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Table Tennis News

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EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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HALF A LOAF

All credit to the Manchester and District League who, from their own resources, financed the North of England 2-Star Open, having lost their sponsor from the previous year.

Envisaged is a loss in the region of £150 but not all organisations are in a position of being able to maintain continuity of their championships at such cost, hence the demise of the South of England 3-Star at Basingstoke, the Merseyside 2-Star at Liverpool and the Durham County 1-Star at Washington.

Cleveland apart, who seem to be in a league of their own, sponsorship is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain but, if only for the sake of the also-rans who enter just for the fun of it, and more often than not without reward, why must the mass be denied when the purse strings have been tightened for the privileged few?

Tournaments flourished long before the advent of cash prizes and could still do so—naturally with regret—despite the economic stringency now prevailing. After all half a loaf is surely better than no bread at all.

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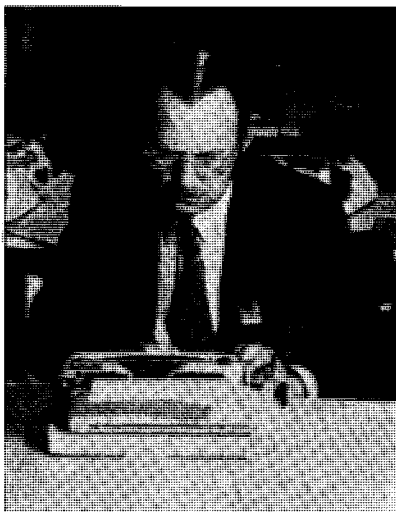
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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT



by The Editor

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

A scoreline of 6-1 in favour of England in their opening Division 2 Group A European League match, at Eastbourne, on October 23, hardly did justice to their Danish opponents.

Not by any means were England quite as good as the result would suggest for, with the match score standing at 2-1 in England's favour, a state of renewed equality was very much on the cards when Claus Pedersen and Neils Ramberg led Denis Neale and Desmond Douglas 20-15 in the deciding game of the men's doubles.

All credit to the English pair for hauling themselves back and to taking the set, and to Desmond Douglas who, after losing his first singles set to Pedersen, triumphed in the final one against Ramberg.

Nicky Jarvis had to fight hard for his two wins but both Jill Hammersley in singles, and Linda Howard, in the mixed, came up to expectations. Individual scores:—

N. Jarvis bt N. Ramberg 19, 19.
D. Douglas lost to C. Pedersen -19, -11.
J. Hammersley bt A. Larssen 15, 10.
Douglas/D. Neale bt Pedersen/Ramberg 13, -15, 20.
Douglas/L. Howard bt Ramberg/Larssen 14, 15.
Jarvis bt Pedersen -18, 18, 12.
Douglas bt Ramberg 15, 18.

Netherlands, in the same division, away to Luxembourg, triumphed by a like 6-1 margin, the only loss suffered by the visitors being in the women's singles when Marian van der Vliet lost to Jeanny Dom. Otherwise, apart from the mixed, which went to three, the Dutch team had it all to themselves. Scores:—
J. Krier lost to B. v.d. Helm -22, -17.
M. Scheibel lost to N. v. Slobbe -10, -13.
J. Dom bt M. v.d. Vliet -17, 14, 9.
Krier/Scheibel lost to v. Slobbe/v.d. Helm -12, -8.
Krier/Dom lost to v.d. Helm/v.d. Vliet -12, 14, -18.
Krier lost to v. Slobbe -21, -9.
Scheibel lost to v.d. Helm -14, -18.

In Dublin, Ireland were beaten 5-2 by Belgium.

In Division 2 Group B, Federal Germany, demoted with England from the Premier Division, began with an impressive 7-0 win over Greece, in Siershahn, on October 16. Only one set needed a deciding game and this occurred in the final set between Peter Stellwag and Duy Zikos, the opposing No. 2's. Scores:—
J. Leiss bt D. Zikos 10, 13.
P. Stellwag bt N. Voulgaris 16, 13.

W. Hendriksen bt M. Louka 17, 12.
P. Engel/Leiss bt Voulgaris/Zikos 20, 16.
Engel/U. Hirschmüller bt Voulgaris/Louka 16, 12.
Leiss bt Voulgaris 14, 17.
Stellwag bt Zikos 18, -15, 9.

Promotees Bulgaria had a 5-2 win over Austria, in Sofia, on the same date although the visitors protested when a contracted Joola table was not used. Scores:—
B. Gentchev bt R. Weinmann 14, 12.
J. Damianov lost to H. Schlüter -24, 17, -16.
E. Neikova bt D. Fetter 15, 16.
Gentchev/Damianov bt Schlüter/Weinmann 19, -20, 22.
Mitev/Neikova bt Müller/Fetter 10, 8.
Gentchev lost to Schlüter -17, 15, -14.
Damianov bt Weinmann 14, -15, 18.

PREMIER DIVISION

Sweden, defending their Premier Division title, opened their account with a 6-1 home win over France in Jonkoping, again on October 16. Christian Martin brought off a surprise win over former world champion Stellan Bengtsson, and was only just beaten 22-20 in the third by Kjell Johansson in his other set. Individual scores:—

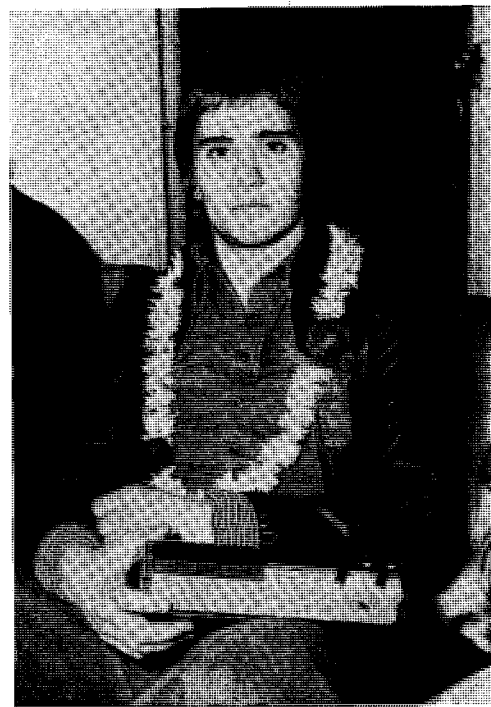
K. Johansson bt J. Secretin 17, 16.
S. Bengtsson lost to C. Martin -18, 15, -15.
A.-C. Hellman bt C. Bergeret 17, 16.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt P. Birecheau/Secretin 16, -20, 11.
Bengtsson/Hellman bt Secretin/Bergeret 19, 12.
Johansson bt Martin 9, -15, 20.
Bengtsson bt Secretin 12, -21, 12.

Russia, at home to Yugoslavia, won 4-3, avenging last season's 2-5 reverse.

"GRAND MIT VIEREN"

In a similar type of Masters Tournament to that envisaged at Belle Vue, Manchester, on December 6, the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund staged an invitation event in Hagen over the weekend of October 4-5.

Eight players were split into two groups of



Sweden's former world champion, Stellan Bengtsson, who in Hagen, won the "Grand Mit Vieren" staged by the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund.

Photo by Ajoy Dey, of Calcutta.

four with Stellan Bengtsson (Sweden) and Istvan Jonyer (Hungary) going forward from Group A to contest placings 1 to 4 with Wilfried Lieck (Federal Germany) and Kjell Johansson (Sweden) from Group B.

Bengtsson emerged the winner, accounting for both his compatriot and Lieck in straight games but being taken to a decider by Jonyer, the reigning world champion, who finished in fourth place without a win in the final pool.

First stage placings were:—

Group A	Sets	Games
1 S. Bengtsson (Sweden)	3-0	6-1
2 I. Jonyer (Hungary)	2-1	4-3
3 M. Orlovski (Czecho)	1-2	4-4
4 T. Tasaka (Japan)	0-3	0-6
Group B	Sets	Games
1 W. Lieck (Fed. Germany) ..	2-1	4-2
	bt 2	and 3
2 K. Johansson (Sweden)	2-1	4-2
	bt 3	and 4
3 D. Surbek (Yugoslavia)	1-2	3-4
	bt	1
4 G. Gergely (Hungary)	1-2	2-5
	bt	3

And final placings:—

For Positions 1 to 4	Sets	Games
1 Bengtsson	3-0	6-1
2 Johansson	2-1	4-2
3 Lieck	1-2	2-5
4 Jonyer	0-3	2-6
For Positions 5 to 8	Sets	Games
5 Gergely	3-0	6-1
6 Orlovski	1-2	3-4
		bt 7
7 Surbek	1-2	3-4
		bt 8
8 Tasaka	1-2	2-5
		bt 6

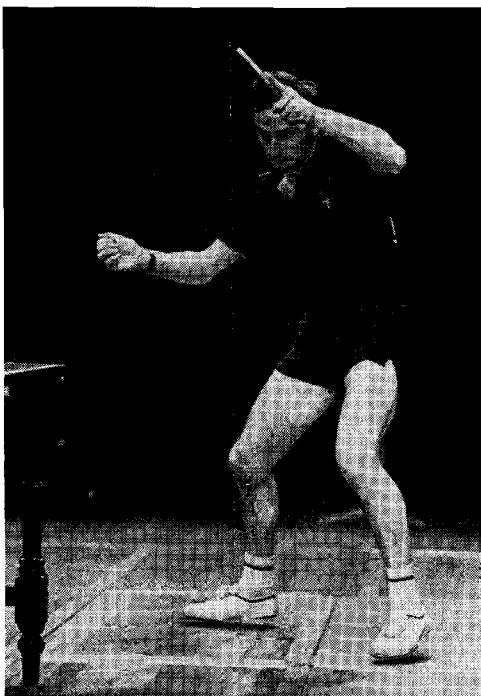
FRANCE DOWN UNDER

Jacques Secretin, the brilliant French ace, gave Australia's best player, Stephen Knapp, an example of the competition the Australian Men's team will meet when they compete in the No. 1 Group at the 1977 World Championships in England (writes Trevor Munday). Despite the marked improvement the Australian men have made in world standards, Secretin's play during his visit to Australia, clearly shows that the Australian Men's team must play regularly in Europe if it is to improve its 18th ranking. Using the first game as a warm-up, Secretin then thrilled the centre court crowd, returning Knapp's smashes with 15 ft. high lobs. In what must be one of the best rallies witnessed in Australia, at 20-9

Secretin was stranded at the back of the court with a drop shot. He somehow managed to scramble the ball back, Knapp smashed it and, while still in mid-stroke, watched the ball flash past him off Secretin's backhand. Scores: S. Knapp lost to J. Secretin -15, -9. R. Tuckett bt V. Pukart 13, -18, 10. Miss C. Little bt D. Szalka 17, 10. Knapp/Tuckett lost to Secretin/D. Dhondt -9, 16, -13.

Knapp/Little lost to Secretin/Leclerc -19, -18. Tuckett lost to Secretin 16, -8, -15. Knapp beat Pukart 8, -14, 19. Result:—AUSTRALIA 3, FRANCE 4.

In an invitation tournament against Victoria, Secretin was again the crowd-puller and the ultimate winner, beating Knapp 11, 18 in the final, having disposed of Bob Tuckett 10, 9 in the semis and Robbie Javor -14, 11, 8 in the opening round.



French ace Jacques Secretin, who thrilled the Australians in Victoria when the Club Sportif and Athletique, of Paris, visited the Antipodes. Photo by Tony Ross, of Hessele.

AUSSIE BOYS FOR EUROPE

An Under-16 Australian Schoolboys team of Grant Munday (Victoria), Warren Vickery (New South Wales) and Neil Ward (South Australia) will tour Europe in December-January. They will be away for a period of 6 to 8 weeks. Although arrangements are not yet finalised, it is thought that they will play matches and attend training camps in such countries as Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, France, Federal Germany and England. What a wonderful opportunity this offers to improve their table tennis. Their Manager/Coach will be Mr. Noel Shorter (New South Wales).

UMPIRING CORNER

The October issue of "Table Tennis News" outlined briefly, the Umpire Qualifying Scheme of the E.T.T.A. with particular emphasis on the basic qualification, awarded by County Associations on behalf of the E.T.T.A., of County Umpire. The qualification is obtained (a) by reaching a required pass mark in a written test done in one's own time with no restrictions on reference books and (b) by reaching a required standard in practical performance. It is the written test with which I am concerned and it is the intention each month to feature a sample question from the current County Umpires' Test Paper, inviting readers to test their own knowledge of the Laws of the Game.

As an opener, a most appropriate question to begin the "set". The answer in each case is either RIGHT or WRONG.

If I win the toss, I may choose any one of the following:

- (a) To make my opponent serve first;
- (b) To make my opponent change ends;
- (c) To choose ends after which my opponent will have to serve first;
- (d) To make my opponent choose first;
- (e) To elect to serve first after which my opponent may choose to change ends.

A.P.

Answers on page 30.

COVER PICTURE

Joanne Kinnersley, aged 17, who plays in Division 1 of the Hull and District T.T.A. and also represents Hull in the Yorkshire League's Women's Division



Members of P.S.V. Borussia Düsseldorf, Federal Germany's champion club side, who receive Ormesby in the next round of the Europe Club Cup competition. From l to r: Jochen Leiss, Coach Hans-Wilhelm Gäb, Wilfried Micke, Ralph Wosik, Klaus Fillbrunn and Hans-Joachim Nolten. Ebby Schöler is also a member of the Düsseldorf club.

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SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

MEADOWBANK OPEN—EDINBURGH— 28th SEPTEMBER

The first Scottish tournament of the season provided Cheshire's Nigel Eckersley with the opportunity to continue his successful Northern forays with a 2-1 victory over Richard Yule in the Men's Singles Final, but Richard, partnered by John McNee, turned the tables over Nigel and John Hilton to win the Men's Doubles.

The Men's Singles produced few surprises even though early season form was somewhat erratic. Eckersley reached the Final by way of Peter McQueen, Alan Matthew and McNee, McNee having beaten Brian Kean, who had eliminated Hilton in Round 3. Yule beat Brian Morgan, Russell Brown, Peter D'Arcy and David Fraser—all 2-straight. In the Final Yule took an early lead but Eckersley, with his lofted services, gradually pulled back to win 24-22. Richard took the second at 19 but Nigel got on top after the turn in the third end to win 21-16, so retaining the title he won in 1973 and 1974.

In the Women's Singles Mabel Neish (Dundee) beat Carol Walker 2-0 but lost to Grace McKay in the semi-final. Elaine Smith beat Patrice Fleming in the other semi-final and went on to win the Final 15 and 16.

Tom Devers (WoS) beat T. Gelder (Sunderland) in the U-17 Boys' Singles Semi-final, but lost to Alan Matthew in the Final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

R. Yule bt D. Fraser 9, 11.
N. Eckersley bt J. McNee 15, 18.

Final
ECKERSLEY bt Yule 22, -19, 16.

Women's Singles—Final
E. SMITH bt G. McKay 15, 16.

Men's Doubles—Final
Yule/McNee bt Eckersley/Hilton 12, 20.

Women's Doubles—Final
Smith/P. Fleming bt McKay/E. Craig 11, 9.

Mixed Doubles—Final
Yule/Smith bt J. Wilson/Fleming 18, -19, 19.

U-17 Boys' Singles—Final
A. Matthew bt T. Devers 18, 13.

U-17 Girls' Singles—Final
J. Rylance (Sunderland) bt J. Smith (Sunderland) 10, 17.

Veterans' Singles—Final
R. Kerr bt P. D'Arcy -14, 19, 13.

LANARKSHIRE YOUTH & JUNIOR OPEN— BELLSHILL—5th OCTOBER

In the main event the Youth Singles U-21—John McNee beat T. Gelder in one semi-final and Russell Brown beat Archie McCulloch in the other. McNee went on to win the Final 16 and 19.

The Junior Boys' Singles had some very good games in the early rounds with T. Gelder, Anwar Majid, Tom Devers and Earl Black contesting the semi-finals. Devers (WoS), having reached the Men's Quarter-finals at Carlisle the previous day, continued in good form to beat Gelder to win his first open junior title.

For the past two seasons Elaine Craig (WoS) has always given best in friendly rivalry to Grace McKay (Edinburgh) in Scottish junior

circles, but with both now in the senior ranks, Elaine at last achieved that most wanted victory when she beat Grace 2-1 in the U-21 Girls' event.

RESULTS

U-21 Youth Singles—Final
J. McNee bt R. Brown 2-0.

U-21—Girls' Singles—Final
E. Craig bt G. McKay 2-1.

U-21 Doubles—Final
T. Gelder/D. Svenson bt J. O'Neil/G. Keys 2-1.

U-17 Boys' Singles—Final
T. Devers bt Gelder 2-1.

U-17 Doubles—Final
Gelder/A. McMurchie bt W. Lochhead/Devers 2-0.

THE NATIONAL SQUAD

The following players have been selected for the 1975-76 National Squad:—

Richard Yule, John Wilson, Alan Matthew, Russell Brown, Keith Rodger, Elaine Smith, Patrice Fleming, Grace McKay, Elaine Craig and Carol Dalrymple.

John Braithwaite and Brian Kean continue as International Team Manager and Trainer respectively.

Continuing with our youth policy and the intention to give the squad players competitive experience outside Scotland, the squad has been south of the border three times in recent weeks. At the Cleveland Junior Alan Matthew and Earl Black and Anwar Majid and Fraser Stewart reached the quarter-finals of the U-17 Boys' Team event. Cadet Keith Rodger reached the last 16 of the U-17 singles and Carol Dalrymple and Eleanor Hardie lost the U-14 Girls' Doubles semi-final to A. Gordon and J. Purslow.

The North of England Open was the first outing for the senior players and best performances came from Yule, Patrice Fleming and Alan Matthew, who reached the last 8 of their singles events. The Cumbria Open, at Carlisle, on October 4, brought good results all round in spite of a strange draw which required Yule to defeat team-mates Matthew, Wilson and McNee in successive rounds in order to play Ian Robertson in the quarter-final. Jimmy Walker ended Richard's run in the semi-final. Devers did extremely well to reach the last 8 and Jimmy Walker! Elaine Smith notched up another good win when beating the holder—Susan Lisle—in the Women's Singles semi-final. In the Final Elaine lost to Carole Knight. In the junior singles Matthew beat Chris Read 2-1 in the quarter-final and lost to Ian Smith in the semi-final, and Carol Dalrymple lost the U-17 Girls' Final to Angela Tierney. Yule and McNee lost to Eckersley and Hilton in the Men's Doubles semi-final and Yule and Elaine Smith lost the Mixed semi-final to R. Hampson and S. Lisle.

Stop Press.—Scotland were represented in the Spanish Open, October 10-12, by Elaine Smith, Richard Yule and Alan Matthew with Brian Kean as N.P.C. With a larger entry this year our team put up a great fight in an endeavour to retain the title won last year. After beating France I 4-3 and Spain I 5-2, we lost the Final 3-4 to England, the vital Men's Doubles being lost to Day and Barden 19 in the 3rd. Elaine Smith, partnered by Melody Ludi, won the Women's Doubles to retain our half-share of the title Grace McKay and Marie-France Germinat (Belgium) won last year.

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

CONGRATULATIONS TO CORNWALL

It gives me great pleasure to start my notes this month by extending to our friends in Cornwall our sincere congratulations on their Silver Jubilee Anniversary. The Cornwall Table Tennis Association was formed in 1951, and like ourselves, have had their ups and downs through these years, not least, the large geographical areas to be covered. Due to the hard work and tenacity of their players and officials, they are now stronger and all credit to them. I am certain that our sport will only survive here in the far South West by a closer awareness and understanding of each others problems and I am pleased to say that the relationship between our two counties has never been better. Long may this and the success of the Cornwall Association continue.

Congratulations are also due to Plymouth's Elaine Lamb, whose hard work and dedication has been rewarded by being ranked No. 10 in the Junior ranking list. Elaine is the first Devon girl for many years to be so highly ranked and the honour is richly deserved.

The news that the Nissen Invitation Tournament is being held at the Mayflower Sports Centre, Plymouth, on Thursday, November 6, has gone down very well and will, we hope, give our sport a big boost in the County.

The County Coaching Officers, Barbara Pearson and Paddy Shepherd, are still doing sterling work and Paddy recently took some of our youngsters on a trip to London to play matches against some of the stronger teams from that area. The trip was most successful and our very sincere thanks to all for their kindness and hospitality. Other similar trips are being planned and any county who could help us in this respect are asked to contact me.

Followers of the sport will be sorry to learn that former England International, Pam Mortimer, has had a major operation. She is now slowly recovering but it will be some time before she can play again and we all wish her well.

The first County matches of the season resulted in good wins for both our senior and junior teams against Cornwall, at St. Austell. The juniors scored an 8-2 win in the afternoon with Terry Fairbanks, Mike Shearman, Paul Whiting, Elaine Lamb and Susan Tilley all playing well. In the evening the seniors were successful by 9-1 and Barry Davis, Mike Rattue, Paul Stone, Elaine Lamb and Kathy Rowe can be well pleased with their start to the season. Cornwall's only win came from evergreen Johnny Bassett, who just overcame the Devon No. 1, Mike Rattue.

FORTHCOMING DOMESTIC OPENS

November

- 15-16—Southend 2-Star.
- 16—Hastings Tiger 1-Star (Bexhill).
- 16—East of Scotland 2-Star (Edinburgh).
- 22-23—Kent 2-Star Junior (Folkestone).
- 22-23—Woodfield 1-Star.
- 29—Glasgow 2-Star.

December

- 6-7—Middlesex 3-Star (Picketts Lock, London)
- 12-13—Leinster Open (Dublin).
- 13—Cardiff Open.
- 13-14—Wayfarers English Junior Championships (Loughborough).
- 20-21—Yorkshire 2-Star Junior Select (Hull).

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WELSH CORNER

by H. Roy Evans

Wales will have to content itself with long-term results in its tremendous concentration at the moment on junior talent, if the result of the international match against England is anything to go by. Not even the disappointment of a less than impressive presentation of the match can excuse the very poor display given by the Welsh youngsters, although it is significant that all played very much better in the Newbury Open which followed.

In the very early days of this series there were some very exciting tussles between us, with results that suggested that victory could have gone either way. But this was a match in which Wales seemed to be completely overawed, and only a temporary sparkle by Jonathan Hardiker gave any cheer to the Welsh supporters. A match to be forgotten.

The Glamorgan Closed, restricted, of course, to Glamorgan players, did something to pull the Welsh Selectors out of the slough of despond.

There were some good games in the men's event, with semi-final matches between Alan Griffiths and John Mansfield, and Graham Davies and George Evans. Alan had a lot of trouble with John before getting well on top, whilst Graham beat George convincingly. Then, with a great final in anticipation, Graham was very easily beaten by Alan.

It was really Cheryl Jewell's day in the women's event. She disposed of Kim Wheatley, after the latter had eliminated Betty Gray, but couldn't quite keep up her impetus against Sandra Pickering in the Final. The latter continues to produce good form in tournaments, and she and Margaret Phillips took their usual title in the doubles against Glenys Thomas and Kim Wheatley.

The Men's Doubles saw George Evans and Ken Bull exercising their usual hoodoo over Graham and Alan, although it remains a mystery why the latter, with many good performances in international circles, have so much trouble with Ken and George.

Alan Griffiths took his second title in a mixed win with Margaret Phillips over Jeff Bowden and Cheryl Jewells.

The Boys' Singles saw Gary Owen win a tight three game affair with Stephen Jordan in one semi-final, whilst Jeff Morgan accounted for Alan Coulthard in the other. Gary then beat Jeff in the Final.

Alan Coulthard got his consolation by winning the cadet event against Tim Jordan, whilst sister Debbie Coulthard took the girls' event with a win over Susan Jones, who had surprisingly eliminated Sandra Coulson. Susan got her consolation in winning the girls' cadet event against Swansea's Cathryn Jones.

In the Coaching Field

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

Anyone attending some of the recent tournaments may not have noticed that it was not uncommon to see seeded players eliminated in the early rounds.

Some of these seeded players occupied fairly high positions in the national senior ranking list, and their victors were, on occasions, in the under-15 age group. In fact the standard of some of the younger junior players is rising at such a rate as to produce embarrassing results.

It may be an advantage for selectors to have such junior talent, but problems can be created when County trials produce results such as in Yorkshire, where the No. 1 was under 15 and the No. 2 under 17.

County senior teams often boast one, and sometimes two junior players, not just to give them experience, but because they warrant their position on ability. The coaching policy based on the Panel system, inaugurated by the National Coaching and Schools' Committee, appears to be bearing fruit.

It is only necessary now to make sure that we have the right kind of coaches needed to man the system. As with other systems, coaches are not spread evenly throughout the country, and while some areas have an abundance, there are many parts very short of coaches prepared to commit themselves.

In coaching there has to be continuity and one night or weekend efforts can only be used as introductory courses as far as new pupils are concerned. Therefore it is essential for coaches to commit themselves for a given period of time to conduct an organised programme.

To help in this regard, courses are available at various centres throughout the country. Three such courses already arranged are:—

Lea Green, Derbyshire, November 14-16, 1975. Coaches in charge—Peter Simpson and Harry Dignan. Cost £8.50.

Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Course A—January 1-5, 1976; Course B—May 10-14, 1976. Cost £18.50 inclusive of full board.

Application forms for all the foregoing courses can be had from Peter Simpson at 9 Lisker Avenue, Otley, Yorkshire, LS2 11DG, or from myself at 1 Shenley Avenue, Liverpool 15.

By the time this magazine is in your hands it may be a little late for the November course. But it is recommended that applicants for the January course at Lilleshall should return their forms by December 5, 1975.

School table tennis is becoming increasingly more organised, and there is now a representative from the E.S.T.T.A. on each of the 10 coaching panels. School events of national nature have always been very well run, and we now have an addition to the tournament calendar in the form of a schools' international fixture with Scotland. The latter is due, no doubt, to the success of the last event on Teesside which went very much in the favour of the English schools.

I should think the chance to play at international level will be a big incentive for the junior players within the schools to do well, especially in the national individual event planned for May, 1976. This will give them 6 months to raise their standards, and obviously they will improve quicker if coaching is available. Why not contact your local schools' officials and see if they can help?

A PLAYER'S POINT OF VIEW

by BOMI M. AMALSADVALA,
of Bombay, India

Table tennis today has become the quickest game a human being can play. It has also become the most difficult of all ball games in the world. In the highest class of competition it is the only game where peak-level concentration, intelligence and endurance are required for short, concentrated bits of time for long periods of play.

A short distance of nine feet separates the opponents in table tennis. A player has therefore less than two seconds to make contact after the ball is hit into play by a fast service from a sandwich sponge bat. Since a player can react only after the ball is hit towards him, and this can take a second, he has just one second to do three things. First, to get his feet and body twisted into the required position. Second, to swing his arm to get the maximum speed or spin in the return. Third, to do all this and yet not lose his balance to receive the next shot in a time of two seconds.

To develop into a world class table tennis player one has to be in peak physical and mental condition. And these are the two precise spheres where our players are found wanting. Till now, physical fitness has been the player's responsibility, but since they have obviously lagged behind in this, the game's conducting authorities should now take over the responsibility.

While these are shortcomings which obviously need attention and long-term remedies at the national level, the clubs conducting table tennis tournaments can improve the standard immediately by introducing two new methods in the conduct of play. Firstly, all clubs must make doubles compulsory for all participants because playing in doubles improves anticipation and quickens the reflexes, movement and footwork of the players.

Secondly, all clubs should reverse the present order of play and conduct the tournament in the following order; start with the mixed doubles; to be followed by the men's, women's and junior doubles and end with singles. This will enable the travel-weary players to get enough time to adjust to the different playing conditions and as the round progresses, starting with the doubles, they will also be able to adjust to the varying bounce in the tables, so that by the time the all-important singles match comes around, their level of play will have reached its peak.

These methods will also help the players improve their stamina. The fact that these methods are already practised in the leading table tennis nations, China and Japan, should vouch for their good results.

SIDE SPIN

I should be grateful if the owner of the car parked next to the white Volkswagen, registration number JR 21, at the front of Mather and Platt's, on the day of the North of England Championships, would contact me, with a view to paying for the damage sustained to my car, when he/she allowed the door of their car to fly open, so removing the trim, and dinting the bodywork.

JOHN REED.

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Sussex 2-Star Open

STARS RETURN
by John Woodford

This was the year when the England star players returned in some force to Hastings, led by Nicky Jarvis, who in winning the men's singles at this 40th Sussex Open, was only under real pressure from Sussex champion, Roger Chandler, who led 10-5 in the third, but failed -16. That was in round 2.

Very few surprises, even mild ones to report this year. The late withdrawal of Jimmy Walker, the No. 2 seed, was a disappointment, but all the ranked seeds reached their appointed places in the quarter-finals. The line-up was Jarvis v Brown, Mitchell v Kitchener, Horsham v Taylor (Peter), and Eckersley v Kevin Caldon, the No. 7 junior from Essex, in the quarter vacated by Walker. The England rankings seemed to be on target as Jarvis and Horsham ploughed their way to the final, but Mark Mitchell seems to be due for a move up the ladder from his No. 18 rating.

"Match-of-the-day" in anticipation, and in fact it happened, was the meeting of the two great rivals for the England No. 2 spot, Carole Knight and Linda Howard. Miss Knight's loop-drive is probably as heavily laden with venom as any English female player ever. When she really gets the bat to the ball returns are as difficult for the girls as the men find against Jarvis's top-spin. Carole seems now to be able to cope with any female attacker in this country, but there is a lot of work to be done before she can beat Jill Hammersley's classic defences.

At Hastings, on October 19, for about ten minutes at the finals session (once again sparsely attended), it looked as though the writing was on the wall for Jill, just as it did at Crystal Palace at the Norwich Union English Championships earlier this year. But once again Jill recovered from a bad start, improving all the time and gradually blunting the Cleveland girl's attack.

Yes, there was one shock result—in the men's doubles, towards the final stages when Jarvis and Alan Ransome were grounded 21-18, 18-21, 24-22 by Peter Taylor and Mark Mitchell.

Special awards went to Mark Mitchell (best performance—man), Carole Knight (best women—reached all three finals, but lost the lot), and Roger Chandler, best performance by Sussex player.

Watching the W.S. final, there could be little doubt that the person most likely to succeed Jill Hammersley will be Carole Knight. At the moment she has the technical ability in the early stages of her matches against Jill to break right through, but she cannot maintain the advantage, nor think so well as Jill, or match her coolness under pressure.

results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt D. Brown (Essex) 14, 15.
M. Mitchell (Middx) bt J. Kitchener (Sflk) 10, 16.

I. Horsham (Essex) bt P. Taylor (Beds) 11, 14.
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt K. Caldon (Essex) 12, 16.

Semi-finals

Jarvis bt Mitchell 20, 17.
Horsham bt Eckersley 20, -22, 14.

Final

JARVIS bt Horsham 12, 15.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt J. Livesey (Essex) 13, 10.

S. Hession (Essex) bt B. Godfrey (Sussex) 7, 15.

L. Howard (Surrey) bt A. Tierney (Cleve) 10, 12.

C. Knight (Cleve) bt A. Mitchell (Middx) 15, 15.

Semi-finals

Hammersley bt Hession 10, 13.

Knight bt Howard 11, -19, 15.

Final

HAMMERSLEY bt Knight -10, 18, 12.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Mitchell/Taylor bt Jarvis/A. Ransome (Cleve) 18, -18, 22.

Kitchener/D. Tan (Middx) bt Brown/Horsham -14, 10, 22.

Final

MITCHELL/TAYLOR bt Kitchener/Tan 19, 5.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt G. Donaldson/Hession -19, 11, 12.

Knight/Mitchell bt J. Hellaby/E. Tarten (Essex) 19, 16.

Final

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Knight/Mitchell 18, 10.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Jarvis/Howard bt Horsham/Hession 8, 6.

R. Potton (Essex)/Knight bt Mitchell/Mitchell -20, 15, 12.

Final

JARVIS/HAMMERSLEY bt Potton/Knight 20, 22.

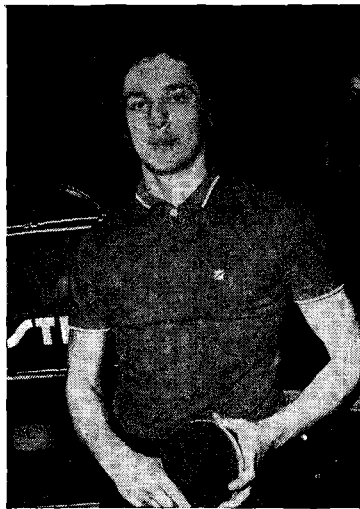
Veteran Singles—Semi-finals

H. Buist (Kent) bt G. Chapman (Surrey) 10, 10.

B. Meisel (Kent) bt J. Barry 15, -14, 17.

Final

MEISEL bt Buist 18, 15.



Cleveland's Nicky Jarvis, who followed up his North Middlesex Open success by winning the M.S. at Hastings in the Sussex Open.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER 29th-30th, 1975

Premier Division

Nov. 29—Lancashire v Middlesex, Montague Burton's, Halliwell Clothing Factory, Bolton (6-30 p.m.).
Warwickshire v Essex.
Yorkshire v Cleveland.

2nd South

Nov. 29—Kent v Essex II.
Surrey II v Middlesex II.
Sussex v Hampshire.

2nd North

Nov. 29—Cleveland II v Yorkshire II.
Lincolnshire v Northumberland,
Grimsby Leisure Centre, Cromwell
Road, Grimsby (7 p.m.).
Nottinghamshire v Durham

2nd Midland

Nov. 29—Derbyshire v Gloucestershire.
Staffordshire v Glamorgan, Great

Wyrley T.T. Club, Great Wyrley, Nr. Cannock.

30—Warwickshire II v Leicestershire.

2nd East

Nov. 29—Northamptonshire v Cambridgeshire,
Doddrige Church Rooms, Dodd-
ridge Street, Northampton (7 p.m.).

30—Bedfordshire v Norfolk.

2nd West

Nov. 29—Somerset v Gwent, West End Hall,
Sherborne (7 p.m.).
Worcestershire v Devon.

3rd South

Nov. 29—Berkshire II v Oxfordshire.
Hertfordshire II v Sussex II.

3rd North

Nov. 29—Lancashire II v Cumbria, Briarcroft
Youth Centre, Leigh Road, Atherton
(6-30 p.m.).
Northumberland II v Cheshire II.

3rd Midland

Nov. 29—Clwyd v Derbyshire II.
Warwickshire III v Nott'h'mshire II.
30—Staffordshire II v Northants II, Gt.
Wyrley T.T.C., Gt. Wyrley, Nr.
Cannock.

3rd East

Nov. 29—Cambridgeshire II v Norfolk II.
Essex III v Suffolk.
Huntingdonshire v Bedfordshire II.

3rd West

Nov. 29—Dorset v Avon.
Herefordshire v Shropshire.
30—Glamorgan VI v Worcestershire II.

Junior Premier

Nov. 29—Kent v Essex, Milton Barracks,
Waterloo St., Gravesend (6-30 p.m.).
Yorkshire v Cleveland.
30—Berkshire v Cambridgeshire.
Middlesex v Surrey.

Junior 2nd South

Nov. 29—Kent II v Dorset, Milton Barracks,
Waterloo St., Gravesend (2-30 p.m.).
Surrey II v Middlesex II, Tweedale
Primary School, Paisley Road, Car-
shalton (2-30 p.m.).
Sussex v Hampshire.

Junior 2nd North

Nov. 29—Cheshire v Northumberland.
Durham v Derbyshire.
Lancashire v Cumbria, Briarcroft
Youth Centre, Leigh Road, Atherton
(2-30 p.m.).
Yorkshire II v Cleveland II.

Junior 2nd Midland

Nov. 29—Leicestershire v Warwickshire,
Knighton Park T.T.C., 168 Avenue
Road Extension, Leicester (2-30
p.m.).
Norfolk v Glamorgan.
Northamptonshire v Cambridgeshire
II, Doddrige Church Rooms, Dodd-
ridge Street, Northampton (3 p.m.).
30—Cambridgeshire II v Glamorgan.

Junior 3rd South

Nov. 29—Buckinghamshire v Sussex II.
Wiltshire v Berkshire II.

Junior 3rd North

Nov. 29—Cleveland III v Lincolnshire.
Cumbria II v Nottinghamshire.

Junior 3rd Midland

Nov. 29—Gwent v Oxfordshire.
Staffordshire v Shropshire, Gt.
Wyrley T.T.C., Great Wyrley, Nr.
Cannock.

Junior 3rd East

Nov. 29—Essex III v Hertfordshire II, Dun-
mow Youth Centre, Dunmow (2-30
p.m.).
30—Bedfordshire v Huntingdonshire.

Veteran South

Nov. 29—Hampshire v Essex II.
Oxfordshire v Kent.

Veteran Midland

Nov. 29—Cheshire v Clwyd.
Leicestershire v Warwickshire,
Knighton Park T.T.C., 168 Avenue
Road Extension, Leicester (7-15
p.m.).
Nottinghamshire v Staffordshire.

IT'S OFFICIAL

B. R. CONCESSION FARES

The E.T.T.A. have been informed by British Rail that they are withdrawing the facility whereby organisations like ourselves could issue certificates to enable young persons to obtain rail fares at half-price. The concession will cease at the end of December, 1975, and we will be unable to provide certificates for any journey after that date. This decision by British Rail is most unwelcome, as the facility was used by many juniors to travel to tournaments to which they otherwise may not have been able to have afforded to attend.

PERMIT MEMBERS

May we remind all Permit Members of the need to renew their membership provided they are continuing to receive remuneration from their table tennis skills either from coaching, writing or exhibition play. The fee has been increased for the first time in many years to £4.00 per season. The need to register as a Permit Member applies to any member who is earning money from his skill at table tennis.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The dates and venues for our four major championships are:—

Wayfarers English Junior Championships

Saturday/Sunday, 13/14 December, 1975, at Loughborough P.E. Centre, Leicester. (Note.—The Under-14 event has been taken out of these Championships as it is planned to organise a separate, sponsored Cadet Championship in January, 1976.

Norwich Union International Championships

Thursday/Saturday, 8/10 January, 1976, at the Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton, Sussex.

Norwich Union English Championships

Thursday/Saturday, 8/10 April, 1976, at Stopsley Sports Centre, Luton, Beds.

Worthing Junior International Championships
Saturday/Sunday, 15/16 May, 1976, at Worthing Sports Centre, Worthing, Sussex.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

SYMPATHY EXTENDED

All followers of Table Tennis throughout East Anglia will wish to extend their sympathy to Jean Brown (nee Youngs) in the recent tragic loss of her soldier husband. Until her marriage a little over a year ago, Jean, with her twin sister, had represented Suffolk over many successful years.

For Suffolk's Juniors the new season has had a bright start with a 6-4 away victory against Bedfordshire. The foundation for this win was established by the Suffolk girls, Debbie Wootton and Jane Newton, who were involved in three of the winning sets. Russell King was unbeaten in his singles and 12-year-old Stuart Palmer, making his debut, played a really impressive final game to steer Suffolk safely to victory.

For Bedford Keith McConnell won both his sets whilst Martin Harlow looked more than useful but must still fight for greater consistency. Results (Suffolk names first):—

Russell King bt Ian Goswell 20, 17; bt Martin Harlow -18, 17, 18.

Randle Burrows lost to Keith McConnell -18, -14; lost to Harlow -15, -18.

Stuart Palmer lost to McConnell -16, -17; bt Goswell 21, -15, 18.

Debbie Wootton bt Julie Walton 11, 12.

Wootton/Newton bt Walton/Lorna Clarke 14, 10.

Burtows/Newton bt McConnell/Clarke 20, -16, 14.

King/Palmer lost to Harlow/Goswell -14, 18, -18.

After considering both last season's match play and this season's trials, the following Senior and Junior ranking lists have been produced:—

Men

1—John Kitchener; 2—Mick Palmer; 3—David Henderson; 4—Rob Milne; 5—Kevin Savage; 6—Les Rayment; 7—Russell King; 8—Ron Welsh; 9—Barney Garrod; 10—Pete Phelps; 11—Tony Light.

Women

1—Judith Langridge; 2—Janet Faiers; 3—Debbie Wootton; 4—Marilyn Collins; 5—Kathy Bryerley.

Boys

1—King; 2—Randle Burrows; 3—Dave Jennings; 4—Stuart Palmer; 5—Steve Hender; 6—Colin Bennett; 7—Chris Shepherd; 8—Mick Shorten; 9—Julian Hall; 10—Stephen List; 11—Pete Holland.

Girls

1—Wootton; 2—Jane Newton; 3—Louise Harris; 4—Heather Pearce; 5—Karen Bailey; 6—Debra Hubble; 7—Julie Duncombe; 8—Annette Ginn.

The Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds Leagues met in an East Anglian League encounter for the first time for many years, with a 7-3 victory going to Ipswich, the home side. The Ipswich men, Rob Milne, Tony Light and John Stubbing, swept all before them, but Bury had the superior women in Judith Langridge and Maud List, who went through the match unbeaten.

FRANK THOMAS DIES

It is with profound sorrow that we report the death of Frank Thomas, chairman for many years of the Cheshire Table Tennis Association. An appreciation of Frank's work for the game will appear in the December issue.

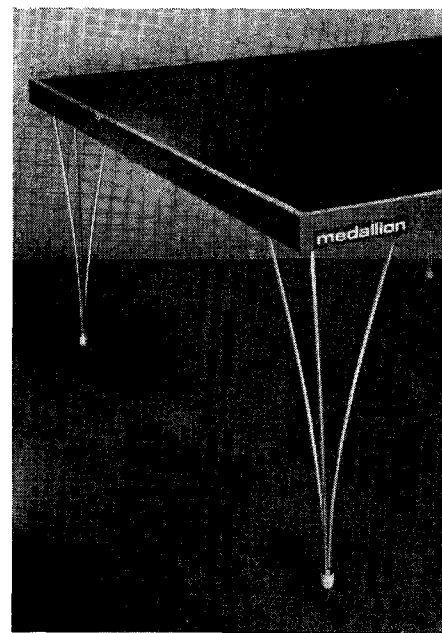
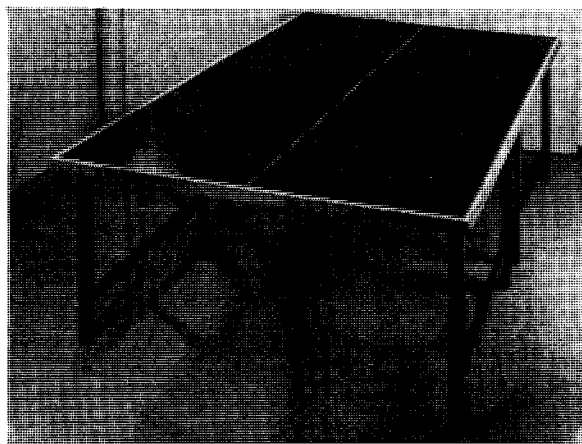
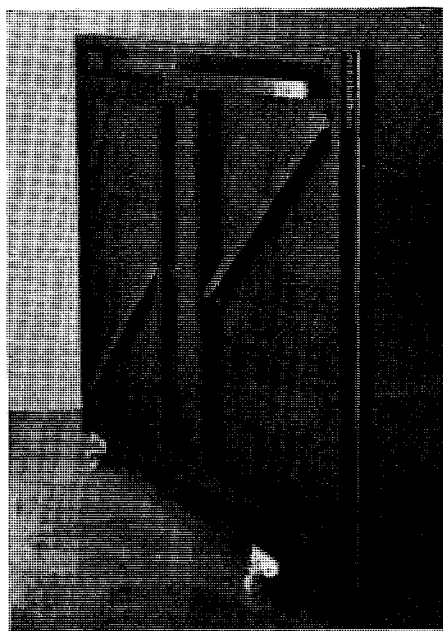


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JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
'The Daily Telegraph'

100,000 is the approximate number of players registered for league play in England. If they all paid £1 in two or three instalments between now and the end of 1976, the E.T.T.A. would be well on the way to finding the money to stage the 1977 World Championships at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

I have no sympathy for any of this hundred thousand who say they cannot afford this levy—less than a packet of cigarettes, less than a pint of beer. But I do accept that the burden placed on club secretaries and treasurers who are faced with the task of confronting the moaners to collect the cash is a nasty one. How often in the clubrooms one sees players having to be chased for money when they should be paying up without being asked?

This is the one point I would make to the objectors—a consortium of sponsors will be providing the bulk of the money. These firms have every right to ask if the country's players are making their contribution.

Carrying the responsibility of running any business, large or small, at this point in time is a nightmare. Promising large sums of money 2½ years ahead to sponsor sport would not be taken seriously in many 1975 board rooms or shareholders' meetings.

But somehow or other, the sponsors and the players will be paying up along with the Government grant money and then the tournament will be in orbit.

The alternative—backing out of our commitment—would be hard to bear—reducing the stature of England, who gave the sport to the world—to an embarrassingly low level.

Replies in so far to my subject last month—league scoring systems—indicate that reform from the old football system is making progress all over the country. Cheltenham report that they have been using the ten-point system successfully since 1972. Worthing are another league who are trying the same scheme for the first time this campaign.

Cheltenham's report from Hon. Sec. John Boyd, reads:—

"May I respond to your invitation to comment on the systems of allocating points in league competitions, as during my period as secretary of the Cheltenham T.T.A., the Cheltenham League has tried all the three systems you outline.

"Up to the end of the 1969-70 season, we used the 'soccer' system; the main objection to this was that the doubles, the last set of the match was significant only if the score stood at 5-4. If the score was other than 5-4, the doubles were not often taken seriously and it was not unknown, especially if the match was running late, for the doubles to be decided by the toss of a coin and a fictitious result entered on the match card.

"In an attempt to make the doubles relevant, the rules were altered at the 1970 A.G.M. to give 4 points for a 10-0, 9-1 or 8-2 win; 3 points for a 7-3, 6-4 win and so on. But we very soon found out that all this achieved was to make the doubles relevant, if the score stood at 7-2; if the score was 9-0, 8-1 or 6-3, the points were already decided. (If the points awarded are 4-0, 3-1, 2-2, etc., this will happen wherever the line between a 4-0 and 3-1 win is drawn).

"In the following season, therefore, we played for one point per set and I am sure that the vast majority of our players prefer this—there have certainly been no proposals

at our A.G.M's since 1972 to revert to either of the two other systems. Moreover, this is not the result of apathy, for at our 1974 and 1975 A.G.M's proposals have been put forward to add a further 2 points for a win and one point for a draw, on the grounds that teams (8 out of a total of 71 in the 1973-74 season) finished below teams that had won and/or drawn fewer matches. Certainly our League fixture secretaries did not welcome the added complication and, as these proposals were comfortably defeated, presumably our members felt that injustice was done if consistent teams finished higher in the league table than erratic teams."

AND FROM KEN BEECHING . . .

In accepting John Woodford's invitation to comment on league scoring systems I would first point out that the Hastings League has not always used the football scoring method. The "Point per game" system has been used by us on two occasions in the past, the first nearly 20 years ago. A third system of six points per match has also been tried, with teams receiving three points each for a draw, down to 6-0 for an 8-2 win or better.

I will confine my comments to these three systems as they are the only ones of which I have had first hand experience.

First, the system described by John as "outdated and archaic" but which I prefer to call "tried and trusted", 2 points for a win, 1 for a draw.

This system receives my support as it contains the two qualities essential to any good scoring system, simplicity and fairness. Its simplicity speaks for itself. Its fairness is evident in the final League Table, where the team with the best match record is to be found in its rightful place, at the top.

With some reservations I would agree that the "1 point per game" system can sustain interest in a match where a winning score has been reached, especially in the lower divisions, but surely players should be aware that all games can be of some importance, whatever the state of the match, as in the final analysis the destiny of their team may well be decided on games average.

Having mentioned games average I will pass on to the "point per game" system, as that, after all, is what this method of scoring really is. That a team competition, such as a League, should be decided on games average alone, with the number of matches won, drawn or lost being completely irrelevant, seems to me quite ludicrous. It is quite possible for a final league table to make very strange reading. A team could have a 100% record and yet be listed as an also-ran if it did not win its matches by a large enough margin, and it is theoretically possible for a team to win all its matches 6-4 and finish as low as 9th in a division of twelve teams. That this is possible, however remote that possibility might be, rules out this system for me.

I firmly believe that games average should only be used in conjunction with the "Football system", to separate teams who are otherwise equal, and not as a scoring system in its own right.

The third system I have mentioned I place bottom of the class. Not only do I consider it to be unfair but it can be very confusing to players and organisers alike. It is virtually impossible to ascertain from a league table exactly how teams have attained their points, and you are quite likely to find two teams with identical records, including games average, and yet each with a different number of points.

To anyone thinking of adopting this system I would say, "Forget it". I was very relieved to see it disappear from our league after only one season.

Finally, I would say that as a league organiser I am quite prepared to operate any practical scoring system that receives majority support, but until a better system comes along I am quite content to continue with the tried and trusted—2 for a win, 1 for a draw—and commiserations to the loser.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

CAIRNS 1975

by PETER MASCALL

Victoria can look back with pride on its team's incredible performances in Cairns (September 1-5). Perhaps the future is not quite so bright, but that thought is not for these pages.

Firstly, the two National Champions, "Charlie" Wuvanich and Leanne Morrow were not in the team and yet their presence could not have added to the achievements of these teams.

Following the 1974 Nationals, in Hobart, I amongst others, expressed the opinion that "we feared for the future of Australian Championships if Victoria continues to dominate them to the degree of taking out every trophy." Despite the results of 1975, that fear is diminishing. Other States, noticeably Queensland, have made advances in their standard which will ensure closer matches in the future.

New South Wales, without Pinkewich, fielded a very young team, along with Rod Sutherland having his best Australian ever. South Australia's Neil Ward created the biggest shock of the Championships, putting out Bob Tuckett in a "black" night for the Victorian Men's team, but their top player, Ray Kelly, rarely fired during the week. Kevin Edwards' return to Inter-State Championships was not sensational but adequate. Tasmania's representatives tried but oh! so unsuccessfully.

West Australia struck disaster after beating S.A. on the first morning, as Tony Masel dislocated his shoulder in the afternoon junior match and was out of action for the rest of the week. The home State, Queensland, still require a steady player to back up Gary Walmsley.

The Women's title saw yet again South Australia coming second, and no other State really producing a challenge to Victoria. W.A.'s Christine Young continues to pick up wins without looking impressive. Betty Bird, the former English International and close to the oldest woman competing in the Team Titles, was the "rock" for S.A. and will be glad of Christine Little's support in 1976.

Individual results:—

- M.S.: S. Knapp (V) bt R. Javor (V) -21, 13, 13, 13.
- W.S.: C. Little (V) bt M. Le Gassick (V) 17, 20, 9.
- M.D.: Javor/G. Pascoe (V) bt Knapp/G. Munday (V) 17, -11, -21, 10, 13.
- W.D.: Little/H. Morrow bt Le Gassick/V. Woodward (V) 12, -18, 15, 18.
- X.D.: Knapp/Little bt R. Tuckett/L. Komesaroff (V) 16, 14, -9, 18.
- B.S.: Javor bt Pascoe 18, 18.
- G.S.: Little bt Komesaroff 16, -16, 15.
- V.S.: V. Matison (V) bt C. Wheeler (W.A.).

Rankings

Men

- 1—S. Knapp (V); 2—R. Tuckett (V); 3—P. Pinkewich (NSW); 4—R. Javor (V); 5—P. Gebauer (NSW); 6—R. Sutherland (NSW); 7—G. Walmsley (Q); 8—G. Munday (V); 9—N. Ward (SA); 10—J. Williams (V).

Women

- 1—C. Little (V); 2—M. Le Gassick (V); 3—V. Woodward (V); 4—A. Middleton (SA); 5—H. Morrow (V); 6—B. Bird (SA).

Boys

- 1—R. Javor (V); 2—G. Pascoe (V); 3—P. Gebauer (NSW); 4—T. Evans (V).

Girls

- 1—C. Little (V), L. Komesaroff (V); 3—K. Thompson (V); 4—C. Young (WA).

Winner of the Victor Barna Award was Stephen Knapp and winner of the Michael Szabados Junior Player Award was Christine Little.

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

We are off to a good start in this season's County Championships with all of our first teams registering victories, the senior team having a fine 7-2 win over Lancashire.

Once again skipper David Brown got the show on the road by storming to a 2-straight win over Donald Parker. What a pity the National selectors cannot see our David in full flight in a team match. David was unbeaten, as was Ian Horsham, who gave a very classy display. Shelagh Hession proved as determined as ever and held the audience spellbound as she made a 2-13 deficit in one game into a 21-17 victory. An exuberant Bob Potton has obviously improved on last season's standards and with David Iszatt, Les Eadie, Elaine Tarten and Janet Hellaby pressing for places, our team should do well again this season.

Our Junior first team of Kevin Caldon, Dave Newman, Kevin Owers, Sandra Sutton and Penny Abbott were too strong for a Cambridge side minus Paul Day, and although we have lost a big chunk of our junior stars to the senior ranks, I have a feeling that this line-up will give a good account of themselves. They look a very useful and spirited team.

The Veteran's first team won well over Oxfordshire and some of our new boys will be keen to show their paces in our incredible amount of really good class veteran players.

At Clacton recently, George Meekin's dream of an Essex Tournament of all our league individual champions became reality. This tournament of champions, successfully staged by the Clacton League, was a very popular success and has obviously come to stay. A very good tournament it was indeed, played in an atmosphere of true sporting spirit. The winners and runners-up were:—

M.S.: Kevin Caldon (Dagenham) and David Newman (Chelmsford).

W.S.: Elaine Tarten (Dagenham) and Linda Barrow (Chelmsford).

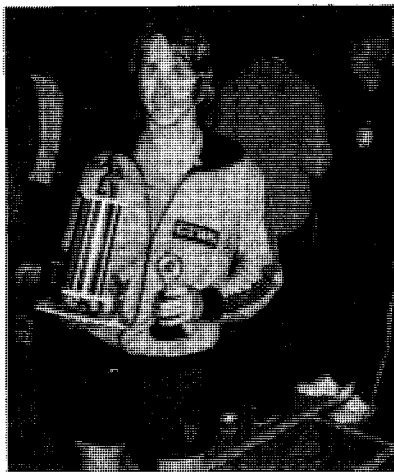
B.S.: David Iszatt (Harlow) and Kevin Caldon. G.S.: Helen Gore (Southend) and Alison May (East London).

V.S.: Fred Lockwood (Billericay) and Mick Buckley (Colchester).

M.D.: Brian Caldon (Romford)/K. Caldon and Buckley/Rob Milne (Colchester).

W.D.: Jane Livesey/Sandra Sutton (Dagenham) and Linda Budd/Marilyn Nash (Southend).

X.D.: Mike Watts (Southend)/Linda Budd and Dave Wright/Janet Susilvorn (Harlow).



Kevin Caldon, the Men's Singles champion, with trophy donated by the Clacton League, at the Essex Champions' Tournament.

Once again there has been an increase in the number of teams entering the Essex Inter-League Championships and the total for this season tops 98, a magnificent entry. The breakdown is 36 Senior teams, 21 Junior and 41

Vets. These teams comprise 6 Seniors divisions, 4 Junior and 7 Vets. Quite an impressive line-up for inter-town competition. All leagues within our county have entered at least one team with new additions from Burnham (Senior), Braintree (Junior) and Becontree (Vets). A big welcome to these teams and the other additional sides.

ESSEX SENIOR RANKING LIST—OCT. 1975

Men

1—I. Horsham; 2—D. Brown; 3—R. Potton; 4—D. Iszatt; 5—L. Eadie 6—K. Caldon; 7—D. Newman; 8—P. Hunt; 9—J. Drew; 10—S. Whiteley; 11—G. Blomfield; 12—D. Bowles; 13—D. Randall; 14—F. Mauthoor; 15—B. Mailey; 16—N. Brierley; 17—D. Patterson; 18—A. Bawden.

Ladies

1—S. Hession; 2—E. Tarten; 2—J. Hellaby; 4—L. Barrow; 5—S. Sutton; 6—P. Abbott; 7—L. Budd; 8—M. Nash; 9—H. Gore; 10—J. Livesley; 11—C. Taylor; 12—G. Bonaldson; 13—J. Boulter; 13—E. Sayer; 15—A. May.

ESSEX JUNIOR RANKING LIST—OCT. 1975

Boys

1—K. Caldon; 2—D. Newman; 3—K. Owers; 4—T. Marsh; 5—K. Jackson; 6 M. Solder; 7—R. Herbert; 8—S. Low; 9—J. Iszatt; 10—S. Chatterley; 11—A. Stonell; 12—L. Smith; 13—T. Dowsett; 14—C. Sparkes; 15—M. Allan; 16—D. Padwick; 17—T. Heeney; 18—B. Taylor; 19—S. Kimm; 20—K. Boulter.

Girls

1—S. Sutton; 2—P. Abbott; 3—H. Gore; 4—E. Sayer; 5—J. Boulter; 6—L. Chamberlain; 7—Y. Brown; 8—M. Abbott; 9—K. Tillyer; 10—J. Dyball.

All our leagues appear to be busy with competition in the various areas being fierce for the elite positions. In Billericay, league champions Ingatstone will have plenty to contend with in the shape of St. Joseph's, who have been strengthened by the return of John Dempsey. St. Joseph's have already accounted for Brentwood Y.C., Stuart Gibbs and all.

Colne Valley, the Braintree League champions, have already repulsed a stern challenge from the first all-junior line-up in the local league's top division, namely Braintree Y.C. Newcomer Derek Wood is expected to bolster Braintree inter-league prospects.

Over at Burnham, Lathingdon (Barry Willsher, Gavin Price and Colin Barrell) are setting the pace with the champions, Mid-Essex Transport Wanderers, who field the Newmans, Pat Cross, Bill Greenwood and Peter Obris. Former Burnham League champion, Mick Robinson, has returned to the area after an absence of three years and will get a warm welcome from his many friends.

Christchurch are the Colchester kingpins, boasting three teams in the top division, with the league's representative side Mick Buckley, Rob Milne and David Moss all in their team. Main challenge to their supremacy will come from Lawford and Nico.

Romford, who have just entertained guests from their twin town, Ludwigshaven, West Germany, which included a tournament and matches. The German men, led by Jurgen Merkel, who proved invincible, did very well, but Romford's fair sex evened matters up in a very enjoyable three days' play. League champions Gidea Park will have to pull out all the stops to cut short the challenge of Dagenite (Brian Mailey, Dave Randall and Brian Parish) who have made a flying start.

Big things are happening in Southend where the local league will be opening their new T.T. centre in conjunction with the Lindisfarne T.T. Club in Westcliff. A celebration dance will give things a send-off with members of the Lindisfarne Club attempting to break 5 world table tennis marathon records. The singles marathon, held by America (672 hours) has already commenced with Graham Collins, Peter Maslanka, Peter Lucas and Les Sweeney after that record.

Preparations are well in hand for the Southend Open, with a welcome sponsorship coming from H. W. Stone Sports and Leisure,

of Leigh, who are looking after the prize money while S. W. Hancock Ltd. will be supplying Halex tables, surrounds and balls.

Chelmsford's champions, Mid-Essex Transport Wanderers, have been vastly strengthened by the return of Steven Whiteley to the fold, plus the addition of County star Dave Bowles to their ranks. These two, plus Dave and Steve Newman and Rob Milne, makes their line-up a formidable one. Main challengers will be arch rivals Rosebery, who will rely on Tony Condon, Mikel Dvorak, Mark Sweeting and Julien Levett.

Already in Div. 1 of the Thurrock League the two main contenders for honours are pulling away from the field. St. John's and a reinforced Orsett with the return of Bill Smith, both chalking some notable wins. Bill's return will obviously strengthen the Thurrock veterans' inter-league team. Barking have started with a swing and an increase in teams. They have already announced the date, May 8, at Redbridge Sports Centre, of their annual presentation dance at their recent A.G.M. Mr. S. C. Robinson was made a Life Vice-President.

It was with deep regret that I learned of the sudden death of Gene Ryan, from the Billericay League, at the age of 44. Gene, who played for the Hutton first team for almost 20 years, represented Billericay at both senior and veteran level. He won many Billericay championships and was liked by all; his fair-mindedness and cheery nature will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife and daughters.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

ABOUT FACE FOR CHESTER

by George R. Yates

Having had their championship-winning team of last season split asunder Chester find themselves at the other end of the table following two sessions of 1st Division matches in the Lancashire and Cheshire League, being beaten by promotees Hyde (7-3) and leaders Stockport (9-1).

Spearheaded by Roger Hampson, Stockport initially accounted for Preston (6-4) and have a single set advantage over Liverpool whose John McNee, John Marshall and Paul Tsang have inflicted defeats on Farnworth (8-2) and Manchester (7-3).

In the latter engagement on Merseyside, McNee claimed the scalps of Phil Bowen, Kevin Forshaw and Brian Clements in solo combat, further combining with Marshall to win the doubles. Marshall's only singles loss was to Bowen.

Hyde, who can call on the services of England-ranked John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley, are the other unbeaten team in this division, Bolton and Preston, like a Johnless Chester, being pointless.

Liverpool, defending their Women's Div. 1 title, opened up with a 10-0 win at Crewe, where they were represented by Brenda Williams, Barbara Kirkman and Julie Black. Against the same opposition at home, Manchester—last season's runners-up—won 9-1, Jean Nield losing to Eileen Edwards. Susan Lisle and Mary Leigh kept a clean sheet.

In the top junior division, defending champions, Barrow, opened their programme with a 6-4 win over Liverpool, at Millom. Chris Reed was unbeaten for the Cumbrians, beating Clive Strettle, Tony O'Connor and a luckless Graeme Black. Reed and Neil Smith took the doubles.

Preston are also strong contenders for honours in this division and Ian Smith, Steven Turner and Paul Rainford got them off to a most impressive start, beating Oldham (10-0) and Bury (9-1). In this latter encounter Mark Shonick—a nephew of Benny Casofsky—saved the "whitewash" for Bury by beating Rainford.

NEWBURY JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN

ALMOST A BERKS CLOSED
by W. L. Heath

In the U-17 events of the Newbury Junior Open, played over the weekend of October 4-5 at R.A.F. Greenham, no doubt the unavoidable clash with North Middlesex had some effect but, more likely, the "I dare not risk my ranking" syndrome which is steadily destroying all but "Select" Junior events, was the most telling reason for our top Junior boys being Nos. 17 and 19—namely Kevin Edwards and David Reeves.

From Group A we have 4 entries but Colin Wilson has to withdraw. Credit to Simon Douglas who beat Edwards in the quarters and my sympathy to Kevin. K. Seager went out to C. Leslie (Round 3), S. Boxall to D. Wells (Q-f) and D. Cammiade to S. Cadden (Round 2). It seems a pity that some of the so-called stars could not have risked their delicate reputations just as these lads did!

The Junior Girls' was almost a repeat of the Cadets but fortunately two of the A Group are Berkshire Jo Douglas and Janet Thorpe—they were solely supported by Wendy Parker in their challenge to Nos. 11, 12 and 17—all Berkshire Cadets.

The Cadet Boys' was well contested with both semis hard fought—Adam Proffitt beat Graham Sandley to reverse their National rankings in the final.

Good performance from Carla Wilson (Kent) in the Cadet Girls, who beat P. Townsend (National No. 8) and after a fluctuating and long battle beat Gillian Heath (National No. 5) and proceeded to take the 1st off National No. 2, Mandy Smith, before succumbing in the semi-final.

Alison Gordon beat Mandy Smith in both Cadet and Junior singles to confirm their seeded positions in both events. The doubles produced many cheerful and exciting matches—one good example being that where the two blondes—Richard Bergemann and Gillian Heath beat Adam Proffitt and Helen Williams by -19, 26, 19—later having had two match points against No. 1 seeds, Sandley and A. Gordon, before losing out in the S.F.

The Cadet G.D. followed seeding (all Berks) but in the J.G.D. Mandy Smith and Jo Douglas inflicted a rare defeat on Alison Gordon and Jill Purslow. It could have been the Berkshire Closed!

Results:—

Under-17 Events

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

S. Douglas (Berks) bt K. Edwards (Wilts) 17, -10, 15.

D. Wells (Middx) bt S. Boxall (Surrey) 18, 17.
G. Hill (Dorset) bt S. Claxton (Worcs) -19, 19, 16.

D. Reeves (Berks) bt J. Hardiker (Wales) -23, 16, 15.

Semi-finals

Douglas bt Wells 13, 15.

Reeves bt Hill 8, 11.

Final

REEVES bt Douglas 14, 13.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

A. Gordon (Berks) bt J. Thorpe (Berks) 14, 15.

M. Smith (Berks) bt J. Purslow (Berks) 10, -15, 16.

Final

GORDON bt Smith 16, 25.

Boys' Doubles—Final

EDWARDS/REEVES bt Boxall/K. Seager (Surrey) -18, 10, 19.

Girls' Doubles—Final

J. DOUGLAS (Berks)/SMITH bt Gordon/Purslow (No scores).

Mixed Doubles—Final

A. WELLMAN (Berks)/PURSLOW bt Reeves/

Gordon 10, -15, 11.

Under-14 Events (Cadets)

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals

A. Proffitt (Herts) bt P. Iszatt (Essex) 22, 14.
G. Sandley (Middx) bt R. Bergemann (Hants) -15, 11, 13.

Final

PROFFITT bt Sandley 14, 17.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

Gordon bt Purslow 14, -16, 15.

Smith bt C. Wilson (Kent) -17, 8, 13.

Final

GORDON bt Smith 11, 17.

Boys' Doubles—Final

PROFFITT/SANDLEY bt S. Baggott/S. Woodgate (Surrey) 18, 14.

Girls' Doubles—Final

GORDON/PURSLOW bt G. Heath (Berks)/Smith 15, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Final

SANDLEY/GORDON bt B. Johnson (Berks)/Purslow 18, 16.

Under-12 Events

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals

J. Scuter (Middx) bt Johnson 18, 17.

M. Oakley (Surrey) bt G. Russell (Surrey) 14, 17.

Final

SOUTER bt Oakley 18, -19, 15.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

P. Townsend (Wilts) bt S. James (Devon) 15, 14.

H. Williams (Middx) bt S. Cresswell (Surrey) -17, 10, 15.

Final

WILLIAMS bt Townsend 10, -11, 16.

STUDY OF BACK INJURIES IN SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN

One of the main findings of the Sports Council's Pilot Study of Sports Injury Clinics (the report of which will shortly be published) was that back injuries are amongst the most troublesome of sports injuries—difficult to diagnose correctly and to treat adequately. The Sports Council has, therefore, commissioned a study specifically of back injuries in sportsmen and sportswomen. The main objectives of the investigation will be to determine which types of spinal lesion occur most commonly in sport (and what lesions go with which sports) and to elucidate the factors which are associated with the development of spinal lesions in their various forms. It is hoped that the project will lead to more effective diagnoses and treatments of back injuries occurring in sport. The study is, therefore, in the direct interest of the sporting world. It is expected to run for one year from September 15.

For the purposes of the project a back injuries clinic to which athletes with back problems will have ready access has been established in the Department of Rheumatology and Rehabilitation in King's College Hospital. Governing Bodies (and their regional, area, county, and local divisions), individual sports clubs, General Practitioners, hospital casualty and orthopaedic departments, etc. may—and, it is hoped, will—refer cases to this clinic. The Sports Council is hoping that as many as possible of those athletes, of whatever age and level of skill, who suffer from back pain will attend the clinic: the study will gain in value according to the numbers who attend and the diversity of sports and of spinal injuries investigated. Everyone will receive a thorough clinical examination; and, where appropriate, treatment will be prescribed and supervised. The research work will be carried out by a clinical expert in spinal lesions. The medical research worker who is writing the report on the Sports Council's Pilot Study of Sports Injury Clinics will also act as Research Consultant to the project. Overall supervision of the enquiry rests with a Steering Committee whose members include two Consultants in Rheumatology from London teaching hospitals, an observer from the Department of Health and Social Security, and Alan Pascoe of the Sports Council.

Clinics will be held regularly each week at King's College Hospital. Athletes wishing to attend should ring (01) 274 6222, extension 2450, to make an appointment. Emergency cases may contact the clinician through this number any time of the week.

LONDON TRANSPORT

Bus.—King's College Hospital is 5 minutes' walk from Camberwell Green which is served by many bus routes. The following buses actually pass the Hospital gates: Nos. 40, 68, 176, 184 and 185.

Tube.—Oval Station (Northern Line) is approximately 15 minutes' walk from the Hospital. Alternatively visitors may catch a 185 bus from outside Oval Station which will take them to the Hospital gates.

BRITISH RAIL

London Bridge/Victoria.—Trains leave both stations for Denmark Hill at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour throughout the day.

Holborn Viaduct/Blackfriars.—Trains leave for Denmark Hill at least ¼-hourly throughout the day. (All Holborn Viaduct trains stop at Blackfriars and at Elephant and Castle).

All these train journeys take approximately 10 minutes. King's College Hospital is 2 minutes' walk from Denmark Hill Station.

NEWBURY 2-STAR OPEN

Shown in the Tournament Diary as for Sunday, March 21-1976, the Newbury 2-Star Open will be held both on Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21, 1976.



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by MAL ANDERSON

(Chairman, Photograph.c Committee, USTTA)

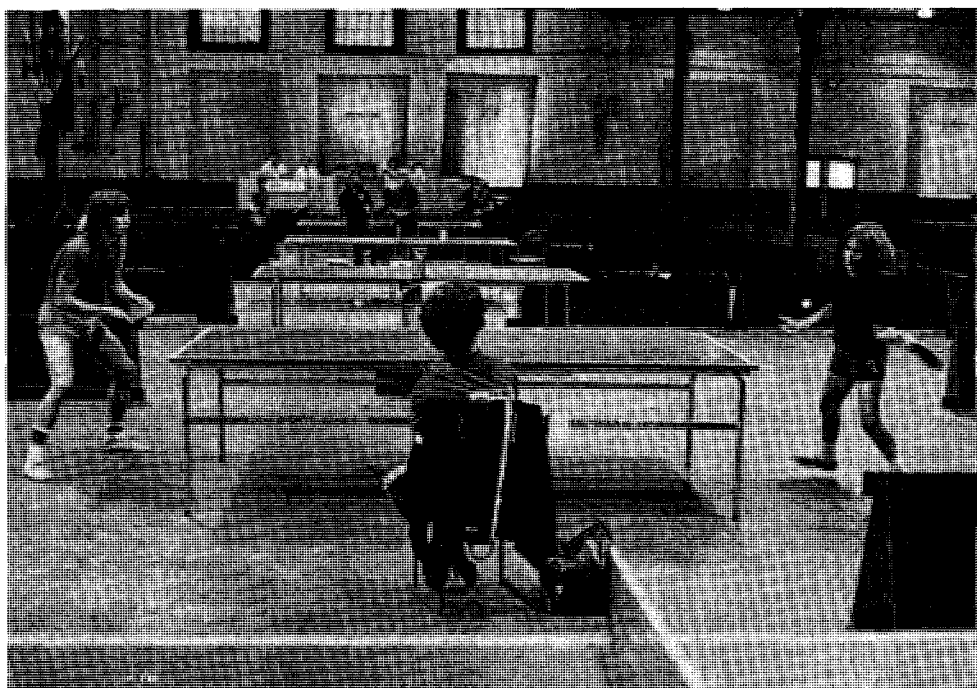
At the C.N.E. International Open (which is replacing the Canadian Open as the Labour Day weekend tournament at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto) Danny Seemiller, of Pittsburgh, won the Men's Singles by beating Zlatko Cordas, now the C.T.T.A. Coach, 14, -12, 19, -13, 12. Dan beat Errol Caetano in the semi 17, -20, 19, 19, and Cordas beat Lim Ming Chui, U.S. team member now living in Vermont, 11, 16, 19. The upset of the tournament was pulled off by Rutledge Barry, the U.S. Boys' Under-13 champion—he beat equal 6th seed Ricky Seemiller -12, 19, 20, -19, 13! Rutledge (we call him Squegee) is a very talented and intelligent youngster—you will hear more about him in the future!

Women's Singles: In Sook Na, who won the Jamaican Open in June with wins over Jill Hammersley and Ann-Christin Hellman, beat Irena Cordas -16, 13, 17, 19. In Sook beat Vi Nesukaitis in the semi 7, 8, 9, and Irena beat Alice Sonne (nee Green—one of our internationals, now married) 19, 15, -26, 22. Alice got there by beating Rupa Banerjee, a former Indian international, 16, 19, -18, -16, 16.

Men's Doubles was won by Cordas and Caetano over Dan and Rick Seemiller, 3-1. **Women's Doubles** saw In Sook Na and Barb Taschner beat Rupa Banerjee and Gloria Hsu 3-0. In the Mixed Doubles, Caetano and I. Cordas beat Dan Seemiller/Sonne 3-0.

International Matches: Men's U.S. beat Canada 5-3, as Rick Seemiller beat Caetano and lost to Alex Polisois, Lim Ming Chui beat Polisois and lost to Cordas and Caetano, and Dan Seemiller won all three of his matches. **Women's:** U.S. beat Canada 3-1. In Sook Na beat V. Nesukaitis and Irena Cordas, Irena beat Alice Sonne, and In Sook and Alice beat Irena and Mariann Domonkos in the vital doubles match. **Junior Men's:** U.S. won 5-3. Eddie Lo won 3 for Canada, over Bruce Plotnick, Rutledge Barry and John Soderberg, but his teammates couldn't help him at all. **Junior Women's:** Canada won 3-0. Birute Plucas, Gloria Nesukaitis and Christine Forgo were too much for Faan Yeen Liu and Dana Gvildys.

Eddie Lo won the Junior Men's singles over



"Squegee" Barry, yet another left-hander, in play against Ricky Seemiller, the equal 6th seed in the M.S.

Photos by Malcolm Anderson.

Mike Stern, of Maplewood, New Jersey—Mike upset Squegee Barry in the semi. The Junior Women's Singles was won by Birute Plucas over Gloria Nesukaitis.

The tournament opened with some sad news—Max Marinko died two days before it started. Max won the Esquire (over 50) at the U.S. Open last may, travelled to his native Yugoslavia during the summer, then returned and entered this tournament, but lost his long fight with stomach cancer. Max was on several Swathling Cup winning teams for Czechoslovakia; he was 58.

BELGIUM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shown in the Foreign Opens in the E.T.T.A's Tournament Diary for October 30-November 1, 1975, the Belgium Open dates are for season 1976-77.

CHESHIRE NOTES

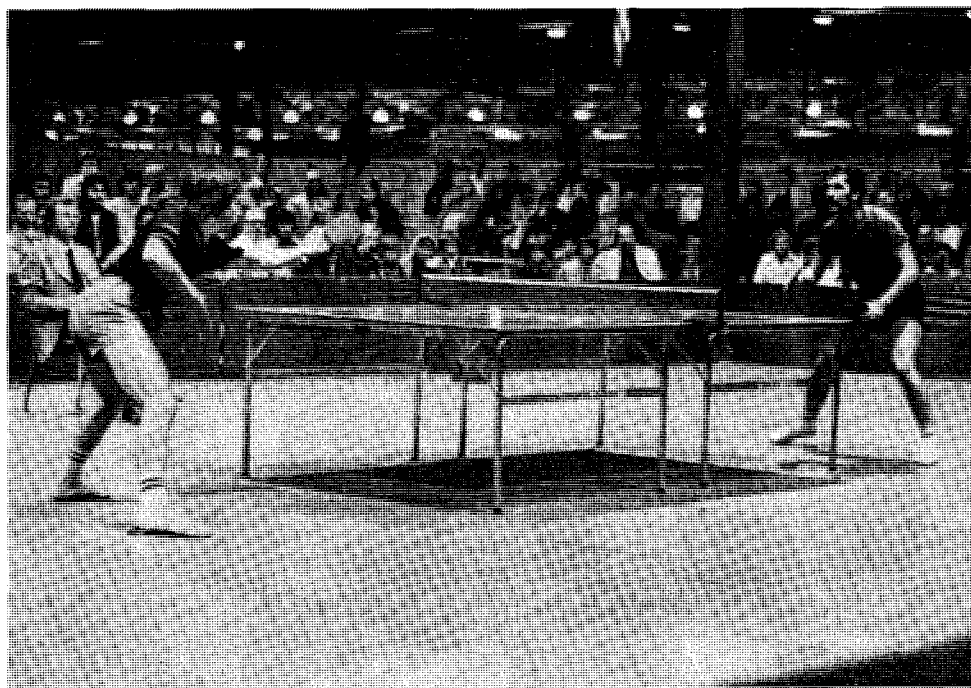
by Brian Kean

Cheshire made an encouraging start to the season when in the Premier Division of the County Championships they collected maximum points from home encounters with Warwickshire and Surrey. The team on each occasion was John Hilton, Nigel Eckersley, Mike Johns and Susan Lisle. Talking point here was the demotion of Mike Johns to No. 3.

Mike has already made it clear that he has retired from tournament play and rumour has it that after losing his two singles in the match against Surrey, he is considering complete retirement. Should this be the case an appreciation of Mike's services to Cheshire will appear in these notes at a later date.

Eckersley and Hilton have suffered indifferent starts to their tournament quests this season. It has been said that national training camps, in which physical training was emphasised more than table work, left them suffering from physical fatigue. I would support this view but hasten to add it was intended that these camps be physically orientated in an endeavour to build up our national players for a rather intensive European programme.

Sue Lisle has proved that her success of last season was no flash in the pan as she has already won the North of England Open in which she once again beat Carole Knight. Following this she recorded another good result by beating Linda Howard, of Surrey. Eckersley added a tournament success to his credit by winning the Meadowbank Open, in Edinburgh, for the third successive year.



Left-handed Danny Seemiller in action against Zlatko Cordas in the M.S. final.

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

FAREWELL TO ALAN

One of Yorkshire's most able and successful administrators in the coaching field in recent years, Coaching Secretary Alan Cram, left the county at the end of October to take up a new appointment based in the Midlands. Alan was first elected Social Secretary in June, 1972, and then in July, 1973, he also took on the office of Coaching Secretary. During his two seasons of office Alan has breathed new life into the County coaching activities with unflinching enthusiasm and has also contributed significantly to the work of the Area No. 10 Coaching Panel. With his departure, Alan has also set the County an annual problem—to whom do we present the J. A. Cram Award? Alan has donated a trophy to the County with the direction that it be presented to the junior player who has made the most progress in the past season. These awards are always difficult to decide, but we are very grateful to Alan for setting us the problem! The good wishes of the County go with Alan and his family in their new abode in Worcestershire at 6 Dingle End, Inkberrow. (Tel.: Inkberrow 792888) and also to Alan's successor as Coaching Secretary, Eric Hill, of Bradford.

The champions of the County Summer League, ably organised by Halifax's Geoff Barnes, were King Cross, with Wellesley Park runners-up—both Halifax clubs. Wellesley Parks Kevin Beadsley headed the Division 1 averages, with 22 wins out of 24 sets played, but it was David Lamb, of King Cross who won the Summer League Closed Men's Singles title.

The results were:—

Singles

D. Lamb (King Cross) bt A. Metcalfe (Cavaliers) 6, 14.

Doubles

K. Beadsley (Wellesley Park) and K. Guy (King Cross) bt D. Lamb and B. Dawson (King Cross) -15, 15, 16.

Handicap Singles

S. Mills (Wadley Bridge) (-6) bt K. Bell (Knaresborough) (+2).

Consolation Singles

K. Beadsley bt D. Bartle (W.L.D.) 16, 14.

The County rankings were issued on 29th September, and take into account the trials held at Moor Grange School, Leeds, on 30th and 31st August, and, for juniors, the results in the Essex and Cleveland Junior tournaments. Only those players who have indicated their availability for selection for County teams are included. The men are again led by two Yorkshire exiles, Tony Clayton and Alan Fletcher, who both wish to continue to represent their native county. Sheffield's David Rayner, who played regularly for the first team last season, is not available this year. The rankings are:—

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

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

Boys: 1—S. Hazelwood; 2—Beadsley; 3—Harrison; 4—A. Metcalfe; 5—Brian Baxter (Sheffield); 6—Alan Summerscales (Doncaster); 7—Robert Hazelwood (Leeds); 8—Stephen Mills (Sheffield); 9—Brian Metcalfe (Leeds); 10—Jeffrey Beecroft (Barnsley); 11—Joe Naser (Hull); 12—Tony Bottomley (Halifax); 13—Chris Pindar (Hull); 14—David Ryan (Sheffield); 15—Peter Simpson (Bradford).

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

Sixteen-year-old Stephen Hazelwood made his senior County debut in the Premier Division match at Middlesex, and although without success in the singles, contributed a vital mixed doubles win with Julie McLean which swung the match Yorkshire's way. Congratulations also to the junior first and second teams, who both started the season with wins over Middlesex and Derbyshire respectively, with Kevin Beadsley showing up particularly well for the first team and Sally Dickerson making a good impression on her debut in the second team.

The County Closed Championships will be held at Parkside, Bradford, on Sunday, 30th November—entry forms available from Frank Briggs. County coaching sessions have been arranged at Moor Grange School, Leeds, as follows: "A" squad—16th Nov., 28th Dec., 8th Feb. and 28th March. "B" squad—18th Jan. and 18th April. Hans Soova is again directing these sessions. Further information is available from Eric Hill, Highgate House, Highgate Road, Queensbury, Bradford, BD13 2RR.

This season's Yorkshire League programme has not got under way and it will be interesting to see how the change in the men's and women's divisions from 4 to 3-a-side teams affects fortunes. With the disappearance of the top half/bottom half split required for 4-a-side, one immediate advantage is that the task of the selectors in assessing current form is made easier.

KENTISH MATTERS

By Chris Wright

FOREBODING

Kent Table Tennis has entered into the season with a great deal of enthusiasm and some foreboding about its future. The main cause for concern (if I can take a phrase now used by the B.B.C.'s "Nationwide" programme) is the tremendous amount of apathy that exists (or seems to exist), amongst players and league officials towards any project put forward by the County organisation.

At the recent A.G.M. problems arose when the time came to fill the Executive Committee, so much so that there was one vacancy left at the end, that being the important and thankless job of Kent League Secretary. All 17 member leagues were notified about the vacancy and asked to find someone to do the job. As expected, the response was nil. All of this has resulted in the committee splitting the job into three parts, with a member of the committee responsible for running their part. This, of course, has not made the running of the competition any easier.

Having got the yearly moan over, I can move on to happier things. This year we are producing our own county magazine called simply "Kent Table Tennis News". It is being edited by a well-known (and loved??) County player, Ken Baker. This is not the first time that we have produced a magazine. There was one published in the late 40's—early 50's, but due to a lack of support and contributors, it was quietly buried (without military honours). We are all hoping this does not go the same way.

The domestic scene got under way with the Ashford Inter-Association Tournament which was held at the end of September. There were few major upsets to be had, probably the

biggest being seen in an early round of the men's doubles when the No. 2 seeds (P. Beck/I. Kenyon), who were much fancied to win the title, were hit out of the tournament by the Folkestone pair, Lythgoe/Dino-Smith. Probably the only other surprise of the day came in the final of the men's singles where Henry Buist outplayed the No. 1 seed, Clive Morris, with Clive complaining about the make of ball being used.

Other Results:—

W.S.: Mrs. J. Ellis bt Miss C. Payne.
M.D.: Morris/Ken Baker bt Buist/Bob Brown.

Congratulations are due to the Ashford Association for a well-organised and successful tournament, the only criticism that I have being that the finals were not staged. This seemed to affect the general atmosphere and interest resulting in only about two dozen people being present at the end of the day.

The first junior ranking list of the season was announced at Ashford and it certainly makes interesting reading: (1) I. Kenyon, (2) V. O'Brien, (3) P. Ptak, (4) I. Collins, (5) P. O'Conner, (6) T. Spain, (7) J. Kennedy, (8) J. Glass, (9) R. Humphries, (10) J. Gardiner, (11) J. Yeomanson, (12) J. Cowell.

GIRLS: (1) M. Heffernan, (2) D. Collar, (3) E. Bolton, (4) C. Colegate, (5) A. Pilcher.

Kent were pleased to note that the England selectors have at last accepted that Ian Kenyon IS amongst the best juniors in the country, but why has Vince O'Brien been left out in the cold? He is surely worthy of at least an "A" Group ranking?

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE



by Leslie Constable

DISASTROUS START

It was a disaster for Cambridge Juniors in the Premier Division when they lost 1-9 and 2-8 to Essex and Middlesex respectively in their opening C.T.T.C. matches. Without the assistance of Paul Day, they just could not hold these two strong counties, showing what Day means to them in every match they play. Against Essex, Keith Richardson won the only set, and against Middlesex the same player, with Geoff Davis, claimed a singles success. In order to survive in this Division it is essential that Day plays in as many fixtures as possible.

In the Cambs League, champions Soham I, had a good opening 7-3 victory over University Press II, who included the Wisbech trio of Geoff Davis, Tony Holmes and Derek Kiddle. Keith Richardson and Mick Palmer were unbeaten for Soham, but Holmes and Kiddle beat Steve Palmer. The outstanding club in the opening fixtures is undoubtedly Cambridge Telephones, whose three teams all had maximum points until the first team went down 4-6 to Guildhall. This may not seem so remarkable until one must bear in mind that both their first and second teams, who were champions of Division II and IIIa respectively last season, are playing in a higher division, while their third team are newly-formed this season.

Their team of Bob Pettit, Martin Murden and Alan Smith now look likely to succeed in the top flight, with opening victories over Torchbearers I(8-2) and Y.M.C.A. I (7-3).

Their second team have also started in great style by beating Great Ouse River "D" 10-0 and Soham III 8-2. They are being led by David Jarvis and ably supported by Peter Laughlin and Keith Lloyd. N.C.I. II beat Soham II 7-3. David Tiplady was unbeaten for N.C.I. and received good support from Mick Byrd, who won two. Y.M.C.A. I, without Mick Harper and Guildhall, without Alan Lamprell, contested a 5-5 draw. Ken Muhr made a rare appearance for Y.M.C.A. before returning to college in London and won his three sets.

In Division II the Soham clubs again had mixed fortunes with the third team beating Herbert Robinson 8-2 and the fourth team losing 3-7 to Impington. Former first division player John Ashman, won three sets for newly-promoted Soham IV, but youngsters Joanne Palmer and Trevor Smith could make no impression on the experienced Impington trio of Jimmy Parkin, Trevor McGhee and Tim Fox.

Wesley Parkside, with only two wins, finished bottom-but-one of Division IIIa last season. Short of players this season, they advertised in the local Press for new players and such was the response that they had to hold a trial for nearly 30 players!

In their opening match in Division IVa they were successful 7-3 after trailing 0-3 against last season's Division Vb champions, C.I.B.A.-Geigy II. They were also successful in their next fixture against Haverhill III by 8-2 and the team of Peter Bewley, Reg Goddard and Alex Langley must be congratulated on their debut for Wesley. Seemingly it pays to advertise.

In their opening fixture in the South East Midlands League Division II, Cambridge made a good start by beating Wisbech 6-4. For Cambridge Martin Murden and Albert Jackson both beat Geoff Calvert and Murden also beat Brewer, who last season was ranked No. 8 for Leicestershire. Mick Byrd repeated last season's win over Holmes and then Cambridge took both doubles to ensure victory. The doubles victory of Jackson and Bob Pettit over Geoff Davis and Brewer was particularly praiseworthy. The Junior team, back in the S.E.M. League after a year's absence, made a disastrous start by losing 9-1 to Wisbech. The team of Robert Venn, Stephen Scarll and Peter Rose were all newcomers to representative table tennis and are products of the Saturday afternoon coaching sessions at Cambridge Y.M.C.A. Venn was Cambridge's sole winner.

Cambridge women had a good 7-3 win over St. Neots with Janet Rodgers successful against Belinda Chamberlain. In my opinion Janet Rodgers will have a successful season for Cambridge in this League.

Cambridge won their opening match in the East Anglian League when they beat Kings Lynn 9-1. A good debut was made by 15-year-old Valerie O'Bryne, who was successful in both her doubles sets. Lynn's sole success came when Hewitt beat Ron Nunn. The other Cambridge players, John Thurston and Ken Green, won their singles.

Wisbech are the new holders of the Keki Mistry County Cup which, for the first time, was competed for by mixed teams of under-14's instead of the usual all men's teams. At the new Cambridge Sports Hall, Wisbech won their three matches in the competition by beating Haverhill 7-2, Cambridge 5-0 and Ely 5-4. The match against Ely, which finally decided the winners of the trophy, was the best of the day. Although Ely had the best boy, Stuart Palmer, and the best girl, Joanne Palmer, both of whom were unbeaten in the competition, Wisbech's greater all-round strength just eased them home.

Other Results:—Ely 7, Cambridge 2; Ely 6, Haverhill 1; Haverhill 5, Cambridge 2.

It was announced at a special meeting of the Cambs Executive that Gerald Coteman had tendered his resignation from the County Selection Committee and is also giving up his position as a County Coach. The reason for this resignation was said to be disagreement with the policy of the Selection Committee.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

FIRST TIMER

Congratulations to Chris Reed on becoming the first "Cumbrian" to achieve ENGLAND status in any class other than Cadet, with his inclusion at No. 20 in the Junior ranking list. Credit must also be due to father and coach, John Reed, as this must realise one of his life-long ambitions, not only for his own son, but also for Millom School Table Tennis Club, for which he does so much work.

Recent performances also indicate that Chris doesn't intend propping up the other 19 starlets for very long, as in the County's first championship match of the season when the Junior 1st team defeated Northumberland 7-3 in their Div. 2 North match. An unbeaten Reed performance meant the defeat of the England No. 15, Andrew Clark. Chris, in fact, made a good fightback in this set after Clark had taken the first game at 13, the home No. 1 just taking the next two 18 and 17 after a tense struggle.

Cumbria No. 2, Neil Smith, also played well and came close to what would have been a second defeat for Clark, in a memorable set which brought the comment from coach John Reed, that this was the best performance he had ever seen from Neil, who was the first to reach 20 in each game before Clark edged home 24-22, 23-21. Chris and Neil also combined to what turned out to be a runaway doubles win in the third after a tight battle in the first two.

Creditable performances in the match also coming from County debutants Ian Reed, Gail Smith and Mirande Gray, Northumberland's G. McArdle just denying Ian his first County win by taking the set at 19 in the 3rd.

The recent Cumbria 2-Star Open resulted in Cleveland players taking six of the titles, and apart from the veterans' singles, the boys' singles produced the only final in which the said County were not represented. Chris Reed again proved Cumbria's outstanding player by going the furthest of the home county players, going out to Stephen Souter in Round 4 of the men's singles and again to Alan Matthew (Scottish No. 1) in the quarter-final of the boys' singles. Millom School colleagues, Neil Smith and Stewart Stamper, also did well to reach the last 16 of the latter event.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

AN APPRECIATION TO THE WORKERS

At the September meeting of the Cleveland Management Committee the members were asked to leave the meeting and find at least one suitable person each to take the County Umpires' award.

This approach certainly paid off, for at the October meeting 10 new candidates came forward and their names were passed to Brian Foggin to be trained and qualify as umpires.

This brings me to the main point of this month's Cleveland View. An appreciation of the workers who make table tennis click within the County.

From Cleveland one hears regularly of notable performances by our band of international players and a great deal of publicity is given to the sponsorship we receive from the local authorities. However, probably the biggest factor in Cleveland's success over the years has been the work put into table tennis by some 100-plus adults who give their time freely in the interests of the game.

Our County coaching scheme is fortunate to have no less than 47 active coaches working at different levels within the County. At our Open tournament, both Junior and Senior, almost every set is scored by a qualified umpire with the loser scorer system, disliked by so many players, never used.

In addition, in all other aspects of the game, there is no shortage of willing helpers.

Another important aspect is the fact that the whole work force all operate as a team with the coaches coming to help out with the running of the tournaments and so on.

One area of the newly-formed County which did not participate fully in the opening season was Hartlepool, but measures have been taken to bring Hartlepool fully into the fold. The County Chairman, Colin Davison, and myself, attended their A.G.M. We have had successful negotiations with Hartlepool Leisure and Amenities Committee on the sponsorship of coaching and the tournament. As a result of all this the Hartlepool League have now come forward with a list of over 10 candidates for the umpires' scheme and 10 individuals who wish to be trained as coaches.

We are fortunate in Cleveland to have the sponsorship and backing of the local authorities with further assistance from Stiga. However, I consider that this personal form of sponsorship in time and effort is by far the most valuable.

The County second and third team and Junior trials were held at Ormesby in September and following this the County ranking lists were formed by the Selection Committee. They are:—

Men	Women
1. D. Neale	1. C. Knight
2. N. Jarvis	2. A. Tierney
3. J. Walker	3. J. Williams
4. D. Alderson	4. J. Skipp
5. A. Ransome	5. E. Robinson
6. T. Martin	6. N. Carne
7. S. Souter	7. H. Robinson
8. M. Corking	8. P. Richmond
9. R. Wiley	9. J. Lister
10. I. Plummer	10. E. Gallagher
11. S. Hosking	
12. K. McPartland	
13. I. Goodman	
14. T. Murphy	
15. S. Rowland	
16. P. Crawford	

Boys	Girls
1. I. Plummer	1. A. Tierney
2. S. Rowland	2. J. Williams
3. M. Laird	3. J. Skipp
4. S. Holden	4. N. Carne
5. M. Murphy	5. H. Robinson
6. C. Gunn	6. J. Lister
7. I. Sanderson	7. E. Gallagher
8. S. Walsh	8. J. Williamson
9. P. Hindle	9. K. Sullivan
10. M. Todd	10. L. Barwick
11. C. Hodgson	
12. K. Linsley	
13. J. Clifford	
14. M. Mills	
15. P. Grainger	
16. M. Lowe	

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

POLE POSITION

Belinda Chamberlain (15), takes the pole position in this month's news after her great performance at the Middlesex 2-Star Open. In one of her finest showings, the Buckden girl reached the quarter-final of the women's singles, her scalp including Anita Stevenson, ranked No. 5 nationally.

Belinda won this set 14 and 15 before losing narrowly to England's leading ranked junior, Angela Mitchell. These performances auger well for the coming season.

Another youngster, Alan Smith (17), leading junior last term, overcame all comers in the Hunts Central League pre-season tournament. His last eight opponent was Tim Speller, who held the title for the past two years. Smith won in the deciding game. At the semi-final stage the St. Ives boy defeated Albert Jackson, of Cambridge, before outplaying County men's champion, Gordon Cockram 12, 9 in the final.

Whilst the girls in the County have been near the top of the County women's rankings,

it is good to see the local boys now challenging for similar positions in the men's list.

The County Veterans' team had a great start to this season's campaign with a 5-4 win over Wiltshire. In the corresponding fixture last season the home county finished on the wrong side of a 7-2 scoreline. A singles win apiece from Cockram, Stan Roberts and Ken Green, with successful doubles by Green/Roberts and Cockram/Doreen Underwood, did the trick.

Monthly coaching sessions got under way on Sunday, October 12, at the Regional Centre in St. Neots. Eight tables were in full use under the direction of Len Saywell. One of the most encouraging features of the new season has been the increase in the number of young girls who have taken up table tennis locally, many of them within the Cadet age group, and are showing great enthusiasm after a short time in the game.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

POOLE TRIUMPH

The first major surprise of the season was the defeat of Bournemouth's men at the hands of last season's wooden spoonists, Poole, who triumphed 5-4. It was a very close affair with the result in the balance right up to the last set, for with the match score standing at 4-all, Poole's John Robinson got his side home with a 21-16 third game win over Phil Crane.

At one period Poole were leading 4-1 but Bournemouth fought back to equality. For the winners Robinson and Neville Thorley each had two wins, while Graham Hill beat Steve Wilson. Trevor Smith and Wilson shared the losers' sets.

Newbury, in their home match against Poole, won 6-3 with Bryon Johnson, a 12-year-old on debut, accounting for Robinson. Simon Heaps won his three, beating Robinson, Mike Hughes and Graham Hill. David Reeves won two, losing 19 in the 3rd to Hughes.

Exmouth opened their season with a home victory, 8-1, over Swindon. Strengthened by the signing of former Exeter star, Mike Rattue, Exmouth are now a force to be reckoned with, moreso with Rattue joining his one-time Exeter colleague, Paul Stone. Exmouth never really allowed Swindon a chance, the "whitewash" being saved in the final set when K. Bushell narrowly beat N. Shephard.

It is good to have Swindon back in the fold and their women's team of Gwen Hazell, Wendy Parker and Ruth Farmilo, each won two when Devizes were beaten 6-3. Carrying the flag for Devizes was Alison Boyce, who was undefeated, unlike Kenwyn Hazell and Helen Rusby, who were without success.

Once again may I remind league secretaries to supply Christian names and not one initial before a surname. It is so much nicer to record a player's full name. Fixture lists should now have been finalised and I would appreciate the agreed dates . . . please!

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

DIXON SHINES

Pride of place in the notes for this month must go to Andrew Dixon, of Wolverhampton, who recently journeyed to Cleveland and came back as Junior Boys' Under-11 Champion. Son of Ray Dixon, the County "B" side captain, Andrew is the first Staffs. boy for quite a number of years to win an open championship and he did so in grand style, beating both the local favourites on the way to victory. Andrew was singled out last year for a mention in this column on his performance in the Wolverhampton league and I am sure his name will reappear many times in the future.

Congratulations also to Stephanie Jones, who has been listed in Group A of the English Girls' Junior Ranking. Competition is just as fierce at junior level as in the senior ranks

and reaching the national lists is a considerable achievement.

County rankings were decided following the trials on October 5, few major changes occurring from last year. The new rankings are:—

- Men**
1. S. Rowe
 2. B. Keates
 3. A. Isaacs
 4. J. Riley
 5. K. Fellows
 6. A. Higgs
 7. C. Davies
 8. R. Dixon
 9. S. Dunning

- Veterans—Men**
1. L. Dawes
 2. P. Hancock
 3. A. Buxton
 4. W. Hadley
 5. D. Pritchard
 6. R. Machin
 7. D. Preston
 8. R. Bowen
 9. K. Haynes

- Juniors—Boys**
1. P. Draisey
 2. P. Machin
 3. J. Boumford
 4. E. Wilkes
 5. A. Rich
 6. S. Harley
 7. D. Reynolds
 8. A. Dixon

- Women**
1. J. Carr
 2. S. Jones
 3. G. Round
 4. B. Eardley
 5. S. Hunt
 6. S. Cain
 7. S. Watton
 8. C. Underwood
 9. J. Turley
 10. J. Alderton

- Veterans—Women**
1. Mrs. B. Hall
 2. Mrs. J. Russell
 3. Mrs. J. Wedge
 4. Mrs. M. Cumberbatch

- Junior—Girls**
1. S. Jones
 2. S. Cain
 3. S. Watton
 4. C. Underwood
 5. J. Turley
 6. J. Alderton
 7. J. Chubb

I am pleased to report that Brian Keates has taken over the vacant position of "A" team captain. County fixtures start on November 1 with the "A" team away at Leicester and home matches for the Veterans and Juniors.

Jim Hayward has decided to resign as coach at the Highfields School Centre in order to devote more time to advanced coaching and his work as Wolverhampton and Staffs. County Coach. This is a great loss to Highfields but Jim's expertise is particularly suited to the advanced level and his decision is a wise one. A successor has still to be recruited. Another change is at Joseph Leckie (Walsall) where Len Dawes takes over from Sid Parker.

The County Committee have recently decided to award the Beattie Trophy to the winners of a K.O. competition between the Division 1 winners from each league within the County. This will be played at the end of each season and details of the competition will be formulated in due course.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

YET ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL

This month the spotlight is upon Norwich League. They have announced that they will be staging yet another European League international match this season. It will feature England versus the Netherlands, and, as on previous occasions, it will be played at the Lads' Club, King Street, Norwich. The date for your diaries is Thursday, 4th March, 1976, and the time is 7-15 p.m. We are hoping for a good turn-out to cheer England on in their effort to fight their way back to the premier division of the European League, from which they were relegated last season.

League play has been in progress since September, with many a hard-fought game. Norwich, holders of the East Anglian League Division 1 and 2 titles, have made an excellent start in this competition this time round. Their "A" team beat Beccles 9-1 at Hales; their "B" team conquered Wisbech "B" 7-3 at May & Baker's, Norwich; their Junior "A" (despite being a man short) won 6-3 at Wisbech, and Junior "B" conceded only one set in nine to the home club, Lowestoft.

Kings Lynn League have suffered a reduction in numbers of 11 teams this season. However, their strength is still 72 teams. It has

been surmised that the increase in main entry fees has caused some clubs to think twice about forming extra teams. The league now plays in six divisions of 12 teams each.

Yarmouth and District League have, on the other hand, started the season with a record number of 60 teams, seven up on last time. They play in five divisions. I hear that Chris Bensley, the Norwich stalwart, will be playing instead for Yarmouth this term. At an American Doubles tournament held at Erie Electronics, Paul Durrant and Doug Bennett had an excellent win over the favourites, Bensley and Mick Broughton.

Table Tennis was mentioned from the pulpit when Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. held their annual Sportsmen's Service at St. Peter Mancroft on 12th October.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

KIND WORDS

It was good to note in the October edition the reference to the final of the Rose Bowl and the kind words directed to the losing side, Guildford. That match was indeed the swansong of that particular team as, for varying reasons, the three Guildford ladies who had until this year gracefully fallen in the semi-final rounds to Central London's widely-drawn side, have decided to contest that competition no longer. What a great thing it would be for our sport if all matches were played in the spirit which Ruth Miles, Susan Henderson and Linda Howard have shown ever since they set out on the search for that trophy.

The County Senior Ranking List was issued in September as follows:—

Men	Women
1. Richard Yule	1. Linda Howard
2. Steve Lyons	2. Susan Henderson
3. David Welsman	3. Jenny Vass
4. Chris Strathearn	4. Susan Roebuck
5. Conny Warren	5. Jayne Mitchell
6. Martin Shuttle	6. Joan Warren
7. Max Crimmins	7. Gail McCulloch
8. Gordon Chapman	8. Elaine Starr
9. Derek Holman	9. Susan Head
10. Ian Girdler	10. Diane Elliott
11. David Harding	11. Lorraine Garbet
12. Dave Bangerter	12. Susan Walker
13. John Burlton	
14. Peter Brennan	

Gerald Walsh not ranked due to injury.

Note the familiar name at No. 5 in the Men's.

Mike Twohill, Secretary, sends news of the Croydon and District League, which, founded in 1934, must be one of our oldest organisations. Their current President is Charles Bourne, who, as Secretary, was one of the founders, and is now President of the County and has recently acted as co-organiser of the County Closed Championships. Ken Joyce took over as Secretary in 1948 and so served for 24 years.

The League has no national trophies on its mantelpiece but does boast several Internationals from its ranks:—Vera Dace, "Pinky" Barnes, Cyril Merrett, Eric Filby, Keith Hurlock and Michael McLaren. At present the league is formed of 70 teams in seven divisions and holds an Annual Closed Championship in the second half of the season.

Progress faltered somewhat following the retirement of Ken Joyce from the Secretaryship, but recovery is taking place and, under the watchful eyes of Charles Bourne, and, amongst other Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Bourne and Mrs. Standbridge (many years the Match Secretary), the leading officials are:—Chairman, Emil Emecz (who was once kind enough to translate my Staffordshire accent into Hungarian at an International Match in Guildford), Mike Twohill, Eric Filby, Ken Joyce, Colin Clemett, Cyril Dean, Bob Standbridge, Harry Swetnam, Ron Baker, Roger Bacon and Alan Payne—hope to guide the organisation over a period of consolidation.

Next month, news from Croydon Business Houses and from Reigate.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

JUNIORS DISAPPOINT

The Northumberland Junior County team suffered a disappointing 7-3 defeat in their opening match away to Cumbria I at Millom School.

Eddie Thomas unfortunately failed to arrive at the meeting place, which meant that the team had to concede two boys' singles and the mixed doubles to the opposition. This proved to be too great a handicap and Cumbria eventually ran out comfortable winners. Strangely enough, the same thing happened last season when Cumbria turned up at North Shields Y.M.C.A. minus one girl!

Andrew Clark, now ranked No. 15 junior boy in England, lost a close set to Chris Reed, ranked No. 20, and Neil Smith pushed him hard all the way to lose only narrowly in two "deuce" games. Glenn McCardle beat Ian Reed 21-19 in the third, but Valerie Smith had the biggest win of the day when she easily beat her namesake, Gail Smith. Julie Hobson made her junior debut in this match, and although only involved in the girls' doubles, put up a satisfactory performance in her first outing.

It seems unfortunate that this will be the last season as juniors for Andrew, Glenn and Valerie, as both Ann Henderson and Kit Cheung are already over age from the previous season. There are, however, a few up and coming boys, notably Roger Bambrough and Mark Kimberley, who seem good enough to join Eddie and Julie, who both have one more season in the junior ranks—but, as usual, a great shortage of junior girls is the main problem.

The next junior match will be a difficult fixture at home to Yorkshire III, while the senior first team open their account also at home to the Yorkshire II senior team. Both matches will be played on November 1. The senior team, however, will be without the services of Peter Hoyles and Ron Kettlewell, both of whom have announced their official retirement from competitive play.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Colin Hammond

ALL ROADS LEAD TO KIMBERLEY

This month's notes are dominated by the news that the Notts. T.T.A. is staging the England versus Ireland European League Match on Thursday, December 11th. This is being held at the Kimberley Sports Centre, Kimberley, Notts. (M.1 Junction 26), and ticket prices are £1, and 75p for Juveniles (under 17). This is an evening match, starting at 7-30 p.m. Tickets are available from:—Mr. H. Taylor, Leisure Services Committee, Notts. County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

Only the Veterans of the County teams had a match in October—versus Clwyd on October 11—and are the only team with a ranking list at present:—

Men

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. J. G. Ellis | 4. N. Greenberg |
| 2. J. Burraston | 5. D. Horton |
| 3. R. T. Bolton | 6. F. Marriott |

Women

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mrs. P. Hammond | 2. Mrs. B. Marriott |
|--------------------|---------------------|

With matches on November 1st, the Senior and Junior ranking lists are to be decided on current form. In the Junior field the signs are decidedly hopeful, with strong competition for places between Glen Stredder, Roy Stewart, Dave Parsons, Terry Bramford and Steve Inkley. Glen has shown good form in the early season league matches and should be difficult to beat this season. There are also encouraging signs on the girls' side, and it is hoped that Elaine Handford and Catherine Lindley can continue to make progress.

With regard to John Woodford's "Controversy" probe into scoring systems, Nottingham and District T.T.A. changed from the normal system some four years ago.

Teams winning 10-0, 9-1, 8-2 received 4 points
Teams winning 7-3, 6-4 received 3 points
Teams drawing 5-5 received 2 points
Teams losing 4-6, 3-7 received 1 point
Teams losing 2-8, 1-9, 0-10 received 0 points

This system ran well but unfortunately led to one team which was unbeaten, failing to win the first division! The system was then amended so that a winning team gained 4 points, whatever the margin of victory, and still allowing the teams losing closely to pick up valuable points. This system is now in its third year of operation and seems to work well, without obvious failings. The majority of players approve, as it keeps the interest until the last set and makes the doubles even more important.

NEW GLOUCESTER GEN

by John Cooper

JUNIOR RANKINGS

Junior trials for new Gloucestershire were held at Chosen Hill School, Churchdown, on 26th September, with the following indications:

Boys—1, G. Greening, M. & D. Hodgetts (all Cheltenham); 4, D. Morgan (Gloucester); 5, A. Berry; 6, J. Turner (both Cheltenham); 7, M. Lane (Gloucester); 8, G. Slack (Cheltenham); 9, S. Quelch; 10, D. Bennett (both Gloucester); 11, A. Golding (Stroud); 12, D. Beard (Gloucester); 13, K. Wand (Stroud) and 14, M. Turner (Cheltenham).

Girls—1, V. Cruwys (Cheltenham); 2, J. Dovey (Gloucester); 3, K. Robb (Cheltenham); 4, J. Phillips (Gloucester).

Senior Trials have also been held but as two senior Gloucester men did not turn up the matter needs reconsideration. The women could not be settled either because of the illness of Mrs. S. Mathews.

Congratulations to Peter Cruwys on the idea and implementation of a Cheltenham Colts Club and entry of teams in the Cheltenham League. Practice is on Wednesdays and team matches on Fridays; all at Chosen Hill School again. There are currently 10 good tables there plus one practice table, thanks to the co-operation of school Leagues and Clubs in the area.

Cheltenham have had their team trials and D. Sweeney, M. Collier and D. Harvey were selected to play against Shrewsbury—they drew, with Harvey getting all three. In the Bath Festival, Cheltenham's team won the table tennis events.

Gloucester Vets had a good 10-0 win over Derby. Well done Ray Phillips, William Dawe, Sr., and Brian Greaves. That helps balance a little the boys' 1-9 loss at Leicester. Resolution—must try harder at my Wednesday and Friday weekly coaching!

Stroud seniors do not start well with a 1-9 loss to West Bromwich. Alan Giles saved the "whitewash". For the future, Stroud are now doing their junior training in their new Leisure Centre, taking 30 youngsters each Saturday morning.

DURHAM NOTES

by Edgar Reay

BRIGHT PROSPECTS

Durham County, despite their loss of sponsorship from V.G. Foodstores, are looking forward to what could be one of their most successful seasons.

In the 2nd Division North of the County Championships most of last season's players are still available. In the 2nd Div. Junior North, four of last season's players, Keith Paxton, Tony Gelder, Peter Masters and Julie Inch, who were only beaten for the division title by Cleveland on games average, are again available to play, and with Jeanette Ryland, Linda Alcock and Julie Smith fighting it out for the second place, they have some useful players in reserve.

The opening match of the season was away to Cleveland, but Durham's strength in boys was emphasised when six singles went to them. Paxton, after his recent run of success in winning three Open Tournaments on consecutive weekends, showed his ability to fight back when he was beaten by S. Holden in the first game -14, and was down 7-13 in the second, he fought back, drew level at 16-16 and went on to win 21-17. In the third Paxton dominated play and won 21-11. Durham boys' doubles pair, of Paxton and Gelder, recorded their first win in the championships when they beat C. Gunn and S. Holden 13, 15. In the girls' doubles Julie Inch and Linda Alcock were unlucky to lose to Norma Carne and Helen Robinson when, at one game each and leading 20-19 in the third, the Cleveland pair got a very fine edge and went on to win 26-24. The final score of Cleveland 3, Durham 7, was a good start for Durham.

The monthly Coaching Sessions organised by the County Association with Bob Wiley as Coach-in-charge, are being held this season in the Catholic Youth Club, Sunderland, and again they are well supported, but there is a number of County players missing from these sessions.

Having to cancel the Durham County Open for this season was a big disappointment, not only for our own players, but to the many people who have supported us previously, but it will not be for lack of effort if it is not held next season.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

MIXED FORTUNES

Leicester opened their County fixtures with a win and a loss. The Junior team had a 6-4 win over Northants in the Junior 2nd Division (Midland).

Chris Rogers, as expected, won his two singles and was also successful in the doubles, but perhaps the outstanding performance came from last-minute choice Steven Freeman. Playing intelligently and well, Freeman even recovered from 15-20 down to win 22-20 against David Gallo.

On the distaff side, however, Northants were far superior, with Valerie Feakin and Mandy Wallis both playing very well. The Veterans lost 4-5 to Worcestershire, where Glenys Odam's was the hunting shire's star. For the home side J. Smith was outstanding.

In the Midland League, Leicester Juniors made a good start with a 9-1 win over Gloucester. Certainly the quartet of David Gannon, Steve Kenney, Steve Freeman and Steve Day looks very useful indeed. Over at Loughborough the trio of Paul Johnson, John Brindley and Glenn Johnson started with a 10-0 win in the Midland—not bad for three comparatively untried juniors! The men's team, however, came a cropper with a 9-1 defeat at the hands of Nottingham, where only Roger Bailey could manage a win.

The Leicester & District League look likely to have a new name on the 1st Division trophy this season. Loughborough have Donald Parker available regularly and with Anita Stevenson and Brian Mayfield also in the team, the prize could well go to the North Leicestershire town. Mayfield—now resident in Leicestershire—has opted to be considered for his new county and has been ranked No. 4. His experience and demeanour are sure to be of great value.

Knockout competitions continue to show a slight drop in entries but in the Rose Johnson Bowl at least (the County Team Handicap Knockout Cup) late entries from club secretaries was partly the reason.

The Leicestershire Closed Championships will be held at Soar Valley Community College on February 28-29, sponsored by the Town and Country Building Society. It is hoped this will be one of our most successful championships, and numbers, which have dropped in recent years, will pick up.

Open Tournament Survey

Contributed by ALAN RANSOME, GEORGE YATES and KEITH BUCKLE

Fourth seed, Keith Paxton, took all before him in winning the boys' singles, boys' doubles and team event with Andrew Clark, in the Cleveland 2-Star Junior Open, staged at Thornaby Pavilion on September 20-21.

Paxton's first notable win was at the expense of Kevin Beadsley. He went on to beat Chris Reed, Andrew Metcalfe and, in the final, Stephen Hazelwood, all without the loss of a game. In fact, his performance was so convincing that only Metcalfe threatened to take a game, the first, when he obtained 19 points. Every other game against the aforementioned opponents was won by at least a 5 points margin.

In the team final Paxton was again unbeaten, accounting for Michael Harrison 12, 13, and Ian Smith 8, 11. Kent boys Ian Kenyon and Ian Collins did a little better against Paxton in the semis, Kenyon going down -17, -18, and Collins -12 in the decider.

Top seed in the boys' singles, Jonathan Proffitt, went down to Stephen Hazelwood in the semis, whilst No. 2 seed, Smith, lost at the quarter-final stage to Andrew Metcalfe. Tony Gelder, another Durham boy, produced two surprises in this event, beating Clark and Collins, whilst Adam Proffitt upset the seedings with a victory over Harrison.

Melody Ludi won the U-17 girls' singles for the second successive year, beating Angela Tierney in a rather scrappy final. Melody beat Linda Hryszko in the quarters and Beverley Green in the semis, whilst Angela overcame Julie McLean in a set that almost required the expedite rule in her semi-final. Linda Hryszko scored a surprise first round victory, 22 in the

3rd, over Jane Skipp whilst fourth seed June Williams fell to Julie McLean in the quarters.

Paxton's only defeat of the championships came in the mixed where he and Melody Ludi lost in the final to the young Yorkshire pair, Beadsley and Linda Hryszko, in the third. Honours in the Cadet events must go to Liverpool's Tony O'Connor. Seeded third, he beat Ian Reed, the victor of Adam Proffitt, in the semis and then overcame Graham Sandley in straight games in the final.

But the singles victory was only part of O'Connor's successful weekend. In the Cadet boys' team final he beat both Sandley and Proffitt although his team were beaten 3-2. The Cadet girls' singles ran very much to form with Alison Gordon beating Helen Robinson in the semis and Jill Purslow in the final. The surprise of this event came from a newcomer on the tournament scene, Nicola Pine, from Plymouth, who beat the Scottish No. 1 Cadet, Carol Dalrymple, in the quarters, but fell to Jill Purslow in the semis.

The Championships were again sponsored by Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department and this sponsorship included a prize fund of £150 which was rewarded by a record entry. The prizes were presented by a number of civic dignitaries which included the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Duff, and the Chairman of Cleveland County Council, Councillor Groves. Despite the record entry, play was completed by 9-30 on the Saturday and by 7-15 p.m. on Sunday, allowing the long-distance travellers, Plymouth being the furthest South and Aberdeen to the North, to get home at a reasonable hour, one hoped!

Four of the seven titles being defended at the North of England 2-Star Open, staged at Mather and Platt's Park Works, Manchester, on September 26-27, were successfully retained but not so the men's singles crown, which passed from Nicky Jarvis to Desmond Douglas.

It was at the semi-final stage that these two met during which one-sided encounter the lightning reflexes of the Birmingham left-hander dominated the proceedings to such an extent that, after establishing a 5-0 lead off the Cleveland's services in the second game, Jarvis appeared to give up the ghost, his final tally being a mere 6 points!

Donald Parker, who had done his native Lancashire proud by ousting England's top two juniors, Paul Day and Andy Barden, came in for like treatment in the final, having no answer to the devastating play of Douglas, whose only previous home tournament win of note was in January, 1973, when he won the men's singles title at the Kent Open, his final victim on that occasion being Brian Burn, now the England trainer/coach.

Top seed Denis Neale, arriving late from an eve of tournament engagement in Essex, was scratched from the singles event but partnered Douglas to success, although protracted in the final encounter against Day and Barden, the national men's doubles champions.

Susan Lisle repeated her success of 12 months previously when, in the final of the women's singles, she beat an ill-tempered Carole Knight who, in the interim, has risen to the No. 2 ranking in England behind Jill Hammersley.

Keith Paxton—the only player to take a game from Douglas in the men's singles—maintained his winning ways in the Cleveland Junior Open by taking the boys' title, beating Douglas Johnson in the final. Defending champion, Ian Smith, lost to Jonathan Proffitt in the quarters. Again it was continuing success for Bradford's Melody Ludi in the counterpart girls' event, with a repeat of her win at Thornaby over Angela Tierney. It just wasn't Cleveland's day.

Richard Yule, last year's beaten finalist in the men's singles, fell to Derek Munt -19 -10 in Round 5. Among other notables to fall were Cheshire's John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley, the former to Kevin Beadsley -17, -19 and the latter to another junior, Jonathan Proffitt, -14, -20.

Shock occurrence in the men's singles event of the Cumbria 2-Star Open, played at Carlisle on October 4, was the ousting of Denis Neale, the defending title-holder, top seed and reigning English champion. He was beaten 23-21, 14-21, 21-18 in the second round by Stephen Souter, a former ranked junior now a bank clerk on Teesside.

The bespectacled Souter, in his first year out of the junior category, went on to contest the final with further victories over Nigel Hallows and Nigel Eckersley, but he had no answer to the power play of Jimmy Walker, who provided an insurmountable last hurdle. Walker it was who stopped the challenge of Yule, in the semis, after the Scottish No. 1 had disposed of his compatriots Alan Matthew, John Wilson and John McNee.

Top seed Carole Knight won the women's singles title, beating Elaine Smith, Scotland's leading lady, who had removed Susan Lisle in the semis.

Souter apart, it was another North-Easterner in Keith Paxton, of Sunderland and County Durham, who laid claim to the limelight in taking his third successive boys' singles title at the final expense of Ian Smith. The victory followed wins in the Cleveland 2-Star Junior and the B.S. event in the North of England championships. Quite a feat.



Nicky Jarvis and Jill Hammersley, who won the Mixed event in the North Middlesex Open, receive their prize cheques and trophy from Mr. Ken Oliver, Director of Fairview Estates Ltd., the Enfield-based house-builders, who for the second year running, sponsored the tournament.

Angela Tierney was untroubled in taking the counterpart girls' event, her final opponent being Carol Dalrymple, of Scotland's Central League. Cheshire's ace veteran, Derek Schofield, won his second veterans' singles title within the space of eight days when he put paid to the gallop of the national champion, Peter D'Arcy, in the final.

Prize money totalled £118, being jointly sponsored by Wm. Coulthard & Co. Ltd., Builders' and Plumbers' Merchants, of Carlisle, and Carlisle United A.F.C. Supporters' Club.

More than 300 players competed at Alexandra Palace over the weekend of October 4-5, in the 9th North Middlesex Open, organised by the North Middlesex League in conjunction with the London Borough of Harringay. Prize money was donated by Fairview Estates (of Enfield) Ltd., the entry form and programmes being donated by Jacey (Printers) Ltd., of Brunelway, Theford, Norfolk.

Engaged at Carlisle, men's singles champion, Denis Neale, was unable to defend his title, but his seeded place was taken by Nicky Jarvis who was challenged by Paul Day, Donald Parker and local boys Andrew Barden (East Finchley) and Mark Mitchell (Ellenboro T.T.C.).

In the Women's singles, holder Jill Hammersley defended her title against the challenge of Linda Howard and Angela Mitchell (Ellenboro), who recently became England's No. 1 Junior—a great achievement for this 15-year-old Edmonton girl.

Most outstanding performance in the men's singles was by North Middlesex Closed Champion, Peter Taylor (Ellenboro) who, on his way to the semi-finals, knocked out clubmate Mitchell -18, 18, 15 and overcame Barden in one of the best sets of the tournament -17, 13,

17. But Peter was outclassed in the final, failing to contain the attack of Jarvis. Good performances were also put up by locals David Brown (Heathcote) who got to the quarters, Dave Tan (E. Finchley), Bob Mosley (Ellenboro) and Bob Aldrich (E. Finchley) who won the "local player man of tournament" award of £10.

Outstanding on the female side was Angela Mitchell, who got to the semi-finals of the women's singles when against Shelagh Hession she was "robbed" at deuce in the 3rd by an "edge ball" 15, -18, -22. Angela also got to the final of the junior girls' singles when she met Melody Ludi in what was a "grudge" match, as Angela had just displaced Melody from the No. 1 England Junior spot. Although Angela and Melody teamed up for the women's doubles, they failed to get to the final, losing in the semis to Anita Stevenson and Karen Rogers. But Angela had more success in the Mixed when, together with Barden, the pair reached the final, but were overshadowed by the All-England Mixed Champions, Jarvis and Jill Hammersley. Barden also got to the finals of the Men's Doubles, partnered by Day, disposing of clubmate Tan and John Kitchener in an enthralling semi-final.

Prize money and trophies were jointly presented by Mr. Ken Oliver, of Fairview Estates, and the Mayor of Harringay, Councillor Mrs Daisy Cunningham.

NOTE.—Day and Barden, England's top juniors, did not play in the junior event, as happened in the North of England, to give the others a chance.

Photos by courtesy of
Madison Public Relations, London, N.W.1

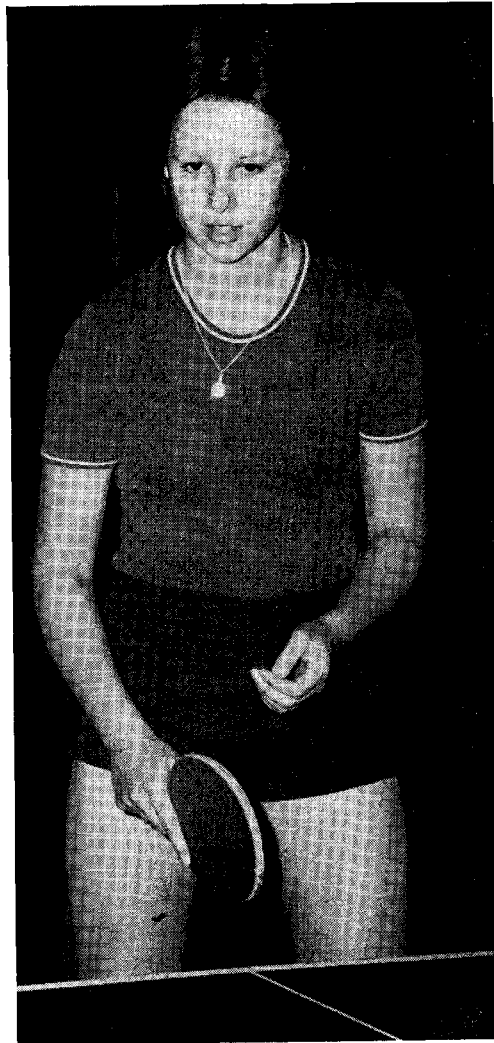
Results of Tournaments

CLEVELAND JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN — Results:—

Under-17 Events
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
J. Proffitt (Herts) bt T. Gelder (Durham) 11, -18, 14.
S. Hazelwood (Yorks) bt I. Kenyon (Kent) 14, -11, 7.
K. Paxton (Durham) bt C. Reed (Cumb) 14, 16.
A. Metcalfe (Yorks) bt I. Smith (Lancs) 16, 12.
Semi-finals
Paxton bt Metcalfe 19, 16.
Hazelwood bt Proffitt 19, -16, 17.
Final
PAXTON bt Hazelwood 14, 16.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
M. Ludi (Yorks) bt L. Hryszko (Yorks) 11, 18.
B. Green (Warwks) bt A. Gordon (Berks) 14, 15.
J. McLean (Yorks) bt J. Williams (Cleve) -18, 5, 18.
A. Tierney (Cleve) bt N. Carne (Cleve) 18, 12.
Semi-finals
Ludi bt Green 14, -13, 14.
Tierney bt McLean 18, 21.
Final
LUDI bt Tierney 16, 23.
Boys' Team—Semi-finals
A. Clark (Nthld)/Paxton bt I. Collins (Kent)/Kenyon 3-1.
M. Harrison (Yorks)/Smith bt A. Metcalfe/B. Metcalfe (Yorks) 3-2.
Final
CLARK/PAXTON bt Harrison/Smith 4-1.
Girls' Team—Semi-finals
Ludi/McLean bt S. Dickerson (Yorks)/Hryszko 3-1.
J. Skipp (Cleve)/Tierney bt Carne/Williams 3-2.
Final
LUDI/McLEAN bt Skipp/Tierney 3-1.
Boys' Doubles—Final
CLARK/PAXTON bt Collins/Kenyon 17, -9, 17.
Girls' Doubles—Final
GORDON/J. PURSLOW (Berks) bt Skipp/Tierney -16, 16, 13.
Mixed Doubles—Final
K. BEADSLEY (Yorks)/HRYSZKO bt Paxton/Ludi -20, 18, 22.
Under-14 Events
Boys' Singles—Semi-finals
G. Sandley (Middx) bt M. Laird (Cleve) 17, 14.
A. O'Connor (Lancs) bt I. Reed (Cumb) 12, 19.
Final
O'CONNOR bt Sandley 20, 13.
Girls' Singles—Semi-finals
Purslow bt N. Pine (Devon) 14, 15.
Gordon bt H. Robinson (Cleve) 18, 21.
Final
GORDON bt Purslow 18, 18.
Boys' Team—Final
A. PROFFITT (Berks)/SANDLEY bt R. Albutt (Derbys)/O'Connor 3-2.
Girls' Team—Final
GORDON/PURSLOW bt Pine/T. Sugden (Devon) 3-0.
Boys' Doubles—Final
PROFFITT/SANDLEY bt S. Harmer (Beds)/O'Connor -17, 17, 19.
Girls' Doubles—Final
GORDON/PURSLOW bt J. Beadsley/S. Midgley (Yorks) 10, 13.
Under-14 Event—Boys' Singles—Final
A. DIXON (Staffs) bt D. Rowland (Cleve) 10, 15.

NORTH OF ENGLAND 2-STAR OPEN — Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
A. Barden (Middx) bt R. Wiley (Cleve) -19, 15, 10.
D. Parker (Lancs) bt P. Day (Cambs) -16, 12, 17.
D. Douglas (Warwks) bt J. Walker (Cleve) 20, 17.
N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt D. Munt (Warwks) 10, 14.
Semi-finals
Parker bt Barden 13, 25.
Douglas bt Jarvis 18, 6.
Final
DOUGLAS bt Parker 12, 6.
Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
C. Knight (Cleve) bt A. Tierney (Cleve) 17, 15.
A. Stevenson (Leics) bt P. Fleming (Scot) 15, 11.
K. Rogers (Leics) bt M. Ludi (Yorks) 10, 11.
S. Lisle (Ches) bt J. McLean (Yorks) -17, 17, 18.
Semi-finals
Knight bt Stevenson 12, 10.
Lisle bt Rogers 16, -18, 18.
Final
LISLE bt Knight 18, 14.
Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
Douglas/D. Neale (Cleve) bt P. Bowen (Lancs)/Parker 17, -8, 19.
Barden/Day bt Jarvis/Walker -20, 16, 9.
Final
DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Barden/Day 26, 24.
Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
Lisle/Stevenson bt S. Hunt (Lincs)/Rogers 16, 18.
Knight/M. Leigh (Ches) bt Ludi/McLean -16, 16, 10.
Final
LISLE/STEVENSON bt Knight/Leigh 13, -19, 18.
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
K. Paxton (Durham) bt M. Harrison (Yorks) 19, 6.
J. Proffitt (Herts) bt I. Smith (Lancs) 14, 11.
T. Gelder (Durham) bt C. Rogers (Leics) 19, 15.
D. Johnson (Warwks) bt A. Mathew (Scot) 10, 13.
Semi-finals
Paxton bt Proffitt 16, 13.
Johnson bt Gelder 16, 13.
Final
PAXTON bt Johnson 17, 22.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
Ludi bt McLean 14, 22.
Hunt bt L. Hryszko (Yorks) 18, 14.
J. Williams (Cleve) bt B. Green (Warwks) -8, 15, 20.
Tierney bt E. Hardie (Scot) 9, 10.
Semi-finals
Ludi bt Hunt 5, 10.
Tierney bt Williams 18, 9.
Final
LUDI bt Tierney 20, 21.
Veteran Singles—Quarter-finals
P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt A. Hartshorn (Lancs) 14, -18, 10.
E. Griffiths (Ches) bt T. Donlon (Ches) 8, -21, 21.
G. Brook (Yorks) bt V. Hankey (Ches) -19, 10, 18.
D. Schofield (Ches) bt W. Allanson (Lancs) 19, 13.
Semi-finals
Griffiths bt D'Arcy 17, 21.
Schofield bt Brook -15, 16, 12.
Final
SCHOFIELD bt Griffiths 11, 19.
CUMBRIA 2-STAR OPEN Results:—
Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
S. Souter (Cleve) bt N. Hallows (Lancs) -17, 17, 14.
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt J. Hilton (Ches) 20, 20.
J. Walker (Cleve) bt T. Devers (Scot) 15, 16.
R. Yule (Scot) bt I. Robertson (Nthld) 12, 12.
Semi-finals
Souter bt Eckersley -16, 10, 18.
Walker bt Yule 19, -11, 15.
Final
WALKER bt Souter 11, 19.
Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
C. Knight (Cleve) bt C. Mason (Durham) 14, 12.
B. Murtagh (Durham) bt P. Fleming (Scot) -18, 18, 17.
E. Smith (Scot) bt J. Inch (Durham) 11, 8.
S. Lisle (Ches) bt J. Walker (Yorks) 13, 19.
Semi-finals
Knight bt Murtagh 13, 11.
Smith bt Lisle 18, -17, 17.
Final
KNIGHT bt Smith 15, 16.
Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
D. Neale (Cleve)/Walker bt P. Bowen (Lancs)/P. D'Arcy (Ches) 7, -17, 17.
Eckersley/Hilton bt J. McNee (Scot)/Yule 17, -9, 19.
Final
NEALE/WALKER bt Eckersley/Hilton 13, 17.
Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
Knight/A. Tierney (Cleve) bt E. Craig/G. McKay (Scot) 12, 13.
Lisle/Walker bt Fleming/Smith 17, 19.
Final
KNIGHT/TIERNEY bt Lisle/Walker -15, 8, 17.
Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
Neale/Knight bt Hilton/Walker 15, 8.
R. Hampson (Ches)/Lisle bt Yule/Smith 19, 21.
Final
NEALE/KNIGHT bt Hampson/Lisle 16, 15.
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
I. Smith (Lancs) bt C. Gunn (Cleve) 16, 12.
A. Mathew (Scot) bt C. Reed (Cumbria) 8, -20, 15.
A. O'Connor (Lancs) bt A. Clark (Nthld) 20, 6.
K. Paxton (Durham) bt A. Lenton (Lancs) 10, 6.
Semi-finals
Smith bt Mathew 18, 18.
Paxton bt O'Connor 12, 17.
Final
PAXTON bt Smith -15, 19, 18.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
Tierney bt Inch 7, 6.
E. Hardie (Scot) bt J. Hobson (Nthld) -18, 9, 12.
J. Deakin (Ches) bt M. Gray (Cumbria) -16, 11, 13.
C. Dalrymple (Scot) bt V. Smith (Nthld) 13, -17, 13.
Semi-finals
Tierney bt Hardie 12, 9.
Dalrymple bt Deakin 29, 11.



Angela Mitchell, sister of Mark, who in the North Middlesex 2-Star beat Melody Ludi to capture the girls' singles title.

Final
TIERNEY bt Dalrymple 17, 10.

Veteran Singles—Quarter-finals
D'Arcy bt G. Lapping (Cumbria) 17, 12.
G. Smith (Lancs) bt H. Robinson (Cleve) -12, 22, 14.
W. Allanson (Lancs) bt J. O'Sullivan (Lancs) 14, 13.
D. Schofield (Ches) bt T. Donlon (Ches) 14, -17, 18.

Semi-finals
D'Arcy bt Smith 10, 16.
Schofield bt Allanson 19, -18, 14.

Final
SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 15, 15.

NORTH MIDDLESEX 2-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt A. Clayton (Yorks) 14, 14.
P. Taylor (Beds) bt A. Barden (Middx) -17, 13, 17.
D. Parker (Lancs) bt D. Brown (Essex) 17, 14.
P. Day (Cambs) bt C. Sewell (Gloucs) 17, 15.

Semi-finals
Jarvis bt Taylor 17, 14.
Parker bt Day 17, 15.

Final
JARVIS bt Parker 18, 12.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt L. Radford (Essex) 17, 15.
M. Ludi (Yorks) bt K. Rogers (Leics) 19, 17.
S. Hession (Essex) bt L. Howard (Surrey) 19, 15.
A. Mitchell (Middx) bt B. Chamberlain (Hunts) 15, -24, 26.

Semi-finals
Hammersley bt Ludi 16, 14.
Hession bt Mitchell -15 18, 22.

Final
HAMMERSLEY bt Hession 9, 11.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
Barden/Day bt D. Tan/J. Kitchenehr (Sfk) 16, 15.
Jarvis/Parker bt Clayton/L. Landry (Middx) 19, 18.

Final
JARVIS/PARKER bt Barden/Day -17, 18, 23.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
Hammersley/Howard bt Hession/Radford 15, 9.
Rogers/A. Stevenson (Leics) bt Ludi/Mitchell -16, 19, 15.

Final
HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Rogers/Stevenson 18, -15, 17.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
Jarvis/Hammersley bt Clayton/Howard -19, 17, 10.
Barden/Mitchell bt Day/Ludi 20, 19.

Final
JARVIS/HAMMERSLEY bt Barden/Mitchell 16, 8.

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals
Sewell bt I. Kenyon (Kent) 15, -16, 16.
M. Shuttle (Surrey) bt C. Rogers (Leics) 17, 9.

Final
SHUTTLE bt Sewell -17, 9, 15.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals
Mitchell bt B. Green (Warwks) 16, -19, 20.
Ludi bt K. Witt (Bedks) 14, -26, 14.

Final
MITCHELL bt Ludi 20, -14, 20.

Veterans' Singles—Semi-finals
B. Meisel (Kent) bt D. Summers (Middx) 19, 16.
J. Brandez (Essex) bt R. Herber (Essex) 17, -18, 10.

Final
MEISEL bt Brandez 14, 18.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

NEW RANKINGS

The season moves on apace, and following extensive training sessions in late Summer and early Autumn, the County selectors issued the following rankings:—

Key: D—Daventry, K—Kettering, N. Northampton, W—Wellingborough.

Men

1. Rod Marchant (W)
2. Gary Alden (W)
3. Steve Lyon (N)
4. Ray Kingston (N)
5. John Palmer (K)
6. Brian Dangerfield (W)
7. Gary Hamilton (N)
8. Graham Feakin (W)
9. Phil Snelling (N)

Women

1. Anne Wallis (W)
2. Connie Bane (N)
3. Glennis Hooper (W)
4. Valerie Feakin (K)
5. Mandy Wallis (W)
6. Sue Edwards (D)
7. Dorothy Marsh (W)

Boys

1. Gary Alden (W)
2. Keith Nicoll (K)
3. Kevin McPartlan (D)
4. David Gallo (N)
5. Stuart Rollings (K)
6. Ian Morris (N)
7. Tim Forster (N)
8. Alan Hawes (W)
9. Mark Raven (W)
10. Ken Nicoll (K)

Girls

1. Valerie Feakin (K)
2. Mandy Wallis (W)
3. Frances Tsow (D)
4. Helen Cottier (N)
5. Gina Burrows (D)

While containing all the familiar names, there have been several changes of a surprising nature. Hamilton and Snelling fared badly in the men's trials, and have been overtaken by Kingston and Dangerfield, but inevitably Marchant retains pole position, followed by Alden.

The Women's list emphasises the emergence of youth, as the talented Anne Wallis takes over the No. 1 position for the first time, with Glennis Hooper, Valerie Feakin and Mandy Wallis moving up to displace Sue Edwards and County Singles Champion, Dorothy Marsh, while Christine Dilley, who is to be congratulated on her October marriage, has yet to show her hand.

Again youth has taken a turn for the better in the Boys' list, for although Alden leads, there has been outstanding progress from Nicoll and Rollings, of Kettering, and Gallo, Morris and Forster of Northampton.

In the Junior Girls' section, Valerie Feakin

has at last overtaken Mandy Wallis, with Frances Tsow in third place, but there is currently a shortage of girls in the County, a state of affairs likely to be remedied if numerous coaching schemes continue to operate, in addition to the recently-formed Junior League at the Lodge Park Sports Centre in Corby.

The County Juniors had an early opportunity to demonstrate their abilities when they visited Leicestershire for the first match of the season. Excellent performances from Valerie Feakin, Mandy Wallis and Alden, who took England No. 6, Chris Rogers, to a decider, were not quite enough to gain a share of the spoils, and Northants went down 4-6, but the experience gained by young Nicoll and Gallo should stand them in good stead for the future.

The re-formed County League with Daventry's Peter Edwards at the helm as Secretary, also got under way with a first-ever clash between Kettering and Towcester. Kettering's experience at this level, bolstered by the skill and enthusiasm of Anne Wallis and Nicoll, was too much for the County's newest recruits, but a spirited fight-back by Alan Shouler and Ron Dunkley, ensured that Towcester did not return home empty-handed.

Scores (Kettering names first):—

Dennis Millman bt Alan Shouler 16, 11.
John Palmer bt Ron Dunkley 6, 8.
Terry Sutton bt Richard Weston 12, 10.
Anne Wallis/Keith Nicoll bt Joyce Porter/A. Roberts 9, 10.
Palmer/Millman bt Shouler/Weston 16, 11.
Wallis/Sutton bt Porter/Dunkley 17, 12.
Nicoll bt Roberts 9, 17.
Palmer lost to Shouler 21, -15, -20.
Wallis bt Porter 12, 11.
Millman bt Weston 13, 9.
Sutton bt Dunkley -18, 18, 19.

With just five entries for this new competition, the fixtures are well spaced out, with some interesting matches in prospect. The remaining fixtures for 1975, all with 3 p.m. starts, are:—

Oct. 26—Daventry II v Daventry I
Nov. 2—Towcester v Daventry II
Dec. 6—Towcester v Northampton

Meanwhile, all the local leagues are in full flow, with early results going very much with the form book. League Press Officers are requested to contact me before the 12th of each month if they wish their leagues to be featured in subsequent editions of "Table Tennis News".

Harry Walker retires

Harry Walker, so long a stalwart in the E.T.T.A. Office at Hastings, has retired. Having come to live in Hastings when the Association's Office was moved from Park Crescent, London, in 1972, to continue assisting with administrative duties, his help and advice will be sorely missed. Best wishes for a long and happy retirement, Harry, you deserve it.



Martin Shuttle pictured with his trophy and cheque after winning the B.S. final at Alexandra Palace.

The photograph of Joanne Kinnersley on the front cover was taken by TONY ROSS, of Hessele.

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ENGLAND FAST AWAY ON THE PROMOTION BID

by JOHN WOODFORD

ENGLAND 6, DENMARK 1

Watched by nearly 400, England started their bid to return to the Premier Division of the European League at Eastbourne on October 23, with a score on paper of 6-1. This clearly suggests it was an easy victory, but it was far from it. Vikings and Scandinavians in general traditionally fight hard and this was the case on a warm South Coast evening.

Brian Burn provided the first shock by naming Desmond Douglas for the singles instead of Denis Neale. This raised many eyebrows, as it left Denis to play only in the men's doubles—and, this as it happened, was the turning point of the match.

Nicky Jarvis looked somewhat uneasy as he nudged his way past Neils Ramberg with a double 19. Douglas fought hard but his shortage of top class play was too much, he fell to Claus Pedersen -19, -11. Jill Hammersley also started without much authority—how Annie Larrson scraped up 15 points in the first was a bit of a mystery. Jill eventually got cracking in the second to win 10.

THE BRINK

The men's doubles was the classic cliff-hanger. At first Denis and Des had no trouble to win the first at 13, but then the Danes Pedersen and Ramberg surged back to snatch the second at 15. Early in the third England were ahead. Suddenly things looked black for England. The Danish pair led 20-17 in that final set. Had they won it to make the match score 2-2, the chances of Pedersen stopping Jarvis again and Douglas falling to Ramberg, leaving Denmark 4-3 winners was a vivid possibility!

However, Neale and Douglas pulled themselves together to win five points in a row! The tumultuous applause that followed was, of course, relief—rather like being pulled back after being pushed over the famous Beachy Head cliffs only three miles away from the venue.

From that high point Denmark began to slide to defeat—the mixed doubles—Douglas and Linda Howard against Ramberg and Miss Larrson, was an England banker—England took it 14, 15, and we were home but not quite dry.

With very little to lose and everything to gain, Jarvis then became "man-of-the-match" with his magnificent revenge win over the powerful Pedersen. Again, Jarvis was a slow starter, losing the first at 18. Nicky's greatest loop-drives are, of course, from a point near the left side of the table—almost unreturnable when the rubber really bites the ball. But, the enormous area he leaves uncovered on his right means he has to move at colossal speed should his opponent manage to place a good return on that side. The Cleveland man's performance against Pedersen, taking the second at 18 and the last set at 12, suggests that this season, as he did in the last campaign, he may well take over the No. 1 spot on the England ranking list from Neale.

Douglas played the last set and this time he found the form that should keep him very near the top of the rankings; he stopped the vastly experienced Ramberg 15, 18.

England should now go forward to the promotion play-off with victories over Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland. At the play-off they should meet West Germany. If that match is played away, as expected, they will have to raise their performance to a standard somewhat higher than at Eastbourne. At this time, it looks as though the men on whom the task will fall will be Jarvis and Neale.

What the papers say . .

"News of the World" — October 26, 1975

IT'S IAN'S WORLD

Ian Horsham, 19-year-old hurricane hitter from Hornchurch, Essex, is set to take the table tennis scene by storm in 1976, according to former world champion Johnny Leach.

He has been on the brink of international stardom since 1970, when he was selected as the Player of the Year under the "News of the World" national coaching scheme at Butlin holiday camps.

A Churchill Award followed, enabling Ian to have nine months' special training with the world champions in Japan and China.

Since then, he has reached eighth ranking in England, but that's a position which doesn't do justice to his talent. Last weekend he provided a glimpse of his true ability when he reached the final of the Sussex Open before losing narrowly to Nicky Jarvis, the England No. 2.

Leach believes Ian has the skill and dedication to become a world champion. All he needs now is to maintain concentration when things go against him—his only real fault—and the table tennis world could be his.

"Daily Telegraph" — October 28, 1975.

TAYLOR JOINS DUTCH CLUB

Trevor Taylor, the Commonwealth champion and England's most successful representative in the individual events of the last World Championships—he reached the last 16 in the men's singles—has signed a year's contract with the Dutch League club Tempo, of Amsterdam, writes D. J. Rutnagur.

If Taylor's contract is renewed next year, he will be qualified to play in Holland's colours, even in World championships. The approval of the English Table Tennis Association will be needed for the transfer.

A spokesman for the Association said that they would not stand in Taylor's way. Taylor did not need permission to sign with Tempo, for he is not a member of an English club and therefore is not within the E.T.T.A.'s jurisdiction.

Taylor, who has humbled the World's best on one day and been beaten by a mediocre player on the next has had frequent rubs with authority.

In 1973, he was dropped from the England team for the final of the Commonwealth team championship. Three days later, he won the individual title. The following week, he was sent home from the World Championships for not putting in maximum effort in a Swaythling Cup match against Austria, which England lost.

HALEX HUMBERSIDE 3-STAR OPEN

Still without a men's singles success to his name on the home tournament circuit, Denis Neale, the No. 1 seed, failed again, but gallantly, in the Halex Humberside 3-Star Open at Hull, over the weekend of October 25-26, when he was beaten by Desmond Douglas in a fluctuating final encounter. The Warwickshire international claimed the top award of £100 together with the plaudits of the crowd.

Jimmy Walker, after eliminating the fourth seed, Paul Day, in the quarters, sparkled only fitfully in opposition to Neale who, largely as a result of errors made by his Cleveland teammate, reached the final in straight games.

A far more entertaining contest was that provided by Nicky Jarvis, the holder, and Douglas in the second semi, with victory going,

as it did in the North of England at Manchester, to the Jamaican-born left-hander, but only after the England No. 2 had served off the table when leading 20-19 in the first game, won the second, and held Douglas to 19-all in the decider.

Jill Hammersley brought off her third successive victory in the women's singles with Linda Howard, for the third year running, having to content herself with the runners-up award. Miss Howard had previously beaten Carole Knight, the No. 2 seed, the other surprise result in this event being the ousting of Susan Lisle, seeded No. 4, by Karen Rogers.

In going for his fourth boys' singles title of the season, Keith Paxton fell to David Reeves, of Berks, who, in the men's event had beaten Lancashire's Donald Parker! Chris Rogers was the ultimate winner, as was Melody Ludi in the counterpart girls' event.

A full report by Rea Balmford, with detailed scores, will appear in the December Issue.



Yugoslavia's Dragutin Surbek and Anton Stipancic, finalists in the men's doubles at the Calcutta World Championships, who will be seen at the Greater Manchester Masters' Tournament at Belle Vue, on December 6, 1975. Tickets priced at 75p (O.A.P.s and accompanied children under-14, 40p) for the morning session and at £1 and 50p for the afternoon session (televised) can be obtained from the Booking Office at Belle Vue, Manchester 12.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

The season started with a fascinating battle for power between the men at the top of Sussex table tennis. County champion Roger Chandler (Brighton) was joined at the top rung of the ladder by the Crawley pair, John Clarke and Gerald Pugh.

This bit of power-sharing started at the county trials when Clarke and Pugh just managed to beat Chandler. In the first county match at home to Kent which Sussex won 7-3 all three men were victorious once and were defeated once—honours, again all square.

Clearly there is no room at the top for three, the rung on the ladder is not strong enough for three, so it is going to be of considerable interest to see who holds on. Chandler showed he has the intention and the undoubted talent to hang on when he led Nicky Jarvis 10-5 in the third set at the Sussex Open—some warning!

However, no disgrace in having these three fighting so hard, in fact the trio present quite a challenge in Division 2 (South) and there is already talk, a little premature I feel, of promotion.

COACHING OR CRUCIFYING

by MIKE ELLIS

Reproduced from "Kent Table Tennis News"—
October, 1975.

Perhaps some people will be surprised that, being a member of the Kent Development Committee, I should choose to write an article with the above headline. I firmly believe in the development of youngsters and the game generally but am not convinced that "coaching", as it exists today, is necessarily the right approach or that it will achieve any of the County's long-term objectives. To some extent this article is borne out of a sense of frustration.

Surely before long there is going to appear on the Kent junior scene (or for that matter in any other County) a good old-fashioned player with a natural ability for the game. By "old-fashioned" I do not refer to playing style but more to his having the ability to stand on his own two feet—someone that didn't have to be "wet-nursed" all the way by so-called "coaching". The word has lost its meaning today.

All that is necessary is for some willing person to arrange facilities and some decent opposition and then simply let the kids enjoy themselves by playing table tennis. To my way of thinking it is completely illogical to think it is necessary for 13 and 14-year-olds to "knees-bend" and run around a hall in an effort to get fit. If they're not fit at that age then when will they be? In the meantime the precious time is slipping away and perhaps 6 or 7 tables are left standing empty.

Don't get me wrong though, to get to the top at any sport you have got to be fit and table tennis is no exception. However, for youngsters of this age it is not possible for one to compete against another and not get the physical exercise needed to keep them fit and able to improve. If an individual feels he or she needs to be fitter in order to play better then they will take steps as individuals. Surely the masses need not suffer for this?

Let me stress at this point that I believe there are a number of coaches that are doing a grand job in starting these kids off in the game. I say let it end there—let their natural character come out and perhaps we will see somebody that plays the game slightly differently from everyone else. In so doing we might perhaps get a world-beater who is not just another "stereotype" as so many of the youngsters appear to be today. Let them enjoy the game and don't let us force so much of this uninteresting rubbish on them that they eventually decide to retire from the game—in some cases at the ripe old age of 15!

View from afar

by TREVOR FLINT
(N.Z. Director of Coaching)

This year New Zealand sent teams to the World and Commonwealth Championships again. Those who were expecting big things from our players were no doubt a little disappointed. However, without knowing fully the position, perhaps this is understandable.

We know that our players had 18 days training before leaving—hey presto! they must do well! However, the players themselves fully realised that what they also needed as well, was hard International match play before going into this top level competition.

To give you an idea of what some countries call preparation for competition of this nature I will give an example.

The English players played European League Matches against Hungary and Sweden,

played in the English team and Individual Championships against foreign opposition, Super League team contests, competed in the Scandinavian Championships, three Internationals against China, an International tournament which Orlovski won—prizes \$500 men's singles and \$250 for the women! an International Festival tournament with China, the Middlesex championships and County matches. This, apart from other competitions, New Zealanders would be lucky to play this amount in several years of competition, but this programme was all in the space of less than nine weeks!! They previously had build-up training camps prior to this competition, therefore you can see that it is understandable when I say that our players are at a distinct disadvantage when competing at International level.

More of our players are going overseas and teams are being sent to International tournaments apart from a larger coaching and training programme here in New Zealand. We are a vast distance from top level competition and so is our standard; however, "Rome wasn't built in a day" and if you were to look closely into our performances over the past few years you would find that our general standard is now closer to World standards than previously.

Some ask the question "Is it worthwhile our teams being sent overseas?". Well, in my view it is a must, there are several reasons why we should.

Apart from keeping abreast with any changes to the game an important reason is that you must have top players for the young ones to look up to, and if we don't get a fair amount of International play, then we will only become an International backwater and our top standard will not improve.

Our young players must have incentive to raise their standard and if our top players make some sort of showing on the International front it encourages them to lift their game and possibly "make" a New Zealand team. From my point of view it is the overall picture I am thinking of when I say, "We must send teams away". It helps create incentive and interest for the young children to take up the game also.

Tangible evidence of our improving

standard this year was shown when Gary Murphy had match point on Trevor Taylor in the Commonwealth championships teams match. Trevor eventually won the singles title. The win of James Morris over Obisanya, the runner-up position of our women, Netti Traill and Ann Stonestreet, in the Commonwealth doubles, the 4th place of our women at last year's Asian championships, the semi-final berth of Yvonne Fogarty in the previous Commonwealth championships, the win this season of our women's team in the test against Australia, the fine showing of Richard Lee against the Czechs last season, the wins of James Morris over foreign opposition over the past two years in New Zealand.

The list doesn't end there but my article does, with a repeat of my earlier remarks, "Rome wasn't built in a day".

Our progress is slow but it is real.

CHANGE OF VENUE

This season's Halex Midlands Counties 3-Star Open will be staged at The Alumwell Centre, Primley Avenue, Walsall (adjacent to Exit 10 on the M6 Motorway) over the week-end of November 8-9th. Top award of £90 will go to the winner of the men's singles.

CLOSING DATE

Closing date for the Middlesex 3-Star Open, sponsored by Halex in conjunction with Gillette, is November 18th, 1975, to Geoff James, Esq., 19 St. Ann's Villas, London, W11. The tournament is to be held over the week-end of December 6-7, at Picketts Lock Centre, Edmonton, London, N9. £100 will go to the winner of M.S. event and £40 to W.S. winner.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

England's remaining match dates for their Division 2 Group "A" fixtures are:—

Dec. 11—At home to Ireland, at Nottingham.
Dec. 19—Away to Belgium at Baileux.
Feb. 25—Away to Luxembourg at Schifflingen.
Mar. 4—At home to the Netherlands at Norwich.

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REVOLUTIONARY THOUGHTS

by Tony Ross

Bernard Chatterley's article in the June issue did not evoke an exactly overwhelming response from the readership of "Table Tennis News", but whilst I agree with much of what Bernard said, the problems besetting our sport have their roots in our out-of-date attitudes to the ways in which we organise and administer the game, attitudes which are responsible for the apathy which Bernard mentions. It will require an administrative revolution to improve matters and in this article I have attempted to set out the areas in which revolutionary action is required.

Previous Revolutions

In June, 1961, the E.T.T.A. set up a Development Commission to examine the organisation and development of the game in England and to recommend any changes which, in their opinion, would be of benefit. The Commission reported in 1963 and two major recommendations were adopted. One changed the administration at the top, the old National Executive Committee being replaced by the National Council. The other changed the basis of local league affiliation to that of team place. The setting up of the National Council was supposed to encourage greater participation in national policy making, but this has only happened to a minor extent. Sadly, many of our National Councillors have nothing to say.

The Commission also proposed the setting up of a "Licensed Player" system, in common with a number of other European national associations, whereby a personal affiliation fee would be required from all those players who participate in table tennis activity of any kind other than domestic play within club or local league. This major recommendation was not adopted, mainly on the grounds that it would cost too much to administer.

Table Tennis—Team or Individual Sport?

It is, of course, both. But I believe that we mistakenly overload by far the team aspect to the detriment of the scope for individual achievement. The calendar is full of many different team competitions, knockout and league, senior and junior, based on schools, clubs, local leagues and counties, and organised by various administrative bodies. Our philosophy seems to be that a player's development is best achieved by participation in team competition, rather than by tournament play.

It is my belief that tournament, rather than team, competition is better able to develop the qualities of determination and dedication often lacking in young players whose futures are said to be promising. What is required is a change in emphasis—more tournaments, yes, MORE TOURNAMENTS, more tournament players, and of necessity, therefore, a reduction in the number of team competitions.

More Tournaments?

Impossible! you may say. The calendar is too congested already. But we only say this BECAUSE WE EXPECT THE SAME PLAYERS TO GO TO MOST OF THE TOURNAMENTS. It is interesting to note that in Sweden there are about half as many tournaments as there are in England for only about a third of the number of players which we have. More tournaments should help to reduce the ever-increasing costs of travel and accommodation. But how do we encourage more players to participate in tournaments?

Graded Events

One vital method would be the introduction of graded events. I have promoted this idea before in "Table Tennis News", but it is worth repeating. It requires the introduction of a players' grading or classification scheme. In the graded events, players cannot enter those

events designated for a grade of player lower than their own grade. Promotion and relegation in the scheme would be decided on a points system based on the final position achieved in a tournament event, and the numbers and grades of players in the event. There would be some resemblance to the Coca-Cola points scheme run by Laurie Landry a year or two back. Such schemes are operated in, for example, Sweden, West Germany and France, and they provide the necessary tournament play for the "second-flight" players of lesser ability, with the prospect of winning a title at the end of the day. It is important to notice that the term "second-flight" includes players of ALL ages, and not just juniors.

Abolish Purely Junior Tournaments!

Or at least, all but the national junior tournaments. With the introduction of graded events in tournaments, a junior would be able to measure his or her advancing ability against players of similar ability, instead of similar age, and by promotion in the grading scheme. No longer would you hear a junior player's plaintive moan: "It's my last season as a junior" at the prospect of entering senior events only.

John Woodford said, "Scrap Junior Tournaments" in his "Controversy" column in the October, 1970, issue, but unfortunately at that time did not suggest a grading scheme as an alternative method of junior development. One time Slough Junior Open organiser, Tony Pacitto, wrote a response pointing out that junior tournaments provide that extra competitive play for young players, and asking how many parents would take their offspring long distances with the prospect of them being knocked out in the first round of the senior events. Graded events would provide the answer.

The "Thrill of Playing the Top Player" Myth

There seems to be a popular view that many lesser players enter tournaments in the hope of playing a "top" player. Rubbish, say I! Players enter tournaments to win as many rounds as they can. What possible benefit does either player obtain from a match in which an international defeats a local league player 21-6, 21-6? I know a number of reasonable local league players who do not enter because they could meet a vastly superior player in Round 1. Players should first pass their preliminary examination before taking their finals! The graded events would provide those preliminary examinations.

Tournament Facilities

If there are to be more tournaments, we shall need more people to organise and run them, and venues in which to hold them. The E.T.T.A. must look at ways of providing encouragement and assistance on these aspects, with particular emphasis on 1-star tournaments. The mounting financial problems of tournaments also require urgent examination.

Team Competitions

The Development Commission Report of 1963 observed that "A player over-committed is liable to become stale. If his competitive programme is not only heavy but contains a substantial proportion of events where the opposition cannot extend him, his proficiency will not develop, and may, in fact, diminish." Too many of our team competitions do not provide this opposition and if the holding of more tournaments with graded events is the answer, the number of team competitions above local league level must be reduced to reduce players' commitments.

Scrap the County Championships

Thus the present county championships, the

national league and club knockout competition and inter-league competitions would be replaced by a National League, based on 3-a-side club or local league teams, with a number of divisions. The lower divisions would become progressively more regional and could be made the responsibility of counties. There would be a league for both men's and women's teams, and possibly boys' and girls'. The idea of a National League has been promoted before on more than one occasion—one time National Team Competition Secretary, Leslie Davis, suggested it in the magazine in November, 1967, and said that he had the support of the Secretary of the mighty Midland League, now our President, Maurice Goldstein; Bernard Chatterley suggested it in June this year.

I can hear howls of protest regarding the county championships—most of it, I feel, on the grounds of tradition alone, but I would be interested to know what the PLAYERS think. One criticism which can be made of the county championships is that they give insufficient impetus to the development of women's table tennis at top level.

Club/Local League Sponsorship

Participation by clubs and/or local leagues in a National League would open the door to possible sponsorship by local firms or authorities, such as District Council Leisure Services Committees.

Finance

Operation of a players' grading or classification scheme on the scale necessary will require considerable administration and will, therefore, cost money. Those who will benefit, i.e. those taking part in activities other than local league play, should pay for it. In other words, we need the 1963 Development Commission's "Licensed Player" scheme, except that I would extend it to cover coaches, umpires and administrators who are involved above local league level. How much would the licence cost? I would guess that it would have to be around the £6 or £7 mark now, with reduced rates for juniors. The scheme was turned down before on the grounds of excessive administration costs, but if other national associations in Europe can manage it, why can't we?

Local Leagues

The present team place plus one reserve E.T.T.A. affiliation fee basis would have to remain for local leagues, but because of the restricted privileges of the non-licensed players, more encouragement would have to be given to the development of local leagues. This could be done by supplying local leagues each season with copies of the rules of the game, explanations of knotty points, information on the benefits of being a licensed player, and information on coaching, tournaments, umpires, etc. The Master Points system could continue to operate for local leagues and league closed tournaments. Similar information could be fed to school clubs via the E.S.T.T.A.

Many clubs and players in local leagues require from the E.T.T.A. nothing more than the rules of the game, and consequently question the cost or benefits of affiliation. And because clubs or individuals are nearly all affiliated through local leagues in an anonymous manner, there is no sense of identity with the E.T.T.A. More tournaments, a players' grading scheme and graded tournament events, and a National League would help to set achievable targets for local league players to aim at.

Attitudes

Possibly one reason why we are so biased towards team competitions is that the local league is itself based on team play. Associated with the local league match are its social connotations—a night out with the lads, a pint in the pub afterwards. Nothing wrong in that, of course, but an attitude of mind is generated which I can best explain by quoting part of a letter from a man of Kent, a table tennis player, I believe, one W. Sichel, which appeared in the January, 1974, edition of "Sportsworld" as "Letter of the Month" and earned Mr. Sichel £5.

Mr. Sichel believed "the reasons for British

failure in world sport are rooted in the English social structure which is against individual success in sport. Indeed, the average Englishman treats the dedicated sportsman as something of a freak and refuses to accept once and for all that sport must be played to win.

"The vast majority of sportsmen in England see sport merely as a pastime, a recreational pursuit. Of course, there must always be a place for this attitude, as not everybody wants to dedicate themselves to reaching an aim in sport. However, from this section of sportsmen there should arise the elite group of aspiring sportsmen with high standards of dedication, application and professionalism, and it is these people who with intelligent guidance and coaching should rise to be our respected international competitors.

"The pity of it all is that this elite group is often so small that in some sports it fails to emerge at all! Those likely to emerge are influenced far too much by the attitudes of the majority—as might well be expected

"All of us, even those with real sports talent, get mentally conditioned to the inherent English attitude to sport at an early age. If any sportsman in England is to reach the top of his chosen sport in Europe or the world, he will do it solely through his own dedication, application, ideas and professional approach, unless his sport is one of the three fully-fledged professional ones of football, tennis and golf. That is how it is today".

Encore

Many of the above ideas have been put forward already in articles or letters over the last decade at least. Do our administrators read or listen? Perhaps their heads are so firmly buried in the sand that they cannot. Perhaps the players are at fault for not shouting loudly enough. Perhaps we are pre-occupied with more tangible matters of the moment.

Perhaps the answer is to engineer a coup and set up a Revolutionary Council!

Tony Ross has been Secretary of Hull and District Table Tennis Association for the past 10 years, a Yorkshire Executive Committee member for 8 years, is Area No. 10 Coaching Panel Treasurer, a member of the E.T.T.A. Tournament and Development Sub-Committee, Club Coach, County Umpire, Tournament Referee, local league Div. 1 player, photographer and obviously, like Bernard Chatterley, a table tennis fanatic. He is wondering which job to give up first!—Ed.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

SUPERB PERFORMANCE

Some mixed results over the first County weekend with our Premier Division teams suffering through the absence of Andrew Barden, who was busy winning the Spanish Open, which was a really superb performance.

The Seniors lost to Yorkshire by the odd rubber, whilst the Juniors, without Barden, had no chance against the same county, going down 2-8. Cambridgeshire, without Paul Day, were more seriously handicapped than Middlesex in our other Junior Premier match. The second junior side, playing three new "caps", Adrian Leigh, Howard Carter and Mandy Reeves, together with Bryn Taylor and Jill Campion, had a first class 8-2 victory over Dorset, last season's Junior West champions.

A Veteran division has been included in the Inter-League championships for the first time in Middlesex. Eight leagues will be playing for Ted Connell trophy. Nine league sides play for the Junior title which is the D. W. Birmingham competition, whilst there are 10 league sides in the Norman Pegg competition for 2 men and 2 women. The Victor Barna competition, which is for teams of 3 men, has attracted 11 teams and is split into 2 divisions as last season.

The Middlesex 3-Star Open will again be held at Picketts Lock Sports Centre, on Dec. 6-7, when it is hoped that we have our usual class entry.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan J. Cavell

SOUND FINANCES

Continued sponsorship of the County junior team by the Trustee Savings Bank and increased County fees from all teams in leagues within the County, have put the County finances on a sound basis.

Over the past three years there has been a steady increase in the number of juniors playing in local leagues. It is reported from Telford that this year the number of junior players has risen from less than 10 to over 50 and that junior trials to select the junior team will be held there for the first time.

The standard of play at the extensive County junior trials was probably higher than ever before, with Oswestry (O) and Shrewsbury (S) players predominant. The ranking lists issued were:—

Boys—1, M. Green (S); 2, R. Morgan (O);

3, L. Baker (S); 4, N. Thomas (S); 5, I. Clarke (O); 6, N. Mortimer (O).

Girls—1, C. Nevett (S); 2, C. Jones (S); 3, A. Oates (S); 4, J. Colcough (S); 5, L. Lewis (O); 6, L. Williams (S).

The players at the County senior trials produced few surprises. The final rankings were:—

Men—1, C. Neal (S); 2, B. Suckley (O); 3, G. Samuel (S); 4, M. C. F. Jones (Telford); 5, C. Roberts (O).

Women—1, Mrs. J. Jones (Whitchurch); 2, Mrs. G. Gee (S); 3, Miss S. Evans (S); 4, Mrs. M. Robinshaw (Telford); 5, Miss D. Jones (O).

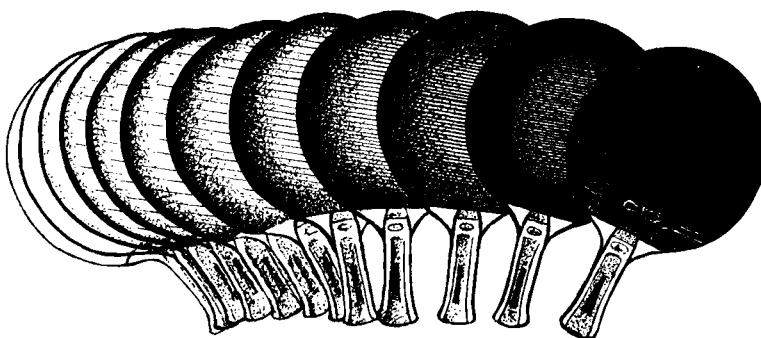
DAGENHAM TAKE THREE

Following the demise of the Basingstoke South of England 3-Star Open scheduled for February 21-22, 1976, 3-Star status has been conferred on the Dagenham Tournament which will take over the vacant weekend, vacating the weekend of May 8-9 for earlier occupancy of the Barkingside venue.

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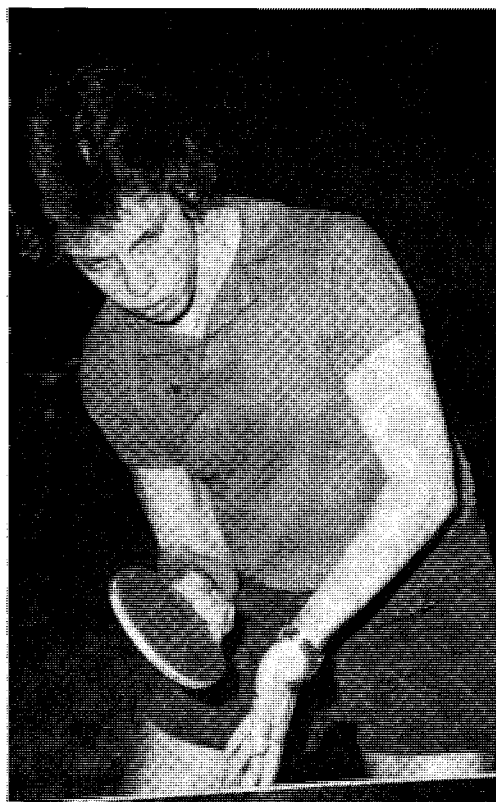
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6th Spanish Open



Andy Barden, who collected his first major honour on foreign soil.

Photo by courtesy of Madisons Public Relations, London, N.W.1.

Ole for Andy & Melody

by BRIAN KEAN

England's youthful trio of Paul Day, Andrew Barden and Melody Ludi collected three and a half titles under the captaincy of Brian Burn in the Spanish Open, played in the Pabellon Stadium, Valladolid, over the period October 10-12, 1975.

Barden and Miss Ludi won their respective singles titles, then joined forces with Day to win the team event after a closely-fought battle with the "auld enemy", Scotland, in the final.

As top seeds and favourites were being disposed of, young Andy walked tall to collect his first major honour on foreign soil.

He beat Franck Vinitsky in the final after the Frenchman had survived a first round deficit of 0-2 against Scotland's Alan Matthew. Vinitsky followed this by accounting for Spanish hero of the day, Silva, who had ousted No. 2 Norbert van der Walle, of Belgium, in the opening round.

Barden opened his account by scalping Spaniard Mayoral then met his toughest test of the tournament and squeezed home in five against Rene Hatem who, in the French Top 10, finished second to Jacques Secretin. From hereon the Middlesex junior's path was comparatively smooth, due mainly to the fall of Scotland's Richard Yule, who succumbed to the French "chopper", Michel Hoffstetter.

Shortlived though was the Frenchman's glory as he suffered a similar fate in the following round to Louis Calvo, of Spain who, in turn, offered little resistance to Barden in the semis.

Melody Ludi's title was gained without the loss of a single game. She marched forward at the expense of Elena Serra (Spain), Nadine Daviaud (France), Annie Landeau (France) and, finally, Sophie Plombin, also of France,

the latter having accounted for Elaine Smith, of Scotland, in the preceding round.

Melody gained a second honour when, in partnership with Elaine Smith, the Anglo-Scottish pair won the women's doubles title. Miss Smith came close to collecting a second title when, accompanied by Yule, they lost narrowly to Belgium's Daniel Nassaux/Verachttert in the mixed final.

Day and Barden, seeded No. 1 in the men's doubles, showed a touch of charity in losing the final to Spain's Jose Lupon and David Sanchez. The English champions squandered a 7 points lead and from being 20-18 up in the fifth, allowed the Spaniards their only success of the Championships. The title should have come to England as at 20-18 Sanchez and Lupon were granted two more dubious edge decisions.

Day was about to question the umpire's ruling but Captain Burn ordered acceptance of same. Under the circumstances the English captain showed tremendous restraint, for any other action may have caused a riot, as the local crowd provided a Streford-end fervour to the occasion, and we all know how they can react to such situations.

The Spanish officials obviously felt a little guilt over their umpire's decision as later in the proceedings they presented Master Day with the "most sporting player" award!

England's challenge for the team title began with a 7-0 victory over the Spanish Junior team. Later in the day France II suffered a 6-1 reverse for England to win Group 2.

Group 4 winners were Belgium, who had accounted for Spain III and so earned a semi-final encounter with England which resulted in a casual 6-1 romp for the Englanders. Scotland's path to the final was a little more hazardous and they had to fight in attaining 5-2 and 4-3 victories over Spain I and France I respectively.

The all-British final saw England surge ahead with victories by Barden and Day over Yule and Matthew. Elaine Smith pulled one back by accounting for Miss Ludi 2-1. This was wiped out when England increased their lead again by winning the men's doubles after trailing 17-19 in the decider. This, however, sparked a Scottish revival when replying with wins in the mixed then a first-ever win for Yule over Day.

The final encounter brought to the tables Messrs. Barden and Matthew, and it was the English boy who proved to be the hammer of the Scots by registering a 2-straight win and so give England final glory.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

P. Molodtsov (Fr) bt P. Day (Eng) 20, 19, -16, 17.

F. Vinitsky (Fr) bt Silva (Sp) 12, 12, 14.

A. Barden (Eng) bt D. Sanchez (Sp) 9, -18, 17, 22.

L. Calvo (Sp) bt M. Hoffstetter (Fr) 15, 17, -19, 15.

Semi-finals

Vinitsky bt Molodtsov 19, -19, 18, -18, 21.

Barden bt Calvo 5, 9, 9.

Final

BARDEN bt Vinitsky -18, 16, 22, 13.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

S. Plombin (Fr) bt E. Smith (Sc) 20, 20, -15, 19.

M. Ludi (Eng) bt A. Landeau (Fr) 15, 12, 17.

Final

LUDI bt Plombin 21, 19, 15.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

J. Lupon (Sp)/Sanchez bt R. Hatem (Fr)/Molodtsov 20, 14, 15.

Barden/Day bt Hoffstetter/Vinitsky 14, 19, 18.

Final

LUPON/SANCHEZ bt Barden/Day 12, -15, 20, -15, 21.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

N. Daviaud (Fr)/Plombin bt M. Sanhuja/D. Uribe -16, 8, 14, 18.

Ludi/Smith bt Landeau/C. Verachttert (Bel) 11, -19, 10, 17.

Final

LUDI/SMITH bt Daviaud/Plombin 7, 16, 18.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

R. Yule (Sc)/Smith bt Hatem/Plombin 8, 22, 15.

D. Nassaux (Bel)/Verachttert bt Molodtsov/Daviaud 18, 19, 13.

Final

NASSAUX/VERACHTTERT bt Yule/Smith 9, -18, 17, -17, 18.

Team Final

ENGLAND 4, Scotland 3

A. Barden bt R. Yule 19, 20; bt A. Matthew 6, 13.

P. Day bt Matthew 14, 17; lost to Yule -15, 20, -18.

M. Ludi lost to E. Smith 16, -8, -9.

Barden/Day bt Yule/Matthew 18, -14, 19.

Day/Ludi lost to Yule/Smith -20, -15.

Europe Club Cup

ORMESBY THROUGH TO QUARTERS

by Alan Ransome

A host of dignitaries, including the Minister for the Civil Service, two M.P.'s and the Chairman of Cleveland County Council, saw Ormesby Table Tennis Club win through to the quarter-final of the European Club Cup by beating the Polish champions, Wosnik Lodz 5-2 at Middlesbrough Town Hall, on Tuesday, October 7th.

Ormesby ran into a 3-0 lead, Nicky Jarvis beating Zawdnicy Fraczyk 18, 18, Denis Neale overcoming Jan Ozimek 16, 16, and Jimmy Walker, in the best set of the night, beating the Polish No. 1, Stanislaw Fraczyk 16 in the third.

Both Neale and Jarvis were not on top form as was apparent in the fourth game when Z. Fraczyk beat Neale "deuce" in the third and S. Fraczyk beat Jarvis 11 in the third. However, "Man of the match" Walker put Ormesby 4-2 ahead by beating Osimek and Neale completed the victory by beating S. Fraczyk 19, 16.

The match was attended by a good crowd which enjoyed every minute of the contest that could well have been much closer had it not been for the brilliant form of Walker.

The match was sponsored by Middlesbrough Council Recreation and Amenities Committee whose guests included Arthur Bottomley, M.P., Charles Morris, Minister of State for the Civil Service, Councillor Charles Shopland, Leader of Middlesbrough Council, Councillor Walter Ferrier, Councillor Mrs. Ferrier, Councillor Jones, Councillor Higgins, Councillor Brady, Councillor Burns, Mayor of Middlesbrough. From Cleveland County Council: Councillor Groves, Chairman of Cleveland County Council, Mrs. Groves, Councillor Mrs. Taylor, Chairman of Cleveland County Planning Committee.

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JOOLA

table tennis

Congratulations Steve!

by E. Colin Davis

(Public Affairs Manager, Goodyear, Australia)

Stephen Kelen, one-time Hungarian teammate of Victor Barna, Laszko Bellak, L. David and M. Szabados, has recently been elected President of the International P.E.N. Australia, Sydney Centre.

There are two P.E.N. Centres in Australia; one in Melbourne and the other in Sydney. P.E.N., founded in 1921, takes its name from the initial letters of its membership category; Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists and Novelists; and its past and present membership includes some of the world's leading literary figures.

P.E.N. International is a worldwide association of writers. It had and has a number of Nobel Prize winners as members and the Immediate Past International President is Heinrich Boll, a recent winner of the Nobel Prize. P.E.N. is established in more than 60 countries.

The P.E.N. Charter decrees that "Literature, national though it be in origin, knows no frontiers and should remain common currency between nations in spite of political or international upheavals."

Steve Kelen, who has been with Goodyear, Australia, for 15 years, being now their Publications Manager, has become well known for his books, articles, political studies, short stories, stage plays and radio documentaries. His books include, "A was There"; "Jackals in the Jungle"; "Camp Happy"; "Heed McGlarity"; "Goshu" and "Freedom is a Rainbow". His most recent volume was "Uphill all the Way", a biography on M. S. McLeod.

He has five performed plays to his credit, "Shadow of Crabbe"; "Fission in the Ointment"; "Some Years Later"; "The Sun Shines Black in the Valley" and "The Intruders", which was adopted by the New South Wales Freedom from Hunger Campaign as a "Campaign" play.

Steve is a member of P.E.N. International, Sydney Centre; Australian Society of Authors; The Australian Journalist Association; The British Association of Industrial Editors; an Associate Member of the Societe Des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques, of France; one of the four Australian members of the International Swaythling Club and an Honorary Life Member of the Sydney City Tattersalls Club for services rendered to sport in Australia.

In his younger years Steve was a world champion table tennis player, and this is the reason why he qualified for the International Swaythling Club, which, here in Australia, as in many countries, can be counted as a "most exclusive" establishment. Only those who won a world title in this sport, or participated in a world championship event and have rendered some outstanding service to the game are eligible for membership, which is by invitation only. And now another honour! Congratulations Steve.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Moss

VERA TO THE RESCUE

This season has seen one or two changes on the administrative front. There has been difficulty in appointing a Treasurer since Ian Crickmer gave up the job, but fortunately, Vera Royal (Dudley), who is most experienced in this work, has accepted the position of Treasurer.

Doug Moss, who has acted as Team Manager and chairman of the Selection Committee since Worcestershire entered the County Championship

in 1952, has decided to step down. However, he remains as Chairman of the Association and the National Councillor and will no doubt be as keen as ever to see the County teams do well. An appointment of another Team Manager could not be made but the Association is fortunate that the highly experienced Derek Baddeley has agreed to be Chairman of Selectors. He is certainly tackling this job with his usual enthusiasm and determination. Doug Young and Joe Cukierman remain as members of the Selection Committee. It is very pleasing that Terry Round, having taken over the Secretaryship of the Kidderminster League, has joined the County Executive Committee and, in his first season become a member of the Selection Committee. This should bring about closer liaison with the Kidderminster League, which will be beneficial.

The County I team, for the first match this season, was the same as that which ended last season (namely, Joyce Lloyd, Janet Hunt, Bob Brown, Simon Claxton and Brian Belcher). However, Nick Bottomley was added to the team in an attempt to strengthen the men's and mixed doubles. Unfortunately, this did not prove any more successful than last season's pairings. It must have been particularly disappointing to Derek Baddeley that the first match, against Somerset, should be lost 4-6, especially as the County won 4 men's singles.

A bright note has been more interest and entries for the County League. The Mixed teams Division did not operate last season but this year six teams are taking part. The I Division has also increased to eight entries and it is very pleasing to see Worcester entered after a break of some seasons. This again is mainly due to the enthusiasm of Derek Baddeley.

There was a slight falling off in entries for Worcester Division this season. The I Division again has only nine teams and most of the other Divisions have ten teams. In Worcester League only the I Division play 3-a-side matches. One wonders whether, with the present trend, interest might be resurrected in 3-a-side throughout the League.

Entries are about to close for the County Team Knockout Competitions. It is hoped the number of entries will be increased because these competitions help to bring players together from all Leagues and with quite some variations in standard of play. It is very much hoped to have a Trophy to present to the winners of the K.O. Team Handicap this season.

1-Star Spotlight

CENTURY FOR LAURIE

Laurie Landry, in partnership with Tony Clayton, captured the men's doubles title in the Bournemouth 1-Star Open and, in so doing, brought off his 100th tournament success of a very distinguished career.

Another pleasing feature of these South Coast one-day events was the return to competitive play of Linda Wales who, with mother Pat, reached the final of the women's doubles at Bournemouth. In the women's singles Linda was ousted in the semis by Julie Reading, the ultimate winner.

Results:—

Four T's 1-Star (Sept. 21) at Southampton.

M.S.: D. Tan (Middx) bt A. Fletcher (Yorks) 14, 20.

W.S.: S. Dove (Middx) bt C. Reeves (Berks) 19, 18.

M.D.: C. Carder/Tan bt D. Holman/S. Lyons 18, 20.

W.D.: J. Coop/J. Reading bt Dove/Reeves -15, 16, 16.

X.D.: Fletcher/Reading bt T. Smith/Coop 18, 11.

B.S.: D. Reeves (Berks) bt J. Robinson (Dorset) 17, 17.

J.G.: J. Reading (Hants) bt Dove 14, 18.

Bournemouth 1-Star (Sept. 28).

M.S. A. Clayton (Yorks) bt K. Caldon (Essex) -10, 10, 16.

W.S.: J. Reading (Hants) bt J. Coop (Hants) 20, -16, 16.

M.D.: Clayton/L. Landry (Middx) bt C. Pickard (Hants)/G. Sandley (Middx) 19, 21.

W.D.: Coop/Reading bt L. Wales/P. Wales (Hants) 17, 16.

X.D.: Clayton/Reading bt T. Smith (Hants)/Coop 17, 12.

B.S.: Caldon bt Sandley 15, 20.

G.S.: J. New (Dorset) bt M. Smith (Berks) 15, 15.

Merton 1-Star Open (Oct. 12)

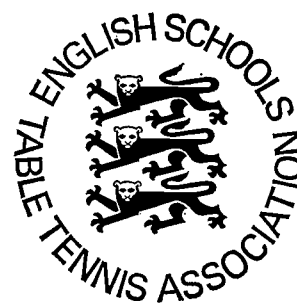
M.S.: T. Smith (Hants) bt R. Brown (Worcs) 7, 17.

W.S.: J. Coop (Hants) bt J. Reading (Hants) 9, 16.

M.D.: D. Harvey/Smith bt Brown/A. Isaac 18, 19.

W.D.: Coop/Reading bt C. Randall/C. Randall 20, 16.

X.D.: Smith/Coop bt Isaac/Reading -15, 12, 15.



by David Lomas

SAME POLICY

This month's news arises mainly from the recent Executive Council meeting held at Lea Green.

It was agreed to continue the same selection policy for the International match against Scotland in Edinburgh on June 26-27, 1976. This means that only players who participate in the National School Team Championships or the Stiga Individual Championships will be considered for selection. The selectors are John Barber (Bromsgrove), Eddie Mitchell (Redditch), Rea Balmford (Hull) and Phil Burwell (Birmingham).

The Dunlop Super ball has been adopted for the Team and Individual Championships.

All member associations were due to inform the Competitions Secretary (E. J. Mitchell, The Schoolhouse, 12 Evesham Road, Cookhill, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5LB) by October 31 of the events in which they intended to enter teams. Full particulars concerning actual entries is required by December 17 and this is also the date by which affiliation fees must be paid to the General Secretary (J. Arnold, Sandal Endowed C.E. Middle School, Barnsley Road, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 6AS).

The Official Handbook is available from the General Secretary (15p including postage).

The Annual General Meeting will take place at Leicester on Sunday, May 23, 1976!

BURFORD JUNIOR 2-STAR— JANUARY, 1976

It is with regret that Maurice J. Chalk announces that this season's Burford Junior 2-Star Open, scheduled for January 24-25, 1976, has had to be cancelled. Reason is simply finance. Hire of the hall has gone up to nearly £300, hire of tables and lighting to £80. This cannot be met without greatly increasing the entry fees and abandoning the fine prizes which everyone associates with Burford. This Mr. Chalk is not prepared to do for, as he says, "A stand has to be made".

READER'S LETTERS

START NOW

I find that I must write to you in response to your leading article "Tempus Fugit" in the October issue. Table tennis in general is not publicised enough in this country and therefore I would be most surprised if many people outside table tennis circles, realised that the 1977 World Championships were to be held in this country.

It must be of prime importance for everyone concerned with table tennis to promote the championships by immediately starting to sell table tennis to the public at large.

One or two ideas which spring readily to mind are:—

(i) All leagues can mention the World Championships in their local press.

(ii) The E.T.T.A. can ensure that the general public knows of the event through the national press and television media.

(iii) Involve the media by staging exhibition games or tournaments with the proceeds going towards the Championships.

(iv) Start another raffle or similar activity immediately AFTER proper publicity.

I am sure that there are many other ideas which can be looked into, but let everyone start NOW.

S. AIREY.

38 Leamington Avenue,
Burnley,
Lancashire.

I REMEMBER IT WELL

How nice to see that Mr. White remembers my World Final and that he seems to have got his facts as they really were.

I wrote to Mr. Bellak after seeing his article in your June issue and Mr. Bill Evans brought it to my notice—but as yet have had no reply from him.

I have started playing again—just hitting the ball with the members of Thundridge Table Tennis Club—and am surprised that I can even see the ball after all this time!!

However, who knows, in a year I might be able to play again.

WENDY BURBUSH
(nee Woodhead).

Glyn Cottage,
56 Ermine Street,
Thundridge,
Ware, Herts,
SG12 0SY.

AGE NO DETERRENT

I read with interest the letter in last month's magazine on the serving of juniors, by R. F. Bowles, of Bristol. I can assure you I am not having a go at Mr. Bowles, but since the question has been raised I would like to take this opportunity to have a go at so many average 1st and 2nd division players over the country who constantly accuse juniors of cheating when, in fact, they themselves quite often fail to throw the ball up, or serve from a cupped hand.

The rules on service are quite clear and I am convinced that the question in case of a coach deliberately instructing his or her pupils to foul serve is an isolated one. The service today is a very major part of table tennis and coaches treat it with as much importance as to any other aspect of the game.

If you study the Japanese, Chinese or Koreans you will note the amount of care they use when preparing to serve; the open hand is not placed one inch above the playing surface, it is much more like $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Are these top international players putting in all this precision just to get the game in motion. Of course not; they are trying as hard as they can to gain an advantage whilst it is their turn to serve.

On the weekend of October 4-5, I attended the final of the North of England Pontins' Tournament, at Prestatyn, North Wales. The prize money was: 1st £200, 2nd £100, 3rd £50 and 4th £25. Of the four who made it to the semis 3 were men of approximately 30 to 45 years of age, the other player was Alan Whittle who, I note from last month's "Table Tennis News", is currently ranked No. 10 for Lancashire. I estimate Alan's age as about 19. Out of these four players fighting out the finals only Whittle served correctly, the other three all foul-served on many occasions. On the other hand, Whittle was the only one who imparted heavy top-spin when serving.

ALAN BARTHOLOMEW,
Coaching Secretary,
Maidenhead & Dist. T.T.A.

228 Cookham Road,
Maidenhead,
Berks.

ILL-TIMED

The selection of dates for the England Junior Closed (13-14 December) and the Yorkshire 2-Star Junior Select (20-21 December) is likely to cause considerable difficulties.

Many players, parents, coaches and officials will require to stay away from home two consecutive weekends to attend these tournaments. Both tournaments are used for National Ranking purposes and the E.T.T.A's policy is that juniors should attend if they are concerned with National Status.

With regard to the timing, the weekend before Christmas is usually highly involved with family activities concerned with the imminent holiday, and hardly a suitable time for a Ranking Tournament.

The most serious aspect is of the high cost of travelling, staying, and living expenses two weekends following, when at Christmas-time spare money is needed for other purposes.

Perhaps those who selected the dates could attend full-time over both weekends to appreciate the full context of the situation.

Those of us who are involved and provide active support for Juniors have little choice, short of boycotting and prejudicing their assessments.

REG HART.

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Woolhampton Hill,
Woolhampton,
Berkshire.

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'ASCOT-BUTTERFLY' UNDER-14 TEAM COMPETITION

by ALAN DINES

Invited teams from all over England took part in this year's competition which was sponsored by Ascot Sports Ltd., and staged by the Institute of Match Play and Coaching Technics (I.M.P.A.C.T.), at Meadow Sports Centre, Reading, on June 28.

In the Girls' event, the exceptionally strong team from Reading (Karen Witt, Alison Gordon, Jill Purslow and Jo Douglas), were convincing winners in all their matches, dropping only 2 sets out of the 40 played. Leeds, represented by Linda Hryszko, Sally Dickerson, Cathryn Haworth and Sally Midgeley, were second, and third place went to the Newbury girls, Mandy Smith, Gillian Heath, Debbie Moon and S. Winter.

The Ormesby girls, who finished second last year, had to withdraw at the last moment because of illness to players. Finals positions of the top six girls' teams were:—1, Reading; 2, Leeds; 3, Newbury; 4, Plymouth; 5, Swindon; 6, Guildford.

In the Boys' event the winners were Leeds, represented by Kevin Beadsley, Tony Bottomley, P. Sanderson and A. Hill. The next four teams were very evenly matched but Reading (R. Johnson, B. Johnson, M. Davis, P. Nash and A. Lee) finished second, with Ormesby (M. Laird, M. Murphy, P. Hindle and P. Doherty) third, Bournemouth (C. Wilson, R. Bergemann, J. Creacey and A. Wills) fourth, and Plymouth (M. Shearman, P. Whiting, P. Speare, G. Craig and J. Hodges) fifth.

Finals positions in the Boys' event were:—1, Leeds; 2, Reading; 3, Ormesby; 4, Bournemouth; 5, Plymouth; 6, Derby; 7, Guildford; 8, Maidenhead; 9, Coventry; 10, Acton; 11, Swindon; 12, Bristol.

The objective of the competition is to promote development in depth at town level in the Cadet age group. The high standard of play showed the results of the serious efforts being made in many parts of England. Each competitor had a valuable day's match play as each team played five matches. Teams consisted of 4 players with the first and second pairs playing their opposing pair to play 8 singles.

Players in the top six teams of each event received penants and the winning teams also received equipment prizes. The Referee for the competition was John Freeman. It is intended to stage the competition again next year and the Organiser, Alan Dines, would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in competing and to receive any observations on rules.

One suggestion is that eligibility for a team is based on a player Carter Cup/Bromfield Trophy and other inter-league allegiance. The proposed date for next year's competition is June 19. Intending entrants who have a problem with this date should inform Alan Dines as soon as possible.

Some of the teams stayed an extra day and the Plymouth boys took the opportunity to play some revenge matches. They lost to Ormesby 3-5 and beat Reading 5-3 but the scores were so close that the results could have gone either way. The indication is that all the effort being put into coaching in Plymouth is paying off and they are now a force to be reckoned with.

Alan Dines can be contacted at 37 Avalon Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 2NR.; Phone: Reading 61746.—Ed.

Answers to "Umpiring Corner" Quiz

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

Continued from page 32

Cumbria 7, Northumberland 3

The absence of Eddie Thomas, and the subsequent conceding of three sets by the visitors, was too much for them.

JUNIOR 2nd DIVISION MIDLAND

Hertfordshire 6, Norfolk 4

An opening set win for Doug Bennett over Richard Jermy but the only other visiting successes were notched by the girls Wendy Hogg and Paula Ribbons. Herts worth their narrow win.

Leicestershire 6, Northamptonshire 4

JUNIOR 3rd DIVISION WEST

Cornwall 2, Devon 8

VETERAN DIVISION SOUTH

Essex 8, Oxfordshire 1

With two reserves, Oxfords no real match for Essex, although Alf Davies, as usual, proved a stumbling block for Ken Beamish. Good debut for Fred Lockwood. Well done Anna Waines, not now playing regularly, to make the journey so that Oxfords could field a complete team.

Huntingdonshire 5, Wiltshire 4

Kent 6, Essex II 3

This result makes it unlikely that Essex will take the top two places this season. Bad start to Barry Meisel's veteran career when he lost to Laurie Fountain to make the match score 0-2.

VETERAN MIDLAND DIVISION

Clwyd 1, Nottinghamshire 8

Notts always in complete command—they led 6-0 before Don Hobbs recorded expedite win over J. G. Ellis. Earlier, "new boy" Harry Brannick had gone down -10, 24, -4 to Ron Bolton, possibly regretting having taken the 2nd game!

Warwickshire 4, Cheshire 5

A careless start by Cheshire who managed to get two of their players in the wrong order and forfeited two sets from the 7-2 win they had on the table.

Worcestershire 5, Leicestershire 4

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Alan J. Robinson

JUDSON MOVES ON

By the time these notes go to press, the Lincs Junior Closed Tournament will have been held at Louth, thanks to the sterling work of Alan Norman and the Louth T.T.L. The junior events are a vital part of the County scene, when the coaches can see the fruits of their labours and the selectors can finalise their plans for the juniors.

As reported in last month's news, Stamford have joined the fold, with 22 teams in their three divisions. The County's thanks are extended to Mike Lawless for attending their Management Meeting, and outlining the benefits of affiliation to the E.T.T.A.

Bad news for Lincs. is that the Lincoln No. 1, Cleve Judson, will not be available for selection this season, as he has gained promotion in his work and moved into neighbouring Nottinghamshire. The County wish him every success in the future and thank him for his efforts over the last four years.

The team for the first County match against Nottinghamshire, on November 1st, will be led by Brian Hill (Wyberton), the County No. 1, with his club colleague, Mick East and Steve Morley (Grimsby) ably supporting him. The Women will be Miss Jean White (Spalding) and a first senior appearance for the Lincs. Junior Girl Champion, Suzanne Hunt (Grantham).

After a successful trip to Germany, Suzanne should benefit from a trip to the Scandinavian Championships in Sweden being held in late November, thanks to her sponsors, Van Allan.

Entry Forms are in circulation for the County Closed Championships, which again are taking place at the North Kesteven Sports Centre, North Hykeham, Lincoln, on November 23. Brian Hill has won the M.S. title for 10 consecutive years, and has won the event 13 times in the past 15 years. From his current form, and last year's results, he should be able to notch up No. 14. This is our County record, what is yours?

An inaugural member of the Lincoln League,

Mr. G. Edgar Sendall, was unanimously elected as their new President, at their A.G.M. in August, the vacancy having arose following the death of Mr. S. Haigh. Mr. Sendall has been actively involved with Lincoln since its formation in 1933, and has held the office of Treasurer, and for many years that of Chairman. His successor as Chairman is Mr. John Skinner, who previously held the position of Vice-Chairman and Treasurer.

A large proportion of Lincs. T.T.A. officials and friends attended a buffet and social evening, when Joan Robinson was presented with her award as the Rothman/L.S.G. Sports Personality of the Month. The award was presented by the L.S.G. Sales Manager, Mr. D. Richards, who in his remarks commented on the amount of work Joan does on behalf of the County, and how he marvelled that she even found time to run a home and bring up a family. Joan replied by thanking all the people who help her with the work she enjoys so much. Everyone voted the evening a great success.

European League — Division 2

ENGLAND v IRELAND

On 11th DECEMBER, 1975

at

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7-30 p.m.

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**Mr. H. Taylor,
Notts. County Council Leisure Services
Committee,
County Hall, West Bridgford,
Nottingham.**

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S.E. MIDLAND LEAGUE CHATTER

by Leslie Constable

The only information I have so far received concerning the South East Midlands League are the opening fixtures of Cambridge, Wisbech and St. Neots. In Division II of the Men's Section, Cambridge beat Wisbech 6-4, thanks to the efforts of Martin Murden, Albert Jackson, Mick Byrd and Bob Pettit. This was an impressive start for the Cambridge team, who will be all out to gain admittance to Division I. In the Junior Section, Division II, Wisbech were much too good for Cambridge and showed the power of their Junior talent by winning 9-1. In the Women's Section, Cambridge had a good 7-2 victory over St. Neots. For Cambridge Janet Rodgers had a good win against Belinda Chamberlain and the other two members of the team, Valerie Scripps and Carol Ellis, also had a successful match.

EUROPEAN DATES

Following the opening clash with Denmark, at Eastbourne, in Division 2 (Group A) of the European League, England's remaining home fixtures are:—December 11 v Ireland, at Kimberley Sports Centre, Nottingham, and March 4 v Netherlands, at The Lads' Club, Norwich.

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The youngest winner of the L.S.G./Rothmans Sports Award, Mrs. Joan Robinson, received her trophy and £20 cheque for the club on a recent Tuesday night at the North Sea Camp Officers' Club, Freiston. The presentation was made by the L.S.G. sales manager, Dennis Richards, who said that 28-year-old Mrs. Robinson holds five positions in the Lincolnshire Table Tennis Association, and is a former County doubles champion, also she is still an active player with the Boston League, winning their ladies' singles title last year. In her reply, Mrs. Robinson, of 13 Croppers Way, Freiston, said that she had received a lot of help from people over the years, and said that she really enjoyed doing the work behind the scenes. The photo shows Mr. Richards making the presentation to Mrs. Robinson, with her parents, Ronald and Jessie Scott, of Saxilby (centre) looking on, surrounded by her friends.

Photo by courtesy of "Sports Standard".

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

CHAMPIONS IN GEAR

Essex the Premier Division title-holders, began as they did last season, with a victory over Lancashire, and once again Donald Parker was without a singles victory.

Cheshire had home victories over Warwickshire and Surrey, the latter match providing Susan Lisle with the chance of a crack at Linda Howard, which she took in full measure.

Yorkshire brought off a surprise win away to Middlesex, this after David Tan had beaten Tony Clayton in the opening set. Cleveland, who pose the big threat to the supremacy of Essex, had a 6-3 win over Surrey, the North-Easterners being without Nicky Jarvis, nursing an injured back.

PREMIER DIVISION

Cheshire 6, Warwickshire 3

J. Hilton lost to D. Douglas -14, -20; bt P. Judd 19, 17.

N. Eckersley lost to Douglas 18, -17, -7; bt D. Johnson 13, 13.

M. Johns bt Judd 17, 19; bt Johnson 12, 7.

Eckersley/Hilton lost to Douglas/Judd -10, -15.

Miss S. Lisle bt Miss B. Green 7, 14.

Johns/Lisle bt Johnson/Green 18, 16.

Cleveland 6, Surrey 3

D. Neale bt S. Lyons 10, 9; bt D. Welsman 14, 19.

J. Walker lost to Lyons -13, 14, -14; bt C. Strathearn 18, 17.

S. Souter lost to Welsman -14, 9, -18; bt Strathearn -17, 16, 23.

Souter/Walker bt Lyons/Strathearn 17, 17.

Miss C. Knight lost to Miss L. Howard 14, -18, -10.

Neale/Knight bt Welsman/Howard -18, 17, 18.

The match, notable for several reasons, the first being the appearance of Cleveland in the Premier and the second being a nice win for Linda Howard over Carole Knight. Denis Neale, of course, the star and unbeaten in singles for the 20th consecutive match; his last defeat was by Les Haslam, early in 1970.

Essex 7, Lancashire 2

I. Horsham bt D. Parker 19, -9, 19; bt P. Bowen 10, 20.

D. Brown bt Parker 20, 15; bt N. Hallows 15, 16.

R. Potten bt Bowen -18, 14, 18; lost to Hallows -17, 17, -19.

Horsham/Brown bt Bowen/Hallows 17, 22.

Miss S. Hession bt Miss B. Williams 10, 17.

Potton/Hession lost to Parker/Williams -19, 17, -20.

In the end a fairly convincing win for Essex after some early frights. David Brown (always a better player in an Essex shirt) convincingly upset the England-ranked Donald Parker, Bob Potton picked up a nice M.S. v Phil Bowen, and Shelagh Hession in good singles form.

Middlesex 4, Yorkshire 5

M. Mitchell lost to A. Clayton -12, -10; lost to A. Fletcher -18, 10, -18.

D. Tan bt Clayton -16, 18, 17; bt S. Hazelwood 12, 16.

R. Aldrich lost to Fletcher -17, -7; bt Hazelwood 14, 16.

Aldrich/Tan lost to Clayton/Fletcher 16, -16, -13.

Miss A. Mitchell bt Miss J. McLean -17, 12, 17. Mitchell/Mitchell lost to Hazelwood/McLean -20, 18, -18.

Mark Mitchell has played some good matches for Middlesex in his short career, but this was not one of them. Just outlasted by Alan Fletcher (the only unbeaten player in the match); pairing with sister Angela for X.D. but going down to Steve Hazelwood & Julie McLean in a set which was crucial; and finally making but token effort in the 2nd v Tony Clayton, who was not slow to take advantage of his lack-lustre opponent. David Tan turned in possibly his best performance for the County, with two convincing M.S. wins

and a good effort with Bob Aldrich in M.D. Definitely Yorkshire's night.

Cheshire 6, Surrey 3

J. Hilton bt S. Lyons 15, -8, 14; bt D. Welsman 18, 16.

N. Eckersley lost to Lyons -14, -19; bt C. Strathearn 18, 14.

M. Johns lost to Welsman -20, -10; lost to Strathearn -13, -17.

Eckersley/Hilton bt Lyons/Strathearn 16, 17. Miss S. Lisle bt Miss L. Howard 16, 18.

Johns/Lisle bt Welsman/Howard 18, -25, 18.

2nd DIVISION SOUTH

Surrey II 4, Hampshire 6

Fine performance by Ian Girdler to win 2 x M.S.—his best effort for his County. Max Crimmins beat the awkward Trevor Smith but did not show the same application in either M.D. or his singles with the unbeaten Keith Summerfield. Nice win for Jenny Vass v Joyce Coop—several seasons ago they were teammates for Dorset!

Sussex 7, Kent 3

2nd DIVISION WEST

Gwent 1, Berkshire 9

The newly-promoted side no match for the Division champions. John Bloomer turned in a good performance for the home team beating David Reeves 17, 21, but the rest of the team simply found the opposition too good.

Cornwall 1, Devon 9

Worcestershire 4, Somerset 6

Excellent opening set between Simon Claxton and Brian Reeves, the Worcs Junior going down 19, -11, -20, but the match fell away after this. Spearheaded by Jill Wilson (who hit through Joyce Lloyd 12, 9) the visitors took all three women's sets.

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION

Cleveland 2, Surrey 8

I. Plummer lost to M. Shuttle -19, -9; lost to S. Boxall -18, 16, -18.

S. Rowland lost to Shuttle -15, -11; lost to K. Seager -12, -7.

M. Laird lost to Boxall -16, -16; lost to Seager -17, 19, -9.

Laird/Rowland lost to Boxall/Seager -13, -14.

Miss A. Tierney bt Miss S. Roebuck 14, 12.

Plummer/Tierney lost to Shuttle/Miss J. Mitchell -12, -20.

Miss J. Skipp/Miss J. Williams bt Roebuck/Mitchell 21, 18.

Martin Shuttle survived the loss of his kit and bats en route and his team gave Cleveland a stern introduction to Premier play. Could this be Surrey's season?

Essex 9, Cambridgeshire 1

K. Caldon bt K. Richardson 20, 13; bt G. Davies 7, 14.

D. Newman lost to Richardson -18, -20; bt A. Hubble 14, 8.

K. Owers bt Davies -20, 18, 19; bt Hubble 11, 10.

Caldon/Newman bt Richardson/Davies 18, 10. Miss S. Sutton bt Miss R. Newman 14, 15.

Owers/Miss P. Abbott bt Hubble/Miss S. Ellis 12, 11.

Abbott/Sutton bt Ellis/Newman 18, 17.

Without "super-star" P - - - D - - -, Cambs were outplayed, although given a fine start by Keith Richardson (somehow unranked by England). Best set that between Kevin Owers and Geoff Davies with the Essex boy fighting back splendidly to win after trailing 13-17 in 2nd and 3-9 in 3rd.

Kent 3, Berkshire 7

I. Kenyon bt D. Reeves 16, 21; bt S. Douglas 16, 20.

V. O'Brien lost to Reeves -16, -12; bt A. Wellman 9, -8, 18.

P. Ptak lost to Douglas -15, -16; lost to Wellman -21, -16.

O'Brien/I. Collins lost to Douglas/Wellman 18, -18, -18.

Miss M. Heffernan lost to Miss A. Gordon 19, -9, -22.

Collins/Miss C. Colegate lost to Reeves/Miss J. Purslow -21, 19, -16.

Colegate/Heffernan lost to Gordon/Purslow -12, -19.

Following a comfortable win by David Reeves over Vince O'Brien, Ian Kenyon scored an "easier than the score suggests" equaliser over Simon Douglas; Andy Wellman restored the visitors' lead over a hesitant Peter Ptak. The Kent girls too nervous in G.D. and then followed four close sets of which but one went to Kent through Kenyon.

Middlesex 2, Yorkshire 8

J. James bt S. Hazelwood -16, 18, 13; lost to K. Beadsley -14, -12.

A. Proffitt lost to Hazelwood -12, -11; lost to M. Harrison -19, 22, -17.

G. Sandley lost to Beadsley -15, -6; lost to Harrison 18, -16, -11.

Proffitt/Sandley lost to Beadsley/Harrison -15, -12.

Miss A. Mitchell bt Miss L. Hryzsko 13, 18.

J. James/Miss S. Dove lost to Hazelwood/Miss J. McLean -15, -14.

Dove/Mitchell lost to Hryzsko/McLean -20, -13.

A big disappointment to Middlesex who badly wanted to win this one. They missed Andy Barden far more than a very strong visiting team missed Melody Ludi. Unexpected but worthy win for Yorks in G.D., and fine result for Johanne James v Steve Hazelwood, but Yorks too good.

Cambridge 2, Middlesex 8

K. Richardson bt J. James -16, 17, 10; lost to A. Proffitt -19, 17, -15.

G. Davies lost to James -19, 15, -15; bt B. Tyler 16, -10, 11.

S. Calvert lost to Proffitt -11, -9; lost to Tyler -13, -10.

Davies/Richardson lost to Proffitt/Tyler 25, -18, -14.

Miss R. Newman lost to Miss A. Mitchell -14, -19.

Calvert/Miss S. Ellis lost to James/Miss S. Dove -16, -12.

Ellis/Newman lost to Dove/Mitchell -10, -6.

With both number 1's away in Spain, the match a little short of class. Good win by Adam Proffitt in set 2 rather made Cambs lose heart and the visitors led 6-0.

JUNIOR 2nd DIVISION SOUTH

Dorset 2, Middlesex II 8

Insufficient determination by the hosts cost them a possible draw; they lost 3 x B.S. tight in the 3rd. More spirit like that shown by Janet New is needed; she trailed Jill Campion 1-10 and 9-17 in final game but won -16, 17, 19.

Hampshire 7, Essex II 3

Comparatively easy for Hants with three 13-year-olds on view. Colin Wilson, Richard Bergemann and Julie Reading played well for the winners, and Kenny Jackson promising for Essex.

Surrey II 6, Kent II 4

First-ever treble by Simon Vine the inspiration for this win. Joe Kennedy, on debut for Kent, matched this and played with a sureness of touch which made him the best of their boys. Diane Colar and Ann Pilcher just too steady for the Surrey girls in G.D., but Elaine Starr had revenge over Elaine Bolton in G.S.

JUNIOR 2nd DIVISION NORTH

Cleveland II 3, Durham 7

The Durham boys were clearly too good for their near neighbours and all three of the home sets came from their very useful girls, Norma Carne and Helen Robinson.

Lancashire 10, Cheshire 0

Yorkshire II 9, Derbyshire 1

Although comfortable winners and looking likely to have another good season, this young Yorkshire side (for whom Sally Dickerson impressed) made to work hard for their victory.

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