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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 80

May/June, 1976

Price 20p

JUBILANT YUGOSLAVS



Photo by Bohumil Vovotny, Praha

 **Jaques**

— of course

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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

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COMMON GROUND

Rumblings are that a number of leagues are contemplating disaffiliation from the E.T.T.A. as a protest against the World Championships levy which is due to become operative in the forthcoming season.

For what it is worth—30p per team place, plus one reserve, per annum—can it be that for the privilege of staging the greatest table tennis show on earth, disenchantment with the parent body is being seriously thought of?

Surely not, for the income from such a source will provide the means of establishing a guarantee fund should matters go terribly wrong. At worst the levy would operate for three seasons, at best for one season only with a return of monies, if requested, should the show be self-supporting, as it is hoped it will be.

A lot of people will henceforth be giving a lot of time and effort—some already have—in endeavouring to make the Championships a success in every possible way.

If they are prepared to roll up their sleeves and work to that end one would rightly expect that others would be willing to put their hands in their pockets if only to show faith in the establishment which, after all, also shares the common ground of grass root table tennis.

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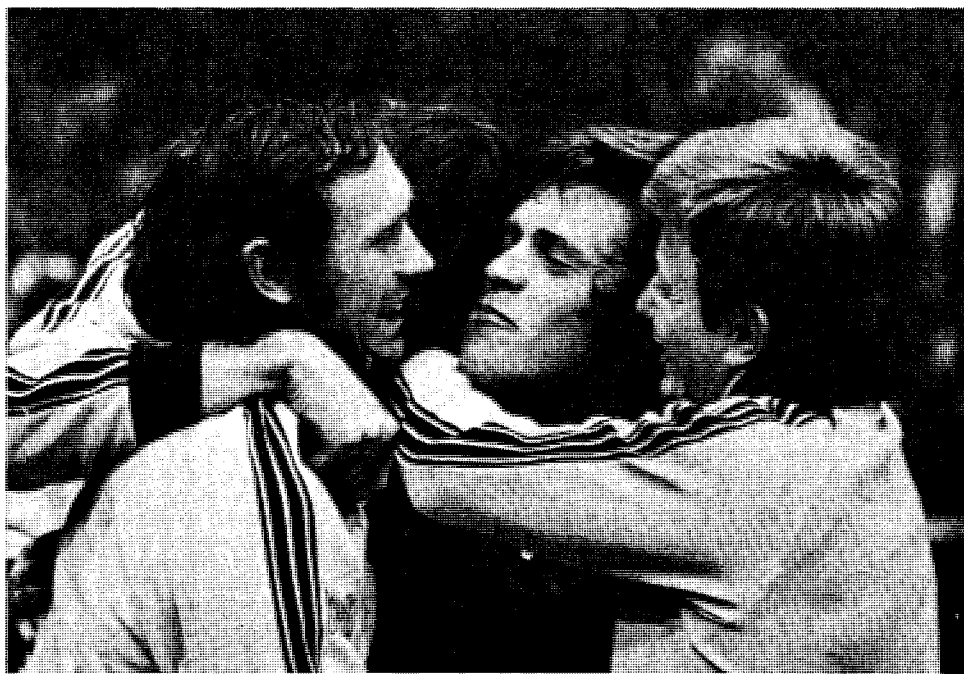
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10th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Team Events

by George R. Yates



"Who loves yer, baby?" Certainly Anton Stipancic's compatriots after the left-hander had beaten Stellan Bengtsson to give Yugoslavia their 5-2 victory in the men's team event final.

Photo by CTK, Praha.

Swedes dislodged and Silver for English Girls

Not since Berlin in season 1961-62, when represented by Markovic, Korpa and Vecko, had Yugoslavia carried off the men's team title in the European Championships.

They lost it in Malmo on the next occasion, when beaten in the final by Sweden, a fate that also befell them, memorably, in Moscow ('69-'70) and in Rotterdam ('71-'72).

But in Prague this year, over the period March 27-30, they regained the coveted Hungary Cup and in so doing terminated a six-in-a-row run of successes by the Scandinavians.

It was a splendid final encounter in the Czech capital where, with their usual vociferous support, the Yugoslav trio of Dragutin Surbek, Anton Stipancic and Milivoje Karakasevic, triumphed 5-2 over Kjell Johansson, Stellan Bengtsson and the up-and-coming Ulf Thorsell.

Young Thorsell it was who was first to the table and first to win a game, over Surbek, but it was an initial success that stung the Vjesnik player from Zagreb into all-out attack and the Yugoslavs went 1-0 in front.

The lead was destined to be short-lived as Bengtsson levelled the match score in a 2-straight beating of Karakasevic, the tall penholder, back on the scene after a period of army service.

But from then on matters went awry for the defending champions as firstly Johansson fell to Stipancic, to be followed in defeat by Bengtsson, who went under to the hail of

bullet-like forehand smashes fired by the mighty right arm of Surbek. 3-1 to Yugoslavia and the stadium rocked to the din of full-blooded roars from a thousand throats.

All credit then to Thorsell in the next set who, in such an atmosphere, had the audacity to beat the left-handed Stipancic and narrow the gap.

QUIT THE ARENA

It was at this stage that the Yugoslavian Associations President, Mihovil Kapetanic, a member of the E.T.T.U's Management Committee, could stand it no longer and quit the arena to relieve the pressure on taut nerves.

Sound only penetrated to the labyrinth below and if it wasn't an earthquake it must have been a totally unexpected win for Karakasevic over Johansson that shook the stadium to its very foundations!

And so it proved as Mihovil came up for air to sample the prevailing ecstasy occasioned by the illuminated scoreboard which showed Yugoslavia 4, Sweden 2.

To retain the title all three members of the Swedish team had to win their final sets and Bengtsson began with a 21-18 opening game success over Stipancic and back into the catacombs went the Yugoslav President. He needn't have done as, backed by a chorus of hallelujah-like proportions, Stipancic levelled and won amidst scenes reminiscent of the storming of the Bastille.

It was all over, Yugoslavia had won, Stipancic was being tossed in the air and the smile on team trainer Dusan Osmanagic's face stretched from Belgrade to Dubrovnik.

Resolute from the very outset, Yugoslavia provided the first opposition for England to



"Come on Stip" is the cry from the Yugoslav bench as Dusan Osmanagic (nearest camera) leads the exhortations.

Photo by CTK, Praha.

RESTORED

Douglas was restored for this penultimate encounter to the exclusion of Neale, but only Jarvis succeeded in prolonging the match by a sixth set when he accounted for Jiri Turaj in the third. We lost 1-5.

And so we were to finish seventh or eighth depending on the result of a second meeting with Hungary who, in their previous match against Federal Germany, had been seen off 5-1.

No change was made in the Hungarian team, who throughout had operated devoid of the services of the incapacitated Istvan Jonyer and Gabor Gergely, but England brought back Neale in place of Barden to line up at full strength as per ranking.

Despite the first three sets all going to a deciding game, 3-0 read the scoreboard in our favour, but there was no chants of "Easy, easy" from the English supporters.

Perhaps as well, for the Hungarians took the next two when Börzsei again outlasted Neale to win 22-20 in the decider and Ferenc Timar had a totally unexpected win over Jarvis.

Fears were relieved, however, as firstly Douglas polished off Zoltan Horvath and the coup-de-grace was administered by Neale over Timar in a complete reversal of their previous meeting.

Seventh place then was our finishing position, one beneath that obtained in Novi Sad, but it could, and should, have been higher but for that 4-5 reverse to Hungary in the first stage match.

If there was dejection in the male camp, England's women did their very best to dispel it and with successive victories over Holland, Russia, Sweden, Poland and Rumania, topped their first stage group in majestic style.

Linda Howard set the pattern against the Netherlands in the opening match when, as the first player on court, she shattered the Dutch fraternity and their "wonder girl", Bettine Vrieskoop, with scores of 4 and 11!

Jill Hammersley began tentatively, going to three with Sonja Heltzel, but the doubles brought no problems and 3-0 was the final score.

APPREHENSIVE

Again in the second match, against the Soviet Union, it was Linda who sparked the

3-1 win when, in the first set, she overcame Elmira Antonian. Jill, still apprehensive, went down to Zoya Rudnova but the lead was restored when our girls won the doubles, against Antonian partnered by Tatjana Ferdman.

Jill, now playing with increasing confidence, brought matters to finality in beating Antonian. Sweden's girls were next for the hammer, Ann-Christin Hellman and Birgitta Olsson offering but token resistance in losing 0-3.

Having been confined to the bench, Carole Knight was given her chance to shine in the next match, against Poland. Unfortunately for the Cleveland girl, as like a substitute in a football match, it proved difficult to get into the swing of things, and Carole lost in her one and only team outing to Ewa Olek 17, 20.

Against the same player Jill registered scores of 6 and 11, beat Anna Przygoda 10 and 11, and combined with Linda for the inevitable doubles success for a 3-1 result.

Up against the redoubtable Maria Alexandru in the opening set against Rumania, Linda failed to provide the whirlwind start. But all was well in the end with both Jill and Linda beating Liana Mihut who, with the girl named Maria, also lost the doubles.

In the resultant semi-final play-offs Erzebet Palatinus, of Yugoslavia, had a sensational win over Jill, 18 and 8, but this stormy beginning was weathered as Linda steadied the boat in beating Dubravka Fabri.

A victory course was then set, with the doubles easily taken and Jill, now stabilised, accounting for Fabri.

Russia fought their way into the final by accounting for the host nation 3-2 with Ilona Uhlíkova carrying the fight to them in beating both Rudnova and Antonian. But not so Blanka Silhanova, who also failed in the doubles.

Thus was the stage set for a second meeting between England and the Soviet Union with gold medals as the stake.

RIGHT FOOT

Jill, playing superbly, got us off on the right foot by beating Rudnova only for Linda, in her vital set-to with Antonian, being subjected to nerves and resultant defeat.

The "crunch" came in the doubles when the pairing of Rudnova and Antonian paid off and the Soviet duo brought about the first defeat for the English pair since Calcutta, 16

tackle, one calculated to destroy the morale of most teams.

It didn't, despite the 5-0 drubbing administered by the Slavs, all in straight games, with Denis Neale and Desmond Douglas twice suffering, Nicky Jarvis once.

DISLIKE

Despite his dislike of the adopted ball, Neale managed three unconvincing victories against Poland to which Douglas and Jarvis added one each, both losing their other set in the 5-2 victory recorded.

Against Austria, in the next match, Paul Day made his debut for England in this event, to the exclusion of Douglas, who, like Neale, also had this mental phobia about the plastic ball. England made heavy weather of this encounter for, after Day had beaten Weinmann, the Austrians went into a 2-1 lead following wins by Thallinger over Jarvis and by Schlüter over Neale.

It all came right in the end, 5-3, the other loss being sustained by Neale, who was beaten by Thallinger, but it was Neale who finally got England home with an eighth set victory over Weinmann.

But from then on England lost ground when beaten, predictably, by the vastly improved French team, whose Jacques Secretin notched a treble, supported by a set each from Patrick Birocheau and Christian Martin.

It was Birocheau who cast the die for the end 5-2 result in favour of France when, in the opening set, he had a 14, 14 win over Neale. Both England's victories were registered by Jarvis with Day, justifiably retained, losing out to Secretin and Martin.

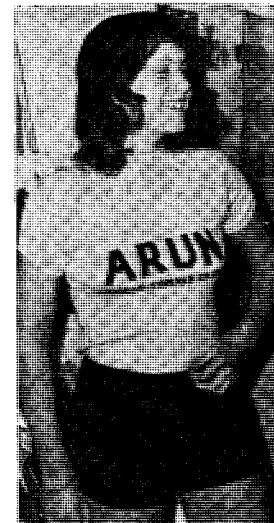
Substituting Andy Barden for Day in the final match of the first stage encounters, against Hungary, brought no dividends for England as the Middlesex youngster was thrice defeated, albeit in the third game on each occasion.

Jarvis again came up trumps with a treble, but Neale, after a bright start against Horvath, failed miserably in opposition to Timar and the ageing defender, Janos Börzsei.

Fourth out of six was our finishing Stage 1 (Group B) position, being next called upon to meet Czechoslovakia, who finished third, behind Sweden and Russia in the parallel Group A, the placing at stake being in the 5 to 8 band.

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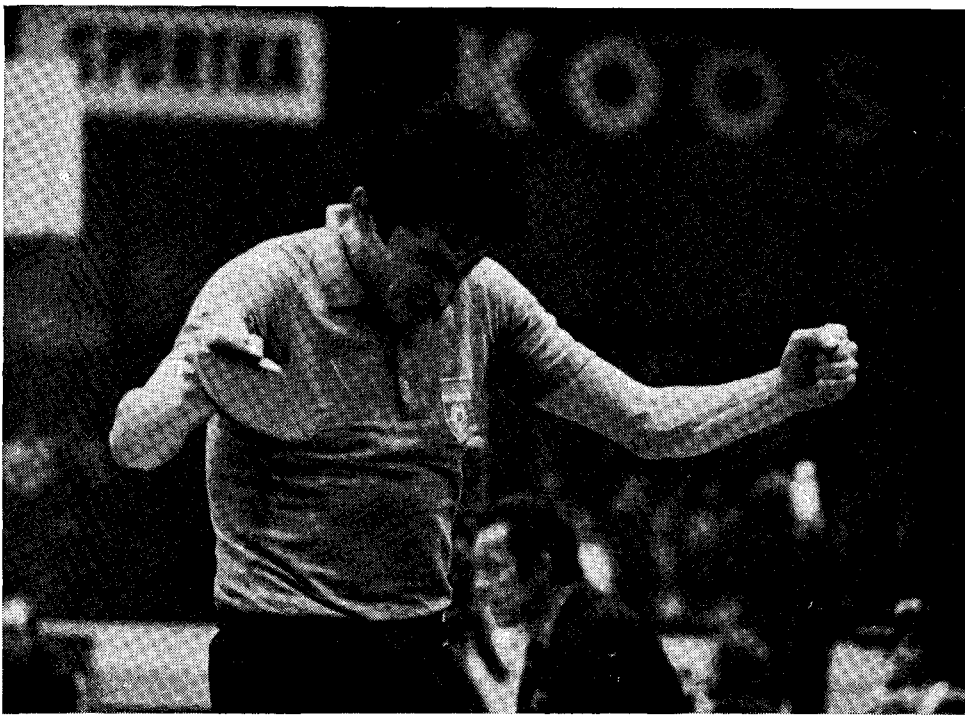
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"How's about that then?" could well have been the impression given by Milevoje Karakasevic in his set with Kjell Johansson, which the Yugoslav penholder won. Photo by CTK, Praha.



Zoya Rudnova who, by defeating Linda Howard in the women's team final, won the match for the Soviet Union.

and 14. This was a real disappointment for England.

But all was not yet lost as Jill levelled the match score in beating Antonian 8 and 13, leaving Linda with the unenviable task of "taking" Rudnova for the match and the gold.

Extremely nervous and guilty of many half shots, the Surrey girl was not up to it, especially against a player of the calibre of Rudnova, who proved far too experienced a campaigner.

So there it was, defeat at the final hurdle, but what a performance the English girls gave and how well they merited the silver medals with which they had to content themselves. Saluté mesdames.

RESULTS

HUNGARY CUP (MEN)

Category 1, Stage 1

GROUP A1	1	2	3	4	5	Won	Pos.
1 SWEDEN	—	5-0	5-1	5-2	5-1	4	1
2 Czechoslovakia	0-5	—	2-5	5-2	5-2	2	3
3 U.S.S.R.	1-5	5-2	—	5-1	5-1	3	2
4 Federal Germany	2-5	2-5	1-5	—	5-0	1	4
5 Bulgaria	1-5	2-5	1-5	0-5	—	0	5

(Rumania scratched)

GROUP B1	1	2	3	4	5	6	Won	Pos.
1 Hungary	—	1-5	5-4	1-5	5-0	5-1	3	3
2 YUGOSLAVIA	5-1	—	5-0	5-1	5-0	5-1	5	1
3 England	4-5	0-5	—	2-5	5-3	5-2	2	4
4 FRANCE	5-1	1-5	5-2	—	5-1	5-1	4	2
5 Austria	0-5	0-5	3-5	1-5	—	2-5	0	6
6 Poland	1-5	1-5	2-5	1-5	5-2	—	1	5

English Results

v Yugoslavia (lost 0-5)
D. Neale lost to D. Surbek -9, -20; lost to A. Stipanec -15, -12.

D. Douglas lost to M. Karakasevic -18, -15; lost to Surbek -17, -13.
N. Jarvis lost to Stipanec -21, -13.

v Poland (won 5-2)

Jarvis bt Z. Fraczyk 13, 14; lost to S. Fraczyk -17, -20.
Douglas bt S. Fraczyk 15, -17, 12; lost to R. Czoehanski -20, 16, -14.

Neale bt Czoehanski 11, 22; bt Z. Fraczyk -19, 18, 17; bt S. Fraczyk -19, 10, 18.

v Austria (won 5-3)

P. Day bt R. Weinmann -12, 12, 13; bt H. Schluter 8, -19, 13.
Jarvis lost to F. Thallinger -20, -21; bt Weinmann 20, 14; bt Schluter 18, 17.

Neale lost to Schluter -19, -17; lost to Thallinger 22, -12, -18; bt Weinmann 12, 19.

v France (lost 2-5)

Neale lost to P. Birocheau -14, -14; lost to J. Secretin -20, -11.
Day lost to Secretin -15, -13; lost to C. Martin -14, -13.

Jarvis bt Martin -21, 9, 14 bt Birocheau 20, 19; lost to Secretin -21, -12.

v Hungary (lost 4-5)

Neale bt Z. Horvath 12, 9; lost to F. Timar -13, -12; lost to J. Borzsei -19, -15.

A. Barden lost to Timar -14, 10, -13; lost to Borzsei -20, 16, -8; lost to Horvath -15, 18, -15.

Jarvis bt Borzsei 19, -17, 10; bt Horvath 17, 12; bt Timar 21, -11, 16.

Stage 2

A5 Bulgaria 5, B6 Austria 3

A4 Federal Germany 5, B3 Hungary 1

A3 Czechoslovakia 5, B4 England 1

A2 U.S.S.R. 2, B1 Yugoslavia 5

A1 Sweden 5, B2 France 2

English Results

v Czechoslovakia (lost 1-5)
Douglas lost to J. Kunz -19, -21; lost to M. Orlovski -13 -14.
Jarvis bt J. Turai 20, -12, 19; lost to Kunz -16, -14.

Barden lost to Orlovski -9, -15; lost to Turai -15, -12.

Stage 3

For positions 9-10

Poland 5, Bulgaria 0

For positions 7-8

England 5, Hungary 2

Jarvis bt Borzsei -17, 18, 15; lost to Timar -16, -10.
Neale bt Horvath 15, -13, 17; lost to Borzsei -16, 20, -22; bt Timar 13, 13.

Douglas bt Timar 19, -17, 18; bt Horvath 10, 14.

For positions 5-6

Czechoslovakia 5, Federal Germany 3
Kunz bt P. Stellwag 16, 19; lost to J. Leiss 14, -19, -19; bt W. Lieck 12, 17.

Turai lost to Leiss -16, -17; lost to Lieck -9, 19, -12.
Orlovski bt Lieck 20, -19, 12; bt Stellwag 13, 8; bt Leiss 19, 16.

For position 3-4

U.S.S.R. 5, France 2
S. Gomozkov bt R. Hatem 10, 11; lost to J. Secretin 19, -14, -19.

B. Burnazian lost to Secretin -13, -16; bt P. Birocheau 19, 18.
A. Strokotov bt Birocheau 15, -14, 14; bt Hatem 11, 16; bt Secretin 26, 15.

For positions 1-2

YUGOSLAVIA 5, Sweden 2
Surbek bt Thorsell -15, 17, 16; bt Bengtsson 17, -19, 12.
Karakasevic lost to Bengtsson -11, -18; bt Johansson -13, 16, 21.

Stipanec bt Johansson 18, -21, 14; lost to Thorsell 11, -18, -15; bt Bengtsson -18, 11, 13.

Category 2, Stage 1

GROUP A2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Won	Pos.
DENMARK	—	5-2	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-1	5-1	6	1
Luxembourg	2-5	—	3-5	5-4	5-4	3-5	3-5	2	6
GREECE	0-5	5-3	—	4-5	5-3	5-1	5-2	4	2
Finland	0-5	4-5	5-4	—	5-1	4-5	5-4	3	4
Scotland	0-5	4-5	3-5	1-5	—	3-5	3-5	0	7
Wales	1-5	5-3	1-5	5-4	5-3	—	5-3	4	3
Turkey	1-5	5-3	2-5	4-5	5-3	3-5	—	2	5

GROUP B2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Won	Pos.
NETHERLANDS	—	5-3	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-1	6	1
ITALY	3-5	—	5-1	5-0	5-2	5-2	5-1	5	2
Belgium	0-5	1-5	—	5-0	5-1	5-1	5-0	4	3
Switzerland	0-5	0-5	0-5	—	4-5	0-5	2-5	0	7
Norway	0-5	2-5	1-5	5-4	—	1-5	5-4	2	6
Spain	0-5	2-5	1-5	5-0	5-1	—	4-5	2	4
Ireland	1-5	1-5	0-5	5-2	4-5	5-4	—	2	5

Stage 2

A6 Luxembourg 5, B5 Ireland 3

A5 Turkey 5, B6 Norway 2

A4 Finland 5, B3 Belgium 2

A3 Wales 5, B4 Spain 3

A2 Greece 2, B1 Holland 5

A1 Denmark 5, B2 Italy 1

Stage 3

For positions 25-26
Scotland 5, Switzerland 0

For positions 23-24
Ireland 5, Norway 1

For positions 21-22
Luxembourg 5, Turkey 3

For positions 19-20
Belgium 5, Spain 4

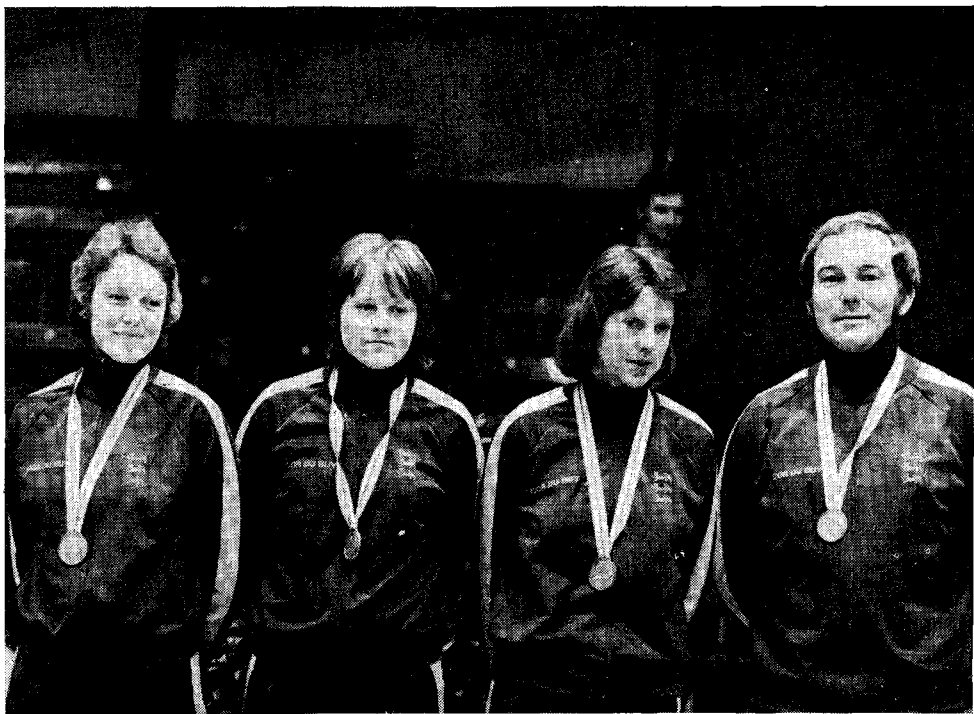
For positions 17-18
Wales 5, Finland 3

For positions 15-16
Italy 5, Greece 2

For positions 13-14
Denmark 5, Netherlands 2

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS — MEN

ENGLAND		Douglas	Jarvis	Neale	Barden	Day	F	A	Opponents
0-2	0-1	0-2					0	5	Yugoslavia
1-1	1-1	3-0					5	3	Poland
	2-1	1-2			2-0		5	3	Austria
	2-1	0-2			0-2		2	5	France
0-2	3-0	1-2	0-3				4	5	Hungary
2-0	1-1	2-1	0-2				1	5	Czechoslovakia
							5	2	Hungary
3-5	10-6	7-9	0-5	2-2	22				27



England's silver medalists in the women's team event (from l to r): Jill Hammersley, Carole Knight, Linda Howard and n.p.c. Bryan Merrett.

Photo by CTK, Praha.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS — WOMEN

ENGLAND

Hammersley	Howard	Knight	Hammersley/Howard	F	A	Opponents
1-0	1-0		1-0	3	0	Netherlands
1-1	1-0		1-0	3	1	U.S.S.R.
1-0	1-0		1-0	3	0	Sweden
2-0		0-1	1-0	3	1	Poland
1-0	1-1		1-0	3	1	Rumania
1-1	1-0		1-0	3	1	Yugoslavia
2-0	0-2		0-1	2	3	U.S.S.R.
9-2	5-3	0-1	6-1	20	7	

IRELAND

Senior	Leonard	Leonard/Senior	F	A	Opponents
1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0	Finland
0-1	0-1	0-1	0	3	Belgium
0-1	0-1	0-1	0	3	France
1-1	0-2	1-0	2	3	Austria
2-0	0-2	0-1	2	3	Scotland
2-0	1-1	0-1	3	2	Turkey
2-0	0-1	1-0	3	1	Italy
1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0	Turkey
9-3	3-8	4-4	16	15	

SCOTLAND

Smith	Fleming	Fleming/Smith	F	A	Opponents
0-1	0-1	0-1	0	3	France
2-0	0-1	1-1	3	1	Austria
1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0	Turkey
2-0	0-1	1-0	3	1	Finland
1-1	1-1	1-0	3	2	Ireland
0-1	0-1	0-1	0	3	Belgium
2-0	1-1	0-1	3	2	Spain
2-0	0-2	0-1	2	3	Denmark
10-3	3-8	4-4	17	15	

In topping their second category in the women's team event France won all their eight matches without dropping a set. Claude Bergeret won 7, Brigitte Thiriet won 6 and Yveline Lecler won 3. Bergeret and Thiriet, as a doubles combination, won all their 8 sets without dropping a game!

IRELAND

Langan	Caffrey	Cairns	F	A	Opponents
3-0	1-2	1-2	5	4	Spain
0-2	0-2	0-1	0	5	Belgium
1-1	0-2	0-2	1	5	Netherlands
1-1	0-2	0-2	1	5	Italy
3-0	1-1	1-1	5	2	Switzerland
3-0	1-2	0-3	4	5	Norway
3-0	0-3	0-2	3	5	Luxembourg
2-0	2-0	1-1	5	1	Norway
16-4	5-14	3-14	24	32	

SCOTLAND

Yule	McNee	Forker	Kean	F	A	Opponents
3-0	0-3	0-2		3	5	Greece
0-2	0-2	0-1		0	5	Denmark
2-1	0-3	2-1		4	5	Luxembourg
0-2	0-2	1-1		1	5	Finland
3-0	0-2	0-3		3	5	Wales
2-1	0-3		1-1	3	5	Turkey
2-0	1-0		2-0	5	0	Switzerland
12-6	1-15	3-8	3-1	19	30	

WALES

Griffiths	Davies	Owen	F	A	Opponents
3-0	2-1	0-2	5	3	Turkey
1-1	0-2	0-2	1	5	Greece
1-1	0-2	0-2	1	5	Denmark
3-0	2-1	0-2	5	3	Luxembourg
2-1	2-1	1-2	5	4	Finland
2-1	2-1	1-1	5	3	Scotland
3-0	1-2	1-1	5	3	Spain
3-0	1-2	1-1	5	3	Finland
18-4	10-12	4-13	32	29	

RUMANIA CUP — WOMEN

Category 1, Stage 1

GROUP A1	1	2	3	4	5	6	Won	Pos.
U.S.S.R.	—	1-3	3-0	3-1	3-0	3-0	4	2
ENGLAND	3-1	—	3-1	3-0	3-1	3-0	5	1
Rumania	0-3	1-3	—	3-1	3-0	3-0	3	3
Sweden	1-3	0-3	1-3	—	3-0	3-1	2	4
Poland	0-3	1-3	0-3	0-3	—	0-3	0	6
Netherlands	0-3	0-3	0-3	1-3	3-0	—	1	5
GROUP B1	1	2	3	4	5	6	Won	Pos.
Hungary	—	2-3	3-1	2-3	3-0	3-1	3	3
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	3-2	—	1-3	3-1	3-0	3-0	4	1
Fed. Germany	1-3	3-1	—	1-3	3-0	3-0	3	4
YUGOSLAVIA	3-2	1-3	3-1	—	3-0	3-1	4	2
Bulgaria	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	—	2-3	0	6
Luxembourg	1-3	0-3	0-3	1-3	3-2	—	1	5

English Results

v Netherlands (won 3-0)
L. Howard bt B. Vrieskoop 4, 11; J. Hammersley bt S. Heltzel 16, -15, 17; Hammersley/Howard bt Heltzel/Vrieskoop 11, 11.

v U.S.S.R. (won 3-1)
Howard bt E. Antonian 14, -16 16; Hammersley lost to Z. Rudnova -16, 16, -17, bt Antonian 19, 12; Hammersley/Howard bt Antonian/T. Ferman 15, 15.

v Sweden (won 3-0)
Hammersley bt B. Olsson 9, 17; Hammersley bt A-C. Hellman 19, 16; Hammersley/Howard bt Hellman/Olsson 19, -14, 11.

v Poland (won 3-1)
C. Knight lost to E. Olek -17, -20; Hammersley bt A. Przygoda 10, 11; bt Olek 6, 11; Hammersley/Howard bt Olek/Przygoda 16, 15.

v Rumania (won 3-1)
Howard lost to M. Alexandru -10, -11 bt L.Mihut 16, 11; Hammersley bt Mihut 13, -20, 8; Hammersley/Howard bt Alexandru/Mihut 19, 19.

Stage 2
A6 Poland 2, B5 Luxembourg 3
A5 Netherlands 3, B6 Bulgaria 2
A4 Sweden 3, B3 Hungary 2
A3 Rumania 3, B4 Fed. Germany 1
A2 U.S.S.R. 3, B1 Czechoslovakia 2
A1 England 3, B2 Yugoslavia 1

v Yugoslavia (won 3-1)
Hammersley lost to E. Palatinus -18, -8; bt D. Fabri 17, 12.
Howard bt Fabri -10, 18, 14. Hammersley/Howard bt E. Jeler/Palatinus 9, 13.

Stage 3
For positions 11-12
Bulgaria 3, Poland 2
For positions 9-10
Netherlands 3, Luxembourg 2
For positions 7-8
Hungary 3, Federal Germany 1
For positions 5-6
Rumania 3, Sweden 2
For positions 3-4
Czechoslovakia 3, Yugoslavia 1
B. Silhanova lost to Palatinus -16, 19, -9; I. Uhlíkova bt Fabri 17, 13; bt Palatinus -19, 16, 15; Uhlíkova/M. Zizkova bt Jeler/Palatinus 7, 17.
For positions 1-2
U.S.S.R. 3, England 2
Z. Rudnova lost to Hammersley -15, -12; bt Howard 10, 18; E. Antonian bt Howard 16, 12; lost to Hammersley -8, -13; Antonian/Rudnova bt Hammersley/Howard 16, 14.

Category 2, Stage 1

GROUP A2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Won	Pos.
FRANCE	—	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	6	1
Austria	0-3	—	0-3	1-3	3-0	3-2	3-2	3	4
BELGIUM	0-3	3-0	—	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	5	2
Scotland	0-3	3-1	0-3	—	3-0	3-1	3-2	4	3
Turkey	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	—	3-2	2-3	1	6
Finland	0-3	2-3	0-3	1-3	2-3	—	0-3	0	7
Ireland	0-3	2-3	0-3	2-3	3-2	3-0	—	2	5
GROUP B2	1	2	3	4	5	6	Won	Pos.	
GREECE	—	3-1	3-1	0-3	3-0	3-1	4	1	
SWITZERLAND	1-3	—	3-1	3-0	3-1	3-0	4	2	
Denmark	1-3	1-3	—	3-0	3-1	3-0	3	3	
Spain	3-0	0-3	0-3	—	3-1	3-0	3	4	
Italy	0-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	—	2-3	0	6	
Norway	1-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	3-2	1	5	

Stage 2
A6 Turkey 3, B5 Norway 0
A5 Ireland 3, B6 Italy 1
For positions 21-22
Ireland 3, Turkey 0
For positions 19-20
Spain 3, Austria 0
For positions 17-18
Denmark 3, Scotland 2
For positions 15-16
Switzerland 3, Greece 1
For positions 13-14
France 3, Belgium 0



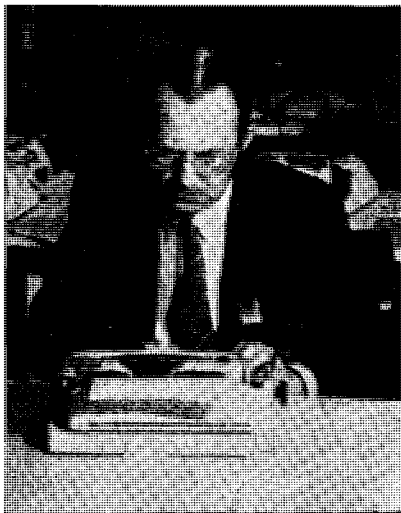
Put me with the big men was the fulfilled ambition of this young Yugoslavian supporter seated next to his hero, Stipanovic.

Photo by Bohumil Novotny, Praha.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Dragutin Surbek holds up the men's team trophy won at the 10th European Championships in Prague by Yugoslavia with a final 5-2 victory over the defending champions, Sweden. The line-up behind Surbek reads (from l to r): Zoran Kasanovic, Anton Stipanovic, Damir Juric (partly hidden), Dusan Osmanagic (Trainer/Coach) and Milivoje Karakasevic.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT



By THE EDITOR

TRIUMPH IN SARAJEVO

Not content with their success in the men's team event of the 10th European Championships in Prague, Yugoslavia took the Premier Division title of the European League with a final exciting win over Czechoslovakia in Sarajevo, on April 14.

The match was wholly disastrous for former European champion, Milan Orlowski, who finished up beaten four times, his final defeat by Anton Stipanovic giving Yugoslavia the match and the title.

Prior to that Jaroslav Kunz had kept the contest open with wins over both Stipanovic and Dragutin Surbek, the other Czech win coming from Iлона Uhlíkova, who beat Erzebet Palatinus. Individual scores:—

D. Surbek bt M. Orlowski 18, 15.
A. Stipanovic lost to J. Kunz 15, -11, -16.
E. Palatinus lost to I Uhlíkova -19, -15.
Stipanovic/Surbek bt Orlowski/M. Schenk 15, 19.
Stipanovic/Palatinus bt Orlowski/Uhlíkova -12, 14, 8.
Surbek lost to Kunz -21, -23.
Stipanovic bt Orlowski -15, 14, 17.

Jacques Secrétin, the newly-crowned European men's singles champion, kept up his winning ways from Prague by being involved in four separate wins in the 5-2 victory for France over the Soviet Union in Caen, on April 13.

In singles play he accounted, as he did in Prague, for Anatoliy Strokotov and, also in straight games, for Bagrat Burnazian.

Partnered by Patrick Birocheau and Claude Bergeret, both doubles were also captured by the French. The other home win came from Birgitte Thiriet, who triumphed 25-23 on expedite in the third game against Elmira Antonian. Scores:—

J. Secrétin bt A. Strokotov 14, 12.
C. Martin lost to B. Burnazian -24, -19.
B. Thiriet bt E. Antonian 17, -15, 23.
P. Birocheau/Secrétin bt S. Sarkhojan/Strokotov 11, 15.
Secrétin/Bergeret bt Sarkhojan/Antonian -14, 19, 18.
Secrétin bt Burnazian 15, 19.
Martin lost to Strokotov -14, -12.

In Miskolc, on April 14, Hungary went down to their fifth loss of the season when beaten 6-1 by Sweden, the deposed champions, whose only loss was incurred by Ann-Christin Hellman to Beatrix Kishazi. Scores:—

J. Börzsei lost to S. Bengtsson -25, -12.
Z. Horvath lost to K. Johansson -20, -14.

B. Kishazi bt A.-C. Hellman 19, 16.
B. Frank/Horvath lost to Bengtsson/Johansson -12, -17.
Börzsei/Kishazi lost to U. Thorsell/Hellman -18, 19, -14.
Börzsei lost to Johansson -24, 19, -8.
Horvath lost to Bengtsson -5, -19.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	6	5	1	26	16	5
Sweden	6	4	2	31	11	4
France	6	4	2	27	15	4
Czechoslovakia	6	4	2	25	17	4
Soviet Union	6	3	3	23	19	3
Hungary	6	1	5	8	34	1
Poland*	6	0	6	7	35	0

* Demoted.

At the Biennial Meeting of the European Union, held in Prague on March 28, a French proposal relating to the composition of the European League Divisions received a 21-8 voting majority in favour of the first division to comprise eight teams. Accordingly, with Poland demoted, England and Federal Germany were both uplifted without the necessity of a play-off.

Referring next to the Second Division, last season comprising two groups, it was resolved to have one division, again of eight teams, this henceforth to be known as Division 1 with the former Premier to be called the Super Division. Restructured throughout the full composition and fixtures for season 1976-77 are:—

Super Division

1976

September 30

Czechoslovakia v Soviet Union
Sweden v Hungary
France v England
Federal Germany v Yugoslavia

October 14

Yugoslavia v England
Sweden v Czechoslovakia
France v Federal Germany
Soviet Union v Hungary

November 4

Czechoslovakia v Yugoslavia
Federal Germany v Sweden
Hungary v France
England v Soviet Union

December 15

Yugoslavia v Hungary
France v Czechoslovakia
Sweden v England
Federal Germany v Soviet Union

1977

January 19

Yugoslavia v Soviet Union
England v Czechoslovakia
France v Sweden
Hungary v Federal Germany

February 10

Yugoslavia v France
Czechoslovakia v Federal Germany
England v Hungary
Soviet Union v Sweden

March 3

Sweden v Yugoslavia
Hungary v Czechoslovakia
Soviet Union v France
Federal Germany v England

Division 1

1976

September 30

Poland v Austria
Italy v Belgium
Greece v Ireland
Bulgaria v Netherlands

October 14

Austria v Italy
Belgium v Greece
Ireland v Bulgaria
Netherlands v Poland

November 4

Italy v Netherlands
Greece v Austria
Bulgaria v Belgium
Poland v Ireland

December 15

Netherlands v Greece
Austria v Bulgaria
Ireland v Italy
Belgium v Poland

1977

January 19

Greece v Italy
Bulgaria v Poland
Ireland v Netherlands
Austria v Belgium

February 10

Poland v Greece
Netherlands v Austria
Italy v Bulgaria
Belgium v Ireland

March 3

Poland v Italy
Belgium v Netherlands
Greece v Bulgaria
Ireland v Austria

Division 2

1976

Spain v Scotland
Luxembourg v Switzerland

November 4

Scotland v Wales
Switzerland v Spain

December 15

Wales v Switzerland
Spain v Luxembourg

1977

January 19

Luxembourg v Wales
Switzerland v Scotland

February 10

Wales v Spain
Scotland v Luxembourg

Division 3

Regional—To be fixed.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

As there appears to be some confusion in the interpretation of the new Rule regarding Age Eligibility, some explanation is necessary. (1) There is no change in the Rule regarding Junior age as laid down by the I.T.T.F. (2) But because the Youth Championships take place after July 1st, boys and girls who were in their last year as Juniors during the season just ended, are eligible to play. The same condition applies in respect of Cadets.

This year's Championships, to be conducted by the Austrian Association, over the period July 10-18, have been switched from Krems to the Bundeszentrum Sudstadt, Mödling, near Vienna.

EQUIPMENT ADOPTIONS

The following equipment has been adopted for use in the European League next two seasons.

Dunlop Super Balls for All Divisions.
Stiga Tables for the Super Division.
Joola Tables for Divs. 1, 2 and 3.
Joola Counters for All Divisions.
Schildkrot Nets for All Divisions.

Attention is drawn to the new Rule which states that "Host Associations not using Adopted Equipment shall lose 2 league points". Attention is also drawn to the new Rule which imposes a Fine of 100 Swiss Francs on Associations not complying with the procedure laid down for the sending of results.

E.T.T.U ELECTIONS

There were no nominations in opposition to the four Office-holders at the Biennial General Meeting of the E.T.T.U. in Prague, with Jupp Schlaf (President), Josef Nekvasil (Vice-President), Mrs. Nancy Evans (Hon. Gen. Sec.) and Henk van Dilst (Hon. Treasurer) duly re-elected with acclaim.

There were nine nominations for seven places on the Management Committee with the following returned:—

Votes

Dr. G. Lakatos (Hungary)	24
M. Kapetanic (Yugoslavia)	23
S. Danet (Rumania)	19
L. Hammerlund (Sweden)	19
P. Kobysev (U.S.S.R.)	18
G. Duclos (France)	17
G. R. Yates (England)	17

E.T.T.U. CALENDAR, 1976-1977

Oct.	8-10	Spanish Open (Seville).
	22-24	Polish Open (Cracow).
	30	
Nov.	1	Belgian Open (Charleroi).
	12-14	Italian Open.
	18-20	Yugoslav Open (Novi Sad).
	25-28	Scandinavian Open (Kristianstad).
Dec.	3-5	French Open (Paris).
	8	Quarter-finals of Europe Club Cup of Champions.
1977		
Jan.	6-8	English Open (provisional).
	15	Semi-finals of Europe Club Cup of Champions.
	28-30	Czechoslovak Open (Bratislava).
Feb.	4-6	Stiga Welsh Open (Cardiff).
	18-19	Irish Open (Dublin).
	16	FINALS of Europe Club Cup of Champions.
	25-27	Europe Top 12 (Yugoslavia).
Mar.	11-13	Beneagles Scottish Open (Edinburgh).
Mar.	26-	
Apr.	5	34th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Birmingham).
Apl.	9-10	Federal German Youth Championships.
May	14-15	Worthing English Youth Championships.
June	2-4	Trainers' Meeting (Bratislava).
	9-12	Austrian Youth Championships.
July	21-31	EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAM- PIONSHIPS (Vichy, France).
Aug.	27-31	Turkish Youth Championships.
1976		
Oct.	18-22	Swedish Invitation Tournament.
1977		
Mar.	16-23	COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION- SHIPS (Guernsey).

EUROPEAN TOP TWELVE

This season's Top 12 competition was organised by the D.T.T.B., in Lubeck, over the weekend of April 23-25. Yugoslavia's **Dragutin Surbek** and **Ann-Christin Hellman**, of Sweden, were the respective winners.

England's Jill Hammersley had to withdraw because of illness, and her one result discounted. Denis Neale, our other invitee, who took the place of Hungary's Gabor Gergely, finished in 11th position, his sole success being against Janos Börzsei.

Final placings:—

Men		W	L	Place
D. Surbek (Yu)	9	2		1st
K. Johansson (Sv)	9	2		2nd
S. Bengtsson (Sv)	8	3		3rd
M. Orlovski (Cs)	8	3		4th
S. Sarkhojan (SU)	7	4		5th
A. Strokotov (SU)	6	5		6th
A. Stipanovic (Yu)	6	5		7th
J. Leiss (FD)	4	7		8th
J. Secretin (Fr)	4	7		9th
J. Kunz (Cs)	3	8		10th
D. Neale (En)	1	10		11th
J. Börzsei (Hu)	1	10		12th
Women				
A.-C. Hellman (Sv)	7	2		1st
E. Palatinus (Yu)	6	3		2nd
I. Uhlikova (Cs)	6	3		3rd
M. Alexandru (Ru)	6	3		4th
E. Antonian (SU)	6	3		5th
Z. Rudnova (SU)	5	4		6th
W. Hendriksen (FD) ..	4	5		7th
B. Silhanova (SU)	2	7		8th
C. Bergeret (Fr)	2	7		9th
J. Magos (Hu)	1	8		10th

Hungary's Henriette Lotaller, through injury was also withdrawn.

Scores in respect of England's representatives were:—

Jill Hammersley	lost to M. Alexandru -15 -12;
	v H. Lotaller 16, -18 retired).
Denis Neale	lost to Stipanovic -18 -15 -14;
	Strokotov -15 22 -14 -19;
	Bengtsson 10 -19 -7 -15;

Johansson -7 -14 -8;
Sarkhojan -18 -14, -8;
Surbek 19, -12, -14, -9;
Kunz -18, -17, 16, -16;
Secretin -14, -18, -16;
Leiss -9, 22, -18, 13, -18;
Orlovski -17, 15, -19, -16;
bt Börzsei 18, -17, -23, 12, 19.

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Ticket Sales**

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You can now send in your requests for tickets for the World Championships and Sportacus 77 (Sport and Leisure Exhibition) and despite the very high costs of staging the event—in the past a frequent happening but now a once in a lifetime occasion—we have managed to keep admission prices at what we consider will be acceptable levels for this showpiece of our sport.

There will be approximately 6,000 seats for sale daily in the arena housing four tables. Prices are:—

March 26 (opening ceremony and team events)	£2 & £3
March 27 & 28 (team events) ..	£2 & £3
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April 1, 2 & 3 (individual events)	£2 & £3
April 4 & 5 (closing stages and finals—individual events)	£4 & £5
Season Tickets	£20 & £28

Please make your cheque and/or P.O. payable to the English Table Tennis Association.

The two prices each day and for season tickets relate to seat positions.

This is what you will get for your money
Each ticket will enable the holder to visit Sportacus 77.

Each ticket will be numbered and will correspond to a numbered seat in the arena.

Each ticket will guarantee the holder the corresponding seat all day.

Each ticket will enable the holder to enter the arena housing the tables, where seats will be un-numbered.

In further endeavours to provide world class entertainment at reasonable cost to members, we have decided to make the season tickets TRANSFERABLE. This means, quite simply, that Counties, Leagues and Clubs may buy a season ticket—saving £8 or £10—and this ticket could be used by a different member of their association each day.

Applications should be sent to:—
Maurice Goldstein,
World Championships Ticket Sales,
31 Blenheim Road,
Birmingham B13.

If you are planning to take your holiday during the World Championships and would like to take advantage of the very reduced accommodation prices which have been negotiated, then you should apply to:—

Wayfarers Travel Ltd.,
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We hope to be able to let you have details in the very near future of really economical rail travel from many points throughout the country, but do not wait for these details before reserving your admission tickets, for although you are getting this notification on admission prices before non-members, it must not be overlooked that the weakness of Sterling makes England a very cheap place for foreigners to visit!

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

AVON AFFAIRS

by M. Hawkins

CHAMPIONSHIP TIME

In this, the first season of the newly-formed County Association of Avon, it has been championship time with the three member leagues, Bristol, Bath and Mendip all holding their annual closed tournaments, the results of which were:—

Bristol

The Bristol Closed, held at Wills Recreation Hall, Bedminster, was dominated by three players. Doreen Henderson, of Weston YMCA, won three senior titles and Chris Sewell, the 16-year-old Totterdown YMCA player, who won two senior and a junior title.

Wendy Simmons, of Fromeside, took two junior and one senior title, the results being:—

M.S.: C. Sewell bt Brian Reeves (Failand) 10, 20.

M.D.: Gordon Mildred (Totterdown YM)/Sewell bt Colin Feltham/Brian Reeves (Failand) 14, 19.

W.S.: D. Henderson bt Pat Rowe (Page) 14, 14.

W.D.: Henderson/W. Simmons bt Muriel Lewis/June Watts (Bristol Club) -20, 17, 17.

X.D.: R. Philpott (Weston YM)/Henderson bt John Hartry (Weston YM)/ Susan Lovell (Kingswood YM) 14, 20.

V.S.: Mildred bt Peter Dominey (Frys) 16, 14.

B.S.: Sewell bt Robert Wolfe (Fromeside) 9, 12.

G.S.: Simmons bt Donna Vowles (K & B) 17, 8.

B.D.: Chris Mayow/Nigel Stopher (Fromeside) bt Sewell/Steve Wilkins (Fromeside) 10, 15.

G.D.: Simmons/Gillian Sperring (Robinsons) bt Cara Rowe (Page)/Vowles -19, 15, 15.

B.S. U-15: Wolfe bt Martyn Smith (Kingswood YM) -21, 10, 18.

G.S. U-15: Rowe bt Allison Knell (Filton YC) 10, 18.

B.D.: U-15: Nick Baldwin (Bristol GS)/Geoff Totterdell (Robinsons) bt Kim Morris (Frys)/Smith 21, 15.

B.S. U-13: Neil Walker (Cadbury Heath) bt David Boyes (Filton YC) 18, 14.

G.S. U-13: (Group) 1, Rowe; 2, Diana Mogg (Avon Primary).

B.D. U-13: Martin Simmons (Bristol GS)/Walker bt Archer/Maryin Webb (Avon Primary) 15, 17.

G.D. U-13: Christine Drew (Filton YC)/Josephine Knell (Filton YC) bt Mogg/Janice Parker (Avon Primary) 15, -15, 17.

B.S. U-11: Boyes bt Mark Archer (Avon Primary) 17, 15.

G.S. U-11: (Group) 1, Parker; 2, Mogg.

Bath

At the finals night of the Bath and District Closed, after a long but enjoyable week of play, Tony Clayton, the Yorkshireman who has still to lose a game in this part of the country—he was featured in the Bath evening paper in their "Spotlight" series—took the men's singles (Williams Cup) and the men's doubles (Russell Cup) with clubmate Mike Baker. Results:—

M.S.: L. A. Clayton (Frys) bt R. Murray (Bradford-on-Avon) 10, 11.

W.S.: A. Seager (Copenacre) bt P. Smith (Copenacre) 14, 11.

M.D.: M. Baker (Frys)/Clayton bt Murray/ J. Musselwhite (Mayfield) 18, 17.

X.D.: D. Seager (Copenacre)/Seager bt V. Stonham (Copenacre)/Smith 17, -18, 11.

J.S.: Musselwhite bt J. Chandler (Studley) 12, 17.

J.D.: Chandler/D. Cleveland (Studley) bt K. Mayes (Bradford)/Musselwhite 13, 20.

V.S.: J. Morris (Frys) bt R. House (Swainswick) 16, 9.

Mendip

Held at Writhlington School, Radstock, near Bath, with a separate finals evening, there were many good youngsters for the future taking part Results:—

M.S.: M. Baker (Midsomer-Norton) bt J. Higgs (Bath).

W.S.: L. Baker (Midsomer-Norton) bt A. Rose (Frome).

S.D.: Baker/Baker bt G. Hill/A. Marquiss (Bath).

X.D.: Baker/Baker bt Hill/Rose.

J.S.: D. Gerrish (Midsomer-Norton) bt J. Chivers (Midsomer-Norton).

J.D.: Chivers/Gerrish bt J. Laidler/D. Perett (Midsomer-Norton).

AVON SCHOOLS' TOURNAMENT

At Monks Park School, Bristol, on March 18, there were over 100 entries, the results being:

U-11 G.S.: Diane Mogg (Avon Primary) bt Janice Parker (Avon Primary).

U-13 G.S.: Cara Rowe (Monks Park) bt Tracy Lee (Portway).

U-16 G.S.: Donna Vowles (St. Urshula) bt Wendy Simmons (Fairfield).

U-11 B.S.: Mark Archer (Avon Primary) bt David Boyes (Filton Hill).

U-13 B.S.: Steven Cox (Portway) bt David Harris (Speedwell).

U-16 B.S.: Douglas Lewis (St. Mary's, Redcliffe) bt Douglas Gerrish (Somervale).

U-19 B.S.: Jeremy Musselwhite (Beecham Cliffe) bt Paul Ellison (Filton High).

It is important to note that this was a triple success for Cara Rowe, Donna Vowles and Paul Lewis for taking their titles three years in succession.

On the County Championship front, Avon Seniors rounded off their Div. 3 (West) programme losing, disappointingly, 3-7 away to Worcester II, at Malvern. Avon supporters were unhappy with the result but it did not stop the new Avon County team gaining promotion to Div. 2 (West) next season.

At a recent executive meeting of the County Association, it was reported that Avon may run a second senior team next season, so I would sound a warning—watch out for Avon as we are bubbling with enthusiasm at the moment!

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by Leslie Constable

SECOND TIME OF ASKING

For the second time running Cambs Senior team were able to challenge for admission to the Premier Division of the County Championships. Despite having a particularly good season in their own division, they were unable to emulate their performances of last season and, in fact, did not do so well as anticipated. Although Paul Day was successful in all his singles, the team as a whole could not quite match the opposition and it was disappointing to see them losing to Berkshire, who were considered the weakest of the counties.

As Cambs will again have all these players available next season, I would anticipate another successful run-up. In their last two matches Cambs easily disposed of Herts (8-2) and Beds (9-1), which reveals the strength of the team. Recently Geoff Davies won the singles title in the S.E.M. League Tournament and he should be well in the running for a first team place next season. The remainder of the team—Keith Richardson, Mick Harper, Sally Hirst and Valerie Scripps, must be congratulated on this season's performances.

Cambs' second team failed in their promotion bid from Div. 3 (East) when they lost 3-7 to Hunts at St. Neots. At the half-way stage Cambs led 3-2, but Hunts fought back

and took the next five sets. For Cambs, Davies beat Tim Speller and Brian Jones beat Len Saywell, while Davies and Brian Richardson took the Men's Doubles. Both Junior teams finished bottom of their respective divisions, despite the first team beating Kent 6-4. In this match Keith Richardson and Andy Withers both beat Ian Collins and Geoff Davies added a third Boys' Singles in a marathon win over Joe Kennedy -31, 21, 19! The second Junior team being beaten 10-0 by Norfolk at Norwich, this being their second consecutive match by that margin.

Cambridge women failed to reach the semi-final of the Rose Bowl when they were defeated in a quarter-final tie against Newbury at Cambridge YMCA. Newbury proved too good for Cambridge who, although fighting hard, were not in the same class. I am of the opinion that this Newbury team have a good chance of winning the competition. It would seem that Cambridge will have to supply more youthful players in the future and not rely on the "old guard" of Mesdames Hirst, Scripps and Rodgers!

In the S.E.M. League, Cambridge teams had varied success during the season and the teams who were less successful—namely Juniors and Seniors—are the ones which will have to be completely re-built if they are to reach the first division in their particular sections. Both teams finished bottom-but-one and it will be a long hard climb to the higher sphere. The Veterans won their division without losing a match and in their last game of the season decisively beat Northampton, who were their nearest rivals. The Women finished half-way up their division, despite a very promising start and here again new material must be forthcoming. Wisbech headed the Men's 2nd Division and so gained promotion, which is a very creditable performance and they, together with Ely, should do well in Div. 1 next season. Wisbech also did well in the Junior 2nd Division, finishing level with Milton Keynes in second position. Ely, for them, had rather a disappointing season in Junior Div. 1 and finished fourth with 34 points.

With the exception of a few re-arranged matches, the Cambridge League season has now ended and most of the honours have been decided. Soham I are again champions of Div. 1 with New Chesterton Institute runners-up. YMCA II and Torchbearers I will be relegated to the 2nd Division. Here are the other promotions and relegations:—

Division 2

Promoted: Telephones II and Fisons I.
Relegated: University II, Y.M.C.A. III and G.O.R.D. I.

Division 3a

Promoted: Haverhill II.

Relegated: Torchbearers II and G.O.R.D. II.

Division 3b

Promoted: Torchbearers II.

Relegated Soham V and St. George's III.

Division 4a

Promoted Saffron Walden I and Press IV or Grant S.C.

Relegated: Torchbearers IV and Police II.

Division 4b

Promoted: Pye I and Wesley Parkside I.

Relegated: Ida Darwin I and Saffron Walden III.

Division 5a

Promoted: NCI III and Wesley Parkside II.

For the first time since its inception, the final of the Knockout Handicap Trophy is between a Div. 1 and a Div. 5 side, namely Soham 1 and Wesley Parkside II. As the latter team receive 22 points in a game of 31 points it may be a very close thing, despite the Soham team having the services of Day and Keith Richardson. It has been a memorable season for the Wesley club as both their teams obtained promotion despite only being formed at the beginning of the season.

Soham players dominated the top positions in the Cambridge League averages for the season just ended. In Div. 1, Mick Palmer and Keith Richardson, of Soham I's championship-

winning team, head the list with 96% and 93% respectively, while in Div. 2, John Ashman, of Soham IV has won every set in the 15 matches in which he has played, obtaining 100%. Here are the leading players' averages in the other divisions:—

Division 3a—A. Withers—90%
Division 3b—S. Dunster—98%
Division 4a—B. Bean—93%
Division 4b—B. Nicholls—92%
Division 5a—J. Puddick—96%
Division 5b—C. Benson—96%

It remains something of a mystery why Keith Richardson is not in the England Junior Ranking List. For four years Richardson, Cambridge's No. 2 boy has been beating many of the top twenty juniors at open tournaments and in the Premier Division of the County Championships, but for some inexplicable reason he has not made the rankings. In the Middlesex Junior Select Richardson made a mockery of the list when he beat Stephen Hazelwood (Yorkshire), ranked 8, David Newman (Essex), ranked 16, and Michael Harrison (Yorkshire) ranked 19.

This was no "flash-in-the-pan" performance as the Soham boy has beaten the latter two on more than one occasion this season. In the tournament, which was run on a group basis, Richardson won all his matches in one group and finished third of six in another, with a final position of 13th against the cream of England's boys. Maybe this latest success against his rivals will bring him the recognition he thoroughly deserves, notwithstanding it being the end of his last season as a junior player.

Congratulations to the Cambridge team for again winning the East Anglian League—the second time in three years. The mixed team which consisted mainly of Harper, John Thurston, Albert Jackson, Sandra Harding and Sally Hirst, did extremely well and dropped only one point. It will be a pity if this team does not participate next season, as I hear that Thurston, who is the "king-pin" of the team, may decide to retire.

I must congratulate all those people who have acted in an administrative capacity for the well-being of the League and County. There are many who do these arduous tasks, which have to be performed, though there's never many volunteers. Thanks must also be extended to Geoff Waters (umpiring and transport), Pat O'Bryne (umpiring and transport), Tony Brotchie (League Secretary), Ruth Puddick (County Secretary) and, last but not least, Mike Jackson for his umpiring efforts.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

100% GIRLS

Another season comes to a close, with the County Junior Team winding up their season with a fine 9-1 victory over Nottinghamshire. A close match was expected, but the Lincs Juniors rose to the occasion magnificently with Stephen Barr (Grimsby), in his first County Match, leading the way with a fine doubles. Mark Newbould (Grimsby) and Stephen Cuthbertson (Scunthorpe) collected two and one rubber respectively in this their final game as juniors. Mark and Stephen, along with Cheryl Buttery (Lincoln) were presented with their Junior County Badges prior to the match by the County Chairman, Mr. J. J. Robertson. The girls, Suzanne Hunt (Grantham) and Cheryl, won the singles and doubles, to maintain the 100% record in girls' singles and doubles this season.

The Senior Team in the 2nd Division North, were thwarted in their attempt to go for the challenge matches, with the Yorkshire 1st team being relegated, the White Rose County, on the strength of their second team, took up their option. Nevertheless, it was a fine season's table tennis with every match being 6-4 or 5-5, which brings for greater spectator value. Roll on next season.

On the home front, the only outstanding competition, the Butcher Cup, was duly won by Grantham, who accounted for Mablethorpe 9-1 in their final match. Their closest rivals, Boston, beat Gainsborough 10-0, but this still left them 1 point behind Grantham, who thus won their first ever trophy since joining the Lincolnshire fold. In this competition the County Junior No. 1, Newbould, has the best average, with 23 wins out of 24, his only defeat coming in the first match of the season.

Wyberton have won the Haigh Cup for the second successive season, winning all their 8 matches, and for the loss of only 7 sets. Brian Hill (Wyberton) played in all the matches and has 100% record in the Haigh Cup again this season. The County No. 3, Steve Morley (Grimsby) also has a 100% record, but only played in three matches. Grimsby called on a choice of 8 players to finish runners-up.

The Butlin Cup has been retained by Spalding, who also finished with maximum points. Miss Jean White won all her games two straight to give her a 100% record this season. Grimsby have finished second, with Mrs. Connie Moran winning all her 9 sets.

The Lincoln Closed Singles Championship produced a surprise, with Newbould beating the holder, Cleve Judson, in three games. Cleve, along with Roy Norton, won the Men's Doubles from Peter Taylor and John Radley. As expected, Suzanne Hunt won the Women's and Girls' Singles, both times over Cheryl Buttery, who put up a great fight against her national-ranked opponent.

The Gainsborough Closed Singles again went to Brian Edlington, who accounted for Tony Patrick in a three-game final, whilst in Boston, the Robinson family completed a double with County Secretary Joan, winning the Women's Singles from her teammate Jean Cammack, and husband Alan winning the Men's Singles at his first attempt from Nev Blackborne.

So ends another enjoyable season and all in Lincolnshire look forward to renewing old battles and acquaintances next season and hope that everyone has an excellent summer break.

HAIGH, BUTLIN AND BUTCHER CUPS

Final League Tables — 1975-76

HAIGH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wyberton	8	8	0	0	73	7	16
Grimsby	8	7	0	1	67	13	14
Lincoln	8	6	0	2	53	27	12
Gainsborough	8	4	1	3	47	33	9
Boston	8	3	1	4	32	48	7
Scunthorpe	8	2	1	5	31	49	5
Grantham	8	2	0	6	28	52	4
Mablethorpe	8	1	1	6	20	60	3
Stamford	8	1	0	7	9	71	2

Records (at least 3 matches played)

	Played	Won	Avg.
B. Hill (Wyberton)	24	24	100%
S. Morley (Grimsby)	9	9	100%
M. East (Wyberton)	21	20	95.2%
P. Taylor (Grimsby)	12	11	91.6%
C. Boyd (Scunthorpe)	18	16	88.8%
M. Shearer (Grimsby)	15	13	86.6%
B. Edlington (G'nsbro)	24	18	75%
G. King (Wyberton)	24	18	75%
J. Radley (Lincoln)	15	11	73.3%
B. Allison (Grimsby)	18	13	72.2%

BUTLIN	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spalding	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Grimsby	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Lincoln	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Grantham	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Boston	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

Records (At least 3 matches played)

	Played	Won	Avg.
J. White (Spalding)	12	12	100%
C. Moran (Grimsby)	9	9	100%
M. Green (Spalding)	12	9	66.6%
J. Hackford (Grimsby)	9	6	66.6%
M. Burgess (Spalding)	12	7	58.3%

BUTCHER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grantham	10	9	1	0	78	22	19
Boston	10	9	0	1	80	20	18
Grimsby	10	7	1	2	64	36	15

Stamford	10	6	0	4	59	41	12
Lincoln	10	6	0	4	54	46	12
Mablethorpe	10	4	1	5	40	60	9
Scunthorpe	10	4	0	6	50	50	8
Spalding	10	2	2	6	45	55	6
Gainsborough	10	2	1	7	35	65	5
Skegness	10	2	0	8	17	83	4
Wyberton	10	1	0	9	28	72	2

Records (At least 5 matches played)

	Played	Won	Avg.
M. Newbould (Grimsby)	24	23	95.8%
Mrs. B. Voss (Wyberton)	21	20	95.2%
Miss S. Hunt (Grantham)	15	14	93.3%
P. Cater (Boston)	27	24	88.8%
N. Fossitt (Boston)	24	21	87.5%
S. Daffurn (Boston)	27	22	81.4%
K. Eldred (Grantham)	30	23	76.6%
M. Leveratt (Grantham)	27	18	66.6%
S. Cuthbertson (Sc'th'pe)	24	16	66.6%
S. Barr (Grimsby)	18	12	66.6%
N. Parr (Gainsborough)	15	10	66.6%

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

MARATHON AT FOCUS

After almost 14 hours' play the County Closed tournament produced its finalists at Focus Youth Club, Peterborough, with Jean Allinson, Diane Bushby and Alan Lamprell all reaching three finals.

The Peterborough League's Closed gave Jean Allinson and Colin Dale a feast, each taking three titles. Results:—
M.S.: C. Dale bt S. Greenwood.
W.S.: J. Allinson bt S. Holland.
B.S.: C. Randall bt S. Smith.
G.S.: M. Cocker bt J. Daft.
V.S.: C. Dale bt D. Megginson.
M.D.: Megginson/R. Fisher.
W.D.: E. & J. Allinson.
X.D.: Dale/Allinson.

Panel 3 regional heat of the national U-13 competition was held at Longsands School, St. Neots. Our girls turned in good performances with Melanie Ringrose winning for the 2nd year running. In the final she beat her St. Ives colleague, Julie Cundell. Our boys found the opposition too strong with only the youngest competitor in this area's competition, 9-year-old Richard Ballard, gaining any type of success.

The boys' winner was Keith Nicholl (Corby) who just beat Julian Hall (Bury St. Edmunds). Melanie went forward to the national finals at Reading on May 22. Hunts Central's junior boys, Steven Fisher, Mark Fisher and Leno Coppolaro, made their exit from the Carter Cup at the Zone Final stage. They went down 2-7 to North Herts. The brothers took a set apiece but both lost to Gavin Booth by two points in the decider.

The St. Neots League held a successful Disco/Dinner at Little Paxton in late March, when the trophies for the past season were presented.

N.C.I. again lead the premier division of the Hunts Central League with the all-important match against second-placed St. Ives "A" still to be played.

Little Paxton ended the Achilles domination of the St. Neots League over the past few seasons by winning Div. 1. St. Neots women lost narrowly, 4-6, to North Herts in a S.E.M. League encounter, with Diane Bushby starring for the local league with triple successes.

The County Veterans' team suffered a "whitewash" against Hants in double-quick time. At the Bedford League tournament Alan Lamprell (St. Neots) finished on the wrong side in all three finals he contested. In the men's singles he lost to Dave Rawlinson.

An exhibition match was performed recently by our Junior No. 2, Mark Fisher, and Barry Norman during a variety show held at St. Ivo Recreation Centre. I am told that around 500 people watched, but, as yet, no contracts have been signed for the Palladium.



SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

2nd SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh
21-23 April, 1976

JIMMY WALKER IN SPARKLING FORM

Thanks to generous sponsorship by Benneagles Whisky, of Perth, and the "Edinburgh Evening News", this year's Scottish International Open was a great success, despite the lack of continental players.

Team Event

The Benneagles International Team Event, which is played European League style, was won by England, who defeated Scotland I 4-2 in the final after sharing the first four sets, Richard Yule beating Andy Barden 2-1 and, partnered by John McNeer and Nicky Jarvis respectively, the Scottish pair won the doubles 21-10 in the third. In Round 1 Scotland II had a good win over Ireland with Alan Matthew beating Alister Cairns and Kiernan Leonard. History was made when B.B.C. T.V. televised a Scottish T.T. event for the first time—the honour going to the Scotland I v Wales semi-final match which the home side won 4-2.

The winners—England—became the recipients of the new Benneagles Trophy, a specially-designed abstract trophy representing a T.T. bat, ball and flat hand in service.

RESULTS

Round 1

Scotland I 7, Scotland IV 0
Scotland III 2, Wales 5
Scotland II 4, Ireland 3

Semi-finals

Scotland I 4, Wales 2
England 4, Scotland II 0

Final

England 4, Scotland I 2

Individual Events

The initial stages of all events, except the Mixed were played in groups. In the Men's Singles the only home player to emerge from the groups to contest the quarter-finals was Yule, who then defeated Alan Griffiths over 5. Paul Day, who had beaten Andy Barden 3-1 in the quarter-finals, had a very hard semi-final with Yule. In the first game it was level-pegging all the way with the Scot winning 22-20, but Day levelled 21-16; Yule took an early lead in the 3rd, and with Day decidedly rattled, he won 21-16 to go 2-1 up. The 4th was high drama, from 9-11 Yule nose-dived to 10-19 and then by continuous aggression, clawed his way back to 20-all only to lose 20-22. The 5th game was anti-climax and Day ran out a comfortable winner.

In the other semi-final Jimmy Walker was in sparkling form, taking the ball so early that Nicky Jarvis could not get his own attack going and was overwhelmed in straight games. Paul took the first game in the Final, but then Jimmy struck top form again to win the next three and so regain the title he won in 1974.

Carole Knight retained her Women's Singles title but she was taken to five games by Karen Senior in the semi-final and by Linda Howard in the Final. Elaine Smith's challenge ended when she conceded her semi-final to Linda Howard due to a pulled leg muscle.

Day was hard-pressed to beat Tom Devers

22-20, 24-22 in the Junior Singles groups, but then went on to beat Barden 2-0 in the Final.

Detailed results:—

TEAM EVENTS

Round 1

Scotland I 7, Scotland IV 0

R. Yule bt A. Majid 12, 13; J. McNeer bt K. Rodger 8, 14.
Miss E. Smith bt Miss C. Dalrymple 6, 14.
McNeer/Yule bt Majid/Rodger 16, -19, 10.
Yule/Smith bt Majid/Dalrymple 10, 12.
Yule bt Rodger 6, 12; McNeer bt Majid 12, 19.

Scotland III 2, Wales 5

J. Wilson lost to G. Davies -9, -16.
T. Devers lost to A. Griffiths -16, -16.
Miss P. Fleming bt Miss J. Ralphs 17, 18.
Devers/Wilson lost to Davies/Griffiths -12, -17.
Wilson/Fleming bt Davies/Ralphs 17, 20.
Wilson lost to Griffiths -11, -12.
Devers lost to Davies -14, 19, -14.

Scotland II 4, Ireland 3

A. Matthew bt K. Leonard -14, 15, 17.
R. Brown lost to A. Cairns -15, -19.
Miss G. McKay lost to Miss K. Senior -15, -13.
Brown/Matthew bt Cairns/L Leonard 8, -22, 16.
Brown/McKay lost to Cairns/Senior -12, -17.
Matthew bt Cairns -18, 11, 15.
Brown bt Leonard 16, 18.

Semi-finals

England 4, Scotland II 0

N. Jarvis bt Brown 14, 11; A. Barden bt Matthew 6, 13.
Miss C. Knight bt Miss McKay 13, 14.
Barden/Jarvis bt Brown/Matthew 17, 10.

Wales 2, Scotland I 4

Griffiths bt McNeer 9, 15; Davies lost to Yule -15, -17.
Miss Ralphs lost to Miss Smith -13, -14.
Davies/Griffiths bt McNeer/Yule 19, -20, 15.
Davies/Ralphs lost to Yule/Smith -10, -18.
Griffiths lost to Yule -14, -4.

Final

ENGLAND 4, Scotland I 2

Jarvis bt McNeer 14, -19, 17; Barden lost to Yule -11, 19, -18.
Miss Knight bt Miss Smith 14, 12.
Barden/Jarvis lost to McNeer/Yule -10, 12, -10.
Jarvis/Knight bt Yule/Smith 15, 14.
Jarvis bt Yule 17, -17, 14.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

N. Jarvis (EN) bt A. Cairns (IR) 15, 14, 12.
J. Walker (Cleve) bt G. Davies (WA) 19, 16, -19, 13.
P. Day (Cambs) bt A. Barden (EN) 11, 21, -16, 14.
R. Yule (SC) bt A. Griffiths (WA) -13, 12, -19, 16, 11.

Semi-finals

Walker bt Jarvis 11, 20, 18; Day bt Yule -20, 16, -16, 20, 13.

Final

WALKER bt Day -20, 19, 18, 12.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

C. Knight (EN) bt K. Senior (IR) 15, -20, 19, 15, 11.
L. Howard (EN) w.o. E. Smith (SC) scr.

Final

KNIGHT bt Howard 17, -10, 12, -15, 18.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Day/Jarvis bt Davies/Griffiths 16, 17, -18, 14.
Barden/Walker bt J. McNeer (SC)/Yule 16, 9, 9.

Final

DAY/JARVIS bt Barden/Walker 14, -14, 8, 15.

Women's Doubles—Final

HOWARD/KNIGHT bt P. Fleming (SC)/Smith 10, 11, 25.

Mixed Doubles—Final

DAY/HOWARD bt Jarvis/Knight 14, 18, 15.

LANARKSHIRE OPEN—COATBRIDGE—4th APRIL

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

R. Brown bt J. Hawkins 18, 21.
J. Graham bt R. Bhafla 17, 20.

Final

RUSSELL BROWN bt Jim Graham 15, -12, 16.

Women's Singles—Final

GRACE MCKAY bt Margaret Cuthbertson 12, 12.

Boys' Singles—Final

TOM DEVERS bt Kenny McLean 13, 5.

Girls' Singles—Final

F. RAE bt Lynn Davidson -14, 19, 13.

BENEAGLES WHISKY OPEN—PERTH—25th APRIL

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

R. Yule bt J. Wilson 5, 15.

N. Eckersley bt T. Devers 11, 15.

Final

ECKERSLEY bt Yule 10, 20.

Women's Singles—Final

P. FLEMING bt G. McKay 14, -16, 14.

Junior Singles—Final

A. MATTHEW bt T. Devers 15, 17.

Men's Doubles—Final

R. BROWN/MATTHEW bt J. McNeer/Yule 19, 13.

Mixed Doubles—Final

BROWN/MCKAY bt Eckersley/S. Adamson 11, 9.

Women's Doubles—Final

C. DALRYMPLE/MCKAY bt Fleming/A. Simpson 14, 9.

European Youth Championships

Meeting in London on May 17, the National Selection Committee chose the following teams to participate in the European Youth Championships, to be played in Mödling, near Vienna, from July 10-18, 1977.

BOYS.—Martin Shuttle (Surrey), Chris Sewell (Avon), Dougie Johnson (Warwickshire) and Ian Kenyon (Kent).

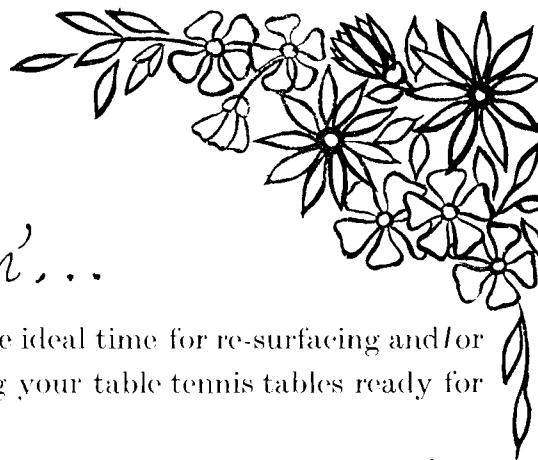
GIRLS.—Karen Witt (Berkshire), Melody Lüdi (Yorkshire) and Angela Mitchell (Middlesex).

***CADET BOYS.**—Colin Wilson (Hampshire) and Graham Sandley (Middlesex).

* Subject to sponsorship.

N.P.C.s.—Brian Burn and Bryan Merrett.

Neither Paul Day nor Andrew Barden were considered because of conduct prejudicial to the good name of the E.T.T.A.



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I.M.P.A.C.T.

'GOLD CUP' U-12

TEAM COMPETITION

By ALAN DINES

Reading's girls and Guildford boys were triumphant in the "Gold Cup" Under-12 Team Competitions staged at Meadway Sports Centre in Reading on 24th April. All the best teams in the country were invited to play in this new type of competition devised and organised by I.M.P.A.C.T. (Institute of Match Play and Coaching Technics) and sponsored by Actif Sports Limited, the U.K. agents for Chinese "Gold Cup" equipment. There were separate events for boys and girls which were played with a system of groups. Teams consisted of 4 players with the first and second pairs playing each other for a total of 8 singles in each team match.

The champion Reading girls' team of Lesley Taylor, Sally Purslow, Taryn Vallis and Jennifer Collins were convincing winners. They won all of their matches, beating Bristol 8-0, Guildford 6-2, Barking 5-3 and Swindon 6-2. Barking's girls took second place and their team of D. Colket, D. Taylor, K. Turner and G. Travers dropped just one match against Reading and beat Bristol 6-2, Swindon 5-3 and Guildford 6-1. Third place went to the Swindon girls P. Townsend, T. Watkins, G. Horsington, K. Sculley and M. Cook.

The champion Guildford boys' team of Mark Oakley, Graham Russell, Timmy Vine and Stephen Gosling were worthy winners and they beat their main contenders, Wolverhampton, in the final match. Guildford won all seven of their matches, beating Coventry 8-0, Ely 8-0, Reading 8-0, Maidenhead 8-0, Acton 7-1, Barking 7-1 and Wolverhampton 5-3. The Wolverhampton boys A. Dixon, A. Devitt, P. Dawes and M. Devitt, finished second and beat Swindon 7-1, Maidenhead 7-1, Reading "B" 8-0, Ely 6-2, Barking 5-3 and Acton 5-3. Third place was secured for Barking by S. Edwards, I. Attridge, T. Pascal, J. Sparks and M. Bluet.

The main final positions were as follows:—

Boys	Girls
1. Guildford	1. Reading
2. Wolverhampton	2. Barking
3. Barking	3. Swindon
4. Ely	4. Guildford
5. Maidenhead	5. Bristol
6. Acton	6. Reading "B"
7. Newbury	
8. Swindon	
9. Coventry	

The generous sponsorship provided equipment prizes and badges for the top teams, bat covers for all players, and pennants for all players and officials. This, followed by a reception, set the seal on a successful and rewarding day's table tennis. Presentations were made by Actif Sports Director, Arthur Simcox, and "veteran" Reading junior, Alison Gordon, the current English Under-13 and 14 Champion. The Competition Organiser was Alan Dines and the Referee was John Freeman.

This competition extends the range of competitions being organised by I.M.P.A.C.T. and compliments their massive Reading-based coaching development programme. The main objective of this new "Gold Cup" Team Competition is to encourage the in depth development of players under the age of 12.



BOYS' WINNERS — GUILDFORD
 Stephen Gosling Timmy Vine Mark Oakley Graham Russell



GIRLS' WINNERS — READING
 Jennifer Collins Sally Purslow Taryn Vallis Lesley Taylor

International Club

by Laurie Landry

At the 13th A.G.M. of the International T.T.C., the meeting confirmed both Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard as Vice-Presidents following their successes in the 10th European Championships. Ivor Montagu was re-elected as President.

Following a decision made at the A.G.M., the

Club will have a sub-committee, elected by the membership, called the "Geoff Harrower Trophy" Committee. Jill Hammersley was the recipient this season and we were all delighted to see her receive it at Luton from our President.

The last event of the season was the Jubilee match with Cornwall at Helston. An excellent evening and a win for the Club by 8-1, but a great performance by John Bassett, of Cornwall.

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ALFRED READER COR DU BUY NATIONAL CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS

SLICK ORGANISATION

by Philip Reid

The first National Cadet Championships—sponsored by Alfred Reader-Cor Du Buy—proved a tremendous success. With 126 entries in the Boys' Singles and 55 in the Girls' it needed slick organisation to complete the programme in one day, particularly as the Group System was used—but the trio of Jim Hobday, Geoff Daniels and Tony Chatwin worked without fuss but with great efficiency with the result that the whole thing was over before 9.0 p.m.!!

There were, however, plenty of shocks—in neither the Cadet Boys' nor the Cadet Girls' event did the No. 1 seed in the singles reach the final. Only in one event—the Boys' Doubles—did the actual "favourites" win.

In the second round of the Boys' Singles five of the 16 sets went to three and all of them involved "seeds", who triumphed, though in two cases by the narrowest of margins. Staffordshire's A. Bellingham put up a great fight against No. 6 seed Richard Bergemann, before losing -20 in the third, whilst Cumbria's Ian Reed, seeded five, only just got the better of Devon's Paul Whiting. Adam Proffitt recovered from losing the first game to win fairly comfortably against Mark Oakley (Surrey).

The third round saw the exit of the No. 6 and 8 seeds. Sam Harmer—who already seems to have been around for years!—had two close games with Costas Papantoniou, but the latter played very well in the latter stages of both games to win. Hampshire's bouncing Bergemann found J. Hodges (Devon) a rare handful and lost his two games by the closest possible margin.

The quarter-finals provided some exciting games (none more so than Proffitt's nail-biting finish against Papantoniou) but at the end of it the top four seeds were in the semi-final. In the main Graham Sandley, seeded one, had moved fairly leisurely to the last four, but at this stage he encountered Liverpool's Tony O'Connor, seeded three.

O'Connor sailed into the attack against the Middlesex left-hander and besides having plenty of shots and power, his temperament was good, too. The second game looked like going the same way as the first but Sandley has not gained No. 1 spot for nothing. Hitting well, even when under pressure, he recovered from 17-19 in the second to win 22-20. In the third O'Connor trailed 1-3 but came back to take the lead at 5-4 and was never in real trouble again.

He pounded away and refused to be drawn away from the table. On the rare occasions he was, Sandley scored with shots of both accuracy and power. The game itself was a credit to both players who have promise, ability, determination and power. Both could well be on the England ranking list at the highest level in the not too distant future. Colin Wilson (Hants)—who had won all his previous matches two straight, found Proffitt a different and difficult proposition. Three games of exciting hitting finally ended with Wilson winning at 19 in the third.

The seedings in the Girls' Singles followed expectations. Of the eight seeds, only one—Nicola Pine (Devon)—failed to take her appointed place in the quarter-final. Her victor was Dorset's Sarah Gibson, who nearly went one step further when she played No. 4 seed Mandy Reeves. Miss Gibson hit well—particu-

larly in the last two games—but it was Miss Reeves who eventually triumphed.

Helen Robinson, meanwhile, was in all sorts of trouble against Jill Purslow, but she finally extricated herself from a difficult position to reach the semi-final. Neither of the two top Berkshire representatives, Mandy Smith and Alison Gordon, had any such problems. Both had reached that stage without the loss of as much as a game. At this stage Miss Gordon had a really splendid game with Miss Reeves, with the Berkshire player having all her work cut out to get the ball past the sound defence of Miss Reeves.

In the first a close game went to Miss Reeves (but the No. 2 seed came back to win two very close games in one of the best sets of the championships. There was, however, no such excitement in the top half, where Mandy Smith summarily disposed of the No. 1 seed with scores of 11 and 8.

First seeds to go in the Boys' Doubles were the No. 2 pair, Wilson and O'Connor, who lost to Papantoniou and Souter the first time they went to the table. This pair then progressed to the last eight before losing to the very promising Devon pair of Whiting and Hodges. Bergemann and Owens were another seeded pair to fail to reach the last four, Moore and Gillett beating them in the quarter-finals.

Yet another seeded pair, Gray and Reed, went early—to Johnson and Harmer—who subsequently lost out to Woodgate and Oakley. One pair, however, who had looked quite invincible were the top seeds, Sandley and Adam Proffitt. They summarily dismissed all opposition on their way to the final in two straight with both players hitting well and consistently.

One event went entirely to form—the Girls' Doubles—where all four seeded pairs reached the semi-final. Alison Gordon and Jill Purslow had looked completely at home in the top half and although the Cheshire/Cornwall pairing of Miss James and Miss Deakin had taken them close in the quarter-final, they had no such trouble in the semi-finals, where their power was too much for the Williams/Reeves partnership. In the same way Midgley/Robinson beat Garbett/Townsend to reach the final. In the final, the No. 2 seeds—Helen Robinson and Sally Midgley—played well and although the Berkshire pair had the power they were perhaps not quite as consistent as their Northern counterparts.

It was, however, a very high standard of play from such young competitors. The Boys' Doubles was the only event which went true to form, with Sandley and Proffitt continuing to play in the final as they had done in every previous round—with great confidence and consistency. The first game was fairly close but with this under their belts the Middlesex pair really went to town in the next game and missed hardly a thing.

Only one of the finals went to three—this being the Girls' Singles. Mandy Smith and Alison Gordon have, I imagine, played each other so often that they know exactly what to expect before they go on. Even so, it produced a final of attractive, attacking table tennis with no quarter being asked for or given. Miss Smith, however, played so well in the first that victory looked to be hers for the taking. But it was not to be. Miss Gordon, showing all the determination of a champion, came back to take the next two and with it the title.

The Boys' Singles final, as one would expect, produced a final of high quality. Wilson has all the attributes of a champion—confidence, ability, class and fight. Not far behind him was O'Connor, a really bright prospect if I ever saw one. The rallies were of the class usually only seen in senior events and for the crowd, the only disappointment was that it didn't go to three, Wilson winning 16 and 18.

All in all, a good tournament—and one which I imagine will certainly operate next season.

RESULTS

Cadet Boys' Singles—Round One

D. Gray bt J. Weatherley 18, 13; P. Hindle bt M. Pugh -8, 11, 23; G. Pugh bt I. Weatherley 12, 15; S. Holloway bt J. Clifford 17, -21, 12; K. Satchell bt P. Russam -19, 17, 16; M. Oakley bt J. Duffield -20, 16, 17; N. Harris bt M. Lowe 20, -13, 12; P. Whiting bt N. Edgecock 10, 1; P. Rainford bt P. Docherty 16, 18.

Round Two

G. Sandley bt D. Gray 15, 17; P. Makinson bt D. Hogg 11, 5; S. Moore bt P. Hindle 14, -22, 17; M. Laird bt G. Wilson 6, 17; R. Bergemann bt A. Bellingham 18, -19, 20; J. Hodges bt G. Pugh 12, 8; G. Gillett bt S. Holloway 17, 10; A. O'Connor bt K. Satchell 9, 18; A. Proffitt bt M. Oakley -19, 11, 15; R. Albutt bt C. Oliver 13, 16; Papantoniou bt P. Stratton 12, 8; S. Harmer bt N. Harris 16, 19; I. Reed bt P. Whiting 21, -12, 19; A. Withers bt C. Cooper 14, 16 P. Dubbins bt D. Johnson 16, -11, 17; C. Wilson bt P. Rainford 15, 6.

Round Three

Sandley bt Makinson 8, 14; Laird bt Moore -18, 5, 11; Hodges bt Bergemann 21, 21; O'Connor bt Gillett 12, 14; Proffitt bt Albutt 10, 13; Papantoniou bt Harmer 20, 18; Reed bt Withers 16, 10; Wilson bt Dubbins 9, 15.

Round Four

Sandley bt Laird 18, -18, 13; O'Connor bt Hodges 9, -22, 15; Proffitt bt Papantoniou 13, -15, 21; Wilson bt Reed 14, 8.

Semi-finals

O'Connor bt Sandley 12, -20, 12; Wilson bt Proffitt 20, -18, 19.

Final

WILSON (Hants) bt O'Connor (Lancs) 16, 18.

Cadet Girls' Singles—Round One

C. Colegate bt J. Deakin 20, 19; S. James bt P. Townsend 14, 18.

Round Two

H. Robinson bt C. Colegate 12, 17; J. Purslow bt M. Ringrose 19, -14, 17; G. Galloway bt L. Barwick 13, 9; M. J. Smith bt G. Smith 15, 14; M. Reeves bt E. Gaiagher 5, 14; S. Gilson bt N. J. Pine 15, -12, 13; L. Garbett bt S. Midgley 19, -18, 19; A. Gordon bt S. James 20, 14.

Round Three

H. Robinson bt J. Purslow -12, 21, 16; M. Smith bt G. Galloway 15, 14; M. Reeves bt S. Gilson 12, -20, 19; A. Gordon bt L. Garbett 11, 19.

Semi-finals

M. Smith bt H. Robinson 11, 8; A. Gordon bt M. Reeves -20, 17, 17.

Final

A. GORDON (Berks) bt M. Smith -14, 17, 19.

Cadet Boys' Doubles—Quarter-finals

Sandley/Proffitt bt Bellingham/Patel 12, 13.

Woodgate/Oakley bt Johnson/Harmer 19, 11.

Moore/Gillette bt Bergemann/Owens 15, 14.

Whiting/Hodges bt Papantoniou/Souter -14, 20, 17.

Semi-finals

Sandley/Proffitt bt Woodgate/Oakley 10, 9.

Whiting/Hodges bt Moore/Gillette 16, -16, 19.

Final

SANDLEY/PROFFITT (Middd) bt Whiting/Hodges (Devon) 17, 5.

Cadet Girls' Doubles—Quarter-finals

Gordon/Purslow bt James/Deakin 21, 20.

Williams/Reeves bt Lindley/Cameron 14, 11.

Garbett/Townsend bt Smith/Mathie 8, -20, 13.

Midgley/Robinson bt Cottier/Robinson 13, 19.

Semi-finals

Gordon/Purslow bt Williams/Reeves 14, 13.

Midgley/Robinson bt Garbett/Townsend 13, 14.

Final

MIDGLEY/ROBINSON (Yorks) bt Gordon/Purslow (Berkshire) 18, 26.

Family Sports Holiday

In co-operation with the Sports Council (Eastern Region) the University of Essex are offering a sports holiday for the family on their campus at Colchester during the week 25th—31st July 1976.

Sports offered on the holiday are Archery, Canoeing, Golf, Judo, Squash, Tennis and Table Tennis. Applicants must select one of these as their main activity for morning sessions but will have the opportunity to try other sports during the afternoons.

For the really active there is also a programme of entertainments and social activities planned for the evenings. Mr. Alan Rustage, the Director of Physical Recreation at the University is hopeful that people will also see this as an opportunity to visit a modern University set in the oldest recorded town in Britain. By using the residential accommodation normally occupied by students he is able to offer a holiday which should appeal to families throughout the region, and indeed the Country.

Leaflets giving full details of the holiday, together with application forms, are available from Mr. Rustage or from the Sports Council (Eastern Region), 26/28 Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 2QP.

KEITH WATTS

Sussex T.T.A. Chairman and National Councillor, Keith Watts, had an operation in March at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.

Recovery from this op. could be a long job and he will not be back to full-time table tennis activities for perhaps several months. Meanwhile, every wish for a speedy recovery is hereby conveyed. Get well soon.



PRIZEGIVING

Knighton Park T.T.C., one of Leicestershire's top table tennis clubs, held its annual prizegiving on May 6 at a local hotel, with the top awards going to Chris Rogers and Mrs. Glenys Odams. The awards were presented by Leicestershire wicket-keeper, Roger Tolchard.

Glenys, besides being tops in the Leicestershire table tennis world, is gaining some notoriety as the first woman member of the Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

Photo by Geoff Schofield, Oadby.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

NOT YET RESOLVED.

There is still a hard tussle in the Men's section with Newbury, West Wilts and Exmouth all having lost once. West Wilts have Bournemouth left to play, away, Exmouth having completed their fixtures. Newbury have still two matches to play, away to Weston and Plymouth at home.

West Wilts, coming back into the league after a lapse of four years, have done remarkably well and certainly have a lot to thank 16-years-old Kevin Edwards, who has had a fantastic season—but he must be ready to admit it has also been a team effort as well.

Exmouth tasted their first defeat when they were beaten 5-4 at Trowbridge. Their defeat was largely due to Edwards, who accounted for Mike Rattue (17, 19), Paul Stone (11, 17) and Paddy Shephard (-17, 17, 12). Bob Murray also played well to beat Stone (16, -11, 12) and Roy Smith chalked up a success against Shephard (16, -11, 19).

Newport had a good home win over Plymouth, 6-3, with Alan Harrison in fine form, beating Keith James, Mick Short and Paul Whiting. John Bloomer won two of his sets against Short and Whiting, losing to James, while Michael Nocivelli also accounted for Whiting.

Young Whiting, only about 4' 5" and 13 years of age, is certainly a "find" for Plymouth. He has no fear and hits hard, being a very aggressive player and one with a great future.

West Wilts, away to Swindon, won 7-2, thanks to maximums by Edwards and Smith

over Frank Bailey, Ken Harrison and Mark Bushell, the latter two beating Murray. Weston put up a hard fight against their visitors, Bournemouth, but with the score at 4-all Graham Green went down to Cyril Bush to give the visitors the points.

On the next day Weston entertained strong title contenders in Newbury without the services of Jimmy Andrews, for whom J. Crabtree deputised. Newbury won 8-1, the only home success being registered by the "ever-green" Ray Philpott. David Reeves and Simon Heaps had trebles. Leading positions:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Exmouth	8	7	1	48	24	14
West Wilts	7	6	1	41	22	12
Newbury	6	5	1	36	18	10
Poole	7	3	4	27	36	6

In the Women's Section, Newbury "B" beat Devizes 6-3 with Mandy Smith again playing well, especially in her set with Allison Boyce, winning 19 and 20. Joyce Taylor beat Helen Rusby and Kenwyn Hazell but lost to Allison, while Chris Rogers lost to Allison and Kenwyn but did well to beat Helen 23-21, 22-20!

It would appear that the winners of this section will become known when Newbury "A" play Bournemouth in Hants. Incidentally, there are quite a number of matches outstanding in this section which require special attention.

Positions:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury "A"	3	3	0	25	2	6
Bournemouth	3	3	0	23	4	6
Swindon	3	2	1	13	14	4
Newbury "B"	4	2	2	17	19	4
Devizes	5	1	4	17	28	2
Newport	4	0	4	4	32	0

WESTERN LEAGUE POSTSCRIPT TITLES RETAINED

Both Newbury's men and Bournemouth's women succeeded in retaining their titles, the former by virtue of a superior sets average to Exmouth, both teams having accumulated 14 points each with one loss.

West Wilts, the other challengers, were surprisingly beaten 6-3 by Bournemouth, whose Trevor Smith recorded a maximum with two supporting sets from Steve Wilson, who accounted for Roy Smith and Bob Murray, the latter also falling to Cyril Bush. Kevin Edwards (2) and Smith scored for the losers.

Newbury, in their penultimate fixture away to Newport, won 7-2, with Simon Heaps and David Reeves unbeaten, David Wise losing to John Bloomer and Michael Nocivelli.

In their final match at home to Plymouth on the following day, Newport clinched the title 8-1 when Heaps and Reeves were again in the "untouchable" class and Keith James, for the visitors, saved the "whitewash" by beating Wise.

Plymouth's introduction of the young Hodges brothers, Gerry and Michael, eased the task of the champions.

Bournemouth, following their 8-1 home win over Swindon, finally took on Newbury, the other unbeaten side, in the women's section. A close result was expected but did not materialise as, for the winners, Janet New scored a treble, with Joyce Coop and Julie Reading sharing the other four successes, both losing to Caroline Reeves.

At the top of the tables:—

Men

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury	8	7	0	1	51	21	14
Exmouth	8	7	0	1	48	24	14
West Wilts	8	6	0	2	44	28	12
Poole	8	4	0	4	34	38	8

Women

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth	5	5	0	0	38	7	10
Newbury "A"	4	3	0	1	27	9	6
Swindon	5	3	0	2	22	23	6
Newbury "B"	4	2	0	2	17	19	4

Any new league contemplating affiliation next season should make immediate contact with the Hon. Sec., Grove Motlow, Esq., 29 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon., NPT 8NX (Phone: Newport 71964).

Entry forms and details of the A.G.M., to be held either late June or early July, will shortly be sent to all member leagues.

Maccabiah Games - Israel

by Frank Phillips

The 10th Maccabiah Games will take place in Israel during July, 1977. These games are described as the "Jewish Olympics" and are held every four years always in Israel.

In addition to the events that make up the normal Olympic sports, Table Tennis is one of the major competitions, with nearly every country sending a team for this event. In 1973 nearly 2,000 competitors from 28 countries participated in 21 different sports. New competitions for 1977 include Squash and Badminton. It is expected that an ever larger number of entries will be received next year.

Over the years this country has always provided one of the strongest teams. In 1973 our men's team reached the final pool but just failed to win a medal. In the singles competition two of our team reached the quarter-final stages. Unfortunately no women's team was sent in 1973 but it is hoped to send two or three women next time.

Trials will be held later this year in London and are open to any person of the Jewish faith. Application forms for the Trials can be obtained from the Maccabiah Organisation Committee, 1 Manchester Square, London W.1.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

KEVIN THE STAR

Yet another season comes to an end with the Daventry League and the Rothborough Club making the headlines with their annual tournaments.

Although the size of the entry was down from last year, most of Daventry's leading players competed in their championships, held at the Community Centre.

Star of the show was Northants No. 2 Junior, Kevin McPartlan, who went through the day undefeated, taking home the Men's Singles and Doubles trophies in addition to the Boys' Singles and Doubles. Susan Edwards retained her Singles and Doubles titles, but overall, the real winner was the game of table tennis, with many of the finals being of the highest calibre in terms of skill and excitement with three events being decided at 21-19 in the third.

Details:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

G. Tsow (Kilsby) bt J. Bishop (Staverton) 19, -19, 16.

K. McPartlan (Staverton) bt A. Print (BBC) 8, 17.

Final

McPARTLAN bt Tsow 12, 17.

Men's Doubles—Final

McPARTLAN/N. CHAPLIN (Long Buckby bt R. Castle/R. Tanton (Kilsby) 19, 15.

Women's Singles—Final

S. EDWARDS (Long Buckby) bt F. Tsow (Kilsby) 17, 6.

Women's Doubles—Final

EDWARDS/S. SANDERS (Kilsby) bt J. Tomlinson (Kilsby)/G. Munday (Centre) 12, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Final

TSOW/TSOW bt P. Edwards/Edwards -18, 20, 19.

Veterans' Singles—Final

R. CASTLE bt Tanton 10, -18, 19.

Junior Singles—Final

McPARTLAN bt Chaplin 18, -18, 19.

As anticipated, pride of place in the Daventry League went to B.B.C. "A", who won both the Cup and the Div. 1 title, while Daventry Boys' Club performed a similar feat in Div. 2, as did Ford "B" in Div. 4. In Div. 3, Ford "A" took the League but the Cup went to Kilsby "D", while the Handicap Tournament was won by West Haddon "D".

The Rothborough Club ambitiously added a County Open Junior Tournament to its repertoire this year, and was so embarrassed at the entry of 60 that the venue had to be switched to the Lodge Park Sports Centre, at Corby. With almost all the top County juniors in action it is not surprising that the quality of play augured well for the future of table tennis in the area.

Eleven-years-old Richard Malfait, and 13-years-old Neil Knatt shone brightly among the younger players and show that the efforts of the Northampton League are beginning to bear fruit. Keith Nicoll kept the Kettering flag flying, but alas, despite an excellent entry from Wellingborough, there was little apparent progress, except, of course, from the incomparable Gary Alden. It would appear that the Wellingborough production machine is beginning to seize up, with no one to follow the present crop of talented players now approaching the end of their junior careers.

After more than eight hours' play the results were as follows:—

U-13 Singles: Richard Malfait (N) bt Neil Knatt (N) 11, -9, 8.

U-15 Singles: Tim Chamberlain (N) bt Malfait (N) 18, 10.

U-15 Doubles: Keith Nicoll (K)/Tim Forster (N) bt Mark Wright (N)/Malfait (N) 17, -21, 10.

U-17 Girls' Singles: Julie Robinson (N) bt Helen Cottier (N) -19, 25, 20.

U-17 Doubles: David Gallo (N)/Ian Morris (N) bt Nicoll/Forster -17, 15, 17.

U-17 Boys' Singles: Gary Alden (W) bt Nicoll (K) 11, 6.

(Representative players were barred from U-13 and U-15 Singles).

In addition to the Junior Tournament, Rothborough held the Annual Easter Handicap Tournament, when, for once, the better players were unable to defy their handicaps. Gary Alden, Graham Feakin, John Horne and Dennis Millman brought their experience to bear in the qualifying stages but on Finals night this was of no avail and all four were eliminated in the first round, leaving the field clear for lesser known exponents to dominate the Singles event.

Results:—

Semi-finals

Dave Pipe (+3) bt Chris Millman (+8) 17, 19.

John Chennells (+9) bt Terry Walklate (+4) 16, -17, 9.

Final

CHENNELLS bt Pipe 19, 21.

Doubles—Semi-finals

Chennells/Horne (4) bt Mark Raven/Graham Feakin (Scr) 8, 17.

D. Millman/C. Millman (2) bt Keith Nicoll/Walklate (2) -14, 21, 21.

Final

Millman/Millman (2) bt Chennells/Horne (4) -16, 20, 19.

The Daventry League and the Rothborough Table Tennis Club have also prospered in other ways, with Daventry likely to be the only side to take a South East Midlands League title, for in the Reserve Division the Daventry side finished clear winners, winning all their eight matches. Wellingborough's women could emulate this feat, but not only will they need to beat Peterborough convincingly, they will also have to depend on near neighbours Northampton putting up a good fight against Dunstable.

Rothborough, on the other hand, have again clinched the Wellingborough Div. 1 Championship, after last year proving that the best team can sometimes finish second. But after reaching the final of the Handicap Cup they won last season, some astute handicapping by David Byrom just prevented them from taking the trophy for the second time, for despite a treble from Alden, the seven points received by Compton Nomads "B" enabled doubles from Mick Edwards and Ian Morris and a solitary success from Tom Gee to give Compton a narrow win.

Success, too, for Wellingborough, for in the S.E.M. Tournament, they took the Team Event for the second year in succession, represented by Anne and Mandy Wallis, Alden and Rod Marchant. Anne and Mandy went on to take four further titles as they again demonstrated their superiority with some devastating displays.

In the Northampton League, U.T.C. "A" survived a shaky mid-season spell to again take the Northampton League top division. Represented by Colin Hogg, John Goodall, John Aspinall and John Palmer, they again hope to be in the hunt next year.

John Palmer again had a busy season, but once again a hat-trick of League titles eluded him, for although his other team, Kettering Town "A", had no difficulty in taking the Kettering Premier Division, Rothborough's consistency in the Wellingborough League relegated Kettering Town "A" into second place. However, he and his two colleagues, Terry Sutton and Dennis Millman, compensated for this set-back by playing a leading part in the winning of the Northamptonshire County League, although it is anticipated that a strengthened field may well make retention difficult next season. Sutton and yours truly had the personal added satisfaction of appearing in every match in all three competitions.

Finally, at the close of the season in which performance at County level took on a rosy hue, a word of thanks to some dedicated

County officials, who deserve some success to compensate for the disappointments of the fairly recent past. The names of Tom Tye, Peter Edwards, Ken Marchant, Frank Clowes and our new Secretary, Barbara Husk, spring readily to mind. Let us hope they spring just as readily to mind next season, preferably with the addition of some of a new, and as yet, untried brigade of youthful enthusiasts.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

THREAT BANISHED

By calling both Sue Henderson and "Connie" Warren out of retirement for the vital last match against Warwickshire the Senior team were able to banish the threat of relegation, and, in fact, to achieve a respectable position in the County Championship. The second team completed a fairly reasonable season, and, although the juniors did not consolidate upon a very promising beginning, the omens are excellent for next year.

The 1976-77 season will start early, with the postponed Senior Closed planned for the weekend of September 25-26, at Surrey University, Guildford, and it is the fond wish of the County Committee that the coming season will see the reintroduction of the Inter-League competitions in some form or other.

Having organised the Junior Closed Championships a month earlier, Guildford was able to concentrate its main tournament over a two-day period at Broadwater School, Godalming, and through a prodigious effort by its Committee, wipe out the memory of a somewhat unsuccessful organisation of the earlier event. There were 496 entries, spread over 12 events.

The capture of the Open title by 17-years-old Simon Vine, who beat fellow junior, David Hannah, in the final, points to a watershed in the history of this tournament, and it now looks likely that either Simon or a further product of the Junior Coaching Scheme will monopolise the event for some years to come. The shock of the final day was the defeat of No. 1 seed, and hot favourite, Jimmy Moore, by 13-years-old Stephen Woodgate.

Although this was a popular win, there was a lot of sympathy for Jimmy in this, his year of retirement, and a heartfelt round of applause greeted his unaided walk to the presentation table to receive the Veterans' Singles trophy. It was Jayne Mitchell's turn to beat Suzanne Roebuck, and this she did to take the Women's title, and John Oakley borrowed a bat to sail through against fancied opposition to take Guildford's first "hard bat" title.

No mention of Surrey would be complete without a reference to Linda Howard and her wonderful performances in the European Championships and again in the English Closed. Well done, Linda.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by O. A. Reeves

NEW COUNTY CHAMPION

The Annual County Closed tournament held on Sunday, February 20, was an outstanding success with a giant entry of 183 players. For the first time the tournament was extended to cover various juniors' age groups and a total of 16 titles were at stake.

The first noticeable achievement and the best performance of the day was David Rawlinson winning the men's singles title. The very talented David, ranked No. 3 in the County, had to overcome the higher ranked Charlie Major, and the County No. 1, Ferz Nillam, to take the title and must surely be in line for the County No. 1 spot next year!

Barbara Hammond achieved the "triple crown" by winning the Women's Singles,

Women's Doubles (with Joyce Reeves) and the Mixed (with Ferz Nillam).

The junior titles were enthusiastically fought out and with the tremendous amount of talent in the younger age groups the County will surely be a force to reckon with in the years ahead. The full results were:

M.S.: D. Rawlinson bt F. Nillam.
W.S.: B. Hammond bt J. Reeves.
M.D.: A. Chandler/M. Harlow bt K. McConnell/P. Cutting.
W.D.: B. Hammond/J. Reeves bt D. Clarke/S. Shaw.
X.D.: F. Nillam/D. Hammond bt D. Rawlinson/D. Clarke.
B.S. U-17: I. Goswell bt M. Harlow.
G.S. U-17: L. Clarke bt J. Walton.
B.D. U-17: I. Goswell/K. McConnell bt D. Beddall/G. White.
G.D. U-17: J. Parkins/L. Clarke bt A. Rose/S. Thompson.
X.D. U-17: M. Harlow/L. Clarke bt I. Goswell/C. Cutting.
B.S.: U-15: G. White bt S. Barly.
G.S. U-15: J. Bellinger bt L. Clarke.
B.D. U-15: D. Beddall/G. White bt S. Barly/P. Pyburn.
G.D. U-15: J. Parkins/C. Clarke bt T. Aston/J. Bellinger.
B.S. U-13: D. Sharpe bt C. Yates.
G.S. U-13: J. Bellinger bt S. Shaw.

With the appointment of Garry Sharpe as our County Coaching Secretary, the first County session was held at Luton on Saturday, March 20, under the guidance of Peter Hirst. Some 60 juniors attended the session and it is hoped to have regular get-togethers through the closed season.

GWENT OPEN

by Grove Motlow

Cwmbran Sports Centre again provided the venue for another successful Gwent Open, despite the unavoidable absence of our three Welsh stars, Alan Griffiths, Graham Davies and Mike Owen, who were all participating in the European Championships in Prague.

The standard of play was quite high and the spectators on their tiered seating were not slow to show their appreciation, especially of the finals, which were concluded by 9 p.m.

In the girls' singles Mandy Smith (Newbury) beat Jill Purslow (Reading) -13, 15, 16 but in the counterpart boys' event the top seed, David Reeves (Reading) was surprisingly beaten in his Round 2 match against Mike Shearman (Plymouth). But in fairness to him he was suffering from a heavy cold and went home immediately after his match. The title was won by Andy Wellman (Reading), who beat A. Coulthard (Cardiff) 14 and 13.

Joyce Lloyd (Worcester), the holder of the women's singles title, went out to Linda Barrow (Southend) in the quarters (-13, -13), the Essex girl going on to win the title with a final victory over Caroline Reeves (Reading) 19 and 15.

The women's doubles title went to Mandy Smith and Caroline Reeves, who beat Marjorie Walker (Middlesex) and Mrs. Barrow -22, 12 and 18.

In the men's singles the holder, Tony Clayton (Yorkshire) met Nigel Eckersley (Cheshire) in a grand final which Eckersley won 14, -17, 17. In the semis Clayton beat Alan Fletcher (Yorkshire) 13 and 14 while Eckersley beat his Cheshire colleague, John Hilton, 14 and 8!

Ex-Welsh international George Evans, playing well, went down in the quarters to Hilton -15, -15. At the same stage Simon Heaps (Berks) lost to Eckersley (-8, -18), Walter Hussey (Wales) lost in Round 4 to Phil Bowen (Lancs) -19, 20, -14 as did Michael Nocivelli to Clayton -11, -16.

The men's doubles went to Clayton and Fletcher, who beat Eckersley and Hilton 22,

-12, 18. Eckersley and Marjorie Walker won the mixed, beating Clayton and Mrs. L. Baker (Bath) 11, -22, 17.

DURHAM NOTES

by Edgar Reay

DOUBLE FOR PAXTON

Durham County completed their County Championships programme on Saturday, April 3, when they met Cumbria Juniors at Shiney Row C.A. The home team were much too strong for the young Cumbrians and won 9-1.

Mr. Bob Wiley is now Coach-in-Charge at Monkwearmouth School, Sunderland, Coaching Centre, which operates one night each week and will continue to run until the end of June.

The Aycliffe League Closed was held on March 19. Results:—

M.S.: N. Stark bt S. Haughney.
W.S.: J. Brown bt S. Applegarth.
J.S.: Stark bt M. Darkes.
H.S.: Stark bt M. Sowerby.

In the Sunderland and District League Closed, Keith Paxton beat Tony Gelder in both the Junior and Senior singles. Miss J. Charlesworth beat Mrs. L. Bainbridge in the women's singles final.

T. Robson beat M. Inglis in the handicap singles 100-93. This event has been played on 100 points up since 1914. This season the highest and lowest handicaps were—180 points and plus 75 and 131 entries were received.

The County Junior team of Paxton, Gelder, Peter Masters, Julie Inch and Julie Smith are to be congratulated on their good season in Div. 2 (North) of the County Championships and although three members of the team will not be available next season, it is hoped that some of the large numbers of young players who are now coming through our coaching centres will adequately fill their places.

ASCOT/MILLOM SCHOOL JUNIOR ONE-STAR OPEN

"Barrow Evening Mail"—

"Millom School's Tournament an undoubted success."

Millom School's Ascot 1-Star Junior Championships got off to a good start, attracting 107 from far afield.

A minor disappointment was the late withdrawal of Keith Paxton, and No. 1 seed in the Under-17 boys' events, but the strong contingent of Cleveland girls turned up in force, boasting four players on the current England ranking list, and including Angela Tierney and Helen Robinson. At cadet level a strong field was headed by Tony O'Connor, Ian Reed and Michael Laird.

Starting at 10 a.m. and playing on eight tables, the tournament in the hands of national referee Bob Edon (Stockton), produced few early shocks. Only Peter Grainger and June Williams, of Cleveland, came unseeded to gain a place in the final of the U-17 Mixed.

Local girls Gail Smith and Elaine Mathie contested the first final against Debbie McQuire and Lyn Fennah (Cheshire). The Millom girls let a long lead slip in the first, took the second easily, but eventually went down in the third. The Under-14 boys' doubles brought two "mixed" pairs together in Reed and O'Connor against Laird and Paul Rainford, with the former pair winning comfortably. It was much the same tale in the cadet girls' singles with Helen Robinson showing why she is currently seeded at No. 1 for England, defeating Gail Smith.

Laird and O'Connor then faced each other in the cadet boys' final. O'Connor raced home in the first, and looked to be playing well

enough to win easily. But Laird reversed the score in the second leaving the Liverpool ladies to squeeze home game-19 in the third, clinching the title with a brilliant display of counter hitting to take the last point.

In the Under-17 boys doubles Chris Reed and Neil Smith finally gave the locals something to shout about when they emerged victorious against Ian Reed and O'Connor.

The final of the girls' singles produced the one major upset of the championships, when the lower-ranked June Williams, having undergone a drubbing in the first, hung on in the second and third to win against a despondent Angela Tierney. Local player Chris Reed, was most people's favourite for the Under-17 boys' title, having twice beaten O'Connor in matches this season, but Chris reserved one of his less impressive performances for the home spectators, as O'Connor, playing carefully and intelligently, deservedly overcame the No. 1 seed. The Liverpool starlet completed a great all round performance to take two titles and a half share in a third.

Staged by Millom School T.T. Club and sponsored by Ascot Sports, the first Championships were an undoubted success, and the trophies were presented by the headmaster and club president, Mr. R. E. Friar.

Results:—

Under-17 Events

B.S.: A. O'Connor (Lancs) bt C. Reed (Cumb) 14, 18.
G.S.: J. Williams (Cleve) bt A. Tierney (Cleve) -13, 18, 18.
B.D.: C. Reed/N. Smith (Cumb) bt O'Connor/I. Reed (Cumb) -13, 11, 14.
G.D.: H. Robinson (Cleve)/Tierney bt M. Carne (Cleve)/Williams -19, 8, 13.
X.D.: S. Holden (Cleve)/Tierney bt P. Grainger (Cleve)/Williams 13, -13, 15.

Under-14 Events

B.S.: O'Connor bt M. Laird (Cleve) 12, -12, 11.
G.S.: Robinson bt G. Smith (Cumb) 13, 11.
B.D.: O'Connor/I. Reed bt Laird/P. Rainford (Lancs) 17, 10.
G.D.: L. Fennah/D. McGuire (Ches) 11, 11.
E. Mathie (Cumb)/Smith -21, 12, -16.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

STRANGE TURN AROUND

At the beginning of April Sussex selectors and supporters were elated with the performances of the senior team and the juniors in qualifying for the Premier Division challenge matches at Shenley.

The senior side had whipped smartly through the fixture list in Division 2 (South) without losing a match. The four players involved throughout were Roger Chandler, John Clarke, Gerald Pugh and Diane Gard. At Shenley, however, things did not go according to plan—defeats by Berkshire, Leicestershire, Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire—"slow" table did not please our attacking team.

Only 24 hours before the Shenley crashes Chandler and Clarke fought out an interesting battle in the final of the Brighton championships with Chandler winning 14, 19, 11. Both men established themselves as easily the best two men in the County. It was therefore, a strange turn around in the next 48 hours as both men suffered several defeats against almost "unknown" players. However, the successful sides at Shenley face a very difficult task next season in trying to hold their premier division places.

Sussex juniors fared a lot better at Shenley the following weekend, beating Lancashire drawing with Hampshire and just losing 4-4 to both Cleveland and Hertfordshire. The junior officials were delighted with these results. These challenge weekends provide financial headaches for County treasurers. In Sussex, the County finances have had to withstand two blows, each of £100 in the last few weeks, which means, of course, the fees have to go up again next season.

Sedgefield District 2-star Open

by John Masson

SURPRISE, SURPRISE

The second Sedgefield District Open was held on April 24, once more in the excellent venue at Newton Aycliffe Recreation Centre.

The tournament was full of surprises, not least of which was the unexpected appearance of England's Linda Howard and Karen Senior, of Ireland, returning from the Scottish Open and hoping to make late entries. Unfortunately the only vacancy was for one player in the women's doubles. This was claimed by Miss Senior after the two girls had tossed a coin and she made the most of her luck to partner Judith Walker to an unexpected final win over Carole Knight and Angela Tierney.

The top Cleveland men also found life was not all roses in the men's singles. After top seeds Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker had comfortably reached their allotted places in the semis against Nigel Eckersley and John Hilton, it looked as if they might not get further.

Against Jarvis, Eckersley (all rippling muscles and sartorial elegance), set off like an express train to take the first game with Jarvis often left stranded by his skilfully-placed returns. Eckersley couldn't keep this up, however, and the power and consistency of the England No. 2 eventually wore down the Cheshire man and Jarvis went through.

In the other semi-final John Hilton also took the first game off Walker, who then got his powerful backhand working!

After all this excitement the final was rather an anticlimax with Jarvis much too good for Walker, easily reversing their Scottish Open result to take the £40 prize.

Jarvis and Walker suffered further indignity in the men's doubles when, after beating Trevor Burrows/Tony Isaac in the quarters, they were hustled out by Stephen Souter and Peter McQueen. Second seeds Brian Kean and Hilton were the other finalists and they looked to be in for the same rough treatment when they quickly went -12 down in the first. The older pair were gradually able to slow the game down and went on to win.

Carole Knight was, as expected, a comfortable winner of the women's singles with final victory over clubmate Angela Tierney to retain her title. Carole then combined with Jarvis to take the mixed, beating Souter/Tierney, earlier conquerors of second-seeded Walker and June Williams. Carole's efforts to achieve a triple success were thwarted in the women's doubles final. Paired with Angela Tierney she reached the final easily enough, but once there, could make little impression on Karen Senior and Judith Walker.

After two final defeats it was third time lucky for Angela Tierney in the girls' singles which she won without dropping a game. The defeated finalist was June Williams, who had survived a titanic struggle in the semis with Jane Skipp but went out like a lamb in the final.

Surprise winner of the boys' singles was 15-years-old Ian Plummer who, after knocking out Souter from the men's event, really went to town amongst the juniors. In his trip to the final he left behind him B. Clark (Northumberland), D. Robson (Durham), Keith Paxton, the top seed, and Brian Metcalf. His final opponent was Tony Gelder, the second seed, who had defeated Plummer in the men's singles. But the young Cleveland was not to be denied this time, and he turned the tables to win. Certainly a very mature display from a boy to watch next season.

Prize Money totalling over £175 was presented by Councillors D. Vickers and J. Conlon, of Sedgefield District Council, and Mr. K. Asbeck, President of the Aycliffe League, who

organised the event. Much effort by Bob Edon, the Referee, and the Aycliffe Committee ensured that the tournament finished by 9-30 p.m.—quite a change from the early days of the Aycliffe Open when midnight was once passed with finals still in progress!

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt A. Gelder (Durham) 10, 13.
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt T. Isaac (Staffs) 21, 19.
J. Hilton (Ches) bt M. Harrison (Yorks) 10, 13.
J. Walker (Cleve) bt P. McQueen (Durham) 18, -18, 10.

Semi-finals
Jarvis bt Eckersley -15, 13, 15.
Walker bt Hilton -22, 10, 12.

Final
JARVIS bt Walker 13, 17.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
S. Souter (Cleve)/P. McQueen bt Jarvis/Walker 17, 22.
B. Kean (Ches)/J. Hilton bt Eckersley/P. D'Arcy (Ches) 11, 14.

Final
KEAN/HILTON bt Souter/McQueen -18, 15, 17.

Ladies' Singles—Semi-finals
C. Knight (Cleve) bt J. Williams (Cleve) 6, 7.
A. Tierney bt J. Skipp (Cleve) 9, 10.

Final
KNIGHT bt Tierney 16, -15, 9.

Ladies' Doubles—Semi-finals
Knight/Tierney bt Skipp/Williams 13, 12.
K. Senior (Ireland)/J. Walker (Yorks) bt C. Mason/B. Murtagh (Durham) 9, -11, 12.

Final
SENIOR/WALKER bt Knight/Tierney 16, 14.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
Jarvis/Knight bt Eckersley/Walker 12, 12.
Souter/Tierney bt Walker/Williams 19, 14.

Final
JARVIS/KNIGHT bt Souter/Tierney 6, -19, 16.

Junior Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
I. Plummer (Cleve) bt K. Paxton (Durham) -17, 23, 18.
B. Metcalf (Yorks) bt A. Clark (Northumberland) 17, 9.
M. Harrison (Yorks) bt A. Metcalf (Yorks) 14, -20, 18.
A. Gelder (Durham) bt M. Laird (Cleve) 17, -17, 18.

Semi-finals
Plummer bt Metcalf -19, 17, 14.
Gelder bt Harrison 10, 21.

Final
PLUMMER bt Gelder 19, 17.

Junior Girls' Singles—Semi-finals
A. Tierney bt H. Robinson (Cleve) 6, 8.
J. Williams bt J. Skipp -6, 20, 20.

Final
TIERNEY bt Williams 13, 8.

Cambs. Closed Champs

by Leslie Constable

16-years-old Keith Richardson, of Soham, retained his Cambridgeshire men's singles title when he beat off Geoff Davies, of Wisbech, at the County's closed championships at Cambridge Corn Exchange.

The two players had met earlier in the boys' singles final, when the Wisbech boy had taken Richardson to three, but in the men's final the champion was always in command and won comfortably in 2-straight.

There was consolation for Davies in the men's doubles when he partnered Richardson to victory against Mick Harper and Brian Jones. Richardson was foiled in his attempt to repeat last season's performance—he had claim to 4 titles—when he and partner Ruth Newman lost the mixed final to Harper and Sally Hirst.

This was one of three successes for Mrs. Hirst, who also won the women's singles against last season's champion, Valerie Scripps—then combined with her defeated finalist to win the women's doubles against Wisbech pair Vivienne Rowell and Pat Tingey.

Two unseeded players reached the final of the girls' singles, which saw the Soham club score a further success, Joanne Palmer beating Susan Ellis. John Thurston again proved too steady for Ron Nunn in the veterans' final.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
K. Richardson bt S. Palmer 14, -17, 13.
G. Davies bt M. Harper 15, -16, 12.

Final
RICHARDSON bt Davies 14, 10.

Men's Doubles—Final
DAVIES/RICHARDSON bt Harper/B. Jones 19, 13.

Women's Singles—Final
S. HIRST bt V. Scripps 5, 19.

Women's Doubles—Final
HIRST/SCRIPPS bt V. Rowell/P. Tingey 10, 20.

Mixed Doubles—Final
HARPER/HIRST bt Richardson/R. Newman 16, 16.

Boys' Singles—Final
RICHARDSON bt Davies -12, 13, 18.

B.S. U-14—Final
A. HUBBLE bt S. Calvert 25, 13.

Girls' Singles—Final
J. PALMER bt S. Ellis 16, 15.

Veterans' Singles—Final
J. THURSTON bt R. Nunn 3, 18.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

WELL-SET

Once again this summer Middlesex will be organising U-14 squads for boys and girls. We have been running these for a few years now and the fact that the senior County side has an average of 17½ confirms the success of the system.

With young players coming through from Michael Close in Wembley and Harrow and Tony Pacitto at Aylestone School, as well as regular talent from the North Middlesex set-up, the County would appear to be well-set.

What is really needed, however, is some sort of centralisation on a regular basis and like everything else, someone is needed to organise this. The U-14 County team has been successful so far in the Eastern Region matches, which have been very useful experience for all the young players.

In the County Inter-league competitions there was a triple tie between North Middlesex I, North Middlesex II and Willesden in the 3-a-side (Victor Barna) competition.

The County teams have completed a fairly successful season. Pride of place must go to the Junior 2nd team, who won all their matches. The Junior Premier side were runners-up, only dropping points in matches with Andrew Barden or Angela Mitchell absent. The Senior second side were placed clear of relegation and in this team David Jemmett and Robert Aldrich were unbeaten in doubles.

The Senior Premier team finished in third place, thereby remaining the only County to have always kept its Premier place. In fact in the 29 seasons of the Premier Division, Middlesex have won on 16 occasions and finished fifth (lowest position) only twice!

WESSEX RESTRICTED UNDER-11 TOURNAMENT

by Paddy Shepherd

The first Wessex Restricted Under-11 tournament was held in Plymouth on March 13 with six County teams from Devon, Cornwall and Avon competing.

In the boys' final Gary Lambert (Devon "A") emerged the victor over Mark Ellett (Devon "A") after a closely fought second leg. Although only 9 years old these two Exmouth juniors displayed a degree of skill and maturity beyond their years.

In the girls' competition, run totally on a round robin basis, Tracey Drummond (Devon "B") was overall winner, with Caroline Trainer (Devon "A") in second spot.

In the Team Competition, Devon "A" won by a substantial margin with Devon "B" and Avon "B" sharing second place. Devon "A's" winning team comprised Lambert and Ellett (Exmouth) and Michael Carey and Caroline Trainer (Plymouth).

Hopefully this tournament will become an annual fixture with a greater number of Counties entering teams in future years.

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

RELEGATION AVERTED

With relegation averted for our Senior and Junior Premier teams we can look forward to next season with renewed hope and vigour in the County Championships. Our congratulations go to the Senior Third team, who duly won Div. 3 (East), while our Veterans' First team became overall champions with a storming 8-1 win in the play-off with Notts. A special mention to Vic Ireland, who has had a particularly good season in the latter category.

Major honours in the Essex League programme spotlights:—

Senior

Div. 1—Southend "A"; run-up: Romford "A"

Div. 2—Billericay "A"; Romford "B"

Junior

Div. 1—Dagenham "A"; Southend "A"

Div. 2—Harlow; Billericay

Veterans

Div. 1—Romford "A"; Billericay "A"

Div. 2—Barking "A"; Harlow "A"

On the Inter-League scene a number of our leagues have done well in the National Competitions. Both Chelmsford (D. Newman, S. Whitely and D. Bowles) and East London (I. Horsham, D. Brown and R. Potton) have reached the semi-final stage of the Wilmott Cup.

In the Rose Bowl, Southend (L. Budd, L. Barrow and M. Nash) reached the quarter-finals, as did Chelmsford in the Carter Cup (Newman, K. Owers and T. Dowsett). The Fellows Cranleigh Club (same team as East London League) are also doing well in the Club K.O., a fine 5-2 win over Tennyson (Barden, Mitchell, Landry) being the highlight to date.

Most of our leagues have been deciding their own individual champions and from all accounts there has been some excellent crowds for "Finals Nights". Some champions noted are:—

Barking

M.S.: K. Caldon bt L. Fountain.

W.S.: E. Sayer bt P. Latchford.

B.S.: Caldon bt S. Kimm.

G.S.: Sayer bt L. Chamberlain.

V.S.: R. Herber bt Fountain.

Braintree

M.S.: D. Wood bt T. Vincent.

W.S.: J. Plampin bt S. Smith.

B.S.: D. Hubbard bt K. Howard.

V.S.: R. Foster bt D. Turner.

Burnham

M.S.: D. Newman bt M. Speight.

W.S.: J. Crozier bt A. Boddy.

B.S.: J. Wright bt J. Cross.

V.S.: B. Partridge bt P. Cross.

Chelmsford

M.S.: D. Newman bt D. Wood.

W.S.: L. Barrow bt K. Owers.

G.S.: J. Dowsett bt L. Jennings.

V.S.: J. Lewington bt B. Lummis.

Colchester

M.S.: A. Schooler bt M. Buckley.

W.S.: F. Birbeck bt J. Dyer.

B.S.: A. Jarvis bt S. Goodbourne.

G.S.: A. Moss bt L. Birbeck.

V.S.: M. Buckley bt P. Kirkland.

East London

M.S.: D. Wells bt G. Blomfield.

W.S.: E. Sayer bt T. Pickard.

B.S.: Wells bt S. Kimm.

Harlow

M.S.: D. Iszatt bt G. Bassett.

W.S.: J. Wright bt V. Worth.

B.S.: J. Iszatt bt B. Downes.

G.S.: J. Smith bt C. Smith.

V.S.: D. Fuller bt E. Todd.

Romford

M.S.: K. Caldon bt B. Parrish.

L.S.: C. Mowbray (nee Stonell) bt J. Livesey.

V.S.: K. Veale bt S. Norton.

Walthamstow

M.S.: M. Wells bt J. Andrews.

W.S.: T. Pickard bt A. Hall.

J.S.: C. Angus bt J. Sheridan.

V.S.: P. Curtis bt R. Herber.

ESSEX CLOSED

This season's Essex Closed Championships were staged at Ilford Ltd., Basildon, whose staff rendered yeoman service in conjunction with the County officials.

The senior events were well supported and the men's singles semis were quite entertaining yet entirely different in style. David Brown and David Iszatt, both with big forehand kills, were always out to get the big one in and it was County skipper Dave Brown, who got the most. The other semi between Ian Horsham and David Newman had longer rallies and more variations, with Horsham the winner.

Fortunes fluctuated in the final with Brown having the best of the opening exchanges and winning the first game but after leading in the second Horsham came back to level matters. In the third it was point for point until at 16-all Horsham forged ahead to reverse last season's result.

Linda Budd, the fast-improving Southend girl with the big forehand, nearly caused an upset in the women's singles when she fully extended the Essex No. 1 and England No. 5, Lesley Radford. After losing the first game Lesley had to pull out every ounce of her experience to keep the younger player out. After getting an early third game lead, Lesley had matters in control, but Linda fought to the end.

The Junior Championships were highly competitive and there were some outstanding performances. One of the most determined came from Julie Dowsett in the U-14 events. After eliminating top seed Maxine Abbott, she came back strongly in the final against an equally determined Kay Tillyer. Trailing one game and 6-12, it looked all over for Julie, but she dug her heels in and came back to level and repeated the performance in the decider in a last gasp effort to win 22-20.

Desmond Charlery, an outstanding prospect from Silvertown, duly won the boys' U-14 event but not without a few moments of anxiety. Against Stephen Edwards in the final he really had to work hard for his win.

The U-17 events were dominated by David Newman and Helen Gore. Helen had a fairly



Helen Gore, winner of the girls singles in the Essex Closed.

Photo by Geoff Newman.

comfortable passage in winning the G.S. title and was partnered by Clacton's Susan Clark to success in the G.D. Newman was in unbeatable form in the B.S., pulverising all opposition to win from his arch rival, Kevin Caldwell in the final.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

D. Brown bt D. Iszatt 16, 16.

I. Horsham bt D. Newman 16, 18.

Final

HORSHAM bt Brown -18, 13, 16.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

L. Radford bt J. Livesey 18, 18.

L. Budd bt E. Sayer 19, 13.

Final

RADFORD bt Budd -18, 11, 14.

Men's Doubles—Final

K. CALDON/NEWMAN bt Brown/Horsham 17, 5.

Women's Doubles—Final

H. GORE/ RADFORD bt G. Donaldson/ I. Tarten 8, -18, 21.

Mixed Doubles—Final

HORSHAM/RADFORD bt M. Watts/Budd 13, 17.

Veterans' Singles—Final

V. IRELAND bt L. Fountain -14, 19, 15.

Boys' Singles—Final

NEWMAN bt Caldon 15, 5.

Girls Singles—Final

GORE bt P. Abbott 20, 16.

Boys' Doubles—Final

CALDON/NEWMAN bt K. Jackson/S. Kim 15, 8.

Girls' Doubles—Final

S. CLARK/GORE bt Y. Brown/J. Dowsett 16, 13.

Junior Mixed Doubles—Final

CALDON/P. ABBOTT bt Newman/V. Joel 15, 16.

U-14 Boys' Singles—Final

D. CHARLERY bt S. Edwards -8, 14, 17.

U-14 Girls Singles—Final

DOWSETT bt K. Tillyer -13, 19, 20.

SOUTH YARDLEY SPORTS CLUB

The First Restricted Hard Rubber Bat Championships, sanctioned by the Birmingham and District T.T.A., and confined to members or ex-members of the B. & D.T.T.A., is to be held at South Yardley Sports Club, Redhill Road, School, Hay Mills, Birmingham 25.

Women's events will be on Thursday, June 17 and men's events on Wednesday and Thursday, June 23 and 24. Forms can be had from Mr. B. K. Johnson, 101 Pelham Road, Alur Rock, Birmingham, B8 2PB (021-326 7311) the closing date being Saturday, June 12.

One of the main aims of the tournament is for everyone involved to have an enjoyable evening's table tennis, using original hard rubber bats. If you know anyone who has "retired" from the game, please "persuade" them to play—these are the people we would love to meet again. Play Birmingham to players when they cannot use tricky spins and vicious loop drives.

STOP PRESS.—Be warned, Maurice Goldstein is coming out of retirement!!

DOING THEIR BIT

Birmingham clubs continue to do their bit for "The Worlds". Handsworth Victoria raised a splendid £42 at a recent "disco". R.A.F.A. Sheldon, with considerable support from South Yardley, raised £21 during a social evening, and an idea at the Social proved great fun.

Barry and Duggie Johnson played one game of singles and people were asked to guess how long the game would last, gambling 10p for blocks of 10 seconds between 4 and 12 minutes. The two players provided some good table tennis mixed with plenty of clowning and the correct forecaster won £1 with £3.60 going to the cause.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

SUCCESSFUL DEFENCE

Pride of place in this month's report goes to Millom School Boys' U-16 team of Chris Reed, Neil Smith, Ian Reed and Diccon Gray, who successfully defended their ESTFA team championship title at Lea Green.

Wins of 6-2 and 5-3 made them clear winners of their group and the stars of the side were Chris Reed and Smith, the two survivors of last year's winning team, who both remained unbeaten, and Gray, who only lost once. Ian Reed did not have a happy day and rather surprisingly failed to win any one of his four sets.

Two defeats for the Girls' U-16 team meant that they finished third in their group. Miranda Gray was the pick of the team and took three of their four wins with Gail Smith gaining the other. The wealth of talent at the Millom club, coupled with the rapid rate of improvement shown by the youngsters, ensures a bright future in these annual championships for many years to come.

The final round of County Championship matches brought Chris Reed's fine unbeaten run for the Junior first team to an end as the side crashed to their heaviest defeat of the season against Durham. No disgrace for Chris, however, after losing in the decider to both Keith Paxton and Tony Gelder, and the County No. 1 can look back upon the County programme as one of his many personal successes of the season. The one win for the visiting Cumbrians was a mixed doubles for Miranda Gray and Ian Reed.

The Junior 2nd team went down 4-6 in their final match against Clwyd and Diccon Gray and Ian Harrison again proved the backbone of the side by taking the four wins between them. Ian continued his good County form and gave his third successive unbeaten performance for the side. Diccon, however, was denied one of his singles and ultimately a point for his team with an 18, -15, -21 defeat by the home No. 2, G. Jones, in the first set of the match. Performances from both players throughout the season have certainly earned the team the respect of the other sides in their division, and it is unfortunate that the season which saw the formation of the team also sees Ian playing his last season as a junior.

The Senior team ended their season on a good note with a close 6-4 win over Northumberland II. Two wins each for Brian Towell—his first County successes of the season—and

John Willis, formed the basis of the win which was completed with one win each for Alan Fay and Jennifer Pachul. Defeat in all three doubles, apart from producing a tighter match, meant the first defeat of the season for Jennifer and Clarice Rose in the women's doubles.

Two local tournaments have proved beneficial to single players in recent weeks and Chris Reed made a clean sweep in the Barrow Closed tourney by taking the men's and junior singles, and doubles with Neil Smith, his final opponent in the former two events. Jennifer Pachul took the women's title.

Jimmy Cummings followed suit in the West Cumbria Closed and won the men's and handicap singles, and doubles with Stephen Crosby who, as before, also contested the men's final.

Millom's Carter Cup hopes came to an end in their fourth round match away to a Sunderland side which contained three England-ranked juniors in Paxton, Gelder and Andrew Clark. The Cumbrians' two wins came with excellent victories for Neil Smith and Ian Reed over Gelder.

Latest Inter-league results and table:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitehaven 5, Millom 7							
Whitehaven 8, Barrow 4							
Millom	5	5	0	0	43	17	10
Carlisle	4	2	1	1	29	19	5
Westmorland	4	2	1	1	29	19	5
Whitehaven	5	2	1	2	34	26	5
Barrow	4	0	1	3	17	31	1
Workington	4	0	0	4	4	44	0

IN THE COACHING FIELD

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

Difficulties often arise when schools' league matches require travelling long distances to the various venues and obtaining staff for supervision during play.

During a conversation with Mrs. Phil Clark at a County Match in Northumberland, she explained the system operating successfully in that area.

The total number of schools in any one division meet at one venue on the same night. If there are 10 teams to the division, five matches take place at the same time, which can be controlled by a minimum number of staff.

The advantages of the system seem to be far more than the few disadvantages that may arise. Only one teacher need be present. All results are immediately in the hands of officials—none forgotten to be posted!

There may be difficulty in some areas in finding a venue with sufficient tables, but in most cases this problem can be overcome. Upon mentioning this system to other potential school leagues, they have expressed great interest and may start a league of their own on this basis.

Over the weekend of April 9-11 a Coaches' Refresher Course was held at Carnegie College, Leeds. This is one of the courses which usually attracts entrants from far and wide, and this year 28 coaches, from the Midlands up to Carlisle, attended.

Standard varied from Club Coach to Diploma 2-Star, but the level of qualification did not stand in the way during the practical sessions and seminars. Organised by Peter Simpson, he used the various coaches to set up their own training sessions, and under the guidance of the more experienced coaches, five groups were formed comprising all standards.

Information was not only gained from the course programme but also from the interchange of ideas between the coaches. Physical training was administered by Bob Wiley and many an aching limb groaned to his expertise in this field. It is good to have a coach who has taken the trouble and time to study the correct approach to this very important aspect of coaching.

I have attended all the courses held at Carnegie and have yet to be disappointed. I will certainly keep the date free for next year, if only to get at what must be the best food offered on any course I have been to.

Going further North, Carlisle and District T.T.A. are holding coaching sessions for juniors of various standards, divided into three sessions—Beginners, Intermediates and Advanced, supervised by three coaches.

Up to 20 pupils attend each session and after 9 months in operation, improvement in pupils is now becoming apparent. Carlisle Sports Council have started a School of Sport and during a 5-day course for schoolchildren, 10 sports will be catered for, one of which will be Table Tennis, to be run by National Coach Peter Simpson.

In Wakefield a school for table tennis coaching was started in 1971 with the co-operation of the Wakefield Youth Service. Premises were acquired through the Youth Service and were available every third Sunday from 10 to 4.

Tables had to be transported from clubs and schools but because of the success of the venture, the Youth Service purchased tables and stored them at the venue. As the sessions continued, further equipment was acquired, mainly through the Youth Service, but also through the Wakefield T.T.L. and fund-raising schemes by the members.

Over 100 children, aged from 9 to 17, are now on the register, and are issued with forms which have to be completed and returned to reserve a place on the next session. A further session, each Monday night, has been obtained, and coaching for advanced juniors takes place each week.

With the approach of the Assessment Camps, Panels are arranging inter-panel trials to help with the selection of the top quality juniors to attend each camp. Three camps in all will be arranged, all to be attended by National Coach Bryan Merrett, from which the juniors to attend the final trials will be selected.

What with the U-13, U-14 and the Junior Challenge matches, some juniors are having an exceedingly busy time.

As I have now seen some fresh faces at coaches' refresher courses, some who have not been on a course for six years or more, I trust the necessity for such courses is now getting home. I hope to see a lot more of new and old coaches at future meetings.



Millom School's U-16 team (l to r): Chris Reed, Ian Reed, Diccon Gray and Neil Smith, who retained their title at Matlock in April.

CORNWALL SILVER JUBILEE TOURNAMENT

by TOM HONEY

This season the Cornwall County T.T. Association is celebrating its 25th anniversary and 72 players from six Counties met in a Silver Jubilee tournament at St. Austell. Events included men's, women's, boys' and girls' singles, which incorporated separate Senior and Junior team competitions, and two magnificent perpetual trophies were donated by Mrs. M. T. R. Pearce, the County Association President, and by Mr. H. Tempest, the tournament sponsor.

The tournament was played at the Polkyth Recreation Centre, which provided first class facilities and playing conditions, and the programme kept abreast of a well-timed schedule.

The finals were started on time, which meant that the play was finished by 9 o'clock, leaving ample time for players and officials to assemble in the Bar for drinks and buffet refreshments, a feature which was enjoyed by all.

It was especially pleasing to see Mrs. Frances Jarvis, President of the Devon Association. We remember her late husband, Roy, playing against us for Plymouth and for Devon in 1952. Many other old friends were taking an active part in the proceedings, including the men's winner, Barry Davis, who has been either playing against or for us for the past 15 years. Ray Philpott is another who first appeared against us in 1961. It hardly seems 13 years ago since we first met John Hartry, and in the same year, 1963, Adrian Wright came down to St. Austell, as the Devon Junior champion, to

compete in the "West of England Open".

Mike Rattue has been a regular opponent since 1967, and in 1970 we first met Paul Stone, Brian Reeves, Sue Beazer and Rebecca Bryant, and yet another Somerset player, Jimmy Andrews, first played against us in 1969.

On the six tables Devon were the most successful County, winning three of the four individual titles and both Senior and Junior team trophies. The Devon players dominated the senior events, gaining 35 points out of a maximum of 36 in the team competition.

However, the Junior team competition was a much closer affair. With only the Boys' Final to play, Devon "A" were just one point ahead of Cornwall "A" and victory for Cornwall's Ian James would have gained the home team three points and the Cup, but Devon's Michael Shearman proved just too good in a very close match.

In the Men's Singles seven of the eight seeded players came through their groups successfully. The exception was Brian Reeves, the fancied Somerset player, who fell to Mike Sykes, of Worcestershire. Sykes won an exciting encounter by -14, 18, 20. Mike was himself eliminated in the quarters by Devon's Keith James in another excellent match.

Cornwall's main hope, John Bassett, played well in his group and then disposed of Devonian Paul Stone easily enough in the quarters, but he was no match for the Devon champion, Mike Rattue, in the semi-finals.

Devon's Number 1, Barry Davis, played exceptionally well in the lower half of the draw. He beat Roger Morris, of Somerset, in double-quick time in the quarters, and allowed his team-mate, James, only 14 points over two games in the semis.

The all-Devon final had flashes of brilliant

table tennis from both players, but with Davis always in control and looking all over a winner. His match-winning point, a running smash played from yards behind the table, received prolonged applause and underlined his confidence and superiority on the day and was a magnificent end to a very successful and enjoyable tournament.

The trophies were presented by Mr. H. Tempest and by Mrs. M. T. R. Pearce.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

J. Bassett (Co) bt P. Stone (De) 11, 11.
M. Rattue (De) bt J. Hartry (So) 13, 17.
J. James (De) bt M. Sykes (Wo) 15, -15, 16.
B. Davis (De) bt R. Morris (So) 14, 8.

Semi-finals

Rattue bt Bassett 14, 9.
Davis bt James 6, 8.

Final

DAVIS bt Rattue 14, 12.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

Elaine Lamb (De) bt Jill Wilson (So) -17, 11, 14.

Kathy Rowe (De) bt June Farmer (De) 11, 9.

Final

LAMB bt Rowe -19, 18, 21.

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals

Michael Shearman (De) bt Barry Cornelius (Co) 14, 16.

Ian James (Co) bt Terry Fairbanks (De) -13, 17, 20.

Final

SHEARMAN bt Ian James 14, -15, 23.

Girls' Singles—Final

JANET NEW (Do) bt Susan Tilley (De) 11, 3.

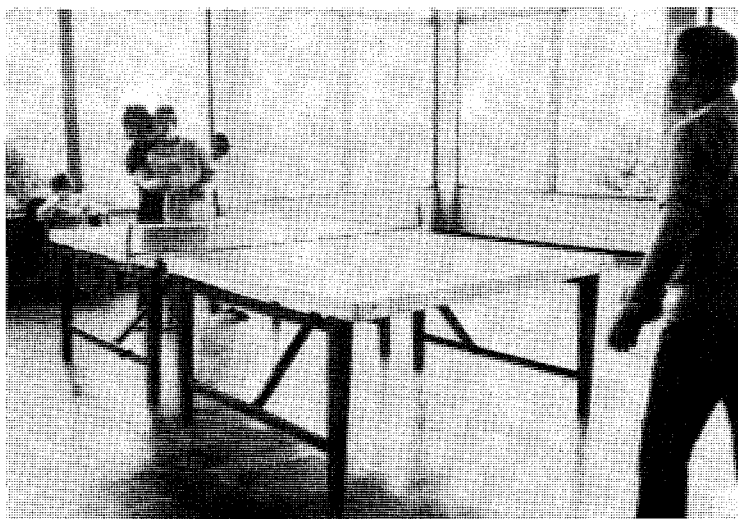
Team Competitions—Leading Scores

Senior—Devon "A" 35, Somerset "A" 14, Cornwall "A" 11, Devon "B" 11, Worcestershire 10.

Junior—Devon "A" 14, Cornwall "A" 10, Dorset 10, Avon 4.

1976 NEWS OF THE WORLD

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'NEWS OF THE WORLD' NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COACHING SCHEME FINALS



Smiles all round as I.T.T.F. President, Roy Evans, presents the boys' trophy to Sam Harmer who, with Linda Hrysko, links up with E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles Wyles.



Fifteen-years-old Linda Hrysko, a tall, slim brunette, from Bradford, Yorkshire, and little Sam Harmer, aged 14, from Leighton Buzzard, are the "News of the World" "Girl and Boy of the Year".

This was the verdict of a star-studded panel of judges—led by former World Champion, Johnny Leach, and including the current No. 1 player of Europe, England, Scotland and Wales—when the Grand Finals of the 1975 National

Coaching Scheme were staged over Easter at Butlin's Barry Camp. No competitive games were played in this competition, but marks were awarded during special coaching sessions. The finalists were the survivors from some 40,000 entrants who took part at eight Butlin Holiday Camps last Summer.

The trophies were presented by Roy Evans, President of the I.T.T.F., Nancy Evans, Secretary of the European T.T.U., and Charles Wyles, Chairman of the E.T.T.A., before a large and enthusiastic audience in Barry's Gaiety Theatre.

Linda Hrysko, an all-rounder who has greatly improved her game since being selected for the finals by Denis Neale at Butlin's Skegness Camp last August, was the unanimous choice of all five judges.

Jill Hammersley, herself a former "News of the World" "Girl of the Year", and now reigning European and English Champion, thinks Linda has all the hallmarks of an England international star of the future. Jill also had a special pat on the back for 15-years-old Mandy Wallis, from Wellingborough, Northants, who finished runner-up for the second year in succession. Mandy, too, could go far.

For Sam Harmer, however, it proved fifth time lucky. Sam, who had already contested four finals unsuccessfully since first entering the scheme at the age of nine, this time narrowly edged out two strong challengers in 13-year-old Graham Sandley, of Potters Bar, Herts, and 12-year-old John Souter, of Neasden, London N.W.

Sam's success should now give him that extra confidence he will need if he is to emulate such triumphant "News of the World" former champions as Chester Barnes, Trevor Taylor, Alan Hydes and Paul Day.

The two new champions opposed each other in the final of the thrilling Pupil Challenge Cup Doubles competition, Linda partnering Graham Sandley and representing Butlin's Skegness Camp, while Sam—a member of last year's winning team, paired up with Nicola Hayward to represent Minehead. In the event, the Skegness pair were in invincible form and gained victory by 21-14, 21-6.

April 24th saw the start of the 1976 Coaching Scheme at Butlin's Bognor Camp.

HERTFORDSHIRE JUNIOR CLOSED

Results in the Herts Junior Closed, at Hatfield, on April 4th, were:—

Under-17 Events:

B.S.: Gavin Booth bt Paul Mason 14, 19.
G.S.: Lindsey Booth bt Frances Stephens 21, 19.
B.D.: John Carpenter/Terry Pleasance bt Booth/Mason -16, 13, 20.
G.D.: Janice Glazebrook/Gillian Smith bt Lindsey Booth/Janice Harding 19, -15, 15.
X.D.: Keith Heaseman/Frances Stephens bt Gavin and Lindsey Booth 11, 12.

Under-14 Events

B.S.: Andrew Smith bt Mark Ives -18, 14, 11.
G.S.: Maryon Cox bt Janice Harding 21, -20, 17.

Under-12 Events

B.S.: Peter Brownlow bt Keith Bardwell -15, 11, 22.
G.S.: Helen Bardwell bt Anita Jermyn 16, -14, 27.

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The general line-up at Barry Camp with Johnny Leach (centre, back row) flanked by Richard Yule and Nicky Jarvis on one side and Graham Davies and Linda Howard on the other. Jill Hammersley is located in the centre of the front row.

The Bairstow Eves Essex Open

BIG SHOCKS AT BARKINGSIDE
by Geoff Newman

The Bairstow Eves Essex Open, played over the weekend of May 8-9, at Redbridge Sports Centre, Barkingside, Ilford, was a huge success being far and away one of the best Open tournaments that Essex has ever had. Play was fast and furious throughout the weekend, with a number of really outstanding games punctuated by a number of shock results. The organisation was first class and the County Association were indebted to the magnificent sponsorship from the Bairstow Eves Co., and to the Halex Co., who supplied the equipment.

Men's Singles

The big shocks in this event centred round the elimination of the two top seeds, Andy Barden and Paul Day. Barden was surprisingly put out by the veteran Welsh "chopper", George Evans. The Middlesex boy, usually so good against defensive players, appeared to lose his appetite in this set and Evans forged ahead in the decider to win -16, 13 and 15. Bob Potton took advantage of Barden's demise by putting an end to the Welshman's hopes and then going to score a first-ever win over John Hilton.

Paul Day also came unstuck against the Welsh, Alan Griffiths, in sparkling form, romping away to win in the third by 21-14. Griffiths carried on the good work by winning well over Mark Mitchell in a cliff-hanger. Lancashire's Donald Parker surprised John Kitchener but found the home county's Ian Horsham far too hot to handle. Scottish No. 1, Richard Yule, made his way to the last four but both Nigel Eckersley and David Brown fully extended him.

Both semi-finals were fast and furious, Horsham out-angling Potton, that little extra expertise showing through and ensuring Horsham's appearance in the final. In the other semi, Griffiths was in superb form and he gave Yule no chance to settle at his game at all. In fact it was really all one-way traffic, particularly in the second game, when Griffiths churned out winner after winner.

In the final there was just no stopping the Welshman. Although Horsham took the second game it always looked odds-on Griffiths win-

ning. Full of tenacity, he just wasn't going to lose this one, and his quick-fire bursts of play finally shot down the Essex player's hopes.

Women's Singles

Tina Pickard was the surprise packet in this event, taking out Essex's Linda Budd and Elaine Tarten, and then a magnificent win over Ireland's Karen Senior. Lesley Radford brought her down to earth, however, but no one could take away what had happened previously. Linda Howard cruised to the final although Shelagh Hession, as ever, fought to the end.

In the final Linda made few mistakes and Lesley was never allowed to settle down at all. The Surrey girl's forehand was always prominent and the points built up in her favour.

Women's Doubles

A very good win in the final for the Essex pairing of Lesley Radford and Shelagh Hession over Linda Howard and Karen Senior, the Essex duo retrieving a 16-19 deficit in the third game.

Intermediate Boys' Singles

Day and Barden didn't make any mistakes in this event but Barden had to go all out to keep out Horsham, who was only repulsed in the third. Potton had a useful looking win over Mitchell but he couldn't keep Day at bay in the semis.

The final produced the usual high class encounter between England's top two juniors. On this occasion it was Barden who came out on top in the third game after some early pressure.

Intermediate Girls' Singles

Linda Howard dropped a game to Elaine Tarten before recovering to glide serenely into the final against Angela Mitchell, who had scored a nice win over Karen Senior. In the final Linda appeared to have the first game won with an 8 points lead but a lapse in concentration let Angela back in the game and from then on Linda really had to struggle to win this title.

Veteran Singles

A tremendous win for Laurie Fountain, retaining the title he won last season. Shock for Peter D'Arcy, going out to Ronnie Herber. George Evans looked all over a winner of this event but Fountain's tenacity once again won the day.

Men's Doubles

Day and Barden won this event without too much ado. Their stiffest test came in the semis when they were 7 points adrift at one stage against Horsham and Dave Brown in the third. A great fight-back ended the hopes of the Essex pair. Hilton and Phil Bowen fought valiantly in the final, but the younger pair were always in the driving seat.

Mixed Doubles

A brilliant final between Barden and Angela Mitchell against Day and Linda Howard with the Middlesex pair winning by a very narrow margin. Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

R. Potton (Ex) bt J. Hilton (Ches) -17, 18, 18.
I. Horsham (Ex) bt P. Bowen (Lancs) 14, 9,
R. Yule (Sc) bt D. Brown (Ex) 16, -16, 17.
A. Griffiths (Wa) bt M. Mitchell (Mx) 15, -13,
19.

Semi-finals

Horsham bt Potton 15, 19.
Griffiths bt Yule 17, 9.

Final

GRIFFITHS bt Horsham 7, -17, 13.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

L. Howard (Surrey) bt S. Hession (Ex) 8, 12.
L. Radford (Ex) bt T. Pickard (Ex) 7, 3.

Final

HOWARD bt Radford 10, 15.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Howard/K. Senior (Ir) bt A. Mitchell/M.
Walker (Mx) 15, 17.

Hession/Radford bt S. Dove/M. Sangster (Mx)
12, 10.

Final

HESSION/RADFORD bt Howard/Senior 14,
-11, 19.

Intermediate Boys' Singles—Semi-finals

A. Barden (Mx) bt Horsham -19, 11, 18.
P. Day (Cams) bt Potton 18, 16.

Final

BARDEN bt Day 18, -16, 13.

Intermediate Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

Howard bt E. Tarten (Ex) 10, -15, 4.
Mitchell bt Senior 19, 18.

Final

HOWARD bt Mitchell -23, 20, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Day/Howard bt Yule/Senior 12, 19.
Barden/Mitchell bt Horsham/Radford 16, -19,
18.

Final

BARDEN/MITCHELL bt Day/Howard 22, -15,
18.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Barden/Day bt D. Brown (Ex)/Horsham 17,
-18, 18.

Bowen/Hilton bt Potton/T. Robertson (Nthld)
-16, 19, 18.

Final

BARDEN/DAY bt Bowen/Hilton 19, 18.

Veteran Singles—Final

L. FOUNTAIN (Ex) bt G. Evans (Wa) -14,
18, 19.

Bairstow Eves, the Essex-based group agency of Estate Agents, Auctioners, Surveyors and Valuers, were delighted to have the opportunity of sponsoring the 1976 Essex Open Championships. Through the programme media Colin J. Finch, F.R.I.C.S., the Managing Director, passed on the good wishes of his directors and staff to both competitors and spectators.—Editor.

SPOTLIGHT ON COLEBRIDGE

Colebridge have achieved more this season than possibly any other club in Warwickshire ever have in any one season. The honours which they have added to their credit are:—3-a-side Div. 1 winners (second year running); Birmingham League Div. 1 winners at the first attempt; South Birmingham Div. 1 winners, and also the Warwickshire League (the South Birmingham team consists mainly of Colebridge players and friends). The highlight of the season was undoubtedly reaching the semi-final of the National Club Competition, which makes Colebridge one of the top four clubs in the country.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

MIXED SEASON

A very mixed season for the County teams in the County Championships. The first team, after three disappointing defeats which put them in danger of relegation, came back to form with a good 6-4 win over Essex II. Trevor Smith, a stalwart for so long, asked to be dropped for this match and was replaced by Steve Wilson. I feel Trevor, with his personality and knowledge of the game, could well prove an excellent Captain of this team in the future.

The junior first team, who started the season with championship hopes, did not realise their potential and the team performance did not live up to their individual ability, and only two of the six matches were won. Colin Wilson and Richard Bergmann have formed the backbone of this team and with Julie Reading, "over-age" next season, they must again shoulder the majority of the burden. What other juniors are coming through the ranks to fill the other boys' place and the girls' No. 1 spot in this team?

The least said about the second junior team the better, but I feel that Radio Solent reporter Brian Lamerton, summed it up when he described the 0-10 debacle against Wiltshire by saying, "The team went down without raising a bead of sweat between the lot of them and the County must consider whether it is worth the expense of running this team again". I feel this way of cutting County match out-goings would be better than the more general view that the veterans' team should be axed. The veterans have had a good season and certainly have shown more effort than any of the other teams. They have only lost one match and have included in their five victories an excellent win over Kent, who were fancied to take the title from Essex.

The group fixtures at Portsmouth could well have convinced the County that this is not the way to run inter-town matches. In the middle of the flu epidemic no town had out a full team and while the eventual results may well have been repeated with the normal players, it takes a lot of interest away if reserves are played. Perhaps Basingstoke were the hardest hit and in fact had to turn out virtually a full second string in their matches and as a result only just avoided relegation on sets average, instead of being involved at the other end of the table. However, the County A.G.M. on the 24th June, will decide the method of play for next season. The deciding match in the mixed first division resulted in an 8-4 win for Bournemouth "A" over Southampton "A" in a match completely devoid of atmosphere. Surely a match of this importance deserves an audience and presentation which is not possible at a venue with five other matches in progress on adjoining tables. Clearly Bournemouth were the better team on the day and Trevor Smith, John Robinson, Neville Thorley, Julie Reading and Janet New were never in serious danger of losing. Christine Davies made up for her first defeat by Julie Reading in the County closed by winning a close set.

In the other group division, Bournemouth "A", as expected, retained their junior title, only dropping three sets, two of them in the deciding match against runners-up Basingstoke "A". Basingstoke "B" win the second mixed division and take the place of relegated Portsmouth "B", while unbeaten Aldershot "A" in the junior second division will take the place of Southampton "B". Basingstoke also win the men's division with an unbeaten record with Aldershot runners-up. Also unbeaten were Portsmouth, the veteran division champions.

In the National Competitions local teams had some success. Southampton's Wilmott Cup team, after disposing of Basingstoke and Portsmouth, had a great match with Bristol before going down 4-5. Keith Summerfield

gained an excellent three sets and Chris Shetler one. Phil Brown had the misfortune of pulling back from 14-20 to 19-20 in the third against the Bristol No. 3, C. Lloyd, before losing the next point to a desperation back-hand flick! and this in the final game with the score at 4-4! Bournemouth, in the Rose Bowl, beat Plymouth to reach the quarter-final where they are to meet Southend.

Again Bournemouth emerge from local teams in the Carter Cup and after victories over Plymouth and Poole are away to Chelmsford in the quarter-final. Once again Bournemouth are a major force in the Bromfield Trophy and with Sarah Gilson playing to well, added to Julie Reading and Janet New, perhaps this will be their season after so narrowly losing last season's final. In the semi-final they have a home tie against Reading.

I will end with a round-up of the local leagues from whom I have had results.

In Bournemouth the Premier Division was a very tight affair with Merton "A" and Bournemouth YMCA "A" neck and neck for most of the season and the Merton team of Trevor Smith, Steve Wilson, Colin Wilson and Joyce Coop finally beating their rivals 7-3 in the deciding match. Colin Wilson carried off the Men's Singles, Handicap, Under-13 and Under-15 titles at the Bournemouth Closed, but lost out to Richard Bergmann in the Under-17. Neville Thorley was the Premier Division champion. Joyce Coop won the Women's Singles and combined with Sarah Gilson to win the Women's Doubles, but went out with Trevor Smith, to John Robinson and Janet New in the Mixed. Ron Fairhall beat Cyril Bush for the Veterans' title.

The Portsmouth first division title goes to Wyeth with Corinthians in second place. In the Closed numerous surprises in the early rounds, with Champion Steve Kitcher, making an early exit. In the semis Alan Wilcocks recovered from 12-20 in the third to beat Glyn Hydes, but then lost the final to Mike Douglas. In the women's, Sheila Foster disposed of Christine Davies in the semis, but was no match for Daphne Gray in the final. Douglas and Hydes stopped Pete Scott and Cliff Jacobs, chalking up a record fourth win in the men's doubles. Christine Davies took two doubles titles, winning the women's with Angeline Gilbert and the mixed with Bill Martin. Ged Holley was the surprise winner of the veterans' with an excellent win over Ray Lush, and Kevin Batt won the juniors.

Four T's win the Southampton Premier Division title for the first time in six years, after a close battle with two teams from each of the Snobs and Alpha Clubs and championship medals go for the first time to Gary Longland, Steve Kitcher and John Lewis. The Southampton Closed was a little too predictable in its final results, although there were some good early matches. Keith Summerfield retained his men's singles with a final win over the unseeded John Tibbles, who had knocked out the Nos. 2 and 3 seeds on his way to the final. Christine Davies, as expected, retained her women's singles with a win over junior Jane Whitcher, who took the first game of the final very close.

Christine also took the women's doubles partnered by Julie Hudson, and the mixed with Phil Brown. Keith Summerfield and Chris Shetler won the men's doubles, Don Cartridge the veterans' and Steve White the juniors'.

Although one becomes acclimatised to disinterest in giving assistance at tournaments, I must say I was disgusted with the table tennis fraternity who, after this tournament, despite repeated requests for assistance, left the four members of the tournament committee, who are, with respect, not youngsters, to clear away the tables and screens and taking them from the hall to the balcony. This after a 13-hour day at the tournament is just not on! The players seem very anxious to keep this tournament as a one-day event, rather than ease the burden on the committee by having a separate finals night. What a pity they cannot therefore give some assistance when it is needed.

The Winchester Closed Tournament do have a separate Finals Night. In these finals, George Philpott beat Harry Spraggs and these two also beat Bob Doe and John Lewis to win the men's doubles. Once again Jane Whitcher contested three finals and while her Southampton appearances did not result in a win, she won all three of the Winchester events. In the women's singles she beat Hilda Ewles, combined with Nigel Lodders to beat Ron Wilshire and Hilda Ewles in the mixed, and then beat David Hall in the junior singles. Doug Balchin had a very good win over Spraggs in the veterans' event, while Jim Malcolm beat Doe in the handicap singles. The Winchester 1st Division title, after a close battle, went to holders St. Cross. Winnal "B" led all season and remained unbeaten, but 3 points dropped in two of their last matches cost them the championship.

Gosport and Fareham Closed winners were Steve Kitcher in the men's, Karen Saywell in the women's (by 2-1, 19, 20 over Linda Clemmett), Kevin Batt the juniors, and Gerry Shaw the veterans'. Steve Kitcher and Andrew Foers won the open doubles, while Steve Kitcher joined Karen Saywell for the mixed.

I will finish my notes for the season with a plug for my club tournament. The Four T's 1-Star Open will be held at Southampton University on Sunday, September 19th. Entry forms from Rowland Bennett at 54 Brookwood Road, Millbrook, Southampton.

KAY WATERS

I have just heard the sad news of the death of Kay (Kathy) Waters. Although Kay has lived in Salisbury, she has spent a great deal of her life both working and playing table tennis in Southampton. During the past season she has represented Southampton Veterans in the Hampshire League and has also played for the Four T's Club. Her main forte, however, has been in administration. She has been one of those people in the background who did a great deal of the work, but gets very little credit or publicity. In particular, apart from being an internationally known umpire who has officiated in a number of English Open Finals she had turned her talent in recent years to tournament refereeing. Much of her hard work was put in in the preliminary matters before the tournament to ensure that on the day everything went smoothly.

She will be very hard to replace.

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BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Reg Hart

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Since we are now close to the end of the 1975-76 season these notes are a summary of some of the important events.

County Teams

Our Junior first team maintained its Premier Division status by wins over Kent and Cleveland and draws with Essex and Middlesex. Since we will lose Andy Wellman and Simon Douglas into the seniors next season it may well be difficult to remain in the Junior Premier.

The Senior first team won the 2nd Division (West) and narrowly missed a Premier Division place at the challenge play-offs. Our second Junior side also won Junior Div. 3 (South), Robert Johnson being the star of the side with some good wins, including Kevin Edwards.

County Activities

The Junior squad members met for a number of training sessions run by Peter Charters. Peter also organised a very useful training camp with the Federal German WTTV regional team, which included the top two boys and girls in the German ranking.

Teams from Essex and Surrey came to perform against the visitors, Martin Shuttle being the most successful, winning all his matches.

County Players

Our top Junior boy, David Reeves, has made good progress this season, including wins over Donald Parker and John Kitchener. Karen Witt has achieved many milestones this season despite adversity. Her recent selections to play for England in the Junior team against Federal Germany and in the Worthing Junior International have been well earned.

The Middlesex Junior Open, played on a group basis, showed that Karen was the best all-round Junior girl on the day and has now achieved consecutive wins over Angela Tierney and Melody Lüdi. Mandy Smith and Alison Gordon have laid claim to the 1 and 2 Cadet ranking places by winning all the cadet select events, despite being ranked 3 and 2 respectively.

Although not selected for the Worthing International, Alison completed her hat-trick of select wins by becoming England Cadet champion. Mandy has made her position clear recently by soundly defeating, twice, the selectors' No. 1 Cadet.

Our most improved player is Andy Wellman, who has included wins over Bob Potton and Kevin Caldon. Simon Douglas has ably supported our County teams. Bryon Johnson did well to come 6th in the Middlesex Cadet events with wins over Sam Harmer and Mark Oakley, having also defeated Richard Bergmann on the previous day.

County Finances

At our recent County A.G.M., despite fears to the contrary, we found ourselves with a small surplus, which would not have occurred if the Committee had not cancelled the County Senior Closed Championships which was very poorly subscribed.

A further regrettable feature was that the Junior Fund, which is largely built up by the fund-raising activities of those interested in development, was dissolved into the general finances and kept the finances in the black. The Junior Fund has enabled Berkshire to organise and run adventurous events which have contributed significantly to our present reasonably satisfactory Junior standard.

A minority of leagues, on a proportional voting basis, legislated against increases in affiliation fees, which are recommended to combat the recent and future inflationary increases.

Teams' Activities

Around the County various leagues and club teams have done quite well. Reading's U-12 Girls won the IMPACT-organised girls' U-12 team event. The Reading Bromfield side have progressed well and are now at the closing stages. The team is made up from Karen Witt, Alison Gordon, Janet Thorpe and Jill Purslow. Newbury's women's team of Caroline Reeves, Carol Houghton, Joyce Taylor and Mandy Smith have done well in the Rose Bowl competition, reaching the semi-finals.

In the national Club Championships competition once again a women's club side has been our best performer, also winning through to the semi-final to play the Fellows Cranleigh team of the Southend League. The club is Omega, and its women's team consists of Karen, Caroline, Alison and Jill.

World Championships

Regrettably it is possible that one of our member leagues will become disaffiliated from both E.T.T.A. and County, due to the World Championships Levy. The Bracknell League's A.G.M. may see a majority vote against paying the levy and thus not supporting the World Championships next year. Hopefully other counties' leagues will not follow their lead and take such a tragic step.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Colin Hammond

VETERANS' TRIUMPH

Pride of place must go to the County Veterans' side, who clinched the Veterans' Midland League title with a superb 5-4 victory over hot favourites, Cheshire. John Burraston take a lot of the credit, winning both his singles, including a brilliant victory over Derek Schofield. The match could hardly have been closer, Ron Bolton gaining the decisive win at 22-20 in the third. Ron and John again being well supported by John Ellis and Pat Hammond. Notts now face Essex in the play-off for the National title.

The only other recent County match resulted in an unexpected and very heavy defeat for the Junior team. Even without Glen Stredder, and taking into account the strength of the opposing girls, a 1-9 defeat at the hands of Lincolnshire was rather a poor showing. This result was even more surprising considering that it was Notts first "on the table" defeat of the season.

The County Championships were again held at Bingham Sports Centre, on April 11th. The entry was very poor, with a considerable number of top players absent, including Alan Croome, Cleve Judson and Ron Bolton. Martin Kinsella was top seed in the Men's Singles and was expected to win comfortably. However, in the final he found himself trailing by a game and 16-19 to second seed Nicky Kirkland, only pulling the match out of the fire with some inspired do-or-die hitting. Nicky, playing above himself, again stormed into a lead in the decider with astounding hitting, only to run out of steam, Martin clinching the title in a memorable final.

The Women's singles final was equally tense, with Gloria Stocks just retaining her title against Pat Hammond at 21-19 in the third after trailing for the majority of the final game.

Kinsella picked up two more titles, the Intermediates, as expected, and the Men's Doubles with Stredder, a minor surprise. Glen himself had a fine tournament, retaining his Junior Boys' title, reaching the final of the Intermediates, and only falling to Kinsella in the semi-final of the Men's Singles. Unseeded, Glen had disposed of Bob Nelson and Phil Spencer on the way.

The Mixed was won by Phil Spencer and Gloria Stocks, and partnered by Ann Wass, Gloria was denied a hat-trick of titles, being defeated by Pat Hammond and Mary Saunders in the Women's Doubles final. Elaine Hand-

ford retained her Girls' Singles title, and Bernard Brown won the Veterans' for the first time, defeating Dave Pearson in the final.

Congratulations to Alan Croome on winning the Chesterfield Closed, overcoming some of Derbyshire's top players. Alan, who didn't defend his Notts title, has been the only consistent success at County level this season, and has excelled in the Midland League, losing only three times.

S.E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE CHATTER

By Leslie Constable

North Herts have had a most successful season, winning the Men's Div. 1, Junior Divs. 1 and 2 and are probable runners-up in the Women's Division. Milton Keynes did very well in the Men's Division, finishing third, while Ely—last season's champions—finished runners-up.

Wisbech headed the Men's Div. 2 and so gain promotion to the 1st Division. Hunts Central finished runners-up in Junior Div. 1 and Milton Keynes again did well, being runners-up in Junior Div. 2. Dunstable look like winning the Women's Div., while Cambridge won an exciting season in the Veterans' Div., being undefeated and inflicting the only defeat on Northampton. Congratulations must be extended to Henry Fox, the Secretary, for his untiring work. He has now been Secretary for the past 15 years. As he remarked to me recently, it is about time he thought of retiring, but I reassured him that we need him for the next 20 years!

Once again Margaret Cornwell must be congratulated on running the S.E.M. Tournament so efficiently. The finals were completed at a very reasonable hour—a welcome change only brought about by true efficiency.

S.E. MIDLANDS TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

(Leading positions as at 17th April, 1976)

Men's 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
North Herts	7	6	0	1	50
Milton Keynes	7	5	0	2	42
Ely	6	4	0	2	40

Women

North Herts.	7	4	1	2	44
Dunstable	6	5	0	1	41
Wellingborough	6	5	1	0	38

Juniors 1

North Herts	7	7	0	0	60
Hunts Central	6	5	0	1	43
Bedford	6	4	0	2	41

Veterans

Cambridge	9	9	0	0	75
Northampton	9	8	0	1	66
R.A.F.	9	6	0	3	60

S.E.M. CLOSED

Geoff Davies, of Wisbech, won the men's singles title at this season's tournament, played at Cambridge Corn Exchange, beating Dave Rawlinson, of Bedford, in the final.

Both players were hard pressed in the semis, Rawlinson being taken to three by Mick Palmer, of Ely, as was Davies by Tony Clark, of Milton Keynes.

Ann Wallis, of Wellingborough, was successful in the women's singles final against Jean Allinson, of Peterborough, whilst her sister, Mandy, won the girls' singles, the defeated finalist being Belinda Chamberlain (Hunts Central) but only by a score of 23-21 in the decider!

Richard Jermyn, of North Herts, won the boys' singles by beating Garry Alden, of Wellingborough in the final. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

D. Rawlinson bt M. Palmer -18, 20, 9.

G. Davies bt T. Clark -21, 20, 19.

Final

DAVIES bt Rawlinson 18, 14.

Women's Singles—Final

A. WALLIS bt J. Allinson 13, 17.

Boys' Singles—Final
 R. JERMYN bt G. Alden 18, 21.
Girls' Singles—Final
 WALLIS bt B. Chamberlain 17, -18, 21.
Men's Doubles—Final
 B. JONES/M. PALMER (Ely) bt Alden/R. Marchant (Well) 13, 15.
Women's Doubles—Final
 A. WALLIS/M. WALLIS bt S. Harding/K. Morton (N. Herts) 14, 12.
Mixed Doubles—Final
 JERMYN/MORTON bt Marchant/A. Wallis 20, 19.
Boys' Doubles—Final
 G. HARDING (N. Herts)/JERMYN bt T. Pleasance/R. Williams (Northampton) 18, 17.
Girls' Doubles—Final
 L. BOOTH (Well)/M. WALLIS bt Chamberlain/M. Ringrose (Hunts Central) -13, 11, 17.
Junior Mixed Doubles—Final
 S. FISHER/CHAMBERLAIN bt Davies/R. Norris (Wisbech) 17, -21, 15.
Div. 2 Men's Singles—Final
 A. LAMPRELL (St. N) bt M. Byrd (Cam) 12, 14.
Div. 2 Junior Singles—Final
 PLEASANCE bt T. Chamberlain 19, 15.
Team Championships—Final
 WELLINGBOROUGH bt North Herts.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny
 UNIQUE RECORD

Norfolk Junior Closed Championships were held at Wall Road School, Norwich, on Sunday, April 11th. As expected, Douglas Bennett took the Boys' title and Wendy Hogg the Girls'. Duggie thus has the unique record of becoming the Norfolk senior and junior, and the Norwich senior and junior champion in the same season. Not too bad at 15 years old!
 Results:—

Boys
 U-13: Andrew Wilson (Y) bt Ian Smith 10, 13.
 U-15: Douglas Bennett (N) bt Mike Archer (Y) 16, 16.
 U-17: D. Bennett bt Martin Ecclestone (Y) 10, 10.
Girls:—
 U-13: Zoe Nicholls (D) bt Susan Browne (N) 15, -18, 16.
 U-15: Ruth Harrowven (N) bt Anne Bowers (Y) 12, 7.
 U-17: Wendy Hogg (N) bt Heather Pearce (N) 18, 15.
 B.D.: M. Archer/M. Ecclestone bt D. Bennett/D. Smith (N) -12, 15, 19.
 G.D.: W. Hogg (N)/Paula Ribbans (Y) bt R. Harrowven/H. Pearce 13, -14, 11.
 X.D.: D. Bennett/P. Ribbans bt David Smith/H. Pearce 13, 15.

Key: N—Norwich; Y—Yarmouth; D—Dereham.

In the last County Championship matches of the season, Norfolk beat Buckinghamshire 6-4 in Div. 2 East, Norfolk II lost 2-8 to Suffolk, at Ipswich, in Div. 3 East, and Norfolk Juniors "whitewashed" Cambridgeshire II, at Norwich, J.2 Midland. The Bucks match was ably staged by Fakenham League, with over 50 spectators present.

At the Norwich Closed Championships, held at the University of East Anglia, on March 21st, Norfolk's two 15-year-olds, Douglas Bennett and Wendy Hogg, were too good for their seniors. Wendy's victory over Norfolk veteran, Edna Fletcher, was especially noteworthy, and she also won the Women's and Mixed Doubles.

Results:—
 M.S.: D. Bennett bt N. Graver 20, 16.
 W.S.: Miss W. Hogg bt Mrs. E. Fletcher 14, 13.
 M.D.: M. Broughton/C. Bensley bt R. Thornton/R. Annon 15, 17.
 W.D.: Miss W. Hogg/Mrs. V. Graver bt Mrs. L. Kowalski/Mrs. J. Moore 15, -22, 12.
 X.D.: R. Thornton/Miss W. Hogg bt P. Durrant/Mrs. R. Hogg 15, 19.
 V.S.: L. Holdom bt W. Protheroe 11, 18.
 B.S.: D. Bennett bt R. King 8, 11.

G.S.: Miss W. Hogg bt Miss R. Harrowven 14, -17, 16.

H'cap S.: J. Harris bt P. Pegg 51-33.

The Norfolk Schools' League was won by Attleborough, and the Norwich Schools' League by Sprowston High, who also beat Thorpe Grammar 6-2 for the Harry Levine Shield. Hippos "A" are champions at Dereham, C.E.Y.M.S. at Norwich, Saints "A" at Wymondham and Iron Duke "A" at Yarmouth.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

INDIFFERENT SEASON

Northumberland ended an indifferent season on a low note when both the second team and Junior team lost their final County matches of the season. The second team went down by 4-6 in a close battle away to Cumbria with Bob Dodds winning a singles on his debut and Northumberland establishing some sort of record by taking all three doubles sets in one match to make the score 4-4 at one stage. This means that the team have once again finished at the bottom of Div. 3 (North), but there have been one or two good performances, especially in the doubles events, which have shown a marked improvement from previous seasons. Nevertheless, the senior team results have been very disappointing, with only the one win gained by the first team over Nottinghamshire in their final match of the season.

The junior team were well beaten 2-8 away to Derbyshire juniors in their last match, Andrew Clark taking both his singles to record Northumberland's only wins. Their successes over Cheshire and Cleveland II, however, ensured that they ended the season in a reasonable position in Junior North. The Derbyshire match marked the last appearances of Andrew Clark, Glen McCardle and Valerie Smith as juniors; next season they will all be over age.

It had been hoped to show the Northumberland League Division winners and runners-up in these notes as the season officially ended on Friday, April 2, but I understand from the League Secretary that owing to various circumstances several teams have still to fulfil some of their fixtures. However, the winners at least of each Division were expected to be confirmed by the time the Championship trophies became due for presentation to the appropriate clubs at the annual County Association dinner-dance on May 7.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

WONDERFUL NEWS

Leicestershire in the Premier Division! That is the wonderful news following the Second Division Promotion Challenge at Shenley. For three of the last four years Leicestershire have reached this stage (the exception was last season for reasons already known to most people). Having been close to success on both previous occasions, it was a case of "Would it be third time lucky?"

A 7-2 win against Cambridgeshire was followed by one of the same score against Sussex. Yorkshire, favourites to finish first, beat Leicestershire 5-4, so a win against Berkshire was vital. It looked easy, but it didn't turn out that way. At 4-4 Chris Rogers went on against Wellman, trailed 0-5, came back to win the first and then won the second at 13.

Whilst it was a team effort all the way, special mention must be made of Paul Randell. After losing to Paul Day he went through the remainder of the weekend unbeaten, including a fine 15, 10 win over Tony Clayton. The whole of the team made their contribution though. Perhaps greatest credit of all should go to County skipper, Colin Truman. He has lived for the team for the past four years and now at last has got the success he has so richly earned! Leicestershire, of course, have never been in the Premier Division before and

already arrangements are in hand to form a committee to look after the interests of the team.

There are high hopes our sponsor for this season, "The Town and Country Building Society", will again be in a position to help us next season.

Loughborough have been prominent in County circles this season. Loughborough topped the Leicester League 1st Division for the first time in their history and incidentally, made it four different winners in the last four years. Their team of Donald Parker, Anita Stevenson and Bryan Mayfield, proved quite invincible, and they won the title easily.

The Rose Johnson Bowl—the Leicestershire Team Handicap Trophy—also went to Loughborough when they beat Jones & Shipman in the final.

The Leicestershire Dance—organised on our behalf by Wally Clarke (Rolls Royce)—brought quite a sum into our coffers and was also a very successful social occasion. It is an event we would certainly like to repeat next season! There are a record number of amendments to the rules for the Leicester League A.G.M., although the majority of these are simply "tidying up" rules. As this will be my first A.G.M. as Chairman of the Leicester League, I am a bit apprehensive!

It has then been an exciting, excellent season for Leicestershire—we look forward to our first (but not, we hope, last) season in the Premier Division with great interest.

NEW GLOUCESTER GEN

by John Cooper

GOOD AND BAD

First the bad news. We lost 2-8 to Staffordshire, the two "successes" coming from W. Dawe and D. Harvey.

For the better news, Gloucestershire Leagues have a good local entry in the Regional U-13's E.T.T.A. competition, which was held in the County at Stroud Leisure Centre. Graham Slack (Cheltenham) and Andrew Golding (Stroud) did very well, whilst Daren Griffin (Gloucester) showed his promise.

Cheltenham "B" beat Stroud "B" 8-2. This was a senior match and young Golding played and showed his mettle. Gloucester Vets lost their promotion chances when they went down 2-8 to Nottingham.

Vanessa Cruwys, Adam Berry, Andrew Golding, Derek Morgan and John Turner all had a good day out in the Middlesex U-15's. Vanessa was runner-up in the consolation singles.

League championships have now been decided as follows:—

Gloucester

Open: D. Berry.
 Women: Mrs. J. Towie.
 Veterans: A. Williams.
 Open Doubles: W. Dawe/S. Griffin.
 U-17: D. Morgan.
 U-15, U-13 and Bryan Merrett Cup: D. Griffin (aged 10).
 Cooper Cup: Julie Phillips.

Cheltenham

Open: D. Harvey.
 Open Doubles: D. Sweeney/Cain.
 Women: C. Iacopi.
 Women's Doubles: J. Towie/V. Cruwys.
 Vets.: A. Williams.
 Boys' U-17: G. Greening.
 Boys' U-15: A. Berry.
 Boys' U-13: J. Turner.
 Girls: V. Cruwys.

Stroud

Men's: G. Spencer.
 Women: Mrs. J. Golding.
 Men's Doubles: S. Spencer/Wise.
 Mixed: A. Golding/Mrs. Golding.
 Boys' U-17, U-15 and U-13: A. Golding.
 Boys' Doubles: K. Ward/Watkins.
 Girls: S. Giles.



Cornish Cream

Taken on the occasion of the Cornwall County T.T.A. Silver Jubilee Dinner and Dance at the Penventon Hotel, Redruth, P. E. C. Smith, of St. Ives, captures the top table dignitaries (l to r): David Blackford (County Chairman), Mrs. Marion Pearce (County President), Charles M. Wyles, O.B.E. (Chairman E.T.T.A) and Tom Honey (County Secretary).

On the following evening, at Helston, a match was played against the International Club, who beat the Cornishmen 8-1, the scores being:—

Keith Cheesewright lost to Mark Mitchell -11, -9; lost to Laurie Landry -13, -10; lost to Tony Clayton -9, -15.

Raymond Bunt lost to Landry -20, -19; lost to Clayton -15, -15; lost to Mitchell 17, -14, -12.

John Bassett lost to Clayton 13, -15, -17; bt Mitchell 15, 15; lost to Landry -15, -16.

CONTROVERSY

by

JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
'The Daily Telegraph'

ROW BEST FORGOTTEN

Fleet Street sports sub-editors and copy tasters were looking in vain on the night of Friday, April 9th, for a "story" from the Norwich Union English Championships at Luton until 10 p.m. With most of the seeded players in the singles events through to the quarter-finals, it looked a very ordinary evening for table tennis and therefore a very limited coverage in the Saturday morning papers.

Then it happened. Kent umpire Jack Williams thought he heard the ball hit the floor in the Jarvis-Neale semi-final. Most people present thought Nicky's bat clipped the floor and therefore the return was good. The next ten minutes were as embarrassing as any I can recall in table tennis tournaments for some time.

At the perpetual risk of losing friends, this is how I saw it: I believe the umpire was the first person to make a mistake by calling "not up". Public opinion says that few people agreed with the umpire. But I applaud Jack Williams for sticking to his decision in the tradition of football referees. If the boss says "black is white" few employees would argue unless they are looking for jobs elsewhere!

Referee Len Pilditch might have leapt over the balcony to assert his authority a bit quicker, but when he did get there he puzzled

many for apparently asking the opinions of the other officials i.e., timekeeper and "twiddlers". I would have thought that in the Wimbledon-style of Captain Mike Gibson, it was merely a question of "play-on" in accordance with the rule that play must be continuous. And any player who did not obey that command would have been disqualified.

By this time, of course, Fleet Street had been alerted that a "row" story was on the way and more space was made available in several later editions.

Many spectators must have formed the opinion that Neale's acceptance of the point was a bit much, desperate though the situation was for him. However, justice was swiftly done as when play did resume Jarvis went through to victory.

It's a pity for the sport that it needs such unsavoury incidents to have to happen to attract the attention of the national press, but there is nothing that anyone can do to alter that. Angry clashes of this nature will always pinch the headlines.

Let us hope that this row between Denis Neale and Nicky Jarvis is by now forgotten. Unlike China and other nations, our headcount of world-class players or even European-class contenders is so small that team strife is unthinkable.

UMPIRING CORNER

It is hoped that this series of short articles, incorporating a test of knowledge of the Laws of the Game, has provoked players or supporters of the game to argument and ultimately a reference to the rule book. Dare the writer hope that it has stimulated sufficiently to encourage lovers of the game, maybe players who are considering retiring, to "put back" something into the game by pursuing an umpiring qualification. You will recall the initial article in the series made clear the process of qualification. May I appeal to all who show an interest in this facet of the game, to make contact with their County Association's Umpires' Secretary. If you don't know the person or address, the Hastings office will be only too willing to provide the information. Although the game is about players, the umpire has a vital part to play in control and presentation.

Please give the matter some serious thought.
A,P,

INTERNATIONAL RUBBER BAT TOURNAMENT

by David Luddy

There was a double Middlesex triumph at the fifth International Club rubber bat tournament at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Sunday, April 11.

Former England international Laurie Landry cruised to the men's singles—Richard Bergmann trophy—title, winning all five of his sets in straight games and beating Derek Schofield (Cheshire) 21-18, 21-17 in the final.

Marjorie Walker took the women's—Victor Barna—contest, defeating top seed Jean Williams (Buckinghamshire) 22-20, 21-19 in her final encounter.

Landry added the men's doubles title for the third successive year, again partnered by Schofield, but Miss Walker completed a treble, winning with Beryl Clayton (Middlesex) in the women's doubles and Schofield in the mixed.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

Landry bt Gordon Holmes (Middlesex) 10, 12.

Schofield bt former England No. 2, Derek Burridge (Middlesex) 13, 13.

Final

LANDRY bt Schofield 18, 17.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

Marjorie Walker bt Margaret Cherry (Middlesex) -16, 15, 18. Jean Williams bt Beryl Clayton 20, 15.

Final

WALKER bt Williams 20, 19.

Men's Doubles—Final

Landry/Schofield bt Vernon Adams/Colin Feltham (both Somerset) 5, 21.

Women's Doubles—Final

Walker/Clayton bt Williams/Sylvia Tyler (Middlesex) 17, 18.

Mixed Doubles—Final

Schofield/Walker bt Landry/Gillian Pirson (Middlesex) 15, -19, 14.

Men's Singles Consolation—Final

Adams bt Joe Brandez (Essex) 8, 19.

Women's Singles Consolation—Final

Tyler bt Marilyn Nash (Essex) 10, 12.

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Letter to the Editor

FACTS AND FIGURES

The letters in the last issue of "T.T.N." made interesting reading but prompt me to write to put a few facts and correct a few errors.

First for Mr. Mundy: Every time an increase in fees or a levy has been made during the past 20 years, the pundits have prophesied a drop in membership and "outlaw" leagues springing up. In fact it has never yet happened. Following the largest increase ever made, in the current season, the membership has not decreased—it has increased by a small margin of 1.5%. Mr. Mundy never mentions the returnable aspect of the guarantee fund; he probably does not know about it. Every effort will be made to make the Worlds pay and the whole of the fund returned to the leagues to do with it whatever they wish. It is not a levy and has never intended to be; it is a returnable guarantee. The comment that those left will have to pay more shows a complete lack of understanding of the position. I recommend you read the January issue of "T.T.N.", page 29.

Also, Mr. Mundy, if the cost of the Worlds 1977 is only £150,000 there would be no problem and a large profit would be made. The actual figure is nearer £350,000 and for the I.T.T.F. to pay out of its funds would require an annual fee of £2,000 at least, from every member association! The Sports Council pays for table tennis every season to the extent of £45,000 per annum, which is three times what is paid by the members! It is also quite likely that the biggest single contribution towards the Worlds will, in fact, come from the Sports Council.

As for 60 minutes on television, Mr. Mundy, just settle down every night, some afternoons and two Saturday afternoons and you might well clock up between 3 and 4 hours on the box.

Just in case you have forgotten, the decision to run the Worlds in England was a unanimous one taken by the A.G.M. Also, the decision to operate a returnable guarantee fund was an almost unanimous decision at the recent S.G.M. You had your chance then Mr. Mundy, to voice your doubts.

Why does the E.T.T.A. organise a Lincoln Lottery? To make money, of course. The actual profit this year is a record of about £1,800. What raffle lost money four months ago? The last Worlds raffle, in July, 1975, made a profit of £300.

The spectacle of the Worlds will have an exhilarating effect on all players throughout the country and every league should benefit.

Next, Mr. Pream. The Worlds in 1954 was watched by 25,000 spectators. The Wembley stadium had a capacity of 7,500. The maximum accommodation in 1977 will be about 10,000 and the total number of spectators expected to attend is 50,000.

It is not easy to change the laws of the game. England is only one of over 100 members of

the I.T.T.F. Why should the top influential associations support us? They have good crowds because they have good teams. France get 5,000 to watch a European League match. It is the players, not the rules, that draw the crowds. The players have more prize money, more sponsors and more financial assistance from the E.T.T.A. than ever before. I agree it is still not sufficient to allow our players to devote their full time to the game and compete on equal terms with their opponents in other countries. But, Mr. Pream, we are always trying to do better and are now spending almost £20,000 per annum on training.

I can assure Mr. Moorhouse that the umpire problem is being dealt with. It is not as bad as he sees it; the English umpires are still the best in the world, but some need more international experience. We have made application for grant aid to assist in sending several teams of umpires abroad during the current season, to gain more experience.

Mr. Airey must know that we do get television coverage; not as much as we would like, but still we are recognised as a top category sport and this is reflected in the fees we receive. We do know all about "pot black" series and in fact such an event is scheduled in the next 10 months, but full details cannot yet be announced.

We have tried a special event for the players, the Super League, and this was very successful but required sponsorship of at least £4,000 per annum to make it worthwhile.

Anyway gentlemen, thank you for your views, we will consider any suggestion, but Mr. Mundy at least can rest in peace, the E.T.T.A. does do some fundamental thinking and is not short of ideas or enterprise. It may be that our communications could improve and I hope this letter has done just that.

TOM BLUNN,

Hon. Treasurer, E.T.T.A.

43 Headlands Drive,
Hessle,
North Humberside.

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Richard Habgood

To say that this season's Championships will go down in history is questionable. Just to state that new European Champion, **Jill Hammersley**, picked up two titles and **Desmond Douglas** three would also be unfair. What really did happen is that England has a new triple Champion—**DESMOND DOUGLAS** is the name.

Have you heard it before? Of course you have—isn't he the player that's just about won every major tournament in England this season? Again you're right. Ah! But isn't he the player who was so sensationally dropped from the English team, carrying the can for rather inept performances against Yugoslavia and Poland in Prague.

Yes, but he did only reach the second round, losing to Kjell Johansson in **FIVE** games. Still that's not surprising—hasn't he only played in two foreign "Opens" this season—the Federal German and the Welsh.

Oh well! then why and how did he win the English, only dropping just one game throughout the whole tournament? Maybe because he's a good player and at 20 years of age is England's best prospect for years. Oh, I didn't know that his first-ever tournament was the Burford Junior Open in 1971. Five years to reach the top—can't be bad. Still I'm sure you get my point; if ever Douglas needed to prove yet again that he's not had a fair crack of the whip with regard to England individual appearances, then it came at this year's Norwich Union.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Round 3

D. Douglas (Wks) bt A. Hydes (Sx) 13, 17, 6.
J. Walker (Cv) bt I. Kenyon (Kt) 17, -18, 11, 1.
I. Horsham (Ex) bt W. Sichel (Kt) 13, 19, 13.
A. Barden (Mx) bt M. Newman (Le) 12, 16, 20.
D. Neale (Cv) bt R. Potton (Ex) 15, -17, 14, 9.
R. Tilling (Kt) bt M. Mitchell (Mx) 17, -21, 16, -16, 22.
P. Day (Ca) bt I. Robertson (Nd) 10, 16, 12.
N. Jarvis (Cv) bt P. Randell (Le) 15, 14, 14.

Quarter-finals

Douglas bt Walker 18, 17, 17.
Barden bt Horsham 20, 14, 8.
Neale bt Tilling 14, 15, 14.
Jarvis bt Day -14, 18, 14, 18.

Semi-finals

Douglas bt Barden 10, 15, 17.
Jarvis bt Neale 17, 14, -13, 20.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Jarvis 18, 11, -18, 7.

Women's Singles—Round 2

J. Hammersley (Bu) bt A. Mitchell (Mx) 6, 14, 11.
M. Ludi (Yk) bt S. Hunt (Li) -12, 17, 18, -22, 14.
S. Hession (Ex) bt E. Britton (Mx) 10, 13, 9.
S. Lisle (Ch) bt B. Hammond (Be) 9, 14, 8.
L. Howard (Sy) bt L. Barrow (Ex) 11, 17, 9.
A. Stevenson (Le) bt L. Radford (Ex) 10, -8, 20, 16.
K. Rogers (Le) bt I. McCree (He) 11, 7, 12.
C. Knight (Cv) bt L. Budd (Ex) 17, -14, 17, -15, 12.

Quarter-finals

Hammersley bt Ludi 12, 16, 11.
Hession bt Lisle 16, 18, 19.
Howard bt Stevenson 13, 11, 13.
Knight bt Rogers 19, 12, 8.

Semi-finals

Hammersley bt Hession 13, 12, 10.
Howard bt Knight -19, 14, -16, 19, 15.

Final

HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 19, 7, 14.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals

Douglas/Neale bt Newman/Randell 15, 6, 9.
Potton/Robertson bt J. Kitchener (Sk)/D. Tan (Mx) -18, 19, 8, 19.
Barden/Walker bt J. Hilton (Ch)/D. Johnson (Wk) 12, -19, 21, 15.
Day/Jarvis bt D. Brown/Horsham 22, 12, 13.

Semi-finals

Douglas/Neale bt Potton/Robertson 16, 12, 5.
Day/Jarvis bt Barden/Walker 11, -13, 17, 14.

Final

DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Day/Jarvis -14, -17, 11, 17, 13.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt S. Sharp (Be)/W. Shaw (Ch) 10, 12, 12.
Lisle/Stevenson bt J. Reading (Ha)/M. Walker (Mx) 15, 18, -16, 12.
A. Tierney (Cv)/K. Witt (Bks) bt Ludi/Mitchell -17, 20, 14, 19.
Rogers/Knight bt S. Jones (St)/M. Smith (Be) 8, 13, 7.

Semi-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt Lisle/Stevenson -22, 11, 17, 14.
Tierney/Witt bt Rogers/Knight -17, 19, -12, 19, 16.

Final

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Tierney/Witt 19, 11, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals

Jarvis/Hammersley bt D. Parker (La)/Stevenson 18, 15, -18, 15.
Hilton/Rogers bt Neale/Knight 15, 15, -17, 19.
Day/Ludi bt Barden/Mitchell 18, 12, -20, 20.
Douglas/Howard bt Horsham/Lisle 6, 23, 17.

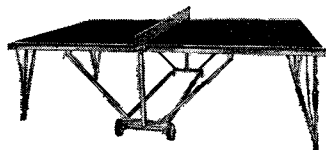
Semi-finals

Jarvis/Hammersley bt Hilton/Rogers -16, 15, 17, 18.
Douglas/Howard bt Day/Ludi 17, 7, 14.

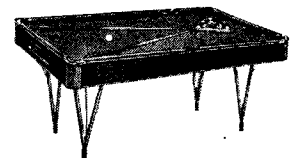
Final

DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Jarvis/Hammersley 19, 20, 14.

The **KINROSS Automatic Roll-Away Folding Table Tennis Table** 9' x 5'. Unique **HOMESPORT LINDSAY ALL STEEL** patented framework design folds the table with playing surfaces facing for storage. Fitted with two plain wheels and two steerable castors for easy manoeuvring. Very stable when folded due to low centre of gravity. High density (650 kg/m³) 16 mm composite tournament top mounted on steel side frames to completely eliminate warpage problems. Built-in net supports and fingertip folding control. Ruggedly engineered to withstand the most arduous usage and specially designed to enable new tops to be fitted, if required, over the years. British manufacture probably makes the **KINROSS** the most competitively priced top quality Roll-Away table on the U.K. market.



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WORTHING JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL

by Geo. R. Yates

Only in doubles play in the individual events did England players finally make their presence felt following total eclipse in the main singles events of the Worthing Junior International Championships over the weekend of May 15-16.

Top seed Andy Barden fell to Hans Joseph Peters, of Federal Germany, in the semis, Paul Day, the No. 3 seed, being surprisingly eliminated in the 2nd round by Paulo Bargagli, of Italy.

Hans Joachim Nolten, of the P.S.V. Club, Borussia Dusseldorf, was the ultimate winner, adding to his similar success in the French Junior Open played in Vichy, over the period April 16-17. In the first day's team events Barden and Day beat the Federal Germans 3-1 with Belgium gaining a like success over England in the girls' match. It was the first time that Belgium have ever won an international team title at any level.

On the eve of the Championships, again at Worthing Sports Centre, England's boys triumphed 3-2 and the girls 5-0 over Federal Germany in two international matches played side by side. Scores:—

Boys
P. Day bt U. Meyerhoff 12, 18.
M. Shuttle lost to H. J. Peters -18, 12, -16.
Day/Shuttle lost to H. J. Nolten/J. Schirrmeister 16, -18, -22.
Day bt Peters 8, 14.
Shuttle bt Meyerhoff 17, 18.

Girls
K. Witt bt M. Sedlmair 13, 13.
A. Tierney bt U. Licher 9, 17.
Tierney/Witt bt Sedlmair/R. Seidler 14, 13.
Witt bt Licher 9, 15.
Tierney bt Sedlmair 13, 15.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Boys' Team Final—England 3, F. Germany 1
Day bt Nolten 13, 18.
Barden bt Schirrmeister 12, 10.
Barden/Day lost to Nolten/Schirrmeister -10, -12.
Day bt Schirrmeister 12, 14.

Girls' Team Final—Belgium 3, England 1
M.-F. Germiot bt A. Mitchell 14, 13.
V. Germiot lost to M. Lüdi -17, -20.
Germiot/Germiat bt Lüdi/Mitchell 14, 16.
M.-F. Germiot bt Lüdi 16, 13.

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
A. Barden (En) bt H. Gootzen (NL) 14, 14.
H. J. Peters (FD) bt M. Shuttle (En) 23, 19.
D. Johnson (Wa) bt P. Bargagli (It) 16, 13.
H. J. Nolten (FD) bt J. L. Roques (Fr) 18, 11.

Semi-finals
Peters bt Barden -18, 9, 26.
Nolten bt Johnson 19, 12.

Final
NOLTEN bt Peters 16, 13.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
M.-F. Germiot (Be) bt K. Witt (En) 17, 13.
P. Donne (Fr) bt B. Gropper (Au) 15, 11.
M. Haderer (Au) bt U. Licher (FD) -20, 14, 19.
B. Vrieskoop (NL) bt N. Daviaud (Fr) 18, 9.

Semi-finals
Germiot bt Donne 8, 11.
Vrieskoop bt Haderer 8, 13.

Final
VRIESKOOP bt Germiot 4, 15.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals
Barden/Day bt P. Renverse (Fr)/Roques 19, 15.

Final
C. Sewell (En)/Shuttle bt A. Pokorny/F. Proglhof (Au) -22, 21, 16.

Final
BARDEN/DAY bt Sewell/Shuttle 15, 12.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals
A. Snyders (NL)/Vrieskoop bt Germiot/Germiat 17, -21, 19.

Lüdi/Mitchell bt Cropper/Haderer 9, 11.

Final
LUDI/MITCHELL bt Snyders/Vrieskoop 20, -18, 8.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
Day/Lüdi bt Renverse/Daviaud 15, 10.

Barden/Mitchell bt Shuttle/Witt -12, 16, 16.
Final
DAY/LUDI bt Barden/Mitchell -11, 15, 16.

FRENCH JUNIOR OPEN

Boys' Team Final—Sweden 3, England 0
T. Danielsson bt Day 15, 15.
L. Franklin bt Barden 11, 12.
Danielsson/Franklin bt Barden/Day -14, 17, 19.

Girls' Team Final—Hungary 3, Belgium 0
Olah bt V. Germiot 2-0.
Bogyo bt M.-F. Germiot 2-0.
Bogyo/Olah bt Germiot/Germiat 2-0.

Boys' Singles—Final
NOLTEN bt Franklin 15, 12.

Girls' Singles—Final
BOGYO bt M.-F. Germiot 18, 15.

Boys' Doubles—Final
FRANKLIN/TEGNER bt Barden/Day 14, -15, -18.

Girls' Doubles—Final
CIMPLOVA/HERMANOVA (CS) bt Bogyo/Olah -15, 17, 22.

Mixed Doubles—Final
NOLTEN/LEHR bt Danielsson/Hervvall (Sv) -18, 20, 21.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE ROUND-UP

by George R. Yates

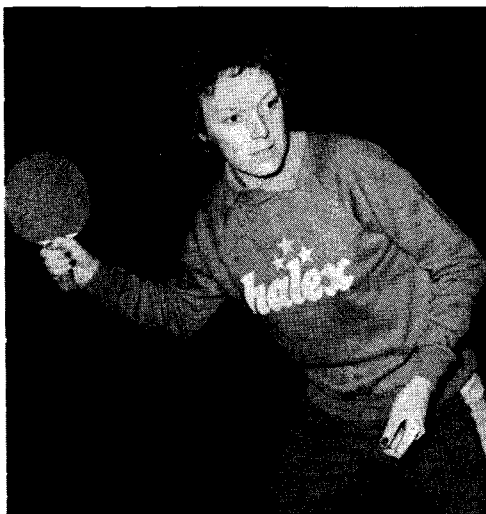
For the first time in their history Hyde and District took the Division 1 title in the Lancashire and Cheshire League, coming through all divisions to do so after lapsing their membership five seasons ago.

Nigel Hallows became the first time men's singles champion of the Bolton League with final victory over his Little Lever C.C. teammate, Graham Hoy, the defending title-holder. Jennifer Dixon retained her women's singles title and Stephen Cowley succeeded Hoy as the junior champion.

Blackpool's seaside players made inroads into the County and into the prizes of the Lancashire Closed at Bolton B.I.T.

Roy Frankland took the men's singles title, Connie Ford (nee Moore) the women's and the pair combined for success in the mixed. And for good measure Derek Hill beat Liverpool's George Smith for the veterans' title. Preston's Ian Smith and Ann Sweeney came into their own in the two junior events.

Europe's top players choose Halex bats.



JILL HAMMERSLEY



LINDA HOWARD

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

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



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NEW RANKINGS

SENIORS

Men

1. D. Douglas (Wa) (1)
2. N. Jarvis (Cv) (2)
3. D. Neale (Cv) (3)
4. J. Walker (Cv) (5)
5. P. Day (Ca) (6)
6. A. Barden (Mx) (4)
7. A. Hydes (Sx) (—)
8. I. Horsham (E) (8)
9. J. Hilton (Ch) (11)
10. D. Parker (La) (7)
11. L. A. Clayton (Y) (13)
12. R. Potton (E) (15)
13. M. Mitchell (Mx) (9)
14. N. Eckersley (Ch) (14)
15. D. Brown (E) (10)
16. J. Kitchener (Sk) (12)
17. R. Hampson (Ch) (—)
18. M. Shuttle (Sy) (—)
19. A. Fletcher (Y) (—)
20. C. Sewell (Av) (—)

Women

1. J. Hammersley (Bu) (1)
2. L. Howard (Sy) (3)
3. C. Knight (Cv) (2)
4. S. Lisle (Ch) (4)
5. S. Hession (E) (7)
6. K. Rogers (Le) (6)
7. A. Stevenson (Le) (8)
8. K. Witt (Bk) (12)
9. M. Lüdi (Y) (9)
10. L. Radford (E) (5)
11. A. Mitchell (Mx) (10)
12. A. Tierney (Cv) (11)

JUNIORS

Boys

1. P. Day (Ca) (2)
2. A. Barden (Mx) (1)
3. M. Shuttle (Sy) (3)
4. C. Sewell (Av) (4)
5. D. Johnson (Wa) (6)
6. I. Kenyon (K) (12)
7. C. Rogers (Le) (7)
8. S. Hazelwood (Y) (8)
9. D. Reeves (Bk) (9)
10. K. Caldron (E) (10)
11. K. Beadsley (Y) (14)
12. K. Paxton (Du) (5)
13. R. Hazelwood (Y) (A)
14. K. Richardson (Ca) (A)
15. D. Newman (E) (16)
16. S. Boxall (Sy) (A)
17. A. Metcalfe (Y) (20)
18. M. Harrison (Y) (19)
19. J. Proffitt (He) (11)
20. A. Wellman (Bk) (—)

Girls

1. K. Witt (Bk) (4)
2. M. Lüdi (Y) (1)
3. A. Mitchell (Mx) (2)
4. S. Hunt (Li) (6)
5. A. Tierney (Cv) (3)
6. J. New (Do) (16)
7. B. Green (Wa) (5)
8. J. Williams (Cv) (7)
9. J. McLean (Y) (12)
10. J. Reading (Ha) (8)
11. L. Hryszko (Y) (19)
12. J. Skipp (Cv) (9)
13. S. Jones (St) (A)
14. S. Roebuck (A)
15. H. Gore (E) (A)

CADETS

Boys

1. C. Wilson (Ha) (2)
2. G. Sandley (Mx) (1)
3. A. O'Connor (La) (3)
4. A. Proffitt (Mx) (4)
5. M. Oakley (Sy) (—)
6. J. Souter (Mx) (—)
7. R. Bergemann (Ha) (6)
8. C. Papantonion (Mx) (10)
9. M. Laird (Cv) (7)
10. S. Harmer (Bd) (8)

Girls

1. A. Gordon (Bk) (2)
2. M. Smith (Bk) (3)
3. M. Reeves (Mx) (4)
4. H. Robinson (Cv) (1)

5. J. Purslow (Bk) (5)
6. E. Bolton (K) (—)
7. S. Gilson (Do) (—)
8. C. Colegate (K) (—)
9. S. Midgley (Y) (10)
10. L. Garbet (Sy) (9)

Obituary

BILL SPRY

Table Tennis followers in Exeter, and indeed Devon, were stunned to learn of the sudden death of Bill Spry, on Sunday, 11th April, at the age of 66.

Bill was actually playing in a match during his club's championships when, towelling down between games, collapsed and died at once.

Bill's love for table tennis was such that he never gave up playing from the time he started and there are many excellent players who would vouch for the fact that he was most difficult to beat even in his advancing years.

Although being given the honour of Life Membership of the Exeter League many years ago, Bill continued to play an active part in committee work for both Exeter and Devon, and was always available when tasks had to be carried out in preparation for various events, setting an example to those many years his junior.

Bill was the Devon County Umpires' Secretary and always encouraged people to take the County Umpire test. He was, himself, an excellent umpire who officiated in many championship events, both locally and nationally. Competitors from Devon and elsewhere will, no doubt, remember him as an understanding Referee of the various championships held in Exeter.

Those of us who were fortunate to know and work with Bill have lost a real friend and colleague. He was a most likeable and modest man who gave unselfishly to our sport for the enjoyment of others.

No sport can afford to lose his like. No one gave more to table tennis and, perhaps, it was fitting that his life came to an end in the way it did. Bill would not have wished it any other way.

K. T. O. PONTING.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

AMBITIONS FULFILLED

Cleveland's ambitions for this season have been fulfilled in the last weeks of the season with our Senior Team winning the Premier Division title and the Juniors, admittedly by a rather unorthodox method, avoiding relegation from the Junior Premier.

Without Denis Neale who "was not in the mood for playing table tennis" after the Norwich Union Championships at Luton, Cleveland put up a tremendous display to clinch the title with a 5-1 lead over Essex. Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker both put in competent performances, whilst Carole Knight turned in her best County display of the season to beat Lesley Radford.

On the same day, at Clacton, the Cleveland Junior Team went down narrowly to Essex 4-6 after putting up a good fighting display. After this game we were resigned to Second Division table tennis next season until Bob Bridges asked us if, as Durham, Derbyshire, Cumbria and Northumberland were unable, for one reason or another, to challenge, we would like to participate in the play-offs at Shenley on 1st and 2nd May.

It took a minimum of time to get this decision from us to play and with victories of 6-4 over Sussex, Hampshire and Lancashire, back into the Premier we went. Our girls Angela Tierney, June Williams and Helen Robinson, completely dominated their departments of the matches, whilst Mark Murphy and Michael

Laird rose to the occasion to pull us through.

We have already decided that next season we will again run a maximum of senior and junior County teams in the three divisions, but now, with all of our team still juniors next season, instead of looking to avoid relegation, we are after that title, too.

STIGA ENGLISH SCHOOLS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

LUTON—NO PLACE FOR "OUTSIDERS"

by David Lomas

The spacious Luton Regional Sports Centre was the venue for the third annual Stiga English Schools' Individual Championships on May 8th, which were part of Luton's centenary celebrations programme.

Eighteen tables were in use to cater for the record entry of 253 players—each player being the schools' champions of their own County in each of eight events.

Organiser Eddie Mitchell said that such was the strength of the entries in some events that it had proved difficult to determine the seedings in some cases, but as it turned out no "outsiders" came through to the finals and six of the events were won by the number one seeds, although there were some upsets in the preliminary groups.

David Newman (The Plume School, Maldon) overcame No. 1 seed Duggie Johnson, ranked 10 places higher on the England Junior list, in straight games to win the Boys' Under-19 event to add to the Essex player's Schools' International Intermediate crown.

The Girls' Under-19 trophy went to Karen Witt (Bulmershe School, Woodley) for whom special arrangements had been made for leave of absence from a training camp. She recovered from a poor first game to beat Mandy Mellor, who was runner-up in the same event last year.

RESULTS

Boys' Under-19

1. DAVID NEWMAN (Essex County)
2. Douglas Johnson (West Midlands)
3. Andrew Wellman (Berkshire)
4. Simon Claxton (Hereford & Worces.)

Girls Under-19

1. KAREN WITT (Berkshire)
2. Mandy Mellor (Derbyshire)
3. Jane Skipp (Cleveland)
4. Julie Reading (Hampshire)

Boys' Under-16

1. KEITH PAXTON (Tyne & Wear)
2. Stephen Boxall (Surrey Met.)
3. Kevin Edwards (Wiltshire)
4. Douglas Bennett (Norfolk)

Girls' Under-16

1. SUZANNE HUNT (Lincolnshire)
2. Angela Tierney (Cleveland)
3. Linda Hryszko (West Yorkshire)
4. Mandy Smith (Berkshire)

Boys' Under-13

1. RICHARD BERGEMANN (Dorset)
2. Paul Whiting (Devon)
3. John Souter (Middlesex)
4. Mark Oakley (Surrey County)

Girls' Under-13

1. ALISON GORDON (Berkshire)
2. Lorraine Garbet (Surrey County)
3. Maxine Abbott (Essex Met.)
4. Julie Dowsett (Essex County)

Boys' Under-11

1. JEREMY DUFFIELD (Hereford & W)
2. Graham Russell (Surrey County)
3. Andrew Dixon (West Midlands)
4. Chris Bryan (Lincolnshire)

Girls' Under-11

1. SARAH CRESSWELL (Surrey County)
2. Jackie Mersh (Kent County)
3. Nicola Hamilton (Bucks)
4. Janice Clark (Essex County)

FINAL AVERAGES 1975-76

**Qualifications: 2 matches and 60%
(Premier Divisions 50%)**

PREMIER DIVISION

Men	P	W	Avg. %
D. Douglas (Warwks)	10	10	100
N. Jarvis (Cleve)	10	10	100
D. Neale (Cleve)	8	8	100
R. Yule (Surrey)	8	7	88
J. Walker (Cleve)	14	12	86
R. Potton (Essex)	12	9	75
M. Shuttle (Surrey)	4	3	75
A. Barden (Middx)	12	8	67
D. Munt (Warwks)	12	8	67
J. Hilton (Ches)	14	9	64
D. Tan (Middx)	14	9	64
D. Brown (Essex)	10	6	60
I. Horsham (Essex)	14	7	50
M. Mitchell (Middx)	12	6	50
M. Johns (Ches)	6	3	50

Women	P	W	Avg. %
S. Lisle (Ches)	7	7	100
L. Howard (Surrey)	6	5	83
S. Hession (Essex)	4	3	75
A. Mitchell (Middx)	6	4	67
C. Knight (Cleve)	6	3	50
J. McLean (Yorks)	2	1	50

2nd SOUTH

Men	P	W	Avg. %
R. Chandler (Sussex)	10	9	90
J. Dabin (Kent)	6	5	83
J. Clarke (Sussex)	10	7	70
D. Jemmett (Middx)	10	7	70
C. Morris (Kent)	10	7	70
L. Landrey (Middx)	6	4	67
C. Strathearn (Surrey) ..	6	4	67
G. Blomfield (Essex)	8	5	63
H. Buist (Kent)	8	5	63
G. Pugh (Sussex)	10	6	60

Women	P	W	Avg. %
E. Tarten (Essex)	3	3	100
J. Reading (Hants)	2	2	100
M. Walker (Middx)	3	2	67

2nd NORTH

Men	P	W	Avg. %
P. McQueen (Durham) ..	10	10	100
R. Hazelwood (Yorks) ..	4	4	100
S. Souter (Cleve)	6	5	83
M. Corking (Cleve)	10	7	70
B. Hill (Lincs)	10	7	70
A. Metcalfe (Yorks)	10	7	70
A. Croome (Notts)	6	4	67
A. Jones (Northumb)	6	4	67
A. Martin (Cleve)	10	6	60
D. Svenson (Durham)	10	6	60

Women	P	W	Avg. %
J. White (Lincs)	5	5	100
H. Shields (Yorks)	2	2	100

2nd MIDLAND

Men	P	W	Avg. %
P. Randell (Leics)	10	9	90
C. Rogers (Leics)	10	9	90
A. Griffiths (Glam)	8	7	88
M. Newman (Leics)	8	6	75
M. Billington (Derbys) ..	10	7	70
J. Mansfield (Glam)	6	4	67
D. Yallop (Derbys)	10	6	60

Women	P	W	Avg. %
K. Rogers (Leics)	3	3	100
A. Stevenson (Leics)	2	2	100
J. Carr (Staffs)	3	2	67

2nd EAST

Men	P	W	Avg. %
P. Day (Cambs)	8	8	100
C. Pickard (Herts)	4	4	100
K. Richardson (Cambs) ..	10	9	90
J. Proffitt (Herts)	8	6	75
J. Fuller (Norfolk)	4	3	75
J. Turner (Norfolk)	4	3	75
M. Harper (Cambs)	10	7	70
G. Giles (Herts)	6	4	67
A. Watson (Bucks)	6	4	67
C. Benson (Norfolk)	8	5	63

Women	P	W	Avg. %
A. Wallis (Northants)	4	3	75
S. Hirst (Cambs)	5	3	60

2nd WEST

Men	P	W	Avg. %
S. Heaps (Berks)	10	9	90
B. Belcher (Worcs)	12	10	83
J. Bloomer (Gwent)	10	8	80
D. Reeves (Berks)	10	8	80
S. Claxton (Worcs)	12	9	75
S. Douglas (Berks)	12	9	75
K. Edwards (Wilts)	10	7	70
R. Brown (Worcs)	12	8	67
B. Reeves (Som)	12	8	67
B. Davies (Devon)	6	4	67
K. James (Devon)	6	4	67
M. Nocivelli (Gwent)	8	5	63

Women	P	W	Avg. %
C. Reeves (Berks)	5	5	100
E. Lamb (Devon)	4	3	75
J. Lloyd (Worcs)	6	4	67
J. Wilson (Som)	5	3	60

3rd SOUTH

Men	P	W	Avg. %
R. Tilling (Kent)	6	6	100
G. Giles (Herts)	4	4	100
R. Jermyn (Herts)	4	4	100
E. Emezc (Sussex)	4	3	75
P. Smith (Sussex)	4	3	75
T. Farlie (Kent)	7	5	71
P. Beck (Kent)	6	4	67
K. Horton (Sussex)	6	4	67
D. Seaholme (Herts)	6	4	67
B. Meisel (Kent)	3	2	67

Women	P	W	Avg. %
Carol Randall (Sussex) ..	3	3	100
L. Towler (Herts)	4	3	75

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3rd NORTH

Men	P	W	Avg. %
B. Johns (Cheshire)	8	8	100
T. Burrows (Cheshire)	6	6	100
C. Heap (Lancs)	8	7	88
G. Hoy (Lancs)	8	7	88
C. Reed (Cumbria)	4	3	75

Women	P	W	Avg. %
N. Carne (Cleve)	2	2	100
W. Shaw (Cheshire)	3	2	67

3rd MIDLAND

Men	P	W	Avg. %
D. Marples (Derbys)	8	8	100
B. Johnson (Warwks)	10	9	90
M. Griffiths (Warwks)	5	4	80
N. Marples (Derbys)	8	6	75
C. Judson (Notts)	4	3	75
R. Lloyd (Clwyd)	9	6	67
P. Spencer (Notts)	6	4	67
M. Askham (Derbys)	10	6	60
J. Riley (Staffs)	10	6	60

Women	P	W	Avg. %
J. Ralphs (Clwyd)	5	4	80
E. Simpson (Derbys)	4	3	75
G. Cooper (Northants)	3	2	67

3rd EAST

Men	P	W	Avg. %
J. Kitchener (Suffolk)	10	10	100
B. Mailey (Essex)	6	6	100
P. Hunt (Essex)	4	4	100
S. Whiteley (Essex)	10	8	80
G. Davies (Cams)	8	6	75
D. Rawlinson (Beds)	4	3	75
A. Lamprell (Hunts)	10	7	70
B. Jones (Cams)	6	4	67

Women	P	W	Avg. %
M. Nash (Essex)	3	3	100
L. Budd (Essex)	2	2	100
J. Allinson (Hunts)	5	4	80
V. Rowell (Cams)	3	2	67

3rd WEST

Men	P	W	Avg. %
C. Sewell (Avon)	10	10	100
W. Hussey (Glam)	10	8	80
C. Rees (Glam)	10	8	80
G. Evans (Glam)	8	6	75
G. Hill (Dorset)	4	3	75
C. Bush (Dorset)	4	3	75
R. Murray (Avon)	6	4	67
M. Sykes (Worcs)	8	5	63
M. Prosser (Herefds)	10	6	60

Women	P	W	Avg. %
J. New (Dorset)	2	2	100
L. Read (Worcs)	5	4	80
G. Thomas (Glam)	3	2	67

JUNIOR PREMIER

Boys	P	W	Avg. %
A. Barden (Middx)	8	8	100
M. Shuttle (Surrey)	12	11	92
I. Kenyon (Kent)	14	12	86
K. Caldou (Essex)	14	11	79
M. Harrison (Yorks)	14	11	79
K. Seager (Surrey)	14	11	79
M. O'Mahoney (Middx)	8	6	75
K. Beadsley (Yorks)	14	10	71
K. Richardson (Cams)	14	9	63
D. Reeves (Berks)	10	6	60
S. Hazelwood (Yorks)	12	7	58
S. Boxall (Surrey)	14	8	57
G. Davies (Cams)	12	6	50
J. Kennedy (Kent)	10	5	50
J. James (Middx)	4	2	50

Girls	P	W	Avg. %
A. Tierney (Cleve)	6	6	100
M. Lüdi (Yorks)	4	4	100
J. Mitchell (Surrey)	2	2	100
A. Mitchell (Middx)	5	4	80
C. Colegate (Kent)	2	1	50

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Boys	P	W	Avg. %
G. Sandley (Middx)	10	8	80
D. Cammiadé (Sussex)	12	9	75
A. Leigh (Middx)	12	9	75
G. Stewart (Surrey)	12	9	75
C. Wilson (Hants)	12	9	75
C. Sparks (Essex)	4	3	75
L. Smith (Essex)	4	3	75
S. Critchley (Surrey)	10	7	70
J. Kennedy (Kent)	6	4	67
M. Wragg (Sussex)	8	5	63
S. Vine (Surrey)	10	6	60

Girls

J. New (Dorset)	6	6	100
J. Reading (Hants)	6	5	83
A. Gedge (Sussex)	5	4	80
J. Boulter (Essex)	4	3	75

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Boys	P	W	Avg. %
K. Paxton (Durham)	10	10	100
A. Clark (Northumb)	12	11	92
M. Jenkins (Derbys)	8	7	88
C. Reed (Cumbria)	14	12	86
S. Mills (Yorkshire)	10	8	80
A. Gelder (Durham)	14	11	79
I. Smith (Lancs)	14	11	79
C. Strettle (Lancs)	14	11	79
A. Summerscales (Yorks)	14	11	79
A. Matcalfe (Yorks)	8	6	75
R. Hazelwood (Yorks)	4	3	75
P. Masters (Durham)	14	10	71
S. Cowley (Lancs)	10	7	70

Girls	P	W	Avg. %
L. Hryzsko (Yorks)	4	4	100
J. Black (Lancs)	5	4	80
L. Holmes (Derbys)	7	5	71
J. Inch (Durham)	7	5	71

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Boys	P	W	Avg. %
C. Rogers (Leics)	8	8	100
D. Gannon (Leics)	10	9	90
C. Martin (Warwks)	10	9	90
G. Alden (Northants)	8	7	88
D. Johnson (Warwks)	8	7	88
P. Mason (Herts)	6	5	83
G. Booth (Herts)	10	8	80
D. Bennett (Norfolk)	12	9	75
J. Proffitt (Herts)	8	6	75
R. Jermyn (Herts)	10	7	70
M. Ecclestone (Norfolk)	6	4	67

Girls	P	W	Avg. %
W. Hogg (Norfolk)	6	6	100
V. Feakin (Northants)	5	5	100
V. Rowell (Cams)	3	2	67

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Boys	P	W	Avg. %
R. Johnson (Berks)	8	8	100
J. Chandler (Wilts)	4	4	100
C. Leslie (Bucks)	8	7	88
S. Harmer (Bucks)	8	6	75
K. Edwards (Wilts)	4	3	75
R. Halliday (Berks)	4	3	75
K. Satchell (Wilts)	4	3	75
D. Cleveland (Wilts)	6	4	67

Girls	P	W	Avg. %
J. Thorpe (Berks)	2	2	100
W. Parker (Wilts)	4	3	75

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Boys	P	W	Avg. %
G. Stredder (Notts)	4	4	100
D. Gray (Cumbria)	8	6	75
I. Harrison (Cumbria)	8	6	75
G. Jones (Clwyd)	8	6	75
G. Powell (Clwyd)	8	6	75
R. Stewart (Notts)	4	3	75
T. Bramford (Notts)	6	4	67
A. Williams (Clwyd)	8	5	63

Girls	P	W	Avg. %
M. Featherstone (Lincs)	2	2	100
L. Gallagher (Cleve)	2	2	100
S. Hunt (Lincs)	2	2	100

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Boys	P	W	Avg. %
S. Claxton (Worcs)	8	8	100
J. Boumford (Staffs)	8	8	100
M. Pugh (Salop)	4	4	100
P. Machin (Staffs)	8	7	88
P. Draisey (Staffs)	8	6	75
N. Thomas (Salop)	6	4	67

Girls	P	W	Avg. %
L. Duffield (Worcs)	4	4	100
S. Cain (Staffs)	4	3	75

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Boys	P	W	Avg. %
R. King (Suffolk)	8	8	100
K. McConnell (Beds)	8	6	75
M. Allen (Essex)	4	3	75
C. Sparks (Essex)	4	3	75
A. Stonell (Essex)	6	4	67
S. Palmer (Suffolk)	8	5	63

Girls

E. Sayer (Essex)	2	2	100
B. Chamberlain (Hunts)	4	3	75

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Boys	P	W	Avg. %
T. Fairbanks (Devon)	6	5	83
I. James (Cornwall)	6	5	83
J. Musselwhite (Avon)	6	5	83
M. Shearman (Devon)	6	5	83
P. Lewis (Avon)	6	4	67

Girls	P	W	Avg. %
S. James (Cornwall)	2	2	100
E. Lamb (Devon)	2	2	100

VETERAN SOUTH

Men	P	W	Avg. %
V. Ireland (Essex)	12	12	100
M. Buckley (Essex II)	6	6	100
L. Fountain (Essex II)	8	7	88
K. Beamish (Essex)	6	5	83
G. Holley (Hants)	6	5	83
F. Lockwood (Essex)	6	5	83
R. Lush (Hants)	12	9	75
G. Harris (Kent)	10	7	70
M. Wilson (Kent)	6	4	67

Women	P	W	Avg. %
J. Brencley (Kent)	6	5	83
D. Gray (Hants)	6	5	83
G. Hazel (Wilts)	6	4	67
M. Know (Essex)	6	4	67

VETERAN MIDLAND

Men	P	W	Avg. %
E. Griffiths (Cheshire)	8	7	88
J. Burraston (Notts)	12	10	83
D. Schofield (Cheshire)	12	10	83
R. Bishton (Clwyd)	10	8	80
R. Bolton (Notts)	12	9	75
P. Hancock (Staffs)	8	6	75
M. Tew (Cheshire)	8	6	75
J. Ellis (Notts)	12	8	67
B. Belcher (Worcs)	6	4	67
B. White (Worcs)	8	5	63

Women	P	W	Avg. %
P. Hammond (Notts)	6	5	83
M. Leigh (Cheshire)	5	4	80
D. Griffiths (Warwks)	5	3	60

PRICE INCREASE

Inflation has not abated in the printing world nor has it in respect of postal charges. Both have outstripped current rates which, regrettably, means that for next season the magazine will cost 25p per copy and a full postal subscription (8 issues) £2.75.

THANKS

Returned unopposed, the Officers of the E.T.T.A., Charles M. Wyles, O.B.E. (Chairman), George R. Yates (Deputy Chairman) and Tom Blunn (Hon. Treasurer), acknowledge the confidence placed in them by your continued support.

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fought back well and took the lead 5-4 when Gillett saved Sussex by beating T. Boyle 17, 15, 11.

Hertfordshire bt Lancashire 8-2

Fair result but some surprising scores. O'Connor beat Richard Jermyn after losing to Booth.

4th Session

Hertfordshire bt Sussex 6-4

Outcome never in doubt after Herts had taken the first three B.S., although two of them went to the third. Sussex won the three girls matches and Gillett beat Booth -16, 14, 22, Booth's only defeat of the weekend.

Cleveland bt Lancashire 6-4

Another close one for Cleveland and Lancashire seemed to regain a bit of form. Cleveland trailed 3-4 but took Mixed -20, 11, 20 and final Singles (Laird-Strettle) -19, 18, 19 to scrape home 6-4.

5th Session

Lancashire and Hampshire drew 5-5

Lancashire's performance in their previous match against Cleveland was maintained against Hampshire, and with O'Connor in good form for Lancs and Wilson and Julie Reading for Hants, a draw was a fair result. With a little more good fortune Hampshire could have qualified for promotion.

Hertfordshire bt Cleveland 7-3

Herts won the seven boys' sets, Cleveland won the three girls sets and only Murphy went to three, with Booth, and that finished 22-20 in the decider.

Junior Promotion Challenge Positions

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Hertfordshire, Cleveland, Sussex, Hampshire, and Lancashire.

JUNIOR CHALLENGE ANALYSIS

Table with columns Ha, Sx, La, He for Cleveland and Hampshire, and rows for various players like I. Plummer, M. Laird, etc.

Sussex table with columns La, Cv, Ha, He and rows for D. Cammiade, G. Gillett, etc.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Final Tables

PREMIER DIVISION

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Premier Division counties.

2nd WEST

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for 2nd West counties.

3rd NORTH

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for 3rd North counties.

3rd EAST

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for 3rd East counties.

3rd WEST

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for 3rd West counties.

JUNIOR PREMIER

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Junior Premier counties.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Junior 2nd South counties.

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Junior 2nd North counties.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Junior 2nd Midland counties.

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Junior 3rd North counties.

VETERAN SOUTH

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Veteran South counties.

VETERAN MIDLAND

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Veteran Midland counties.

Obituaries

JOHN CORSER

It is with profound regret that we report the sudden death, in late April, of John Corser, who was the Table Tennis Correspondent for "The Observer"...



KATHLEEN WATERS

Also to be regretted is the death, in hospital, of Kathleen "Kathy" Waters, the National Councillor for Wiltshire, who was to have been the Referee of the Worthing Junior International Championships...

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

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

COSTLY LAPSE

Although Yorkshire are still in the Premier Division next season, their 4-5 reverse to Lancashire on April 3rd cost them dearly (in terms of hard cash) since this defeat relegated them from the top flight; Yorkshire II, in being runners-up in 2 North, gave their first team the right to Challenge at Shenley, in Hertfordshire, and this they accomplished successfully.

With Yorkshire definitely doomed, Essex, who had been worried about their own fate, went into the final match, against Cleveland, only trying to stop them from winning the Premier title at the first attempt. Cleveland, without Denis Neale, were in no mood for messing about and took the title with a 6-3 win.

In the Junior Premier Division Yorkshire ended the season with a 100% record, while Middlesex surprised themselves to finish runners-up, after both they and Surrey dropped points to Berkshire and Cambridgeshire respectively.

Cambs were due for relegation anyway when Essex and Cleveland contested the second relegation space; Essex won the match and Cleveland were relegated, although they got to the Junior Promotion Challenge in some manner or form and continue in the Premier again next season.

CHAMPIONSHIPS CONFERENCE

By virtue of Durham's withdrawal from the Promotion Challenge (Junior) invitations were extended to the other teams in Junior 2 North until Cleveland (second from bottom and relegated) accepted. Under a proposal by Buckinghamshire, to be considered at the Annual Championships Conference, at the Caxton Hall, London, on June 12th (2.0 p.m.), Challenge Places would only be open to teams finishing in the top three of any second division.

SENIOR PROMOTION CHALLENGE

Yorkshire keep their place in the Premier Division as a result of the Promotion Challenge matches at Shenley over the weekend of April 24-25, thanks to their second team qualifying as representatives from Division 2 North. Leicestershire earned the right to compete for the first time ever in the Premier by finishing second in the Challenge.

1st Session

Berkshire bt Sussex 5-4

All Sussex could manage from their opening match were four men's singles, Berkshire too strong in women and Andy Wellman beat John Clarke 13, 18 at 4-all.

Leicestershire bt Cambridgeshire 7-2

Leicestershire's all-round strength above that of Cambridgeshire, except, of course, for Paul Day.

2nd Session

Yorkshire bt Berkshire 6-3

First match in Yorkshire's bid to stay in the top flight played without No. 2, Alan Fletcher. Berks led 2-1 and were level 3-all after Karen Witt had beaten Melody Lüdi 15, -12, 17; Yorkshire then "reeled-off" the last three.

Leicestershire bt Sussex 7-2

Not Sussex's weekend with Leicestershire taking two close wins in the first five sets giving them a 4-1 lead and the Women's Singles (Karen Rogers v Diane Gard) to come!

3rd Session

Cambridgeshire bt Sussex 6-3

Cambridgeshire raised their game to beat a "flagging" Sussex side, with good wins for Keith Richardson over Gerald Pugh and John Clarke, and by Mick Harper over Pugh (13, -17, 15) at 4-3.

Yorkshire bt Leicestershire 5-4

Fletcher arrived at the venue one minute

before the start of this match and the signs of his overnight journey from Yorkshire, via Birmingham, showed in the first set v Paul Randell, who won 16, 18. Men's Doubles just went to Yorkshire 27, -16, 17, and Fletcher eased to victory 16, 14, over Maurice Newman, at 4-all after Leicestershire's Randell and Chris Rogers had fought back from 2-4 down with wins over Clayton and Hazelwood respectively.

4th Session

Yorkshire bt Cambridgeshire 7-2

Once again it was Day in a class of his own for Cambs, but Beadsley made to go the full distance in both Singles against Richardson and Harper.

Leicestershire bt Berkshire 5-4

All of a sudden it looked as if Leicestershire might not get to the Premier, having to get through a Berkshire team in full flight. Berks snatched the mixed -18, 19, 20 to level scores 2-all, but Rogers and Newman maintained the status-quo with an equally close men's doubles win over Heaps and Wellman -19, 18, 20. Karen Rogers lost to Karen Witt -12, -8(!); Randell beat Reeves; Newman lost to Heaps and the score stood at 4-all and the winning team were in with a chance of promotion. Chris Rogers did it for Leics, winning 17, 13 over Wellman, but not after being tied down a bit.

5th Session

Yorkshire bt Sussex 6-3

The promotion issue settled and Clayton went home leaving the rest to carry the flag; but Sussex weren't through yet, and led 3-2 before Yorkshire woke up to the fact that Sussex might win, they won the next three for a winning 5-3 scoreline and Pugh conceded the last set.

Berkshire bt Cambridgeshire 5-4

Cambridgeshire led 3-2 and 4-3, but Wellman and Simon Heaps won the last two over Harper and Richardson to take the match and place Berkshire in third position.

Senior Challenge Positions

	P	W	L	F	A Pts
Yorkshire	4	4	0	24	12 8
Leicestershire	4	3	1	23	13 6
Berkshire	4	2	2	17	19 4
Cambridgeshire	4	1	3	14	22 2
Sussex	4	0	4	12	24 0

SENIOR CHALLENGE ANALYSIS

	Sx	Y	Le	Ca
Berkshire	5-4	3-6	4-5	5-4
D. Reeves	0-2	0-2	0-2	1-1
S. Heaps	1-1	1-1	1-1	1-1
A. Wellman	1-1	1-1	1-1	2-0
Miss C. Reeves	1-0			1-0
Miss K. Witt		1-0	1-0	
Men's Doubles	1-0	0-1	0-1	0-1
Mixed Doubles	1-0	0-1	1-0	0-1
Cambridgeshire	Le	Sx	Y	Bk
	2-7	6-3	2-7	4-5
P. Day	2-0	2-0	2-0	2-0
M. Harper	0-2	1-1	0-2	0-2
K. Richardson	0-2	2-0	0-2	0-2
Mrs. S. Hirst	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1
Men's Doubles	0-1	1-0	0-1	1-0
Mixed Doubles	0-1	0-1	0-1	1-0
Leicestershire	Ca	Sx	Y	Bk
	7-2	7-2	4-5	5-4
P. Randell	1-1	2-0	2-0	2-0
C. Rogers	1-1	1-1	1-1	2-0
M. Newman	2-0	1-1	0-2	0-2
Miss K. Rogers	1-0	1-0	0-1	0-1
Men's Doubles	1-0	1-0	0-1	1-0
Mixed Doubles	1-0	1-0	1-0	0-1

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Sussex	Bk	Le	Ca	Y
	4-5	2-7	3-6	3-6

R. Chandler	1-1	1-1	1-1	1-1
J. Clarke	1-1	1-1	0-2	0-2
G. Pugh	2-0	0-2	0-2	*0-1
Miss D. Gard	0-1	0-1	1-0	0-1
Men's Doubles	0-1	0-1	0-1	1-0
Mixed Doubles	0-1	0-1	1-0	1-0

Yorkshire	Bk	Le	Ca	Sx
	6-3	5-4	7-2	6-3

A. Clayton	1-1	1-1	1-1	
A. Fletcher		1-1	1-1	2-0
S. Hazelwood	2-0	1-1	2-0	*0-1
K. Beadsley	1-1			2-0
Miss M. Lüdi	0-1	1-0	1-0	
Miss J. McLean				1-0
Men's Doubles	1-0	1-0	1-0	0-1
Mixed Doubles	1-0	0-1	1-0	0-1

NOTE.—*Pugh conceded to Hazelwood.

JUNIOR PROMOTION CHALLENGE

For the second successive promotion challenge, a relegated County earned the right to stay in the Premier Division after taking part in Challenge Matches. In the Senior Play-offs, Yorkshire made it, and in the Junior Challenge over the weekend of May 1-2, Cleveland made it.

With two teams from each of the three Junior Second Divisions eligible to Challenge, Cleveland took the place of the second team from Junior 2 North after none of the teams above them wished to take part (even though Cleveland II are due to be relegated!!!).

The powerful Hertfordshire boys saw their County successfully through the Challenge unbeaten with the young Gavin Booth playing consistently better than ever before.

Details

1st Session

Sussex bt Lancashire 9-1

Ian Smith beat Graham Gillett in the opening set but Lancs unlucky not to win any further sets, although another five went the full distance.

Cleveland bt Hampshire 6-4

A close affair and Cleveland lucky to get away with it after Mark Murphy just survived Richard Bergemann 12, -13, 19 when the score stood at 5-4. Hampshire's four successes won in the decider.

2nd Session

Hertfordshire bt Hampshire 6-4

Hertfordshire off to a good start and led 4-1, but a good fight-back by Hampshire (including Colin Wilson beating Jonathan Proffitt 17, 16) levelled the scores at 4-all. Booth and Bergemann played an entertaining crucial ninth set, won by Booth after Bergemann had injured himself going for a short ball very early in the decider.

Cleveland bt Sussex 6-4

The longest match, lasting over 3½ hours, including seven sets going the distance and Sussex feeling hard done by not to get a point. Danny Cammiade and Gillett unbeaten in singles for Sussex. Cleveland girls too strong.

3rd Session

Sussex and Hampshire drew 5-5

Once again, Hampshire 1-4 in arrears but

Continued on page 35