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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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SERVING UP THE TAKEAWAYS

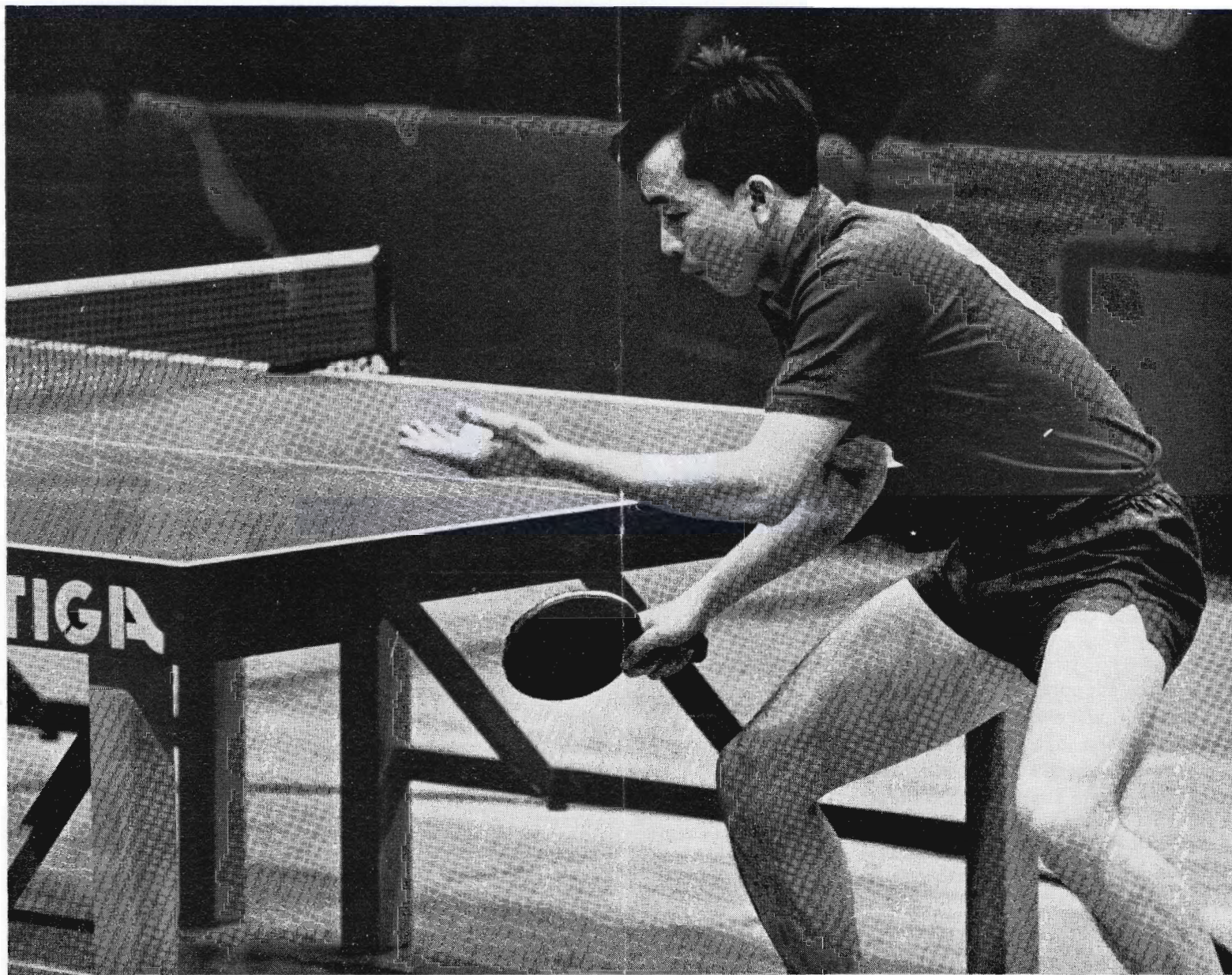


Photo by Sidney Harris, London

 **Jaques** — *of course*

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STIGA WELSH OPEN

China's Table of Plenty

by George R. Yates



CROWN PROPERTY

A reign only slightly in excess of two months will be the limitation of Jill Hammersley's tenure of office as Europe's No. 1 woman should she fail to win the singles title in the 11th European Championships which begin this month in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The mission is not impossible, but under the shadow of such an axe the stress conditions are intensified, but such is the cross every champion, in no matter what sport, is called upon to bear.

Jill has successfully withstood all such pressures on the home front and can be relied upon to defend in equal manner her newly-acquired European crown although the challenge, beginning from the host country's Alica Grofova, will be so much the greater.

Vociferous support, especially afforded a home player, will also weigh against the English champion, but such is her experience in foreign arenas that this, in itself, should help negate such a disadvantage.

Good luck then Jill, you carry with you to Prague the hopes of us all that the title will become yours and ours.

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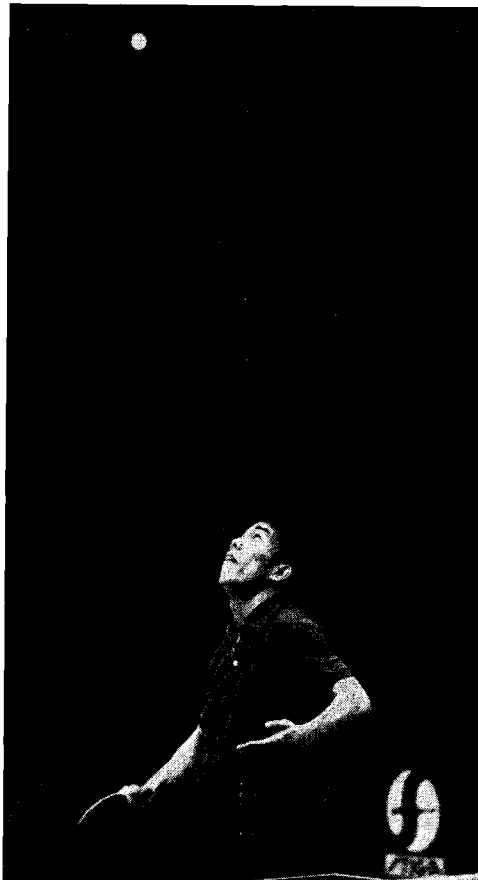
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"Up she goes" is the theme of a serve by Li Chen-chih.

In the magnificent setting of Cardiff's National Sports Centre for Wales, over the period of February 6-8, players from the People's Republic of China really turned the screws in capturing six of the seven titles at stake in the Stiga Welsh Open Championships.

Li Chen-chih, world-ranked at No. 11, powered his way to victory over his compatriot Liang Ko-liang, world-ranked at No. 8, to win the men's singles, the counterpart female title going to Yan Kui-li, world-ranked at No. 28, with final victory over 18-year-old Sun Min.

Li Chen-chih and Liang Ko-liang combined to take the men's doubles with Sun Min and Sha Min getting the better of Yan Kui-li and Yu Chin-chia in the women's doubles. Again in the mixed it was all China with Liang Ko-liang and Yu Chin-chia beating Li Chen-chih and Yan Kui-li in the final.

All this followed on the domination of the men's team event by Liang Ko-liang and Li Chen-chih, the one title to elude the Chinese grasp being the women's team event, taken by Ann-Christin Hellman and Birgitta Olsson, of Sweden.

FINAL SESSION

When it came to the final session on the Sunday afternoon, East met West at topmost level, with the men of China and Sweden, the foremost table tennis nations of Asia and Europe, in direct confrontation.

It began in the semi-finals of the men's

singles when firstly Li Chen-chih, having earlier accounted for top seed Anton Stipanovic, of Yugoslavia, ousted the giant Kjell Johansson, the No. 3 seed, in straight games.

Chinese supremacy again prevailed when Liang Ko-liang, seeded No. 4 and basically a defender, smashed his way to victory over Stellan Bengtsson, seeded No. 5 and conqueror of Yugoslavia's second-seeded Dragutin Surbek.

Johansson and Bengtsson fared somewhat better in the final of the men's doubles yet lost, over five games, for that afternoon not one crumb was destined to fall from China's table of plenty, the hand of "friendship" not being over-extended in the playing arena.

England's challenge in the two main individual events was principally led by Jill Hammersley who, in defence of her women's singles title, reached the semi-final, to be joined by three Chinese girls.

It was against the foremost of these, Yan Kui-li, seeded No. 3, that Mrs. Hammersley was next drawn and again the limitations of the English champion's game in opposition to an Asiatic drive-style player were cruelly exposed when she succumbed in uncharacteristic manner.

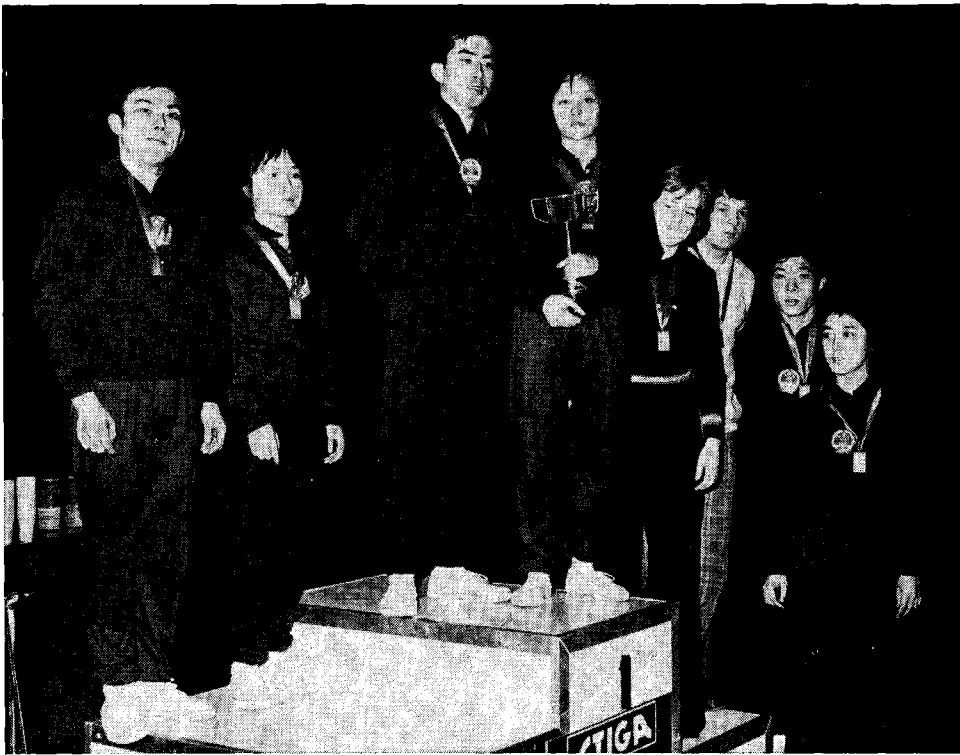
Linda Howard, against the same player in the previous round, had prospered to the extent of five games by endeavouring to match hit for hit and this, too, applied to Carole Knight, who went down with all guns blazing when beaten 20, 20, 21 by Yu Chin-chia.

Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale reached the



Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans, joint Organiser, with her husband, Roy, presents the medals to China's Sun Min and Sha Min, who won the women's doubles title.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE BY SYDNEY HARRIS, OF LONDON.



Carole Knight and Denis Neale are the intruders in this picture of the mixed doubles award winners.



Kjell Johansson, of Sweden, beaten by Li Chen-chih in the semi-final of the men's singles.

In the team events England could only boast one semi-finalist in Jill and Carole, who, as England I were beaten 3-1 by China II represented by Sun Min and Sha Min. Jill it was who got the one win in the opening set against Sun Min, a victory not to be repeated in the all-important fourth set against Sha Min, who beat the English champion 13, -21, 7.

England I, in the men's team championship, fell to China II, Neale and Douglas being successful only in the doubles. Jarvis and Andy Barden, as England II, were seen off in straight games by Liang Ko-liang and Li Chen-chih.

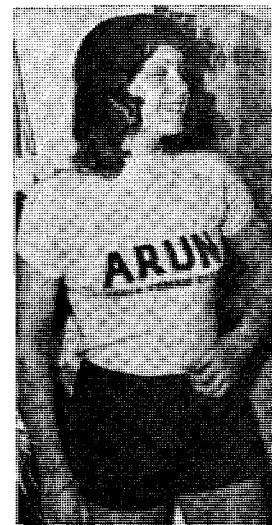
The latter pair, as China I, were taken to the limit of five games by Johansson and Bengtsson in the semis but Liang Ko-liang was equal to the task of seeing his country through when it came to the crunch set in which he beat Bengtsson 11 and 9.



A kiss from Cardiff's Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Charles Hallinan, who presented the Carpendale Cup to Yan kui-li, of China, winner of the women's singles title.

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ELIMINATED

Jarvis, in the top half of the draw, was eventually eliminated by Johansson, over four games, but Neale went out, like a light, in three to Liang Ko-liang, likening his opponent to a Martian!

Neale and Douglas, in the men's doubles, reached the semis there to be stopped by Johansson and Bengtsson, as were the other European combination of Surbek and Stipancic by Liang Ko-liang and Li Chen-chih, the winners.

Again in the women's doubles, Jill and Linda reached the penultimate stage and put up stout resistance to the young Chinese pair, Sun Min and Sha Min, over five games. And for a fourth time, in the mixed, England had bronze winners in Neale and Carole Knight.

last eight in the men's singles, the former, after a marathon struggle with Hungary's ace defender, Janos Börzsei, losing to Johansson, the latter to Liang Ko-liang. Desmond Douglas, England's No. 1, fell to Li Chen-chih in Round 3.

In the absence of Alan Griffiths, nursing an injured foot, Welsh hearts were made to flutter when Graham Davies, in endeavouring to reach the last 16, extended Börzsei to a fifth game decider during the course of which he ran out of steam.

Scotland's Richard Yule fell in the same round, to Bengtsson, but Jim Langan, of Ireland, surmounted the barrier, beating Paul Judd only to face and be extinguished by Liang Ko-liang. Cheshire's Nigel Eckersley got through to Round 3 as did Duggie Johnson, the former offering little in the way of resistance to Bengtsson and the latter going under

In the other semi, China II were beaten 3-1 by Yugoslavia's Surbek and Stipanovic who, like Sweden before them, took the final into a fifth and deciding set in which Liang Ko-liang rose once more to the occasion by beating Surbek 17 and 12 for victory.

Having beaten Jersey 3-0 in Round 1, England III, represented by Chris Sewell and Martin Shuttle, lost by the same score to Yugoslavia.

Of the three teams representing England in the women's team event, the second string of Linda Howard and Melody Ludi, after beating Scotland 3-1—the doubles going to Elaine Smith and Patrice Fleming—were beaten 3-1 by Sweden whose Birgitta Olsson lost to Linda.

Juniors Angela Mitchell and Angela Tierney, as England III, took their departure in the first round when beaten 3-0 by China II.

SUCCESSFUL

All-in-all the championships proved highly successful, the presentation being of the highest order and rivalling in spectator appeal the Wales versus Scotland shindig at nearby Cardiff Arms Park.

Roy and Nancy Evans, as joint organisers, were fully deserving of the compliments paid and doubtless these would be passed down the line, for championships of such dimensions call for unstinted support by a whole host of people who all responded in traditional manner.

Stiga AB, as sponsors, are also to be commended for their part in a promotion which should echo down the Welsh valleys as it did in the executive suite taken by the Swedish enterprise and below decks in the "scrubbers" bar presided over by mine hosts, Roy and Nancy Evans.

STIGA WELSH OPEN RESULTS

Men's Singles—Round 3
 A. Stipanovic (Yu) bt D. Johnson (Warwks) 16, 18, 12.
 Li Chen-chih bt D. Douglas (En) 12, -15, 11, 10.
 N. Jarvis (En) bt J. Borzsei (Hu) -11, 12, -15, 18, 18.
 K. Johansson (Sv) bt Hu Wei-hsin (China) 15, -12, 6, -12, 13.
 Liang Ko-liang (China) bt J. Langan (Ir) 11, 10, 13.
 D. Neale (En) bt I. Asztalos (Hu) 12, 17, 11.
 S. Bengtsson (Sv) bt N. Eckersley (Ches) 7, 7, 11.
 D. Surbek (Yu) bt Yao Kuo-tsai (China) 14, 5, -17, 15.

Quarter-finals
 Li Chen-chih bt Stipanovic -19, 10, 16, -20, 8.
 Johansson bt Jarvis 10, -19, 16, 13.
 Liang Ko-liang bt Neale 9, 18, 14.
 Bengtsson bt Surbek -18, 20, 14, 13.

Semi-finals
 Li Chen-chih bt Johansson 14, 12, 19.
 Liang Ko-liang bt Bengtsson 13, 5, 14.
Final
 LI CHEN-CHIH bt Liang Ko-liang 13, 8, 10.

Women's Singles—Round 2
 J. Hammersley (En) bt A. Tierney (En) 13, 10, 6.
 Sha Min (China) bt B. Olsson (Sv) 17, 12, -21, 16.
 L. Howard (En) bt A. Stevenson (Leics) 14, 13, 20.
 Yan Kui-li (China) bt K. Herquin (Je) 11, 10, 10.
 Yu Chin-chia (China) bt J. Ralphs (Wa) 12, 7, 15.
 C. Knight (En) bt J. Reading (Hants) 6, 12, 10.
 Sun Min (China) bt E. Smith (Sc) 17, 16, 19.
 A.-C. Hellman (Sv) bt S. Lisle (Ches) 18, 11, 13.

Quarter-finals
 Hammersley bt Sha Min -11, 21, 15, -10, 17.
 Yan Kui-li bt Howard -17, 18, -16, 12, 13.
 Yu Chin-chia bt Knight 20, 20, 21.
 Sun Min bt Hellman 17, 13, 19.

Semi-finals
 Yan Kui-li bt Hammersley 7, 8, 15.
 Sun Min bt Yu Chin-chia 19, -17, 16, 13.

Final
 YAN KUI-LI bt Sun Min 19, 12, 16.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals
 Stipanovic/Surbek bt P. Day (En)/Jarvis 8, 16, 18, 13.
 Liang Ko-liang/Li Chen-chih bt Asztalos/Borzsei 18, 11, -13, -19, 13.
 Douglas/Neale bt Hu Wei-hsin/Yao Kuo tsai 16, 19, 19.
 Bengtsson/Johansson bt G. Davies (Wa)/M. Shuttle (En) 10, 11, 16.

Semi-finals
 Liang Ko-liang/Li Chen-chih bt Stipanovic/Surbek 18, 17, 20.
 Bengtsson/Johansson bt Douglas/Neale 11, 17, 15.

Final
 LIANG KO-LIANG/LI CHEN-CHIH bt Bengtsson/Johansson 18, 9, -18, -19, 17.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals
 Yan Kui-li/Yu Chin-chia bt Knight/M. Ludi (En) 18, -10, 18, -15, 8.
 Hellman/Olsson bt C. Jewels (Wa)/Ralphs 5, 8, 7.
 Sha Min/Sun Min bt Lisle/Stevenson 21, 8, 17.
 Hammersley/Howard bt M. Phillips/S. Pickering (Wa) 6, 8, 15.

Semi-finals
 Yan Kui-li/Yu Chin-chia bt Hellman/Olsson 21, -13, 13, 17.
 Sha Min/Sun Min bt Hammersley/Howard 19, 14, -15, -18, 17.

Final
 SHA MIN/SUN MIN bt Yan Kui-li/Yu Chin-chia 19, 15, 19.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals
 Liang Ko-liang/Yu Chin-chia bt D. Parker (Lancs)/Stevenson 17, 14, 16.
 Hu Wei-hsin/Sun Min bt Jarvis/Hammersley 12, -15, 17, 17.
 Li Chen-chih/Yan Kui-li bt Douglas/Howard 10, 13, 12, 7.
 Neale/Knight bt P. Guttormsen/A. Schiering (No) 11, -19, 14, 13.

Semi-finals
 Liang Ko-liang/Yu Chin-chia bt Hu Wei-hsin/Sun Min 17, 14, 18.
 Li Chen-chih/Yan Kui-li bt Neale/Knight 12, 17, 16.
Final
 LIANG KO-LIANG/YU CHIN-CHIA bt Li Chen-chih/Yan Kui-li 14, 13, 13.

TEAM EVENTS

Men
Round 1
 Norway bt Ireland 3-2; Scotland II bt Wales III 3-1; England III bt Jersey 3-0.
Round 2
 China I bt Norway 3-0; England II bt Scotland I 3-0; Hungary bt Guernsey 3-0; Sweden bt Wales I 3-0; China II bt Scotland II 3-0; England I w.o. v Scotland III; Belgium bt Wales 3-0; Yugoslavia bt England III 3-0.

Quarter-finals
 China I bt England II 3-0; Sweden bt Hungary 3-0; China II bt England I 3-1; Yugoslavia bt Belgium 3-0.
Semi-final — (China I bt Sweden 3-2)
 Liang Ko-liang bt Johansson 16, 19; bt Bengtsson 11, 9.
 Li Chen-chih lost to Bengtsson -17, -22; bt Johansson 11, 14.
 Liang Ko-liang/Li Chen-chih lost to Bengtsson/Johansson -15, -18.

Semi-final — (Yugoslavia bt China II 3-1)
 Stipanovic lost to Hu Wei-hsin -17, -20.
 Surbek bt Yao Kuo-tsai 11, 12; bt Hu Wei-hsin 11, 18.

Stipanovic/Surbek bt Hu Wei-hsin/Yao Kuo-tsai 18, 8.
Final — (CHINA I bt Yugoslavia 3-2)
 Li Chen-chih bt Surbek 18, -17, 17 bt Stipanovic 11, 18.
 Liang Ko-liang lost to Stipanovic 19, 16, -17; bt Surbek 17, 12.
 Liang Ko-liang/Li Chen-chih lost to Stipanovic/Surbek -12, -19.

Women

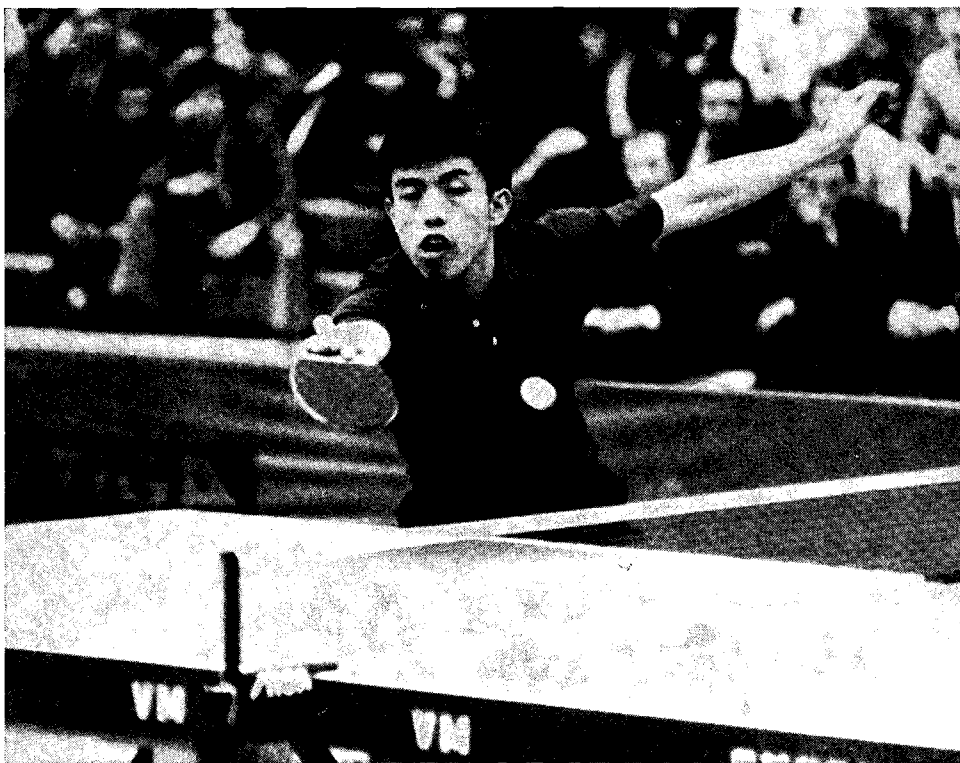
Round 1
 Wales II bt Guernsey 3-1; England II bt Scotland 3-1; Sweden bt Jersey 3-0; China II bt England III 3-0 Scotland II bt Wales I 3-1; Ireland bt Wales III 3-0.

Quarter-finals
 China I bt Wales II 3-0; Sweden bt England II 3-1; China II bt Scotland II 3-0; England I bt Ireland 3-0.

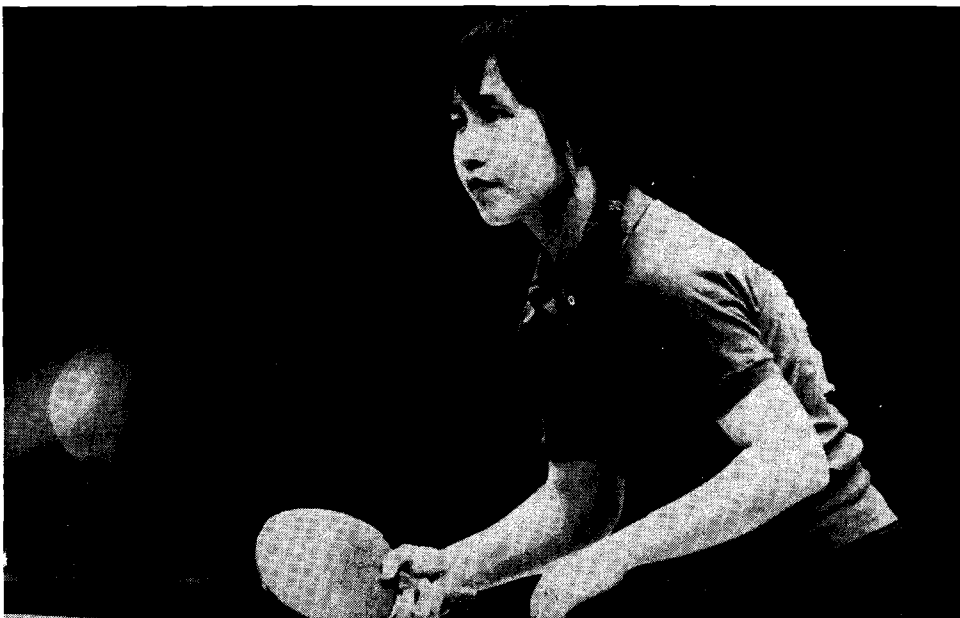
Semi-final (Sweden bt China I 3-2)
 B. Olsson lost to Yan Kui-li -10, -15; bt Yu Chin-chia -21, 15, 16.

A.-C. Hellman bt Yu Chin-chia 18, 24; lost to Yan Kui-li -18, -17.
 Hellman/Olsson bt Yan Kui-li/Yu Chin-chia -19, 17, 19.
Semi-final — (China II bt England I 3-1)
 Sun Min lost to Hammersley -11, -13.
 Sha Min bt Knight 22, 16; bt Hammersley 13, -21, 7.
 Sha Min/Sun Min bt Hammersley/Knight 9, 16.
Final — (SWEDEN bt China II 3-1)
 Olsson lost to Sha Min -23, -19.
 Hellman bt Sun Min 17, 15; bt Sha Min -16, 10, 7.
 Hellman/Olsson bt Sha Min/Sun Min 16, 15.

TONY SPOTLIGHTS THE WINNERS



Li Chen-chih, winner of the men's singles title.



Yan Kui-li, winner of the Carpendale Cup.

Photos by Tony Ross, Hesse.

CONTROVERSY

***** **STRIKE UP THE BAND!**

by

JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
'The Daily Telegraph'

At a recent County match north of the Thames, there was a noise disturbance of sufficient volume to give rise to complaint. Apparently, the match started normally with quite reasonable conditions and continued to well past half-way. An orchestra was then heard tuning up in a hall immediately underneath the table tennis match.

Play continued through the tuning-up period until suddenly the band started its first number, making it almost impossible to continue and quite impossible to concentrate. The visiting captain appealed to the referee who, it seems, made sympathetic noises but ruled that play should continue. Searches through the County championships rule book have not revealed any answer to these circumstances.

The obvious answer is not to use premises where this is likely to occur, but these days so many matches take place in multi-purpose buildings where almost anything is likely to happen. Considerable distraction happens at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre from the swimming pool. Even the regular matthumping of judo pupils can be a noise hazard.

In this instance the visiting team had taken a commanding lead by the time the rumpus started, but imagine the situation if the score was 5-4 to either side with promotion to the Premier Division at stake!

If you think the foregoing is an amusing tale, how about this for a laugh—players in a County team talking to selectors about a forthcoming venue for a County match—the chosen venue is too good, affording no advantage to the home side. Could they not have another venue where perhaps there are hazards like icy flooring or white walls which the home side is accustomed to having played there several times before, but which might distract the visitors?

Returning to the strange affair of the umpiring error in the County Closed Championships, my subject in this column last month. For those who may have missed the fun, an umpire's error caused a chain of events which led to one man (Mr. X) winning his group and not playing again, and two men taken out by a player who had been eliminated. The sequel has turned out to be a damp squib, but before I apply the touchpaper, one correction. The man who won his group apparently waited for some five or six hours before taking up the matter with the control, not two hours as was at first thought.

That may seem strange, but in a tournament that lasted over 15 hours with 230 players, it is not that unusual, of course, to have to wait long periods to resume playing in one event when many hours are spent playing in doubles and other events. However, the honorary referee's action in not replaying the offending section was upheld, although there are people who believe that despite the fact the tournament was running behind the clock, this should have been done and has in fact been done in other tournaments in the past. Disciplinary action might also have been taken against Mr. Y, the man who went on to defeat two other men, but it was decided to take no further action, except that in future at this tournament all players will have to sign the scoresheets.

I've heard it said that the television coverage of the opening of the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham, when something like

250,000 people came to see it before anything was being staged, brought the biggest smile ever to the face of the E.T.T.A. Treasurer, Tom Blunn! Tom faces immense problems when dealing with the E.T.T.A. finances and has done so for many years. He must have thought, as did most of us, the chances of huge crowds for the World Championships next year must now be very high indeed.

HALEX LANCASHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

TYKE'S TROPHY

by George R. Yates

Yorkshire exile, Tony Clayton, now living in Bath, was the winner of the men's singles event in the Halex Lancashire 2-Star Open played at Hawker Siddeley Dynamics, Lostock, near Bolton, on January 31. In the final he beat the No. 1 seed, Donald Parker, having disposed of the No. 2 seed, John Hilton in the semis.

Parker's semi-final victim was England's fourth-ranked junior, Chris Sewell, who in the quarters had ousted the No. 4 seed, Nigel Eckersley: It was only in the final set that Clayton, seeded No. 3, dropped a game, the former England left-hander having dispatched all his previous opponents with nonchalant ease.

Irish champion Karen Senior—she hails from Lisburn but is now living and working in London—was the surprise winner of the women's singles, her moments of glory coming when she took out the holder, Anita Stevenson, and, in the final, was a more than comfortable winner over Susan Lisle, the top seed and England-ranked at No. 4.

Clayton took his second title when, with his Yorkshire County colleague, Alan Fletcher, a student at Birmingham University, final victory was again achieved when they overcame the Manchester League pairing of Phil Bowen and Peter D'Arcy.

Mesdames Lisle and Stevenson succeeded in retaining their women's doubles title but not so Roger Hampson and Miss Lisle in the mixed when finally beaten by Parker and Miss Stevenson. Derek Schofield, with wins over Terry Donlon, Vince Hankey, Arthur Holland and in the final, D'Arcy, retained his veteran singles title without the loss of a game. One-time international, Ron Allcock, once of Manchester, but now domiciled in Doncaster, lost to Holland. Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

D. Parker (Lancs) bt D. Schofield (Ches) 13, 15.

C. Sewell (Avon) bt N. Eckersley (Ches) -11, 21, 18.

A. Clayton (Yorks) bt D. Roberts (Ches) 10, 7.

J. Hilton (Ches) bt A. Fletcher (Yorks) 4, 18.

Semi-finals

Parker bt Sewell 16, 12.

Clayton bt Hilton 18, 18.

Final

CLAYTON bt Parker -19, 18, 11.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

S. Lisle (Ches) bt M. Deakin (Derbys) 10, 10.

D. Schofield (Ches) bt J. Dixon (Lancs) 8, 18.

K. Senior (Ireland) bt A. Marples (Derbys) 12, 14.

A. Stevenson (Leics) bt L. Hryszko (Yorks) 12, 15.

Semi-finals

Lisle bt Schofield 5, 5.

Senior bt Stevenson 18, -10, 13.

Final

SENIOR bt Lisle 15, 12.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

P. Bowen (Lancs)/P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt R. Hampson (Ches)/Schofield 21, -4, 16.

Clayton/Fletcher bt Eckersley/Hilton 17, 14.

Final

CLAYTON/FLETCHER bt Bowen/D'Arcy -21, 14, 8.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Lisle/Stevenson bt J. Fielding/C. Hancock (Ches) 14, 13.

Schofield/Senior bt Deakin/J. Fearnough (Derbys) 15, 9.

Final

LISLE/STEVENSON bt Schofield/Senior 15, -19, 22.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Parker/Stevenson bt Bowen/Senior 13, 16.

Hampson/Lisle bt Eckersley/Schofield 8, 15.

Final

PARKER/STEVENSON bt Hampson/Lisle 14, 15.

Veteran Singles—Quarter-finals

Schofield bt V. Hankey (Lancs) 12, 19.

A. Holland (Lancs) bt L. Browning (Yorks) 29, -13, 19.

A. Hartshorn (Lancs) bt K. Green (Cambs) 8, 7.

D'Arcy bt W. Allanson (Lancs) -14, 16, 7.

Semi-finals

Schofield bt Holland 17, 13.

D'Arcy bt Hartshorn -17, 11, 17.

Final

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 9, 16.

International Club

by Laurie Landry

The International Club has now got exactly 150 members and hopes to remain as active as ever. Our regular Bulletins are of particular interest to some of our older members (some even pre-war internationals) and the Club always manages to play a couple of challenge matches each season and would welcome requests.

The 5th Annual Hard Rubber Bat Open will take place at the Barnet T.T. Centre, on Sunday, April 11, when it is hoped that we have a bumper entry. Forms can be obtained from the Secretary at 29 Ravenshaw Street, London, N.W.6, and the closing date will be March 29. Events will be M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D. and X.D. as well as automatic consolation events for the M.S. and W.S.

The final event of the season will be the match with Cornwall County to celebrate that County's Silver Jubilee and it is hoped that a considerable amount of interest can be created in Cornwall. The match takes place at Helston in the afternoon of May 1.

UMPIRING CORNER

It is always gratifying to a columnist to learn that his article has been read so I am delighted to commend Paddy Jackson, of Shrewsbury, for drawing my attention to what was, in fact, a printer's error in the "setting" of the questions in the February issue. Something of a coincidence when my theme for questions was "Out of order!"

My theme on this occasion could be classified as "interferences with play" and I ask you, as acting umpire, to consider the following situations and give your decision.

- (1) A let must be called if a player collides with his partner during a rally in a game of doubles and consequently misses the ball — RIGHT or WRONG.
- (2) Alan is playing against Bill, throws the ball high up in the air to serve but makes no attempt to strike it because it has struck a wire suspending the lights. Is the decision (a) A let; (b) Point to Alan; (c) Point to Bill.
- (3) Alan trips over the umpire's chair and consequently fails to make a good return, is the decision (a) A let; (b) Point to Alan; (c) Point to Bill.

In tournament play the following situations could arise:—

- (4a) A sudden burst of applause from spectators watching a match at a neighbouring table is loud enough to be disturbing;
- (4b) A ball from a neighbouring table rolls between "Bill's" feet but both players continue to make good returns.

In these two instances, what action, if any, should be taken by the umpire?

Answers appear on Page 28.

Editor's Postbag

NEED FOR EXPERIMENT

In recent months there have been letters concerning ranking and selection injustices among junior players. The January issue included an interesting article on the American system of rating players and the application of the system to seeding of tournaments and to events for different levels of ability.

The Devon Schools' Table Tennis Association is experimenting with the scheme using the results of three recent tournaments. Each player has a rating which his/her own performance has determined.

However careful officials try to be mistakes are, and will continue to be, made. It's simply human error. A problem with juniors is that they are within age groups and a ranking or selection error may be rectified with an apology from the officials' point of view, but it may have been the player's last chance as a junior or within that particular age group. The result is an unhappy parent or coach, a resentful player and friction between player and official. The player is the most important and, in my opinion, the player, like the customer, should always be right.

The player needs a system over which he controls his own destiny. The American system of rating provides such a system.

Regional trials, junior selects, etc., provide a guideline for officials but no more than that, and in any case not every player attends that ought to for one reason or another. I attended a junior open last month where the Boys' Under-15 event had an entry of 51 players and the eight seeds were disposed of before the final, leaving two unseeded players in the final. Five unseeded players took part in six singles finals.

To those players and officials that read the January article and perhaps missed or were confused by the system, please read the article again and perhaps experiment with the system on a local basis.

BRIAN WORTS.

18 Danby Terrace,
Exmouth,
Devon.

DELIBERATE INTENT

I patiently waited for February's issue of "Table Tennis News" to see what comments were to be made of Peter Simpson's January article, but alas no comments. Am I, and every coach, to assume then that Peter, bless him, has solved all our problems? Whilst having great respect for Peter and wholeheartedly agree with his approach to pure coaching, he still only asked another question with regard to losing people to the game. He did not put forward any solutions. This, I think, was done deliberately to encourage others to think.

There are "hot spots" and "cold spots" in this country for the game. Hot spots that spring to mind are Cleveland and Berkshire, and there are others. But behind them are individuals who work very hard because of their own enthusiasm. I believe to get a successful nucleus of players and recruit new, it takes a great deal of hard work by a few over a small area to set the ball rolling, after which recruits find their own way into the game.

I know that Peter was very concerned at the talent being lost because of the lack of help in certain areas, or the uphill struggle for an individual if he or she has to try and go it alone. But is it really the fault of the E.T.T.A. or its policies? I am inclined to say that it is at first the job of local organisations to encourage the influx of coaches first and allow the coach to work over a smaller area rather than have to run hither and thither coaching different youngsters every time.

These remarks have a great bearing on my

view as to why there are hot spots and yet so many backward areas. It is unfair for people to knock the E.T.T.A. coaching policy. Perhaps the system of ranking could be altered and I daresay there could be a bigger effort to obtain money possibly, but as far as deprived areas, I have no sympathy for them.

It's hard work but even if only one person makes the effort, what can be achieved is surprising. Again it boils down to individuals but that is the way things always start. There are even areas well populated and with good facilities, but even they cannot produce much in the way of juniors. As to these situations I can only say "tough luck" but don't blame the E.T.T.A. or the National Coaches who have to work over extremely large areas which is probably the one fault in the coaching set-up.

As for the effort which has to be made, I think I am qualified to say that, as a coach in Plymouth, we formed the Pilgrims Junior Table Tennis Club, obtained premises and recruited seniors to play alongside juniors in the league and travel to 90% of the junior tournaments in the country from Teesside to Exeter.

This, with the aid of seniors and their cars, The club atmosphere has been instrumental in the recruitment of juniors and I am sure that this is the answer to the growth of the sport. But it still boils down to helping yourself to help others.

FRANK HATTON,

Diploma Coach.

16 Manifold Gardens,
Efford,
Plymouth, Devon.

EXPLANATION

I was surprised to read the letter "Enjoyment Marred" from Stan Francis in January's "Table Tennis News"; had he sent me a copy it might have been possible to prevent such an inaccurate picture being painted. Unfortunately Mr. Francis has little recent domestic experience or he would know that the present N.U.I.C. schedule gives excellent Friday evening matches, including six semis and a final, as well as the usual Saturday afternoon matches.

The final of the Women's Doubles was controlled by the Canadian team (and Televised!); two German umpires took a semi-final while the other had umpired the Men's team final. These facts would, of course, have been gladly given to Mr. Francis had he bothered to check why he personally did not see any foreign umpires officiating.

Neither the referee, nor I, consider the allocation of the "special" matches to have been unfair to the respected and very welcome visiting officials; on the contrary, had they been given a larger share I would have been treating our own officials with less than justice.

DOREEN STANNARD,

I/C Umpires N.U.I.C.

11 Brougham Road,
Acton, London,
W3 6JD.

COVERT ENCOURAGEMENT

Whilst I was watching the recent Halex Lancashire 2-Star Open, I noticed that many players, even in the finals, were allowed to get away with, and derive great advantage from, services which were blatantly illegal.

There is a kind of justification for giving our internationals covert encouragement to develop this kind of technique in order to bring this country into line with the policies adopted by some foreign players, but it is quite inexcusable for British umpires to allow these same players to use this kind of tactic against British players in home tournaments.

Despite the reluctance of (supposedly qualified) umpires to enforce the rules, we are still occasionally faced (as in the Lancashire Open finals) with the absurd situation of two (or four) players agreeing on a particular point of fact (such as an edge ball) and yet still being overruled by the umpire. The case of all

players agreeing on an edge ball is so rare in itself that it is a shame that the occasion should be marred in this way.

Would a spokesman for the E.T.T.A. care to make a policy statement on the question of service rule enforcement; and also on whether the notion of infallibility is official E.T.T.A. dogma or merely left to the umpire's own judgement?

BRIAN MITCHELL.

2 Edith Terrace,
London, S.W.10.

ANY OLD IRON

I am writing to ask whether your female members may be able to help me with some rather unusual conservation work.

I am trying to collect up the old songs of girls' schools, women's colleges and other female institutions. As co-education spreads, these are in danger of being forgotten.

In particular I am anxious to get hold of any old sporting songs or school verses that celebrated sport. Might your female members remember any school songs that referred to table tennis.

M/s CELIA HADDON.

c/o "The Sunday Times",
P.O. Box 7,
200 Grey's Inn Road,
London, WC1X 8EZ.

COUNTY TABLE TENNIS FIXTURES

for April, 1976

PREMIER DIVISION

Apr. 3—Middlesex v Cheshire
Surrey v Warwickshire—Larkhall Primary School, Gaskell Street, Clapham, London S.W.4., 7-00 p.m.
Yorkshire v Lancashire—Huddersfield Y.M.C.A., St. Peter's Street, Huddersfield, 7-15 p.m.

Apr. 11—Essex v Cleveland

2nd WEST

Apr. 3—Berkshire v Devon
Gwent v Cornwall—Santons Works Canteen, Newport, 6-15 p.m.
Wiltshire v Somerset

3rd NORTH

Apr. 3—Cleveland III v Cheshire II
Cumbria v Northumberland II—St James', Carlisle, 3-00 p.m.

3rd EAST

Apr. 3—Suffolk v Norfolk II—The Dome, 193 Defoe Street, Ipswich, 6-30 p.m.

JUNIOR PREMIER

Apr. 3—Surrey v Cambridgeshire—Tweeddale Primary School, Paisley Road, Carshalton, 3-00 p.m.
Yorkshire v Kent—St. Mary's Church Hall, Doncaster Road, South Emsall, Pontefract, 2-15 p.m.

Apr. 4—Berkshire v Middlesex

Apr. 11—Essex v Cleveland

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Apr. 3—Essex II v Kent II—Mid-Essex Wanderers T.T.C., Gold-hanger Road, Heybridge, 2-30 p.m.
Hampshire v Surrey II—St. James' Institute, Stowfield Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, 3-00 p.m.
Sussex v Dorset

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Apr. 3—Cleveland II v Cheshire
Derbyshire v Northumberland
Durham v Cumbria
Yorkshire II v Lancashire—Huddersfield Y.M.C.A., St. Peter's Street, Huddersfield, 2-30 p.m.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Apr. 3—Cambridgeshire II v Leicestershire—Meadowgate Lane School, Wisbech, 2-30 p.m.
Glamorgan v Northamptonshire
Warwickshire v Hertfordshire

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Apr. 3—Lincolnshire v Nottinghamshire

VETERAN SOUTH

Apr. 3—Kent v Essex
Huntingdonshire v Hampshire
Oxfordshire v Essex II—St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford.

VETERAN MIDLAND

Apr. 3—Cheshire v Nottinghamshire
Warwickshire v Staffordshire
Worcestershire v Clywd

SENIOR PROMOTION CHALLENGE

Apr. 24—Shenley Hospital, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, 2-30 p.m., 6-0 p.m.
25—Shenley Hospital, 9-45 a.m., 1-15 p.m., 4-30 p.m.

DAGENHAM 3-STAR

Cleveland's Denis Neale won his first English major open men's singles title at Dagenham over the weekend of February 21-22, which also provided Jill Hammersley with her fourth 3-Star Open women's singles title. A full report, with detailed results, will appear in the April issue.

Exeter Junior Open

By B. J. G. SNOOK

(Hon. Press Officer, Exeter and District T.T.L.)

Simon Claxton was the most successful player and by far and away the best. He took three titles and his strength was a big factor in winning the mixed and boys' doubles.

First shock of the day was in the girls' U-17 singles where the top seed, Elaine Lamb, went out in her first match to Sarah Gilson. Sarah took full advantage of Elaine's slow start. She went on to the semis but her end came against Beverley Keeble. Susan Tilley, the Devon No. 2 girl, met Mandy Reeves in the other semi and after a close first game failed to repeat it in the second.

The final was a close affair with Mandy getting home in straight games in an enthralling match.

The top boys' event proved an easy win for Claxton over John Robinson. These two opposed each other in the doubles final with Claxton teaming up with Ian James and Robinson with John Creasey. This was another easy win with Claxton's loop drive proving too much.

The girls' U-15 singles final was a real nailbiter between Sarah Gilson and Sharon James, from Cornwall. Sharon took the first game 21-19 and lost the next to 18. The decider was even up until 13-12 to Sharon when Sarah went into an 18-12 lead. Sharon wilted at this dramatic change and had all but given in. She gritted her teeth and came right back and from 17-20 squared it at 20-all. Sarah finally won a great match at 23-21. Sharon had her reward in the girls' doubles.

Partnering Elaine Lamb, they had a straight games win over the second seeds, Susan Tilley and Mary Wakely. In the first round Susan and Mary had to survive a difficult second game after losing the first and then were 9-17 down in the decider before winning it at 22-20. Their opponents here were Wendy Simmons and Gillian Heath, the latter causing a lot of trouble with her forehand. Gillian was to give more trouble later in the mixed when she partnered Graham Worts to reach the semis.

Paul Whiting, from Plymouth, became the first Devon boy to win the U-13 singles. I was glad inasmuch as it was my cup.

His opponent was Jonathan Souter and I was certainly impressed with his play throughout the day. Paul has been improving lately and probably that extra reach and height in addition to his skill enabled him to win.

Duncan Cleveland and Jonathan Chandler contested the U-15 final. Cleveland had beaten Whiting and Chandler had a tough time against Plymouth player Jerry Hodges, who used an anti-loop bat and chopped very well to cause a lot of trouble. Cleveland proved the superior in the final, winning in straight games.

The girls' U-13 final brought together Mandy Reeves and Deborah Smith. Mandy beat Cara Rowe in the semis and Deborah was successful against Carol Butler, from Plymouth. I would mention that Carol is having her first season in tournament play and she reached another semi and a quarter-final during the day. This is a girl I feel we shall hear a lot more about.

Mandy and Deborah both played it cautiously but Mandy won it in straight games.

The mixed final brought a success for Exeter—the first for many a year—when Mary Wakely and Claxton contested a three-game final against Ian James and Elaine Lamb. It was very much Simon's forehand loop drive which won some vital points. All seemed lost in the third but Mary lifted her game and it was enough to win a tense final.

Boys' U-17 Singles: S. Claxton bt J. Robinson 16, 15. U-15 Singles: D. Cleveland bt J. Chandler 13, 17; U-13 Singles: P. Whiting bt J. Souter

13, 12; Boys' Doubles: Claxton/I. James bt Robinson/J. Creasey 14, 14; Mixed Doubles: Claxton/M. Wakely bt James/E. Lamb 19, -19, 20. Girls' Singles U-17: M. Reeves bt B. Keeble 19, 21; U-15 Singles: S. Gilson bt S. James -18, 19, 21; U-13 Singles: M. Reeves bt D. Smith 15, 16; Girls' Doubles: E. Lamb/S. James bt S. Tilley/M. Wakely 19, 19.

The venue for this event was a departure from previous years and the comments from players was very favourable. It is hoped that this will be the venue for future championships.

In the Coaching Field

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

If, when on my travels, I am approached on the subject of coaching and coaching courses, it is usually to complain about the lack of coaching activities in some particular area.

It is therefore always a pleasant surprise when I am informed of coaching sessions which are not only successful at present, but are meeting an expanding need.

Just over three years ago, Mrs. A. Fairweather started a coaching centre in Sunderland, with the blessing of the local league. With the co-operation of the St. Gabriel's Church Council, one table, and a lot of work, the demand for the centre's services expanded rapidly and seven more tables had to be found, plus a further night's use of the Church Hall, readily granted by the Church Council.

The supply of tables has always been a problem and, with the number needed to run a coaching centre, prove to be a very costly item. In Sunderland, they have gone some way to alleviating this problem by making their own. Mr. Edgar Reay and a few of his colleagues have manufactured five such tables which appear to meet the approval of the players using them.

The St. Gabriel's centre has now three teams in the Sunderland and District League, all players being in the Under-15 age bracket. This, of course, has helped another problem of club places for players having reached league standard.

It was also realised that as players improved in standard, the coaching programme had to improve with them, and a further centre was set up at Monkwearmouth Comprehensive School. The top ten players, men and women, plus 12 of the best juniors and a further eight from the U-14 age group, meet one night a week for set hours of training. The times overlap to allow the juniors to have the benefit of mixing with the seniors for more intensive training.

As is usual with such courses, they are dependent on the co-operation of administrators, coaches and senior players. In this respect Sunderland appear to be lucky, but would like the help of more senior players.

I would like to thank Edgar Reay for sending me the foregoing information and invite any other coaching centre to do likewise. As more and more coaching centres are established the number of qualified coaches who are active is insufficient to cover the increasing demand.

Coaches of all grades can upgrade their qualifications, or just bring their knowledge up to date, at one of the courses taking place at various centres about the country. For Club coaches who have held their award for at least six months, a course is being held at Lilleshall from May 10-14, 1976, to assist in obtaining 1-Star Diploma qualification.

Courses for student coaches are held periodically in all parts of the country, and a letter to your Area National Coach—Peter Simpson (North), Peter Hirst (South-East) and Bryan Merrett (Midlands and South-West)—

will bring you the relevant details. Applicants wishing to register as a student coach should contact Mr. Jack Carrington at 71 Maplin Way, Thorpe Bay, Essex, or obtain a form from your National Coach which is self explanatory.

Nominations having been received for the U-13 championships, the preliminary rounds will be played in the 10 various panels in late March or early April. The winners, both boys and girls, go forward to join the nationally-nominated players in the finals on May 22, 1976.

Even though these players may be under 13, the standard of their play is very high, with two of the nominations, Graham Sandley and Colin Wilson, at present ranked Nos. 1 and 2 in the U-14 (Cadet) list and both are included in the national U-17 "A" Group.

Maybe the quality of table tennis that the modern youngster is able to witness, such as we saw at the Stiga Welsh Open, in Cardiff, makes them aim much higher than would otherwise be the case.

Having witnessed the interest created among the younger players for a higher standard, the stimulant of world class players in action at Cardiff spoke for itself.

The demand for coaches after the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham could be quite staggering. I would therefore draw the attention of existing coaches for the necessity to be upgraded and for student coaches to obtain qualifications. Courses are available but are not being fully utilised.

Bucks Closed Championships

February 21-22 at Slough

- M.S.: C. Leslie (Aylesbury) bt A. Watson (High Wycombe) 13, -15, 17.
W.S.: A. Catchpole (High Wycombe) bt S. Lines (Milton Keynes) -14, 18, 9.
M.D.: F. Earis (Slough)/Watson bt J. Cooper/J. Leith (High Wycombe) -19, 12, 16.
W.D.: C. Bahryj (Slough)/Lines bt I. Cooper (Aylesbury)/E. Williamson (Slough) 5, 11.
X.D.: S. Brindle (Slough)/Bahryj bt G. Trimming/L. Smith (Slough) 9, 13.
B.S.: Leslie bt S. Brown (Slough) 14, 11.
G.S.: Lines bt Bahryj 13, 10.
J.D.: S. Harmer (Aylesbury)/Leslie bt S. Haines/S. Slater (Milton Keynes) 14, 12.
V.S.: P. Leckie (Slough) bt M. Wright (Slough) 14, 13.
R.S.: I. Haines (Milton Keynes) bt A. Maude (Slough) -19, 13, 23.

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10th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE DRAW

By THE EDITOR

Having only recently returned to competitive play, Russia's Zoya Rudnova is the one player that England's top-seeded Jill Hammersley would not have chosen to meet other than in the final of the women's singles in the 10th European Championships which begin in Prague on March 27.

Twice, in seasons 1969-70, in Moscow, and in 1971-72, in Rotterdam, Russia's explosive penhold attacker has won the European W.S. crown and with her compatriot, Stanislav Gomozkov, has three times successfully defended the mixed doubles title first won in season 1967-68 in Lyons.

Such is the record of a player Mrs. Hammersley is seeded to meet in the quarter-finals, Ann-Christin Hellman, of Sweden, and Tatjana Ferdman, of the Soviet Union, being the other seeds in the top half of the draw which initially pairs the English champion against Alica Grofova, of Czechoslovakia.

Carole Knight, the England No. 2, has been badly drawn in the fourth quarter, being called upon to meet Iлона Uhlíkova, of Czechoslovakia who, as Miss Vostova, won the title at Lyons at the age of 14. England's other representative in this event, Linda Hward, has an opening engagement with Anna Przygoda, of Poland, with the expectation of a third round meeting with Elmira Antonian, of Russia, who is seeded No. 4. The title is not being defended by Judit Magos-Havas, of Hungary, who has recently, like Beatrix Kishazi, become a mother.

England have five players in the men's singles with Denis Neale, based on his E.T.U. classification, seeded in front of Desmond Douglas and Nicky Jarvis, who are ranked above him at home.

In receipt of a first round bye, Neale meets either Ferenc Timar (Hungary) or Heinz Schlüter (Austria) in the next, his main stumbling block being Dragutin Surbek (Yugoslavia). Douglas will be called upon to beat the host country's Jaromir Zlamal with Kjell Johansson lying in wait.

Jarvis has drawn Walter Dugardin (Belgium) in Round 1 with No. 3 seed, Anton Stipančić (Yugoslavia) next in line. Also in the first round Andy Barden meets Daniel Nassaux (Belgium) with the other fledgling, Paul Day, drawn to play Orlando Sana (Spain). Seeds in draw order are:—

Men

- I. Jonyer (Hu) (1) v J. Leiss (FD) (12)
- S. Strokotov (SU) (13) v J. Kunz (Cs) (8)
- D. Surbek (Yu) (5) v D. Neale (En) (14)
- S. Gomozkov (SU) (11) v S. Bengtsson (Sv) (4)
- A. Stipančić (Yu) (3) v S. Sarkhojan (SU) (10)
- J. Börzsei (Hu) (15) v J. Secretin (Fr) (7)
- K. Johansson (Sv) (6) v P. Stellwag (FD) (16)
- G. Gergely (Hu) (9) v *M. Orłowski (Cs) (2)

* Holder.

Women

- J. Hammersley (En) (1) v Z. Rudnova (SU) (8)
- E. Antonian (SU) (4) v W. Hendriksen (FD) (5)
- T. Ferdman (SU) (6) v A.-C. Hellman (Sv) (3)
- I. Uhlíkova (Cs) (7) v M. Alexandru (Ru) (2)

The first four days of the championships will be devoted to the team events with England's men attempting to improve on their last finishing position of 6th in Novi Sad, and the women, more than hopeful, of bettering their 4th position of two years ago.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Liang Ko-liang, of China, beaten finalist in the men's singles event of the Stiga Welsh Open but a champion in both the men's and mixed doubles with his compatriots Li Chen-chih and Yu Chin-chia.

Groupings (with previous position in brackets):—

Men

Group 1A

- Sweden (1)
- Czechoslovakia (4)
- Russia (5)
- Fed. Germany (8)
- Rumania (9)
- Bulgaria (14)

Group 2A

- Denmark (11)
- Luxembourg (16)
- Greece (17)
- Finland (20)
- Scotland (21)
- Wales (24)
- Turkey (25)

Women

Group 1A

- Russia (1)
- England (4)
- Rumania (5)
- Sweden (8)
- Poland (9)
- Netherlands (14)

Group 2A

- France (11)
- Austria (16)
- Belgium (17)
- Scotland (20)
- Turkey (21)
- Finland (—)
- Ireland (—)

Group 1B

- Hungary (2)
- Yugoslavia (3)
- England (6)
- France (7)
- Austria (10)
- Poland (13)

Group 2B

- Netherlands (12)
- Italy (15)
- Belgium (18)
- Switzerland (19)
- Norway (22)
- Spain (23)
- Ireland (—)

Group 1B

- Hungary (2)
- Czechoslovakia (3)
- Fed. Germany (6)
- Yugoslavia (7)
- Bulgaria (10)
- Luxembourg (13)

Group 2B

- Greece (12)
- Switzerland (15)
- Denmark (18)
- Spain (19)
- Italy (22)
- Norway (—)

Then from D's order brown rolls and scones. Order from another baker large cut brown loaves and large cut white. Also order eight crates of assorted "fizzy" to be delivered to home.

So far, so good. Then order 3 dozen eggs, later to be hard-boiled, 8 lbs. butter, 2 lbs. cheese, plus sugar, ham, tea bags, coffee, squash and various chocolate biscuits and sweets. This, of course, has to be transported home so that our house looks as if we are about to set up shop and people begin to mutter about the "blessed" table tennis. We have crates in the garage, biscuits in the bedroom and, of course, the fridge is full.

On the day we are up at seven. We load the car and a member with a van kindly collects the surplus. Off to the University, arriving at 9 a.m. Grab various competitors to help unload. Upstairs the kitchen is grubby—apparently there was a Rugby "do" the night before. Two helpers and self sweep floor and clean all surfaces. Then we start setting out the food. Must remember not to put hatch up until we are ready. We did last year and had a long queue before you could say "Jack Robinson".

Right, two ladies on buttering and making sandwiches and one on the liquid refreshments. Lift up the hatch. We're off. Trade picks up and then slows after eleven until lunchtime, after which it dies a little until about 3 p.m. From then on we do a steady trade. Glad I put some sandals in the boxes which contained my accessories such as tea pots, tea towels, knives, forks, basins, meat dishes, bottle openers, string, saucepans, aspirins, etc.

At 8-30 p.m. we ask the announcer to say that the Canteen will close in 15 minutes and so the last rush begins. At 8-45, exhaustedly, we close the hatch, wash up, clear up and sweep up. It is amazing how much litter is left despite ample litter boxes! Rather wilted we sit down for practically the first time that day and wait for our husbands to finish so that we can go home (after loading up the cars again, of course). Why do we do it? We must be suckers for punishment, but I don't doubt that next year will again see us behind the counter—"Coffee or tea?".

Behind the Scenes

By Joan M. Jordan

In the middle of February my husband says: "The tournament is in three weeks' time. For your information there are 175 individual players this year."

I get out the records which I kept from last year. Must order 45 pints of milk to be delivered to venue and remember to ask milkman to collect empties—he forgot last year. Mr. W, the baker, makes nice Swiss buns and white rolls, so order dozens of each from him.

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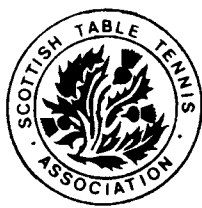
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SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

Main news this month concerns Scotland's success in the European League—West Zone group, played at Cardiff's National Sports Centre for Wales, immediately prior to the Welsh Open. In the same event last year, without Richard Yule—unavoidably absent due to business commitments—we finished third behind Norway and Wales; this year the fates struck again in the week of the event, with John McNee—our No. 2—damaging his racket hand in a practice session. However, Elaine Smith and Richard Yule went through undefeated and ably supported by Russell Brown and Alan Matthew, Scotland won all their matches, beating Wales and Norway this time—both 5-2, to win the group and so earn the right to challenge for a place in Division II next season.

STIGA WELSH OPEN—CARDIFF—6-8 FEB.

Scotland had a measure of success with our second teams winning their first round matches before losing 0-3 to China II in both team events. Tom Devers and Russell Brown beat Wales III 3-1, whilst Grace McKay won all her sets when, with Carole Dalrymple, we beat Wales I 3-1. Our senior teams both drew England II. Yule and Matthew lost 0-3 to Nicky Jarvis and Andy Barden whilst Elaine Smith and Patrice Fleming lost 1-3 to Linda Howard and Melody Ludi—they won the doubles "19 in the third" and Elaine took Linda to three ends.

In the individual events Yule was not disgraced when losing 0-3 to Stellan Bengtsson in Round 2, nor was Elaine Smith when beaten at the same stage by China's losing finalist, Sun Min, 17, 16 and 19—in all three games Elaine recovered from a 5 or 6 points deficit to equalise in the teens, forcing her opponent to pull out all the stops in order to win. Our other women came into their own in the Consolation event with Carole Dalrymple beating Margaret Phillips (Wales) for a place in the semi-finals where she lost to Betty Gray (still a most difficult player to beat) and Patrice Fleming who lost to Karen Senior—the eventual winner also in the semi-final.

Yule and McNee represented Scotland in the Federal German Open but at the time of writing results are not to hand.

On the home front Yule ended Terry Forker's run of tournament success in the final of the West of Scotland Open, and English players—mainly from Mrs. Reay's Tyne & Wear contingent—scooped most of the titles in the Edinburgh Youth and Junior Open.

At the end of the month Scotland will be off to Prague for the 10th European Championships—our team being Elaine Smith, Patrice Fleming, Richard Yule, John McNee and Terry Forker, with Brian Kean as N.P.C. and Denis George as Delegate.

RESULTS

WEST OF SCOTLAND OPEN—GLASGOW—25th JANUARY

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

R. Yule bt J. McNee 17, 13.
T. Forker bt R. Brown 18, -19, 16.

Final

R. YULE bt T. Forker 14, 10.

Women's Singles—Final

E. SMITH bt P. Fleming 14, 12.

Junior Singles—Final

A. MAJID bt T. Devers -18, 11, 15.

Men's Doubles—Final

J. WILSON/T. DEVERS bt R. Yule/J. McNee -15, 15, 17.

Mixed Doubles—Final
R. YULE/E. SMITH bt E. Bruce/E. Craig 13, 17.

EDINBURGH YOUTH & JUNIOR OPEN—EDINBURGH—1st FEBRUARY

Under-21 Men's Singles—Semi-finals

Tony Gelder bt John Moir -16, 17, 15.
Peter McQueen bt Dave Svenson 7, 6.

Final

MCQUEEN bt Gelder 13, -22, 18.

Under-17 Boys' Singles—Final

GELDER bt A. Majid -22, 11, 22.

Under-21 Women's Singles—Final

FIONA BROWN bt Carole Walker 12, 9.

Under-17 Girls' Singles—Final

BROWN bt Julie Inch -22, 8, 15.

Under-15 Singles—Final

COLIN HARKINS bt David McIlroy 17, 12.

Under-21 Men's Doubles—Final

MCQUEEN/SVENSON bt E. Black/Moir 21, 12.

Under-21 Women's Doubles—Final

INCH/S. JENKINS bt M. Cuthbertson/ E. Hardy 17, 16.

Under-21 Mixed Doubles—Final

MCQUEEN/WALKER bt A. McCulloch/Cuthbertson 14, -17, 14.

ALAN RANSOME SPOTLIGHTS THE PLAYER DRAIN

With Trevor and Peter Taylor having already left England for lucrative club contracts in Holland, Denis Neale having applied for a highly paid coaching job in Australia commencing this summer, and Desmond Douglas being quoted in the Birmingham press as saying he may follow the Taylor brothers to Holland at the end of this season, English table tennis is looking in a sorry state.

It is not through desire that the top players wish to leave England, but simply that they cannot make a reasonable living from playing table tennis in this country, whereas they can abroad.

All supporters of the English team would be sorry to see our top players, produced at considerable expense by ourselves, snapped up abroad as soon as they look like reaching a high standard, so I believe it is high time we did something positive about it.

In my opinion the positive move is to make the playing of table tennis in this country for the top players financially worthwhile and this will not only keep our own players, who are at present at the top, at home, but will encourage the ones we have lost in the past to return.

It is fair to say that doing this is easier said than done, but at least efforts should be made in this direction and some new thinking is required. Some ideas which I have along these lines I now outline; no doubt other people who think along similar lines could think of other schemes.

(a) The National Squad

Two seasons ago a daily rate was introduced by the E.T.T.A. of £2 a day so that the players in the squad who attended a training camp for a 5-day period would be paid £10 on completion. This has now been raised to £3, but bearing in mind that our squad members in the main are full-time professionals, a daily figure of £10 would be more realistic.

In addition, I believe that incentives should be introduced, as they are in other sports when playing important games for England (World Championships, European League, etc.), these to be based on a set payment for games won.

We all wish to see the game played on a more professional level, so I think it is feasible to follow the patterns set by other successful professional team sports.

(b) Tournaments

I believe that a minimum level of prize money should be set for 3-Star tournaments as these events are subject to minimum standards in playing conditions and organisation. I think a reasonable level to introduce would be a minimum of £100 for the Men's

Singles which would require a total prize fund of £400. In addition to this players who are in the national squad should be assisted with free entry and meals and accommodation, where possible.

I feel at this time it is not realistic to introduce minimum prize levels for 2-Star tournaments but this is a movement which could be borne in mind for the future.

Recently the National Council approved an application for an Invitation Tournament with a first prize of £1,000. Now that this innovation has been officially accepted, special efforts should be made to introduce events with this level of sponsorship into our tournament circuit.

(c) Domestic Team Competitions

In the view of the higher ranked players the least interesting form of competition in England is the team competition (County matches, National Team competitions, National Club). The reason for this is that they are financially non-rewarding, at present it being against the rules of the E.T.T.A. for players to be paid for competing in these events. On the Continent just the opposite applies with large financial contracts forthcoming for players to represent various clubs and so on. It is this factor that lured the Taylor brothers to Holland.

At their last meeting the National Council voted in favour of recommending to the E.T.T.A. A.G.M. a rule change which would allow players to be paid for playing in team matches. This should be supported by the membership and, in addition, special efforts should be made by the appropriate department of the E.T.T.A. to attract sponsorship to the national Team and Club competitions at a higher level than in the past and a new large sponsor should be introduced for the County Championships.

To my mind the present national squad is the most valuable single asset in English table tennis today. Table tennis is a professional sport and something needs to be done now so that the professional players can make a worthwhile living from the game. It is important that we act now—before it is too late!

E.T.T.A. UNDER-13 COMPETITION

by Keith Ponting

Entries have now closed for the Under-13 Championships and I regret to say the numbers are down from last season. In the boys' event 188 have been entered, which is 56 fewer. Happily the girls' entry is only slightly down, being 88 as compared to 94 last season.

The National Team Competitions' Committee have been greatly helped by the 10 Coaching panels who will organise the Regional Finals. These will take place gradually between now and early April and I list the figures below:—

	Boys	Girls
Panel 1	27	9
Panel 2	29	20
Panel 3	14	8
Panel 4	13	10
Panel 5	8	3
Panel 6	18	7
Panel 7	20	11
Panel 8	18	5
Panel 9	22	10
Panel 10	13	5

The Finals will again be held at the Meadow Sports Centre, Reading, on Saturday, 22nd May, 1976.

APRIL ISSUE

In order to include a full report of the 10th European Championships, being played in Prague from March 27 to April 4, the next issue of this magazine will not be published until mid-month, as will apply with the May issue in order to provide as full a coverage as possible to the end-of-season events.



(38 MEMBER UNIVERSITIES)

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES' TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS — ST. ANDREW'S UNIVERSITY — 17th-18th JANUARY

By DEREK OLDMAN

The University of St. Andrews was the delightful setting for the 1975-76 British Universities' Championships and what an excellent venue it turned out to be. It was suspected that such a remote choice would restrict the entry but all the best players entered and the numbers compared very favourably with past years. A total entry of 147 confirms that University competitions are becoming more popular every year.

Top seed in the Men's Singles was Clement Lo, of Bradford, the reigning champion and also holder of the English U.A.U. title. Seeded to reach the semi's with Lo were John Fuller, of Warwick, David Boulter, from Hull, and Paul Bishop representing Oxford. All four eventually made it, although not without a few heart flutters on the way. Bishop had a particularly difficult quarter and his victory over Peter Edon was one of the best matches of the weekend, the eventual margin being 24-22 in the third. Lo met Boulter in the first semi-final and an excellent encounter it turned out to be. Both players produced many fine shots and in the end the winning margin for Lo was 22-20, 23-21. Bishop then came up against Fuller and this match was probably even better than the first semi-final. In the deciding third game they matched each other point for point until Bishop's forehand loop, which served him well throughout the tournament, got him home with just three points to spare. The final between Lo and Bishop also went to three games, the first going to Lo 24-22. Bishop then produced his best play of the weekend and fought back to level the match, winning 21-16. The decider was rather an anticlimax, however, with Lo rushing into an early lead and turning round at 10-1. Bishop could not get going at all and the eventual outcome was victory to Lo by 21-8, the champion retaining his title which he had first won 12 months earlier in Leeds.

The Men's Doubles title also went to the current holders, Fuller and Mohamed Shaban, of Warwick. In the semis they swept aside Ed Moses and Dave Madden, from Sheffield, in the same manner in which all their previous opponents had been dealt with. The last-minute pairing of Edon and T. Chan, from Birmingham, however, was upsetting all the seedings. This pair eventually reached the final after overcoming the Wallace brothers, from St. Andrew's, who were the second seeds, and removing the Bradford pair, Lo and Brian Ingham, in the semi, after a terrific struggle 21-19 in the third, all this after being down 9-17. Yet again the final needed a decider and with many in the large crowd rooting for the underdogs, they responded. The game swayed from side to side until a very fine edge from a high return by Fuller, "killed" the Birmingham pair.

No surprises were expected or received in the Women's Singles, where Elaine Smith duly collected her second B.U.S.F. Singles title. It was obvious to all that this fine player is in a class of her own in University circles. In the semi Elaine beat a newcomer, S. Poon-King, from London, an unseeded player who beat third seed Christine Iacopi in the

quarter-final. Janet Carr, from Manchester, the Staffs County player, had no difficulty reaching the final from the other half, her semi-final opponent being Catherine Invararity, of Aberdeen. Poor Janet got no respite in the final and was never able to come to terms with Elaine's powerful game. To her credit, she never gave up and her turn will certainly come, probably as soon as next year.

Elaine Smith, partnered by Linda Brownlie, won a second title when the Edinburgh pair took the Women's Doubles, beating the familiar fighters Christine Iacopi and "Lolly" Stalbow, from Nottingham, in a final which for a brief moment looked as if the title could come back over the border. Iacopi and Stalbow were the holders and by winning the first game 22-20 showed that it was not going to be easy to wrestle the title from them. However, the Scots got themselves organised and swept to a convincing win in the 2nd and 3rd games. The beaten semi-finalists in this event were Elizabeth Meenan and Anne Finlay, from Queen's, Belfast, and Margaret Dunbar with Christine Invararity, from Aberdeen.

It was certainly proving difficult to keep Elaine Smith out of the limelight and she duly collected her third title in the Mixed, partnered by her Edinburgh colleague, Neville Bhasin. In the semi's they beat the London pair, I. Chan and Miss S. Poon-King, and joining them in the final were the couple from Manchester, C. Hai-ng and Janet Carr, whose semi-final provided them with a comfortable win over Boulter and Paula Clemett, from Hull. Yet another final needed a decider and after the English University pair took the first game 21-19, the Scots managed to get their noses in front in the early stages of the other two games and were never overhauled.

Sadly, the tournament was now over. Arguably it had been the best competition to date, both from the standard of play and enjoyment. St Andrew's University certainly laid out the red carpet and the hospitality was such that one wondered if the Scots were out to beat their opponents before even reaching the table. Many people will remember St. Andrew's as the time when table tennis overshadowed even the golf and when the more affluent participants slept in beds where the like of Jack Niclaus, Gary Player and even Ben Hogan had laid their heads before.

RESULTS

Men's Singles

C. Lo (Bradford) bt P. Bishop (Oxford) 22, -16, 8.

Women's Singles

E. Smith (Edinburgh) bt J. Carr (Manchester) 9, 8.

Men's Doubles

J. Fuller/M. Shaban (Warwick) bt. P. Edon/T. Chan (Birmingham) 8, -16, 19.

Women's Doubles

E. Smith/L. Brownlie (Edinburgh) bt C. Iacopi/L. Stalbow (Nottingham) -20, 12, 8.

Mixed Doubles

N. Bhasin/E. Smith (Edinburgh) bt C. Hai-ng/J. Carr (Manchester) -19, 16, 17.

EASTER DATE IN NORTH EAST

The Middlesbrough Closed Championships, which have been in operation in one form or another since 1933, are to take on a new look this year.

The Championships, following an agreement between the Middlesbrough and District League and the Middlesbrough Council Recreation and Amenities Department, are to be played with 12 tables in Middlesbrough Town Hall on one day, April 19th, Easter Monday.

The events themselves will take on a new look with an open section into which any members of the Cleveland County Association may participate. This is likely to attract Ormesby's international stars Denis Neale, Nicky Jarvis, Jimmy Walker and Carole Knight.

The open section will not affect the normal closed events. The five divisional singles will be played as before, being restricted to players from those divisions or lower.

The facilities for the Championship at the Town Hall will be much improved on those used in recent years.

Special lighting is being installed over each of the playing courts and refreshments will be available throughout the Championships. Play will commence at 10 a.m. with Junior and Cadet events, whilst the finals will be played from 6-30 p.m. Entry forms are now available from the organiser, Mr. V. Doran, 5 Park Avenue, Lowfields Estate, South Bank, Telephone Eston Grange 3825 or from Middlesbrough Recreation and Amenities Department, Zetland House, Zetland Road, Middlesbrough, Telephone 45432, extension 3826.



A towel for the captain from a sympathetic Jimmy Walker and Donald Parker. The occasion? The Vincent Purkart Jubilee in Paris last December. Bryan Merrett was in need of the towel for, after winning the first game, he lost the next two and the set to Federal Germany's Eberhard Schöler.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

UPHILL TASK REMAINS

Staffordshire teams fared disastrously against Derbyshire in the County Championships. The "A" side, playing their match in the north of the County for the first time in several years, disappointed the crowd at Burslem by losing 2-8, only Tony Isaac having a measure of success in winning a singles and the men's doubles, partnered by Steve Rowe. Maurice Billington entertained the audience with some magnificent retrieving, the highlight of the evening being his clash with Rowe, who eventually succumbed to Billington's fine defence. Derbyshire's women proved far too strong for the younger Staffs. girls, and the team now face an uphill task to remain in Division 2.

The "B" side, playing away, suffered a worse fate, going down 1-9, their only success coming in the men's doubles. The Veterans, in a home match against Worcester, completed a trio of disasters by losing 1-8. I can only hope that next month I will be able to report an upturn in the fortunes of the senior County teams.

Get well wishes go to Arthur Wall, West Bromwich Secretary for 43 years. Chairman Alan Deeley tells me that Arthur has been unwell for a month or two now, but they are hoping it will not be long before he is back in harness. A life member of the E.T.T.A., Arthur gave up playing table tennis 18 months ago, not because of age or health, but because his team-mates decided to retire, leaving Arthur, the youngster of the side at 66, without a team. He started the Oak T.T.C. 20 years ago with playing quarters in a hut in his garden, and the club grew to running four teams at one time. His daughter, Barbara, played for the County and was County Champion before she moved to Gloucestershire. The Oak Club now no longer exists, but Arthur's interest in table tennis is as keen as ever and we wish him a speedy return to active duty.

In the West Brom League, the Y.M.C.A. "A" team of Peter Easton, Ken Day, Dick Coley and John Millward are clear leaders in Div. 1. Div. 2 is headed by Phipps Plastics and the school team, Hilltop "A", led by one of the masters, is at the top of Div. 3. West Bromwich women gained a surprise 5-4 win over Birmingham in the 2nd round of the Rose Bowl competition, their team of Dot Deeley, Ann Baker and young Diane Yarnall, still a schoolgirl, playing well to overcome a side which included England No. 5-ranked junior, Beverley Green, and Diane St. Ledger, winner of three open tournaments this year. Wins were notched up by Dot Deeley (3) and Ann Baker (2).

In the Wolverhampton League, Isaac leads the averages and dominates the 1st Division. Other names which are creating a stir in the top division are Sid Hodgetts, with his anti-loop bat, Roger Dudley (from Dudley!) and Ken Day, who has made a successful return to Wolves table tennis. In Div. 2, Bilston are heading for promotion with Glyn Glover and Paul Draisey providing the main strength. Keith Collett and John Vecchio are other names to be reckoned with in that Division. John Dainty, Wolverhampton Press Officer, tells me that down in Division 7 seventy-year-old young Harry Rhodes is still in winning form. Harry was Veteran Singles Champion way back in 1945, some years before the date of birth of Andrew Bellingham, who, at the other extreme, is one of the most promising youngsters in the lower divisions.

The growth and success of the Cannock League since its formation in 1969 is largely due to the efforts of their secretary, Brian

Faulkner and a small group of enthusiasts. They now have two divisions and they support three representative teams in the County League, the "A" side having reached the second division. They are proud of their youth policy which has produced County junior players of the calibre of Neil Rafferty and Robert Legge, and Graham Davies and Andrew Crutchley are two 12-year-olds who undoubtedly will follow them into the County rankings. They are hoping to extend their interest in the County League by entering a team of Cannock juniors.

The recent league tournament at Cannock was well attended and the main event, the men's singles, was won by Brian Read, who beat Roger Hancox in the final. Graham Davies won the Youth Cup and the Consolation Singles was won by Andrew Crutchley, who had a splendid win over the experienced Nigel Adamczyk. Financially the league is struggling, club playing quarters are not all that they should be, but there is no doubt that Cannock players are enjoying their table tennis.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by Leslie Constable

MERITORIOUS VICTORIES

In the County Championships Cambs. are doing very well in Division 2 (East) and after meritorious victories over Norfolk and Herts., have made their position almost safe at the top. In the match against Norfolk they were without the services of Paul Day but managed to gain a 6-4 victory. This was a good team effort with every player registering at least one win, but it was Mick Harper, taking over the No. 1 spot from Day, who paved the way to victory.

With the score at 3-3 Harper, who had previously beaten Chris Bensley, beat Mick Musson in straight games and then combined with Valerie Scripps to take the mixed and give Cambs. a 5-3 lead. Then Keith Richardson clinched matters when he defeated Duggie Bennett 24-22 in the third. Drama preceded the match when it was learnt that Day had gone sick on the morning and frantic phone calls to Wisbech succeeded in locating Geoff Davies only five minutes before he was due to leave for Daventry for a South East Midlands League match. Davies did not let Cambs. down and beat Murphy in a vital singles match which was vital as Richardson lost his first singles of the season when he was beaten by Musson. For Norfolk, Betty Cassell (the evergreen) beat Sally Hirst comfortably.

Following this victory there was an even more convincing win 8-2 against their nearest rivals, Hertfordshire. In this match Cambs. were strengthened by the inclusion of Day, who was now fully fit, and he certainly made his presence felt by winning both his singles in convincing style and combined with Richardson to take the doubles. Cambs. went into a 6-0 lead and this was due to some fine and consistent play by all three men (Day, Richardson and Harper) who accounted for Giles, Proffitt and Jermyrn respectively in excellent style. Sally Hirst was once again beaten in the singles when, after taking the first game comfortably against Mrs. Baines, she fell away to the ever-nagging defence and half-volley of the Herts girl who, in the third, gained in confidence and hit several winners.

Cambs. second team gained their first point of the season when they drew 5-5 with Suffolk at Wisbech. A good all-round team effort earned Cambs a 4-2 lead and at this stage a shock win appeared likely. But Suffolk hit back and took the next three sets before Brian Jones beat David Henderson to share the points. The highlight was a magnificent men's doubles victory by Geoff Davies and Brian Richardson over John Kitchener and Kevin Savage.

Cambs Junior first fought hard at Middlesbrough but lost 4-6 to Cleveland in the Junior Premier Division. Once Geoff Davies had been beaten by Ian Plummer in the second set, Cambs. faded considerably, but they stuck to their task and with Keith Richardson and

Davies picking up four sets between them, it was the last set of the match before they conceded defeat. Richardson and Davies beat Laird and Murphy in the boys' doubles.

In the newly-formed U-14 competition Cambs. beat Norfolk 8-2 but lost 4-6 to Suffolk. Haverhill's Rachel Norris was unbeaten in both matches and she received good support from clubmate Andy Withers.

Cambridge female teams are showing their male counterparts the way in the National Competitions. Both teams have reached the third round of their respective competitions while the men's and boys' teams were knocked out in the first round. The girls beat Norwich 6-3 in Round 2 of the Bromfield Trophy, at Cambridge Y.M.C.A. This was a good team effort with Ruth Newman and the Ellis twins, Carol and Susan, each winning two sets, but all three girls falling to top Norfolk girl, Wendy Hogg.

The Women's team of Sally Hirst, Janet Rodgers and Valerie Scripps, earned their place in the third round of the Rose Bowl with an 8-1 win over Bury St. Edmunds and have drawn against Cheshunt at home in the next round, a team they stopped last season.

In the South East Midlands League, North Herts. defeated Cambridge women 8-2, which virtually ended any hopes of their winning the title this season. Cambridge were weakened by the absence of Janet Rodgers and their only successful player was Sally Hirst. Cambridge men went down at home 3-7 to Daventry and are almost certainly booked for another season in Division II. Cambridge Juniors had another heavy defeat, being beaten at home by Hunts. Central II in Div. 2 and are now in bottom but one place—a most unenviable position!

Cambridge Veterans now have a very good chance of winning their division and with a 7-3 away win over North Herts. and a good home win against Ely, they are running neck-and-neck with Northampton, last season's winners. In the North Herts game, John Thurston won all his singles, as he is doing in the East Anglian League, which Cambridge are topping, their latest victims being Norwich, who they beat 10-0 in a recent fixture.

In the Cambs. League the long-awaited clash between Soham and New Chesterton Institute, the top teams in Div. I, ended in a 5-5 draw. Thurston was the man of the match, winning all his singles for N.C.I. and partnering Steve Andrews in a doubles victory. When Thurston defeated Mick Palmer, it was the Soham man's first defeat of the season. In Division II Fisons kept their top place with a 7-3 win over "Cambridge Evening News". Three wins by veteran John Dyer gave Fisons the edge after a shaky start. Top team Haverhill II crushed third-placed Eastern Gas 8-2 in Division IIIA with Bobby Warner and Andy Withers both being unbeaten for the Haverhill team. Torchbearers II improved their championship hopes with a 10-0 win over Impington III, while second-placed Fire Brigade were held to draws by third-placed Melbourn II and fourth-placed St. George's I.

Press IV, with new player Steve Hunt (formerly Royston) went top in IVA following their 9-1 win over St. George's IV and are now one point ahead of Grant S.C., who have a match in hand. Top-of-the-table encounter between Pye I and Wesley I in Division IVB resulted in a 6-4 win for Pye who are now five points ahead of their rivals.

There were some good performances by lower division teams in the Cambs. League Handicap Trophy, pride of place going to Wesley Parkside II from Division VA, who beat first division Guildhall 5-4, man-of-the-match being Reg. Goddard, of Wesley, who beat Albert Jackson, Gerald Coteman and Eddie Sharpe. He received good support from Geoff Hudson, who beat Jackson and Sharpe.

Another fifth division team, Telephones III, have also reached the quarter-finals. They beat third division Police 7-2 with Mann gaining a maximum. N.C.I. I and Soham II (last season's winners) both won although N.C.I. had a scare against Grant S.C. before winning 5-4 with Ludovic Chapman (former County junior champion) having wins over Thurston and Ken Green.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

DISAPPOINTMENT THE SPUR

The County was a little disappointed with its showing in the latest Junior Rankings, but this might have given the Junior Premier side the spur to put on a really good show against Berkshire and come out winners by 8 to 1, losing only the girls' doubles. The victorious players were Martin Shuttle, Stephen Boxall, Keith Seager, Suzanne Roebuck and Jayne Mitchell. Suzanne did particularly well to beat Jill Purslow, 17 in the third and succeeded in disciplining herself to wait for the right one to thump.

Due to organisational difficulties the Senior Closed had to be postponed, and plans are being laid to put it on towards the end of September at a venue still to be decided. The County Committee are equally determined to start up again the Inter-Town leagues and in so doing to overcome the lethargy of some of the constituent leagues.

The county's vote on the World's Levy went the expected way, the "think smaller" raising more hands than the "think bigger", but all to no avail, as the country at large took the broader view in no uncertain terms.

The Junior Closed, held over the weekend 7-8 February, was a great success in every way, except, as so often happens, in the standard of play in some of the finals. The roll of successes is as follows:—

Under-17 Boys' Singles

Martin Shuttle bt Stephen Boxall (losing semi-finalists: Simon Vine, Keith Seager).

Under-17 Boys' Doubles

Gary Stewart/Shuttle bt Seager/Boxall.

Under-17 Girls' Singles

Jayne Mitchell bt Elaine Starr.

Under-17 Girls' Doubles

Mitchell/Suzanne Roebuck bt Susan Head/Nicola Heywood.

Mixed Doubles

Shuttle/Mitchell bt Seager/Roebuck.

Under-14 Boys' Singles

Stephen Woodgate bt Stephen Baggott.

Under-14 Boys' Doubles

Stephen Holloway/Peter Bruntnell bt Mark Oakley/Graham Russell.

Under-14 Girls' Singles

Lorraine Garbett bt Sarah Cresswell.

Under-14 Girls' Doubles

Michelle Bland/Cresswell bt Diane Tame/Garbett.

Under-14 Mixed

Bruntnell/Garbett bt Stephen Woodgate/Kerry Merritt.

Under-12 Boys' Singles

Oakley bt Russell.

Under-12 Girls' Singles

Garbett bt Cresswell.

The tournament was a happy affair, no tantrums that I saw, a good spirit throughout, excellent organisation by Norman Hooper and behind-the-scenes catering by his wife, a fair set of willing helpers, including the numerous dads, and some very good table tennis.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

100 CLUB CHAIRMAN BRIAN

Congratulations to Yorkshire Vice-President Brian Kennedy on his appointment as E.T.T.A. 100 Club Chairman for 1976. Brian is a distinguished international of the fifties era and won the English Open men's doubles title with Aubrey Simmons in 1953-54.

Still on the social scene, the County's annual presentation dinner-dance will be held on Friday, May 7, at the Horsforth Aire Leisure Centre, Station Road, Horsforth, Leeds. Tickets at £3.25 each are available from Social Secretary Richard Scruton.

The semi-final draw for the senior Yorkshire Club Championships has kept the two remaining Leeds sides apart, and is:—Leeds Y.M.C.A. v Huddersfield Y.M.C.A. and Moor Allerton (Leeds) v Hermits (Bradford). The results of

the quarter-finals were:—Hermits (Priestley 2, Yeats 2, Kosmowsky 1) 5, Wadsley Bridge (Sheffield) (Askham 1, Mills 1, Foster 0) 2; Moor Allerton beat Barnsley North End; Leeds Y.M.C.A. 7, Wellesley Park (Halifax) 2; Huddersfield Y.M.C.A. (Hirst 3, Mear 2, Brook 2) 7, Unity Hall (Bradford) (Worsman 2, Halmshaw 0, Renton 0) 2.

In the Yorkshire League Junior Division 2, Huddersfield's unbeaten record was dented by Bradford II 6-3, with Adrian Hill unbeaten for the winners.

The Bradford Closed women's final saw high drama when Helen Shields smashed her way back from 14-20 down in the third to beat Sylvia Broadbent 22-20. Holder Melody Ludi was in Cardiff at the Stiga Welsh Open. The men's singles went to U.A.U. champion, Clement Lo, from Hong Kong, without the loss of a game, Steve Worsman being his final opponent.

Lo's earlier victims included Mick Stephenson, Steve Kosmowsky and Jim Yeats. Holder Bob Shutt went out to Yeats. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

C. Lo (University) bt J. Yeats (Hermits) 19, 19.

S. Worsman (Unity) bt J. R. Davies (Sedbergh) 17, -19, 15.

Final

LO bt Worsman 17, 12.

Women's Singles—Final

H. SHIELDS (Unity) bt S. Broadbent (Unity) -16, 16, 21.

Men's Doubles—Final

G. HILL (Clayton Heights/YEATS) bt Lo/F. Yeung (University) 15, -15, 11.

Women's Doubles—Final

BROADBENT/P.DAWSON (Crofts) bt L. Hryszko (Sedbergh)/Shields -17, 24, 21.

Mixed Doubles—Final

WORSMAN/BROADBENT bt R. Priestley (Hermits)/Hryszko 20, -13, 17.

Boys' Singles—Final

P. SIMPSON (Hermits) bt A. Warrener (Sedbergh) 16, -19, 14.

Girls' Singles—Final

HRYSZKO bt S. Dickerson (Hermits) 14, 6.

Veterans' Singles—Final

G. KELLY (Telephones) bt E. Hill (Clayton Heights) 12, 10.

Although three of the County teams won convincingly on February 14, there was bad news on February 15 from Nuneaton, where the first team lost 4-5 to Warwickshire, and now must beat Surrey and Lancashire to boast hopes of retaining Premier Division status.

Alan Fletcher's win over Paul Judd was the only Yorkshire men's singles success, though Tony Clayton played particularly well against Desmond Douglas. Steve Hazelwood had to withdraw from the match to play for his school in the E.S.T.T.A. regional finals and though stand-in Mike Harrison combined well with Melody Ludi to take the mixed, the Hull junior was unable to produce anything like his recent good form in the singles.

Nicky Davies and Robert Hazelwood (Leeds) and Linda Hryszko (Bradford) all made successful senior debuts in the second team match against Notts. A week earlier, the second team recovered from a 2-5 deficit against Lincolnshire to earn a point. Kevin Beadsley was undefeated, beating both Brian Hill (18 -12, 20) and Mick East (23, -14, 17). Steve Hazelwood lost to Hill (-14, -14) but helped Hull's Carole Grayson to a mixed victory over Pete Skerratt and Beryl Voss. Wins over Skerratt by Hazelwood and Andy Metcalfe were the other Yorkshire successes.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

King's Lynn held their championships in the week ending January 10, at their Y.M.C.A. (Pressure of space meant that they could not be included in my February notes).

John Turner, the top seed and Norfolk No. 3 player, carried the day, but 17-year-old Geoff Davies, of Wisbech, winner of the Junior Singles and finalist in the Senior, stole some

of his limelight. Mrs. Betty Cassell retained her singles crown. Results:—

M.S.: J. Turner (YMCA) bt G. Davies 15, 13. W.S. Mrs. B. Cassell bt Miss Viv Rowell 12, -18, 19.

J.S.: G. Davies bt Richard Hall 19, 20.

V.S.: Les Slight (Tydd) bt Gordon Wood (Cecoll) in 3 sets.

M.D.: J. Turner/N. Graver bt B. Wilson/S. Barrett 18, 18.

W.D.: Viv Rowell/Pat Tingey bt Cassell/Sarah Warnes in 3 sets.

X.D.: J. Defty/Miss Sally Hayes bt J. Moorhouse/Cassell in 3 sets.

Divisional Winners:—

II—P. Gaskin (Dow); III—J. Bishop (Vancouver House); IV—P. Dennis (Downham); V—D. Rogers (Social Security); VI—J. Browne (Union Chapel).

Congratulations to Betty Cassell upon being voted the West Norfolk Sportswoman of the Year for the second time. The first was in 1966. Betty has been a Norfolk County player since 1950, has 15 times been the County titleholder, and has won the Lynn women's singles over 20 times. In all, she has about 300 trophies.

In the mid-January County matches Norfolk lost 4-6 to Cambridgeshire (without Paul Day). In this match the 15-year-old Norfolk champion, Douglas Bennett, made his senior debut. He had a great game with Keith Richardson, but went down at 22-24 in the third. The County second team also lost 4-6, but Trevor Bunn won both his singles and Paul Durrant one on his debut for a senior side. The Juniors, away at Leicester, returned with a 5-5 draw.

In the Carter Cup, Norwich boys, after beating Ely, went on to beat Bedford 8-1. In the Bromfield Trophy, Norwich girls went out to Cambridge 3-6, despite three brilliant wins by Wendy Hogg.

Cambridge seem almost certain to win the East Anglian League, but Dereham have done wonderfully well to be in second place.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

INTERESTS DIVIDED

This is the time of year when mundane league affairs take a back seat and the tournament season holds sway. However, at a time when players' interests are divided as they search for individual honours, league form can, and does, go astray. This year U.T.C. "A" in the Northamptonshire League and Compton Nomads "A" in the Wellingborough League, have wavered under the double pressures, while the tournament successes of Rothborough's Steve West, and Kettering's Terry Sutton, have not prevented these players from making more than the occasional lapse in their teams' bids for honours.

Lack of industrial development in the town has prevented the Kettering League from expanding as quickly as other leagues in the county, but nevertheless, it still leads the way in some aspects of table tennis. The annual tournament has more events than its rivals, and is the best supported in the county. This year was no exception, although increasing costs could well produce a change of policy next season, as it becomes more difficult to stage a separate Finals night.

This year's event, again organised by Jim Chatburn, was notable more for the quantity rather than the quality of the entries but produced some excellent matches, not without some surprise results. John Palmer, unbeaten in the league this season, was favourite to take the Men's Singles but met Steve West in superb form, and made his exit in the semi-finals. That fine tournament player, Terry Sutton, also reached the final, only to go down to West in an absorbing match, giving West his first tournament success at senior level. As usual, Anne and Mandy Wallis dominated the women's events, with Mandy adding the Junior Singles title to their other achievements. Results:—

M.S.: Steve West bt Terry Sutton -17, 16, 9.

W.S.: Anne Wallis bt Mandy Wallis 14, 18.

M.D.: Dick Cole/Dennis Millman bt John Palmer/Sutton -19, 19, 13.
 W.D.: Anne & Mandy Wallis bt Glennis Hooper/Christine Price 16, 8.
 X.D.: Palmer/A. Wallis bt Keith Nicoll/Anne Lenton 12, 12.
 V.S.: Sutton bt Millman 10, 17.
 J.S.: M. Wallis bt Keith Nicoll 16, 16.
 J.D.: Keith & Ken Nicoll bt Anthony Phillips & Howard Roberts 19, -20, 11.
 M.C.S.: Charles Hickman bt Stuart Rollings 19, -18, 17.
 U-15 S.: Graham Ball bt Gary Robinson 11, 12.
 U-13 S.: Adam Parker bt Terry Cardwell 3, 16.

In the four handicap events for the respective divisions, the winners were Anne Wallis, Tom Cardwell, Chris Handshaw and Anthony Phillips, while the runners-up were John Palmer, Ken Nicoll, John Chennells and Russell Mills respectively.

The Northampton League Closed was blessed with some entertaining finals, highlighted by a popular win in the men's doubles for Mick Edwards and Chris Arnall. Their victims were Ray Kingston and Gary Alden, but this defeat did not prevent the Rothborough player from taking 3 other events, culminating in a spectacular victory over Tony Clark in the final of the Men's Singles. This win could well be the prelude to further successes for Alden, who continues to improve. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

Gary Alden (Compton) bt Steve Lyon (YMCA) 13, -19, 15.
 Tony Clark (Compton) bt Alan Print (Timken) 20, 18.

Final

ALDEN bt Clark 11, 24.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

Mrs. Margaret Maltby (Doddridge) bt Mrs. Doris Rivett (Gladstone) 10, 18.
 Mrs. Connie Bane (Barclaycard) bt Mrs. Joyce Porter (Doddridge) 16, 13.

Final

BANE bt Maltby 8, -20, 16.

Veterans' Singles—Final

COLIN HOGG (UTC) bt Dick Ingle (YMCA) 16, 17.

Men's Doubles—Final

EDWARDS/ARNALL (Timken) bt Kingston (Roadmender)/Alden -14, 18, 17.

Women's Doubles—Final

Mrs. JEAN YULL/Miss EVELYN TYE (UTC) bt Mrs. Margaret Edwards (Doddridge)/Mrs. Rivett 16, -12, 13.

Mixed Doubles—Final

LYON/BANE bt Mick & Margaret Edwards 16, -22, 13.

Boys' Singles—Final

ALDEN bt David Gallo.

Girls' Singles—Final

PAULEEN RATLEDGE bt Helen Cottier.

Boys' Doubles—Final

ALDEN/IAN MORRIS bt Tim Chamberlain/Mark Wright.

U-14 Boys' Singles—Final

TIM FORSTER bt Richard Malfait.

U-14 Girls' Singles—Final

JULIE ROBINSON bt Helen Cottier.

Division 1, 2 & 3 H'cap Singles—Final

KEITH JONES bt Mick Hadland.

Division 4, 5 & 6 H'cap Singles—Final

TIM CHAMBERLAIN bt Neil Knatt.

The new County Ranking Lists were issued early in February and showed some significant changes. The men remained much as before with John Palmer taking over at No. 4 from Ray Kingston, while Romano Gallo moved in at No. 6. In the women's list, Mandy Wallis moved up to No. 3, with Glennis Hooper also making way for Dorothy Marsh at No. 5. In the junior boys' Kevin McPartlan reverts to No. 2, while Keith Nicoll slips back to No. 4. Nicky Chaplin, Mark Wright and Nicky Wells enter the rankings at Nos. 6, 7 and 8 respectively. In the junior girls' section Valerie Feakin, who has won her matches consistently this year, seems unfortunate to lose her No. 1 position, but Mandy Wallis, too, has been playing exceptionally well and must be congratulated on reaching the National Rankings at No. 20. No doubt their friendly rivalry will continue at all levels. All the junior lists show a resurgence of interest, particularly from Northampton, a clear indication that the

Northampton League has got its priorities right, and if the necessary officials can be found, should enjoy prosperous times ahead.

The vital match at the top of the County League has now been played but the destination of honours has still not been decided. In the event Kettering, without top player John Palmer, proved the better side, winning an epic encounter 6-5, having at one stage enjoyed a 5-1 lead, but Daventry could still take the title if they beat Northampton decisively, while Daventry Seconds take games off Kettering in the final match. The Daventry versus Kettering clash was a memorable game, illustrating all that is worthwhile in table tennis, and should give County League Secretary Peter Edwards some encouragement in his bid to persuade Wellingborough and Northampton to treat the competition seriously next season.

The League Table now reads:—

	P	W	L	Pts
Kettering	3	3	0	26
Daventry I	3	2	1	25
Towcester	4	1	3	12
Daventry II	2	1	1	8
Northampton	2	0	2	6

The Daventry League has certainly been enjoying a good season, acquiring 51 points as they have beaten St. Neots, Kettering, Northampton, North Herts, Dunstable and Wisbech in their turn, and with only bottom club Peterborough to play, the Daventry side in the South East Midlands Reserve Division should take the title, while the men's team finished the season with a fine 7-3 win at Cambridge with John Aspinall and Peter Edwards unbeaten.

Back at County level, the last round of County Championship matches ended with two draws and a defeat. However, the matches with Norfolk, staged at Rushden, were full of interest, with the First Team match one of the most entertaining for many years. Lasting almost four hours, it was full of first class table tennis from both sides. Anne Wallis, Connie Bane, Rod Marchant and Gary Alden all contributed wins and with Steve Lyon joining Connie Bane for a Mixed success, the team performance was complete. The Junior match was, however, a two-man effort, with Alden and Keith Nicoll taking five sets between them, but even in defeat the remaining team members did enough to show their future potential.

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

MIKE RATTUE AGAIN THE CHAMPION AND THREE TITLES FOR ELAINE

This year's Senior Championships were again organised by the Exeter League at a new venue, the Bridge Club, St. Thomas' High School, and it seemed to go down well with all who took part. There was a very good entry and, as usual, some surprising results. Notable amongst these was the defeat of Keith James by veteran Mike Darlington and two superb wins by Mike Putland over the new Plymouth Champion, Adrian Wright and the number one seed, Barry Davis.

Putland really earned his first-ever semi-final place but, alas, found Bob Parkins his stumbling block into the final, going down in straight games. The other semi was a teammate affair with Mike Rattue and Paul Stone, from the Heavitree Club in Exeter. Stone is having a particularly good season with many good wins under his belt and some tipped him as a possible winner this year. This was not to be, however, as Rattue gained ample revenge for his defeat in the last Exeter Championships by Stone, winning comfortably.

The final has belonged exclusively to Parkins and Rattue in recent seasons and they have produced some memorable matches. Not so this time, as Rattue took command from the start and never allowed Parkins any opportunity to use his attacking skills, getting in first with his own attack from both flanks and ran out an easy winner, to win the Michelmore Bowl for the fourth time.

Elaine Lamb made up for her disappointments in the Plymouth Championships and

the Exeter Junior Open by winning three titles. In the Women's singles semi-final she overcame Exeter's June Farmer and met Kathy Rowe, who put out Plymouth's new Champion, Mavis Scott, in the other semi. Elaine quickly found her form again and won in fine style to justify her top seeding. Partnered by Kathy in the doubles, it was a repeat of last year's final against Barbara Pearson and Nancy Hollywood. After an early shock in losing the first game the youngsters retained their championship. Elaine's third title was the mixed in partnership with popular Mike Short, and they accounted for Parkins and Mavis Scott. There was a stirring struggle in the men's doubles final between the holders, Mike Rattue and Paul Stone, of Exeter, and another strong pair, Barry Davis and Adrian Wright, of Plymouth. Without doubt this was the best match of the evening with some superb play from all four players with the Exeter pair retaining their title after three great games.

Two popular players, Bernard Brown and Cliff Hollywood, fought out the Veterans' final which Brown won in straight games.

Altogether a very successful day and full praise to Referee Bill Spry for, once again, keeping the programme up to schedule and being finished by around 8-30 p.m.

Many congratulations to our Junior County team who have won their division, albeit a small one, in the County Championships. Terry Fairbanks, Michael Shearman, Paul Whiting, Elaine Lamb, Susan Tilley and Nicola Pine have all played well and fully deserve their success.

Mike Edmonds and his team of helpers in the North of our County are again staging the Team K.O. Competition and I hope there will be a large entry. Whilst "out on a limb" as far as mileage is concerned, the leagues in that area are a very important part of our Association and I hope the rest of the County will support them by entering this event.

Finally, congratulations to the Devon Schools' Association for so successfully staging the Devon Schools' Individual Championships at Exmouth. This Association is really alive now with Stuart Sweeney and Brian Worts doing sterling work and we wish them the best of luck with their future ventures which I know will be full of exciting and, perhaps, surprising ideas.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

MORALE BOOSTER

Pride of place this month goes to the three representative teams which have emerged as winners in the various competitions.

Top of the list goes to the County senior team which took a Valentine's Day trip to Ipswich and beat the Suffolk side 6-4. After two 5-5 draws and a 2-8 reverse to Essex III, this provided a fine morale booster to the side represented by Alan Lamprell, Tim Speller, Len Saywell, Jean Allinson and Dianne Bushby. Each of the men scored a singles success. Jean played really well to win the women's solo event, whilst the women's doubles and the mixed, for the fourth consecutive match, also came the way of the Hunts quintet.

St. Neots' women, Dianne Bushby, Barbara Pace and Pat Bingham earned themselves a tie with North Herts after overhauling Luton women 8-1, Dianne and Barbara keeping clean sheets in this match.

Hunts Central juniors, Steven Fisher, Mark Fisher and Leno Coppolaro, visited Ipswich for their Carter Cup match and proved good 7-2 victors, Mark proving the main foil to the home side, winning his three sets in straight games. The Central's men's team found Ipswich too good in the Wilmott Cup encounter with a Tim Speller win over Bob Milne as their solitary success.

Hunts' juniors travelled to Suffolk for a County junior match, disappointingly being beaten 4-6. Steven and Mark Fisher won a singles apiece, Belinda Chamberlain and Melanie Ringrose kept their 100% doubles, whilst the boys' S. Fisher/Coppolaro completed the scoring.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

FIRST ATTEMPT

February has been a month of mixed fortunes for Cleveland. The County first team visited Cheshire and won 8-1 which virtually assures them of the Premier Division title at the first attempt.

On the other hand our Junior team lost to both Berkshire and Kent, so looking equally certain to face relegation at the end of the season.

Whilst our girls more than held their own in these matches, the Junior boys were less successful and are clearly the weakest standard in this area for over a decade.

Nevertheless, not to despair, a rebuilding job has already begun and I feel that we have our strongest squad of cadet boys for some time, although at present only one, Michael Laird, is good enough to be included in the national rankings. Battling on behind Michael are a number of promising youngsters, Paul Hindle, Jimmy Clifford, Peter Docherty, Michael Lowe, Paul Todd and David Hughes, to mention but a few.

The coaching system for Cleveland over the last couple of years has changed considerably. The number of youngsters playing the game has more than doubled, together with the fact that my own personal time commitment to the game within the County has been considerably reduced due to a great deal of time spent on national affairs.

These two factors have meant a shift in responsibility, moreover to a team position whereby a number of coaches now share the task of bringing the youngsters through.

The work load is now shared between several, Bob Wiley, Harry Robinson, Dave Holden, Bob Rowland, Colin Davison, Mike Hobbs, Mike Vickers, to mention but a few.

Working beneath this team of Diploma coaches is a large number of Club Coaches who have qualified in recent years.

The emphasis in Cleveland remains on the production of high quality players and we are looking to the budding stars aforementioned to progress through as Nicky Jarvis, Jimmy Walker and Carole Knight have done in the not too distant past.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

RELEGATION FEARS

The Northumberland first team are having their worst season for many years. They crashed to their second 2-8 defeat in a row, this time to Cleveland II, and now must beat Nottinghamshire at home in their last match to avoid being relegated for the first time in their history.

Ian Robertson's form continued in its disappointing vein—he has won only one men's singles set all season, although he missed the opening match of the season against Yorkshire II—and the sets were gained by Andrew Clark, who beat Tony Martin and Barbara Kearney, who won her singles against Norma Carne. Unfortunately Alan Jones was a last-minute withdrawal, and was substituted by Glenn McCardle, who tried hard, but found the opposition too strong.

The second team were hosts to Cleveland III at Byker Community Centre, an excellent new venue with their new table and new lighting provided for the occasion. Unfortunately, Northumberland were once again on the losing side by 3-7, but this was a much-improved performance and might well have been 5-5, as both the men's and mixed doubles were lost at -18 in the third. Malcolm McMaster and Jimmy Scope each won a singles, and Carol Little and Pauline Jackson took the women's doubles.

It was left to the junior team to salvage something from a disappointing month, and this they did, returning from Ormesby with a

7-3 win against the Cleveland II junior team. Andrew Clark once again won two boys' singles and the boys' doubles with Glenn McCardle at 19 in the third, Andrew and Glenn having been 11-19 down in the deciding game!

Glenn also won one singles, as did Roger Bambrough, who was also successful in the mixed doubles with Julie Hobson. The most notable win, however, was by Valerie Smith in the girls' singles over Group "A"-ranked junior, Norma Carne—by 14 and 12! On this form it cannot be long before Valerie is ready to stake her claim for a place in the senior side.

Northumberland suffered an early exit from the Carter Cup at the hands of Millom, who were able to field the entire Cumbria junior County team of Chris Reed, Neil Smith and Ian Reed in their side. With Andrew Clark opting to play for Sunderland in this season's competition, Glenn McCardle unavailable and Eddie Thomas still out injured, the team of Roger Bambrough, Mark Kimberley and David Mosley had very little chance against such strong opposition and went down to a 0-9 defeat.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

SLIPS SHOWING

In their latest series of matches, the Lincolnshire County team have slipped a little, dropping a point at Yorkshire in a very close and entertaining match, and then going down 4-6 to Durham.

Against Yorkshire, with the home side fielding their ranked juniors, Lincolnshire went into a 5-2 lead but the Yorkshire boys kept hammering away and pulled the match back to all square. For Lincs. Brian Hill beat Stephen Hazelwood and lost a close set against Kevin Beadsley 19, -12, 20. Mick East beat Andrew Metcalfe and combined with Brian to win the doubles. Jean White won the Women's Singles and, partnered by Beryl Voss, won the doubles.

In the Durham match we again let a lead slip, going from 4-2 up to 4-6 down. All credit to Durham for a fine comeback. The rubbers were won by Brian Hill, one singles, Steve Morley, one singles, and Jean White won her singles and the Women's Doubles with Beryl Voss.

The County Junior team have lost 4-6 to Clwyd and then made a draw at home to Cumbria. As with the senior team, it is the female element that appears to carry the team through.

On the domestic front Wyberton (Hill, East, King) are still clear at the top of the Haigh Cup, but Grimsby (Allison, Sheader, Taylor, Edmonds, Dibdin) with two 10-0 victories over Boston (Armstrong, Brown, Sharp) and Grantham (Brown, Cox, Clayton) respectively, are still chasing them all the way.

In the Butlin Cup, Spalding (White, Burgess, Green) women with one match to play, against Grantham, need only to avoid a heavy defeat to retain the trophy for the 4th successive year. Grimsby have now moved into second place with two good wins over Boston and Grantham.

The Butcher Cup is the closest of the local competitions, at this stage Grantham (Eldred, Leverett, Thacker, Miss Hunt) are looking the likely winners, having dropped one point, this being to Grimsby (Newbould, Blow, Longbottom). Grantham were leading 5-4 when the County No. 1 Junior boy, Mark Newbould (Grimsby) met the County No. 1 Junior girl, Suzanne Hunt (Grantham). Mark won the first 15, but Suzanne fought back to take the second easily at 11. The final game proved a close battle with Mark winning at 18, to earn a point for Grimsby. Boston (Cater, Fossitt, Daffern) are only a point behind Grantham following their 6-4 win over Grimsby. Both Paul Cater and Stuart Daffern won two with Neil Fossitt one, and Cater and Daffern took the doubles. Newbould again on splendid form and winning all his three.

The East of England Championships, to be held at High Ridge Sports Hall, Scunthorpe, on Sunday, 14th March, are well under way. The early entries appear well up to standard although it is hoped that no entries will have to be turned away as they had to be last year.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

FEET FOUND

With the last two County Championship weekends, the County teams are finding their feet. The Senior Premier team, with wins over Surrey and Essex, are now virtually certain of a good final position, which is most satisfactory, as the average age of the team is 17. Middlesex remain as the only county to have always been in the Premier Division since the inception of the County Championships in 1946. The second team had their first win of the season over Hampshire and the Junior Premier side are safely placed.

The success this season is once again the Junior seconds, who have won all their matches and the improvement of Graham Sandley, Bryn Tyler and Adrian Leigh amongst the boys and Mandy Reeves and Jill Campion among the girls, is evident. Jill is the only player in this group who is not a junior next year.

The County U-14 team started their programme of Inter-County matches in the Eastern Region with wins over Essex 6-4 and Herts 9-1. Costas Papantoniou was the hero of these matches, remaining unbeaten.

The Inter-League competitions are progressing well with North Middlesex teams well to the fore in all divisions. A big surprise was the defeat of North Middlesex by Wembley in the Victor Barna 3-a-side competition. This leaves this one wide open and Willesden and North Middlesex II have good chances of finishing high.

On March 27-28, the Middlesex U-15 and Authorised Opens will take place at Picketts Lock Centre, when it is hoped they will be the success that they were last year.

NEW GLOUCESTER GEN

by John Cooper

SUCCESS!

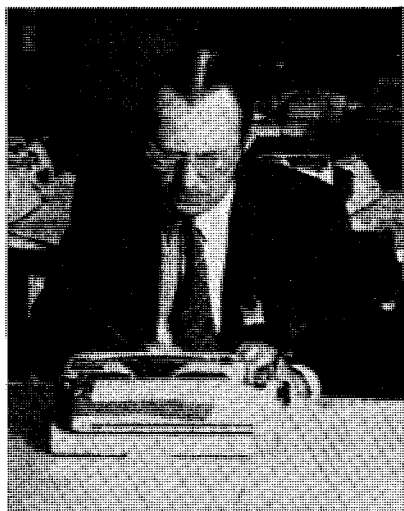
The Burford Junior Open, played in Gloucestershire, was a big success, and it is hoped it can be repeated. Players came from as far as Cornwall, Kent and Derbyshire. The local success was Vanessa Cruwys, who was runner-up in the U-17 girls' singles, although only reaching the quarters in the U-15's. However, with partner Guy Greening, she reached the semis of the mixed. Cheltenham's John Turner and Stroud's Andrew Golding managed to reach the quarters of the U-13 doubles.

Gloucestershire's teams have not had such success—the seniors losing 0-10 to Leicestershire and the juniors 1-9 to Devon. The cost of transport is now becoming so prohibitive that the future of the County Championships in this wide-spread area needs looking at, especially with five in a team necessitating two cars and some counties not appearing to be selecting a venue with opponent's transport in mind.

In the Warner Shield, now fought between the three affiliated town leagues, Gloucester beat Stroud 7-2 and 10-0 in an accompanying friendly. In the County Junior League, Gloucester girls' U-17 beat Stroud 7-3, despite a fine win for Susan Giles (Stroud) over Jane Dovey. Julie Phillips, aged 11, had a good debut for Gloucester, taking two sets. Gloucester juniors also lost 1-9 to Nottingham, the one success coming from Derek Morgan.

Cheltenham have had a run of successes, their seniors (Sweeney, Collier and Moreman) beating Notts "C" 8-2; the veterans beating Oxford 7-3 and the juniors Notts "B" 8-2. However, they lost the chance of winning the division by losing 2-8 to Coventry. Stroud U-14 girls had a good 9-1 win over Cheltenham.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT



by The Editor

ENGLAND UNBEATEN CHAMPS

Successive 6-1 victories over Luxembourg in Esch, on February 25, and the Netherlands, at Norwich, on March 4, brought England the Division 2—Group A championship title in the European League and the right to contest a play-off against Federal Germany, the champions of Group B, for promotion to the Premier Division.

Whether such a play-off will materialise is debatable as two amendments to Rule appear on the agenda for the Biennial General Meeting of the European Table Tennis Union being held in Prague on March 28.

The first is by the French Association whose proposal is to increase the composition of the Premier Division from 7 to 8 teams, the second, from Luxembourg, being to increase the present number by a further two.

Should either proposal find favour there would appear little point in England and Federal Germany having to incur considerable expense by travelling to a neutral country for a play-off that would have no real meaning with promotion already assured.

In the run-in to the championship clincher in Norwich, England's one fall from grace against Luxembourg was by Nicky Jarvis and Carole Knight who, in the mixed doubles, lost to Jean Krier and Jeanny Dom.

Again it was Jarvis who suffered the one reverse at Norwich when, in the opening set, before 600-plus spectators, he lost the opening set to Bert van der Helm.

It was a slap in the eye that stung England into all-out attack for, apart from Jarvis faltering to a first game defeat by Herman Hopman in the penultimate set, the traffic subsequently flowed all one way. Individual scores:—

v Luxembourg

D. Douglas bt J. Krier 8, 11.
D. Neale bt C. Putz 23, -16, 6.
J. Hammersley bt B. Krier 9, 11.
Douglas/Neale bt A. Hartmann/Krier -24, 18, 3.
N. Jarvis/C. Knight lost to Krier/J. Dom -18, -16.
Neale bt Krier 13, 12.
Douglas bt Putz 6, 16.

v Netherlands

Jarvis lost to B. v.d. Helm -11, 18, -15.
Neale bt H. Hopman 14, 13.
Hammersley bt S. Heltzel 9, 11.
Douglas/Neale bt v.d. Helm/N. v. Slobbe 18, 17.
Douglas/L. Howard bt v.d. Helm/Heltzel 17, 17.
Jarvis bt Hopman -15, 13, 13.
Neale bt v.d. Helm 19, 17.

Ireland, away to the Netherlands in Hooge-

zand, on February 25, were concerned in a somewhat tempestuous encounter which ended 5-2 in favour of the Dutch team with Jim Langan conceding his final set to Bert v.d. Helm, having previously "tossed" the mixed.

Earlier Langan had clashed with the referee when protesting of distraction by a juvenile trumpet blower and further incurred the wrath of the same official when putting his foot on the one "official" ball available—and that provided by the visitors! Scores:—

N. v. Slobbe lost to J. Langan -11, -15.
B. v.d. Helm bt T. Caffrey 15, 7.
B. Vriesekoop lost to K. Senior -13, 13, -14.
v.d. Helm/v. Slobbe bt Caffrey/Langan 18, -17, 2.
v.d. Helm/Vriesekoop bt Langan/Senior 2-5 (conceded).
v. Slobbe bt Caffrey 10, 19.
v.d. Helm bt Langan (conceded).

Denmark, who have given notice of their intended withdrawal from European League play for the next two seasons, accounted for Belgium 6-1 in Haderslev on the same night the visitors' only success being that of Marie-France Germiot over Susanne Poulsen in the women's singles. Scores:—

C. Pedersen bt D. Nassaux 12, -19, 17.
N. Ramberg bt N. v.d. Walle 12, 16.
S. Poulsen lost to M.-F. Germiot -17, -12.
Pedersen/Ramberg bt Nassaux/v.d. Walle 16, 8.
Pedersen/Poulsen bt v.d. Walle/Germiot 19, 18.
Pedersen bt v.d. Walle 15, 19.
Ramberg bt Nassaux 7, 14.

DIVISION 2—GROUP A

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

Federal Germany, in Division 2—Group B, finished off their campaign even more impressively by registering 7-0 wins over Bulgaria, in Dusseldorf, on February 25, and away to Austria in Innsbruck, on March 4. Scores in the Bulgarian match were:—

W. Leick bt D. Hasanov 17, -21, 20.
J. Leiss bt B. Ghentchev 7, 14.
W. Hendriksen bt E. Neikova 15, 17.
P. Engel/Leiss bt G. Damianov/Ghentchev 18, 19.
W. Hendriksen bt E. Neikova 15, 17.
Engel/U. Hirschmüller bt Damianov/Neikova 17, 14.
Leick bt Ghentchev 16, 14.
Leiss bt Hasanov 16, 13.

Austria, in their previous match, at home to Italy, in Oberschutzen, on February 25, were beaten 4-3 with Roberto Giontella accounting for Gunter Müller in the final set after Stefano Bosi had levelled the match score with a win over Rudolf Weinmann.

Scores:—
R. Weinmann bt R. Giontella 12, -11, 19.
G. Müller lost to S. Bosi -16, -16.
J. Fetter bt D. Cardinale -19, 10, 16.
Amplatz/Weinmann lost to Bosi/Giontella -21, -20.
Weinmann/Fetter bt Giontella/Cardinale 11, 15.
Weinmann lost to Bosi -12, -13.
Müller lost to Giontella -11, -17.

Greece are reported as having beaten Switzerland 7-0 in Athens, again on February 25.

DIVISION 2—GROUP B

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Federal Germany	5	5	0	33	2	5
Bulgaria	5	4	1	23	12	4
Greece	4	2	2	12	16	2
Italy	4	2	2	12	16	2
Austria	5	1	4	12	23	1
Switzerland	5	0	5	6	29	0

Shock result emanating from the matches played on March 4 was the 6-1 Premier Division triumph by France away to Czechoslovakia which, without the details to hand, is hard to believe.

Other results on going to press were:—
U.S.S.R. 7, Hungary 0; Yugoslavia 5, Poland 2.
All will now depend on the meeting of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia on April 14 for, with victory, will go the championship previously held by Sweden.

Previously, on February 24, in Prague, Czechoslovakia had beaten Hungary 6-1, the one set to escape them being the mixed doubles won by Ferenc Timar and Henriette Lotaller over Milan Orlovski and Ilona Uhlíkova. Scores:—

M. Orlovski bt T. Horvath -17, 16, 8.
J. Kunz bt J. Börzsei 12, 16.
I. Uhlíkova bt H. Lotaller 13, 15.
Orlovski/Orlovski bt Horvath/F. Timar 8, -19, 17.
Orlovski/Uhlíkova lost to Timar/Lotaller -19, -18.
Orlovski bt Börzsei 8, 11.
Kunz bt Horvath 11, 13.

Russia came under severe bombardment at Borlänge on the following night when Sweden, after Kjell Johansson had gone down to Anatoli Strokotov in the opening set, crashed their way to victory in the next six. Of note was the 2-straight win accomplished by Ann-Christin Hellman over Zoya Rudnova. Scores:—

K. Johansson lost to A. Strokotov -19, -18.
S. Bengtsson bt S. Gomozkov 19, 19.
A.-C. Hellman bt Z. Rudnova 11, 18.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Gomozkov/S. Sarkhojan 16, 15.
Bengtsson/Hellman bt Sarkhojan/E. Antonian 22, -19, 15.
Johansson bt Gomozkov 11, 15.
Bengtsson bt Strokotov 12, 8.

In Rouen another nail was hammered into the coffin of Poland—now doomed—when France won 6-1, the last set going to the visitors' Ryszard Czechanski with a win over Christian Martin. Claude Bergeret had a hard-fought triumph over Cezelawa Noworyta which went to three games with the last two on expedite. But how did France manage a similar score away to Czechoslovakia! Scores v Poland were:—

J. Secretin bt R. Czochanski 19, 13.
C. Martin bt W. Woznica 16, -19, 9.
C. Bergeret bt C. Noworyta -20, 19, 17.
P. Brocheau/Secretin bt S. Fraczyk/Woznica 11, 17.
Secretin/Bergeret bt Woznica/Noworyta 13, 11.
Secretin bt Woznica -20, 18, 12.
Martin lost to Czechanski -11, -13.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	5	4	1	22	13	4
Yugoslavia	5	4	1	22	13	4
Sweden	5	3	2	25	10	3
France	5	3	2	22	13	3
U.S.S.R.	5	3	2	21	14	3
Hungary	5	1	4	7	28	1
*Poland	6	0	6	7	35	0

Fixtures for the last series of matches on April 14 are:—

Hungary v Sweden
France v U.S.S.R.
Yugoslavia v Czechoslovakia

Scotland were the winners of the West European Regional Group played in Cardiff on February 4-5 as a prelude to the Stiga Welsh Open Championships. March results were:—

Wales 6, Jersey 1
Scotland 7, Guernsey 0
Wales 5, Norway 2
Jersey 4, Guernsey 3
Wales 7, Guernsey 0
Norway 6, Jersey 1
Scotland 5, Norway 2
Scotland 5, Wales 2
Scotland 7, Jersey 0
Norway 6, Guernsey 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	4	4	0	24	4	4
Wales	4	3	1	20	8	3
Norway	4	2	2	16	12	2
Jersey	4	1	0	6	22	1
Guernsey	4	0	4	4	24	0

The corresponding play-off between Portugal, Spain and Turkey in the **Mediterranean Group** will take place in Barcelona on March 18-19, 1976.

EUROPE CLUB CUP

Men—Round 3

Sparta Praha 5, Molndals, Sweden 2
Ormesby 5, Borussia Dusseldorf 2
Kremlin Bicetre, France 5, Tempo, Holland 2
Vjesnik, Y'slavia 5, Banik Havirov, C.S.S.R. 2

Semi-finals

Sparta Praha 5, Ormesby 3

Vjesnik w.o. Kremlin Bicetre scr.

Women—Round 3

Sparta Praha 5, Pochtenetz, Bulgaria 4
Proleter, Y'slavia 5, Echternach, L'mbourg 2
Statisztika, Hungary 5, Tempo, Holland 2
Verbergs, Sweden 5/7 a 9, Barcelona, Spain 0

Semi-finals

Spatisztika 5, Varbergs 1

Sparta Praha 5, Proleter 1

GONG FOR GEORGES

Belated congratulations to Monsieur **Georges Duclos**, President of the Federation Francaise de Tennis de Table, Member of the Management Committee of the E.T.T.U. and Editor of the French magazine "France Tennis de Table", who on December 19, 1975, was presented with the Cross of "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur" for distinguished services to sport and particularly to Table Tennis. The presentation was made by the French Minister of Sports.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that the death of Mr. **Antal Szabo**, of Hungary, is recorded. Aged only 54, Mr. Szabo died of a heart attack after a busy life of social service. He was General Secretary of the Trade Union of Railway Workers in Hungary from 1957 to 1975, but yet found time to work for Hungarian Table Tennis, as a Vice-President from 1962 to 1963, and President from 1963 to 1967. The sad news is reported from Dr. G. Lakatos, who was a life-long friend of Mr. Szabo.

RUMANIAN OPEN

As it was in the Stiga Welsh Open, in February, so was it in Bucharest over the period January 23-25 when, in the Rumanian Open, the players of the People's Republic of China also ran riot. Only one European, Maria Alexandru, of the host country, made it to the top step of the rostrum in the company of Zang Pol Sun, of the Korean Republic, for the women's doubles title.

In the team finals China beat France (3-0) in the men's event and Czechoslovakia (3-1) in the women's contest. **Liang Ko-liang** had a final victory over Jaroslav Kunz in the men's singles and **Sha Min** triumphed over her compatriot Sun Min, in the women's singles.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

J. Kunz (Cz) bt Li Chen-chih (Vc) 13, -18, 16, -15, 14.

Liang Ko-liang (Vc) bt J. Secretin (Fr) 18, 17, 13.

Final

LIANG KO-LIANG bt Kunz 10, 6, 7.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

Sha Min (Vc) bt B. Silhanova (Cs) 14, 17, 15.
Sun Min (Vc) bt Hong Kil San (Rk) 17, -13, 18, 17.

Final

SHA MIN bt Sun Min 17, 16, -14, 16.

Men's Doubles—Final

LI CHEN-CHIH/LIANG KO-LIANG bt M. Orlovski (Cs)/Kunz 13, 17, 18.

Women's Doubles—Final

M. ALEXANDRU (Ru)/ZANG POL SUN (Kr) bt Yen Kue-li/Yu Chin-chia (Vc) -15, 15, 19, 17.

Mixed Doubles—Final

LI CHEN-CHIH/YEN KUI-LI bt C. Martin/B. Thiriet (Fr) 16, -19, 9, 12.

44th FEDERAL GERMAN CLOSED

Wilfried Lieck (VfB Altena) retained his singles title in the 44th Federal German Closed played in the Grugahalle, Essen, over the period January 16-18, 1976, beating top seed Jochen Leiss (PSV Bor.02 Dusseldorf) in the final.

The women's event was won by **Agnes Simon** (DSC Kaiserberg-Butterfly) over her clubmate, Ursula Hirschmüller who, in the semi-final,

accounted for top seed **Wiebke Hendriksen** (TTVg. WRW Kleve). Edit Wetzel (Lieler TTK), the holder, was ousted in the semis by **Agnes Simon**.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

W. Lieck bt H. Lammers 13, 22, 13.

B. Jansen bt R. Fritz -27, 19, 16, 11.

E. Schöler bt P. Stellwag 14, 14, 15.

J. Leiss bt P. Engel 14, -16, 21, -16, 19.

Semi-finals

Lieck bt Jansen 12, 13, 19.

Leiss bt Schöler 14, -17, 17, 19.

Final

LIECK bt Leiss 20, 13, -21, 9.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

W. Hendriksen bt J. Ebarle 8, 14, 12.

U. Hirschmüller bt K. Kruger 14, 15, 20.

E. Wetzel bt M. Kneip 12, -11, 13, 17.

A. Simon bt S. Hans 8, 8, 10.

Semi-finals

Hirschmüller bt Hendriksen 7, -16, 19, 16.

Simon bt Wetzel 16, -20, 16, -17, 23.

Final

SIMON bt Hirschmüller 20, -15, 18, 6.

Men's Doubles—Final

LEISS/K. SCHMITTINGER bt R. Jager//Lieck -14, 20, 13, 9.

Women's Doubles—Final

R. DIEBOLD/HIRSCHMULLER bt Hendriksen/Kneip -16, 16, 14, 19.

Mixed Doubles—Final

LIECK/HENDRIKSEN bt Engel/Hirschmüller 16, 11, -16, 16.

EUROPEAN TOP TWELVE

This season's E.T.T.U. "Top 12" competition will take place in the Hanse-Halle, Lubeck, Federal Germany, from April 23-25, organised by the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund E.V., in conjunction with the Tisch-Tennis-Verband Schleswig-Holstein E.V.

NETHERLANDS TOUR

An English quintet comprising Desmond Douglas, Andrew Barden, Paul Day, Carole Knight and Susan Lisle with Brian Burn as N.P.C., made a short tour of the Netherlands over the period January 26-30.

They were engaged in six separate matches, three men's and three women's, in three townships and lost only one when Bettine Vriesekoop, aged 14, starred in the 3-2 success obtained by the Dutch women in Budel.

Scores:—

At Steenwijk, January 27

Men won 6-3

Day bt H. Hopman 18, 7.

Douglas bt H. Lingen 5, 18.

Barden lost to N. v. Slobbe -11, -11.

Douglas lost to Hopman -11, -17.

Day bt v. Slobbe 16, -17, 8.

Barden bt Lingen 8, 18.

Douglas lost to v. Slobbe -18, -15.

Barden bt Hopman 11, 21.

Day bt Lingen 17, -14, 18.

Women won 4-1

Knight bt M. v.d. Vliet 14, 17.

Lisle bt S. Heltzel 8, -20, 18.

Knight/Lisle bt Heltzel/v.d. Vliet 19, -21, 19.

Knight lost to Heltzel 15, -18, -10.

Lisle bt v.d. Vliet -15, 15, 9.

At Budel, January 28

Men won 6-3

Day bt v. Slobbe -20, 20, 7.

Douglas lost to Hopman -14, -17.

Barden bt B. v.d. Helm 20, -18, 18.

Douglas bt v. Slobbe 16, 18.

Day lost to v.d. Helm -15, 16, -20.

Barden bt Hopman 16, 11.

Douglas lost to v.d. Helm -17, 10, -19.

Barden bt v. Slobbe 20, 18.

Day bt Hopman -19, 12, 14.

Women lost 2-3

Lisle lost to Heltzel -21, 22, -19.

Knight lost to B. Vriesekoop 19, -19, -23.

Knight/Lisle bt Heltzel/Vriesekoop 22, -19, 18.

Knight bt Heltzel 15, -12, 12.

Lisle lost to Vriesekoop -16, -17.

At Maassluis, January 29

Men won 7-2

Day bt D. Jeras 10, 6.

Douglas bt v.d. Helm 18, 12.

Barden bt Lingen 13, 10.

Day lost to v.d. Helm -13, 16, -10.

Barden bt Jeras 19, 10.

Douglas bt Lingen 18, -21, 15.

Barden lost to v.d. Helm -14, -15.

Day bt Lingen 11, 21.

Douglas bt Jeras 15, 12.

Women won 4-1

Knight bt v.d. Vliet 14, 19.

Lisle bt Vriesekoop 15, -14, 15.

Knight/Lisle bt v.d. Vliet/Vriesekoop 17, -18, 14.

Lisle lost to v.d. Vliet 19, -17, -11.

FORTHCOMING TOURNAMENTS

March

20-21—Strathclyde Open.

20-21—Newbury 2-Star Open (R.A.F., Greenham).

27—Middlesex 2-Star U-15 (Picketts Lock).

28—Middlesex Authorised Junior (Picketts Lock).

April

4—Bedford 1-Star.

4—Millom School 1-Star Junior.

8-10—Norwich Union English Championships (Stopsley Sports Centre, Luton).

11—Merton 1-Star Junior (Bournemouth).

21-23—Scottish International Open (Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh).

24—Sedgefield 2-Star Open (Aycliffe).

25—Perth Open.

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ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



by David Lomas

National title holders Millom. The Cumbrians fielded the Nos. 1-4 County juniors and only dropped one match to Fairham Comprehensive, Nottingham, when Notts No. 1 junior, Glyn Stredder beat Neil Smith. Chris Reed, of Millom, had a good win over Terry Bramford, Notts No. 2 junior.

Millom made it a double success by winning the Girls' Under-16. Although they again had the Nos. 1-4 County juniors, they could only draw with Roundhay, Leeds, who finished second. England-ranked Sue Hunt was unbeaten for Kesteven & Grantham, who, nevertheless, finished third.

The Boulevard High, Hull, won despite having to forfeit a set against Gladys Buxton, Derbyshire, when Alan Platten went down sick. Platten recovered later and played in the other two matches. Angela Hudson, Hull junior No. 3 and a member of the County Under-14 squad, was the star of St. Richard's success in the Under-13 Girls'.

Duncan Fraser, of Caistor, was unbeaten in their 5-3 win over Rossmere, Hartlepool, in the Under-11 event, with Ian Ferguson scoring maximum wins for the Cleveland side.

MIDLANDS & WEST

Stoke 6th Form College, who have represented Staffordshire on many occasions, finally made the final three when they overcame Beechen Cliff, Bath—the solitary Avon entry. The Stoke boys were led by Staffs No. 1 junior, Peter Machin.

Highfields, Wolverhampton, had teams in all three girls' events, and only their Under-13 side went down and then to a strong team from Penhill, Swindon, led by Pauline Townsend. Local organiser, Gwen Hazell, was delighted with this first-ever success for Wiltshire. The Highfields Under-16 team is stronger than their Under-19's and includes Staffs 1-3 juniors, Stephanie Jones, Suzanne Watton and Shirley Cain, with Joanne Chubb and Kathryn Hayhurst competing for the fourth place.

Woodlands Comprehensive, Coventry — National finalists last year—are again bound for Matlock and they are led by David Ward, a Warwickshire-ranked junior.

A deciding doubles was necessary in the Boys' Under-13 event when Washwood Heath, Birmingham, and Kenilworth G.S. drew 4-4 with equal sets ratio and the West Midlands lads were winners.

Burlington Primary, Birmingham, were too good for St. Boniface's, Plymouth, who finished second in the National Finals in 1974.

SOUTH & EAST

Steve Boxall's win over England-ranked junior, David Newman, of Plume School, Maldon, was the decisive factor in putting Beverley Boys', New Maldon, through on a 5-3 verdict after both teams had beaten Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet (who included Proffitt brothers Adam and Jonathon) 5-3, and Cedars Upper School, Leighton Buzzard, 7-1, for whom Sam Harmer was their only winner. Beverley also had Surrey juniors Gary Stewart and Steven Critchley.

Tolworth Girls' ousted last year's National finalists, St. Michael's R.C. Convent Grammar, Finchley, in winning the Girls' U-19. Elaine Starr headed their team.

Westlands, Sittingbourne, previous holders of four National titles, are back after a year's absence with the same team that won the Under-11 event five years ago! Helen Gore—daughter of organiser Ron—was unbeaten for Beauchamps, Basildon, who finished fourth.

Keith Chamberlain, of Harvey Grammar, Folkestone, was also unbeaten in a nail-biting 5-3 win over Lister Comprehensive, Newham, whose coach, Wally Read, had tipped for National honours. But the closest win here was that of St. Felix Middle, Newmarket, who won by "a short head" in a deciding doubles match over Windlesham House, Pulborough (West Sussex).

Trinity, Newham, were convincing winners over Kingston G.S. in the Boys' Under-16 event whilst neighbours and National title-holders, Brampton Manor, booked their trip to Matlock in the Under-13 Girls'. Carla Wilson, of Wyndgate, Folkestone, lost to Maxine Abbott, of Brampton Manor, but this was her only defeat.

RESULTS

(Winners compete at Matlock. All teams were area winners)

NORTH

Boys' Under-19

1. MONKS GRANGE HIGH, LEEDS (West Yorks.)
2. Staveley Grammar (Derbyshire)
3. Urmston Boys' Grammar (Greater Manchester)
4. Brinkburne Secondary, South Shields (Tyne & Wear)

Girls' Under-19

1. HENRY FANSHAWE, DRONFIELD (Derbyshire)
2. Convent of Mercy High, Liverpool (Merseyside)
3. Silver Royde High, Leeds (West Yorkshire)
4. Houghton Secondary, Sunderland (Tyne & Wear)

Boys' Under-16

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
2. Fairham Comprehensive, Nottingham (Notts)
3. St. Anthony's R.C., Middlesbrough (Cleveland)
4. De La Salle R.C. Grammar, Liverpool (Merseyside)

Girls' Under-16

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
2. Roundhay, Leeds (West Yorkshire)
3. Kesteven & Grantham (Lincolnshire)
4. St. Catherine's R.C., Blackpool (Lancs)

Schools from 12 counties will be involved in the 10th National School Team Championships—organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association and sponsored by Stiga AB—which take place at Lea Green Centre, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Saturday, March 20th.

Three of last year's seven title-holders return to defend their titles: Millom (Boys U-16), Highfields (Girls U-16) and Brampton Manor (Girls U-13). Several previous finalists will be returning in a bid for fresh or further glory. They are: Moor Grange (Leeds), St. Richard's (Hull), The Boulevard (Hull), Woodlands (Coventry), Washwood Heath (Birmingham), Trinity (Newham), Westlands (Sittingbourne) and Beverley Boys (New Malden).

New faces come from Caistor (Lincs.), Henry Fanshawe (Dronfield)—first-ever national finalists, from Derbyshire—Stoke 6th Form College—also "firsts" from Staffordshire, Penhill (Swindon)—giving Wiltshire its first representatives—St. Felix Middle (Newmarket), Tolworth (Surrey) and Harvey Grammar, who face a long journey from Folkestone.

A big surprise is the non-appearance of Cumberland School (formerly Plaistow G.S.) who have almost made the competition their own, being continuous finalists since 1968, winning a record total of 13 titles in five different events. Nevertheless, the London Borough of Newham still has two teams in the finals and Kingston-on-Thames provide two more. The biggest single representation is from the giant West Midland, who have five teams flying their colours.

The finals will be decided on the usual basis of the winning teams from the North, Midlands and West, and South and East regions playing each other in matches consisting of eight sets contested by teams of four players.

REGIONAL FINALS

Teams from 34 counties qualified via 12 Area Finals to take part in the three Regional Finals, which were held on February 15th, at Leeds, Swindon and Brentwood.

NORTH

Moor Grange—with Robert and Stephen Hazelwood unbeaten, had "home" advantage in winning the Boys' Under-19 event, whilst there was quite a battle in the Girls' Under-19 event. Convent of Mercy High, Liverpool—last year's National runner-up—put up quite a fight before going down to Henry Fanshawe, Dronfield. Derbyshire senior player, Mandy Mellor, was unbeaten as was ex-Derbyshire junior Wendy Brown but Lindsay Mellor lost to Lancashire-ranked Marie Gaul.

Organiser Rea Balmford reports two excellent matches in the Boys' Under-16 won by



Stephen Hazelwood, of Leeds, who, with his brother, Robert, was unbeaten for Moor Grange in the North Region U-19 event.

Photo by Tony Ross.

- Boys' Under 13**
1. BOULEVARD JUNIOR HIGH, HULL (Humberside)
 2. Gladys Buxton, Dronfield (Derbyshire)
 3. Millom (Cumbria)
 4. Culcheth High (Cheshire)
- Girls' Under-13**
1. ST. RICHARD'S R.C. JUNIOR HIGH, HULL (Humberside)
 2. Millom (Cumbria)
 3. Fairham Comprehensive, Nottingham (Notts)
 4. St. Catherine's R.C., Blackpool (Lancs)
- Under-11**
1. CAISTOR C.E./METHODIST PRIMARY (Lincolnshire)
 2. Rossmere, Hartlepool (Cleveland)
 3. Woodhouse Close, Bishop Auckland (Durham)
 4. St. Mary's C.E., Chorley (Lancs)

- MIDLANDS & WEST**
- Boys' Under-19**
1. STOKE VI FORM COLLEGE (Staffordshire)
 2. Beechen Cliff, Bath (Avon)
 3. Queen Elizabeth's, Wimborne (Dorset)
 4. Stourport High (Hereford & Worcester)
- Girls' Under-19**
1. HIGHFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON (West Midlands)
 2. Exeter College (Devon)
 3. Banbury Upper (Oxfordshire)
 4. Talbot Heath, Bournemouth (Dorset)
- Boys' Under-16**
1. WOODLANDS COMPREHENSIVE, COVENTRY (West Midlands)
 2. The Headlands, Swindon (Wiltshire)
 3. Callington (Cornwall)
 4. Gosford Hill, Kidlington (Oxfordshire)

- Girls' Under-16**
1. HIGHFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON (West Midlands)
 2. Callington (Cornwall)
 3. Gosford Hill Kidlington (Oxfordshire)
- Boys' Under-13**
1. WASHWOOD HEATH, BIRMINGHAM (West Midlands)
 2. Kenilworth Grammar (Warwickshire)
 3. Exmouth (Devon)
 4. St. Michael's C.E. Middle, Wimborne (Dorset)
- Girls' Under-13**
1. PENHILL, SWINDON (Wiltshire)
 2. Highfields, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
 3. Northampton High (Northants)
 4. Callington (Cornwall)
- Under-11**
1. BURLINGTON PRIMARY, BIRMINGHAM (West Midlands)
 2. St. Boniface's R.C., Plymouth (Devon)
 3. Lillington Junior, Leamington Spa (Warwickshire)
 4. St. Michael's C.E. Middle, Wimborne (Dorset)

- SOUTH & EAST**
- Boys' Under-19**
1. BEVERLEY BOYS, NEW MALDEN (Surrey Metropolitan)
 2. Plume, Maldon (Essex County)
 3. Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet (Middlesex)
 4. Cedars Upper, Leighton Buzzard (Beds)
- Girls' Under-19**
1. TOLWORTH (Surrey Metropolitan)
 2. St. Michael's Convent G.S., Finchley (Middlesex)

3. Kennet, Thatcham (Berkshire)
4. Ipswich High (Suffolk)

- Boys' Under-16**
1. TRINITY, NEWHAM (Essex Metropolitan)
 2. Kingston Grammar (Surrey Metropolitan)
 3. Bedford Modern (Beds)
 4. Thurlston, Ipswich (Suffolk)

- Girls' Under-16**
1. WESTLANDS, SITTINGBOURNE (Kent County)
 2. Maiden Erleigh, Reading (Berkshire)
 3. Woodford County High (Essex Metropolitan)
 4. Beauchamps Basildon (Essex County)

- Boys' Under-13**
1. HARVEY GRAMMAR, FOLKESTONE (Kent County)
 2. Lister Comprehensive, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
 3. Hereward, March (Cambridgeshire)
 4. Bedford Modern (Bedfordshire)

- Girls' Under-13**
1. BRAMPTON MANOR, NEWHAM (Essex Metropolitan)
 2. Ipswich High (Suffolk)
 3. Wyndgate, Folkestone (Kent County)
 4. Kennet, Thatcham (Berkshire)

- Under-11**
1. ST. FELIX MIDDLE, NEWMARKET (Suffolk)
 2. Windlesham House, Pulborough (West Sussex)
 3. Essex Junior, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
 4. Sweyne County Primary, Swanscombe (Kent County)

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES
by Bob Bridges

JEKYLL AND HYDE

Keith Richardson admitted that he played better than he thought possible for Cambs seniors in their needle match against Herts after an indifferent Junior display against Yorkshire the same afternoon, but his two wins against Jonathan Proffitt and Richard Jermy (Hertfordshire bankers?) certainly did Cambridgeshire well and should put them in the Senior Challenge for promotion to the Premier Division for the second year on the trot (again at our expense!).

With Jonathan and Richard in Cambridge with the Seniors, Herts Junior first team (in with a chance of Junior 2nd Midland honours) sent Gavin Booth, Paul Mason, Terry Pleasance, Lindsay Booth and Frances Stevens to Wales for the Glamorgan match—by British Rail—and they performed meritably, return-

ing home with a 6-4 win. No senior clashes for the remaining matches and the top two boys should be out against Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the assistance afforded by Jean Beer and her Glamorgan colleagues in this match.

On the domestic scene, the Hertfordshire Inter-Club Competition this season has attracted an entry of 14 teams in the Open Section, 12 in the Intermediate and sadly only four in the Ladies' Section.

The first round has been played and victory in all Open matches went to the home team, one of the narrowest results being a 5-4 win for Leverstock Green L.T.C. (Hemel Hempstead) over Waltham Cross, in which Jack Baxter beat Colin Jackson 25-23 in the decider in the crucial eighth set, leaving Peter Greenshield and Bob Bridges (cringe) to settle the result, with the former romping home fairly easily. Close game also between Enfield Highway Working Mens Club and Letchworth Lawn Tennis "C" with Enfield Highway coming out winners.

The Intermediate Section proved that "away" teams could win with Catalins (Cheshunt) beating Leggatts (Watford) 6-3 and Dunlops (Cheshunt) (consisting of various sizes of the Williams family) beating Hoddesdon L.T.C. 5-3.

Hertfordshire Junior Closed

By the time you read this article it should be very close to the closing date for the Herts Junior Closed Championships.

Roy Wilson is again organiser and the tournament is to be held on Sunday, April 4, at Hatfield Sports Hall—at great expense to the County Association, but a high entry is anticipated so the loss should be minimal in money terms—but then the County is around to promote the game—at any cost . . .

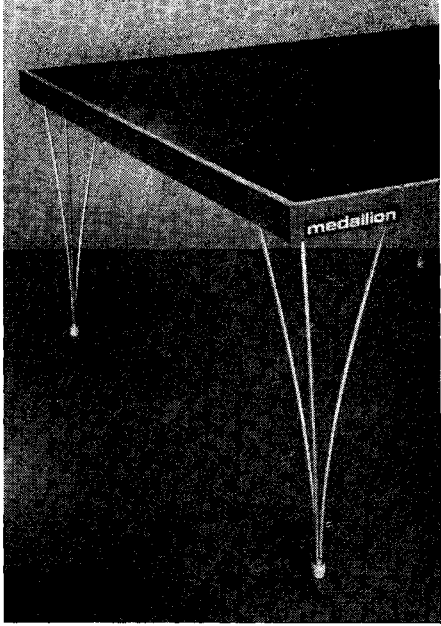
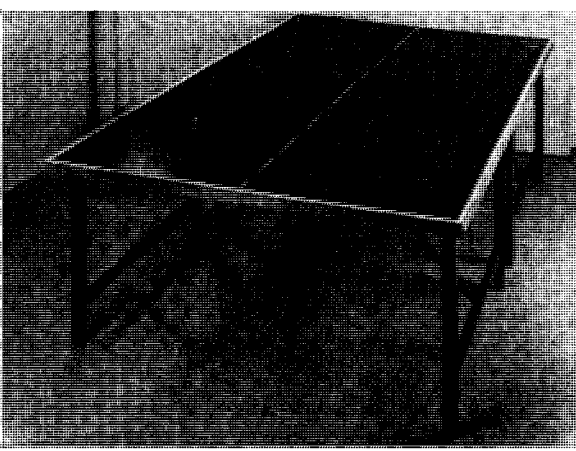
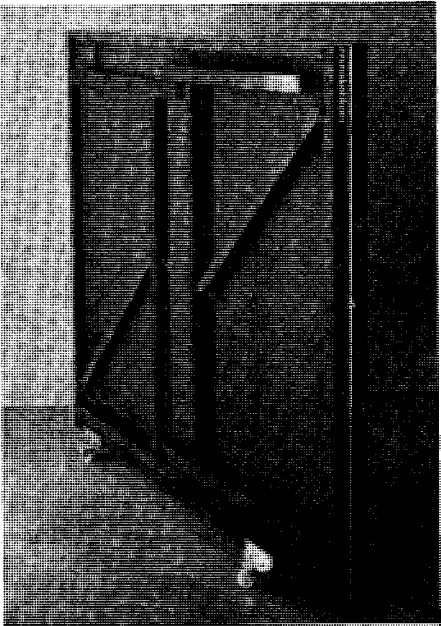


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The French Connection

By The Editor

True it was that in Pelhrimov on March 4 France accounted for Czechoslovakia 6-1 in the shock Premier Division result of the European League.

The only home victory was registered by Jaroslav Kunz and Jiri Turai in the men's doubles over Jacques Secretin and Patrick Birocheau. Istvan Jonyer was missing from the Czech line-up but even so for Kunz to lose both his singles and for Ilona Uhlíkova to be beaten in straight games by Claude Bergeret speaks volumes for fine performances put up by the French players. Individual scores:—

- J. Kunz lost to C. Martin -14, -18.
- J. Turai lost to J. Secretin -14, -14.
- I. Uhlíkova lost to C. Bergeret -17, -15.
- Kunz/Turai bt Secretin/Birocheau 14, 17.
- Turai/Uhlíkova lost to Secretin/Bergeret -19, -9.
- Kunz lost to Secretin -13, 13, -16.
- Turai lost to Martin -19, 19, -20.

FRENCH JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

If anyone is interested in joining a small party travelling to the French Junior Open in Vichy (17-18 April)—leaving London on the evening of Thursday, 15th, and returning on the morning of Tuesday, 20th—they should contact

P. S. GOACHER,
27 Downs Way, Epsom, Surrey.
Telephone: Epsom 21282 (evenings)

Lancashire Closed Championships

The Lancashire Closed Championships, normally held at the commencement of the season, have been held in abeyance due to difficulties experienced by the Preston League.

With no solution forthcoming the newly-formed Mid-Lancashire League (being an amalgamation of the former Chorley and Horwich Leagues) have undertaken the task of organisation.

Their secretary, Ian Campbell, of 4 Glabyn Avenue, Lostock, Bolton, is the Organising Secretary and forms can now be had from him (Phone: Bolton 68520). The closing date is Friday, April 2, 1976, the championships having been booked for Sunday, April 11, at B.I.T., Deane Road, Bolton, commencing at 10 a.m.. Events comprise: M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., X.D., B.S., G.S. and V.S.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Richard Habgood

RELEGATION? — NEVER!

Can the County first team avoid the big drop to the 2nd Division? That must be the question and is one that will surely be answered in the next few weeks.

With fixtures against Lancashire on March 13 and Surrey on April 3 to come, our chances must be good, with the answer being entirely in our own hands.

It really is tight down there at the bottom of the table this season, and a glance at the table (as shown elsewhere in this issue) just proves my point.

It's good to report that our Junior team looks like being our most successful representative side, and if they can continue winning then they must have chances of taking the Junior 2nd Midland Division.

Leamington must be by far the most improved side competing in the Warwickshire League, but they must be kicking themselves for their surprise defeat by Nuneaton.

South Birmingham, as expected, head the table but could yet come unstuck! Conven-

iently the last scheduled match of the programme is the South v Leamington game: If Leamington can produce top form and win it will be only sets average that separates them.

MIDLAND TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Leading positions as at February 9, 1976

MEN—Division 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Bristol	6	4	1	1	38	22 9
Birmingham 'A'	3	3	0	0	27	3 6
Hinckley 'A'	5	3	0	2	34	16 6
Notts 'A'	5	1	3	1	24	26 5
Wolves	6	2	1	4	22	38 5
MEN—Division 2						
Potteries	4	4	0	0	30	10 8
Coventry	3	2	0	1	18	12 4
Birmingham 'B'	3	2	0	1	16	14 4
VETERANS—Division 1						
Coventry	5	4	1	0	36	14 9
Leamington	7	3	2	2	42	28 8
Cheltenham	7	3	2	2	32	38 8
Oxford 'A'	6	3	1	2	35	25 7
Notts 'A'	4	2	2	0	26	14 6
JUNIOR—Division 1						
Leicester	7	5	0	2	47	23 10
Derby 'A'	6	4	0	2	38	22 8
Coventry 'A'	4	3	1	0	31	9 7
Birmingham 'A'	5	3	1	1	26	24 7
JUNIOR—Division 2						
Coventry 'B'	6	6	0	0	53	7 12
Cheltenham	7	6	0	1	56	14 12
Shrewsbury	7	4	1	2	38	32 9
Hereford	6	4	0	2	35	28 8
WOMEN'S DIVISION						
Birmingham 'A'	5	4	1	0	39	11 9
Derby	4	3	0	1	24	16 6
Notts	3	2	0	1	19	11 4
West Brom	3	1	1	1	17	13 3

SEDGEFIELD AND DISTRICT 2-STAR OPEN

Entry forms in respect of the Sedgefield and District 2-Star Open, being played at Newton Aycliffe Recreation Centre, on Saturday, April 24, 1976, can now be had from John Masson, at 10 Teesdale Avenue, Darlington, Co. Durham (Phone: Darlington 65732). Entries close on Wednesday, April 7.

The event is again being sponsored by Sedgefield and District Council Recreation and Amenities Committee, who once more provide the excellent venue as well as enabling the Aycliffe League to offer an increased prize fund of almost £180—the highest yet! Winner of the men's singles will win £40 with £20 going to the winner of the women's singles.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1975/76 Suffolk County Senior Championships were held in Ipswich on February 21. A slight falling off in the number of entries in no way reduced the standard or the keen efforts of the competitors taking part.

John Kitchener, the England-ranked No. 12 and reigning men's champion for the past three years, had a previous "3-Star" engagement and did not compete. Mick Palmer, who had three times previously been the beaten finalist, gained a well-merited reward when he took the M.S. title on this occasion, beating the talented Lowestoft junior, Russell King.

Debbie Wootton displayed continued progress and determination when in the women's singles she toppled Judith Langridge, the title-holder of the past two seasons.

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(2 Star)

8th/9th MAY 1976

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Mens Singles £100 to Winner (subject to approval)

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The National Exhibition Centre

By JOHN PIKE

It was a cold and bleak February morning with the skies full of snow when the Queen came to Birmingham to officially open the National Exhibition Centre at Bickenhill. The freezing weather provided some anxious moments before the ceremony, with ground crews having to spray the main runway before the Royal aircraft landed. The Queen said of the N.E.C.: "The nation has at last acquired an exhibition centre which can bear comparison with the rest of the world."

Her visit put the Royal seal on a farsighted Midland enterprise which next year this time will be the home of our own World Table Tennis Championships. Birmingham is already a cosmopolitan city but with the birth of the N.E.C. it has now become an international city and a showpiece of the world.

The new centre, all £44,000,000 worth of it, is the most exciting thing to have happened in the Midlands this century. A full-scale exhibition there will pump £2,000,000 a day into the West Midlands if you include all the aspects of travel, hotel accommodation, meals, entertainment and other commercial contributions.

One of the major assets of the National Exhibition Centre is the convenience of access to it from all parts of the country, whether it be by road, rail, or air. Britain's newest railway station at the centre, Birmingham International, has made British Rail history. At a cost of £6,000,000 it is the first new station to be built in this country since Marylebone, in London, at the turn of the century. When finally completed, Birmingham International will have five platforms each 1,000 ft. in length, and capable of accommodating a 13-coach Inter-city express.

A wide, fully enclosed bridge, joins the station directly to the N.E.C. so that when passengers arrive they will reach the centre by this means, as the bridge terminates in the Central Piazza. Something like 100 trains a day will call at the centre, but of course, there will be two other forms of transport that will be heavily used.

For those visitors travelling to the centre by road, three Motorways, the M1, M5 and M6 already converge on the centre from the north east, north west, south east and south west.

Directly adjacent to the centre is Birmingham's international airport, which now has the capacity to deal with up to 2 million passengers a year, and no doubt many visitors to the N.E.C. both from home and overseas, will be using this form of transport.

The centre itself has parking for 15,000 cars and 200 coaches in four landscaped parking areas, screened by some 40,000 shrubs and 60,000 trees. The specially created Pendigo Lake covers 16 acres and is eight feet deep. Its fountain can produce a water spray of 200 feet.

Alongside the lake is the new Metropole Hotel with its 500 twin-bedded rooms built to a five star standard. The only thing missing is an indoor swimming pool. The £12,000,000 hotel complex includes the Warwick Hotel, with 200 single rooms and a single storey conference centre.

Four million visitors are expected at the N.E.C. every year and to look after their every need, a new Tourism and Entertainment Centre is already in operation. This will enable visitors to book seats at theatres, night clubs, restaurants and sporting events in the region. The entertainment counter is linked to the N.E.C. main switchboard, 021-780 4141.

The whole complex is so big that 3,000 double-decker buses could be garaged inside the six exhibition halls. Hall 5, that is the one where the World Table Tennis Championships

will be held, could house 35 railway trains with 10 coaches each.

The six halls provide a total of a million square feet of exhibition space, that's roughly the size of Earls Court and Olympia put together. Laid end to end, the pieces of steel tubing used to construct the halls would stretch from Birmingham to London. The complete site is as big as London's Hyde Park, with a further 100 acres developed as access roads to the centre.

The capacity of the N.E.C's underground water supply is 750,000 gallons and the cooling system inside the buildings is 50 per cent bigger than the entire airconditioning system installed in the QE2.

The Post Office have put in a telephone system for the entire complex costing half a million pounds and capable of providing 2,300 exchange lines. That will be welcome news for the many reporters covering the World Championships next year. Before then, however, readers of "Table Tennis News" will be kept fully informed of the big build-up to what could be the greatest sporting event this country has ever known.

World Championships 1977

UMPIRES AND STEWARDS

Are you interested in being considered for inclusion in the helpers who will be required for the World Championships? We will need about 120 umpires throughout the whole period of the Championships, from 26th March to 6th April, 1977, and we will also need some unqualified people for the various jobs that will need to be done. If you are interested in being included on the preliminary list write to:—

MISS IRIS MOSS,

49 OKEHAMPTON ROAD, KENSAL RISE,
LONDON NW10 3EN.

Tell her your umpiring status (International, National or County) and keep her up-to-date if you get "promoted". If you can give any indication of when you hope to be available full time or part time (and if so, for which days) this will be helpful in making the final selection.

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JILL HAMMERSLEY

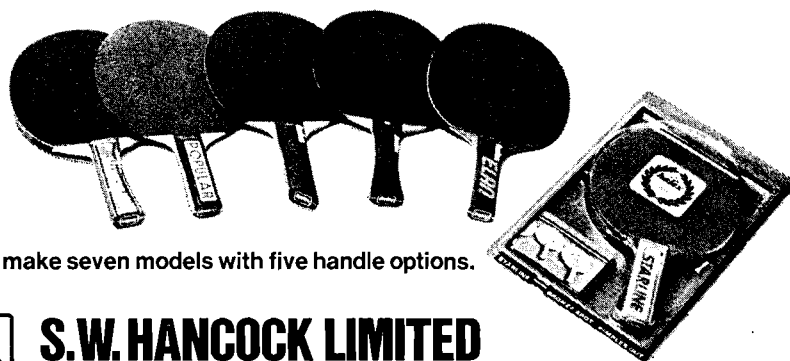


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CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

HAT-TRICK AGAINST CLEVELAND

All three Cumbria teams made a fine start to their '76 County Championship campaign by gaining good wins over their counterpart Cleveland teams in the last round of matches.

For the senior team it was their first win of the season and unbeaten performances from Chris Reed and Alan Fay helped the team progress to a comfortable 8-2 success. Chris confirmed his position as County No. 1 with two comfortable singles wins, while Fay—Cumbria's anti-loop expert—justified his inclusion in place of No. 2-ranked Brian Towell, with straight game wins in his two singles.

The defeat of John Willis by Cleveland's Kevin McPartland in the first set of the match in no way deterred the rest of the team as Fay, and later Willis, took their first County wins of the season. Jennifer Pachul went down at -17 in the third against Norma Carne but partnered Clarice Rose to a comfortable women's doubles success, the talented pair still remaining unbeaten this season.

The Junior first team took their second win of the season with another 8-2 success over Cleveland Junior II. Chris Reed, Neil Smith and Ian Reed took two singles each with Chris and Neil and Gail Smith and Miranda Gray combining to win the boys' and girls' doubles respectively. The two wins for Chris extends his unbeaten run in junior matches to four, with the opposition never posing any real threat to his ability.

Neil overcame an indifferent start to take his two wins -14, 8 and 16 against Stephen Holden, and 16, -20 and 8 against Paul Hindle. Ian's form is progressing in giant strides and his two straight game wins included a tremendous 4 and 8 win over Chris Gunn.

The Junior second team completed the triple success with a close 6-4 win over Cleveland Junior III. Andrew Pachul clinched the Cumbrians' first win of the season by beating M. Lowe 18, 20 in the final set, Andrew doing very well to come back from 17-20 down in the second game. Ian Harrison and Diccon Gray had earlier shone with Ian finishing with two singles and the boys' doubles with Diccon to his credit, the latter just finishing with one singles win after narrowly going down -18, -21 against Peter Docherty. An important mixed doubles win for Andrew and Elaine Mathie completed the victory for the home side.

Millom have progressed to the fourth round of the Carter Cup following two comprehensive 9-0 victories over the Northumberland and Carlisle leagues. The Millom team of Chris Reed, Neil Smith and Ian Reed have yet to drop a single game. Their first real test will come in the next round when they meet Sunderland.

Further success for Millom in having clinched the inter-league title after decisive

9-3 wins over Barrow and Carlisle. Even with one match remaining, against Whitehaven, Millom's total of 8 points from four matches cannot be equalled, with all challengers having dropped at least three points already.

The highlight of the Barrow match was a monumental clash between Chris Reed and Alan Fay. Both had two singles to their credit when they met in the final set. Fay took the first game at 13 with his resolute defending playing a large part. The second game followed a similar pattern and all looked over when Fay went into a 20-16 lead.

Reed, however, produced a great effort to pull level and eventually take the game at 27-25. The decider proved to be as tight but Reed's England class told in the final stages and he took the game at 17. Neil Smith was also on top form for Millom and gained good wins over Eddie O'Hara and Mike Jackson as well as teaming up with Chris to inflict the first doubles defeat of the season on Fay and Jackson 13, 13.

Millom's other wins came from Ian Reed over Jackson, Jennifer Pachul over Mary McPartland and Jennifer and Ian over O'Hara and Joanne Davies in the mixed.

Unbeaten performances from both Chris Reed and Neil Smith helped Millom to an easier than expected victory over the strong Carlisle team containing three of the top six County-ranked men. Ian Reed again gave evidence of his growing status by beating fifth-ranked David Kirkpatrick 15, 9 and taking Willis and Stuart O'Neil to 17 and 15 in the third respectively. Kirkpatrick showed little of the form which enabled him to win the Carlisle City Championships on the previous day. Current inter-league table:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millom	4	4	0	0	36	12	8
Whitehaven	3	1	1	1	21	15	3
Carlisle	3	1	1	1	18	18	3
Westmorland	2	0	1	1	11	13	1
Barrow	2	0	1	1	9	15	1
Workington	2	0	0	2	1	23	0

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

"IMPOSSIBLE" ACHIEVED

Leicestershire are already guaranteed the championship of the 2nd (Midland) Division. This is the pleasing news from the hunting shire. Their visit to Derbyshire was the vital match. A win would mean Leicestershire would only need to draw with Glamorgan to achieve top place. However, to the delight of the six car-loads who travelled, the visitors did the "impossible" and won 10-0, the third "white-wash" on the trot. All the team played above themselves but special praise must be given to Maurice Newman.

Maurice's nerves have often cost him dearly with the result he has not achieved the results his talent—and dedication—deserved. But in recent matches his form has been a revelation but he has never played better than in the Derbyshire match. This means that even a 0-10 reverse against Glamorgan would still leave Leicestershire top—by one set—but the team are hoping to finish the season on a winning note.

The Veterans also had a good win when they went to Walsall and returned 5-4 victors against Staffordshire. Despite losing four men's singles, they were still victorious with Glenys Odams giving another inspired display.

Leicester are struggling to retain their place in the 1st Division of the Midland League. Chris Rogers is playing well and recorded a

good maximum against Nottingham where Leicester took a point.

On the Leicester League front, Loughborough continue to dominate things in the first division and it will be a major shock now if they fail to take the title. Barwell Liberals, led by Stuart Haines, top the 2nd Division and look certain to sample 1st Division table tennis next season. There are now only four players in the Leicester League with 100% records—and three of them come from Loughborough—Donald Parker (Division 1), Terry Jeffcott (3), Ron Forster (6) and the "outsider", Jimmy Mee (7).

The best bargain in Leicestershire table tennis must be the Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy—the Ladies' Handicap Competition—organised each year by Audrey Watson. The entry fee is 10p—which includes refreshments!

In the Loughborough League, Triangle look certain winners of the 1st Division, their team consisting of Jerry Jeffcott, Mike Meredith and John Lenton. As expected, Snipe continue to dominate Division 2.

Arrangements are well in hand for the Leicestershire Closed Championships — sponsored by the "Town & Country Building Society" this season — which are being held at a new venue—Soar Valley School and Community College. At the time of writing Paul Randell was confined to bed with back trouble and the chances of him playing were a bit remote. Everyone will want to wish a speedy recovery to Leicestershire's best-ever player—and also one of the most popular.

WRITE TO

MIKE LAWLESS

E.T.T.A. Development Officer and World Championships Director

Can you chat in Chinese, talk Turkish, speak Serbo-Croat or Parley Portuguese?

Can you touch type on teleprinter, operate an offset, steward securely or just run relentlessly?

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YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!

With the World Championships but a year or so away, we are looking to the "aficianados" to supply the army of workers needed to ensure that the necessarily meticulous planning now taking place is effected on the day.

Whatever your skills, whatever your shortcomings, if you think you can help in any way, now or at the time of the Championships, please drop me a line (no telephone calls please).

If you have a preference for working in a particular field, you will wish to know that the four committees covering the organisation of the event are now operative. These are:— Administration, Publicity and Press, Venue and Local, and Technical.

Remember that these are your Championships so GET INVOLVED!

I look forward to receiving masses of letters but must finish this piece with a warning. READ THE SMALL PRINT.

(There can be no guarantee that anyone working will have time to watch a lot of table tennis, so would-be "freeloaders" refrain from writing)

NATIONAL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the E.T.T.A.'s National Council will take place in London on Saturday, April 24.



Ian Reed, whose form is progressing in giant strides.

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ANOTHER WIN FOR TONY

By C. B. Cashell

A good entry was received with over 100 competitors taking part on Sunday, February 8, with Tony Isaac accounting for Bob Brown to take the men's singles title. Joyce Coop beat Janet New to win the women's singles title with Cadet Colin Wilson winning the boys' event and Janet New the girls'. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

A. Isaac (Staffs) bt D. Holman (Ex) 12, 18.
R. Brown (Worcs) bt S. Wilson (Hants) 11, 18.
Final

ISAAC bt Brown 15, 10.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

J. Coop (Hants) bt A. Boyce (Wilts) 16, 12.
J. New (Dorset) bt S. Gilson (Dorset) 15, 8.
Final

COOP bt New -20, 12, 11.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Brown/Isaac bt C. Wilson (Hants)/S. Wilson 14, 16.
T. Bruce/W. Moulding (Wilts) bt Holman/T. Smith (Hants) 16, -15, 7.
Final

BROWN/ISAAC bt Bruce/Moulding 11, -18, 10.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

J. Hudson (Hants)/New bt P. Oung/D. Sherman (Wilts) 16, 15.
J. Applin (Hants)/Coop bt Gilson/M. Tighe (Dorset) 19, 16.
Final

HUDSON/NEW bt Applin/Coop -18, 15, 11.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

J. Robinson (Dorset)/New bt S. Wilson/Hudson 19, 19.
Smith/Coop bt C. Phipps (Wilts)/Oung -21, 10, 14.
Final

ROBINSON/NEW bt Smith/Coop -19, 14, 11.

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals

C. Wilson bt M. Francis (Sx) 15, 11.
G. Hill (Dorset) bt A. Leigh (London) 16, -19, 20.
Final

WILSON bt Hill -18, 17, 17.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

New bt Gilson 9, 14.
W. Parker (Wilts) bt G. Heath (Berks) 5, 18.
Final

NEW bt Parker 7, 20.

by Maurice Chalk

This on/off tournament finally took place at Chosen Hill, Gloucester, on January 24-25, much to the delight of the 300 competitors who took part. The new venue provided admirably in every respect.

Ian Collins, of Kent, won his first Open tournament when he beat C. Leslie, of Bucks, in the U-17 boys' singles final 19, -19, 19. The U-15 singles, with 130 entries accepted, was won by Steve Yallop, who beat Sam Harmer 16, -12, 16.

In the U-13 singles Richard Bergemann disposed of his great rival, Colin Wilson, in the semi-final and went on to win the final in commanding style against P. Whiting 11, 9. The U-11 boys' attracted another large entry, but A. Dixon was not really tested until he reached the final, when Russell took him to three -14, 14, 11.

Local girl Vanessa Cruwys did well in the U-17 singles to reach the final, losing to Mandy Smith -14, -12. All the girls' finals were decided in straight games, M. Reeves beating E. Bolton in the U-15's, after a very close semi-final against C. Wilson. A. Gordon won the U-13's and Y. Hall the U-11's. Results:—

Under-17

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

I. Collins (Kt) bt B. Tyler (Mx) -9, 18, 13.
S. Harmer (Beds) bt C. Sparks (Mx) 15, 20.
C. Leslie (Bucks) bt G. Sandley (Mx) 18, 18.
P. Griffiths (Wks) bt R. Johnson (Berks) 24, 16.

Semi-finals

Collins bt Harmer 20, -12, 15.

Leslie bt Griffiths 19, -14, 12.

Final

COLLINS bt Leslie 19, -19, 19.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

M. Smith (Berks) bt S. Watton (Staffs) 16, 16.
V. Cruwys (Gloucs) bt M. Reeves (Mx) -11, -18, 11.

Final

SMITH bt Cruwys 14, 12.

Boys' Doubles—Final

SANDLEY/TYLER bt G. Hill/J. Robinson -20, 17, 17.

Girls' Doubles—Final

SMITH/J. WALKER bt C. Maisey/W. Parker 13, 19.

Mixed Doubles—Final

D. WARD/PARKER bt Tyler/Smith -18, 19, 20.

Under-15

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

Tyler bt C. Wilson (Hants) 15, -9, 21.
Harmer bt D. Ward (Wks) 12, 15.
S. Yallop (Dbys) bt J. Souter (Mx) 18, 17.
M. Green (Salop) bt Sandley 13, -13, 14.

Semi-finals

Harmer bt Tyler 21, -8, 20.

Yallop bt Green 6, 16.

Final

YALLOP bt Harmer 16, -12, 16.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

Reeves bt C. Wilson (Kent) 20, -20, 19.
E. Bolton (Kt) bt A. Gordon (Berks) -9, 16, 15.

Final

REEVES bt Bolton 7, 16.

Boys' Doubles—Final

C. PAPANTONION (Mx)/SOUTER bt Harmer/B. Johnson 9, -20, 19.

Girls' Doubles—Final

H. GORE/REEVES bt Gordon/Purslow -14, 20, 9.

Under-13

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals

R. Bergemann (Hants) bt Wilson 17, 19.
P. Whiting (Dvn) bt M. Oakley (Sy) 17, -17, 17.

Final

BERGEMANN bt Whiting 11, 9.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

Gordon bt S. Cain (Staffs) 8, 17.

Reeves bt S. James (Cornwall) -12, 9, 17.

Final

GORDON bt Reeves 12, 11.

Boys' Doubles—Final

B. JOHNSON/WILSON bt Bergemann/M. Owens 15, 12.

Girls' Doubles—Final

BOLTON/WILSON bt L. Garbet/Gordon 22, 15.

Under-11

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals

G. Russell (Sy) bt D. Lloyd (Salop) 16, 10.
A. Dixon (W. Mid) bt A. Devitt (Wks) 8, 14.

Final

DIXON bt Russell -14, 14, 11.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

Y. Hall (Leics) bt L. Souter (Mx) 10, 8.

K. Gore (Ex) bt A. Sparks (Mx) 15, 18.

Final

HALL bt Gore 18, 12.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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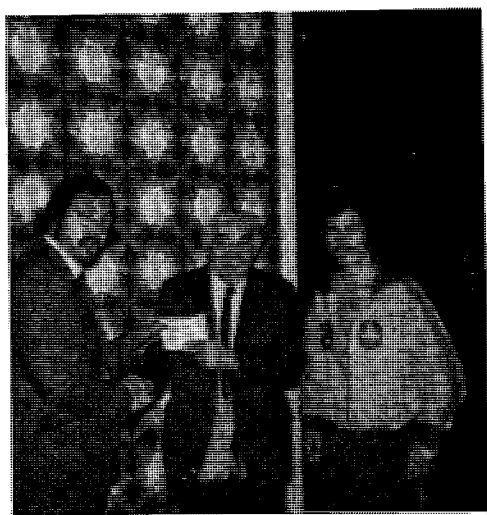
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FUND RAISING

The South Yardley club raised £110 from a sponsored walk, in aid of the World Championship Fund.

The enclosed snap is of the Chairman of South Yardley T.T.C.—Brian Lloyd—handing over the cheque to E.T.T.A. President, Maurice Goldstein (with the Hon. Secretary, Barry Johnson).

Obituary

FRED JOYCE

We are deeply sorry to report the death of Fred Joyce, who left us on December 11 last. Fred was still serving Surrey, in the capacity of Treasurer, a post which he had held over most, if not all, of the years which stretched back to 1947. It was in that year, a long time after he had taken up the game as a good first division standard player, that he, Charles Bourne and Percy Lawes set up the Surrey County Association. For the next 28 years he served in one or several capacities at once, notably as County Match Secretary, in which job his organisational skill was matched by his flair as M.C. at most home venues.

In recent years Fred took over the Chairmanship from Percy Lawes, and in one year, at least, also served as Treasurer and Acting Secretary. Only a few days before his death he had volunteered to organise the Senior Closed Championships, and so it can readily be seen that Fred was the prime example of the sort of cheerful volunteer worker that every Association must have if the sport is to continue to prosper.

Fred will be particularly missed by the Wandsworth League which he was largely instrumental in starting in 1945, where he was Secretary until 1953, and President from then onwards, and he will certainly be missed by all those who knew and worked with him.

T.S.

DURHAM NOTES

by Edgar Reay

FRUSTRATING INJURY

Durham County are having one of their best seasons in the County Championships and were unbeaten in the Senior Div. 2 (North) and Junior (North) prior to the matches of February 14 when they had their most difficult matches against Lincolnshire seniors and Lancashire juniors.

The absence of Keith Paxton, out with suspected cartilage trouble since the England Junior Squad training session at Lea Green in December, could have a bearing on the results, but we are hopeful that physiotherapy treatment on the knee will avoid having the cartilage removed.

It must be frustrating, after all the practise and training he has put in this season, to have to sit it out, just as the time when selection for England looked a possibility. But the enforced rest may be to his advantage, for he will come back with a renewed desire to get playing.

It is pleasing to have two of our juniors in the Junior Ranking List at the same time. Tony Gelder joins Keith at No. 14, again a justifiable reward for some hard work, both at home and around the tournaments, and an objective, the Ranking List, as his target. These two players both started playing with the Redby School team in the Sunderland Schools' League, and should both have many years of service to offer to Sunderland and Durham County.

The Philadelphia and District League team scored a great success when they defeated Ormesby in the Carter Cup by 5 sets to 4 off a bad start. They were soon three sets down, then pulled back to 3-3. Ian Plummer put Ormesby into the lead once again when he beat Paul Ellison in straight games, and with Michael Laird, who had beaten Peter Masters, to play Geoff Inch, the situation was tense.

Laird won the first game at 16, Inch took the second at 19 to level the set, the third went to 20-all but Inch took the next two points to make the score 4-4, and Masters took Philadelphia through into the next round when he beat Stephen Holden 13, 8. Philadelphia were next due to meet Sunderland.

Halex Kent 2-star Open

NO REGRETS FROM IAN

by Cyril Burden

Once again, at Folkstone over the weekend of January 24-25, a most enjoyable tournament which was made more so by the entries of John Hilton, Nigel Eckersley, Peter D'Arcy and Phil Bowen from the North.

It is a pity that the top-ranked players in both men's and women's lists did not enter. Not that Ian Horsham (No. 5) regretted this as he took the men's singles, but not until after a close shave in the semis when a truly great set with Eckersley had the spectators enthralled.

The final was a peculiar affair with first Horsham winning easily, at 16, then Hilton running away with the second, at 6. The decider was closely fought and was closer than the score of 21-16 appears on paper. The women's entry was poor but this did not detract from the all-round ability of Elaine Tarten, who won both the women's and U-20 singles against the same girl, Jill Wilson, from Somerset, with identical scores, 12 and 7.

The veterans' event once again had that young veteran Henry Buist adding another title to his collection by his wide-angled hitting being too much for Mick Forrester. The U-20 boys' singles was a wide open event and some fine games were seen, but David Iszatt came through without dropping a set and beat Ian Girdler in the final, 17 and 17.

In the men's doubles the Northern pairing of Hilton and Eckersley won through, beating in the final, David Tan and Max Crimmins. The play ended on both evenings before 9 p.m., so enabling all to get away at a reasonable time. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

J. Hilton (Ches) bt D. Iszatt (Essex) 15, 16.
I. Horsham (Essex) bt N. Eckersley 22, -8, 19.

Final

HORSHAM bt Hilton 16, -6, 16.

Women's Singles—Final

E. Tarten (Essex) bt J. Wilson (Somerset) 12, 7.

Men's Doubles—Final

Eckersley/Hilton bt M. Crimmins (Surrey)/D. Tan (Middx) 15, 14.

Women's Doubles—Final

L. Budd/J. Livesey (Essex) bt M. Sangster (Middx)/Tarten 14, -15, 18.

Mixed Doubles—Final

Hilton/Budd bt S. Lyons (Surrey)/C. Randall (Sussex) 17, -8, 14.

U-20 Boys Singles—Final

Iszatt bt I. Girdler (Kent) 17, 17.

U-20 Girls' Singles—Final

Tarten bt Wilson 12, 7.

Veteran Singles—Final

H. Buist (Kent) bt M. Forrester (Kent) 12, 11.

UMPIRING CORNER

ANSWERS

(1) WRONG; (2) POINT TO BILL; (3) POINT TO BILL; (4a) LET; (4b) LET.

In coming to a decision on these issues, the umpire must bear in mind that a moving spectator or player (other than a partner or opponent) a neighbouring object in movement or a sudden noise, such as a burst of applause, may be regarded as an accident not within the control of the player and such interference would imply a let. On the other hand, a stationary object, the umpire, the lights, a continuous even sound or any such constant hazard would not be so regarded.

Although question (4b) implies that a second ball in the arena did not create any problems for the contestants, nevertheless, the umpire should immediately call "Let" for at a subsequent time in the rally, the second ball could create a distraction.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

STARLET SHINES IN DEFEAT

Weston had a close call at home to Plymouth whose team included the 13-years-old starlet, Paul Whiting. Two wins each for Tony Russe and Joe Garland plus one from Ray Philpott, at the expense of Whiting, eventually got the Somerset team home 5-4.

Keith James, for Plymouth, was undefeated, the other win coming from Terry Fairbanks, aged 16 who, like young Paul, showed great promise. Good luck to the pair of them.

The long-awaited clash between Exmouth, at home to Newbury, resulted in an equally narrow win for Exmouth. With the match score poised at 4-all, Paddy Shephard brought victory to the home side with a comfortable win over David Wise.

Mike Rattue and Paul Stone shared the other four successes whilst for Newbury, David Reeves would appear a vastly improved player this season, for he played brilliantly to win his three. Simon Heaps just managed to account for Shephard.

In the Women's Section, Newbury "B" had a 7-2 victory over a weakened Newport team with 12-years-old Brenda Annand making her debut, putting up a game fight despite playing in a class somewhat above her standard.

Mandy Smith and Joyce Taylor had maximums for Newbury while, for Newport, Pat Perrett and Elizabeth Jones both beat Carol Rogers, who went down -20 in the third on both occasions. Hard luck, Carol, a good effort.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Caroline Reeves

NEWBURY TO THE FORE

Newbury were successful in the 1st Men's Division and the Women's Division of the Berkshire Inter-town competition held at Bulmurshe Sports Centre over two weekends.

The Newbury men's team, consisting of Simon Heaps, David Reeves and David Wise, beat opposing teams from Reading, Bracknell, Maidenhead and Slough. The women's team of Carol Houghton, Joyce Taylor, Sandra Heath and Caroline Reeves, beat teams from Reading, Maidenhead and Slough to win their division.

The Newbury girls' team also won the Girls' Division by a very close margin, which was eventually decided by a points average. The team was Mandy Smith, Carol Rogers and Gillian Heath. The Men's Div. 2 and Cadet Divisions I and II were won by Maidenhead teams. The Junior Boys' Divisions I and II were won by Reading.

Our first Senior County team still remains unbeaten with wins over Wiltshire (6-4) and Worcestershire (8-2). The latter match was most encouraging as we were without both Karen Witt and Simon Heaps. Their places were taken by Derek Basden and 13-years-old Alison Gordon. Unfortunately, our second team did not do so well, losing to Kent (4-6) and our first Junior team lost to Surrey.

On the weekend of February 7-8, the Reading Closed tournament was held at Bulmurshe and there was a few shock results. 15-years-old Michael Beck did well to reach the semi-finals of the men's singles, beating Paul Trott en route and eventually losing to Simon Douglas. In the other half of the draw Andy Wellman did well to beat Simon Heaps and in the final he beat Douglas, who had earlier beaten him in the Boys' Singles.

The Women's Singles winner was Alison Gordon beating Jo Douglas in the final. Sandra Hudson played well to beat Christine Basden in the earlier rounds of the event. Other results were:—

M.D.: S. Douglas/A. Wellman bt S. Heaps/P. Trott.

W.D.: A. Gordon/J. Purslow bt C. Basden/J. Thorpe.

X.D.: Heaps/Gordon bt Wellman/Purslow.

B.S.: S. Douglas bt Wellman.

G.S.: Purslow bt Gordon.

An Unforgettable Experience



Bomi Amalsadvala receives the consolation prize for a tournament held during the Assembly. Several former and present world-ranked players took part in the tournament.

By **BOMI AMALSADVALA**
(Leading Indian Coach)

"Oh what a tremendous experience" was all I could mumble to my dear wife, Bina, as I climbed down the steps of a Boeing 707 at Santacruz Airport after an eventful and exciting fortnight visit to the land of "Ogimuras" and "Hasegawas", the great Table Tennis Champions of the world from Japan and where the First Asian Table Tennis Union Coaches Assembly was held in Otsu City, near Osaka.

There is no doubt in the minds of about 75 players-cum-coaches from 19 countries, including the giants of the game, China and Japan, who took part in it, that the assembly has contributed immensely not only to update their knowledge of this great celluloid sport and improved their skills, but has also highlighted the vital role of coaching and the need for exchange of information, ideas and techniques.

The Indian delegation was led by Mr. M. S. Ajrekar (Maharashtra), Ratish Chachad (Maharashtra), Shaikh Peer (Kerala) and this writer (Maharashtra). The other 18 countries which participated in the conference were Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syria, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Yemen.

China, the world (team) champions, was represented by three world-famous coaches in Li-Fu-Jung and Chuang-Chin-Fu (men) and Sun Mei-Ying (women), while Japan was represented by the great player-cum-coach-cum-administrator, Ichiro Ogimura (twice World Men's Singles Champion), K. Kimura (World Men's Doubles Champion), K. Kodama (National Coach) and S. Itoh (World Men's Singles Champion).

While getting that one golden chance to exchange ideas with the savants of the celluloid world, my visit to the several T.T. Clubs in Tokyo, where I observed that the T.T. techniques are progressing so fast that even champion countries, both in Europe and Asia, can no longer remain aloof and chalk out their campaign for honours.

The importance of the Assembly could be judged from the fact that for demonstrating the training methods, the services of the entire Japanese National Table Tennis team (both men and women) which took part in Calcutta World Championship, were utilised. They were M. Kohno and N. Takashima, the losing semi-finalist of last World Championship, 1975, T. Furukawa, Abe, Miss Yakota and Miss Ozehki and I. Nakandakera, the spin specialist,

who toured India with the Japanese team in 1974.

Besides this, the 10 national coaches of Japan were also present throughout the seminar. Other luminaries who were seen taking notes of the proceedings included the ex-world Men's Champion, N. Hasegawa, and Miss K. Matsuzaki, the ex-world Women's Champion and winner of the Asian Table Tennis Crown at Bombay in 1960.

Not surprisingly then that the 2,000-capacity stadium was daily packed by high school boys and girls collegians, players and coaches from various companies all over Japan, who sat through the entire proceedings so engrossingly in pin-drop silence that even at a distance one could sense their dedication and feel the tremendous following that this game enjoys in this great country.

Every day at the Shiga Prefecture Gymnasium Stadium the assembly discussed the game threadbare from grip to advanced tactics. The lectures and training supported by diagram charts, films and T.V. video-tapes were divided into three sessions of three hours each, beginning with 9 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The entire assembly was very systematically arranged and a handbook in English on coaching methods was made available in advance to all the delegates with a view to indicate the nature of lectures and training methods of Asian and European countries which were discussed at length during the assembly.

While most of the representatives took exhaustive notes of the proceedings, some of the countries like Australia and New Zealand tape-recorded the entire sessions. The opening sessions were dominated by the Japanese lectures and demonstrations, and China took over the latter part and effectively demonstrated their training methods.

Some of the salient features discussed were the importance on Multi-ball practice, which is similar to Robot Machine type, especially for practising control over services and for improving third-ball-attacking type game.

Greater importance was given to running, as today's top players all over the world, cover as much as 10/15 kilometers per day for six days in a week, with women players covering half this distance at a reasonable speed.

Training players to cope with the unexpected trends in actual match-play from use of various types of bat surfaces and the resultant spins was the other important point.

One session was reserved entirely for physical training, which has assumed tremendous importance and one was reserved for an open singles tournament amongst the participating countries. The line-up of the tournament was so impressive that it could easily be classified amongst the ranked tournaments of the world. In the draw were included five current world-ranked players in men and two in women, besides the three ex-world-ranked players in men and one in women. India fielded two representatives in Ratish Chachad and Bomi Amalsadvala.

After quite an exhausting day of matches, the best three event was won by the legendary Li-Fu Jung, of China, who is still superbly fit. He defeated S. Itoh in the final in a well-matched contest punctuated with classic rallies.

Ratish Chachad, of India, lost to Utomo, of Indonesia (ex-world ranked player) after a tough fight in the fourth round. There was also a consolation event for those who had lost in earlier rounds and Bomi Amalsadvala won this event, beating Akbar Fouad (Saudi Arabia) in the final.

It was indeed a very impressive sight to find the women players fighting out on level terms with men players in the same draw and coming out with flying colours. Miss Yakota, current world No. 12, literally chopped her way to the quarter-finals where she put up a gallant fight against K. Kimura, of Japan, an ex-world Champion (Men's Doubles) before losing to him in two straight games.

Amidst beautiful surroundings of a colourful Otsu City, the delegates were comfortably

lodged in centrally-heated Biwako Hotel, which is located on the biggest lake in Japan by the same name. However, the security arrangements during the assembly were very tight.

No doubt the first assembly of this kind is bound to have an important place in the history of the game. One should therefore give credit when and where it is due. Hats off to Japan Table Tennis Association and especially to its Hon. General Secretary, Mr. H. Yaoita, and his band of willing and selfless workers who planned and executed this Coaches' Assembly in a very effective manner. Their love for the game and their dedication to it, coupled with systematic hard work put in both by players and organisers, had to be seen to be believed. It is only a question of time before the players from the "Land of the Rising Sun" climb the ladder of success in the Table Tennis world once again.

And lastly, one would like to know where India stands in all this effort to promote the game and how their players will benefit? Let there be any number of gifted or talented players in our country, there can be no success for India without solid hard work by each one of them. It is in this vital sphere that we are lacking. By hard work I mean that even if a club standard player puts in a sustained effort of 730 hours per year, which is just two hours per day, over a period of three years, coupled with just adequate physical training and homework on the modern trends and methods of the game, he or she is very likely to make himself/herself felt at all-India level initially and thereafter depending upon his or her goal in international arenas.

It is, therefore, to be seen whether after Sudhir Thackersey and Farokh Khodiaji, the only two World-ranked players in the recent decades from India, will another Indian player ever get a World ranking in the near future? Well, my guess is as good as yours!

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan J. Cavell

SQUASH VENUE

Thanks to Peter Lloyd, President of the Salop Squash Rackets Association and owner of the Shifnal Sports Centre, the County match against Glamorgan II was played at his club in a squash court. The home team had a lot of supporters and played well to lose narrowly by 6 sets to 4. Veteran Grace Gee returned to the side to win the women's singles and combined well with newcomer Margaret King to win the women's doubles. Gareth Samuel and 15-years-old Malcolm Green recorded the other wins for Shropshire.

Trevor Felton, Gerald Green and Paddy Jackson have now qualified as County Umpires. The Shrewsbury Closed Championships provided surprises and excitement. In the men's singles all the four top seeded players duly reached the semi-finals, where C. Neal beat C. Roberts and M. Green beat G. Samuel. In the final the defending champion, C. Neal, beat the County champion, M. Green, 19, 17.

All four seeds in the junior singles reached the semi-finals. M. Green then beat M. Pugh and Les Baker beat his brother, Jan. In the final L. Baker won 14, 25, 19. Last year's contestants in the women's final again met in the final and defending champion G. Gee beat S. Evans 20, -17, 19.

A title to change hands was the men's doubles where unseeded S. Dixon and M. Green beat the holders, C. Neal and K. Walton, 26, 14. The holder of the veterans' title, W. Stephens, again reached the final but then lost to G. Cheatham 8 and 5. Last year's runner-up in the mixed, C. Neal and S. Evans, did better this year. They beat B. Suckley and M. King in the final 20 and 12.

Junior Paul Drage did well to win the consolation singles. In the final he beat T. Neal 19, 18. The Shrewsbury chairman, Derek Ruddock, presented the Consolation Singles trophy which he donated last year and the other trophies were presented by the Shrewsbury president, Bill Harris, Tournament Referee was Barry Taylor.

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

BURNHAM SATISFY

Our County Championship home games in February were stage-managed and sponsored by the Burnham and District League. Middlesex were our guests and must have been as pleased as our own sides were with the efforts made by the Burnham League with the arrangements. Our thanks go to Peter Orris, Tom Hales and their other helpers who did so well on the County's behalf.

The Senior Premier team never recovered from a bad start although they did well to only go down 4-5 in the end. Best set of the evening was the women's singles encounter between Shelagh Hession and Angela Mitchell, Shelagh getting home after two very tense games.

Our second team at last managed to break the ice away to Middlesex II and won by their usual scoreline of 6-4. This was a particularly exhilarating match with most of the sets fiercely contested. Graham Blomfield was at his best with two singles wins and it was left to Dave Bowles to set the seal on our win with a 21-19 in the third victory over Laurie Landry in the final set.

Away at Norwich, the senior thirds continued their winning ways with an 8-2 success over Norfolk II. Brian Mailey, Steve Whiteley, Jeff Drew, Linda Budd and Marilyn Nash formed a splendid combination that has now clinched their divisional title deservedly. Well done.

The Junior sides continue to struggle and our Premier team was again pipped by Middlesex 6-4. There was plenty of effort in this match, however, and we nearly saved a point. Kevin Owers and Penny Abbott did well to win the mixed to go with the three successes gained by Kevin Caldon and Dave Newman.

Our second string were well beaten by Middlesex III although Janet Boulter gained a good girls' singles victory. The third team had a good 9-1 win over Beds., a result that will give them an outside chance of honours.

During February the Essex Schools' Individual Championships were held at Billericay. This event was organised by Ron Gore who, with his helpers, managed to get the tournament completed on schedule despite the 420-odd entries on the one day. Everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves and there was plenty of determined action.

Nobody was more determined than 9-years-old Janice Clarke, from Clacton, whose diminutive form was too good for all her rivals in the U-11 event. Janice looks a very useful prospect indeed and Clacton can be proud of their champion. Results:—

Under-19

B.S.: D. Newman (Plume) bt K. Owers (K.E.G.S.) 13, 12.

G.S.: Helen Gore (Beauchamps) bt Yvette Brown (Fitz Wymarc) 19, 9.

Under-16

B.S.: T. Dowsett (Highlands) bt K. Howard (Notley H.S.) 16, 18.

G.S.: Helen Gore bt Julie Dowsett (Highlands) 8, 18.

Under-13

B.S.: K. Gard (Woodlands) bt C. Knight (St. John Payne) 11, 16.

G.S.: Julie Dowsett bt Karen Buckledee (Mayflower) 9, 9.

Under-11

B.S.: C. Porter (Billericay) bt D. Wiltshire (Braintree) 16, 15.

G.S.: Janice Clarke (Clacton) bt Tracy Saville (Benfleet) 16, 17.

To complete this issue's notes an item from Ian Whiteside on the St. Margaret's Club, Chelmsford, who celebrate their Silver Jubilee this season. The article is entitled "25 Years On" and reads:—

25 YEARS ON

"I was five years old at the time, and the Editor of "Scimitar" was a mere teenager (yes, it was that long ago!) and England were knocked out of the World Cup by U.S.A. Well, even if the first two clues did not help much, the third one will tell you that it was 1950. And in 1950, St. Margaret's Table Tennis Club was formed by five ladies from the Essex Police Headquarter, in Chelmsford. And what, you may ask, was so special about that. Well, at the time, of course, nothing, but in 1975 those five ladies are still playing together at St. Margaret's, the only all female team in the Chelmsford League. On its inception, the Club played behind a public house, moving on to a garage in Springfield Road. Their next home was in St. Mark's Club, Cottage Place, and when that ceased to be available, they moved to their present premises in London Road. The five stalwarts of the Club are Joyce Jones, Bette Jackson, Betty Lee, Diana Smith and May Brown, assisted on occasions by Joyce Smith. In the season 1957-58 they won the Ladies' Division 2 title, the only occasion that the Club has appeared on the honours list but, in the 15 years that I have played in the

League, I have never heard anything but praise for the cheery approach that the St. Margaret's ladies have to their weekly game. Incidentally, why are they called St. Margaret's? Well, I often thought that perhaps my education was deficient and that St. Margaret was the patron saint of ladies' table tennis, but there is, of course, a much more simple explanation. When the Club was formed, the question arose as to what should it be called and as Joyce, the Secretary then, as now, lived in St. Margaret's Road, the Club became St. Margaret's. In this, their Silver Jubilee year, the Club has attracted quite a lot of publicity, including an article in the "East Anglian Daily Times" and I for one hope that they carry on playing for many years to come".

S.E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE CHATTER

By Leslie Constable

Ely have gone to the top of the men's first division, joining Milton Keynes, but with a match in hand of their rivals Ely look all set to recapture the title. North Herts are close up behind, making for an interesting finish.

Hunts Central head the Junior Division 1 but Bedford and North Herts are by no means without hope. Wisbech lead the second division but here again North Herts II are well placed and with a game in hand and only one point behind.

Wellingborough head the women's section without defeat, but North Herts, who beat Cambridge 8-2, will be challenging strongly in the next few games, Cambridge and Northampton are neck-and-neck in the veterans' section with identical records, sets and points, with the former striving to regain the title from their co-leaders. Recent results:—

Men's Division 1

Dunstable 3, Milton Keynes 7; Hunts Central 7, North Herts 2; Ely 8, Bedford 2; Wellingborough 1, Ely 9.

Junior Division 1

Hunts Central 3, North Herts 7; Ely 1, Bedford 9.

Women's Section

Cambridge 10, Bedford 0; Wellingborough 6, Northampton 4; North Herts 8, Cambridge 2.

Leading positions:—

as at 31st January, 1976

Men's Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ely	4	3	0	1	29
Milton Keynes	5	4	0	1	29
North Herts	4	3	0	1	26

Men's Division 2

Northampton	4	2	1	1	26
St. Neots	4	3	1	0	26
Wisbech	4	2	1	1	24

Juniors Division 1

Hunts Central	5	4	0	1	36
Bedford	4	3	0	1	32
North Herts.	4	4	0	0	32

Juniors Division 2

Wisbech	5	4	0	1	35
North Herts.	4	4	0	0	34
Kettering	5	3	0	2	29

Women

Wellingborough	6	5	1	0	38
Cambridge	5	3	0	2	29
North Herts.	3	2	0	1	19

Veterans'

Cambridge	6	6	0	0	50
Northampton	6	6	0	0	50
R.A.F.	6	4	0	2	42



Everything under control at the Essex Schools' Individual Championships. From (l to r): Ron Gore (Organiser), Alan Shepherd (Referee) with helpers Pam Challis and Ted Pritchard in the foreground.

Photo by Geoff Newman.

**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**

Continued from page 32

V. O'Brien lost to Shuttle -16, -18; lost to K. Seager 19, -13, -13.
 J. Kennedy bt Boxall 19, -20, 16; lost to Seager -15, -10.
 Kennedy/Kenyon bt Boxall/Seager 16, -14, 16.
 Miss M. Heffernan lost to Miss J. Mitchell -12, 22, -15.
 V. O'Brien/Miss G. Ballard lost to Shuttle/Miss Mitchell -14, -12.
 Miss C. Colegate/Miss Heffernan bt Miss S. Head/Miss E. Starr 8, 13.
 Ian Kenyon 14-3 up in third v Martin Shuttle after some amazing running around and hitting, but ceased, and lost.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Kent II 2, Sussex 8

Four of the first eight required decider, but Sussex led 8-0 before letting the home side off the hook and allowing the last two.

Surrey II 6, Dorset 4

Surrey boys' strength showed through, winning first three and last three. Surrey led 3-0, trailed 3-4 and won 6-4!

Middlesex II 10, Essex II 0

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Cheshire 1, Derbyshire 9

Cleveland II 3, Northumberland 7

Lancashire 6, Durham 4

Yorkshire II 8, Cumbria 2

Visitors' two wins from Chris Reed, but Cumbria had nothing else to offer.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Cambridgeshire II 0, Warwickshire 10

All two-straight.

Glamorgan 4, Hertfordshire 6

Northamptonshire 5, Norfolk 5

A fair result to a desperately close match. Gary Alden and Keith Nicoll winning the five for Northants with Wendy Hogg looking very impressive for Norfolk, beating Mandy Wallis 12, 13.

JUNIOR 3rd South

Buckinghamshire 6, Hampshire II 4

Sussex II 1, Berkshire II 9

12-year-old Bryon Johnson on Berkshire debut and unbeaten.

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Cleveland III 2, Clwyd 8

Lincolnshire 5, Cumbria II 5

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Oxfordshire 0, Staffordshire 10

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Essex III 9, Bedfordshire 1

Five sets required a decider and all went to Essex; in particular was Michael Allen's wins which were both close. Home girls overwhelmed visitors and it was left to Keith McConnell to salvage their consolation.

Suffolk 6, Huntingdonshire 4

A good result here in a see-saw match. A special word for Debby Wootton's patience in overcoming Belinda Chamberlain and for Stephen Hender coming in at the last moment—successful in a singles and combined well with Jane Newton for an unexpected X.D. win.

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Avon 4, Devon 6

Unbeaten Devon have won the Junior 3rd Division by a large margin considering the size of the division.

Gloucestershire 2, Cornwall 8

Surprisingly large win for Cornwall, jumping from the foot of the table to finish in second spot!

VETERAN DIVISION SOUTH

Hampshire 7, Oxfordshire 2

Wiltshire 4, Kent 5

Never more than a set in it and M. Wilson's win over D. Waters 19, 12, clinched it for Kent, keeping their unbeaten record and denying Wiltshire of their first success.

VETERAN MIDLAND

Staffordshire 4, Leicestershire 5

Staffs led 2-0, but visitors won five out of the next six.

Worcestershire 3, Cheshire 6

Warwickshire 2, Nottinghamshire 7

Tables for matches up to February 15th, subject to ratification.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cleveland	5	5	0	0	37	8	10
Cheshire	5	4	0	1	25	20	8
Middlesex	5	3	0	2	26	19	6
Essex	5	2	0	3	25	20	4
Surrey	5	2	0	3	19	26	4
Warwickshire	5	2	0	3	19	26	4
Yorkshire	5	2	0	3	18	27	4
Lancashire	5	0	0	5	11	34	0
Games—46-57 (Sy) .807; 42-59 (Wk) .712;							
46-61 (Y) .754.							

2nd SOUTH

Sussex	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Kent	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Surrey II	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Middlesex II	4	1	0	3	19	21	2
Essex II	4	1	0	3	18	22	2
Hampshire	4	1	0	3	11	29	2

2nd NORTH

Cleveland II	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Durham	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Yorkshire II	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Lincolnshire	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Northumberland	4	0	0	4	10	30	0
Nottinghamshire	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

2nd MIDLAND

Leicestershire	4	4	0	0	37	3	8
Glamorgan	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Derbyshire	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Warwickshire II	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Staffordshire	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Gloucestershire	4	0	0	4	2	38	0

2nd EAST

Cambridgeshire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Hertfordshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Northamptonshire	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Bedfordshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Norfolk	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Buckinghamshire	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

2nd WEST

Berkshire	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Devon	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Worcestershire	5	3	0	2	32	18	6
Somerset	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Wiltshire	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Gwent	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Cornwall	4	0	0	4	3	37	0

3rd SOUTH

Herts III	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Sussex II	3	2	0	1	23	7	4
Kent II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Berkshire II	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Oxfordshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

3rd NORTH

Cheshire II	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Lancashire II	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Cleveland III	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Cumbria	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Northumberland II	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

3rd MIDLAND

Derbyshire II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Clwyd	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Warwickshire III	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Staffordshire II	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Nottinghamshire II	4	1	0	3	10	30	2
Northamptonshire II	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

3rd EAST

Essex III	4	4	0	0	31	19	8
Huntingdonshire	4	1	2	1	18	22	4
Suffolk	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Cambridgeshire II	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Norfolk II	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Norfolk II	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Bedfordshire II	4	1	1	2	15	25	3

3rd WEST

Glamorgan II	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Avon	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Worcestershire II	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Dorset	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Herefordshire	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Shropshire	4	0	0	4	13	27	0

JUNIOR PREMIER

Yorkshire	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Surrey	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Middlesex	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Kent	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Berkshire	5	2	0	3	21	29	4
Essex	5	1	0	4	20	30	2
Cleveland	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Cambridgeshire	5	1	0	4	15	35	2

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex II	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Surrey II	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Sussex	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Dorset	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Kent II	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Essex II	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Yorkshire II	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
Lancashire	5	5	0	0	37	13	10
Durham	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Cumbria	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Derbyshire	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Northumberland	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Cleveland II	5	0	0	5	12	38	0
Cheshire	5	0	0	5	6	44	0

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Hertfordshire	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Warwickshire	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Leicestershire	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Norfolk	5	1	2	2	26	24	4
Northamptonshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Glamorgan	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Cambridgeshire II	4	0	1	3	9	31	1

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Berkshire II	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Buckinghamshire	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Wiltshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Sussex II	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Hampshire II	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Clwyd	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Lincolnshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Cumbria II	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Nottinghamshire	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Cleveland III	3	0	0	3	10	20	0

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Staffordshire	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
Gwent	3	2	0	1	13	17	4
Worcestershire	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Shropshire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Oxfordshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

DEVONSHIRE CREAM

The situation in the Premier Division gets more interesting as the season progresses, with Cleveland having, almost, assured themselves of the title at the first attempt and are the only team with the exception of Cheshire, who cannot be relegated.

Middlesex "look" safe, but any County with six points could be relegated this season and their good sets average could take a hammering from their remaining matches against Cleveland and Cheshire. The Essex position looks dodgy, for they play Cleveland and Cheshire as well . . .

. . . however, the key to who stays up and who goes down could rest on the results of the matches Warwickshire and Yorkshire have to play against Surrey and Lancashire.

One division has been completed with champions of Junior 3rd West in Devon and other Divisions not yet completed, certain winners are known. They are Sussex (2nd South), Leicestershire (2nd Midland), Cheshire III (3rd North) and Essex III (3rd East).

PREMIER DIVISION

Essex 4, Middlesex 5

I. Horsham bt A. Barden 11, 14; lost to M. Mitchell -19, -11.
D. Brown lost to Barden -17, 15, -15; bt D. Tan -12, 19.
D. Iszatt lost to Mitchell -12, -14; lost to Tan -7, -6.
Brown/Horsham bt Mitchell/Tan 17, 15.
Miss S. Hession bt Miss A. Mitchell 21, 21.
Iszatt/Miss Hession lost to Barden/Miss Mitchell -16, -11.

Yorkshire 1, Cleveland 8

A. Clayton lost to D. Neale -11, -15; lost to N. Jarvis -18, -12.
A. Fletcher lost to Neale -6, -10; lost to J. Walker -19, 19, -15.
M. Harrison lost to Jarvis -16, -13; lost to Walker -14, -18.
Clayton/Fletcher lost to Jarvis/Walker 22, -20, -15.
Miss M. Ludi bt Miss A. Tierney 18, 15.
Harrison/Miss Ludi lost to Neale/Miss Tierney -11, -17.

Cheshire 1, Cleveland 8

J. Hilton lost to D. Neale -12, -14; lost to N. Jarvis -16, -14.
N. Eckersley lost to Neale 12, -8, -10; lost to J. Walker -19, -23.
D. Constance lost to Jarvis -10, -12; lost to Walker -13, -15.
Constance/Eckersley lost to Walker/Jarvis -16, -13.
Miss S. Lisle bt Miss C. Knight 15, 17.
Hilton/Miss Lisle lost to Neale/Miss Knight -21, -13.

The inevitable result — said Cheshire — against a County whose No. 3 is ranked No. 5 in England! Nevertheless, a fine match witnessed by a crowd of 250.

Surrey 5, Lancashire 4

R. Yule bt D. Parker 13, 21; bt P. Bowen 22, 14.
S. Lyons lost to Parker -15, -18; lost to N. Hallows -17 -16.
D. Welsman bt P. Bowen 13 16; lost to Hallows -12, -18, -14.
Lyons/Welsman lost to Bowen/Parker -7, -19.
Miss L. Howard bt Miss J. Evans 3, 4.
Yule/Miss Howard bt Hallows/Miss Evans 9, 11.

Another good start by Lancashire, but they couldn't consolidate their 3-1 lead.

Warwickshire 5, Yorkshire 4

D. Douglas bt A. Clayton -17, 17, 7; bt A. Fletcher 14, 8.
D. Munt bt Clayton 14, -18, 16; bt M. Harrison 11, 16.
P. Judd lost to A. Fletcher -12, -19; beat Harrison 13, 16.
Douglas/Judd lost to Clayton/Fletcher -22, -21.
Miss B. Green lost to Miss M. Ludi -14, 19, 12.

Johnson/Miss Green lost to Harrison/Miss Ludi -14, -19.

A good team performance by Warwickshire for whom Derek Munt was superb. Tony Clayton Yorkshire's best player—all his sets being the "best three" of the afternoon. Clayton led Douglas 6-1 in the second and only a super human effort by Douglas stopped him.

Melody Ludi must have one of the hardest hits in table tennis!!!

2nd SOUTH

Kent 5, Surrey II 5

This draw rules out any chance for either team of toppling Sussex from the top position.

Middlesex II 4, Essex II 6

2nd NORTH

Yorkshire II 5, Lincolnshire 5

Home side went ahead 2-0, visitors won the next five, but Yorkshire eased home to earn a draw.

Cleveland II 8, Northumberland 2

Durham 6, Lincolnshire 4

Durham recovered from 2-4 after Peter McQueen had taken the important seventh set 16, -13, 19 from Brian Hill.

Yorkshire II 8, Nottinghamshire 2

Alan Croome offered the only resistance against a Yorkshire second team which is hoping to be able to save the first team from relegation, if necessary.

2nd MIDLAND

Glamorgan 10, Gloucestershire 0

Derbyshire 0, Leicestershire 10

Leicestershire showed greater determination in a magnificent match. Maurice Billington's two sets were positively brilliant, his singles went the distance, and so did the X.D.

Staffordshire 6, Warwickshire II 4

Visitors led 3-1 but let go.

2nd EAST

Buckinghamshire 3, Bedfordshire 7

Cambridgeshire 8, Hertfordshire 2

Day, Harper and Richardson in scintillating form in this top-of-the-table clash, winning all M.S. Result never really in doubt as Cambs. raced into 5-0 lead. Consolation for Herts in W.S., Daphne Baines v Sally Hirst, and X.D.

Northamptonshire 5, Norfolk 5

One set separated the teams throughout, with home ladies again unbeaten and Gary Alden continuing to impress. John Fuller unbeaten for Norfolk in a very interesting encounter played before a sizeable crowd.

2nd WEST

Berkshire 8, Worcestershire 2

Cornwall 2, Somerset 8

Gwent 3, Wiltshire 7

Mike Nocivelli's three trips to the table produced Gwent's only successes. No. 1 John Bloome ruled out with knee injury and Wiltshire deserved their first taste of victory this season.

3rd SOUTH

Sussex II 10, Berkshire II 0

Berkshire unable to make the trip (illness) and conceded.

3rd NORTH

Cheshire II 6, Lancashire II 4

A win that gives Cheshire this division.

Northumberland II 3, Cleveland III 7

Cleveland's first win in this division leaving Northumberland firmly rooted at the foot. They lost the four sets requiring the decider.

3rd MIDLAND

Clwyd 8, Staffordshire II 2

Nottinghamshire II 1, Derbyshire II 9

Home side won the first match, visitors bagged the remaining nine.

Warwickshire III 9, Northamptonshire II 1

One set forfeited by visitors—R. Goodall won once but was not registered.

3rd EAST

Cambridgeshire II 5, Suffolk 5

A major upset looked likely when Cambs. led 4-2, but Suffolk took the next three sets. Brian Jones beat David Henderson in the final set to earn Cambs. their first point for two years. Magnificent M.D. win by Geoff Davies and Brian Richardson over John Kitchener and Kevin Savage the highlight of a fine match.

Norfolk II 2, Essex III 8

Essex become divisional winners with this success.

Suffolk 4, Huntingdonshire 6

A disastrous result for Suffolk but all praise to Hunts for their good-humoured determination in winning a closely-fought match.

Bedfordshire II 2, Cambridgeshire II 8

The ball running for Cambs. but Beds missing Dave Rawlinson (elevated to the first team) and Derek Holden (ill); Dave Hyde impressive on debut.

3rd WEST

Dorset 8, Worcestershire II 2

Mervyn Wood scored twice for visitors, but had no support against Dorset, who had their best match to date.

Avon 9, Herefordshire 1

Shropshire 4, Glamorgan II 6

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION

Kent 6, Cleveland 4

I. Kenyon bt I. Plummer 17, 16; bt M. Laird 21, 15.

V. O'Brien lost to Plummer -18, -15; bt M. Murphy 9, 19.

J. Kennedy bt Laird 19, 18; bt Murphy 19, 10. Kennedy/Kenyon bt Laird/Murphy 17, 13.

Miss M. Heffernan lost to Miss A. Tierney -15, -13.

O'Brien/Miss G. Ballard lost to Plummer/Miss Tierney 19, -17, -17.

Miss C. Colgate/Miss Heffernan lost to Miss J. Skipp/Miss J. Williams 20, -10, -10.

Berkshire 8, Cleveland 2

D. Reeves bt I. Plummer 14, 16; bt M. Laird 19, 11.

S. Douglas bt Plummer 9, 17; bt M. Murphy 10, 18.

A. Wellman bt Laird 18, 18; bt Murphy 10, 12. Douglas/Wellman lost to Laird/Murphy -15, -15.

Miss K. Witt lost to Miss A. Tierney -19, -23. Reeves/Miss Witt bt Plummer/Miss Tierney 12, -19, 22.

Miss A. Gordon/Miss J. Purslow bt Miss J. Skipp/Miss J. Williams -12, 19, 17.

Cambridgeshire 0, Yorkshire 10

K. Richardson lost to M. Harrison -13, -16; lost to M. Hazelwood 20, -14, -18.

A. Withers lost to Hazelwood -6, -14; lost to K. Beadsley 9, -8.

A. Hunter lost to Harrison -11, -14; lost to Beadsley -9, -8.

Miss S. Ellis lost to Miss Ludi -13, -7. Hunter/Withers lost to Harrison/Beadsley -15, -13.

Richardson/Miss R. Newman lost to Hazelwood/Miss J. McLean -9, -19.

Miss Ellis/Miss Newman lost to Miss Ludi/Miss McLean -9, -10.

Essex 4, Middlesex 6

K. Caldon lost to A. Barden -18, 11, -14; bt D. Wells 17, 10.

D. Newman lost to Barden -16, -16; bt M. O'Mahoney 19, 15.

K. Owers lost to Wells -18, -11; lost to O'Mahoney 15, -12 -11.

Caldon/Newman bt O'Mahoney/Wells 17, 15.

Miss S. Sutton lost to Miss A. Mitchell -13, -9. Owers/Miss P. Abbott bt Barden/Miss J. Campion 19, 17.

Miss Abbott/Miss Sutton lost to Miss Campion/Miss Mitchell -17, -12.

A desperately needed point eluded Essex, who now face a very serious relegation threat. The presence of Andrew Barden and Angela Mitchell in their side virtually gave Middlesex a 3-0 start.

Kent 4, Surrey 6

I. Kenyon lost to M. Shuttle 14, -14, -19; bt S. Boxall 10, -18, 15.

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