheme. Within coaching groups there are the future ADMINISTRATORS, UMPIRES, COACHES, OFFICIALS, etc., as well as PLAYERS. The Coaching Scheme is doing its job on the OUTPUT side, but what are the Clubs and Leagues doing on the INPUT side? Are they creating team places and accepting the players into the system? Do we expect too much from the players? Do we give them so much pressure that they cannot cope? It is not uncommon for a player to play for five representative teams—players are then expected to attend tournaments if they are to be recognised—all this plus the pressures of their academic lives becomes too much.

Many players come to a premature full stop in the sport because they have been taught the wrong type of game for their physical and mental make-up—when one child protege is discarded and lost to the system, the coach will possibly have another 10 players to work on, hoping that amongst them he will have a champion.

Is the tournament method of selecting our top players out-moded? Should we not spread our net wider and not just cater for the selective few? Do we cater for the late developer? A point in favour of the sport is that it can be played throughout life—it is not too late to start playing at 15 and players are not put on the scrap heap at 17.

I feel that if we look at some of these problems and rectify them we would not lose so many players. In conclusion, may I say that the Coaching Scheme is often criticised, but an Association is only as strong as its coaching scheme.

FORTHCOMING TOURNAMENTS

- January
- 24 Pontefract 1-Star and Glamorgan Open.
 - 24-25 Kent 2-Star.
 - 24-25 Burford 2-Star Junior (Gloucester).
 - 25 West of Scotland 2-Star (Glasgow).
 - 31 Lancashire 2-Star (Lostock, Bolton).
- February
- 1 Edinburgh Junior & Youth 2-Star.
 - 6-8 Stiga Welsh Open (Cardiff).
 - 8 North Bournemouth 1-Star.
 - 13-14 Munster Open (Cork).
 - 15 Lanarkshire 2-Star (Coatbridge).
 - 21-22 Dagenham 3-Star.
 - 28 South Yorkshire 2-Star (Rotherham).
 - 28-29 Reading 2-Star Junior (Select).

THIRD DEGREE IN PARIS

by ALBERT SHIPLEY

A unique tournament was held in Paris over the weekend of December 19-21, under the title of Vincent Purkart Jubilee.

It was held to celebrate 25 years of table tennis by Vincent Purkart, champion of France in 1964 and 1965 with 111 appearances for his country.

The play was divided into three categories of singles plus a team event and a men's doubles event. England was represented by Jimmy Walker and Donald Parker in the team, doubles and premier singles event, but my report centres around the other two categories of singles in which our representatives were Bryan Merrett and Johnny Leach.

Bryan's category was for players over 30 years of age, and after defeating Bernard Lhomme, a former French international, he had the misfortune to meet Ebby Scholar. Bryan had every chance of making himself unpopular with the crowd by eliminating Scholar, who had literally stepped off the aircraft and straight into the arena. Scholar lost the first game whilst getting back his land-legs, but his steadiness improved and he duly won the next two games. As it happened, that was the only game he dropped in beating the 10-man field with a final win over Janusz Kuzinski, of Poland, much to the delight of the crowd.

To me, the most interesting event was the third category for ex-champions over 45 years of age and the eight invitees were all part of the history of table tennis. Seeing such giants as Zarko Dolinar, Ferenc Sido, Michel Hagenauer and our own Johnny Leach in action was to see those pages of world championship records come to life. In the first round, the majestic Sido beat Charles Dubouille, an ex-champion of France, Hugo Urchetti beat Hagenauer in an exhausting match for both players which went to expedite in the third, Guy Amouretti beat Dolinar, who tried to play with a modern bat and consequently overhit everything, and Johnny Leach beat Georges Roland, of Belgium, comfortably. In the semi-finals, Sido was too good for a tired Urchetti and Johnny faced his old rival Amouretti. Winning the first game 14, Johnny sped to an 8-1 lead in the second but, to our horror, he was caught, overtaken and beaten game 18 in the second. In the decider, Johnny changed ends 10-4 up, but a combination of memories and lack of wind saw him beaten 17 in the third and even the partisan crowd were sorry to see the going of our popular ex-world champion. Sido easily disposed of Amouretti in the final, showing us he had lost none of his power on either wing.

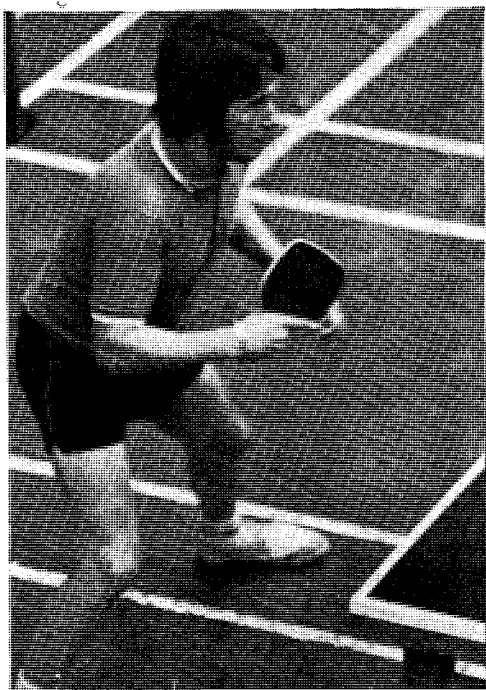
The finals evening ended with an exhibition between Purkart and Secretin, and all who were privileged to witness it proclaimed it the funniest and finest exhibition ever seen, such accolades coming from people who had seen table tennis for many years in all parts of the world. Purkart has what the French call "panache" and Secretin the skill, but their routine had obviously undergone a great deal of rehearsal and work. At least ten different bats were used by Purkart, including ones which fired a flash bulb, ejected a white flag, flicked out an extending handle, and one in which a neat hole appeared after a Secretin smash. All members of the England party were rolling in the aisles and a standing ovation was accorded to the two exhibitionists.

Our generous French hosts laid on a finals party in the four-star hotel with presents for everyone, winners and losers alike, plus a first-class cabaret for entertainment which, would you believe, included a stripper!

All in all, a fascinating weekend in which no expense was spared in honouring one of France's faithful servants, Vincent Purkart.

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman



Chester Barnes at the Southend Open.

BETTER FARE

Our County teams fared better in the third round matches on November 29. The Senior side gained a very commendable win over Warwickshire, Bob Potton being the star of the show with two very fine singles victories and a mixed doubles success with Shelagh Hession. Shelagh also had a good win over Bev Green, who had surprised her the previous season, Shelagh making no mistakes in this one with a 10, 14 win.

Away at Gravesend the second team tasted defeat again 4-6 where a Clive Morris-inspired Kent just got home in a good match. Elaine Tarten and Janet Hellaby were in good form but it was left to lion-hearted skipper, Graham Elcncfield, to fly the flag for our men.

The third team go from strength to strength and in an excellent match with Suffolk got home 7-3. It was a very sporting and entertaining evening with Steve Whiteley nearly upsetting John Kitchener with his big hitting. Brian Mailey, Jeff Drew, Linda Budd and Marilyn Nash all played well in this excellent win.

Our Junior Premier team fought very hard against Kent but with the breaks not going our way it was Kent who ended up on top 6-4. Kenny Jackson made an impressive debut in the singles but was thwarted in the third game by both Ian Collins and Vince O'Brien. Dave Newman, Kevin Caldon and Sandra Sutton all won a singles and Sandra notched the girls' doubles with Penny Abbott. Set of the match was the Newman-Kenyon encounter with the Kent boy just making it in the third.

A young Junior third team did very well against Herts II with some encouraging performances from Leon Smith, Terry Dowsett, Chris Sparks, Elaine Sayer and Lynn Chamberlain. Our veteran second team are still trying to get off the ground and a visit to Portsmouth proved unfruitful, Hants winning 6-3. Laurie Fountain notched both his singles but two defeats 22-24 and 23-25 in the third of the other sets cost us dearly.

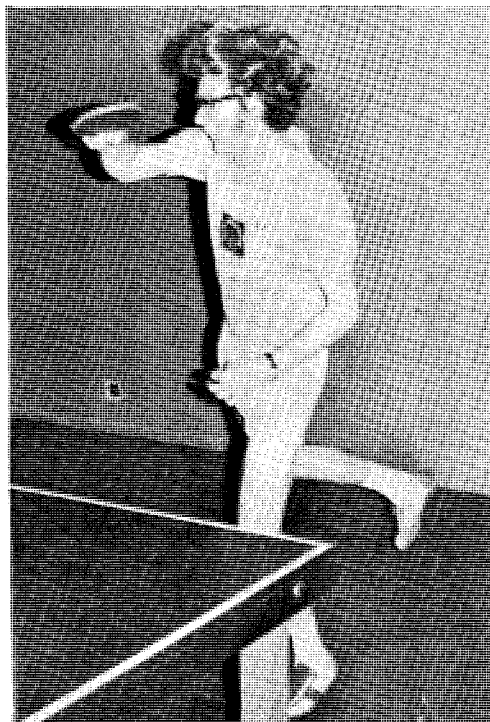
News from our leagues suggests that the pattern has been set in a number of the local divisions. At Billericay, Brentwood Y.C. are setting the pace after an early season defeat and now head St. Joseph's. Braintree's progress in the junior field has been very significant, their Junior Inter-League team doing very well while Junior teams from Heddingham

and Branston head their respective divisions.

Mid-Essex Transport Wanderers lead in both the Burnham and Chelmsford Leagues with Latchingdon "A" in Burnham and Rosebery in Chelmsford chasing them hard. In the Chelmsford League, newcomers Chelmsford College of Further Education are running away with Division 10 having dropped just 5 sets in 7 matches—quite an impressive record.

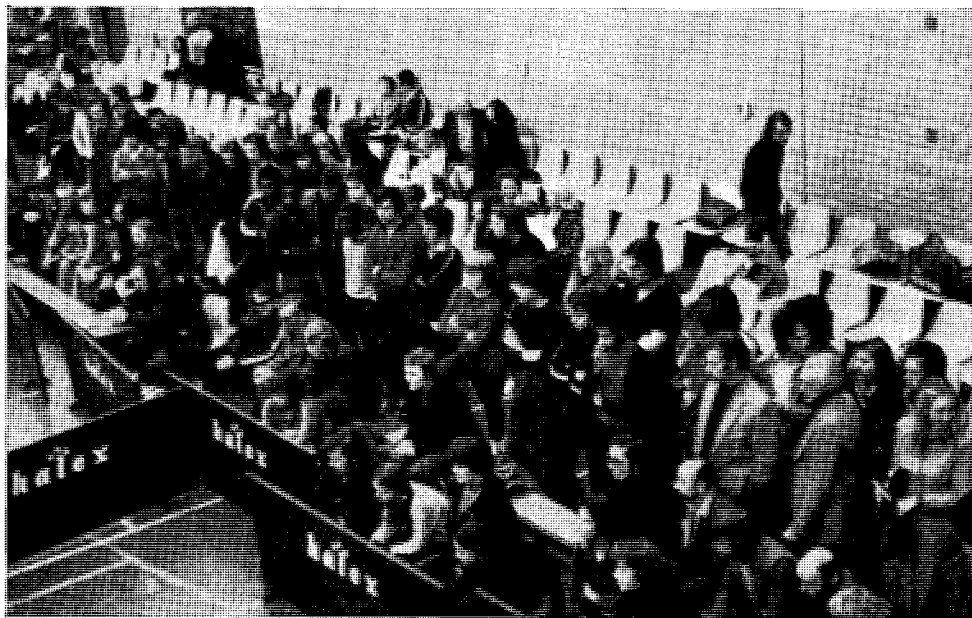
Shocks in the Colchester first division when Lawford unloaded champions Christchurch 7-3. Lawford have a four sets disadvantage overall, however, and with sets counting this season, Christchurch are still in the driving seat.

Romford are all set for their big social event of the season, their Annual Dance & Buffet. This takes place on Friday, May 21, at the New Windmill Hall, Upminster, and tickets can be obtained from Eddie Thylson—Hornchurch 55873.



Steve Whiteley, big hitter from the Maldon club, Mid-Essex Transport Wanderers, who nearly upset John Kitchener in the Essex III v Suffolk County match.

PHOTOS BY
GEOFF NEWMAN.



Who turned the players' heads at the Southend Open? (You've guessed it — Chester B).

Silvertown's youngsters have been doing very well generally, none more so than the Forest Gate girls who have been sponsored by Green of Silley Weir Ltd. The girls, Ruth Shapiro, Angela Kelly (both 11-year-olds) and veteran captain at the age of 13, Janette Bentley, have yet to win a game but thoroughly enjoy their weekly matches.

Southend have just been recovering from their excellent Open tournament that was sponsored by H. W. Stones Sports and Leisure. Chester Barnes, making a rare tournament appearance, proved yet again what a wonderful entertainer he is, quite apart from being useful at table tennis. He duly won the men's singles in a canter.

The Leader, Mark Rowe, and his players from Lindisfarne, deserve every accolade for their efforts in breaking five records from the Guinness Book of Records. The tremendous amount of publicity that came from their efforts can only do good to publicise the game more.

NORWICH UNION INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

England's Jill Hammersley, twice a beaten finalist, made no mistake at the third attempt when she captured the women's singles title in the Norwich Union International Championships, played in Brighton over the period January 8-10, with a final 21-3, 21-10, 21-13 win over Ann-Christin Hellman, of Sweden.

Desmond Douglas and Denis Neale, winners of the men's team event, took their second title of the championships when they overcame Anton Stipanovic and Zoran Kosanovic, of Yugoslavia, to win the men's doubles.

Stellan Bengtsson, of Sweden, the former world champion, recaptured the men's singles title with a 14-21, 21-19, 21-13, 13-21, 21-16 final win over Stipanovic. Bengtsson and Miss Hellman had a final win over Miroslav Schenk and Ilona Uhlíkova, of Czechoslovakia, in the mixed, the women's doubles being won by Mrs. Uhlíkova and her compatriot, Blanka Silhanova.

Sweden's Hellman and Birgitta Olsson won the women's team event, beating Czechoslovakia 3-2, but it was by a score of 3-0 that England I beat Sweden II in the men's event. A full report on the championships (by John Woodford and Phil Reid) will appear in the February issue.

GREATER MANCHESTER COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL MASTERS TOURNAMENT

**SURBEK THE WINNER AT BELLE VUE
as told to The Editor**

Despite being beaten in the morning session of round robins by Desmond Douglas, at Belle Vue, Manchester, on December 6, Yugoslavia's Dragutin Surbek turned the scales on his conqueror in the final to earn himself the top prize of £500.

Initially split into two groups of four, clean sheets were kept by both Douglas (Group B) and Anton Stipancic (Group A), Dan Seemiller finishing runner-up to Stipancic and Surbek to Douglas.

Denmark's Claus Pedersen and Norbert van de Walle failed to register a win and provided the only success registered by Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale respectively.

Seemiller gave a good account of himself both in beating Jarvis and Pedersen and in going down, but narrowly, to Douglas in the second semi-final, earning himself the not inconsiderable sum of £150, a like amount being picked up by Stipancic. Douglas, as the beaten finalist, consoled himself with £250!

In a special challenge match Carole Knight repeated her success at Walsall in the Halex Midland Counties 3-Star Open by beating Jill Hammersley 21-7, 13-21, 21-16 to earn herself £100 with Jill collecting £50.

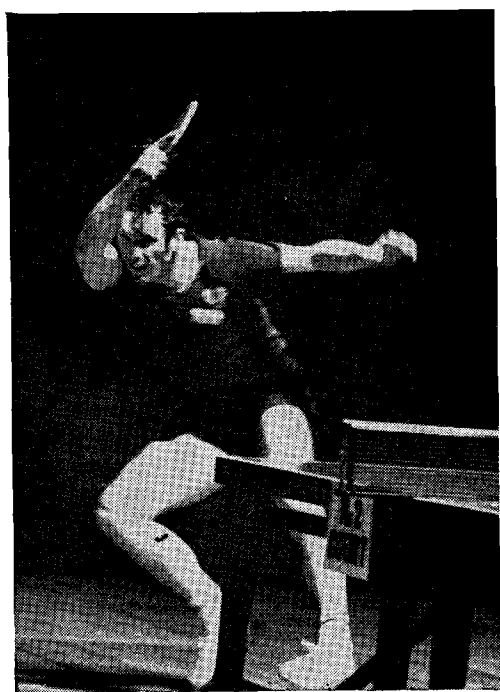
Scores:—
Group A

A. Stipancic (Yugoslavia) bt C. Pedersen (Denmark) 15, 20; bt N. Jarvis (England) -13, 15, 14; bt D. Seemiller (USA) 21, 14.
Seemiller bt Jarvis 11, 18; bt Pedersen -16, 18, 13.
Jarvis bt Pedersen 17, 13.

Group B
D. Douglas (England) bt D. Neale (England) 16, -16, 13; bt N. van de Walle (Belgium) 8, 16; bt D. Surbek (Yugoslavia) 18, -15, 19.
Surbek bt v.d. Walle 15, 13; bt Neale -15, 11, 15.

Neale bt v.d. Walle 18, 17.
Semi-finals
Surbek bt Stipancic 18, 19.
Douglas bt Seemiller 19, 19.

Final
SURBEK bt Douglas -15, 17, 11.



Dragutin Surbek on his way to victory in the Kings Hall, Belle Vue.

Obituary

T. E. ('TOMMY') SEARS

Mr. T. E. ("Tommy") Sears who, until his retirement two years ago, was warehouse manager at the W. H. Smith Supply Centre, Swindon, died in hospital on Saturday, December 6, following a long illness. He was 64.

Mr. Sears, who lived in Downsview Road, Swindon, joined W. H. Smith in 1926 as a junior in the book department, then at the Company's head office in Strand House, Portugal Street, London. After gaining experience in many sections of that department he became acting manager in 1965, when the book department was based at Bridge House, Lambeth (S.E. London). When the Supply Centre was opened at Swindon in 1967, Mr. Sears was appointed warehouse manager and second in command to Mr. L. C. Vanderpump (then supply manager and manager of the Supply Centre, now W. H. Smith's distribution director).

Mr. Sears joined the Army soon after the outbreak of the last war and, in 1942, at the fall of Singapore, was captured by the Japanese and forced to work for nearly four years on the infamous Death Railway. When he returned to W. H. Smith after the war, he gained the Booksellers' Association Diploma, with honours, and also the British Institute of Management's Diploma in management studies.

In his younger days Mr. Sears was a keen athlete, but his most outstanding achievements were in table tennis. He first played for England in 1929, and captained the team. For two successive years (1933-34 and 1934-35) he and the brilliant Hungarian player, Victor Barna (four times world singles champion) won the men's doubles in the English Open Championships. Right up to the mid-1960's Mr. Sears found time to coach youngsters in the game; for some years he had served on the Table Tennis National Selection and Coaching Committee of the English Table Tennis Association, and was non-playing captain in various international events including those of the heyday of the famous Rowe twins in 1954.

Mr. Sears leaves a widow and a son and daughter.

What the papers say . . .

CHESTER'S CHAT SHOW

Chester Barnes yesterday went to the Masters table tennis tournament holding a microphone instead of a bat.

And while it was good news for the B.B.C.'s television audience, it's not so good for the game in England.

It could mean competitive table tennis has now seen the last of the 28-year-old Essex genius.

For the last few years, Barnes has earned his living as an exhibition player, making only the odd competitive appearance to prove he is still able to beat the best.

"Tournament standards are now so low I get little enjoyment from winning. Besides, I can earn so much more from exhibitions," he said last week.

Chester's immediate plans are to continue playing exhibitions, take over a pub in London's East End, continue writing for a local newspaper, producing occasional instruction books, and to make a big name as a television commentator.

All of which saddens former world champion Johnny Leach. "Chester, as a player, is still in a class above most of his compatriots," he says. "Chester's view is a sad reflection on the state of top English table tennis today".

"News of the World", Dec. 7, 1975.

WOODFIELD 1-STAR TOURNAMENT

by John Pike

A WORTHY EFFORT

A Leicestershire double and £80 for charity. Those were just two of the highlights from the Woodfield 1-Star tournament which again attracted a very good entry, and this, despite dropping the mixed doubles. With one event less, Albert McIlreath and his committee had things nicely wrapped up by 9.15 p.m. It was Leicester players that stole the limelight with Paul Randell taking the men's singles after Karen Rogers had put her name on the women's trophy. After putting out the holder, Nigel Eckersley, in the semi-final, the big frame of Randell came good again in the final when he beat the local hope, Tony Isaacs.

The women's final saw some good text book table tennis from both Karen Rogers and Beverley Green and although the Leicester girl took the honours, the Birmingham girl showed the class and determination that could take her to the top in the future.

The women's doubles turned out to be a triumph for the young Wolverhampton pair, Janet Carr and Stephanie Jones, and again it was Bev Green and Ann Marples who had to settle for second best.

Bev's consolation, however, came in the girls' singles when she beat Stephanie to take the title back to Birmingham.

Staying with the juniors and a good win by M. Jenkins, of Coventry, over Worcester's S. Claxton in the boys' final.

The other two senior events were dominated by Cheshire, with John Hilton and Eckersley taking the men's doubles and Derek Schofield the Veterans'.

Another good tournament then, with the local school for handicapped children at Wightwick benefitting by that £80 cheque. Yes, a worthy effort indeed.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
P. Randell (Leics) bt N. Eckersley (Ches) 20, -16, 14.

A. Isaacs (Staffs) bt D. Yallop (Derbys) 8, -8, 9.

Final
RANDELL bt Isaacs -19, 16, 15.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals
K. Rogers (Leics) bt J. Carr (Staffs) 9, 15.
B. Green (Warwks) bt J. Lloyd (Worcs) 12, 8.

Final
ROGERS bt Green -19, 13, 13.

Men's Doubles—Final
ECKERSLEY/J. HILTON (Ches) bt P. Bowen (Lancs)/P. D'Arcy (Ches) -19, 11, 9.

Women's Doubles—Final
CARR/S. JONES (Staffs) bt Green/A. Marples (Derbys) 18, 21.

Boys' Singles—Final
M. JENKINS (Warwks) bt S. Claxton (Worcs) 21, 18.

Girls' Singles—Final
GREEN bt Jones -11, 14, 16.

Veteran Singles—Final
D. SCHOFIELD (Ches) bt D'Arcy 13, 13.

Hosts Wanted

Hosts are required for four young Pakistan players for an unspecified period within unspecified date, to enable them to participate in our tournaments and specially arranged matches. The appeal comes from Mr. Majeed Khan, Vice-President of the Karachi T.T. Association, and contact should be made with Mr. Tariq Niazi, Sports Officer, P.I.A. Sports Control Board, c/o Islamia Club, Soldier Bazar, Karachi, Pakistan. Under the patronage of the Pakistan national airline, P.I.A.C., the players would be flown direct from Karachi to Heathrow.

Every Bit Helps

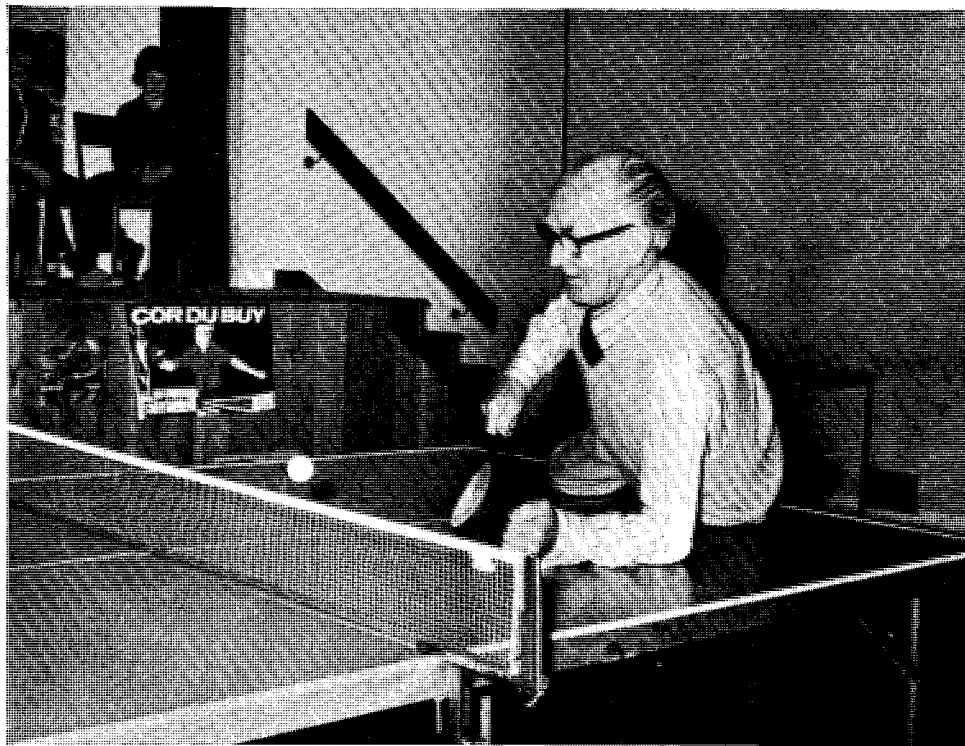
by D. L. Jones

(Hon. Sec. Enterprise T.T. Club)

An Exhibition and Awards Evening, held at Milford Village Hall by the appropriately-named Enterprise Table Tennis and Youth Club, resulted in the raising of a contribution of £12 towards the World Championship Fund. It was a grand effort by the youngsters and showed how much concern they have for the game and the fact that they wanted to contribute to the fund in spite of their own club difficulties.

We had a feast of entertaining table tennis and a wonderful social evening and we would publicly like to thank the players for it and for the inspiration that this gave to some of our youngsters, and the lessons they gave to us all on what can be achieved in the sport with the dedication that they must give it. The players concerned were England and Surrey stars Linda Howard and Sue Henderson, Alan Thornton, the local and Hampshire champion, and Jimmy More, another local champ.

The two photographs (by courtesy of the "Surrey Advertiser") are of the "Ping Pong" match between "Uncle Billy", dressed in what we believe some might have been wearing playing on the dining room table after dinner (Bill Marriott has been and still is a stalwart of Guildford Table Tennis) and Percy Lawes, our shirt-sleeved President, who was at the formation of the Guildford and District League and has given so much in serving Guildford and Surrey. We thank them also.



NEW GLOUCESTER GEN

by John Cooper

BURFORD SWITCH

This popular junior tournament, due to be played over the weekend of January 24-25, previously cancelled, is now reinstated and "moved" to Gloucestershire, thanks to speedy co-operation all round in an endeavour not to lose this good get-together of junior talent. Venue now is Chosen Hill School, Brookfield Road, Churchdown, near M.5 access between Cheltenham and Gloucester. Most of our trials are now held there and the County Closed is to be held there on February 22.

Insofar as the County ranking list is concerned, I say "Sorry, Susan" (Giles) for missing her out. Her position is, of course, well established.

Congratulations to Dave Harvey on a fine men's doubles victory in the Merton Open, and his partner, K. Smith, who knocked Dave out in the semi-final of the singles.

A group of County juniors went up to the Woodfield tournament but found the going tough. They were G. Greening and J. Turner (Cheltenham), D. Morgan, M. Lane and S. Quelch (Gloucester) and Susan Giles and A. Golding (Stroud).

Our Seniors (Harvey, Dave Moreman, Mrs. Golding and Mrs. Matthews) could not raise any successes at Derby.

Glad to hear Les Davis now recovered but sorry Frank Newell in hospital and hope he will have recovered from his operation well before this is in print.

Cheltenham men (Harvey, Moreman and Sweeney) did well to beat Hinckley "B" 8-2 and came away from Loughborough with a 10-0 win. Cheltenham "B" also beat Stroud 8-2 in a local friendly (Team: B. Clemmings, R. Dillon and C. Little). Cheltenham juniors "white-washed" Walsall, thanks to G. Greening, M. and D. Hodgetts and A. Berry. They also beat West Bromwich 9-1. Cheltenham Vets (S. Ewens, J. Poynting and P. Slack) could only achieve a draw against Leamington and got a 0-10 hiding from Nottingham.

Cheltenham's Colts, suitably strengthened by guest players, enjoyed playing a friendly with 3 mixed teams from Nottingham University, brought "home" by Christine Iacopi, and played at her old school!

Gloucester's vets (R. Phillips, L. Allen and B. Greaves) retained their unbeaten record to beat Worcester 6-4 in a tight match.

In the County Junior League 9-year-old Daren Griffin got in two good wins and played well against Stroud's Andrew Golding. I. Philpot and A. Thomas got 1 each, giving Stroud a 6-4 win.

Stroud men (A. Giles, R. Webb and R. King) lost to Hinckley "B" 2-8 and in a friendly with Gloucester by the same score. Stroud are arranging another 10-week coaching course for juniors at their Leisure Centre; Gloucester are doing the same for girls at their Centre, and Cheltenham arrange theirs through their Colts' Club.

LINCOLN LOTTERY

If fund-raising in your League is a problem, a simple solution is to take advantage of the E.T.T.A. Lincoln Lottery. Half of the gross ticket sales will be returned to the organising Association, an offer entirely without risk. Application forms for tickets for those Leagues whose County body has not taken up the option to be a selling agent can be had from the E.T.T.A. office at 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN 34 1HA.

TABLE HIRE SCHEME

There are still a few tables available under the scheme whereby affiliated clubs can acquire a top quality table for four annual instalments of £25 plus 8% V.A.T. Full details from the E.T.T.A. office, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA.

ALSER MK. V — £12.95 OUR PRICE — £11.50
 RIVER X STAR M. 2MM — £9.95 OUR PRICE — £8.90
 OTHER T.T. ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT ON REQUEST
 PLEASE QUOTE ITEM REQUIRED — NO LISTS

OLYMPUS SPORTS 9 HEADSTONE DRIVE,
 WEALDSTONE, HARROW, MX.
 Telephone — 01-863 2455

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURNABLE GUARANTEE FUND

By TOM BLUNN,
E.T.T.A. Treasurer

It is over 18 months ago now that the question of a contribution towards the cost of the Worlds in one way or another was raised at the 1974 Annual General Meeting. On that occasion, it will be remembered, members voted unanimously to back the National Council's decision to stage the Worlds in Birmingham in 1977, but there was not sufficient support for the motion to impose a levy on all members and it was left to see how much could be raised by voluntary means.

That all happened quite some time ago and as the date draws nearer, so the financial position becomes much clearer. The total cost is more predictable, even though it is much more than the estimates in 1974, the economic climate has improved and the possibility of certain sources of income has also been clarified. The negotiations with sponsors and the Birmingham Corporation in particular, have been very satisfactory and there is now a distinct possibility that the estimated expenses will be just about covered by the estimated income. The operative word, of course, is "estimated", and with all the detailed consideration of the figures there is always the element of doubt and this is the main reason now why the National Council is asking for a returnable guarantee fund.

The further reason is to convince sponsors and all those who are putting their money into the project that the members are absolutely genuine in their desire to see the Worlds staged in England in 1977 and are prepared to show their confidence in the people who are committed to organise the event by providing a last-ditch defence, should this be required, in order to secure a continuity of organised table-tennis as we in this country know it at the present time.

Again a particularly important word is "returnable" and this, of course, is a vital factor in any consideration by the members to support the proposition or not. Unless there is an overall loss on the Championships the whole of the fund will be returned to the members. It is, in fact, a forced loan, and the risk of the money not being repaid in full is no more than in any present-day commercial risk.

It is proposed that the full amount of 90p per member should be collected over three years at a cost of 30p per year. By the end of the second year, 31st March, 1978, it will be known whether or not any part of the fund will be required and unless it is needed, the third year's amount will not even be called in. The amount collected in the first two years will then be returned less any amount required to cover an eventual overall loss on the Championships.

Does the possibility of a loss really exist? Of course it does; nobody can forecast all the possible facts and difficulties that might arise. All eventualities possible to be covered by an insurance will be so covered but there may be some upsets that are unpredictable and incapable of being covered by insurance.

I have never had a reputation of being an optimistic Treasurer and I would never have agreed to go ahead with the responsibility of the Worlds had I not honestly believed that it could be completed without encroaching on the general funds of the E.T.T.A. which have been entrusted to me.

I have talked with several Leagues and County officials recently and put several ideas before them. It is not necessary to collect the money from each individual member. The amount due from each League is capable of being calculated and can be paid out of the

League funds. It will only be necessary to go direct to the players or their clubs if any of the fund is needed by the E.T.T.A. Some Counties have sufficient funds to finance the contribution due from their member leagues.

There is one suggestion that the amount should be collected from the players through their clubs without any promise to return. Having once paid the players would expect no return of their money and this could be put to good use for the benefit of the League in the event of it being returned in full.

Leagues could increase their fees to cover the additional 30p per annum and at the end of the three years (or two years if possible) there would be a built-in increase for the benefit of the League.

On a technical point, the 30p includes VAT and this will have to be handed over to the Customs and Excise by the E.T.T.A. as output tax each quarter. On the other hand, an assurance has been received from the Customs and Excise that a refund of tax will be given to the E.T.T.A. in respect of all money repaid to the members. So if all that is collected is ultimately repaid, then there will have been no cost to the E.T.T.A. or to the members other than the cost of administration. The fund will be held in a separate banking account under the names of the Trustees of the Association, Charles Wyles, Keith Watts and myself, and there will be a benefit to the Worlds Fund to the extent of any interest accrued on the money. This could amount to about £5,000 and will help to balance the World accounts.

A final point to remember is the promise that those members who made donations towards the Worlds would be given priority for seats at the staged final events. This promise still holds good and the basis of allocation will be decided at a later date.

CONTROVERSY

'Subjects old and new'

by

JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent

'The Daily Telegraph'

Readers interested in the various points scoring system in leagues might like to know that the 10-point system now being used for the first time in the Eastbourne League is, generally speaking, proving successful, but, of course, as we all know, there are snags to every system.

Local critics have been quick to identify quite a large snag—when a team defaults on a fixture, e.g., cannot raise a team at the last minute, 10 points have to be awarded to the non-offending side. If it happens a couple of times in a season, as it has to one team already, promotion or relegation can become a farce. I suppose the answer lies in making further special legislation to cover this sort of happening. Have any of my previous correspondents any suggestions, or perhaps someone whom we have not yet heard from might offer something constructive?

Talking of farces, how about our new England No. 1, Desmond Douglas, unseeded in the men's singles at the Norwich Union International Championships, whilst Denis Neale and Nicky Jarvis start from seeded berths because of their European rankings. It's just another problem to which there does not seem to be an answer, but notice that it may give Desmond another chance to beat Kjell Johansson!

A further illustration of how hard it is to gain space for table tennis in the national press these days came on December 6, the weekend of the Masters International event

at Belle Vue, Manchester, and the Middlesex Open. "The Daily Telegraph" claims to cover sport in depth and usually this is the case. The newspaper covers many more sports than its rivals and this usually means we do well, but there are exceptions—this was one. Dicky Rutnagur travelled to Manchester for the Masters and ended up with two paragraphs in the Southern edition.

Meanwhile, further South, Laurie Landry and I worked for two hours on the telephone in an unsuccessful effort to get the results of the finals from the Picketts Lock Sports Centre in the "Telegraph", but all in vain, despite the fact that sport was carried on five pages.

Three men, all with considerable experience in handling national press copy—net result, two paragraphs.

Readers will recall that I upset Middlesex last season over allegations of re-arranging fixtures to allow star juniors to play in both senior and junior teams. It nearly happened again recently when Hampshire's new star, Julie Reading, appeared against Sussex Juniors at Southwick. Hampshire officials asked if in the senior clash the order of play could be changed to allow the Bournemouth girl to appear in both matches. Counties producing star youngsters should be grateful for small mercies. The request was declined, and quite rightly so.

International Club

by Laurie Landry

The International Table Tennis Club has picked up some new members. Both Desmond Douglas and Carole Knight have joined as full members whilst former Hungarian international Peter Partos, who has been a resident in this country since 1956, has joined as a special Associate Member, subject to the approval of the A.G.M.

New Junior (Associate) members are Beverley Green, Suzanne Hunt, Melody Ludi, Caroline Reeves and Angela Tierney, together with Duggie Johnson, Robert Potton, Chris Rogers and Martin Shuttle. We are also waiting to hear from four more Junior internationals.

Writing prior to the event, a special charity match was arranged, to be played against Essex All-Stars, on January 2, when Chester Barnes, David Brown, Bobby Stevens and Lesley Radford were expected to turn out for their native county. The match was to celebrate the long service given by the aforementioned players and in support of the disabled of Newham. Chosen for the International Club were Stuart Gibbs, Laurie Landry, Alan Landry and Sue Henderson.

The 5th Annual Hard-Rubber Bat Open will be held at the Barnet T.T. Centre on April 11, 1976, when a very good entry is anticipated. On the same day the 13th Annual General Meeting will also take place.

TIES and BADGES

Association and Club motifs
manufactured to your design

TROPHIES WORTH WINNING

For all sporting and
social occasions use the
specialists

Write now for your invaluable free
48-page Full Colour Catalogue

Marks of Distinction Ltd.,
124 Euston Road,
London, N.W.1 2AN

Tel.: 01-387 3772/3/4

19th MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

NOT SO DESPERATE DAN

by Laurie Landry

Dan Seemiller, the United States champion, surprised everyone with his victory in the men's singles event of the 19th Middlesex 3-Star Open, played at the Picketts Lock Centre, Edmonton, over the weekend of Dec. 6-7. The tournament was sponsored by Halex Table Tennis Ltd., in conjunction with Gillette Industries.

In the final Seemiller beat Denis Neale, the defending champion, by the narrowest of margins in both games, his movement about the court being very speedy. In the quarters, the new champion was due to play his younger brother, Ricky, but they refused to play one another at such an early stage!

Nicky Jarvis was an absentee due to sickness, but otherwise all but one of the 30 players on the English Senior Ranking lists took part.

In the women's singles, Jill Hammersley and Carole Knight had a fine semi-final encounter, with Carole 20-16 up in the 3rd, but Jill then played some lovely backhand shots to eventually take the match and the final against Linda Howard to retain her title.

The best set of the evening was the men's doubles final in which John Kitchener and David Tan showed what a fine pair they are, only going under -20 in the decider against the Seemiller brothers, who were more in harmony on this occasion.

A good performance in the counterpart women's event was the final appearance of Angela Mitchell and Melody Ludi. The seeds, Susan Lisle and Anita Stevenson had lost to Karen Rogers and Suzanne Hunt who, in turn, lost in the semi to the Middlesex/Yorkshire

combination. After a runaway first game win, Jill and Linda, the event winners, treated their young opponents much more leniently in the second. Not so Douglas and Linda in the mixed final when Neale and Carole Knight went under 7 and 8.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

D. Douglas (Warwks) bt R. Yule (Scotland) 8, 14.
D. Neale (Cleve) bt A. Barden (Middx) 15, 15.
J. Walker (Cleve) bt D. Parker (Lancs) -12, 13, 20.
D. Seemiller (USA) w.o. R. Seemiller (USA) scr.

Semi-finals

Neale bt Douglas 15, 20.
Seemiller bt Walker 14, 7.

Final

SEEMILLER bt Neale 21, 21.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt L. Radford (Essex) 16, 10.
C. Knight (Cleve) bt A. Stevenson (Leics) 15, 10.
S. Lisle (Ches) bt S. Hession (Essex) -15, 15, 18.
L. Howard (Surrey) bt K. Senior (Ireland) 14, 19.

Semi-finals

Hammersley bt Knight -11, 17, 22.
Howard bt Lisle -19, 15, 15.

Final

HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 14, 10.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

D. Seemiller/R. Seemiller bt M. Mitchell (Middx)/P. Taylor (Beds) 13, 16.

J. Kitchener (Suffolk)/D. Tan (Middx) bt D. Jemmett (Middx)/I. Robertson (Nthld) -13, 14, 17.

Final

SEEMILLER/SEEMILLER bt Kitchener/Tan -20, 18, 20.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt Radford/Senior -14, 4, 9.

M. Ludi (Yorks)/A. Mitchell (Middx) bt S. Hunt (Lincs)/K. Rogers (Leics) 17, 19.

Final

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Ludi/Mitchell 9, 21.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Howard bt J. Hilton (Ches)/Rogers 8, 19.
Neale/Knight bt Walker/Hammersley 12, -15, 17.

Final

DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Neale/Knight 7, 8.

Veteran Singles—Semi-finals

B. Meisel (Kent) bt L. Hoffman (Middx) 6, 14.
H. Buist (Kent) bt P. D'Arcy -14, 11, 18.

Final

BUIST bt Meisel -17, 12, 19.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Bob Bridges

TOWARDS SOLVENCY

Hertfordshire Table Tennis Association's finances have been showing signs of deterioration over the last couple of seasons with inflation — mainly travelling costs — taking most of the blame, and according to our financial wizard of a Treasurer, Jack Thompson, we would be broke in three years!

So we raised £80 with an imaginatively titled "Herts T.T.A. Winter Draw" raffle with the Leagues taking all the credit and their share in £100 (33% of sales).

The DRAW was made at the Herts v Bucks match on December 13, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre and was as follows:—

£50 No. 14334 D. Russell, of Welwyn Garden City.

£25 No. 11659 B. Hague, of Rickmansworth.

£10 No. 10851 E. Lawrence, of Hatfield, and a special prize of £10 won by holder of next drawn ticket present at the draw:—

£10 No. 5696 B. Boxall, of Cheshunt.

All ticket sellers and buyers are thanked for their support.

Meanwhile, the table tennis was still being played and Watford League held their Closed Championships, with the Finals on December 3, at the Kingham Hall, Watford.

Watford Closed Championships—Results

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

S. Seaholme bt I. Gough 17, 15.

G. Bax bt A. Thomas 13, 12.

Final

SEAHOLME bt Bax -18, 12, 19.

Women's Singles—Final

Miss B. PETERS bt Mrs. S. Boyce 19, 7.

Men's Doubles—Final

D. & S. SEAHOLME bt C. Dunstone/A. Thomas 13, 13.

Mixed Doubles—Final

A. THOMAS/Miss B. PETERS bt G. Bax/Mrs. S. Boyce 14, 15.

Boys' Singles—Final

C. OGLE bt A. Clegg 15, 16.

Law Booklets

These handy booklets, previously provided by Barclays Bank, will shortly become available again, this time provided through the generosity of Norwich Union Insurance Group, who have been benefactors of table tennis for some years now. We will supply reasonable quantities free of charge but we will ask for the cost of postage to be covered. Details from the E.T.T.A. office at 21 Claremont, Hastings, (0402) 433121.

ANSWERS

(a) WRONG; (b) WRONG; (c) RIGHT; (d) RIGHT.

European League

ENGLAND WIN AT NOTTINGHAM

by Albert W. Shipley

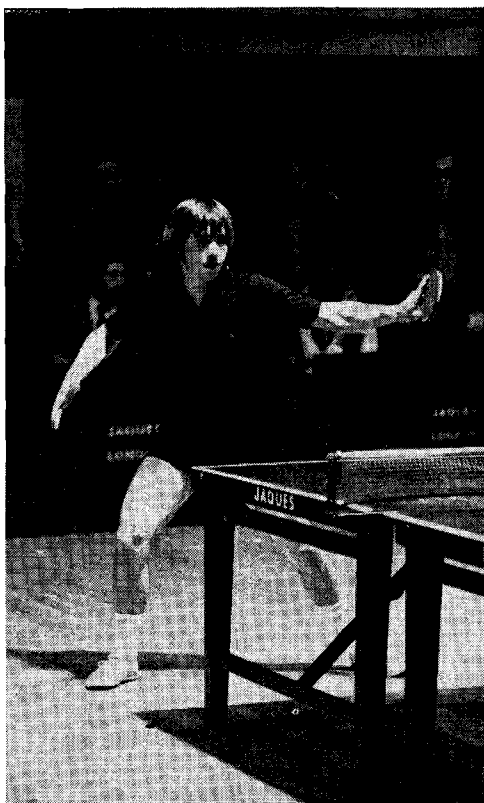
A crowd of over 400 saw Ireland put up a spirited resistance to England in a European League encounter at the New Victoria Leisure Centre in Nottingham, on Thursday, 11th December, 1975.

England started in fine form with three two-straight wins by Des Douglas over Tommy Caffrey, Nicky Jarvis over Jimmy Langan and by Jill Hammersley over Karen Senior, although the Irish girl gave Jill a few anxious moments in the second game when she led by virtue of some good forehand drives. The Irish fight-back began in the men's doubles, where Douglas and Neale found themselves in the same position as in the match against Denmark, 15-20 down in the third, but this time there was no escape and the Irish pair ran out winners by 21-16. The feature of this game was some ferocious forehands from the left-handed Langan towards the end of the third game.

Our regular mixed doubles combination of Douglas and Linda Howard rallied well to win from a first game deficit in which the spin services of Langan gave Linda no end of trouble.

Next came the high spot of the evening, a confrontation between Douglas and Langan, which not only showed why table tennis is one of the fastest ball games but gave the crowd a sample of the Langan comedy act at its best, although how much of it was calculated to upset Douglas is hard to tell. Langan in one of these moods is a mixture of Chester Barnes and "Connie" Warren, but his Irish charm enables him to avoid being labelled the bad guy and the flourishing of his bat as he left the arena victorious over Desmond evoked the kind of applause normally reserved for an English winner.

A match position of 4-2 at this stage was not a comfortable one for Brian Burn but Jarvis disposed of Caffrey with ease, needing only the one weapon of that big top-spin forehand.



Dan Seemiller, of the United States, and winner of the Middlesex 3-Star Open, using his unorthodox "reversed" backhand block shot.

'Photo by Tony Ross.

JUNIOR 3 EAST

Essex III 5, Hertfordshire II 5

Herts benefited in the same way as Lincolnshire when Elaine Sayer's sets had to be forfeited by Essex (Elaine ranked No. 4 and not eligible for third team). Nevertheless two very young sides gave displays which will encourage their Counties.

Bedfordshire 6, Huntingdonshire 4

VETERAN SOUTH

Hampshire 6, Essex II 3

Oxfordshire 2, Kent 7

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire 7, Sir Clwyd 2

Leicestershire 7, Warwickshire 2

Warwickshire forfeited one set to Leicestershire when G. Haywood and D. Williams played out of order.

Nottinghamshire 6, Staffordshire 3

COUNTY TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	18	9	6
Cleveland	2	2	0	0	14	4	4
Essex	3	2	0	1	17	10	4
Middlesex	3	1	0	2	15	12	2
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Warwickshire	3	1	0	2	12	15	2
Surrey	3	1	0	2	11	16	2
Lancashire	3	0	0	3	4	23	0
2 SOUTH							
Sussex	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Kent	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Surrey II	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Hampshire	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Essex II	2	0	0	2	8	12	0
Middlesex II	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
2 NORTH							
Cleveland II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Lincolnshire	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Durham	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Yorkshire II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Northumberland	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Nottinghamshire	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
2 MIDLAND							
Leicestershire	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Derbyshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Glamorgan	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Warwickshire II	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Staffordshire	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Gloucestershire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0
2 EAST							
Hertfordshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Cambridgeshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Norfolk	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Bedfordshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Northamptonshire	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Buckinghamshire	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
2 WEST							
Berkshire	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Worcestershire	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Devon	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Somerset	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Gwent	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Wiltshire	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Cornwall	2	0	0	2	1	19	0
3 SOUTH							
Hertfordshire II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Kent II	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Berkshire II	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Sussex II	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
3 NORTH							
Cheshire II	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Lancashire II	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Cleveland III	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Cumbria	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
Northumberland II	1	0	0	1	1	9	0
3 MIDLAND							
Derbyshire II	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Warwickshire III	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Staffordshire II	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Clwyd	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Northamptonshire II	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Nottinghamshire II	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

3 EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex III	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Norfolk II	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Suffolk	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Huntingdonshire	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Bedfordshire II	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Cambridgeshire II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0

3 WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glamorgan II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Avon	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Herefordshire II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Worcestershire II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Dorset	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Shropshire	2	0	0	2	8	12	0

JUNIOR PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Surrey	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Essex	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Berkshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Kent	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Cambridgeshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Cleveland	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

JUNIOR 2 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex II	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Hampshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Surrey II	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Sussex	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Kent II	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Dorset	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Essex II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0

JUNIOR 2 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Durham	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Yorkshire II	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Cumbria	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Derbyshire	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Cleveland II	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Cheshire	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

JUNIOR 2 - MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertfordshire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Leicestershire	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Glamorgan	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Northamptonshire	2	1	0	1	12	18	2
Warwickshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Norfolk	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Cambridgeshire II	3	0	1	2	9	21	1

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Berkshire III	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Buckinghamshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Sussex II	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Hampshire II	1	0	0	1	1	9	0

JUNIOR 3 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Clwyd	1	1	0	0	10	0	2
Lincolnshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Nottinghamshire	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Cleveland III	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Cumbria II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

JUNIOR 3 MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Staffordshire	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Gwent	2	1	0	1	7	13	2
Worcestershire	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Shropshire	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Oxfordshire	1	0	0	1	3	7	0

JUNIOR 3 EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Suffolk	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Bedfordshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Hertfordshire II	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Essex III	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Huntingdonshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1

JUNIOR 3 WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devon	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Gloucestershire	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Avon	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Cornwall	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

VETERAN SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	2	2	0	0	15	3	4
Hampshire	2	2	0	0	13	5	4
Kent	2	2	0	0	13	5	4
Huntingdonshire	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Oxfordshire	3	1	0	2	9	18	2
Wiltshire	2	0	0	2	6	12	0
Essex II	3	0	0	3	8	19	0

VETERAN MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottinghamshire	3	3	0	0	22	5	6
Cheshire	2	2	0	0	12	6	4
Worcestershire	2	2	0	0	10	8	4
Leicestershire	3	1	0	2	12	15	2
Clwyd	3	1	0	2	10	17	2
Warwickshire	3	0	0	3	10	17	0
Staffordshire	2	0	0	2	5	13	0

Promotion Challenges

The Senior Promotion Challenge to the Premier Division will be held on April 24-25, and be run as in previous years, but the Play-offs to the Junior Premier Division see one significant change—the top two eligible teams from each section of Division 2 will be challenging for the two vacancies in the top strata, over the weekend of May 1-2.

County Championships Round-up

by

NOTTS. HOPES DIMMED

Following a claim by Sir Clwyd about the lighting at the Kimberly Sports Centre, where Nottinghamshire were hosts in Divisions 3 Midland and Junior 3 North, on November 1, Sir Clwyd have been awarded both matches.

Middlesex did themselves some good in the Premier Division when they gained a good 8-1 win over Lancashire at Bolton. Lancashire now look a good bet for relegation, but it isn't clear who will fill the second spot, although the four Counties above Lancashire must have relegation fears.

PREMIER DIVISION

Lancashire 1, Middlesex 8

D. Parker lost to A. Barden 18, -15, -10; lost to M. Mitchell -19, -15.

P. Bowen lost to Barden 19, -16, -16; lost to D. Tan -11, -18.

N. Hallows bt Mitchell -14, 21, 19; lost to Tan -8, -14.

Bowen/Parker lost to Mitchell/Tan -19, -15.

Miss B. Williams lost to Miss A. Mitchell -14, -19.

Hallows/Miss Williams lost to Barden/Miss Mitchell -14, -16.

Warwickshire 3, Essex 6

D. Douglas bt I. Horsham -18, 7, 16; bt D. Brown 10, 19.

D. Johnson lost to Horsham -10, -18; lost to R. Potton -14, -19.

D. Munt lost to Brown -16, -12; lost to Potton -20, 16, -18.

Douglas/P. Judd bt Brown/Horsham -19, 19, 16.

Miss B. Green lost to Miss S. Hession -10, -14. Judd/Miss Green lost to Potton/Miss Hession -20, 16, -18.

2 SOUTH

Kent 6, Essex II 4

Surrey II 6, Middlesex II 4

Surrey's success based on five M.S. wins, four requiring a decider and only one going to Middlesex.

Sussex 10, Hampshire 0

2 NORTH

Cleveland II 7, Yorkshire II 3

Lincolnshire 6, Northumberland 4

Nottinghamshire 2, Durham 8

Notts really felt the absence of Alan Croome, but offered their congratulations on his wedding — which took preference! Durham men's class showed through.

2 MIDLAND

Derbyshire 10, Gloucestershire 0

Staffordshire 4, Glamorgan 6

Warwickshire II 0, Leicestershire 10

2 EAST

Northamptonshire 2, Cambridgeshire 8

Northants, with three reserves, well beaten by an efficient-looking Cambs. side; nevertheless, there were some encouraging signs from the home team performances like juniors Gary Alden, Valerie Feakin and Mandy Wallis.

Bedfordshire 4, Norfolk 6

A surprise, this, moreso when Norfolk ladies remained fog-bound in Norfolk. Their men won six out of seven.

Hertfordshire 9, Buckinghamshire 1

A few close matches, but Herts won them all except W.S. when Jean Williams beat Susan Felstead -19, -13, 19—expedite called at 18-17 in decider.

2 WEST

Somerset 4, Gwent 6

Worcestershire 9, Devon 1

Home side still looking for success in Mixed Doubles, this being Devon's consolation. Simon Claxton (Worcs. top junior) improving and shows promise.

3 SOUTH

Berkshire II 8, Oxfordshire 2

Hertfordshire II 7, Sussex II 3

A satisfactory win for Herts who had the edge (and most of the nets!).

3 NORTH

Lancashire II 8, Cumbria 2

Northumberland II 1, Cheshire II 9

Pleasing debuts for Glen McCardle and Carol Little for the home team, but Cheshire provided strong opposition.

3 MIDLAND

Clwyd 3, Derbyshire II 7

Warwickshire III 7, Nottinghamshire II 3

Staffordshire II 6, Northamptonshire II 4

3 EAST

Cambridgeshire II 4, Norfolk II 6

Essex III 7, Suffolk 3

A magnificent match thoroughly enjoyed by both sides; Brian Mailey outstanding for Essex and John Kitchener (of course) for Suffolk. Good M.D. win for Jeff Drew/Mailey over Kitchener/Kevin Savage.

Huntingdonshire 5, Bedfordshire II 5

3 WEST

Dorset 2, Avon 8

Herefordshire 6, Shropshire 4

Home side well pleased with this result. Good debut for John Oldman and a fine performance by 13-year-old Michael Owens beating B. Suckly 10, 18 at the score 4-all.

Glamorgan II 6, Worcestershire II 4

JUNIOR PREMIER

Kent 6, Essex 4

I Kenyon bt K. Caldon 12, 14; bt D. Newman 17, -19, 18.

V. O'Brien lost to Caldon -5, -14; bt K. Jackson -21, 13, 14.

L. Collins lost to Newman -18, -19; bt K. Jackson -19, 16, 21.

Collins/Kenyon bt Caldon/Newman 9, -17, 18. Miss M. Heffernan lost to Miss S. Sutton -18, -13.

O'Brien/Miss C. Colgate bt K. Owers/Miss P. Abbott 18, 13.

Miss Colgate/Miss Heffernan lost to Miss Abbott/Miss Sutton -14, -18.

Yorkshire 7, Cleveland 3

K. Beardsley bt I. Plummer 8, 15; bt M. Laird 16, 15.

M. Harrison bt Plummer 14, -22, 21; bt S. Holden 16, -22, 9.

R. Hazelwood bt Laird 8, 12; bt S. Holden 15, -16, 16.

Beardsley/Harrison bt Holden/Laird 15, 9.

Miss L. Hryzsko lost to Miss A. Tierney -11, -14.

Hazelwood/Miss C. Howarth lost to Plummer/Miss H. Robinson -18, -18.

Miss Howarth/Miss Hryzsko lost to Miss Robinson/Miss Tierney -16, -11.

Berkshire 2, Cambridgeshire 8

S. Douglas lost to P. Day -15, -17; lost to K. Richardson -15, -17.

A. Wellman lost to Day -14, -18; lost to G. Davies -18, -16.

R. Johnson lost to Richardson -14, -20; lost to Davies -20, 19, -16.

Douglas/Wellman lost to Davies/Day -15, 11, -13.

Miss M. Smith bt Miss S. Ellis 9, 6.

Johnson/Miss J. Purslow lost to Richardson/Miss C. Ellis -17, 18, -14.

Miss A. Gordon/Miss Purslow bt Misses C. & E. Ellis 16, 10.

Middlesex 6, Surrey 4

A. Barden bt M. Shuttle 17, 12; bt S. Boxall 14, 16.

A. Proffitt lost to Shuttle -8, -17; lost to K. Seager -15, -14.

D. Wells lost to Boxall 24, -19, -13; bt Seager -22, 15, 17.

Proffitt/Wells lost to Boxall/Seager 22, -18, -19.

Miss S. Dove bt Miss S. Roebuck 8, 19.

Barden/Miss A. Mitchell bt Shuttle/Miss J. Mitchell 18, 16.

Miss Dove/Miss Mitchell bt Miss Mitchell/Miss Roebuck 21, -24, 15.

What was probably a cert draw on paper was turned Middlesex's way with David Wells' victory over Keith Seager. I don't know if the captains were at the same match . . . Laurie Landry reported: "A first-class match . . ." and Mike Kercher said ". . . this was not only a disappointing result for Surrey, but a disappointment as a match".

Yorkshire 7, Berkshire 3

K. Beadsley lost to D. Reeves -12, -10; lost to S. Douglas -9, -15.

S. Hazelwood lost to Reeves 22, -16, -19; bt A. Wellman 23, -18, 16.

M. Harrison bt Douglas 13, 17; bt Wellman -19, 17, 21.

Beadsley/Harrison bt Douglas/Wellman 12, 14, 14.

Miss M. Ludi bt Miss M. Smith 19, 17.

Hazelwood/Miss J. McLean bt Reeves/Miss A. Gordon -13, 14, 19.

Ludi/McLean bt Gordon/Miss J. Purslow 13, -18, 10.

Houdini-like escape by Harrison (14-20 down in third v Andy Wellman) led Yorkshire revival after first two sets had gone to visitors. Hazelwood—Reeves clash a fine set—result reversal of that produced previous day in Yorkshire Junior Open. Beadsley off-colour with chest complaint.

JUNIOR 2 SOUTH

Kent II 6, Dorset 4

Surrey II 4, Middlesex II 6

Gary Stewart started this match and finished it in masterly fashion on behalf of Surrey, but in between Middlesex had a firm grip, shooting to a 5-1 lead before letting things go.

Sussex 7, Hampshire 3

JUNIOR 2 NORTH

Cheshire 4, Northumberland 6

Durham 8, Derbyshire 2

Yorkshire II 8, Cleveland II 2

Cleveland no match for Yorkshire in a match which never looked likely to reach a high standard. Brian Metcalfe made a first-class debut and Jane Skipp received no scoring support.

Lancashire 6, Cumbria 4

JUNIOR 2 MIDLAND

Leicestershire 6, Warwickshire 4

A totally unexpected—but nevertheless fully-merited—win by Leicestershire, who at one stage trailed 2-4. Keynote to the success was the B.S., where Leics. won 5 out of 6. As expected, Bev Green was untroubled in singles or doubles.

Norfolk 9, Glamorgan 1

Northamptonshire 8, Cambridgeshire II 2

Cambridgeshire II 5, Glamorgan 5

Glamorgan made a promising start to this match, the second on their "tour" of East Anglia, but saw their 3-1 lead dwindle and took one point back to Wales.

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH

Buckinghamshire 6, Sussex II 4

Wiltshire 3, Berkshire II 7

JUNIOR 3 NORTH

Cleveland III 4, Lincolnshire 6

Points shared on the table, but Norma Carne not eligible for Cleveland III and one set forfeited to Lincs.

Cumbria II 2, Nottinghamshire 8

JUNIOR 3 MIDLAND

Gwent 7, Oxfordshire 3

Staffordshire 9, Shropshire 1

Continued on page 31