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# Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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## KOHNO THE KING

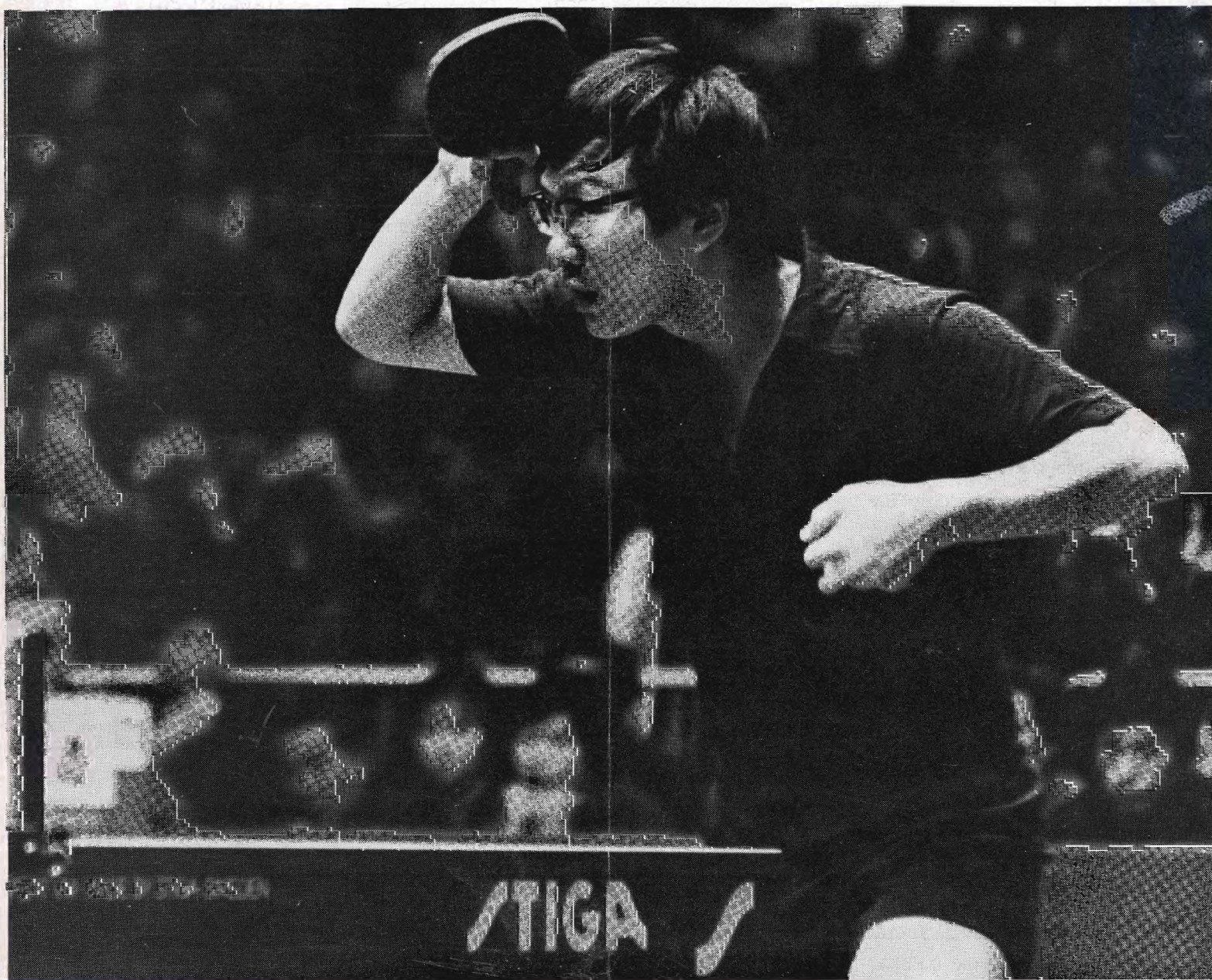


Photo by Tony Ross, Hessele

*finest equipment by*

**Jaques**

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# 34th World Championships

## Just Cause

Not only big enough to moor a zeppelin, but to manoeuvre one, Hall 5 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham proved in many ways to be the ideal venue for the 34th World Table Tennis Championships.

Granted there were drawbacks, such as the floor, which but for the prohibitive cost would have been wood, and the outrageous prices being charged for food and drink which for a captive audience was hard to justify.

But there were compensations not least being Sportacus '77 a veritable open market which, by tradition in England, always has a magnetic quality.

An ever open bar, ostensibly for the Press, was yet another haven of diversity from the playing arenas which on Wimbledon lines lacked only strawberries and cream — which was perhaps as well, for they would have cost the earth.

T.V. coverage by the B.B.C. could not have been better and with Norwich Union Insurance, the main sponsors, now more firmly cemented in partnership, the English Table Tennis Association has just cause to be proud, not only of the show put on, but of the legion of rank and file members who made it all possible.

To them especially must go praise indeed for theirs was a labour of love undertaken with the forfeiture of, if not of pay, holidays which they now deserve.

### ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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M. Goldstein, L. F. Landry, A. E. Upton and K. Watts.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

**Men's Singles**  
MITSURU KOHNO  
(Japan)

**Men's Doubles**  
LI CHEN-SHIH and  
LIANG KE-LIANG  
(China)

**Mixed Doubles**  
JACQUES SECRETIN and  
CLAUDE BERGERET  
(France)

**Swaythling Cup**  
CHINA

**Women's Singles**  
PAK YUNG SUN  
(Korea DPR)

**Women's Doubles**  
PAK YONG OK (Korea DPR)  
and YANK YING (China)

**Corbillon Cup**  
CHINA

## Korean Cool and French Dressing

by GEORGE R. YATES



In winning the women's singles title at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham on April 5, Pak Yung Sun of Korea DPR, became the first woman to retain the world title for 22 years. The last female player to do so was Angelica Roseanu of Rumania, who won the G. Geist Prize, presented by Dr. Gaspar Geist, President of the Hungarian Association in 1931, six times in succession between 1950 and 1955.

It was a repeat of the final in Calcutta two years ago when Chang Li, of the People's Republic of China, did not give of her best. The same was not true of this occasion, as the 21-15, 24-22, 22-20 scoreline indicates. The North Korean, though, was much more mature and her controlled temperament played an important part in her victory.

The only discordant note came when, with Pak Yung Sun having established a two game lead and the score standing at 18-all in the third, Chang Li was faulted by Middlesex umpire, Jack Melnick, for shielding the ball from his sight when serving.

Two similar calls, by John Masters, went against the defeated Chinese men's finalist, Kuo Yao-hua, in his second game against Mitsuru Kohno of Japan who, having lost the first, came back strongly to take the next three and the title. Kohno, now aged 30, was the defeated finalist in Stockholm in 1967, and lost in the semis, in Calcutta, to Istvan Jonyer of Hungary. Nobuhiko Hasegawa was the winner in Sweden.

The People's Republic of China contested the final of the men's doubles, a largely uninspiring affair, won by the more experienced Liang Ke-

liang and Li Chen-shih over Huang Liang and Lu Yuan-sheng.

Europe had their only finalists in the mixed doubles in which Jacques Secretin and Claude Bergeret of France had a straight 3-games win over Tokio Tasaka and Sachiko Yokota of Japan. It was France's first ever victory in the World Championships, which date back to 1927 when the venue was the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London.

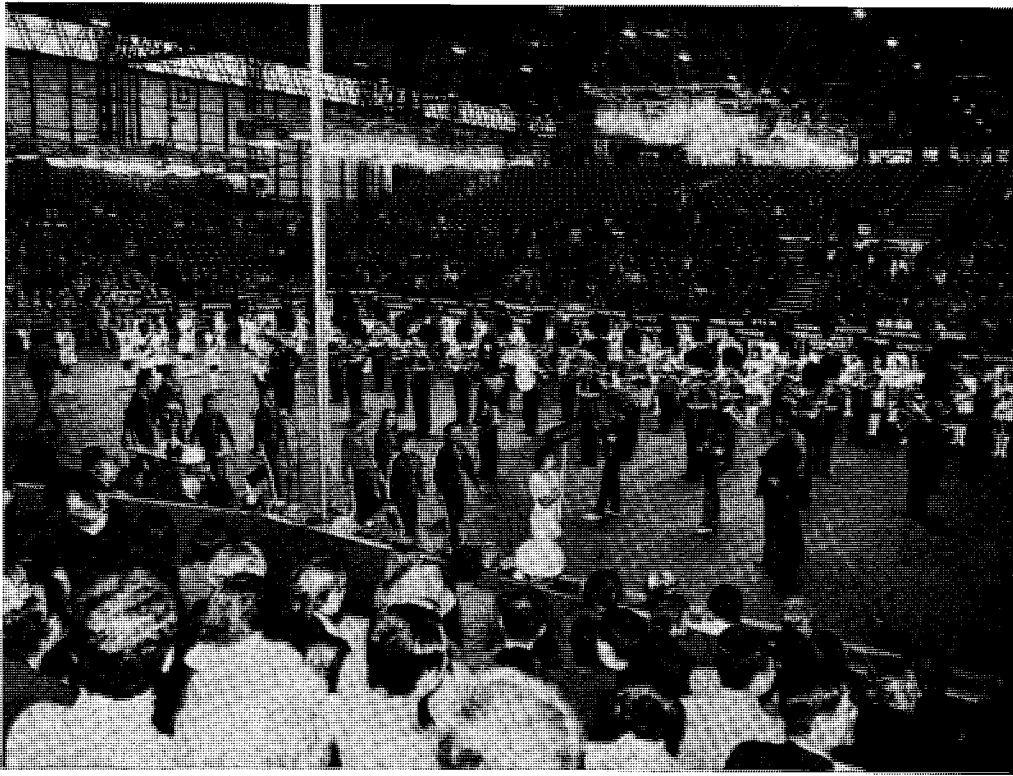
On the previous evening Pak Yung Ok of Korea DPR, partnered by Yang Ying of China, became the holders of the W. J. Pope Trophy with a final victory over China's Chu Hsiang-yun and Wei Li-chien in the women's doubles.

In the opinion of the attendant journalists England's 'Player of the Championships' was Carole Knight, of Cleveland, who recovered from a 9-19 deficit in the Marcel Corbillon Cup competition to beat Liana Mihut of Rumania and who then went down so narrowly to Pak Yung Sun over five games in the first round of the women's singles.

Norwich Union, the major sponsors, presented Carole with a magnificent trophy and a £200 holiday voucher which should take her far from her native Cleveland.

### CHAMPION OUT

Jonyer was the defending champion and top seed in the men's singles and having performed exceptionally well in the Swaythling Cup competition, especially against China in which match he beat Kuo Yao-hua and Huang Liang, it came as a shock when he was ousted in the third round.



**The Opening Ceremony at the NEC.**

'Photo by Simon Livingstone Studios, Birmingham.

Villain of the piece was Patrick Birocheau, the French No. 3, who triumphed -10, 15, 18, 15 after the Hungarian had taken out Li Yu-hsiang of China being in receipt of a first round bye. Nor did it do the Frenchman any good either for in the next round the cockerel was reduced to a tame budgerigar by the all-conquering Kohno, 21-6 in the third!

As with the Grand National at Aintree, it was an almighty charge for the first fence at the NEC with the Soviet Union's Bagrat Burnazian, beaten by Ake Liljegren of Sweden, and Lu Yuan-sheng of China, beaten by Japan's Isao Nakandakare, among the fallers. And, for a refusal, Wang Chun of China conceded a walk-over to Shlomo Mendelson of Israel, a country not recognised by the Chinese.

England had four successful jumpers, not perhaps in the Red Rum class, but sufficiently trained to clear the first hurdle. This was accomplished by Denis Neale, who beat Thomas Busin of Switzerland, by Paul Day, who beat Stefan Moraru of Rumania, by Desmond Douglas, who showed a clean pair of heels to Ryszard Czochanski of Poland, and by Jimmy Walker who went 'nuts' against Manoel Tineo of Brazil.

But brought down were qualifiers Duggie Johnson, by Stefano Bosi of Italy, Robert Wiley by Zoran Kosanovic of Yugoslavia, and Andy Barden, surprisingly by Stanislaw Fraczyk of Poland.

Round 2 brought the fall of seeded Li Chen-shih, to Kosanovic, Katsuyuki Abe of Japan, to Li Kuang Tsu of Hong Kong, Ulf Thorsell of Sweden, to Wang Chien-chang of China, and Ake Gronlund of Sweden, to Tokio Tasaka of Japan. And with such illustrious performers went Day, beaten by Masahiro of Japan and Walker, trodden on by Anatoliy Strokotov of the Soviet Union.

But still there with the diminishing pack were Neale, victor over Graham Lassen of New Zealand, and Douglas, after shaking off a first game deficit against Poland's Andrzej Grubba. It was at this stage, in the third round, that Birocheau set the typewriters buzzing in the press room which again clattered when, in Round 4, such thoroughbreds as European champion, Secretin, fell to Huang Liang, and the great Kjell Johansson of Sweden, probably playing in his last world championships, was ousted by Gabor Gergely of Hungary.

Miroslav Schenk (Czechoslovakia), Bosi and Kosanovic.

Others to make the last sixteen were Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia, whose sledgehammer forehands had 'splintered' the blades of Fraczyk, Christian Martin (France) and Wang Chien-chang of China; Gergely who, prior to ousting Johansson, had beaten Heiner Lammers (Federal Germany) and Sarkis Sarkhojan of the Soviet Union and, from Hungary, Tibor Klampar whose victims were Damir Jurcic (Yugoslavia), Jaroslav Kunz (Czechoslovakia) and Anton Stipanovic of Yugoslavia.

Picture then the scene in the main arena, under a battery of TV lights, as the quarters, suitably staggered for the benefit of a full house, got under way. Kohno versus Bengtsson was the first on and proved the best and most captivating holding the interest of the crowd from first ball to last.

It was a set, doubtless watched by countless millions on "the box", which did more to convert the uninitiated to the magic of the game than anything that had gone before or was to follow. It had everything and for Kohno the victory which, over five pulsating games, had, at times, seemed like a mirage.

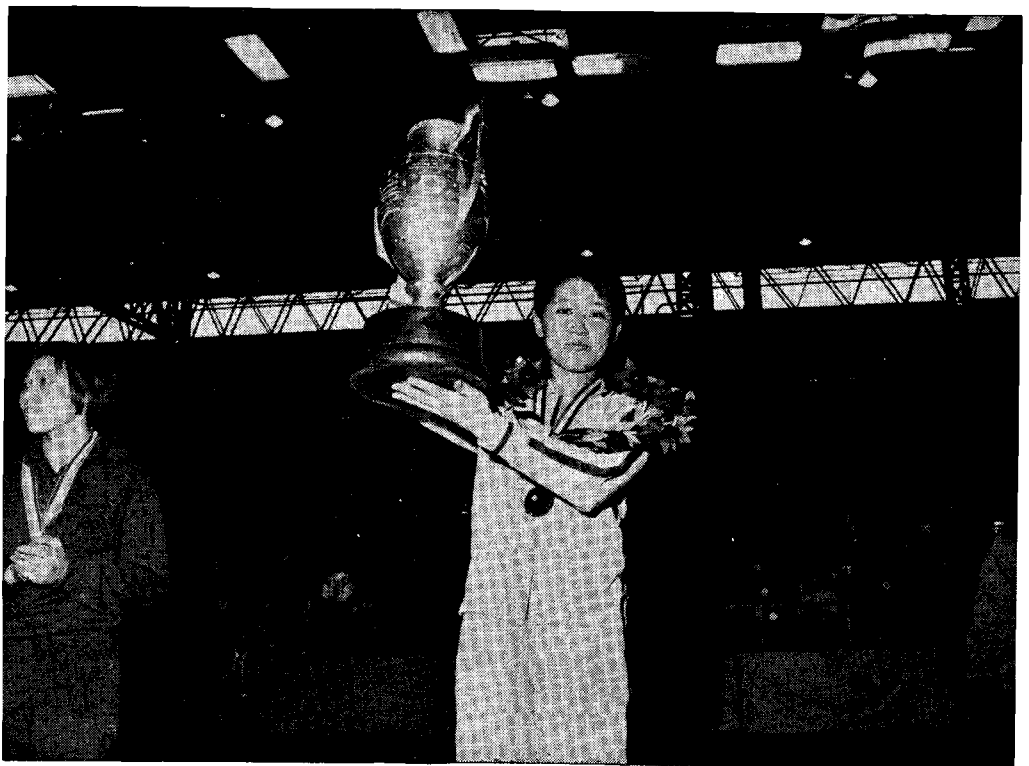
No less pushed China's Liang Ke-liang needed five games to dispose of Surbek, whereas Huang Liang polished off Gergely in three. But it was back to a tightrope situation in the meeting of Klampar and Kuo Yao-hua, the latter having established himself as the favourite albeit he got through, at 19 in the fifth, to make the semis.

Neither semi increased the pulse rate of the spectators both being won, in straight games, by Kohno over Liang Ke-liang, and by Kuo Yao-hua over his compatriot Huang Liang. The final, without reaching the heights, was nevertheless the best of the concluding session with Kohno, subsequently in tears, a deserved winner after six attempts commencing in Ljubljana in 1965.

#### PAR EXCELLENCE

What better start to the counterpart women's event than the first round meeting of the defending champion, Pak Yung Sun, and the English champion Carole Knight. This was a cliffhanger par excellence with the North Korean just getting through 18 in the fifth after the Cleveland girl had twice levelled the scores.

Federal Germany's Wiebke Hendriksen was the



**Trophy retained. Pak Yung Sun of Korea DPR.**

'Photo by Simon Livingstone Studios, Birmingham.



England's "Player of the Championships" Carole Knight with John McDonnell, Public Relations Manager, Norwich Union Insurance.

'Photo by Simon Livingstone Studios, Birmingham.

only seeded player to fall in the first round but accompanying Carole into the dressing room were England's Linda Howard, beaten by Chung Hyun Sook of South Korea, and Susan Lisle who had given her all against European "Top 12" champion Beatrix Kishazi of Hungary, victor by 14 in the fifth and deciding game.

Jill Hammersley, England's reigning European champion, made light of her meeting with Rumania's Liana Mihut in that first round but, subsequently plagued by the recurrence of an old injury, she lost, in an increasingly distressed state, to Japan's youngest competitor, 19-years-old Kayoko Kawahigashi in the second round.

It was a sad state of affairs as Jill was fully expected to reach the quarters at least and a crack at the defeated finalist Chang Li. The round also saw the elimination of other seeds in China's Huang Hsi-ping, by Gabliella Szabo of Hungary, and Zoya Rudnova of the Soviet Union, by Kim Soon Ok of South Korea.

But providing the big shocks was the diminutive Ursula Hirschmuller of Federal Germany who, in her opening round, defeated Judit Magos of Hungary and followed this up with subsequent victories over Pak Yong Ok of North Korea and Ilona Uhlíkova of Czechoslovakia!

Ursula was the only European to reach the quarters at which stage she took her departure when beaten in straight games by China's Chang Te-yin who lost in the semis to Chang Li. In the top half of the draw Pak Yung Sun, after weathering the Knight storm had matters much easier in reaching the final although having to pull out all the stops against Yen Kuei-li of China.

Judith Williams, the one-time Sussex international now playing for the Netherlands, broke through the qualifying rounds with wins over Veronique Germinat (Belgium), Fariba Ghavamzadeh (Iran) and Judy Bochenski (USA) but lost in the first round proper to Lee Ailesa of South Korea.

One just had to feel sorry for England's Melody Ludi who, having remained on the bench throughout the team championships, was beaten in straight games by Eva Stromvall of Sweden on her first excursion to the table.

#### BEST PERFORMANCE

By far the best home performance was put up by Douglas and Neale in the men's doubles in

which event they reached the quarters following wins over Choi Sung Kuk and Kim In Su of South Korea, the Finns, Jukka Ikonen and Jarmo Jokinen, and, by far their best win, over Kohno and Tasaka of Japan.

Seemingly all good things must come to an end and so it proved when elimination came at the hands of the beaten finalists Huang Liang and Lu Yuan-sheng. Of the Europeans Stipanovic and Surbek, together with Bengtsson and Johansson, succeeded in reaching the semis but it was the players from the People's Republic of China who

had the last say.

The brothers Danny and Ricky Seemiller, of the United States, did well to reach the quarters their finest hour coming with the defeat of Kun Yao-hua and Liao Fu-min.

Gergely and Jonyer, who won the title in Calcutta, were not paired together in Birmingham, Gergely, with the Czech, Orłowski, losing to Bengtsson and Johansson, and Jonyer, with his other compatriot Klampar, losing to Huang Liang and Lu Yuan-sheng.

A place in this event was found for Cheshire's John Hilton, out-in-out reserve, who, with Jimmy Walker, fell in the second round to the Seemillers.

#### NEALE'S BRICK BATS

Denis Neale, the English champion, claimed the Chinese had an unfair advantage with their special bats after he and Desmond Douglas were easily beaten by the unseeded Huang Liang and Lu Yuan-sheng.

The bats have two different surfaces which makes it difficult to read the return of a ball when the bat is consistently turned over during a rally. Neale said: "I think the time has come for bats to be standardised otherwise this game will be turned into a complete joke. We were made to look like a couple of ordinary league ping pong boys. You could play for 100 years and still not be able to beat them. That was not table tennis as the rest of the world knows it.

"If they had given us 19 points start we would still not have beaten them. I feel sorry for the people who pay to watch. It is no longer just a matter of skill. At one time, I felt like offering them the chance of playing with our type of bats."

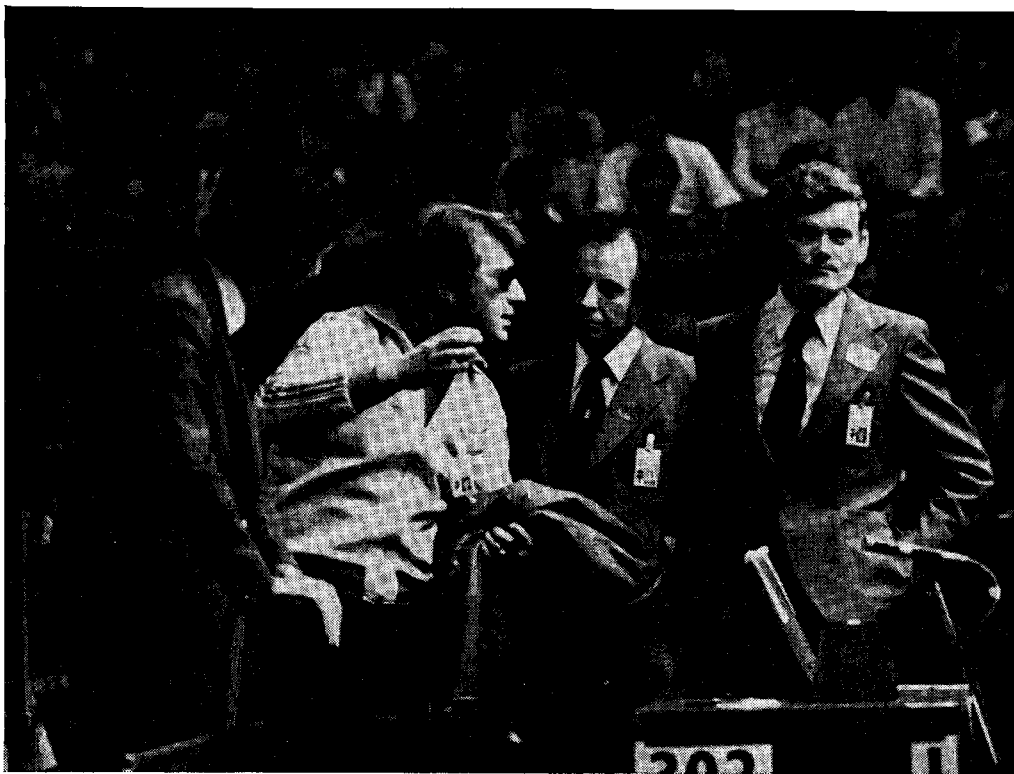
Tony Brooks, the ITTF Secretary/General said: "There is always cause for concern over service, not necessarily over Chinese bats but a concern that the game would remain a contest between players and not between types of equipment. We have to ensure that table tennis remains an entertaining spectator sport and if services cannot be returned, then the rules have to be changed."

As European champions, Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard were seeded second in the women's



Well that's it then. The only European players to win a title French pair Jacques Secretin and Claude Bergeret, leave the table after their mixed doubles final success.

'Photo by Tony Ross, Hesse.



**Hungarian Coach, Zoltan Berczik argues with match officials after Jonyer was called for illegal service.**

**'Photo by Don Morley, Morden.**

**Women's Singles — Pak Yung Sun (Korea DPR)**

Rd. 1: bt C. Knight (ENG) 10, -11, 18, -20, 18;  
 Rd. 2: bt Yen Kuei-li (CHN) 18, 18, -27, 17;  
 Rd. 3: bt M. Alexandru (RUM) 10, 14, 8;  
 Q.-F.: bt Chu Hsian-yn (CHN) 21, 19, 16;  
 S.-F.: bt Ke Hsin-ai (CHN) 18, 18, -13, 18;  
 Final: bt Chang Li (CHN) 15, 22, 20.

**Men's Doubles — Li Chen-shih/Liang Ke-liang (China)**

Rd. 1: bt H. Barad aran/M. Ehteshmzadeh (IRN) 12, 11, 7;  
 Rd. 2: bt N. Bajaj/M. Due (IND) 11, 11, 20;  
 Rd. 3: bt J. Dvoracek/J. Pansky (CZE) 10, 12, 7;  
 Q.-F.: bt P. Birecheau/J. Secretin (FRA) 19, -16, -18, 18, 14;  
 S.-F.: bt S. Bengtsson/K. Johansson (SWE) -13, 17, 18, 17.  
 Final: bt Huang Liang/Lu Yuan-sheng (CHN) 20, 18, 11.

**Women's Doubles — Pak Yong Ok (KDR)/Yang Ying (CHN)**

Rd. 1: bt S. Hession (ENG)/J. Williams (NET) 18, 14, 10;  
 Rd. 2: bt E. Ferenczi (RUM)/B. Vriesekoop (NET) 16, -17, 15, -19, 11;  
 Rd. 3: bt Chung Hyun Sook/Lee Ailesa (KRR) 11, -12, 14, 11;  
 Q.-F.: bt W. Hendriksen (GFR)/B. Kishazi (HUN) 15, 12, 17;  
 S.-F.: bt Chang Li/Ke Hsin-ai (CHN) 13, 18, 13;  
 Final: bt Chu Hsiang-yun/Wei Li-chieh (CHN) 18, 24, -16, 13.

**Mixed Doubles — Jacques Secretin/Claude Bergeret (FRA)**

Rd. 1: bt J. Kunz/B. Silhanova (CZE) -18, 5, 16, 17;  
 Rd. 2: bt J. Leiss/K. Kruger (GFR) 13, 13, -16, 8;  
 Rd. 3: bt Huang Liang/Wei Li-chieh -12, 19, -13, 19, 16;  
 Q.-F.: bt S. Sarkhojan/E. Antonian (USS) 14, 19, 14;  
 S.-F.: bt Lee Sang Kuk/Lee Ki Won (KRR) 17, 15, -18, -14, 10;  
 Final: bt T. Tasake/S. Yokota (JAP) 17, 14, 17.

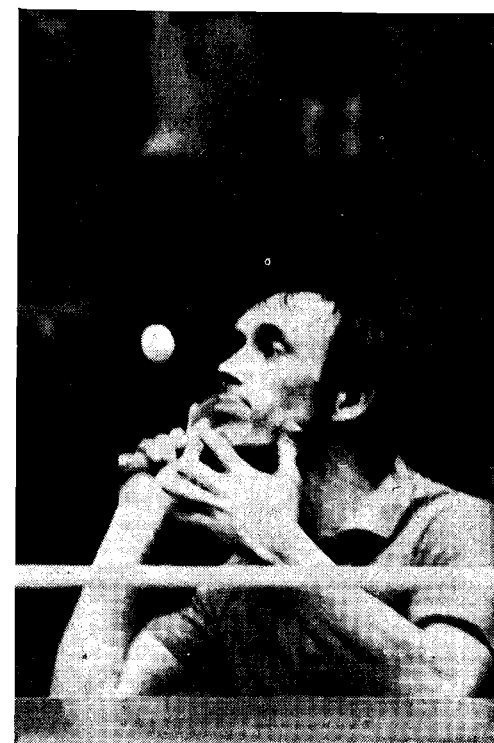
**34th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS — INDIVIDUAL RESULTS**

**Men's Singles — Round 3**

P. Birecheau (FRA) bt I. Jonyer (HUN) -10, 15, 18, 15;  
 M. Kohno (JAP) bt D. Neale (ENG) 18, 17, 14;  
 S. Bengtsson (SWE) bt Li Kuang Tsu (HKG) 4, -21, 11, 18;  
 W. Lieck (GFR) bt Z. Kosanovic (YUG) -17, 8, 8, 9;  
 D. Surbek (YUG) bt G. Martin (FRA) 17, 6, 12;  
 Wang Chien-Chang (CHN) bt T. Gherrghe (RUM) 15, -20, 5, -9, 18;  
 M. Orlovski (CZE) bt S. Gomozkov (USS) 19, 19, -18, 12;  
 Liang Ke-liang (CHN) bt M. Maehara (JAP) 14, -17, 16, 13;  
 J. Secretin (FRA) bt D. Douglas (ENG) 14, 23, -8, 11;  
 Huang Liang (CHN) bt T. Inoue (JAP) 7, 17, 15;  
 G. Gergely (HUN) bt S. Sarkhojan (USS) 14, -14, 17, 19;  
 K. Johansson (SWE) bt M. Karakasevic (YUG) 19, 13, 7;  
 T. Klamper (HUN) bt J. Kunz (CZE) 17, 12, -18, 16;  
 A. Stipanovic (YUG) bt T. Tasaka (JAP) -15, 19, 19, -16, 15; ;  
 N. Takashima (JAP) bt A. Strokotov (USS) -18, 15, 17, 17;  
 Kuo Yao-hua (CHN) bt J. Leiss (GFR) 16, 13, 4.

**Round 4**

Kohno bt Birecheau 20, 11, 6;  
 Bengtsson bt Lieck -16, 16, -18, 16, 18;  
 Surbek bt Wang Chien-chiang -19, 20, 20, 17;  
 Liang Ke-liang bt Orlovski 10, 14, 8;  
 Huang Liang bt Secretin 12, -15, -13, 17, 17;



**A study in concentration. Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia. 'Photo by Don Morley, Morden.**

doubles in which Chang Li and Ke Hsin-ai topped the draw. But neither pair succeeded in reaching the final.

Disappointingly the English girls took their departure in the first round when beaten by China's Yen Kuei-li and Li Ming, the top seeds surviving to the penultimate stage where they lost to the eventual winners Pak Yong Ok and Yang Ying.

The whole event was dominated by players from Asia only three European pairs reaching the quarters at which stage a fond farewell was afforded Ann-Christin Hellman and Eva Stromvall, Wiebke Hendriksen and Beatrix Kishazi, and Elmira Antonian and Zoya Rudnova, the latter having eliminated such notables as Kim Chang Ai and Pak Yung Sun.

Other than Jill and Linda, England also had three other pairs in the first round or, to be more precise, two and a half for Shelagh Hession renewed her old established partnership with Judy Williams. It did not survive as the Anglo-Dutch combine lost in their opener to the eventual winners.

In the lower half of the draw Karen Rogers and Karen Witt did survive the first round, with a win over Jan Morris and Anne Stonestreet of New Zealand, but fell in the next to Poland's Weronika Sikora and Jolanta Szatko.

Carole Knight and Melody Ludi also surmounted their first hurdle, provided by Pilar Lupon and Monserrat Sanahuja of Spain, but could not climb over the second although it was only at -21 in the fifth that they fell to the redoubtable Maria Alexandru of Rumania and Ilona Uhlíkova who were taken out by Miss Hellman and Miss Stromvall.

**FIVE STRONG**

England had no less than five pairs in the first round of the mixed doubles but only two succeeded in reaching Round 2 and none beyond.

Douglas and Linda Howard argued brightly, beating Constantinos Pritis and Loukia Scivanou of Greece, the tarnish coming with their meeting with Lee Sang Kuk and Lee Ki Won of South Korea. Johnson and Shelagh Hession also had a first round win, over the Foldys of Switzerland, Laszlo and Theresia, but then succumbed to Orlovski and Uhlíkova.

Despite pain Jill attempted a salvage operation with Neale but after losing the first eight points of their opening set, to Gergely and Magos, had to retire to bring the curtain down on the host nation's far from stunning acts.

But Europe, in the persons of Secretin and Claude Bergeret, provided the "new faces" on the rostrum after their most comfortable final victory over Tasaka and Yokota. Prior to the French pair had been troubled only by Huang Liang and Wei Li-chieh.

**Major shock in this event was the first round elimination of the holders, Gomozkov and Rudnova, by Errol Caetano and Marianne Domonkas of Canada. But the last smile was reserved for Jean Mercier, the proudest Frenchman of them all.**

Thus came to an end the five days of the individual events and the 11 days of the championships heralded in by the band of the Welsh Guards whose trumpeters provided the fanfares for the presentation ceremonies.

From all outward appearances the championships were a huge success but there had to be grumbles mainly concerning the floor and the variation in lighting between the main and subsidiary arenas.

A wooden floor would have been ideal but for the astronomical cost for, to quote Mike Lawless, the Championship Director, "it costs £10 for a workman to lift a hammer in this place"!

Undoubtedly the incorporated Sportacus '77 Sports and Leisure Exhibition "made" the Championships for, with table tennis alone, good as it was, Hall 5 would have been a sombre place. But judging from the people that took in the ETTA stand within the exhibition there was a definite call for diversion from the play and in this respect the whole made the NEC a place to be visited and remembered.

The Richard Bergmann "Fair Play" Award went to Federal Germany's Wilfried Lieck for conspicuously good sportsmanship.

**PATHS OF GOLD**

**Men's Singles — Mitsuru Kohno (Japan)**

Rd. 1: bye.  
 Rd. 2: bt C. Pedersen (DEN) 13, 14, 7;  
 Rd. 3: bt D. Neale (ENG) 18, 17, 14;  
 Rd. 4: bt P. Birecheau (FRA) 20, 11, 6;  
 Q.-F.: bt S. Bengtsson (SWE) -20, 18, -23, 15, 19;  
 S.-F.: bt Liang Ke-liang (CHN) -16, -12, 9, 16, 18;  
 Final: bt Kuo Yao-hua (CHN) -17, 9, 19, 13.

Gergely bt Johansson 15, -16, 19, -10, 15;  
Klampar bt Stipanovic -20, 6, 17, 17;  
Kuo Yao-hua bt Takashima 17, 20, 15.  
Quarter-finals:  
Kohno bt Bengtsson -20, 18, -23, 15, 19;  
Liang Ke-liang bt Surbek -16, -12, 9, 16, 18;  
Huang Liang bt Gergely 9, 19, 13;  
Kuo Yao-hua bt Klampar 20, 18, -11, -15, 19.  
Semi-finals:  
KOHNO bt Liang Ke-liang 19, 14, 11;  
KURO YAO-HUA bt Huang Liang 17, 15, 15.  
Final:  
KOHNO bt Kuo Yao-hua -17, 9, 19, 13.

#### Women's Singles:

##### Round 3:

Pak Yung Sun (KDR) bt M. Alexandru (RUM) 10, 14, 8;  
Chu Hsiang-yun (CHN) bt B. Kishazi (HUN) 17, 8, 11;  
Chung Hyun Sook (KRR) bt G. Szabo (HUN) 15, 14, -16,  
14;  
Ke Hsin-ai (CHN) bt Ri Song Suk (KDR) 21, 6, 11;  
Chang Te-ying (CHN) bt Kim Soon Ok (KRR) 16, 7, 16;  
U. Hirschmuller (GFR) bt I. Uhlíkova (CZE) -15, -9, 18,  
17, 20;  
K. Kawahigashi (JAP) bt A-C. Hellman (SWE) -16, 22,  
20, 24;  
Chang Li (CHN) bt Lee Ailesa (KRR) -18, -17, 11, 16, 21;  
Quarter-finals:  
Pak Yung Sun bt Chu Hsiang-yun 21, 19, 16;  
Ke Hsin-ai bt Chung Hyun Sook 12, 14, 12;  
Chang Te-ying bt Hirschmuller 11, 10, 10;  
Chang Li bt Kawahigashi 19, -14, 18, 18.

##### Semi-finals:

PAK YUNG SUN bt Ke Hsin-ai 18, -13, 18;  
CHANG LI bt Chang Te-ying 19, -14, 18, 18.  
Final:  
PAK YUNG SUN bt Chang Li 15, 22, 20.

#### Men's Doubles — Round 3

Huang Liang/Lu Yuan-sheng (CHN) bt Jonyer/Klampar  
-13, 16, -19, 18, 21;  
Douglas/Neale bt Kohno/Tasaka -20, 16, 11, 19;  
D. Seemiller/R. Seemiller (USA) bt Kuo Yao-hua/  
Liao Fu-min (CHN) 19, 19, 21;  
Stipanovic/Surbek bt C. Martin (FRA)/Takashima  
11, 17, 13;  
Li Chen-shih (CHN)/Liang Ke-liang bt J. Dvoracek/  
J. Pansky (CZE) 10, 12, 7;  
Birocheau/Secretin bt K. Abe (JAP)/Machara -18, 10,  
13, 17;  
Gergely/Orlowski bt Inoue/I. Nakandakare (JAP)  
20, 18, -17, -17, 18;  
Bengtsson/Johansson bt S. Bosi/R. Giontella (ITA)  
15, -22, 15, -14, 7.

##### Quarter-finals:

Huang Liang/Lu Yuan-sheng bt Douglas/Neale 4, 18, 10;  
Stipanovic/Surbek bt Seemiller/Seemiller 19, 12, 8;  
Li Chen-shih/Liang Ke-liang bt Birocheau/Secretin  
19, -16, -18, 18, 14;  
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Gergely/Orlowski 18, -16, 20, 20.

##### Semi-finals:

HUANG LIANG/LU YUAN-SHENG bt Stipanovic/Surbek  
16, 14, 16;  
LI CHEN-SHIH/LIANG KE-LIANG bt Bengtsson/Johansson  
-13, 17, 18, 17.

##### Final:

LI CHEN-SHIH/LIANG KE-LIANG bt Huang Liang/Lu  
Yuan-sheng 20, 18, 11.

#### Women's Doubles — Round 3

Chang Li/Ke Hsin-ai bt E. Neykova/A. Rangelova (BUL)  
14, 12, 9;  
Hellman/E. Stromvall (SWE) bt Alexandru/Uhlíkova  
9, 18, 19, -16, 6;  
W. Hendriksen (GFR)/Kishazi bt C. Bergeret/B. Thiriet  
(FRA) -20, 13, 17, 14;  
Pak Yong Ok (KDR)/Yang Ying (CHN) bt Chung Hyun  
Sook/Lee Ailesa 11, -12, 14, 11.  
E. Antonian/Z. Rudnova (USS) bt Chang Siu Ying/  
Siu Kit Man (HKG) -14, 11, 9, 18;  
Chu Hsiang-yun/Wei Li-chieh (CHN) bt T. Ferdman/  
V. Popova (USS) 9, 15, 15;  
Kim Soon Ok/Lee Ki Won (KRR) bt Kawahigashi/  
S. Yokota (JAP) 15, 21, -21, 16;  
Yen Kuei-li/Li Ming (CHN) bt W. Sikora/J. Szatko  
(POL) 20, 5, 13.

##### Quarter-finals:

Chang Li/Ke Hsin-ai bt Hellman/Stromvall 11, 11, 10;  
Pak Yong Ok/Yang Ying bt Hendriksen/Kishazi  
15, 12, 17;  
Chu Hsiang-yun/Wei Li-chieh bt Ferdman/Popova  
9, 15, 15;  
Kim Soon Ok/Lee Ki Won bt Yen Kuei-li/Li Ming  
18, -13, 14, -22, 10.

##### Semi-finals:

PAK YONG OK/YANG YING bt Chang Li/Ke Hsin-ai  
13, 18, 13;  
CHU HSIANG-YUN/WEI LI-CHIEH bt Kim Soon Ok/  
Lee Ki Won 12, 11, 10.

##### Final:

PAK YONG OK/YANG YING bt Chu Hsiang-yun/Wei  
Li-chieh 18, 24, -16, 13.

#### Mixed Doubles — Round 3

Gergely/J. Magos (HUN) bt Lu Yuan-sheng/Chu  
Hsiang-yun 16, 20, -14, -19, 19;  
Li Chen-shih/Yen Kuei-li bt B. Frank (HUN)/Kishazi  
18, -19, 16, 14;  
Orlowski/Uhlíkova bt I. Stoianov (BUL)/Neykova  
7, 9, 9;  
Tasaka/Yokota bt Kuo Yao-hua/Chang Li  
19, 12, -11, 13;  
Sarkhojan/Antonian bt Strokotov/Popova 14, 10, 11;  
Secretin/Bergeret bt Huang Liang/Wei Li-chieh  
-12, 19, -13, 19, 16;  
Kee Sang Kuk (KRR)/Lee Ki Won 6, 8, -16, 10;  
Kohno/T. Edano (JAP) bt Liao Fu-min/Li Ming  
12, 19, 21.

##### Quarter-finals:

Li Chen-shih/Yen Kuei-li bt Gergely/Magos  
21, 11, -18, 22;  
Tasaka/Yokota bt Orlowski/Uhlíkova 20, -18, -13, 15, 11;  
Secretin/Bergeret bt Sarkhojan/Antonian 14, 19, 14;  
Lee Sang Kuk/Lee Ki Won bt Kohno/Edano 15, -19, 15,  
19.

##### Semi-finals:

TASAKA/YOKOTA bt Li Chen-shih/Yen Kuei-li  
20, 18, 16;

SECRETIN/BERGERET bt Lee Sang Kuk/Lee Ki Won  
17, 15, -18, -14, 10.

##### Final:

SECRETIN/BERGERET bt Tasaka/Yokota 17, 14, 17.

#### Men's Consolation Singles:

##### Quarter-finals:

A. Grubba (POL) w.o. D. Jurcic (YUG)  
Dvoracek bt P. Stellwang (GFR) 15, 11;  
R. Hatem (FRA) bt R. Czochanski (POL) -8, 16, 18;  
Z. Fraczyk (POL) w.o. Z. Kalinic (YUG).

##### Semi-finals:

Dvoracek bt Grubba 16, 7;

Fraczyk bt Hatem 16, 16.

##### Final:

FRACZYK bt Dvoracek 19, 15.

#### Women's Consolation Singles:

##### Quarter-finals:

K. Kruger (GFR) bt Szatko 13, -11, 14;  
Ferdman bt M. van de Vliet (NET) -19, 11, 12;  
L. Mihut (RUM) bt J. Dom (LUX) -13, 17, 22;  
T. Kuroko (JAP) bt J. Williams (NET) 14, 17.

##### Semi-finals:

Ferdman bt Kruger 15, 15;

Kuroko bt Mihut 18, 19.

##### Final:

FERDMAN bt Kuroko 9, 14.

#### 34th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### ENGLISH RESULTS — INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

#### Men's Singles:

##### Qualifying Competition:

D. Johnson bt R. Frisque (BEL) 11, 17, 13;  
bt B. Gallichan (JER) 8, 8, 4.  
R. Wiley bt Yue Edmond Kwok Yin (HKG) 8, 12, 17;  
bt B. Dormal (BEL) 10, 5, -10, 11;  
bt K. Keane (IRE) -18, 13, -12, 14, 15.  
A. Barden bt L. Alegria (MEX) 7, 3, 7;  
bt J. Azulai (ISR) 14, 11, 15;  
bt H. Koller (AUT) 15, 12, 13.  
N. Eckersley bt D. Nassaux (BEL) 18, 10, -17, 13;  
lost to Wang Chien-chiang (CHN) 16, -9, -5, -6.  
D. Brown bt S. Sanchez (MEX) -10, 13, 13, 15;  
bt P. Powell (GUE) 5, 8, 12;  
lost to G. Muller (AUT) -13, -11, -13.

##### Round 1 to 3:

D. Neale bt T. Busin (SWI) 11, 6, 12;  
bt G. Lassen (NEZ) 4, 15, 12.  
lost to M. Kohno (Jap) -18, -17, -14.  
Johnson lost to S. Bosi (ITA) -21, -23, -15.  
Wiley lost to Z. Kosanovic (YUG) -13, -16, -12.  
Barden lost to S. Fraczyk (POL) -18, -11, 18, -12.  
P. Day bt S. Moraru (RUM) 12, 18, 18;  
lost to M. Maehara (JAP) 16, -9, -7, 18, -16.  
D. Douglas bt R. Czochanski (POL) 11, 12, 8;  
bt A. Grubba (POL) -17, 20, 13, 17;  
lost to J. Secretin (FRA) -14, -23, 8, -11.  
J. Walker bt M. Tineo (BRA) -17, 19, 19, 19;  
lost to A. Strokotov (USS) -18, -14, -14.

#### Women's Singles: Qualifying Competition:

K. Rogers bt B. Valsdottir (ICE) 8, 6, 1;  
bt A. Stonestreet (AUS) 13, 16, -16, 5;  
lost to W. Sikora (POL) 13, 18, -13, -16, -17.  
S. Lisle bt Leow Hock Moi (SIN) 9, 14, 17;  
bt I. Wirnsberger (AUT) 11, 15, 14.  
M. Ludi lost to E. Stromvall (SWE) -17, -3, -13.  
S. Hession bt R. Alaya (IRN) 6, 1, 6;  
lost to In-Sook Bhashan (USA) -14, -12, -14.  
K. Witt bt Tan Sok Hong (MAA) 13, -17, 12, 4;  
lost to D. Dubinova (CZE) 16, -20, -15, -15.

##### Round 1 and 2:

C. Knight lost to Pak Yung Sun (KDR) -10, 11, -18,  
20, -18.  
Lisle lost to B. Kishazi (HUN) 19, -18, -11, 19, -14.  
L. Howard lost to Chung Huai-ying (CHN) -14, -12, -12.  
J. Hammersley bt L. Mihut (RUM) 17, 13, 12;  
lost to K. Kawahigashi (JAP) -10, 16, -19, 18, -15.

#### Men's Doubles: Qualifying Competition:

J. Hilton/Walker bt S. Moles/J. M. Pales (SPA)  
-13, 13, 19, 18.  
Brown/Eckersley bt J. Merida/L. Reyes (GUT) 11, 7, 9;  
bt A. Cairns/K. Keane (IRE) 9, 7, 10;  
bt F. Mendez/R. Otero (MEX) 10, 18, 19.  
Barden/Day bt M. Firensu (RUM)/I. Solopov (USS)  
11, 15, 9;  
bt D. Jurcic/Z. Kalinic (YUG) -20, 20, 14, 13.  
lost to S. Fraczyk/L. Kucharski (POL)  
-15, 19, -20, 7, -25.  
Johnson/J. Krier (LUX) bt A. Evans/M. Owen (WAL)  
22, 12, 17;  
scr to G. Sutadja/F. Rachman (INS).

##### Round 1

Douglas/Neale bt Choi Sung Kuk/Kim In Su (KRR)  
15, 17, 15;  
Hilton/Walker bt Lee Chung Kit/Peong Tah Seng (MAA)  
18, 16, 19;  
Brown/Eckersley lost to B. Frank/J. Molnar (HUN)  
-15, -16, -21.

##### Round 2

Douglas/Neale bt J. Ikonen/J. Jokinen (FIN) 8, 11, 21;  
Hilton/Walker lost to D. Seemiller/R. Seemiller (USA)  
10, -12, -18, -15.

##### Round 3

Douglas/Neale bt M. Kohno/T. Tasaka (JAP)  
-20, 16, 11, 19.

##### Quarter-final:

Douglas/Neale lost to Huang Liang/Lu Yuan-sheng (CHN)  
-4, -18, -10.

#### Women's Doubles: Qualifying Competition:

Lisle/M. v.d. Vliet (NET) lost to B. Pietersz/L. Wibisono  
(INS) -12, 14, -23, 20, -9.  
Hession/J. Williams (NET) bt C. Dalrymple (SCO)/  
O. Cavallos (ECU) 4, 9, 8.  
Rogers/Witt bt D. Cardinau (ITA)/D. Uribe (SPA)  
14, 8, 11.

##### Round 1

Knight/Ludi bt P. Lupon/M. Sanahuja (SPA)  
-10, 16, 20, 21.  
Hession/Williams lost to Pak Yong Ok (KDR)/Yang  
Ying (CHN) -16, 17, -15, 19, -11.  
Rogers/Witt bt J. Morris/A. Stonestreet (NEZ)  
11, -9, 16, 22.

Hammersley/Howard lost to Yen Kuei-li/Li Ming (CHN)  
-21, -18, 13, -17.

##### Round 2

Knight/Ludi lost to M. Alexandru (RUM)/I. Uhlíkova  
(CZE) -8, 18, -10, 16, -21.  
Rogers/Witt lost to W. Sikora/J. Szatko (POL)  
23, -16, -15, -7.

#### Mixed Doubles: Qualifying Competition:

Barden/Knight bt A. Beadas/A. Daher (PAL) 18, 11, 17;  
bt Abdulrodjak/B. Pietersz (INS) 19, 18, 16.  
Johnson/Hession bt S. Konradsson/B. Valsdottir (ICE)  
8, 10, 15.  
bt P. Rud/H. Jansen (DEN) -19, 13, 13, 17.  
Wiley/Rogers bt R. Heggelund/R. Sorensen (NOR)  
13, 18, 11;  
bt N. Hassan/Z. Rahman (BAN) 13, 13, 6;  
lost to N. van Slobbe/M. v.d. Vliet (NET)  
-17, 12, -14, -21.  
Brown/Lisle lost to A. Strokotov/V. Popova (USS)  
-13, -14, -15.

##### Round 1

Neale/Hammersley lost to G. Gergely/J. Magos (HUN)  
-8 (retired).  
Barden/Knight lost to J-D Constant/Y. Lecler (FRA)  
19, -16, -17, -16.  
Johnson/Hession bt L. Foldy/T. Foldy (SWI)  
-16, -16, 13, 17, 14.  
Eckersley/Witt lost to J. Leiss/K. Kruger (GFR)  
-11, -13, -14.  
Douglas/Howard bt C. Priftis/S. Louka (GRE) 16, 17, 16.  
Round 2:  
Johnson/Hession lost to M. Orlowski/I. Uhlíkova (CZE)  
-15, -15, -18.  
Douglas/Howard lost to Lee Sang Kuk/Lee Ki Won  
(KRR) -17, -18, -19.

## COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Mitsuru Kohno of Japan, the new World men's  
singles champion.

## MAY ISSUE

Coverage of the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup  
competitions will be afforded readers in the May  
issue together with many more aspects of the  
34th World Championships, suitably illustrated.

## 50th Anniversary Dinner

The official formation of the E.T.T.A. was on  
the 24th April, 1927 so this year is the official  
50th anniversary. The game was played before  
then but it was in 1927 that the constitution was  
reformed and the present name adopted.

The most appropriate time to hold a celebra-  
tion dinner appears to be following the Annual  
General Meeting on Saturday, 9th July, 1977,  
when many people will be gathering in London  
for the A.G.M. in the afternoon.

The event will be held at the Bloomsbury  
Centre Hotel and every effort will be made to do  
justice to the occasion.

In spite of a tight budget this season it is  
intended to subsidise the event in order to assist  
members to attend, particularly those who have  
to travel. The cost to members and their guests,  
will be restricted to £5 each. This will include  
some drinks, the meal and cabaret. It is hoped to  
extend the celebrations to 2 a.m. so that a  
good time can be had by all.

As many names from the past, both players  
and officials will be invited, many old friendships  
will be renewed. Book now, and the places may  
be limited. Send either the full amount or £1  
deposit to Mr. Frank Clay, Dinner Secretary, 14  
Cannon Close, Raynes Park, London SW20 and  
give details of your current table tennis con-  
nection.

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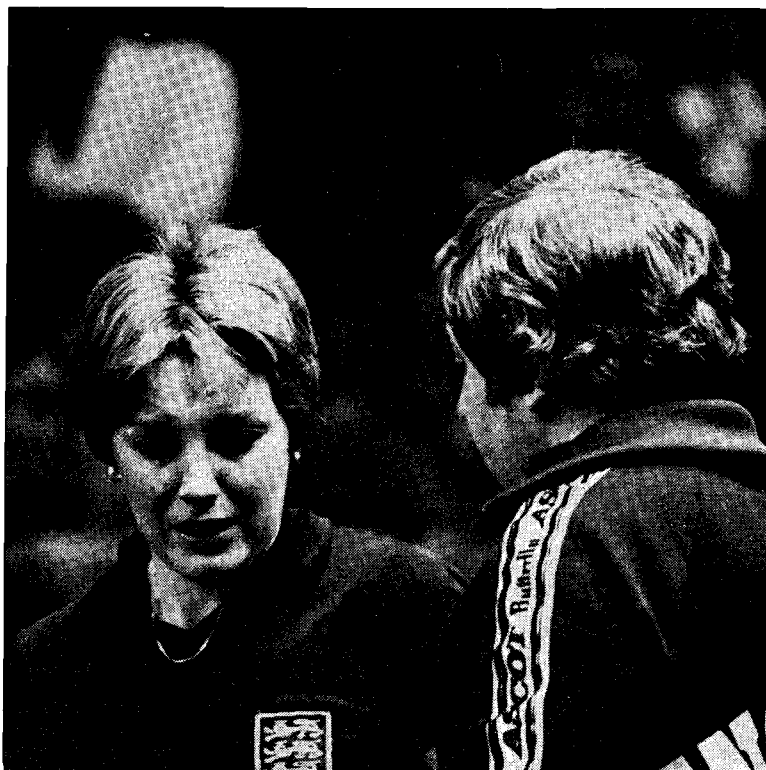
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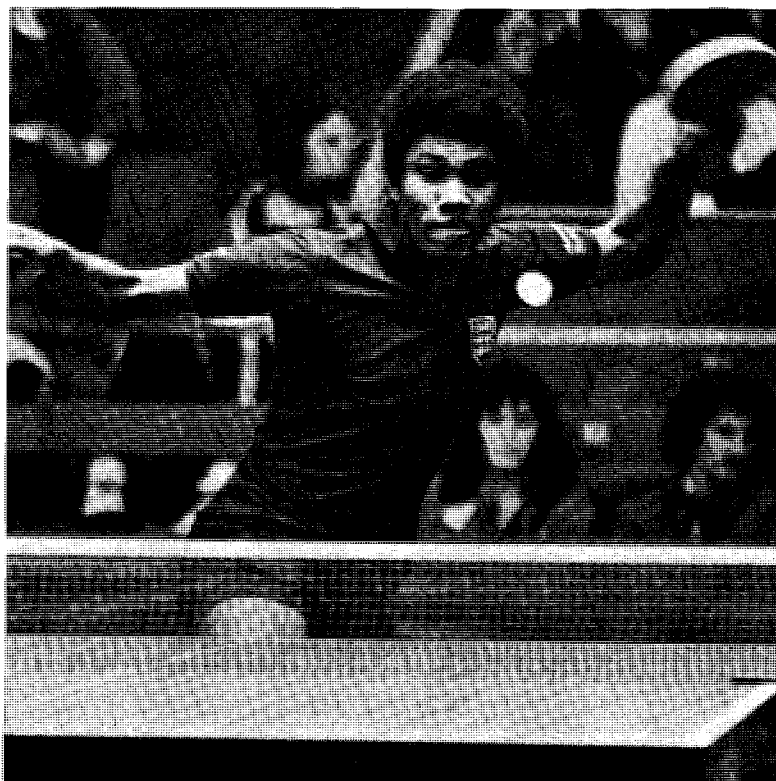
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★ A PHOTOGRAPHIC MONTAGE ★  
FROM THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



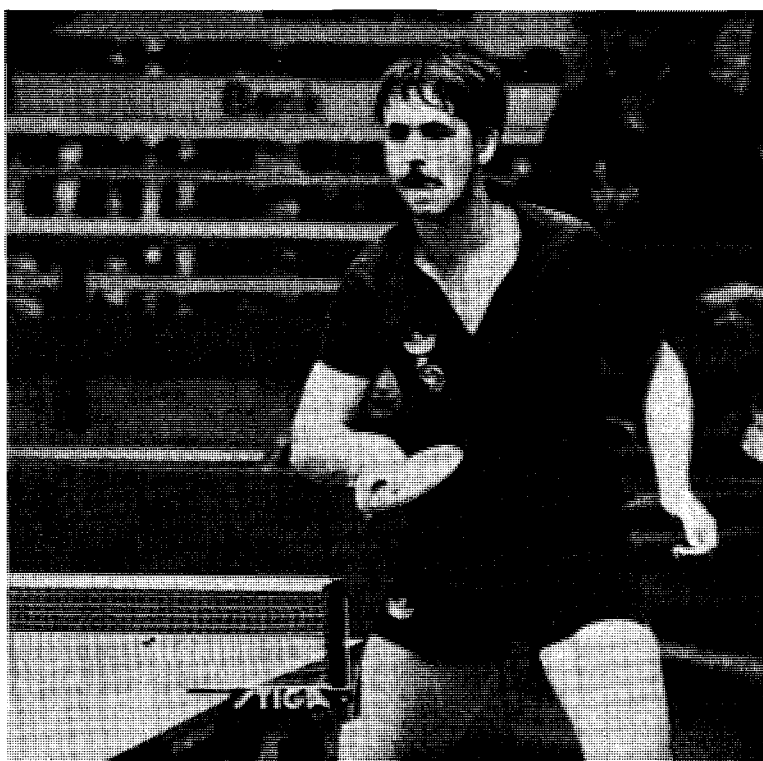
England's Jill Hammersley confides in NPC Peter Simpson that she simply cannot continue.

'Photo by Don Morley, Morden.



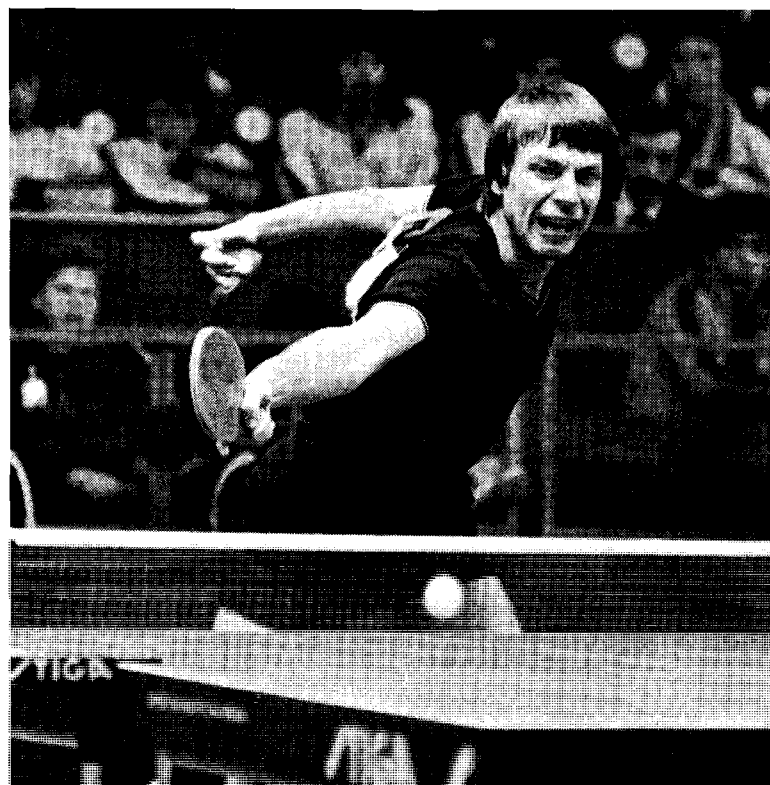
Here's one for the road by England's Desmond Douglas.

'Photo by Geoff Schofield, Leicester.



Patrick Birocheau (France) defeated defending champion Jonyer in Round 3.

'Photo by Tony Ross, Hessele.



Game to the end. Kjell Johansson of Sweden, beaten by Hungary's Gabor Gergely.

'Photo by Don Morley, Morden.

# Federal German Junior Open

## STRONG ENTRY AT ESSEN

by Laurie Landry

At the eleventh hour, Alan Hydes was unable to captain the English Juniors through illness and a quick change of flights to Lufthansa enabled Martin Shuttle, David Reeves, Karen Witt and Angela Mitchell to accompany me to the Federal German Junior Open in Essen. Strong it was too with the Czechs, Hungarians, Yugoslavs, French and host nation teams.

In the team event for Girls, Karen and Angela played the second German team with the sisters Sabine and Susanne Wenzel. Karen was well below form after the Commonwealth Championships and the Worlds and she lost both her singles after holding a 20-16 lead in the decider against Susanne. The Boys fared a little better with Shuttle beating both his opponents against Fed. German II including Stermecki, who later reached the semis of the boys' singles.

The Boys then lost to Austria in the quarters when Koller was really outstanding and nearly won the doubles on his own. Hungary were outstanding in the Girls team event and Czechoslovakia in the Boys team where the final was a real cliff-hanger. Kavka (Czecho) was a class by himself and could well win the European Youth Championship in Vichy in July.

As for the individual events, our players performed creditably and Shuttle was outstanding playing well above himself particularly against Sercer (Yugoslavia) when he caught him at 16-19 down in the 3rd to win at 19. He then went on to beat penholder Hanonge (France) eventually losing to the 'machine' Kavka. Reeves also played reasonably well and lost to the other Czech, Pavlicek.

Karen reached the quarters but showed her tiredness whilst Angela was unfortunate to meet the French girl Plombin who was in terrific form. The mixed final was a really good performance and Martin and Angela can really consider themselves lucky to get there after saving 4 match points in Rd. 1. It was a very good tournament and invaluable experience for the European Youth. Results:—

**Boys' Team**  
Rd. 1—bye.  
Rd. 2—bt Federal Germany II (3-1)  
M. Shuttle bt Fischer 7, 18;  
bt Stermecki -17, 19, 12.  
D. Reeves lost to Stermecki -17, 21, -15.  
Reeves/Shuttle bt Freitag/Stermecki 16, 15.  
Q-F — lost to Austria (1-3)  
Shuttle bt Zehetbauer 17, 10;  
lost to Koller -11, 20, -16.  
Reeves lost to Koller 19, -8, -11.  
Reeves/Shuttle lost to Koller/Zehetbauer -17, 19, -14.

**Final:** Czechoslovakia 3, Hungary 2  
Kavka bt Pekar 15, 14; bt Kriston 12, 13.  
Pavlicek lost to Pekar -17, -19,  
bt Kriston 19, -14, 15.  
Kavka/Pavlicek lost to Kriston/Pekar -26, -11.

**Girls' Team**  
Rd. 1—lost to Federal Germany II (1-3)  
K. Witt lost to Sabine Wenzel -19, -14;  
lost to Susanne Wetzel -15, 18, -22.  
A. Mitchell bt Sabine Wetzel 19, -13, 12.  
Mitchell/Witt lost to Wetzel/Wetzel -8, 15, -13.  
**Final:** Hungary 3, Federal Germany I 0  
Bogyo bt Stork 19, 15; Bolvari bt Sedlmair 16, 18.  
Bogyo/Bolvari bt Olschewski/Sedlmair 17, 20.

**Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:**  
Kavka (CZE) bt Pekar (HUN) -19, 16, 19;  
Shuttle (ENG) bt Hanonge (FRA) 16, 16;  
Pavlicek (CZE) bt Parietti (FRA) 14, 14;  
Stermecki (GFR) bt Ogger (GFR) 12, 15.  
**Semi-finals:**  
Kavka bt Shuttle 14, 11; Pavlicek bt Stermecki 15, -22, 5.

**Final:**  
KAVKA bt Pavlicek 11, 15.

**Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:**  
Bogyo (HUN) bt A. Gordon (ENG) 14, 16;  
Plombin (FRA) bt Cadez (YUG) 14, 18;  
Stork (GFR) bt Germain (FRA) 9, 9;  
Hermanova (CZE) bt Witt (ENG) 17, 14.  
**Semi-finals:**  
Bogyo bt Plombin 16, 16; Stork bt Hermanova 15, -8, 16.

**Final:**  
BOGYO bt Stork -13, 12, 14.

**Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:**  
Kavka/Pavlicek bt Kriston (HUN)/Pekar 12, -18, 10;  
Freitag/Peters (GFR) bt Hanonge/Renverse (FRA) 23, -12, 25.

**Final:**  
KAVKA/PAVLICEK bt Freitag/Peters

-15, 15, 17.  
**Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:**  
Olschewski/Sedlmair (GFR) bt Bogyo/Bolvari (HUN) 9, 8;  
Landeau (FRA)/Plombin bt D'Hondt/Verachttert (BEL) 14, 21.

**Final:**  
OLSCHEWSKI/SEDLMAIR bt Landeau/Plombin -18, 19, 20.

**Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:**  
Schirrmester/Seidler (GFR) bt Hanonge/Daviaud (FRA) 18, 16;  
Shuttle/Mitchell bt Stermecki/Wenzel (Sus) 16, 11.

**Final:**  
SCHIRRMEISTER/SEIDLER bt Shuttle/Mitchell 13, 12.

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# E.T.T.U. EQUIPMENT ADOPTIONS

The following equipment has been adopted for use in the European League for Season 1977-78:

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

Attention is drawn to the following Rule:— "Host Associations not using Adopted Equipment shall lose 2 League points." Attention is also drawn to the Rule which imposes a Fine of 100 Swiss Francs on Associations Not complying with the Rule on the sending of Results.

Entries for the Europe Club Cup of Champions close on July 1st, 1977. It is a rule that NO club can enter the Fair Cities Cup unless the national champion clubs are entered in the Europe Club Cup of Champions.

## CLEVELAND VIEW by Alan Ransome

Following the successes of the County Table Tennis Association, other sporting bodies in the Cleveland area have been encouraged to follow suit and form their own County associations by the County Council's Leisure and Amenities Committee.

A meeting to discuss this very point was called on 29th April by the Leisure and Amenities Committee and table tennis was quoted as being an ideal sport to follow in this field.

Since its formation in 1974, the Cleveland Table Tennis Association has gained a great deal of prestige in the Cleveland area. It has gained Premier Division status at both junior and senior level and won the senior Premier Division title on two occasions. A number of major events have been staged in the Cleveland area including in January the 50th Norwich Union International Championships at Thornaby Pavilion. Generally, since the formation of the new County, the game has developed well in this area.

On their part the Council have assisted greatly, not only by sponsoring or co-sponsoring the various events and helping with the organisation, but by direct grant aid to help the County Table Tennis Association with their various running expenses.

The Doyen-Cleveland Closed Championships, normally held in May, have been put back to the start of next season at the request of the sponsor. This Championship is a typical example of the assistance given by the County Council in co-sponsoring Doyen. The Association pays all the running costs whilst Doyen is putting up a total of £750 prize money.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS — POSTSCRIPT CHESHIRE JOIN LEICS.

Winning three sets against Essex at Buckhurst Hill on Apl 23 assured Yorkshire of retaining their Premier Division status in the County Table Tennis Championships and plunged Cheshire, last season's runners-up, into the second division. Essex finished the season as runners-up to Cleveland. Wins by Alan Fletcher over David Brown and Ian Horsham, and by Tony Clayton over Horsham, took Yorkshire to safety. Final table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cleveland	7	6	1	49	14	12
Essex	7	5	2	30	33	10
Middlesex	7	4	3	34	29	8
Warwickshire	7	4	3	34	29	8
Surrey	7	3	4	31	32	6
Yorkshire	7	3	4	28	35	6
Cheshire	7	3	4	26	37	6
Leicestershire	7	0	7	20	43	0

Lancashire, the third northern county with more than a passing interest in the result at Buckhurst Hill, are now called upon to do battle with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Glamorgan and Sussex

in the Promotion Challenge matches at St. Neots over the weekend of Apl 30/May 1.

## LANCS AND CHESHIRE CLOSED

Not held last season because of insufficient entries, the 2nd Lancashire and Cheshire Closed Championships will definitely take place this season, at Bolton Institute of Technology Sports Hall, Deane Road, Bolton on Sunday, May 15. The Organising Secretary is Mr Gordon Campbell of 10 Newton House, Red Bank School, Newton-le-Willows. (Phone: 21057). The tournament is restricted to registered inter-league players.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### NOT ALL ROSY

I would like to add my congratulations to the organising and administrative committees involved in both the build-up and running of the 'worlds'. They have, without doubt, brought great credit to the game, and I very much hope, themselves.

Having seen all the afternoon coverage and most of the evening highlights and having attended the final three days of the championships, alas! all is not as rosy as we would like. At the risk of seeming to try a "takeover bid" of John Woodford's "Controversy" articles (which this season do not appear to have lived up to their name) I must voice two rather serious matters which the worlds have spotlighted.

The first, and to me, as a league's junior squad coach, an umpire and a referee, concerns both the consistency and standard of umpiring. I will not quote too many cases but it would seem that in the team events (except the finals) players were allowed (with the exception of England's) to "get away" with services that were: Struck over the end lines, thrown from cupped hands, at times from below the level of the table, hidden by the body of the players so that there was no way the umpire could see the ball until it was in the air, sometimes not even then, several instances were shown where in this particular type of serve "finger spin" was imparted upon the ball; the ball was thrown straight back onto the racket etc., etc.

Moving on to the individual events, where it seems that umpires (not all) suddenly remembered the laws of service. An English one (who I respect) clearly demonstrated this in a match which brought the "wrath" of a certain N.P.C. around his head for having the "audacity" to fault the country's leading player. This was followed by a threat to withdraw the said player from the competition unless the umpire was changed. He was not! As it happens I believe that the umpire was quite correct in calling this particular service, and, as the N.P.C. was not sitting in the umpire's chair (thank God) I cannot understand why the incident took so long to clear up.

The question one must ask is why was this player (and others) not warned earlier in the competition, as some services were worse than the ones to be faulted. The real point is that had they been warned earlier, the incident and the ones to occur during the finals would not have happened if the laws had been correctly observed by ALL umpires at all times. This could also have prevented the very unpleasant booing and catwhistles that followed the umpires out of the arena at the end of each final. In my experience I had never seen or heard anything like it, and hope never to hear it again.

On now to my second point. I was rather concerned at the variety and the accuracy of the score calling. For instance, some umpires were

calling "each" (instead of all); country (name); and at the change of service some were not calling anything other than the score. In a single game I counted no less than EIGHT scoring mistakes (this from one of the visiting umpires). Had I been testing him for a C.U. qualification I would probably have failed him on this alone.

My second cause for concern involves an apparent breach of I.T.T.F. Regulations (4.3) which concerns the appointment of line judges. The last-but-one sentence of the regulation reads: "Operation of the rule for this appointment is MANDATORY in World Championships." Was permission given by the I.T.T.F. for the setting aside of this regulation?

I think the time is now right to arrange an umpires conference to discuss just what did go wrong. We have now placed ourselves in the position that football referees have been in for a long time as regards consistency (or lack of), and having spoken to a number of "laymen" since returning home, it would seem that a certain amount of interest built up has been lost, simply because of the finals incidents.

There is NO EXCUSE for ignoring the Laws of the game, they should be observed at ALL times and not waived because of fright or politics. I will finish by saying that I KNOW how difficult umpiring at tournaments is, and I can imagine what this one must have been like. It is a crying shame that such a golden opportunity as this to create new, much needed, interest in the game should have been marred by incidents which, had the laws been upheld from the beginning, just would not have occurred.

Chris Wright, (T.R. (39), C.U. (1323) )

Pinehurst Cottage,  
Old Lane,  
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## JOHN JAQUES CASH BOOST TO IRISH TABLE TENNIS

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# Notes on the 34th World Championships

## THE GOLDEN RULE

by THE HON. IVOR MONTAGU,

Founder President I.T.T.F.

On balance certainly, these 50th Anniversary Championships were, all in all, a considerable success. They have been a good thing for Table Tennis, especially in this country. For this very many people in our Association deserve thanks. They had faith, they took part, they slogged it out, some for months beforehand, others almost all round the clock for the dozen days. I, whom age permitted to stand aside, am certainly not going to stint admiration and gratitude for those who bore the brunt.

If, therefore, I write about the unfortunate incidents that occurred in the singles finals, it is in no spirit of criticism. Scapegoat hunting is the worst and most meaningless of occupations. Most misjudgements, like disasters in the air, are the result of perfectly natural causes being bits of bad luck or maybe faulty communications. It is easy for the looker-on, consulting his tomes and reflecting under no time pressure, to come up with a conclusion that some other course could have been adopted. Hindsight is a great help, and should not be taken as reflecting any discredit whatsoever on those charged with arriving at necessarily quick decisions under inexorable pressure of events. (Don't I know this, who have lived in plenty of glass-houses in my time, and have been concerned in much worse errors, and that in world championship finals too, which history has so far mercifully kept dark.) The only good object of discussion of the past is to clear ways for improvement in the future.

The incidents at Birmingham I refer to here are the repeated calling for faults of two of the finalists, both Chinese, Kuo Yao-hua and Chang Li. It would be easy, and mistaken in my view, to exaggerate their bad effect and say that the titles were thereby necessarily devalued and the thousands in the hall and the perhaps millions watching the box grievously disappointed. We should keep a sense of proportion and remember that Mitsuru Kohno and Pak Yung Sun, their opponents, were, both by form and record splendidly qualified and fully possible winners right from the beginning. Also that, to the uninstructed watcher—which doubtless included the vast majority of the spectators—the play must have looked pretty good anyway.

The fact was, however, that these incidents upset at least three of the players: Kuo was visibly shocked and confused, Chang Li was visibly bewildered, repeating the same penalised action again and again, Pak was visibly embarrassed. Only Kohno kept his cool. At least what happened was a pity. The matches were marred. They became an unhappy climax to an excellent eleven days. Only the gentle, disciplined conduct of those affected spared us worse.

Why did I use the word "unfortunate" for such incidents? Because I think that they could easily have been avoided and that wiser courses were available, fair to everyone, consistent with precedent, and wholly within the rules. At the same time I do not question that what was done was done with the best of motives wholly consistent with the courage, decision and integrity that has given English TT refereeing and umpiring its deserved high reputation. All that was needed was just a little deeper thought, a little slower communication between law-giver and law executant perhaps a drop more of the oil of common-sense.

What was the problem? For the first time in

World Championships a new service was employed by some of the players, all—or at any rate mostly—Chinese. In this service the ball, instead of being thrown up only a few inches, at rare-most about a foot, is thrown up several feet, thus giving the server the advantage of speed from the gravity-accelerated drop, when the server cuts it as it falls. No-one, so far as I know, contests that both throw and hit are perfectly legitimate according to the present rule, and this service had been used with impunity many times in countries both east and west before it was called at some stage in these championships. At some point, however, it was noticed that this service when delivered diagonally from one corner, by a right-handed player from one end or by a left-handed player from one corner at the other end, was masked from an umpire sitting in the usual place during part of its process of delivery.

On this basis a decision was clearly taken that these particular services must be as faults, and would so be called in the finals, when of course the finest standard of umpiring is required without equivocation. My first question is: why was this decision not made clear beforehand to all the players, captains and interpreters concerned in the finals? My second is: why was the clear provision in the ITTF rules for consultation on difficult questions of law not used on this occasion?

I do not believe for a moment that if an intention to call these partly masked services for faults had been made clear before the beginning to players, captains and interpreters, especially with ITTF statutory support (had that been forthcoming), these services objected to would ever have been used. Certainly if they had been used at least all the players would have known what was happening. I cannot understand why this was not done.

### COMPREHENSIBLE

It is a perfectly comprehensible standpoint for an umpire that he is there not to prevent error but to penalise it when it occurs, and that any other attitude may unfairly assist one opponent against the other. A long time ago, indeed when I was a boy of 14 it fell to my lot one day to umpire a Lawn Tennis singles for a Wimbledon star who had deigned to enter our local tournament. At an appropriate point I firmly announced: "Foot-fault."

The offender glared at me and did it again.

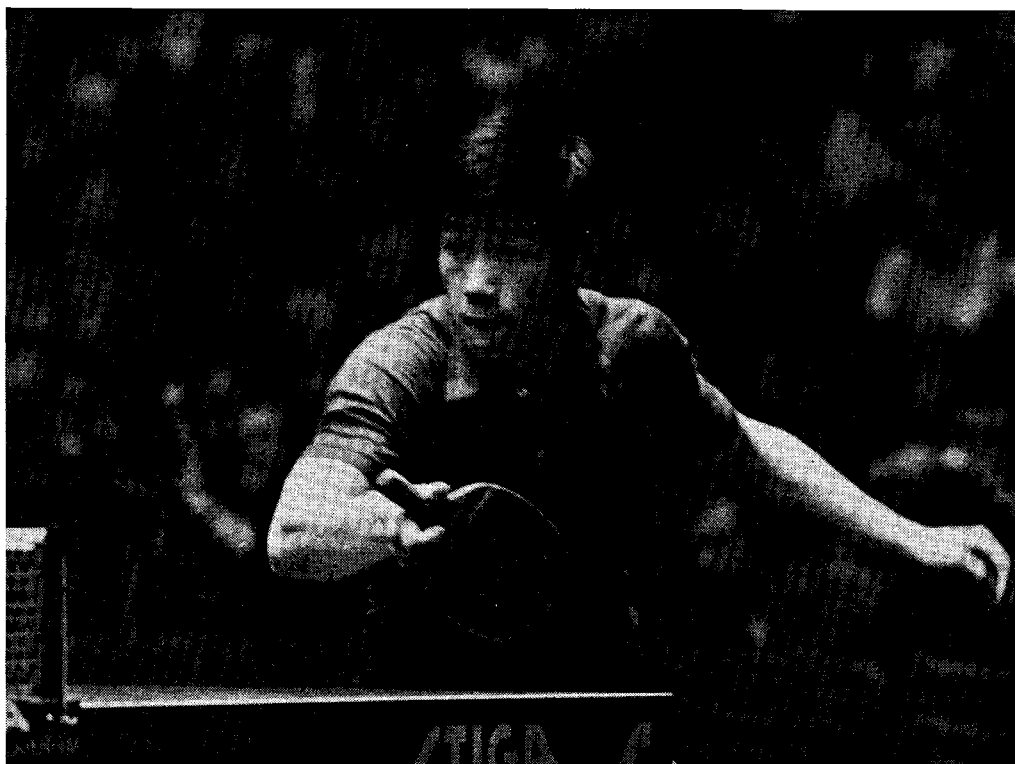
So, from me: "Foot-fault, love-fifteen" or whatever. The celebrity came up to the foot of my ladder and, breathing heavily, demanded: "What was I doing wrong?" In the same spirit I replied: "It is not my business to teach you how to play, only to decide and call the score when you play incorrectly." This took him back a bit, of course. After hesitating, he grew ugly and commanded: "Recite the foot-fault rule." Fortunately I could, and did, and play resumed, however reluctantly on his part, without mayhem.

But what may be excusable (or a bad joke) for a brash schoolboy in a domestic tournament is wholly inappropriate for a world championship in which are participating players of scores of different countries, many of them possibly differently interpreting the rules in perfectly good faith, many of them speaking and using rules in entirely different languages. The presumption in a domestic tournament is that ignorance of a law may be culpable laziness, disregard of it culpable carelessness. In any case, not valid excuses.

In an international tournament the presumption of probability must balance over to possible misunderstanding, and this, in commonsense, should be everyone's concern and duty to try to prevent. More especially when what is at issue (as here) was an entirely novel application of law, already differently applied by different umpires at different stages throughout the championships.

To be rigid in such circumstances, however well-intentioned, was far too much like a rookie copper trying to show zeal by securing convictions instead of keeping the peace by preventing crime. What please, had happened to Rule 4.10.1.2 ("The Referee shall consult any member of the Rules Committee, of the Federation who may be present to assist him in the interpretation of the rules") or the reciprocal obligation on the Rules Committee (Rule 1.6.4.6.2), declaring its duty "To assist the World Championships Referee . . . on any question of interpretation of rule . . ."?

This is not a procedure derogating in any way from the authority of the Referee in rule matters—it does not say he **must** accept their opinion—but it does provide for intelligent and informed discussion before he finalises his own opinion on any difficult question. And I should have thought this procedure eminently applicable in a case where it was necessary to choose among prior contrasting judgements of officials at the same



Beaten men's singles finalist — China's Kuo Yao-hua.

'Photo by Tony Ross, Hessle.

event, I have no idea whether this procedure was invested or not, but I can hardly believe that if it had been in this case any outcome would have failed to be formally conveyed to those concerned, properly explained by the interpreters and therefore not come as a surprise to the players.

### CAUTIOUS

When asked on TV whether players had been pulled up for this same partial body-masking earlier in the tournament, the excellent Referee, Mr Wright, was, exactly as I would have been in any such off-the-cuff interview, somewhat cautious in the precise wording of his reply. The Times newspaper said next day that some players had been. We can, of course, accept that this was the case. But I think all of us had seen, as I had, whole Chinese team matches in which this practice had never been faulted, and e.g., only on the day immediately preceding had occurred one of the most beautiful of all matches in the championships (and one of the best I have seen in over 50 years of playing and watching), in which the very same player as was pulled up in the final—Kuo—had been allowed to use these services throughout all five games against his adversary Klampar without any demur. Surely these facts alone would have justified pre-final explanations and clarification measures.

It seems too easily to have been assumed that these penalised faults **must** be faults according to the present wording of the laws, but perhaps readers will forgive me if I invite them to accompany me on a little philological exploration of this point. The relative rules are two: Law 3.7.3 ("The server shall then project the ball upwards within 45 degrees of the vertical, by hand only and without imparting spin, so that the ball is visible to the umpire and so that it visibly leaves the palm") and 3.7.4 ("As the ball is then visibly descending from the height of its trajectory, the server shall strike it so that...")

To the proponents of penalty for partial body-masking in these circumstances it appears that, as Gertrude Stein might have said: "visible is visible is visible," which means directly seen by the eye, which the ball was not, and that is all there is to say about it. But this is by no means the case, not in the English language any way. (And I would remind you that the standard test is English—1.4.2.)

Let us consult an authoritative English dictionary. The Concise Oxford, 6th edition, 1976, is regarded as one of the most up-to-date. Here VISIBLE is defined: "That can be seen by the eye... that can be perceived or ascertained, apparent, open." All these things are true of the service objected to. It is "apparent", "open", it can easily be seen by the umpire, if he places himself, as he easily can, in a suitable position to do so.

None of this definition is in the least true of the services this rule was designed to prevent: the hiding of the throw by curving of the fingers; the finger-spin or palm-spin projections against the racket-blade, the palm turn-over to project the ball against the racket, even the gripping of the ball so that it has not left contact with the hand before the racket touches it—all these truly at times suspected but which cannot be seen at all by the umpire because they happen so close to the blade that he **cannot** see, or infer, that they have not taken place wherever he may station himself.

We shall try another, a considerably fuller definition, the shorter English Dictionary, OUP, 1933 (I will spare you the complete OED because there the variety of meaning of visible is even more numerous). But here the most relevant ones are: "1. Capable of being seen, perceptible by the sense of sight. 2. That may be mentally perceived or observed; clearly or readily evident; manifest, obvious."

Again all this is completely applicable to the new service. Notice particularly the SED's second definition listing a usage with "visible" not needing to mean actually seen or wholly seen, but valid where observation makes it so obvious that it can be properly inferred. This particular meaning is not new in English, the SED dates it from 1667. But, lest anybody thinks that therefore this meaning is nowadays archaic, outmoded,

no longer usual, let the reader ask himself whether, as he reads it, he noticed anything strange in the use of "visibly" above in the third paragraph from the beginning of this article.

### EMBARRASSMENT

Yet, there it was used in this sense and I bet it did not appear strange at all. Of course we could not **directly** "see" confusion, bewilderment or embarrassment; I could (and so could everyone) **see** behaviour from which these could be inferred. Therefore it was both usual and correct to describe them as "visible". This is exactly the same as could be expected from the umpire of the new service even if partially body-masked. What in fact happened with the fault-calling in the finals of the singles is that the umpires, though they did not directly see the whole of actions associated with the service (nothing in the Law says they must see the **whole**) in fact did see, with their own eyes and in spite of their position, enough to know that the ball had been correctly thrown and correctly hit; if it had had finger-spin imparted, if the impelling hand had not been flat and if the ball had not ascended to its great height close to the vertical, it could not possibly have fallen near enough in the same straight line to be hit in service.

Therefore in calling this service a fault they were penalising something they themselves knew, from the sufficient evidence of their own eyes, **must** have been executed correctly so far as thrown and hit were concerned. Which, to understate, makes it not very satisfactory.

Before I finish with this point of philology I want to stress that I have made it—not as conclusive in the question (I am about to come to something else that I hope will be convincing on this)—but simply as one more very weighty reason why, at an international event, care must be taken to avoid every possibility of misunderstanding. The English wording of this rule is capable of several interpretations particularly because it is in simple-sounding language.

There is always a conflict in law-drafting between the lawyers, who want to make rules precise even if this involves complexity of wording, and laymen who want them to be simple, often without realising that words in common use have many diverse (some dangerously diverse) meanings. [The art is to combine in the formulation the maximum of clarity with the maximum

of precision, I am too old to remember but I hope I did not draft this one. It is at least clear that to mean whatever it does mean it could be drafted a bit better. And, in the meantime, who knows how it has been translated into e.g. Chinese, Korean or Japanese?

Translate 'visibly', as 'obviously', which might happen from any dictionary, and this would account for any amount of confusion. The IFFT Constitution 1.4 lists as Object No. 1.4.2 'to check the accuracy... of translations into other languages.' I wonder when this was last done with translations into e.g. Chinese and Korean. Which further emphasizes the importance in international events of warning, explanation and understanding **before** penalisation.

### CONVINCING

But, finally and surely, convincing, even as late as when the first penalty had been given, I cannot understand why it apparently did not occur to the umpire to move his sacred self, or to anybody else to suggest to him to move, into a position from which the **whole** of the otherwise good service would have been easily and constantly **seen** by him. No Table Tennis rule prescribes that the umpire must sit on one side of the table rather than the other. Common-sense prescribes that his position should be the one from which he can best judge what is going on.

Laws are for man (which includes even players), not man for laws. Laws are to assist a referee or an umpire to do equal justice to every player, and their duty to interfere as little as possible while seeing, from the best viewpoint, that there is no cheating or unfair advantage taken—not to tell players how to play the game tactically or strategically so that they themselves may be enabled to sit permanently enthroned in dignity like General Stonebottom.

Arbiters at other sports are mobile enough. Referees and linesmen at football normally run where they can best observe the happenings. Cricket is an even closer parallel. Here the umpires stand usually, one behind the bowler's wicket, the other behind square-leg, but the one does not hesitate to change position for a bowler over-the-wicket or round-the-wicket, or right-hand or left-hand, and the other for a right-hand or left-hand batsman. Even at Table Tennis the principle of mobility of umpires has long been

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recognised — nothing is more usual than for the umpire to stand up in doubles to see the service line — indeed this is the invariable practice when there is no linesman. All he needed to do here was to go and stand, as appropriate, on the other side after every other game, and all possible interpretations would have been complied with. Some kind friend might even have brought a chair there.

Supposing, as surely should have been the case, rules 16.4.6.2. and 4.10.1.2. had been operated by a full consultation, whatever its outcome the surprise, and consequent upsetting, of players would surely have been precluded. Certainly, whatever the (I think fairly cogent) facts I have advanced here to the contrary, it is well within the bounds of possibility that the interpretation I think mistaken might have been sustained. Who knows?

But surely the necessarily deeper consideration would have disclosed that to try and operate this interpretation while keeping the umpire fixed on one side of the table must have meant (as it did) allowing a left-handed player to do his chosen service from either corner at end A and allowing it from only one corner at end B, while allowing a right-handed one to do his from either corner at end B, and from only one corner at A — which does not seem very practical or logical. Since cricket provides so obviously the simple solution, one which exists in principle in TT and is by no means forbidden in any rule whatever, it might even have occurred to someone. All General Sidebottom had to do was to get up and move.

The Golden Rule needed with all rules — in life as in sport — is: use your loaf.



## Scottish Open 1977

Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh  
10/12 March

3rd BENEAGLES  
INTERNATIONAL TEAM EVENT  
By DENIS GEORGE

[This year the full world championships squad of AUSTRALIA competed with teams from the home countries and carried all before them, winning both groups with AUSTRALIA I beating AUSTRALIA II in a closely contested final. Interesting results in the groups were Angela Mitchell's defeats by Grace McKay and Kerry Thompson (Australia), both at "deuce in the third", and AUSTRALIA II losing both doubles to NORTHERN IRELAND.]

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

AUSTRALIA'S players proved too strong for the home opposition and won through to contest the Men's Singles, Men's and Mixed Doubles finals and it was left to Angela Mitchell to save the day for the UK by taking the Women's Singles and Doubles with Judith (Walker) Marsh.

#### Men's Singles:

England's David Reeves lost to Russell Brown in the groups, as did Australia's Laurie Skeate to Kenny McLean. Scotland's challenge ended in the quarter-finals when Eric Sutherland lost to Stephen Knapp and Richard Yule lost to Robbie Javor 19 in the fifth. However Australia did not pass this stage unscathed as Martin Shuttle beat Bob Tuckett and Mike Johns slow looped to beat Paul Pinkewich over five.

#### Semi-finals:

S. Knapp (Aus) bt M. Shuttle (Eng) 19, 16, 15.

R. Javor (Aus) bt M. Johns (Ches) 8, 12, 11.

#### Final:

KNAPP bt Javor 20, 15, 20.

#### Women's Singles:

13-years-old Carole Dalrymple defeated Kerry Thompson to win Group 1 and Grace McKay beat Ann Middleton in Group 2 but lost to Angela Mitchell who won the group.

#### Semi-finals:

A. Mitchell (Eng) bt C. Dalrymple (Sco) 20, 9, 11.

H. Morrow (Aus) bt E. Smith (Sco) 13, -18, 14, 19.

#### Final:

MITCHELL bt Morrow 13, 6, -18, 10.



Women's Singles winner Angela Mitchell with runner-up Helen Morrow.

Photo by Denis George.

#### Men's Doubles—Semi-finals:

Knapp/Javor bt Shuttle/D. Reeves 11, 16, -17, 12.

P. Pinkewich/R. Tuckett bt R. Yule/B. Kean -17, 15, 11, 15.

#### Final:

KNAPP/JAVOR bt Pinkewich/Tuckett 11, -20, -19, 15, 20.

#### Women's Doubles—Final:

MITCHELL/J. MARSH bt Dalrymple/Morrow 17, 6, 20.

#### Mixed Doubles—Final:

KNAPP/A. MIDDLETON bt Tuckett/Morrow -12, -8, 17, 16, 16.

#### Veterans' Singles—Final:

D. WALL (Canada) bt R. Kerr 17, 15.

### TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Group 1

##### AUSTRALIA I 4, SCOTLAND II 1

S. Knapp bt A. McCulloch 10, 14;  
R. Javor bt A. Matthew 10, 18;  
K. Thompson lost to G. McKay -20, -20;  
Knapp/Javor bt Matthew/McCulloch 9, -15, 20;  
Javor/Thompson bt McCulloch/McKay 14, 20.

##### ENGLAND 5, SCOTLAND II 2

D. Reeves lost to Matthew -13, -19;  
M. Shuttle bt McCulloch 12, 16;  
A. Mitchell lost to McKay -16, 12, -22;  
Reeves/Shuttle bt Matthew/McCulloch 9, 8;  
Shuttle/Mitchell bt McCulloch/McKay 10, 19;  
Reeves bt McCulloch 15, 15;  
Shuttle bt Matthew 15, 15.

##### AUSTRALIA I 7, ENGLAND 0

Knapp bt Reeves 18, 11;  
Javor bt Shuttle 17, 19;  
Thompson bt Mitchell -7, 15, 20;  
Javor/Knapp bt Reeves/Shuttle 14, 19;  
Javor/Thompson bt Shuttle/Mitchell 17, -13, 20;  
Javor bt Reeves 12, 9;  
Knapp bt Shuttle 15, 11.

#### Group 2

##### SCOTLAND I 7, NORTHERN IRELAND 0

E. Sutherland bt D. Weir 4, 16;  
R. Yule bt T. Heasley 8, 12;  
E. Smith bt M. Davey 7, 6;  
Sutherland/Yule bt Heasley/Weir 18, 19;  
Yule/P. Fleming bt Weir/Davey -15, 17, 15;  
Yule bt Weir 12, 19;  
Sutherland bt Heasley 23, 19.

##### AUSTRALIA II 5, NORTHERN IRELAND 2

R. Tuckett bt Weir 20, -21, 10;  
P. Pinkewich bt Heasley 7, 10;  
A. Middleton bt Davey 12, 7;  
Pinkewich/Tuckett lost to Heasley/Weir -12, 12, -20;  
Tuckett/H. Morrow lost to Weir/Davey 15, -17, -18;  
Pinkewich bt Weir 14, 17;  
Tuckett bt Heasley 19, 15.

##### AUSTRALIA II 5, SCOTLAND I 2

Pinkewich bt Sutherland 13, 17;  
Tuckett lost to Yule -12, -8;  
Morrow bt Smith -10, 14, 22;  
Pinkewich/Tuckett bt Sutherland/Yule -18, 13, 18;  
Tuckett/Morrow lost to Yule/Fleming -18, -16;  
Pinkewich bt Yule 10, 14;  
Tuckett bt Sutherland 16, -10, 16.

### FINAL

##### AUSTRALIA I 4, AUSTRALIA II 3

Knapp lost to Tuckett -18, 19, -18;  
Javor lost to Pinkewich -12, 15, -11;  
Thompson bt Morrow 12, -14, 22;  
Javor/Knapp bt Pinkewich/Tuckett 22, 15;  
Javor/Thompson bt Pinkewich/Middleton 13, 16;  
Knapp lost to Pinkewich 13, -19, -21;  
Javor bt Tuckett 14, 19.

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# IN RETROSPECT

by JOHN PIKE

The great event is over, but of course the memories will linger on. So much happened in those ten days at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham that the whole game of table tennis in this country has taken on a new dimension.

From the opening ceremony, which was as moving as it was colourful, to the farewell party at Solihull, one could see the bond of international friendship growing by the day. So many people did such a magnificent job to make the 34th Worlds an untold success.

The television coverage of the championships surpassed all expectations with Tony Gubba, Peter Walker, and Alan Ransome, becoming household names in millions of homes. Radio also played its part with over twenty broadcasts going out to Midland listeners as well as a good service on Radio 2. This leads me nicely into the Media Centre where Ron Moseley and his team were perfection itself. I shall never forget those foreign journalists telephoning their copy through late at night and the clatter of the teletypewriter sending reports and results around the world.

Some of the reports in the national press were not just confined to the area of play, but with a world event this big, other stories are bound to break, but let us be fair, this did no harm to the championships at all.

One of the best pieces I read was in the Wolverhampton Express & Star when the Sports Editor referred to the wonderful sportsmanship shown at the N.E.C. He went on to say that so many qualities at the World Championships were missing from our other sports at international level. His Chinese proverb was an absolute gem, "Man with pimples on bat shall always keep a straight face".

The Press kit issued to all journalists on the opening day in a very nice document case brings me to the main sponsors, the Norwich Union. Their Public Relations Manager, John McDonnell, was a very happy man when I spoke to him at the end of the championships, and with every reason. One thing is certain, and that is we could not have had a better sponsor; with every detail taken care of, from the headed score sheets for the press to the numbers on the players' shirts. Yes there was no doubt that the Norwich Union were very much in evidence and they deserved all the publicity they got from the television cameras. After this very successful venture it seems a must that the E.T.T.A. and the Norwich Union stay closely linked in the years to come.

Many of the nations taking part in the championships were involved in a tree planting ceremony which again should be a lasting memory of the 34th Worlds. Away from the table tennis, there were a number of meetings for E.T.T.A. officials to attend as well as some good social functions. It was a packed Griffin Room for the reception on the opening day, and it was this same room that was used for the 100 Club buffet and cabaret the following Saturday. How fitting it was that Maurice Goldstein won the £100 in the draw, a small reward for the great amount of work he did in putting this showpiece on.

Congratulations are in order for our Editor, George Yates, who was elected a member of the I.T.T.F. Council.

From an E.T.T.A. viewpoint, the Sportacus Exhibition was a big success but there was not the same reaction from many of the other exhibitors. Sports firms did well and so did the Chinese stand which had the prime site opposite the entrance. Other people including a model railway, a soft toy firm, and the Wholesale Window Co., saw the ten days as something of a disaster. The organiser, Richard Cunningham, who was the first general manager of the N.E.C. said it was never intended to be anything like an Ideal Home Exhibition. He went on to say "Sportacus was put on to make the World Table

Tennis Championships overall more interesting." I am sure those people who worked so hard on the E.T.T.A. stand would agree with that.

Despite spending 15 hours a day at the N.E.C. with a busy radio and press schedule, I still found time to read Harold Myers' new book on coaching. For £1.50 this is a gift, and I know it has been well received by some of the top players.

With so much good table tennis going before, the finals were something of an anti-climax, but sitting next to the French commentator when Secretin and Bergeret won the mixed doubles was quite an experience. It was a total involvement and if he can do that for table tennis, I would love to hear him do the Grand National. Many other commentators were doing live broadcasts back to their own country, with long spells going to Sweden and to a lesser degree, Korea.

With the championships over, there was a terrible air of flatness around the N.E.C. but players and officials looked a lot better when they met again a few hours later at the farewell party. Anyone for Korea in 1979?

## YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

Yorkshire's congratulations go to County Match Secretary Bert Dainty, this season's recipient of the Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy, awarded by the County Championships Committee each season to the person who, in an administrative capacity in a participating county, has made the greatest contribution to table tennis in the county field. Bert has been Yorkshire's match secretary since 1963 and his home in Doncaster has provided hospitality to many players, both home and visiting, over the years. Now retired, Bert is Chairman of the Doncaster League.

Congratulations are also due to the county's senior second and junior second teams, winners of the Second Division North and Junior Second Division North respectively. The senior team's win is well earned, since the division also included Lancashire's first team.

A reminder that the 53rd Annual Presentation

Dinner Dance will be held on Friday, 13th May, at Bradford Cricket Club, at 7-30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Members of county teams which have won titles are rewarded not only by the award of trophies but also by the opportunity to purchase a ticket at half price! Tickets are available, price £3.50 each, from Social Secretary Richard Scruton, 79 Kingsley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 4RD.

Final Yorkshire League information and the results of various leagues' closed championships will be published in the final Notes of the season.

## Obituary

GEORGES CUNELLI

Just a word in memory of one of the keenest Table Tennis fans in England, the late Professor Georges Cunelli, who died on April 3rd at the age of 93.

Born in Odessa in 1884 he taught voice production and mended strained voices for 10 years in Italy, 15 years in Paris and 36 in England. Altogether he gave 3,000 auditions to aspirants from 35 countries and many were the famous actors and singers, on the box, in the theatre and in the opera house who owed him at least a part of their success. He was a small man, lively, with sparkling eyes and an unquenchable optimism that his growing frailty could never damp.

What concerns us here is that he ran a 'Peace' Club to play Table Tennis in the basement of his Hampstead home. Visiting players and notable home internationals alike were welcome guests and even age could not restrain him from taking part himself. As for our championships and other big events he was an assiduous attender.

Georges Cunelli did not even miss Birmingham. He started with a new singing pupil two days before his end and he watched us on TV to his very last night.

I.M.

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COUNTY NOTES  
SUPPLEMENT

HAMPSHIRE NOTES  
by David Cosway



STEVE KITCHER

RE-THINK NEEDED

Quite a lot has happened since my last report so I will gloss over some of the news. The county senior team continued its losing way with defeats (2-8) at the hands of Essex II and (1-9) to Middlesex II, although their 7-3 win over Surrey II, with the aid of two forfeited sets, may still mean they will avoid relegation. I consider the county need to re-think on their policy for selection for next season. Either they must concentrate on up-and-coming young stars and persevere to give them a fair chance to establish themselves or they must pick purely on merit. At the moment we appear to be falling between two stools. The success of Steve Kitcher and Jane Whitcher in a number of local tournaments this season makes one think these youngsters should be given an extended run in the senior team to enable them to gain the experience which appears the only difference between them and some players filling the county places this season. Similarly, Chris Wilshere's performance in the Southampton Closed must put him in contention.

The Junior first team went out in a blaze of glory winning their last four matches — after losing the first three. With most of the current players still available next season the prospects look brighter than at the half-way stage. Whether Colin Wilson will still be available for the county after his move to London is still in doubt although the county that established him in the National rankings will obviously hope to retain his talents. The second junior team also improved after two defeats to win their last two.

The veterans team, as expected, clinched the West Division with a win over Wiltshire and go forward to the play-off. I was asked recently why the county did not now run a second senior team. The simple answer is finance. This is unfortunate as at the moment I consider there are enough players who would jump at the chance of regular county play. However, any increase in county fees to enable another team to be entered would, quite reasonably, receive criticism from some local leagues who crib at the doubtful

honour of being affiliated even at current fees. The answer is perhaps the approach made by veteran players who have agreed to pay all their expenses if a second team is entered. Would younger players agree to such an arrangement if a second senior team were entered next season? Now is the time to tell the County officials if this arrangement would find favour.

In the inter-town league, Bournemouth again win the major titles. Their mixed team retained the title with an unbeaten record with Portsmouth as runners-up. Basingstoke retained the men's division but only scraped through on sets average from Southampton, with both teams unbeaten. The Junior first division was won for the fourth successive year by Bournemouth with an unbeaten record. The second junior division is not yet decided with Gosport the favourites to pip Southampton "B". Bournemouth "A", unbeaten winners of the veteran's division, pipped the holders, Portsmouth "A".

A quick round-up of the local leagues from whom I have received reports.

No trouble in this respect in receiving information from Bournemouth as Harold Pearce sends me his excellent "21 up" magazine. In the individual championship Steve Wilson beat Chris Pickard for the premier title 15, 28. Janet New beat Betty Brislane for the women's singles. John Robinson won the U-17 juniors, Jason Creasey the U-15 and Cheryl Creasey the U-13. The men's doubles went to Trevor Smith and Steve Wilson with Julie Hudson and Janet New winning the women's doubles. Robinson helped Janet New win her third title in the mixed, with Cyril Bush winning the veterans. Unbeaten Merton "A" look set to retain their premier division title from Bournemouth Y.M.C.A. I am sad to hear Joyce Coop is giving up the General Secretary's job of the Bournemouth Association. How they will replace her is hard to imagine for as Harold Pearce says "No one person can be expected to perform all the duties and tasks that Joyce has carried out".

Gosport successfully staged their finals on a separate occasion for the first time. Kitcher won the men's singles beating Kevin Batt, 16, 14 in the final. A disappointment for the large crowd was the non-appearance of Karen Saywell in the women's singles and mixed finals. Why enter a tournament if you cannot attend the finals? This is hardly fair to the other competitors and discourteous, to say the least, to Gosport. Jane Whitcher in the women's singles and Kitcher and Jane in the mixed were given walk-overs. The open doubles was won by Den Lonnon and Alan Long, and Albert Winmill won the veterans singles. Batt beat Jane Whitcher in the junior event.

Portsmouth went the opposite way to Gosport, reverting to holding their closed on a single day. Mike Douglas retained the men's singles title beating Alan Willcocks in the semi and Kitcher in the final, 18, 14. Daphne Gray, the No. 1 seed, won the women's singles but was hard pushed by County junior Serina Sinanin, 12, -21, 18 in the semi before beating her old rival Sheila Foster 17, 6. Ged Holley and Ray Lush won the men's doubles and Sheila Foster paired with Serina for the women's doubles. Lush paired with his County veteran partner Daphne Gray to win the mixed and also beat Holley to retain his veteran title. Batt beat Bill Moody 14, 16 to win the junior singles.

Southampton also changed their closed format reverting to a separate finals night. Strange how different Associations have differing views on this common problem. Three of Southampton's top four seeds were eliminated before the semis. Keith Summerfield, County No. 1, went out to Phil Brown while No. 2 seed, Chris Shetler, made his exit to Wilshere. No. 4 seed, Andy Chitcher was beaten early by John Tibbles, who was in turn beaten by Don Cartridge. Two comfortable wins in the semis for Wilshere over Cartridge and Kitcher over Brown. The final saw Wilshere dominate the opening game to win 21-13 but Kitcher came back to take the second 21-17. The third was even to half way with Kitcher leading 10-9 at the change but Steve then forged ahead to take his first championship 21-13. The women's

singles saw the top seeds contesting the final. Jane Whitcher, the County No. 1 junior, opposed to the champion for the last four years and County No. 1 senior, Christine Davies. Jane took the first 21-19, lost the second at 17 and led 13-9 in the third. Christine fought back well to level at 19-all but then Jane had two net cords to win her first senior title. Jane joined her Four T's club-mate, Kitcher, for the mixed, but lost in the final to Alpha's Summerfield and Leslie Jerram. Summerfield gained his second doubles success when he partnered Shetler in the men's. In an all-Four T's final, Ann Longland and Jane Whitcher gained a good women's doubles win over Christine Davies and Julie Hudson. Maurie Shave of Snows won his first veteran's title with an excellent win over the defending champion, Cart-ridge. Ted Baker of Hedge End beat Tony Mason in the intermediate final. Jane won her third title in the handicap singles when she beat Summerfield. Alpha "A" take the Southampton Premier Division title for the first time.

Winchester have yet to have their finals night. Perhaps a six weeks gap between the main tournament and the finals night is a bit too long! In the men's singles semis holder, George Philpott, will meet Rowe Bennett, and Gary Longland meets County junior John Summerbell. Jane Whitcher will play Ann Longland in the women's final. Phillpott and Harry Spraggs defend their men's doubles title against John Lewis and Longland. Lewis joins Jane Whitcher against Gary and Ann Longland, in the mixed. Summerbell faces Jane Whitcher in the junior final. In the league, St. Cross "A" look set to hold on to their Div. 1 title from Hursley "A".

Although it seems a long time ago I cannot close without adding my congratulations to Portsmouth for their staging of the England v. Hungary European league match. It could not have been better and I am pleased it proved to the E.T.T.A. that there are supporters to the West of Hastings prepared to support top quality matches of this nature.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

PROUD CHAMPIONS — SUFFOLK!

With a clearcut 7-3 victory over their runners-up, Norfolk II, at Norwich, Suffolk Seniors carried off "The Champions" title in Div. 3 East of the County Championships. This was a fine culmination to a season's dedication and close teamwork by Mick Palmer (capt.), John Kitchener, Robert Hellaby, Janet Faiers and Debbie Wootton.

When called upon, Russell King and Christine Ting have also played their parts most ably. The final positions at the head of the Division read:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Suffolk	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Norfolk II	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Herts II	4	1	2	1	21	19	4

Against Norfolk and without Kitchener, Suffolk gave the No. 1 mantle to the experienced Hellaby and he gave an impeccable display to dispose of both Doug Bennett and Chris Bensley. Palmer, himself beaten by Bennett, produced a real captain's effort to fight back and overcome Mick Broughton, King, making his debut for the seniors, scintillated in his 17, 9 victory over Broughton, but, again, fell to his 'bogey man' Bensley in his second singles.

The ladies, Janet Faiers and Debbie Wootton, qualify for "5-star" rating, each winning their singles and combining to take the women's doubles against Paula Ribbans and Ruth Hogg. The after-match celebrations were well earned, and it was fitting that Mr. Denis Barrett (Suffolk County Chairman) and his wife, Edna (Match and Selection Board Sec) were present to be toasted and to receive their well-merited congratulations. Results:—

- R. Hellaby bt C. Bensley 6, -17, 14; bt D. Bennett 15, 19.
- M. Palmer bt M. Broughton -17, 11, 10; lost to Bennett -16, -15.
- R. King bt Broughton 17, 9; lost to Bensley

-14, -14.  
 Hellaby/Palmer lost to Bennett/Bensley  
 -14, 9, -18.  
 J. Faiers bt P. Ribbans -19, 7, 16.  
 D. Wootton bt R. Hogg 11, -15, 17.  
 Faiers/Wootton bt Hogg/Ribbans 15, 15.

In their final match of the season Suffolk Juniors produced their best performance to date and overcame rivals Norfolk 6-4 at Ipswich. Much youthful talent was displayed by both counties, for whom the future must surely hold further successes.

Suffolk's Stuart Palmer and Michael Shorten each played extremely well to take both their singles. Julian Hall and Debra Hubble took Suffolk's winning set total to six but once again, the doubles combinations failed. Although stranded at the foot of Jnr 2 Midland, Suffolk still have the potential to bounce back again next season. Results:—

S. Palmer bt A. Buckingham 5, 17; bt P. Ninham 12, 17.  
 M. Shorten bt Ninham 15, 18; bt M. Cook 15, 16.  
 J. Hall bt Cook 10, 15; lost to Buckingham -18, -14.  
 D. Hubble bt H. Pearce 21, -18, 21.  
 J. Duncombe lost to R. Harrowven -20, -18.  
 Hubble/Duncombe lost to Pearce/Harrowven 17, -14, -9.

### SILVER JUBILEE EVENT

Lowestoft & District League decided on a second Special Event to celebrate their Jubilee season. The full United States team were invited to play a Lowestoft 'Select' team immediately before embarking on their World Championships endeavours at Birmingham (Results should be available for next month's issue of TT News).

Mike Palmer has again worked extremely hard to bring about yet another prestige event which has been generously sponsored by National Westminster Bank and Brown & Root (U.K.) Ltd. To conclude this eventful season the Lowestoft League hold their Annual Presentation Dinner and Dance at the Royal George Hotel on Friday, Apl 29.

## WORCESTERSHIRE NEWS

by Doug Moss

### EVERY FACILITY

The Silver Jubilee Year Closed Championships were held at the Abbey Sports Stadium, Redditch. Conditions were excellent with 9 tables in constant use and Restaurant and Bar facilities available.

There were unique performances from both the Men's and Women's Singles champions. Simon Claxton (Worcester), at 18, appeared in his 3rd consecutive final and won the title. This year he proved, beyond all doubt, his absolute supremacy within the County. He did not lose a single game. In the final he met Bob Brown (Halesowen), who was appearing at this stage for the 5th consecutive year. Bob is clearly ranked as No. 2 in the County but was no match for Simon. Never in the history of the County Association has there been a player so much ahead of his rivals.

There is also a remarkable Women's Singles champion, Joyce Lloyd (Dudley) met Janet Hunt (Worcester) in the final and won for the 3rd consecutive year. But Joyce first appeared in the final and won in 1957! Since that time she has only missed two finals. Joyce has represented the County in well over 100 Championship matches. Janet Hunt has been an extremely keen rival having been in the final on 9 occasions over the last ten years.

Joyce Lloyd and Janet Hunt teamed up to win the Women's Doubles for the second year running. They beat Lynda Reid and Mandy Mytton in the final. Their hardest match was against Diana Moss and Jean Tyler, playing together for the first time. It ended at 19 in the deciding game.

The Mixed event was interesting with some unpredictable results. It may be significant that the opposing girls in the final were Mandy Mytton and Lesley Duffield, the County Junior team girls, who have more experience in playing against

the style of play of the leading men. Claxton, with Mandy (Evesham) was again successful after beating Cliff Benson (Kidderminster) the County No. 3, and Lesley Duffield (Kidderminster), the County Junior Girls Champion, in the Final.

Claxton inevitably completed a trio of successes in the Men's Doubles. He was partnered by Brown with whom he has had a great deal of success. Derek Baddeley and Nick Bottomley played well to reach the final. They did not start well and lost the first game easily but put up a good fight in the second game only to lose -19.

The Veteran Men's event brought Brian Belcher (Halesowen) and Mervyn Wood (Halesowen) together in the final. Both play for the County II team and although Brian has been ranked ahead of Mervyn he succumbed in the final at -15 in the deciding game.

Again the finalists had already teamed up in the Veteran Doubles and predictably reached the final. Their opponents were Diana Moss and John Meredith. This was the first time a lady player had reached this final.

Diana Moss followed up this success in winning the Veteran Women's Singles. This was played on a group basis and the runner-up was Jean Watte (Evesham).

### RESULTS

M.S.: S. Claxton bt R. Brown 11, 13.  
 W.S.: J. Lloyd bt J. Hunt 13, 16.  
 W.D.: Lloyd/Hunt bt L. Reid/M. Mytton 17, -19, 9.  
 X.D.: Claxton/Mytton bt C. Benson/L. Duffield -18, 10, 13.  
 M.D.: Claxton/Brown bt D. Baddeley/N. Bottomley 6, 19.  
 V.M.S.: M. Wood bt B. Belcher -15, 17, 14.  
 V.W.S.: Champion: D. M. Moss, Runner-up: J. Watte.  
 V.D.: Belcher/Wood bt Mrs. D. Moss/J. Meredith 21-16, 21-15.

Following the Championships the Selection Committee undertook a revision of the ranking order which is now:

### MEN:

1. S. Claxton
2. R. Brown
3. C. Benson
4. D. Baddeley
5. M. Wood
6. B. Belcher
7. N. Bottomley
8. M. Sykes
9. S. Taylor
10. S. Gray
11. G. Collier
12. A. Oakley

### WOMEN:

1. J. Lloyd
2. J. Hunt
3. L. Reid
4. S. Foley
5. J. Watte
6. L. Duffield
7. M. Mytton
8. J. Tyler
9. D. Moss
10. S. Randle

Div. 1 of the County League has been proceeding satisfactorily. Hereford did well to secure a draw against Worcester. There was a significant doubles win for Mark Owen and M. Owens who beat Claxton and Andrew Oakley in the men's doubles. Claxton and Oakley however won 4 singles events. There was another draw between Kidderminster and Bromsgrove. Benson won 3 events for Kidderminster.

Progress could have been better in the Mixed Division. Evesham 'B' had the audacity to beat their 'A' team 6-4! Linda Reid beat both Mandy Mytton and Jill Watte. Worcester visited Evesham 'A' and secured a 7-3 win. For Evesham Jill Watte beat Sheila Foley and put up a good performance against Janet Hunt, losing -19, -21 in the third. Eric Salter (Evesham) beat both John Smith and Keith Wilkinson.

The Association had two representatives on duty at the Worlds. Doug Young (I.U.) was in charge of a squad of umpires and "yours truly" was in the Office of the I.T.T.F.

The Silver Jubilee of the Association is to be celebrated at a social function to be held on Friday, 1st July, at Holt Fleet Hotel, Holt Heath, near Worcester. It is very much hoped to see many of the past officials and players.

## THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by Leslie Constable

### NOT SUFFICIENT

Cambs beat Herts 6-4 in their final match in Div 2 East of the County Championships, but it was not sufficient to win the title for the third successive season. As it is they finish joint top on 6 pts. with Bucks who beat Norfolk 8-2 so taking the title on sets average, having 28 to Cambs 26. Paul Day won both his singles beating Richard Jermyn and J. Proffitt but in partnership with Mick Harper lost to J. and S. Proffitt. Another vital set saw Harper beaten by J. Proffitt so that these two lapses became fatal. Keith Richardson played well to win both his singles, against Jermyn and S. Proffitt, but Sally Hirst was well beaten by Daphne Baines and Valerie Scripps lost to Miss Hartwell.

Cambs II lifted themselves from bottom place in Div 3 East by beating Hunts 6-4. Former County champion Tony Littlechild made a good return to the County scene by beating Jim Sizer and Gus Albon. David Tiplady also beat Sizer and completed a fine double with a good win over Hunts No. 1 Alan Lamprell. Valerie Parkes and Ruth Newman gave good support by beating Barbara Pace and Melanie Ringrose respectively.

Essex II proved too good for Cambs in a Junior Div 2 Midland match at March and won 8-2. Jane Hunter, a last minute replacement for indisposed Rachel Norris, had a good win over Lynn Chamberlain while the ever-consistent Andy Withers gained his usual one by beating Desmond Charlery. David Brammer of Wisbech had a marvellous debut in the Junior match against Hunts by winning both his singles against Michael Ringrose and Chris Randall but was unable to save his side from going down 3-7.

In the South East Midlands League Cambridge have won the Men's Section (Div 2) and will again be operating in the top flight next season much to the relief of all concerned. But the Veterans who came top of their section have to face an enquiry and the outcome could have a detrimental effect. Cambridge Juniors were unlucky to lose to second-placed Kettering in a recent Div 2 match and the 4-6 defeat involved seven games that went to 19. Keith Randall, Robert Venn and David Scarll each won a singles and Randall and Venn picked up the doubles. The Juniors gained their biggest success of the season when they thrashed North Herts II 9-1 and then went yet a step further to beat Hunts Central II 10-0. These two victories, although coming too late to gain promotion, should stand them in good stead and next season should see them going all out to get back to Div 1.

An extraordinary situation has arisen in the Cambs. League where it is possible that all three University teams may be playing in Div 2 next season. The first team who operate in Div 1 are doomed to relegation but the other two who are in Divs 3A and B are top and should they both gain promotion then all three will meet up in the same division next season!

Soham 1 are still ahead in Div 1 and must surely take the title although New Chesterton Institute will make them fight all the way.

In the Cambs K.O. Handicap Trophy, Soham 1 (the Holders) are the only First Division team left in the competition. They beat N.C.I. III in the quarter-finals 6-3 despite having to concede 20 points per game in a 31 point match. Two wins from John Puddick and one from Roy Bunting kept the N.C.I. in the match for the first 6 sets but the holders raised their game to take the next three. Sawston who reached the final in 1968 won an exciting match against St. Ives with John Suchocki beating Sid Burgess in the final set to clinch victory. General Accident had a thriller against Howard Mallett and at

one stage led 4-1 but they lost their grip and Howard Mallett took the next 4 sets for victory. Haverhill IV defeated N.C.I. II 5-1 and only Tiplady was successful for the Institute with a win over Mizon. The draw for the semi-finals is:

Haverhill IV v. Soham I  
Howard Mallett v. Sawston

Wisbech had a successful day at the S.E.M. League Reserve Tournament on Feb 20. Robert Swift played a major part by winning the Junior event and also being runner-up with D. Cartwright in the Junior Doubles. Robert also reached the Men's Doubles final with Howard Lupton (Wisbech) before losing to the No. 1 seeds from Northampton (Birch & Partner). Derek Kiddle lost in the final of the Men's Singles to G. White.

Wisbech returned to winning form in the North Norfolk League with 8-2 victories over Thetford and Cromer, Chris, Gay and Howard Lupton winning all their sets in both matches. In the East Anglian Junior League Wisbech "A" scored a fine 6-4 victory at Lowestoft with Richard Hall and John West playing particularly well. The Junior "B" team drew with Beccles away. In this match Keith Burlington and Nigel Sirret were successful for Wisbech.

Wisbech Institute still look favourites to gain the Div 1 title in the Wisbech League despite two recent defeats by Tydd Trojans and C.C.G. In the latter match Cyril Halstead had maximum wins over Davies, Calvert and Littlechild.

The Sleight Doubles Competition has now reached the semi-final stage the draw being:—

Elm v. Bury Cars  
Sutton Bridge v. Institute

The Parker Shield Handicap Competition has also reached the semi-final stage with the following teams still going:—C.C.G. (Div 1) Upwell St. Peter's Youth Club (Div 2) Isle College (Div 3) and Police "A" (Div 4).

Things are certainly looking healthier in the Region and there seems to be a large nucleus of Junior Talent available in many districts and we may see great things happening in the near future!

## CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

### CHANCE LOST

Cumbria's Junior 1st team almost certainly lost the chance of going forward to the Junior Promotion Challenge when they went down 4-6 to division leaders Yorks II at Millom in their final match of the season.

This encounter promised so much for Cumbria early on as wins for Chris Reed over Alan Summerscales, Neil Smith over Tony Bottomley and Gail Smith and Miranda Gray in the girls' doubles had put the home team 3-1 up. The following set, the boys' doubles then looked to be a most crucial one and sure enough it proved to be the turning point in the match when Yorks pulled themselves back from the brink of defeat and back into the match by winning 22-20 in the third after Chris and Neil looked halfway home and dry when leading 20-18 in the same game.

From this point Chris was our only other winner, taking his second singles success over Joe Naser. The aforementioned boys' doubles combination have certainly had a disappointing season in that category after having failed to win what also proved to be crucial sets against Derbyshire and Lancs earlier in the season, the team losing 4-6 against Derbys and drawing 5-5 with Lancs.

The Junior 2nd team finished their season on a high note with wins against Clywd II, in a re-arranged fixture, and Cleveland III both with 8-2 scorelines. Two undefeated performances from Diccon Gray again showed he is in a class above the division and Cheshire's Mark Hankey is the only one to defeat the steady left-hander in this season's County Champs.

Andrew Pachul has supported well throughout the season and Steven Sharp was just beginning to come into his own towards the latter end

winning three out of four singles. Success for the girls has been fairly limited with ever present Elaine Mathie just gaining the one singles win against Clywd. Jan Sephton made a promising debut in the Clywd match by taking the doubles with Elaine and narrowly losing her singles. She then followed up with an undefeated show against Cleveland.

The Senior team went down 3-7 in their re-arranged fixture with Derbys II at Derby. Brian Towell gained two of the wins and Roger Stewart the other. Towell and David Kirkpatrick (who was unavailable against Derbys) have taken most of the side's wins between them so far and former County No. 1, John Willis, would be the first to admit he's had a pretty bleak season. Jennifer Pachul is our only ever present female and so far has a 50% average.

Barrow and Dist League's closed produced one shock even before play had begun when last season's two men's singles finalists, Chris Reed (the winner) and Alan Fay were drawn against each other in the first round of this non-seeded event. Fay has been the only person to defeat Reed in the league programme but this time the anti-loop exponent was swept aside by the young Cumbrian No. 1 who grew in confidence after taking a first game defeat to get into his stride.

Chris went on to meet Neil Smith in the final and this time it was Neil who provided the major results shock with a 21-19 win in the third. Neil, in fact, held a comfortable lead throughout that final game and led 20-15 before dropping four quick points to put his opponent back in with a chance. Gail Smith again figured prominently in the proceedings and took the women's title with a 2-straight win over Miranda Gray.

Barrow's Carter Cup team, comprising Millom's Chris and Ian Reed and Neil Smith, made their exit from the competition after a quarter final defeat by Hull led by England-ranked Mike Harrison and Naser. A surprise defeat in the opening set for Smith by the Hull No. 3 set the side off to a bad start from which they never recovered. Barrow's two wins came from Smith over Harrison and Chris Reed over their No. 3, Chris Pindar.

Millom gained their first win of the season in the Inter-League competition with a 10-2 success over Workington. Peter Turner made a useful debut for the Millom side and defeated the visitors' Nos. 1 and 2 Charlie Butler and Richard Johnstone but lost to the No. 3 Tony Livsey. Neil Smith and Len Saunders took their three singles for Millom but went down in the doubles.

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Christopher Hillan

### BRIGHT PROSPECTS

To say that the story of our teams in the County Championships this season has been one of "rags to riches" may be a slight overstatement, but the improvement shown has been little short of remarkable, as is borne out by the results of our final matches. The reasons for this transition and our bright-looking prospects for next season are many, and will be put into greater detail next month.

Having being somewhat fortuitously re-instated in Div 2 East following a disastrous 1975/76 season, our Senior First team have grabbed the opportunity with both hands, and registered another big win with the 8-2 demolition of Norfolk.

This match, played at Wolverton S. & S. Club, or "The Pineapple" as it is understandably better known when viewed from the exterior, commenced with two sets which led players and spectators alike to anticipate a finish in the early hours of the morning.

Alec Watson kicked off for Bucks against the Norfolk No. 1 Bob Thornton, and was well beaten in the first game through his inability to deal with Thornton's fast loop to his backhand. But through years of experience, tinged perhaps with slight over-confidence on Thornton's part, Alec greatly reduced his opponent's openings to produce this stroke in the second to level. The

decider was touch-and-go all the way with Thornton seeming to be the favourite but Alec being quick to pounce on any loose strokes. Alec eventually came out on top 19 in the third after an encounter which may have been declared a draw in other sports.

The same may well have applied to the second set in which Les Wooding, having looked well on top after taking the first game, finally came to grief -19 in the third against some very steady and determined topspin play by Mick Musson, who, like Watson, never seemed likely to win until he had actually done so.

The next six sets all went to Bucks, with Chris Leslie celebrating his Senior First team debut with a two-straight win over John Turner, the women turning in an emphatic doubles win, Wooding and Watson, following one of their poorest displays ever in the first game, pulling themselves together in time to maintain our unbeaten men's doubles record, and Jean Williams proving far too steady for Mrs. R. Hogg. After a poor first game in which he was as much at odds with the umpire as with his opponent, Wooding finally produced the goods to overcome Thornton, and the ever-improving Brenda Stevens impressively saw off Wendy Hogg in straight games.

Leslie and Musson then produced the third cliff-hanger of the evening with Chris narrowly losing the first game through over-negative tactics, making amends well in the second, and Musson showing again what a tremendous fighter he is by surviving three or four set points against him in the third to win 28-26. Watson slaughtered Turner in the final set to round off a happy evening for the home team.

That same afternoon, our Junior First Team had beaten local rivals Bedfordshire 8-2 to emerge as clear winners of Junior Div 3 East. All our boys maintained their 100 per cent. record for the season in both singles and doubles without undue trouble, and Ian Haines must be singled out for his part in this feat, this being his first season in the county team compared with the wealth of experience previously gained by Chris Leslie and Sam Harmer. Dawn Risby maintained her steady improvement by winning her singles in straight games.

Our Junior Second Team went down 4-6 to Sussex II but a lot of encouragement can be derived from this match. The much-improved Stephen Haines made an excellent county debut in winning his first set from the difficult No. 1 spot. Philip Bradbury, 13 this month and playing at No. 2, showed that he will be a force to be reckoned with in future seasons by winning both his sets, and our third winner, a pleasantly surprising one at that, was Sue Tick in her debut singles.

The High Wycombe League Championships, held at Hazlemere Community Centre, resulted in another triumph for Watson, who won the Men's Singles title for the fifth time in the last six years. Alec clinched his win in the final against John Leith in a set which went to expedite midway through the second game. With the score at one game all, most felt that Leith would win the all-expedite decider, but Alec, playing like a true champion, went 20-10 up. John won the next eight points but Alec was not to be denied.

Alec had earlier overcome a bad start against Pete Sears in his semi-final, losing the first game but winning the next two decisively. Leith had scraped home against his friend and clubmate John Cooper with the aid of a lucky edge. In a situation where many players would have blown their top, Cooper showed why he is one of the most sporting and best-liked players in Bucks by accepting that edges are there to be hit.

Cooper duly gained his consolation in partnering Leith to a Men's Doubles win, their victims in the final being Watson and Brian Busbridge. Anne Catchpole toppled the defending champion Mrs. V. McCorknell to take the Women's Singles, while M. Curtis produced another surprise to beat county-ranked David Owen in the Boys' Singles final.



## RESULTS

M.S.: Semi-Finals A. Watson bt P. Sears -16, 12, 9.  
J. Leith bt J. Cooper 19, 19.  
Final: Watson bt Leith 11, -16, 18.  
W.S.: A. Catchpole bt V. McCorknell -8, 17, 10.  
R.S.: B. Chatterjee bt Catchpole 14, 13.  
M.D.: Cooper/Leith bt Watson/B. Busbridge 14, -10, 16.  
V.S.: Catchpole bt G. Riach 21, 8.  
B.S.: M. Curtis bt D. Owen 17, 14.  
G.S. Final: S. Harvey bt J. Catchpole 19, 14.  
W.D.: I. Lewis/McCorknell bt A. Catchpole/J. Catchpole 9, 9.  
B.D.: Owen/J. Wark bt Curtis/S. Foster 15, 10.  
X.D.: Cooper/E. Barry bt Chatterjee/R. Youd 17, 20.  
G.D. Winners: Harvey/S. Tick (Round Robin).

## ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

### RECORD ENTRIES

Our recent Closed Championships produced record breaking entries and Tournament Organiser Gordon Lightfoot came through with flying colours after a really hard working weekend. The tournament was staged at the Ilford Ltd. Canteen, Basildon with the Senior events taking place on the Saturday followed by the Juniors on Sunday.

There were a few surprises in the singles events and Dave Brown and Dave Newman were 'caught cold' in the men's early on by Les Eadie and 'Benny' Robertson respectively but the final proved to be as expected, Ian Horsham versus Bob Potton. Unfortunately it proved to be no contest with Horsham obviously not giving of his best after being upset by the Referee's decision on the order of play. In the women's singles Shelagh Hession was beaten in the semis by Janet Robertson with Lesley Radford going on to win the crown.

Helen Gore had a good win in the early rounds defeating Linda Budd in straight games. Results:

M.S.: semi-finals:  
R. Potton bt L. Eadie -18, 14, 18;  
I. Horsham bt K. Caldron 14, 15.  
Final: Potton bt Horsham 9, 7.  
W.S.: semi-finals:  
L. Radford bt H. Gore 16, 8;  
J. Robertson bt S. Hession -8, 18, 21.  
Final: Radford bt Robertson 14, 17.  
V.S.: semi-finals:  
K. Beamish bt M. Buckley 11, 14;  
F. Lockwood bt L. Fountain 17, 20.  
Final: Lockwood bt Beamish 15, 16.  
M.D.: D. Brown/Horsham bt Eadie/D. Iszatt 16, 16.  
W.D.: L. Barrow/Hession bt L. Budd/M. Nash -10, 23, 17.  
X.D.: I. Robertson/Robertson bt Iszatt/Hession 19, 13.



Essex National Councillor Ian Whiteside of the Chelmsford League

The Junior tournament was dominated in the singles as expected by Dave Newman and Helen Gore, Helen in fact took the triple crown. At U-14 level Julie Dowsett came through her stiffest test very well against Maxine Abbott early on and went on to win the girls' event in a canter.

The boys' U-14 final produced an excellent game full of exciting rallies and both Kevin Gard and Ian Attridge can feel well pleased with their performance, Kevin running out a narrow winner.

Results:—

B.S.: semi-finals:—  
D. Newman bt R. Veale 16, 10;  
K. Jackson bt L. Smith, 11, 20.  
Final: Newman bt Jackson 16, 12.  
G.S.: semi-finals:  
H. Gore bt K. Tillyer 14, 14;  
E. Sayer bt Y. Brown 17, -16, 11.  
Final: Gore bt Sayer -18, 17, 17.  
B.D.: Jackson/S. Kimm bt Newman/Smith -10, 18, 15.  
G.D.: Brown/Gore bt J. Dowsett/Sayer 16, 14.  
X.D.: Jackson/Gore bt Kimm/Sayer 19, 14.  
U-14 BS: K. Gard bt I. Attridge 20, 22.  
U-14 GS: Dowsett bt S. Deal 11, 15.

Still on the tournament front the Essex Open is again being sponsored by the Birstow Eves Co. This popular event takes place on May 7/8 at Wanstead Sports Centre and if any erstwhile entrant is in need of the necessary form Gordon Lightfoot on Danbury 2118 will be pleased to oblige.

Our County Association are indeed delighted and indebted to Birstow Eves for their involvement and sponsorship of this tournament. Birstow Eves are the largest estate agents in our county with branches in every town.

On the County Championships front our Senior teams have met with mixed fortunes of late. The Premier team got little change from relegation haunted Cheshire for whom Nigel Eckersley was in sprightly form. Brown and Potton both had wins over David Constance but our only other success was in the men's doubles when Brown and Horsham scored.

The Seniors 2nds were held to a draw by Kent but won comfortably against Hants. Linda Barrow was unbeaten on both matches. Robertson gave a fighting display in the Kent match while Jeff Drew and Kenny Jackson took the honours in the Hampshire match both coming in as late reserves and winning well.

In Senior Div. 3 South our third team really had a shock away to Kent II and lost their first match for a couple of seasons. Drew was the only one to play true to form and Kent won 6-4. This division will now be decided on games average although it looks odds on us winning despite this unexpected reverse.

Our junior teams are flying high at present and the Premier team gave Kent a terrible hiding, looking all over a well knit team in the true sense of the word. The second team had a similarly convincing 10-0 win at Cambridge while the third team won 8-2 away to Herts II to win the title.

Not to be outdone the Veterans' first team won 7-2 at home to Kent with Florence Birbeck outstanding while the second team won 8-1 against Hunts. With the Worlds almost to hand Fellows Cranleigh, our strongest club, had the pleasure of entertaining both Australia and Hong Kong, although both matches were lost albeit the Australian one by the narrowest possible margin there were some good Essex performances.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

### MIXED FORTUNES

Two County matches and no fewer than four tournaments within our small County has kept officials and players alike very busy. It was mixed fortunes for our Senior and Junior teams when they met Cambridge II on the second Saturday in March. The Senior team, forced to make late changes, were narrowly beaten 4-6 whilst the Junior outfit, also without their regular leading

boys were on the right end of a 7-3 scoreline.

The Senior team comprised Alan Lamprell, Alan Albon, Jim Sizer, Barbara Pace and Melanie Ringrose. The two Alans both accounted for Brian Richardson and together had a comfortable men's doubles gain. The ladies were also successful in their duo match. Barbara had a 16-10 lead in the 2nd leg of her singles after winning the first but was unable to press home the advantage.

The Junior team of Stuart Smith, Michael Ringrose, Chris Randall, Belinda Chamberlain and Melanie Ringrose travelled to Wisbech for their encounter. Each of the boys won a singles including a nice gain by Randall on County debut. The girls once more proved too strong for the opposition taking all three sets they were involved in. This was Belinda's last match as a junior and our most successfully produced youngster went out on the right note. For Melanie, who still has another season as a cadet, a 100 per cent. record in all singles and doubles played at County junior and Cadet level this term.

Juniors also figure prominently throughout the honours list of the four recent tournaments, which should give a lot of encouragement to the County officials who must hope to build teams for the future and challenge more seriously for our first, so far elusive County Championship.

The South East Midland League Junior tournament played at St. Neots brought local players the most successful regional junior tourney to date. The first three finals all brought local successes and our youngsters also figured in two more finals. The boys' singles, the only section where Hunts did not have a finalist, saw Mark Fisher reach the Semis, but was unable to match Northants junior Gary Alden in their encounter. The girls' singles saw Belinda Chamberlain reach the final once more, but again the title was not to come her way losing out to Mandy Wallis. The girls' doubles saw our leading girls Belinda and Melanie Ringrose disposing of Warris and Joanne Palmer. The Fisher twins Steven and Mark won the corresponding boys' doubles final with a fine win over Richard Jermyn and Paul Mason (North Herts). The mixed gave us a clean sweep of the doubles as Steven Fisher and Belinda Chamberlain had their second success in this event. Melanie completed a great day for Hunts when she, in turn, reached the last stage of the Division Two Singles. To reach this stage she had ousted four good boy players, but found England's No. 4 Cadet Keith Nicholl in no chivalrous mood.

The following weekend St. Neots was again the venue for another regional tournament, this time it was the Reserve Section with a Veterans event also on the programme. The finals once more saw young Melanie Ringrose further improving her trophy collection with three wins. In the women's singles she overhauled her St. Ives Club colleague Dilys Greenwood, partnering Julie Cundell, another cadet player, to lift the doubles at the expense of Greenwood and Pam Norman. The Mixed gave Melanie her hat trick when partnered by Michael Peacock, they defeated the Dunstable pairing of Thompson and Campbell.

The reserve section did not however finish the day's successes for local players as Gordon Cockram retained his veterans' title he won last year by again knocking over John Thurston (Cambridge) in the final. The ever-reliable Cockram/St. Neots pairing joined forces to retain the men's doubles title by defeating the scratch partnership of Ken Green (Cambridge) and Dennis Millman (Kettering).

Third of the tournaments saw the venue changed from St. Neots to St. Ivo Recreation Centre for the Hunts Central League tournament. On her home ground Melanie Ringrose once more won three titles with the Women's and Junior girls' singles and again partnered Julie Cundell for a doubles success. The men's title kept youth to the fore as Tim Speller took the title from a good sized entry. In the final he defeated Cambridge player David Tiplady. The Men's doubles went to Cambridge with a Tiplady/Ron Nunn triumph. Results:—  
M.S.: T. Speller bt D. Tiplady.  
W.S.: M. Ringrose bt D. Greenwood.

V.S.: R. Nunn bt K. Green.  
 J.G.S.: Ringrose bt J. Cundell.  
 W.D.: Ringrose/Cundell bt Greenwood/P. Norman  
 M.D.: Tiplady/Nunn bt M. Murden/M. Byrd.  
 J.B.S.: M. Fisher bt S. Fisher.  
 X.D.: A. Smith/R. Newman bt J. Sizer/  
 Greenwood.  
 Div. 1 S: T. Bass bt T. Rayner.  
 Div. 2: E. Beeches bt J. Thorogood.  
 Div. 3: P. Evans bt B. McCrystal.  
 Div. 4: T. Mansfield bt R. Harvey.  
 Div. 5: M. Scott bt V. Lauria.

The St. Neots tournament, the most recent played locally, also had a youthful look about the finals with Belinda Chamberlain retaining her women's singles title and being successful in the junior girls, 16-year-old Steven Fisher lifted his first league men's singles title by outplaying Gordon Cockram in a contrasting-styled final. Steven beat his brother Mark to take the boys' singles whilst Cockram had two title successes in the Veterans' singles and Men's doubles.

#### Details:—

M.S.: S. Fisher bt G. Cockram.  
 W.S.: B. Chamberlain bt D. Bushby.  
 B.S.: S. Fisher bt M. Fisher.  
 G.S.: Chamberlain bt M. Ringrose.  
 V.S.: Cockram/R. Stubbs.  
 M.D.: Cockram/S. Roberts bt Fisher/Fisher.  
 X.D.: Roberts/D. Bushby bt M. Fisher/Ringrose.  
 W.D.: Bushby/B. Pace bt Chamberlain/P. Bingham.  
 Div. 2 S: M. Peacock bt A. Herbert.

With all these tournaments being staged in the Southern part of the County the Peterborough League await their annual tourney day. Meanwhile the Premier division of that league is headed by City "A" after 11 matches. Phorpres recently moved into the secondary position with a convincing 8-2 win at the expense of City "D". John Rooks was unbeaten whilst Norman Spivey and Peter Ward each weighed in with two singles. It's nice to see the continuing improvement of this league's juniors and more should be challenging for representative honours shortly.

## SURREY NOTES

By Ted Simpkin

### RECORD ENTRY

A record entry of 330 participants, an excellent setting in the new Elmbridge Leisure Centre at Walton on Thames, and the very efficient and generous provision of tables, surrounds, and balls by Halex Ltd., led to a highly successful Junior Closed recently. Norman Hooper and his helpers worked hard and long, and deserve the thanks of the County for their efforts. There were 118 entries in the U-17 boys', won again by Martin Shuttle over Steve Boxall (for the third time); 110 in the U-14, in which Mark Oakley triumphed over Glen Baker; and 82 in the U-12 where Graham Russell had no trouble in taking the title, over Gavin Kemp in the final.

Shuttle was given a hard fight in the semis of the U-17 by Steve Holloway, 19 in the third, Stephen Woodgate being the other loser at the penultimate stage. The best final was the Mixed where Martin and Nicola Hayward pipped David Hannah and Suzanne Roebuck 19 in the third. Shuttle and Boxall teamed up to take the U-17 doubles, and in an all-Guildford final of the U-14's Oakley and Russell beat Baker and Richard Seymour.

For the girls Lorraine Garbett proved too experienced yet again for Sarah Cresswell in both the U-17 and U-14, but Sarah took the U-12 by beating Linda West in the final. Sarah did manage to triumph over Lorraine in the U-14 doubles when she and Michelle Bland took the trophy from Lorraine and Lale Cilason.

A pleasant feature of the presentations was the first awards of new cups for the U-14 girls' events, donated by the Leatherhead and Guildford Leagues, respectively.

Peter Corner's Leatherhead team of boys fought through to the quarter-final of the Carter Cup after four successive away matches. Shuttle, Boxall and Hannah were conquerors over North

Middlesex and now wait to receive North Herts for a place in the semis.

The County second team, plagued by the loss of key players, have had a consistently poor run this season, and did not impress when they went down to Sussex 1-9 at Guildford. Gerry Walsh tried hard, but the only success came from Derek Holman, in his first county game, who concentrated hard, and audibly drove himself to beat Gerald Pugh.

Another, and meritorious success was earned by Tolworth Girls who, under the guidance of non-playing captain, (and Leatherhead Champion) Gail McCulloch, won the English Schools' U-19 National Title. The victorious team comprised Elaine Starr, Susan Walker, Jane Redford and Jane Grove, with Gaynor Kelly as reserve.

Guildford held its Junior Championships separately from the Seniors again, and John Diggins and his henchmen arranged a complicated Group System tournament whereby all participants were guaranteed a fair amount of play. This took place over three evenings and Sunday, and produced some of the most encouraging standards of play. Results were:—

#### BOYS:

U-17: David Hannah bt Stephen Woodgate.  
 U-15: Stephen Woodgate bt Mark Oakley.  
 U-13: Mark Oakley bt Graham Russell.  
 U-11: Mark Handcock bt Andrew Griffiths.  
 U-17: Doubles: Stephen Baggott/Glenn Baker bt Hannah/Terry Haley.  
 U-15 Doubles: Woodgate/Oakley bt Baker/Baggott.

#### GIRLS:

U-17: Sarah Cresswell bt Suzanne Roebuck.  
 U-15: Sarah bt Kerry Merritt.  
 U-13: Sarah won the final grouping from Sally Conway and Clare Gibbs.  
 U-17 Doubles: Roebuck/Ann Drinkwater bt Cresswell/Michelle Bland.  
 U-15 Doubles: Cresswell/Bland bt Conway/Gibbs.

The finals were extremely well staged, and I was particularly impressed with the finals of the 'senior' boys' singles and doubles, both from standards of play and of behaviour. If the Senior Tournament, scheduled for late April, reaches such a climax, Guildford is in for a great display.

## NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

### THRILLING DRAW

All three Northumberland County teams have now completed their fixtures. The first team's last match was away to Durham at Shiney Row C.A. on March 5, and shared the points in a thrilling 5-5 draw. Andrew Clark was undefeated, winning both his singles against Tony Gelder and Ian Svenson, and the doubles with Chris Shepherd against Gelder and Svenson. Shepherd and Fred Short each won one singles, but Durham's stronger women won all their sets to ensure a point for the home side.

The junior team unfortunately lost their vital relegation match 2-8 against Durham earlier in the day at the same venue, and will, therefore move down to Junior Div. 3 (North) next season. Eddie Thomas — who has now completed his last season as a junior — beat both Geoff Inch and David Robson, but unfortunately they were unable to gain any further success.

The second team — showing several changes because players were unavailable — travelled to Worksop on March 12 for their final match away to Nottinghamshire, and were beaten 2-8. The two sets were won by Glenn McCardle and Julie Hobson — the latter appearing in her first senior match at the end of her last season as a junior.

Looking back on the team performances, it was encouraging to note that both senior teams improved on the previous season's record, with the first team beating Cleveland II and Lincolnshire and drawing with Durham, and the second team registering wins against Cumbria and Cleveland III. I was pleased to note that the first team of Clark, Shepherd, Short, Valerie Smith and Kit Cheung operated unchanged throughout the

season, although it is recognised that the other two teams are more likely to be open to experimenting with different players. Unfortunately the junior team failed to win a single match, and as previously stated, will be relegated. Although Thomas, Mark Kimberley and Julie Hobson have now completed their last season as juniors, there will be no lack of boys to compete for places next season — but the shortage of girls could create problems.

The Northumberland Closed Championships will be held on Saturday, April 16, at Eldon Square Recreation Centre, and as this is the first tournament for two seasons and the first at the new Centre, a big entry is expected.

The Northumberland League season ends during the week commencing March 28, and all League and Cup Trophies will be presented at the annual County Association Dinner Dance, to be held at the 'Hi-Lite Suite' of J. T. Parrish Ltd., Shields Road, Newcastle upon Tyne on Friday, May 13, commencing at 7-30 p.m. Tickets, price £4.50, can be obtained from Bill McMaster, 11 Cochrane Park Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7JU. (Tel. 665559).

The Tyneside Summer League will again be in operation during the close season, and is expected to commence on April 28 for a period of 14 weeks up to the middle of August. Last season 48 teams contested 6 Divisions, and it is hoped that even more will apply this time. Our thanks once again go to Aubrey Drapkin and the Summer League Committee for the efficient organisation of this League; and incidentally, belated congratulations to Aubrey and also to Ron Wilson who both qualified as County Umpires this season.

## STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley  
 FAREWELL TO ROY

The County League programme has been completed with Wolverhampton 'A' striding ahead in Div. 1 to win by four clear points. The other divisions are topped by Stone 'A', Walsall 'B', Wolverhampton 'C' and, in Div. 5, Cannock 'D' and Wolverhampton 'D', who finished equal on points, sets and, on more detailed analysis, games.

Leading positions:—

	P	W	L	F	A	P
<b>Div. 1</b>						
Wolverhampton 'A'	5	5	0	29	16	10
Potteries 'A'	5	3	2	30	15	6
Walsall 'A'	5	2	3	22	23	4
<b>Div. 2</b>						
Stone 'A'	5	5	0	35	10	10
Darlaston 'A'	5	4	1	24	21	8
Stafford 'A'	5	3	2	25	20	6
<b>Div. 3</b>						
Walsall 'B'	6	5	1	0	44	16
Stone 'B'	6	4	2	0	43	17
Walsall 'C'	6	4	0	2	36	24
<b>Div. 4</b>						
Wolverhampton 'C'	5	5	0	0	45	5
Cannock 'C'	5	4	0	1	32	18
Bridgnorth	5	2	1	2	24	26
<b>Div. 5</b>						
Cannock 'D' and						
Wolverhampton 'D'	6	5	1	0	51	9
Stone 'D'	6	3	0	3	32	28

His many friends in and outside Staffordshire will be sorry to hear that Roy Colclough has decided to give up the secretaryship of the County at the end of the season due to pressure of business. A year or so ago I reported on Roy's long service with the County. He was one of the three founder members 26 years ago, and has been secretary for most of those 26 years. His hard work and experience will indeed be missed, but it is hoped that his connection with the County Committee will not be severed. We wish him well in his promotion, well deserved, without doubt. We are also hoping that we will not be losing completely the help that his wife Marion has given to the County over the years.

The strong Wolverhampton junior sides have

done well in the national competitions but failed to reach the final of either the Carter Cup or Bromfield Trophy. The boys went down to Leicester 4-5 in the quarter-finals, Paul Draisey and Andrew Rich each won 2 but found England-ranked Chris Rogers in unbeatable form. The girls Stephanie Jones, Sue Watton and Shirley Cain did well to reach the semi-final but lost to Ormesby at that stage.

In the league, Steve Cartwright leads Div. 1 averages, with Steve Dunning, Chris Davies and Ray Dixon also having a good season. I hear that Ray, however, has got tennis elbow which will put him out of action for a few weeks. Andrew Rich and Andrew Bellingham are doing well in the first division and Peter Dawes, Tony Stretton, Andrew Dixon and Mark and Tony Devitt are listed as the up-and-coming players at Wolverhampton.

In the Beattie Trophy, Cannock beat Lichfield and now play the Potteries' Norton team in the semi-final. The other semi-final between Cambridge (Walsall) and British Steel (Darlaston) has produced a real teaser of a problem for the County Committee what with Darlaston apparently playing an ineligible player by mistake and Walsall turning up with only two players due to Dixon's tennis elbow. It is a pity that this has cropped up in the first year of this re-introduced trophy.

## NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

### COUNTY CLOSED

The Norfolk Closed Championships were held on Saturday, March 5 at the Corn Exchange, King's Lynn, after three years at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. The top men's seedings were:—1. Bob Thornton, 2.—Mick Musson, 3.—Chris Bensley, and 4.—the holder, Dougie Bennett. It would have been a brave man to place his money on any one of these, their standard being very equal. However, these seeds had to reckon with that up-and-coming youngster from Wisbech, Geoff Davies. After accounting for Trevor Bunn, Davies disposed of Musson, then in the semis, Bennett. In the other semi, Thornton fell to Bensley. The final saw the giant-killer go down to Bensley in two-straight. In the Women's final it was Jeanne Brown, seeded No. 1, who beat Wendy Hogg, No. 3, after a terrific struggle. Betty Cassell, champion for so many years, was unfit, and did not defend her title. Results:—

M.S.: C. Bensley bt G. Davies 13, 19.  
W.S.: J. Brown bt W. Hogg 19, -20, 20.  
M.D.: M. Musson/T. Bunn bt R. Thornton/  
Davies.  
W.D.: W. and R. Hogg bt Brown/E. Fletcher  
-18, 20, 19.  
X.D.: Thornton/W. Hogg bt Musson/Brown  
-19, 18, 15.  
V.S.: D. Hardy bt G. Wood 18, 9.

The Norfolk Junior Closed was held on Sunday, Feb. 20, at Wall Road School, Norwich. Six out of nine finalists retained their titles, Doug Bennett the Boys' U-17 section for a record fourth time and Wendy Hogg the Girls' U-17 for the third. Paula Ribbans took the Girls' Doubles (This time with Wendy) for the fifth time.

Details:—

BOYS:—

U-13: Chris Anema bt David Loveday 16, 13.  
U-15: Paul Ninham bt A. Wilson -19, 7, 8.  
U-17: D. Bennett bt M. Archer 19, 8.

GIRLS:—

U-13: Zoe Nichols bt S. Bignell 11, 14.  
U-15: Ruth Harrowven bt A. Bowers 11, 3.  
U-17: Wendy Hogg bt P. Ribbans 17, 13.  
G.D.: Hogg/Ribbans bt Harrowven/Heather  
Pearce 15, 8.

B.D.: Archer/Philip Barr bt Bennett/A.  
Buckingham 18, 20.

X.D.: Bennett/Ribbans bt Archer/Pearce  
-25, 14, 9.

Dereham League played their Championships, at the War Memorial Hall, the Juniors on Saturday, Feb. 12, and the Seniors on the following day:—Trevor Bunn took the Men's title, which he also won the season before last, and Pat

Betts, not without a fight, took the Women's, yet again. Results:—

M.S.: Trevor Bunn bt John Turner 15, 13.  
W.S.: Mrs. Pat Betts bt Glynis Houseago 21, 15.  
M.D.: Neville Graver/Turner (holders) bt Dave  
Hardy/Keith Hudson 14, 17.  
X.D.: Bunn/Val Graver bt Graver/Betts  
(holders) 17, -11, 12.  
V.S.: Dave Hardy bt Brian Loveday (Holder)  
19, 22.  
U-17: Nigel Houseago bt Paul Brown 14, 12.  
U-14: Chris Anema bt Edward Hodson 10, -19, 11.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE GALLERY

by Dave Foulser

### COUNTY FINISH BOTTOM

Regretfully the County Senior team finished bottom in 3rd Division West of the County Championships with four losses and a draw in the five matches. As a member of the Selection Committee, I obviously wish we had fared better but it must be remembered that we adopted a basic youth policy wishing to blood younger players in the hope that they would improve.

Both Guy Greening and Martin Lane were examples of the success obtained by this policy as were Vanessa Cruwys and Cathy Robb. Andrew Golding was perhaps a shade too young and inexperienced to have played for the Seniors but his time will come. Mention must also be made of Dave Harvey who, as the established No. 1, had a memorable season winning nine out of his ten singles losing only to Mark Owens of Herefordshire in the last match, lost 3-7, with Cathy Robb and Vanessa Cruwys winning their singles. Martin and Andrew went home unrewarded. Against Avon, the County gained their only point with Dave and Martin winning two each.

Stroud Juniors were trounced 9-1 when they travelled to Gloucester for a County Junior league match. Andrew beat Derek Morgan 17, -16, 18 to gain Stroud's only success. Stroud Seniors drew their final Midland League match with Tamworth with Alan Giles unbeaten. Golding had his best senior match yet winning two.

Gloucester men travelled to Bromsgrove needing a victory to clinch the Div. 4 championship of the Midland League. Despite losing the first set, they led 4-1 and eventually triumphed 7-3. This was a fine performance by Willie Dawe, Mike Prosser and Richard Pepperd who have played unchanged all season. Against Bromsgrove they each won two, all losing to S. Gray, but took the doubles. Gloucester Juniors also gained promotion to Div. 1 after being relegated last season. They also won 7-3 — against Stratford-upon-Avon with Lane and Morgan unbeaten and combining to take the doubles.

Gloucester Veterans journeyed to Coventry and crashed 1-9 for their sixth successive defeat and look destined for relegation. Ray Phillips saved the 'whitewash' but Brian Greaves and Tony Naden could offer no support despite a lot of effort. Cheltenham Veterans completed their Midland league programme with draws against Nottingham 'B' and Coventry and a 7-3 victory over Leicester. Against Nottingham they were 2-4 down, recovered to lead 5-4 and then drew, with Peter Slack unbeaten and Alan Williams and Sam Ewens each picking up a set. Against Coventry they led 4-0 but the home team staged a great revival to secure the draw. Slack and Williams each won two and Ewens one. Against Leicester the team streaked to an opening 6-0 lead with Slack again unbeaten whilst Williams won two and Ewens one.

Cheltenham Women fielded two teams against Stratford-on-Avon and each won 9-1. Cathy Robb and June Hall were unbeaten for the 'A' team with Jan Foulser dropping the one whilst Julie Bearcroft and Joyce Weatherall (on her town debut) were unbeaten with junior Jackie Cox (also on her town senior debut) won two. Julie was in particularly devastating form winning her three 10 and 12, 10 and 10, 10 and 7, and teamed up with Joyce to take the doubles 7 and 8.

Cheltenham Women followed this up with a

visit to Bristol where they were well and truly thrashed 10-0 all in straight games. Julie was this time given some of her own medicine particularly by M. Hooker who defeated her 7 and 5. June and Jan were the other two Cheltenham players.

Around the leagues, Gordon League 'A' have already won Div. 1 of the Gloucester League having beaten probable runners-up Taynton twice. In Div. 2 the issues have been settled with Taynton 'B' having won the title without losing a match. Congratulations to Graham Bonser (who had a 100 per cent. record), Jack Hawkins, Paul Boughton and Leslie Hawkins whilst Jamaican 'A' clinched the runners-up spot with a tremendous run winning seven and drawing two of their last nine matches. The team comprised Clive Little, Adam Berry, myself and Norman Malcolm. They had finished in third place in Div. 2 for two consecutive seasons and have now made it into the top sphere.

Div. 1 in Cheltenham has been won for the first time by Innsworth who comprise Don Sweeney, Bernie Clements, Adrian Vake, Steve Moreman, Ray Dillon and Pat Pumphrey. It is encouraging to note that Colts 'A' comprising juniors Adam Berry, John Turner and Graham Slack finishing in the top half of the table in their first season in this division with all of them having a 50 per cent. plus average. Mention must be made of the great victory by Adam recently in the league over County No. 1 junior Greening. It is still touch and go for the title in Div. 2 between Health Service and Saracens 'B'.

## DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

### JUNIORS DOMINATE

If evidence were needed of the strength of junior table tennis in Plymouth the place to be was at the Devonport Guildhall on Sunday, Feb. 20, the event being the County Senior Closed. Of the six finals played, including the Veterans' event, junior players won four of them.

The most notable performance, I feel, was that of Michael Shearman and Paul Whiting who defeated 'wily campaigners' Barry Davis and Adrian Wright in the Men's Doubles, which was, for my money, the best final of the evening. All four players were in tremendous form and the youngsters just got home 22-20 in the third after some breathtaking rallies. There were two repeats of last year's finals and in the first of these Elaine Lamb and Katherine Rowe again had the better of many times former winners, Barbara Pearson and Nancy Hollywood in straight games. In the Women's Singles Elaine again confirmed her complete dominance by beating Katherine Rowe in straight games to take the title for the fourth consecutive season.

Another interesting set was the Mixed between Keith James and Katherine Rowe and Adrian Wright and Nancy Hollywood, who have been champions many times. The former pair, who are now engaged — many congratulations to you both — just had the edge to take their first Mixed title — a happy omen I hope. The only title to elude Plymouth was the Veterans' which went to Mike Darlington, of Exeter. His opponent, popular Colin Mitchell attacked superbly throughout but must have wondered what he had to do to break down Darlington's stone-wall defence. The fourth junior to triumph was Terry Fairbanks in the Men's Singles final. His brilliantly controlled attack completely overwhelmed Exeter's Paul Stone and he became the winner of the coveted Mitchelmore Bowl. Terry's studies have prevented him making regular representative appearances this season but he is a player of immense promise and we hope that when his studies have been completed — and, perhaps, more important — if he stays in the area — he will become a regular member of the County Senior team.

With so many senior players being overshadowed by the youngsters one would, perhaps, have expected some resentment, but I found no evidence of this and I am sure the seniors were very pleased to see the juniors coming through so well.

The awards were presented by County President, Mrs. Frances Jarvis and Chairman, Mr. Don Rattue. The championships were excellently staged by the Plymouth League and I felt they were one of the best in recent years and our particular thanks go to Roy Gritton, the Referee, and his hardworking team of Brian Rogers, Colin Mitchell, not forgetting evergreen Harry Pitts.

## LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

### DOUBLE DEFEAT

The final County Matches of the season saw Lincolnshire suffer two defeats. The Senior Team went down 1-9 to Yorkshire's promising youngsters, the only set coming from Mark Newbould (Grimsby) who edged out Robert Hazelwood 23, -14, 19, but from then on there was only one team in it. This victory gave Yorkshire II the 2nd North Title, and we congratulate them on their success.

Likewise the Junior 1st team lost 4-6 to Cheshire who clinched the 3rd North Junior title. As in previous matches the girls maintained their 100 per cent. record, but the boys could only muster one further set by Martin Norman (Louth) over R. McFarlane 19, 17.

Unavailable for both these matches was our No. 1 female Suzanne Hunt (Grantham) who had another table tennis engagement. As this is Suzanne's final season as a Junior we would like to thank her for her valued services to the team. Suzanne has played a record 20 times over the past five seasons for the County Junior Team and has already made 5 Senior appearances.

The East of England Championships were held at Scunthorpe on Sunday, Mar 13, and the Lincs. Committee would like to thank all those who entered for their co-operation in helping to make it another successful Tournament. Once again it was sponsored by Scunthorpe Borough Council, with Prize Money donated by Mr. A. J. Biggadike and Mr. R. Butlin.

The A.G.M. has been arranged for May 24 to be held at the Con. Club, Silver Street, Lincoln (7-30 p.m.). At this meeting, the Association will need to elect a new Chairman following the resignation of Mr. J. J. Robertson after 10 years in the Chair and many other years as Louth's representative. All in the County would like to thank him for the devoted years to Lincolnshire Table Tennis and wish him well in the future.

By the time these notes are in print the Worlds will have been and gone, let us hope that they are the success that all the work put in deserves. Most of our Local Leagues have arranged trips, and their support is well appreciated.

Latest news on the Haigh Cup is that Wyberton (B. Hill, M. East, G. King) have retained their title following their narrow win over Grimsby.

Finally best wishes to Bill Moran (Grimsby) who is taking his International Umpire's Exam, and congratulations to Jim Flowers for qualifying as a Tournament Referee.

## WILTSHIRE NOTES

by Laurie Selby

### YOUNG CHAMPIONS

Two 17-year-olds were crowned king and queen of Wiltshire table tennis when the County's senior closed championships were played at Swindon.

Kevin Edwards (West Wilts) took the men's singles title for the first time and Wendy Parker (Swindon) extended her reign when she retained the women's title.

It was a great day for Wendy who also captured the women's doubles, with 13-year-old Pauline Townsend (Swindon), and the mixed, with Edwards.

Earlier Edwards had won the U-18 singles when the Wiltshire Junior championships were contested at Amesbury.

### Senior Results:

M.S.: K. Edwards bt T. Bruce 18, -16, 9.  
W.S.: W. Parker bt A. Boyce 17, 17.  
M.D.: Bruce/W. Moulding bt F. Bailey/K. Harrison -18, 14, 8.  
W.D.: Parker/P. Townsend bt Boyce/P. Oung 19, 10.  
X.D.: Edwards/Parker bt Moulding/Boyce -13, 13, 17.  
V.S.: J. Cleveland bt D. Morris -16, 18, 18.  
M.C.S.: R. Shepherd bt C. Christie 18, 17.  
W.C.S.: Townsend bt D. Shailes 16, 17.

### Junior Results:

B.S.: U-17: Edwards bt K. Satchell 16, -20, 16.  
G.S.: U-17: C. Maisey bt B. Keeble 16, 14.  
B.S.: U-15: Satchell bt R. Harford 11, 8.  
G.S.: U-15: Townsend bt Maisey 9, 10.  
X.S.: U-13: Townsend bt S. McBean 9, -19, 14.  
B.D.: Edwards/J. Chandler bt D. Cleveland/Satchell 16, 19.  
G.D.: Keeble/Maisey bt Townsend/T. Watkins 11, 11.  
X.D.: Satchell/Townsend bt Chandler/Keeble -20, 17, 18.  
C.S.: C. Pidgeon bt L. Morse 19, 20.

## WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

### SWINDON AT LAST

Plymouth entertained Swindon, both in the men's and junior sections winning the former 6-3 for which they had to thank, to some extent, Mike Short who beat Karl Bushell, 18 in the 3rd, Ken Harrison, 22-20 in the 3rd, and Frank Bailey, 7 and 22.

Keith James had wins over Bailey and Harrison with Terry Fairbanks chipping in with a solo over Bushell. Bailey did well to beat Fairbanks, as did Harrison, Swindon's other win coming from Bushell who beat James.

Plymouth's juniors won 9-0 with maximums being recorded by Mike Shearman, Paul Whiting (both having represented the senior side) and Gerry Hodges. But in fairness to Swindon they included two young promising girls in Claire Maisey and Beverley Keeble along with Alan Black.

Hodges was hard pressed to beat Beverley 19 and 20 while Claire also took him to a deciding game, before losing -16.

Newport were narrowly beaten 5-4 by Swindon although Newport's three regulars were not playing but the result should not detract anything from the victors as the home team were able to call on Alan Harrison to play his first Western League match and also included Brian Jeames who, the previous Saturday in the Newport Closed had won the Junior and Senior singles titles.

Newport went into a 4-2 lead and should have won as Alan Harrison had beaten Bushell and Ken Harrison being the favourite then to beat Bailey. But Frank was a worthy winner 17 and 15, after losing his opening set to Graham Sell and 14-years-old Jeames had beaten him in straight games.

Ken Harrison saw Jeames off narrowing the score to 4-3 and then Frank beat Alan Harrison to level at 4-all. Karl Bushell secured victory for Swindon 18 and 19 over Sell. An excellent entertaining match. Well done Swindon by breaking your 'duck'.

## SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

### TITLE CAPTURED

Sussex, having captured the Division 2 (South) title by one point from Kent have qualified for the County Championship play-off matches at St. Neots. This time the strength of the opposition will not be under-estimated — special training sessions are being organised.

Sussex juniors have also qualified for the junior play-off matches at Barnet with a side young

enough to probably maintain a side capable of qualifying for challenge matches for the next three seasons.

East Sussex players are to benefit early next season with a new tournament, "closed" to all East Sussex county boundary residents. Cash prizes totalling over £100 will be at stake on Sunday, Sept 18 at the Bexhill Youth Centre, an ideal curtain-raiser to the new campaign. There will be four events only, MS, WS, MD, WD. The sponsors will be the Sussex Express and County Herald, the county newspaper for East Sussex.

Almost predictably, Graham Gillett (Bexhill) and Hazel O'Brien (Crawley) are the new Sussex junior champions. But Graham, now just 15, did not have a completely clean sweep. He found an unexpected amount of opposition from Littlehampton's Peter Pudduck in the semi-final. Pudduck grabbed the first 21-16, but the Bexhill lad changed his game to win the next two with ease.

Hazel had things all her own way. In the easiest-ever girls Sussex final she lashed Diane Phur 21-4, 21-8. Regrettably, with Hazel soon to be a senior, the strength of the Sussex girls is well below the boys.

Stephen Moore, still rising fast in Gillett's shadow was only beaten by Gillett in the final 22-20, 21-17.

On the week-end of March 25/26, Graham Gillett won the men's singles title at the new Hollington tournament. More senior players went down to Gillett, among them Phil Smith, pride of East Grinstead and in the final Crawley's Mike Douglas, 21-14, 21-12.

The Hollington event boasted £200 worth of trophies but due to a late start in the organisation and clashing events the entry was well down to expectations. Better luck next year when hopefully it can be kept clear of other tournaments.

## NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

### "BRIAN RIX" CONDITIONS

'Much Ado About Nothing' and not 'As You Like It' was the unfortunate outcome of the important County Junior match staged at Lings Theatre, Weston Favell, when Staffordshire were the visitors, who came, saw and conquered with an impressive display in 'Brian Rix' conditions. Gary Alden, alone, shone for the home side, who ended a season of promise on a sad note, when Warwickshire's surprising defeat at the hands of Leicestershire, gave Northants a place in the National play-offs, only for three of the Northants' squad to decline an honour, not to be easily gained again in the immediate future.

Northants Seniors also flattered to deceive, when requiring a win to top Div. 2 (East), they also failed against relegation-threatened Bedfordshire, with the men, Rod Marchant, Alden and Steve Lyon making all the running, only for the previously unbeaten Anne Wallis and Connie Bane to fall at the final fence.

However there had to be some local winners at the Wellingborough Tournament, staged yet again at Weavers Sports Hall, one of the few modern buildings to be equipped with what can best be described as artificial darkness.

The introduction of the Mixed event gave a total entry of 340, almost certainly the biggest entry for any tournament held within the Northamptonshire boundary. However the size of entry, combined with the aforesaid Mixed, brought a frown to the brow of organiser David Byron, who was hard pressed to get the finals through to a satisfactory conclusion. Ultimate success says much for his thoroughness and some invaluable help from assistants Arthur Palmer and Mick Morris.

The play itself was yet another triumph for the superb skills of Alden, who took both singles events with consummate ease, after carrying in varying degrees, a series of partners to the doubles titles. Last year Alden established a record with four wins. This year the innovation of the Mixed,

gave him the opportunity to add a fifth, while his partner, that consistent doubles performer Christine Price, was able to register a record sixth Wellingborough Doubles, in the best final of the evening.

As usual the Women's events were dominated by Anne and Mandy Wallis, for after they had combined to take the doubles, they engaged in their customary, almost predictable singles final, with Anne taking the first, Mandy fighting back to level in the second, before Anne's necessary extra determination, gave her a decided advantage and victory in the third.

#### Results:

M.S.: G. Alden bt Phil Snelling 9, 14.  
W.S.: A. Wallis bt M. Wallis 14, -19, 12.  
M.D.: Alden/Graham Feakin bt Brian Dangerfield/Dave Marsh 12, 19.  
W.D.: Wallis/Wallis bt Glennis Hooper/Christine Price 11, 6.  
X.D.: Alden/Price bt John Palmer/A. Wallis 23, -13, 18.  
V.S.: Dennis Millman bt Terry Sutton -17, 15, 12.  
J.S.: Alden bt Keith Nicholl 11, 11.  
J.D.: Alden/Ken Nicoll bt Keith Nicoll/M. Wallis 14, -18, 9.

The Divisional Handicap events from Div. 1 to Div. 7, were won by Romano Gallo, M. Grace, D. Booth, Marge Chambers, C. Evans, Helen Cottier, I. Hawes and K. Towler respectively, with only that of Div. 4 where Marge Chambers got the better of Pankaj Jadeja, requiring a deciding game.

The Corby & District Junior League under the leadership of Dave Pipe, Ian Nicoll and Tom Cardwell continues to thrive, giving a wide range of players the opportunity of taking part, making progress and of winning some well devised competitions.

With top Corby performers Keith and Ken Nicoll ineligible, the recent tournament was extremely open with the seeding committee naming all the right players, mostly in the wrong order, a clear indication of the gathering strength and abilities of the contestants. Rothborough's Selby Chew, seeded No. 6 battled through to the final of the U-17 Singles, where after a close first game with Graham Ball he took a grip on the situation to take the second without being extended, while Adam Parker from the same club, justified his No. 1 Ranking in the U-14 Singles although hard pressed by the fast improving Terry Cardwell.

#### Results:

U-17 Singles: S. Chew bt G. Ball 21, 11.  
U-14 Singles: A. Parker bt T. Cardwell 15, -19, 15.  
Handicap Singles: Neil Robinson (+16) bt Howard Roberts (Scr.) 13, 0.  
Doubles Event: Jon Davy/Cardwell bt Gary Taylor/Paul Algacs 11, 18.

The latest information from the league front indicates that Kettering Town has again won the Kettering Leagues Premier Division, while Rothborough although hard pressed by Compton Nomads should now hold on to the Wellingborough Div. 1 title. However at Northampton, the situation is more open, with Y.M.C.A., thanks to a ten point bonus, looking likely to displace previous holders UTC 'A'.

## SHROPSHIRE NOTES

By Alan Cavell

### TOURNAMENTS

The finalists in the various events of the Telford TFA's Closed tournament were very much as expected. In the finals veteran Albert Hiscock easily beat junior Nigel Thomas, who is Shropshire's No. 2 county player, and county player Heather Flint beat junior Tracey Powell. Both these juniors won junior singles titles and Thomas partnered veteran 'Motto' Jones to take the men's doubles title. Results:—

MS: A. Hiscock bt N. Thomas 10, 16.  
WS: H. Flint bt T. Powell 14, 11.  
MD: M. Jones/Thomas bt C. Beaman/T. Horobin 11, 10.  
BS: Thomas bt R. Phillips 7, 9.

GS: Powell bt J. Siddle 9, 7.

VS: G. Walker bt R. Smith -13, 21, 18.

Nigel Thomas missed Shropshire's Junior Closed by competing in the Welsh Closed. He reached the final of the jnr event, losing to Geoffrey Morgan. The two met in the third round of the men's singles when Thomas reversed the result.

In the Shropshire Junior Closed Tracey Powell was unbeaten. In the various finals she beat Linda Degg in the Cadets, Lyn Williams in the Juniors and combined with Lyn and Malcolm Green to win the girls' and mixed doubles against Jane Cheetham/Pam Nicholson and Mark Pugh/T. Cheetham respectively.

Malcolm Green also retained his junior title, beating Ian Clarke in the final. Last year Green and Clarke won the boys' doubles but this year Breen played with Graham Edwards and lost in the semis to Pugh and Tony Cheetham. In the finals Pugh/Cheetham beat I. Clarke/Hugh Dalton. Tony Cheetham won the boys' cadet title with runner-up Paul Morgan.

Green, Thomas, Pugh and Edwards from Meole Brace Modern School, Shrewsbury, gave Shropshire its first national title by winning the Boys' U-16 team event of the E.S.T.T.A. The county junior team has had its best ever season and has been unbeaten.

Stanley Parr (Warwickshire) is Alan Cavell's successor as the representative for table tennis on the Executive Committee of the West Midlands Standing Conference of Sports Organisations.

## STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

### PLEASANT SURPRISE

The happenings in Staffordshire rather fall into insignificance compared with the goings on in our neighbouring County at the N.E.C. A kind colleague of mine asked me, "If that's table tennis we've been watching on television, what is it that you play every Wednesday evening?" A little unfair perhaps, but I think he would have been pleasantly surprised if he had been at the County Closed this year. It boasted a sparkling men's final, a triple win by a charming young lady and an outstanding performance by a rising young star.

But first may I offer congratulations on behalf of all my colleagues in Staffordshire who were fortunate enough to visit the N.E.C. to the E.T.T.A. for the fine organisation and presentation of the World Championships. We can be justifiably proud of what they have done for table tennis in the U.K. It gave us all a chance to meet old friends and to feel part of the international fraternity which table tennis so readily generates.

Back to the County Tournament. Tony Isaac reversed the result of last year's men's final by beating Steve Rowe in an exciting climax to a long day. In bouts of all-out hitting, the energetic, deeper game of Isaac was in contrast to Rowe's economic half-volley style, and the closeness of the score throughout made up for the unforced errors which tended to mar the second set. Isaac won 19, 18. Janet Carr took the women's singles with an easy win over the fast-improving Joanne Chubb, 7, 9, and then proceeded to add the women's and mixed doubles titles to her tally. Her task was made easier by the absence of the County No. 1, Stephanie Jones, but Janet was a worthy and deserving winner to follow in the footsteps of Dot Deeley, last year's champion who has retired from tournament play.

The star of the day, however, was surely Andrew Bellingham. This young man who is still eligible for the Under-15's not only took this title but proceeded to win the Junior and Intermediate titles with considerable ease, leaving the question unanswered as to what would have happened had he entered the Senior event. This fine performance justifies his ranking as No. 1 junior in the County and confirms that the County junior strength is no longer limited to just the girls.

### Results:

M.S.: Isaac bt Rowe 19, 18.  
W.S.: J. Carr bt J. Chubb 7, 9.  
M.D.: Rowe/Isaac bt T. Burrows/P. Steele -17, 15, 4.  
W.D.: Carr/Chubb bt S. Cain/S. Watton 19, 15.  
X.D.: Carr/S. Dunning bt Chubb/Isaac -18, 14, 15.  
I.S.: Bellingham bt Burrows 15, 18.  
B.S.: Bellingham bt P. Draisey 19, -18, 12.  
G.S.: Watton bt Cain 17, 14.  
J.D.: M. Evans/E. Wilkes bt A. Rich/Draisey -11, 20, 20.  
U-15 B.S.: Bellingham bt Andrew Dixon 8, 8.  
U-15 G.S.: Jill Harris bt Cain 16, 13.  
V.S.: Brian Tatton bt John Cain 12, 20.

Despite dropping points mid-season, the Staffs. Junior 'A' side have realised their hopes of topping the Midland section of Div 2 and go forward to the play-offs at Barnet, which will have been played by the time this goes into print. Our congratulations to the team, their non-playing captain, Wilf Hadley, and to the coaches, particularly Jim Hayward, who are mainly responsible for raising the strength of junior play in the County, and we wish them well in their efforts to gain a place in the Premier Division.

In the Potteries Closed, Isaac took the Finney Cup in the men's final, beating Eddie Wilkes who came through from an unseeded position. Wilkes won the junior title from Mark Evans, and in the women's final, Mrs. P. Brookes beat Miss E. Parry to win the Baker Cup. Other winners were Trevor Burrows and Paul Steele (M.D.), Mrs. Brookes and Miss Parry (W.D.), Burrows and Miss K. Wass (mixed) and R. Booth (veterans). The Stafford Closed men's title was again won by John Taylor, who, with Barry Donnelly, also retained the doubles trophy. David Wright was in winning mood, taking the intermediate, handicap and consolation events.

## DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Anne Fearnhaugh

### NO BREAD FOR JUNIORS

In the last County match of the season, the 1st team played Cheshire 2nds away. The match resulted in a 5-all draw with David Yallop and Neil Marples beating Derek Schofield, and with the women winning their three as usual!

The County 2nd team played Lancashire 2nds. Martin Kinsella won one and the men won the doubles, but this wasn't enough and they lost 2-8. Jane Griffin played very well on her first County appearance.

The Junior team have had a good season and finished in such a position that they could have gone to the play-offs. But due to financial difficulties they had to decline.

In the 1st division of the Chesterfield league, Y.M.C.A. 'A', (D. Raynor, M. Kinsella and I. Warner), came through victors in this strong league. Sheepbridge 'A' were runners-up.

In the 1st division of the Derby League, St. Andrew's 1st (D. Yallop, S. Yallop, M. Jenkins and P. Vickers) were the winners for the 3rd year running.

## Merton Junior Open

Originally scheduled for April 17 the Merton Junior Open will now take place on Sunday, May 8/77. Forms can be had from Miss Julie Hudson, the Tournament Organiser, at 130 Gore Road, New Mil'on, Hants. The venue is the Merton Table Tennis Club, St. James Institute, Stourfield Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth.

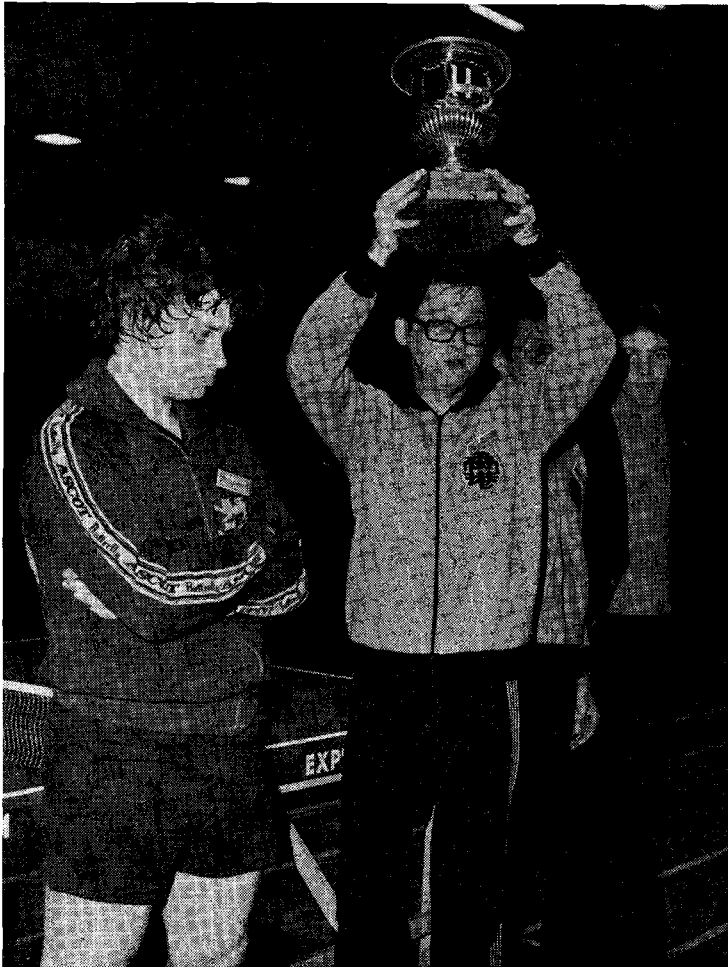
## Cotswold 2-star Junior

In the March edition the U-17 G.S. winner was stated as B. Keeble (Wilts) whereas Eleanor Hughes was the winner and B. Keeble the runner-up. It was Eleanor's first Open tournament win and also the first by an Oxfordshire Junior for many years.

# 4th Commonwealth Championships

## NEW TERRITORIES FOR HONG KONG

by George R. Yates



Men's singles winner Li Kuang-tsu of Hong Kong holds aloft the trophy with England's dejected looking runner-up, Andy Barden.

'Photo by Camera Centre, Guernsey.



Ken Wilkinson, Hon. Life Member of the New Zealand TTA and now professional secretary, presents the women's team medals to Hong Kong.

'Photo by Camera Centre, Guernsey

Unlike previous occasions in Singapore, Cardiff and Melbourne, when England swamped the proceedings, it was **Hong Kong** who dominated the 4th Commonwealth Championships played at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, St. Peter Port, Guernsey over the period March 16-23 winning six of the seven titles at stake and, for good measure taking the men's consolation singles as well.

England, although not represented by their best players, managed the other main title, namely the women's doubles, won by Melody Ludi and Karen Witt, the Berkshire lass also winning the women's consolation singles beating Elaine Smith of Scotland in the final.

But the player of the Championships was undoubtedly the men's singles winner **Li Kuang Tsu** of Hong Kong who, in the men's team event, was the only player to finish with an unblemished record.

England's Andy Barden, runner-up in the singles, suffered but one reverse in the team contest and that to Li Kuang Tsu whose use of differing rubbers and constant twisting of his bat baffled all and sundry.

In both team events England finished in second

place and might well have finished first in the female category but for surrendering a 2-1 lead established over Hong Kong.

Not so the men who were well beaten 5-2 by Hong Kong in their final first stage match in which Barden and Jimmy Walker claimed the successes both at the expense of Chen Scheng Shien, the latter taking his revenge by eliminating Walker in the second round of the men's singles.

Walker, who lost his other two sets in the Hong Kong encounter was also beaten by Stephen Knapp of Australia who finished in third position.

Of note in the women's team matches was the impressive form of Melody Ludi and Karen Witt as a doubles pair their only loss in seven sets being to Leow Hock Moi and Tan Kek Hiang of Singapore, -17 in the third.

Neither John Hilton nor Donald Parker advanced their stock in the team events but the Cheshire man came good in the individuals only losing to Barden, -15 in the fifth, in the semis of the men's singles, Parker going out to Knapp in the quarters.

John Kitchener, who played only in the indi-

viduals, also got through to the quarters at which stage he let slip a 2-0 lead over Errol Caetano of Canada.

In the counterpart women's event Karen Rogers and Angela Mitchell reached the quarters, the former losing to Siu Kit Man of Hong Kong and the latter to Rupa Banerjee, formerly of India and now of Canada.

**Chang Siu Ying** was the winner with a final victory over her compatriot Siu Kit Man. Barden and Hilton had a tremendous win over Cheng Ke Yick and Li Kuang Tsu of Hong Kong in the quarters of the men's doubles but disappointed in losing to Paul Pinkewich and Robert Tuckett of Australia in the semis. The event was won by **Chen Sheng Shien** and **Wong Iu Veng**.

**Melody** and **Karen Witt** had run-in wins over Irena Cordas/Marianne Domonkos (Canada) and Indu Puri and Shailaja Salokhe (India) prior to beating Banerjee and Violette Nesukaitis (Canada) in the final of the women's doubles.

In the mixed Andy and Melody advanced to the final only to be beaten by **Li Kuang Tsu** and **Siu Kit Man** in straight games.

President Horace Mellett and the Guernsey Association are to be congratulated on their

handling of this major event which was not without its share of troubles mainly incurred by the boycott effected by the African nations in protest at the involvement of New Zealand.

But leaving such matters aside the customary friendliness of these championships was again very much in evidence and all who visited this hospitable island can only cherish fond memories despite the inclement weather.

Not even the Referee, John Cole, could control that although he managed to control everything else within the splendid playing hall, It was good to return to Guernsey and even better to meet old friends, not only from the isle itself but from the far flung corners of the Commonwealth. That was what it was all about.

#### 4th COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS — RESULTS (INDIVIDUAL)

##### Men's Singles: Round 4:

J. Hilton (ENG) bt E. Ma (CAN) 14, 18, 18;  
Cheng Ke Yick (HKG) bt G. Lassen (NEZ) 13, 16, 14;  
R. Yule (SCO) bt G. Davies (WAL) 17, -19, 15, 17;  
A. Barden (ENG) bt P. Pinkewich (AUL) 14, 12, 18;  
S. Knapp (AUL) bt D. Parker (ENG) 15, 13, -20, -21, 12;  
Li Kuang Tsu (HKG) bt R. Tuckett (AUL) 7, 7, 20;  
Chen Scheng Shien (HKG) bt Tan Ten Siong (SIN) 9, 7, 14;  
E. Caetano (CAN) bt J. Kitchener (ENG) -18, -19, 23, 10, 12.

##### Quarter-finals:

Hilton bt Cheng Ke Yick 11, -15, 23, 13;  
Barden bt Yule 15, 14, 10;  
Li Kuang Tsu bt Knapp 16, 19, 8;  
Chen Scheng Shien bt Caetano -16, -12, 19, 8, 20.

##### Semi-finals:

Barden bt Hilton 17, -14, -12, 9, 15;  
Li Kuang Tsu bt Chen Scheng Shien 16, 14, 17.

##### Final:

LI KUANG TSU bt Barden 14, 15, -19, -12, 16.

##### Women's Singles: Round 3:

S. Salokhe (IND) bt H. Morrow (AUL) 19, 6, 6;  
M. Domonkos (CAN) bt G. McKay (SCO) 19, -19, 10, 14;  
Siu Kit Man (HKG) bt A. Middleton (AUL) 11, 8, 12;  
K. Rogers (ENG) bt S. Hunt (ENG) 16, 19, 10;  
Chang Siu Ying (HKG) bt I. Cordas (CAN) 10, 18, 13;  
K. Senior (IRE) bt M. Ludi (ENG) 14, 21, 13;  
A. Mitchell (CAN) bt K. Thompson (AUL) 14, 4, 14;  
R. Banerjee (ENG) bt A. Stevenson (ENG) 16, -21, 9, -14, 11.

##### Quarter-finals:

Salokhe bt Domonkos -20, 6, -17, 15, 12;  
Siu Kit Man bt Rogers 10, -16, 17, -25, 17;  
Chang Siu Ying bt Senior 12, 15, 18;  
Banerjee bt Mitchell 8, 17, 19.

##### Semi-finals:

Siu Kit Man bt Salokhe 12, 11, -18, 18;  
Chang Siu Ying bt Banerjee 19, 20, -16, 15.

##### Final:

CHANG SIU YING bt Siu Kit Man 18, 14, 19.

##### Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Barden/Hilton bt Cheng Ke Yick/Li Kuang Tsu 17, 11, -17, -8, 16;  
Pinkewich/Tuckett bt A. Matthew (SCO)/Yule -7, 14, 13, 15;

Chen Scheng Shien/Wong Iu Veng (HKG) bt Parker/J. Walker (ENG) 11, 14, 11;  
Caetano/A. Poloisois (CAN) bt R. Javos (AUL)/Knapp 18, -15, 20, 11.

##### Semi-finals:

Pinkewich/Tuckett bt Barden/Hilton 15, 17, 20;  
Chen Scheng Shien/Wong Iu Veng bt Caetano/Poloisois 23, 17, 18.

##### Final:

CHEN SCHENG SHIEN/WONG IU VENG bt Pinkewich/Tuckett 15, 9, 14.

##### Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

I. Puri (IND)/Salokhe bt Hunt/Mitchell 14, -20, 18, 13;  
Ludi/K. Witt (ENG) bt Cordas/Domonkos 18, 12, 16;  
Morrow/V. Woodward (AUL) bt E. Cash (IRE)/Senior 8, 6, 19;

##### Semi-finals:

Banerjee/V. Nesukaitis (CAN) bt Chang Siu Ying/Siu Kit Man 19, 17, -13, 12.

##### Final:

LU DI/WITT bt Banerjee/Nesukaitis 15, 23, -14, 14.

##### Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Hilton/Rogers bt Ma/Cordas 17, 21, -15, 18;  
Li Kuang Tsu/Siu Kit Man bt Parker/Witt 10, 11, 12;  
Barden/Ludi bt R. Wiley (ENG)/Stevenson 17, 15, 13;  
Wong Iu Veng/Chang Siu Ying bt Caetano/Domonkos -19, 19, 19, 17.

##### Semi-finals:

Li Kuang Tsu/Siu Kit Man bt Hilton/Rogers 10, -14, 11, 19;  
Barden/Ludi bt Wong Iu Veng/Chang Siu Ying 16, -19, 18, 15.

##### Final:

LI KUANG TSU/SIU KIT MAN bt Barden/Ludi 10, 8, 17.

##### Men's Consolation Singles: Quarter-finals:

J. Morris (NEZ) bt A. McCulloch (SCO) 16, 18;  
N. Ward (AUL) bt T. Heasley (IRE) 9, 18;  
Wong Iu Veng bt Soon Min Sin (SIN) 8, 7;  
E. Williams (JAM) bt L. Skeate (AUL) -12, 19, 18.

##### Semi-finals:

Morris bt Ward 14, 19;  
Wong Iu Veng bt Williams 16, 17.

##### Final:

WONG IU VENG bt Morris 15, -16, 15.

##### Women's Consolation Singles: Quarter-finals:

E. Smith (SCO) bt N. Abdool (TRI) 10, 11;  
E. Cash (IRE) bt Lau Huay Lan (SIN) 17, 17;  
A. Brackenridge (NEZ) bt Puri -21, 16, 21;  
Witt bt J. Morris (NEZ) 5, 17.

##### Semi-finals:

Smith bt Cash 9, 17;  
Witt bt Brackenridge 20, 8.

##### Final:

WITT bt Smith 10, 10.

#### 4th COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS — RESULTS (TEAM)

##### Men's Team Event

##### Stage 1 — Table

GROUP A	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	6	6	0	30	2	12
ENGLAND	6	5	1	27	6	10
New Zealand	6	4	2	21	10	8
Trinidad & Tobago	6	2	4	10	21	4
Singapore	6	2	4	14	24	4
IRELAND	6	1	5	8	25	2
Barbados	6	0	6	3	25	0

##### English results:—

##### v. Ireland (5-0)

J. Hilton bt A. Cairns 13, -19, 19;  
D. Parker bt D. Weir 8, 12;  
A. Barden bt J. Cash 6, 14;  
Hilton bt Weir 16, 11;  
Barden bt Cairns 10, 9.

##### v. New Zealand (5-1)

Barden bt R. Lee 12, 19;  
Hilton lost to J. Morris -15, 12, -9;  
J. Walker bt R. Blair 11, 9;  
Barden bt Morris 14, 17;  
Walker bt Lee -20, 17, 11;  
Hilton bt Blair 12, 17.

##### v. Singapore (5-0)

Parker bt Soon Min Sin 16, 17;  
Barden bt Chia Chong Boon 10, 8;  
Walker bt Tan Kai Kok 13, 6;  
Parker bt Chia Chong Boon 14, 20;  
Walker bt Soon Min Sin 13, 18.

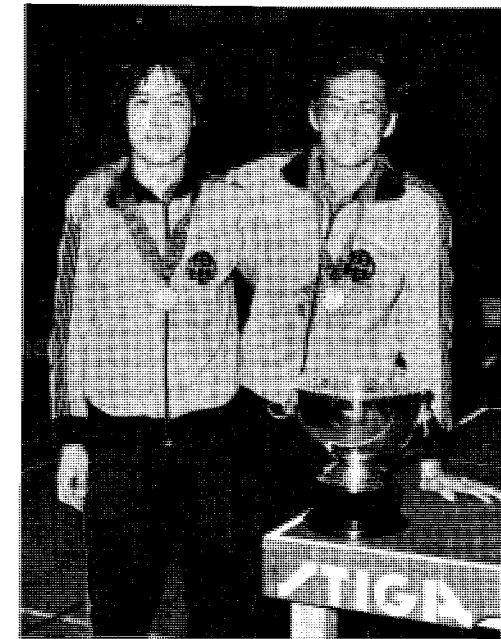
##### v. Trinidad & Tobago (5-0)

Walker bt H. Bridgeman 8, 7;  
Barden bt S. Wade 15, 11;  
Hilton bt L. Darceuil 5, -18, 15;  
Walker bt Wade 11, 8;  
Hilton bt Bridgeman 16, 8.

##### v. Hong Kong (2-5)

Parker lost to Wong Iu Veng -17, -21;  
Walker bt Chen Scheng Shien -16, 22, 18;  
Barden lost to Li Kuang Tsu -12, -4;  
Walker lost to Wong Iu Veng -13, 19, -18;  
Parker lost to Li Kuang Tsu -12, -12;  
Barden bt Chen Scheng Shien -14, 18, 16;  
Walker lost to Li Kuang Tsu -17, -17.

##### v. Barbados (5-0) walk-over



Mixed doubles winners, also from Hong Kong, Wong Iu Veng (left) and Chen Scheng Shien.

'Photo by Camera Centre, Guernsey.

##### GROUP B

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	5	5	0	25	3	10
Canada	5	4	1	22	11	8
WALES	5	3	2	20	13	6
SCOTLAND	5	2	3	15	17	4
GUERNSEY	5	1	4	6	23	2
JERSEY	5	0	5	4	25	0

##### Stage 2

HONG KONG 5, Canada 2  
Chen Scheng Shien bt P. Joe 5, 16;  
Li Kuang Tsu bt A. Heap 9, 3;  
Wong Iu Veng bt E. Caetano -13, 8, 19;  
Li Kuang Tsu bt Joe 8, 18;  
Chen Scheng Shien bt Caetano -15, 12, 16.

##### England 5, Australia 3

Parker lost to S. Knapp 19, -17, -11;  
Walker bt R. Tuckett -20, 14, 20;  
Barden bt P. Pinkewich 17, 9;  
Walker lost to Knapp -10, -22;  
Parker lost to Pinkewich -23, -19;  
Barden bt Tuckett 13, 16;  
Walker bt Pinkewich 15, 16;  
Barden bt Knapp 18, 15.

##### New Zealand 5, Scotland 1

Wales 5, Trinidad 0  
Ireland 5, Guernsey 0  
Singapore 5, Jersey 1

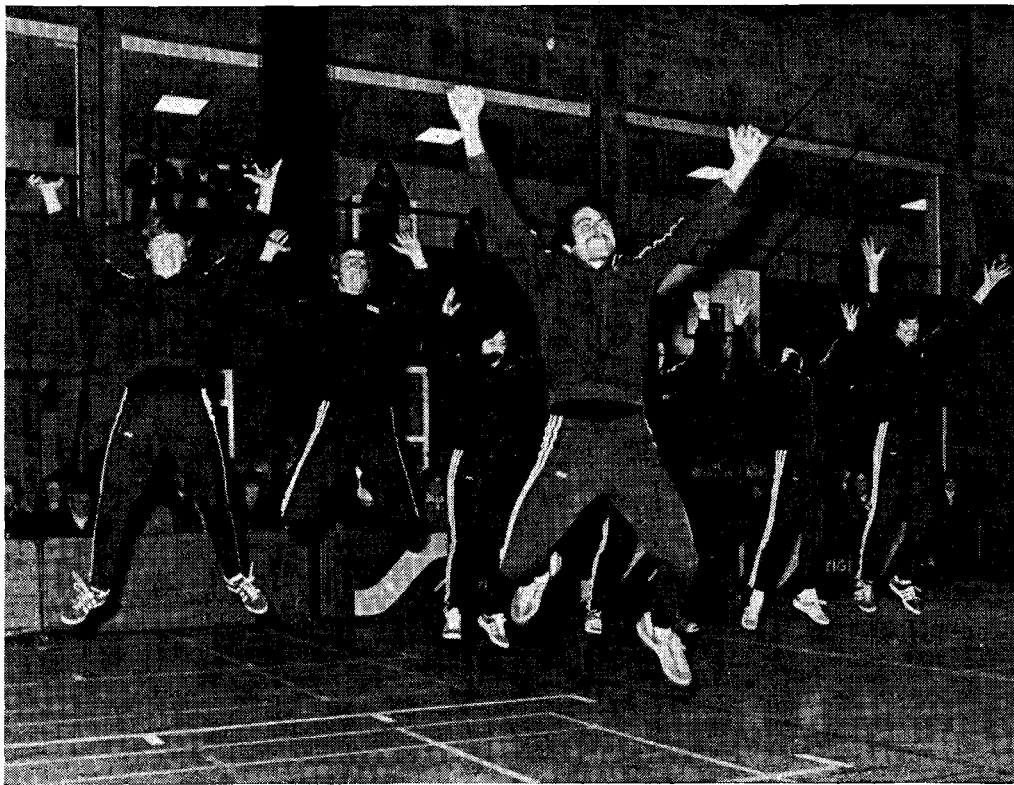
##### HONG KONG 5, Australia 1

Wong Iu Veng bt Knapp 13, 17;  
Chen Scheng Shien bt Tuckett 15, 18;  
Li Kuang Tsu bt Pinkewich 16, 16;  
Wong Iu Veng lost to Tuckett -17, -15;  
Li Kuang Tsu bt Knapp 11, 8;



Sir John Loveridge, KT, C.B.E., The Bailiff of Guernsey, opens the proceedings at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre.

Photo by John Brenton.



A moment that speaks for itself. These New Zealanders captured the essence of an international sporting event when they performed an old Maori dance at the Opening Ceremony.

'Photo by John Brenton by courtesy of Guernsey Evening Press.

Singapore 3, Wales 0  
 Trinidad 3, Guernsey 0  
 New Zealand 3, Scotland 0  
 Australia 3, Ireland 1  
**HONG KONG 3, Canada 0**  
 Chang Siu Ying bt Banerjee 15, -12, 12;  
 Siu Kit Man bt Domonkos 13, 17;  
 Chang/Siu bt Banerjee/V. Nesukaitis -19, 10, 14.  
**England 3, India 0**  
 Witt bt Puri 12, -16, 13;  
 Ludi bt Salokhe 18, 18;  
 Ludi/Witt bt Salokhe/U. Sunderraj 11, 22.  
 Australia 3, New Zealand 2  
 Scotland 3, Ireland 2  
 Singapore 3, Guernsey 1  
 Trinidad 3, Wales 0

**Finishing Positions**

1. HONG KONG (—)
2. England (1)
3. Canada (3)
4. India (2)
5. Australia (5)
6. New Zealand (7)
7. Scotland (—)
8. Ireland (—)
9. Singapore (4)
10. Trinidad & Tobago (—)
11. Guernsey (—)
12. Wales (—)

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**ALSO UNDEFEATED**

I have recently moved to Essex from Yorkshire, but before I moved I played 3 matches for Harrogate Juniors in the Yorkshire Junior Division 2. In these matches I won all six of my singles which were against Wakefield I, and Barnsley (1st and 2nd respectively in this division) and Leeds IV.

As in these matches each player only plays 2 singles, it happened that Trevor Watson was the only player I didn't play when Harrogate played Wakefield I, but I won both my other singles. Also, Neil Edgecock wasn't playing the day we played Leeds IV.

However, in the March edition of TT NEWS it says that only Neil Edgecock and Trevor Watson are undefeated in Yorkshire Junior Division 2 when I was also undefeated.

Gregory Clement

14 Dalewood Avenue,  
 Emerson Park,  
 Hornchurch, Essex,  
 RM1 3PJ

Chen Scheng Shien bt Pinkewich 15, 16.  
**England 5, Canada 2**  
 Bardea bt E. Ma 15, -20, 18;  
 Hilton lost to Caetano -20, -17;  
 Walker bt Joe 10, -12, 14;  
 Barden bt Caetano -18, 11, 11;  
 Walker bt Ma 18, 15;  
 Hilton lost to Joe -17, -18;  
 Walker bt Caetano 11, 12.  
 New Zealand 5, Wales 4  
 Scotland 5, Trinidad 0  
 Singapore 5, Guernsey 0  
 Ireland 5, Jersey 1

**Finishing Positions**

(Previous positions in brackets)  
 (at Melbourne)

1. HONG KONG (—)
2. England (1)
3. Australia (2)
4. Canada (5)
5. New Zealand (7)
6. Wales (—)
7. Scotland (—)
8. Trinidad & Tobago (—)
9. Singapore (6)
10. Ireland (—)
11. Guernsey (—)
12. Jersey (—)
13. Barbados (—)

**Women's Team Event**

**Stage 1 — Table**

GROUP A	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	5	5	0	15	2	10
ENGLAND	5	4	1	14	6	8
New Zealand	5	3	2	9	9	6
IRELAND	5	2	3	10	11	4
Singapore	5	1	4	7	12	2
Trinidad & Tobago	5	0	5	0	15	0

**English results:—**

v. New Zealand (3-0)  
 K. Rogers bt A. Stonestreet 17, 12;  
 M. Ludi bt J. Morris 9, 8;  
 Ludi/K. Witt bt A. Brackenridge/Stonestreet -10, 24, 21.

v. Trinidad & Tobago (3-0)  
 Witt bt E. Bhajan 7, 9;  
 Rogers bt J. Daniel 4, 13;  
 Ludi/Witt bt Bhajan/Daniel 8, 6.

v. Ireland (3-2)  
 Ludi bt E. Cash 10, 12;  
 Rogers lost to K. Senior -11, -4;  
 Ludi/Witt bt Cash/Senior 18, 8;  
 Ludi lost to Senior 18, -16, -10;  
 Rogers bt Cash 9, 15.

v. Hong Kong (2-3)  
 Witt bt Chang Siu Ying 11, 10;  
 Ludi lost to Siu Kit Man -16, -17;  
 Ludi/Witt bt Chang/Siu -15, 16, 18;  
 Ludi lost to Chang Siu Ying -10, -13;  
 Witt lost to Siu Kit Man -17, -15.

v. Singapore (3-1)  
 Witt bt Tan Kek Hiang 6, 14;

Rogers bt Lau Huay Lan 12, 12;  
 Ludi/Witt lost to Leow Hock Moi/Tan -17, 8, -17;  
 Rogers bt Tan Kek Hiang 17, 19.

**GROUP B**

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Canada	5	5	0	15	3	10
India	5	4	1	13	4	8
Australia	5	3	2	10	7	6
SCOTLAND	5	2	3	9	9	4
GUERNSEY	5	1	4	3	13	2
WALES	5	0	5	1	15	0

**Stage 2**

**HONG KONG 3, India 1**  
 Chang Siu Ying bt I. Puri 19, 20;  
 Siu Kit Man bt S. Salokhe 13, 6;  
 Chang/Siu lost to Puri/Salokhe 2, -15, -17;  
 Chang Siu Ying bt Salokhe 12, 15.

**England 3, Canada 2**  
 Witt bt I. Cordas 19, 25;  
 Ludi lost to R. Banerjee -16, 16, -15;  
 Ludi/Witt bt Cordas/M. Domonkos -16, 18, 13;  
 Witt lost to Banerjee -15, -13;  
 Ludi bt Cordas -9, 13, 17.

**ENGLISH PLAYING RECORDS**

MEN:		J. Hillton		J. Walker		A. Barden		D. Parker		F. A.		Opponents	
		2-0				2-0				5	0		Ireland
		1-1		2-0		2-0				5	1		New Zealand
				2-0		1-0		2-0		5	0		Singapore
		2-0		2-0		1-0				5	0		Trinidad & T.
				1-2		1-1		0-2		2	5		Hong Kong
				2-1		3-0		0-2		5	3		Australia
		0-2		3-0		2-0				5	2		Canada
		5-3		12-3		12-1		3-4		32	11		
WOMEN:		K. Rogers		K. Witt		M. Ludi		Ludi/Witt		F. A.		Opponents	
		1-0				1-0				3	0		New Zealand
		1-0		1-0						3	0		Trinidad & T.
		1-1				1-1		1-0		3	2		Ireland
		2-0		1-1		0-2		1-0		2	3		Hong Kong
				1-0				0-1		3	1		Singapore
				1-1		1-1		1-0		3	2		Canada
				1-0		1-0		1-0		3	0		India
		5-1		5-2		4-4		6-1		20	8		

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# East of England 2-Star Open

## TOP SEED OUSTED

by Joan Robinson

The East of England Championships were again held at High Ridge Sports Hall, Scunthorpe sponsored by Scunthorpe Borough Council.

No 1 seed in the Men's Singles was Chris Sewell, but he departed in the quarters at the hands of 'evergreen' Derek Schofield. But success was short lived as Alan Fletcher accounted for him in the semi-final. The other men's semi saw Nigel Eckersley account for Phil Bowen and then win the final.

The Women's Singles lost its top seed Suzanne Hunt without a ball being struck, when she was unable to get from a tournament the previous day in time for the event. The semi-finalists were Linda Holmes, who beat Cheryl Buttery, and Jean White whose defence was too much for Linda Hryszko. The final saw Linda play Jean at her own game and win a dour struggle.

The Men's Doubles furthered the Eckersley bank balance when he partnered his singles opponent Fletcher to see off Juniors Kevin Beadsley and Mike Harrison.

Linda Hryszko took command of the remaining women's events with a hat trick, beating Women's Champion Linda Holmes in the Girls' Singles, and partnered by Miss Shields and Beadsley, won the Women's and Mixed Doubles.

The Boys' Singles produced the shocks with both top seeds being beaten before the final. Mark Hankey had a well-deserved win over Beadsley in Rd. 4, before he came unstuck against the eventual winner Stephen Cowley, whose opponent in the final was Glen Stredder who reached the final at the expense of Harrison and Steven Mills, both England-ranked Juniors.

The Veterans' Singles witnessed the defeat of the holder Peter D'Arcy by his arch rival Schofield after he had accounted for Lincolnshire's top veterans Peter Skerratt and Matt Shearer respectively.

Prize Money for the Tournament was donated by one of Lincolnshire's Vice-Presidents, Mr. R. F. Butlin, and the President Mr. A. J. Biggadike, whose assistance is greatly appreciated. Over 300 sets were played in nearly 12 hours and we hope all taking part enjoyed themselves as much as the Organisers enjoyed staging the Tournament.

### RESULTS:

#### Men's Singles:

Quarter-finals:—

D. Schofield (Ch) bt C. Sewell (Av) 17, 19.  
A. Fletcher (Y) bt S. Morley (Li) 11, 15.  
P. Bowen (La) bt K. Beadsley (Y) 15, -15, 9.  
N. A. S. Eckersley (Ch) bt R. McFarlane (Ch) 14, 12.

Semi-finals:—

Fletcher bt Schofield 18, 15.  
Eckersley bt Bowen 12, 18.

Final:—

ECKERSLEY bt Fletcher 27, 16.

#### Men's Doubles:

Semi-finals:—

Eckersley/Fletcher bt P. D'Arcy (Ch)/Bowen -8, 10, 8.

Beadsley/M. Harrison (Y) bt A. Summerscales/S. Mills (Y) 15, 14.

Final:

ECKERSLEY/FLETCHER bt Beadsley/Harrison 10, 19.

#### Women's Singles:

Semi-finals:—

L. Holmes (Dy) bt C. Buttery (Li) 14, 17.  
J. White (Li) bt L. Hryszko (Y) 19, -17, 16.

Final:

HOLMES bt White 14, 15.

#### Women's Doubles:

Semi-finals:—

White/G. Stocks (Ng) bt Buttery/A. Gunthorpe (Li) 5, 18.

Hryszko/H. Shields (Y) bt S. Hunt (Li)/Holmes 6, 14.

Final:

HRYSZKO/SHIELDS bt Stocks/White

#### Mixed Doubles:

Semi-finals:—

Fletcher/G. Galloway (Li) bt Harrison/Hunt 18, 12.

Beadsley/Hryszko bt Eckersley/White -18, 13, 19.

Final:—

BEADSLEY/HRYSZKO bt Fletcher/Galloway 16, 18.

#### Boys' Singles:

Semi-finals:

S. Cowley (La) bt M. Hankey (Ch) 18, 16.  
G. Stredder (Ng) bt Mills 17, 19.

Final:—

COWLEY bt Stredder 20, 14.

#### Girls' Singles:

Semi-finals:

Holmes bt J. Griffin (Dy) 11, -17, 9.  
Hryszko bt Buttery 14, 17.

Final:—

HRYSZKO bt Holmes 17, -18, 13.

#### Veterans' Singles:

Semi-finals:—

D'Arcy bt P. Skerratt (Li) 12, 14.  
Schofield bt M. Shearer (Li) 18, 18.

Final:—

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy -17, 18, 13.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### "SOOR GRAPES" AND SWEDISH RHAPSODY

As the dust settles on the 1977 World Table Tennis Championships, the sport steps out of the limelight once more to take a back-seat to the likes of football, golf and rugby. Now, only the memories remain; memories not of mere 'ping pong', but of a new dimension to table tennis brought by the world's greatest players to our doorsteps. Yet, for me, an avid sports spectator extraordinaire, more than the memories survive. Unpatriotic as it sounds, whatever happened to the British stiff upper lip and "jolly good show" sportsman-like comments? The tournament was

marred by the "sour grapes" remarks made by Denis Neale and, if his younger compatriots felt the same, then at least they kept their mouths shut about it. Neale attributed the phenomenal success of the inscrutable Chinese superstars to the controversial use of the two-rubbered bats (or whatever they are technically known as). Frankly, I was quite disgusted at the display of Denis Neale and Desmond Douglas in their quarter-finals match of the doubles event against two Chinese opponents. They played very indifferently—almost as if they wanted to lose—with the excuse that they could not control the "illegal" Chinese spin serves. It seems strange, therefore, that Stellan Bengtsson and Kjell Johansson should cope more ably—albeit not successfully—against Chinese opposition in the semi-finals of that event. I firmly believe in credit where credit is due, and I am sure that if players used shovels with which to hit the ball, the Chinese would still come out on top. Anyway, Istvan Jonyer supposedly uses a "special rubber" to execute his incredible forehand loop—so, why did not he receive any criticism, and why did he fail so badly in the singles' event if his bat was such a deadly weapon?

No—I would suggest that the Asian success is based on social factors. China and Japan have populations of eight hundred million, and one hundred and ten million respectively, and Sweden, the most successful European team, has a tiny population of eight million. In fact, there are more table tennis players in China than people in Sweden. Obviously there are other factors involved (otherwise America ought to be a strong table-tennis nation). Table-tennis is China's national sport and, of course, the age and argument applies yet again, that is, the British do not, and never will have, such a professional approach to any sport as do many of their counterparts. Does this mean Britain are doomed to failure even before a ball is hit in the game? Of course not—the Swedes proved by their tenacity that grit, determination as well as faith, can move mountains.

To end on a lighter note, I must confess that much as I appreciate the serious aspects of the game, I am, after all, only a vulnerable female—and one of my weaknesses is Stellan Bengtsson!

Linda Young (Miss)

9 Wansdyke,  
Lancaster Park,  
Morpeth,  
Northumberland.

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# As I saw Birmingham

by JOHN WOODFORD

★ BIRMINGHAM 1977 was my third world championships. It will remain never forgotten in my memory box as eleven days in a zeppelin hangar! My previous world's were at Munich and Sarajevo where both venues were existing stadiums. However, my view of the whole thing in general was that it was a success. [Those magnificent moments when the new world champion is acclaimed must bring a lump in the throats of many present. Those magic moments I would travel a long way to see — now some of the other countries can have the worry, England's share is over, mercifully, for perhaps a generation.

★ Most of the complaints from the paying spectators concerned the high price of the food at the N.E.C. restaurants, although most had been warned. No doubt, the N.E.C. organisation can defend their prices — many of the events staged there are trade exhibitions with most people on firm's expenses. The distance the staff have to travel is another factor; the cost of constructing such an enormous complex of exhibition halls can only be staggering. I would think if the N.E.C. food prices were frozen for a year from now it would become more reasonable.

★ Anything now seems possible for Carole Knight now she has taken the world champion as far as 21-18 in the fifth. See how most of the Asians dislike heavy loop — Jonyer's successes in the team events and then Surbek's fine run in the men's singles. Pat Yung Sun clearly had much trouble with Carole's loop. The reason for this is that apart from occasional international matches between Asians and Europeans, the Asians only come up against Jonyer-Surbek styles once every two years.

★ I doubt if there ever has been, or ever will, be a world event where all the facilities and playing conditions will suit everybody. The floor at the N.E.C. was of the non-slip variety but it was certainly tiring and very hard on the feet. The lighting in the No. 2 arena was, in my view, extremely poor. I am informed the photographer's meter reading was 88 lux, as against a requirement at least for cameras of 400. But apparently, there were few complaints from the players on that issue.

★ There is no doubt that England's army of administrators did a tremendous job and so did the army of umpires. There are still some people who did not know the reason why John Masters and Jack Melnick took stern action in the men's and women's finals — the reason was, of course, that the ball was shielded by the body on the serve. Full marks for courageous action, which might not have been taken by umpires from other countries. It would be unfair to single out bouquets for officials, except that there were two men who lost their voices in the first 48 hours — Geoff Daniels and John Heritage, two men whose services to the sport at English tournaments is always well beyond the call of duty.

★ FINALLY, the spirit of friendship shown throughout at Birmingham by all concerned was exceptionally good. One or two tempers became frayed, but that was inevitable. Mike Lawless's job at the event looked relatively easy, but then he had, I am sure, put in thousands of hours work in the last 18 months, and that is how it should be. Ending on a personal note, I managed to bury two hatchets — former enemies acquired from my battles in my CONTROVERSY column. [This shows that personal contacts reap more rewards than duels with pens and typewriters. Two new friends made out of enemies and then watching the tears of emotion flow from Mitsuru Kohno at the Press interview fifteen minutes after the crowning, made it for me, all worthwhile.

## MIDDLESBROUGH CHAMPIONSHIPS

by ALAN RANSOME

Jimmy Walker was the surprise winner of the Middlesbrough Championships played at Brookside School, Middlesbrough, on 17th April, beating Denis Neale in the final.

For the second successive year the Championships were sponsored by Middlesbrough Council's Recreation and Amenities Committee and were divided into two groups, the Open section, which was for players from all parts of Cleveland, and Closed section which was restricted to members of the Middlesbrough and District League.

In the final Walker took the opening game comfortably with Neale not quite looking his normal self. The second game followed suit with Walker leading 14-7 when Neale suddenly recovered with 10 successive points, only for Walker to come back in the latter stages and take the second narrowly.

Walker took his second title when partnered by Tony Martin beating Neale and Carole Knight in the Doubles final.

As could be anticipated, Carole Knight retained the Women's Singles title, although Angela Tierney did put up a good display in the final. She came into her own in the Junior Girls Singles in which she beat her fellow England ranked junior June Williams over 3 games in the final.

Another seeding upset came in the Junior Boys Singles when County No. 1 Ian Plummer was beaten by Michael Laird in 3 games.

The prizes were presented by Councillor Walter Ferrier, Chairman of Middlesbrough Council's Recreation and Amenities Committee, and his wife

Councillor Pat Ferrier, a member of the same Committee. All together the prize money totalled £110.

## LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George Yates

### PROMOTION FOR JUNIORS

Lancashire's juniors did well at Barnet to win the Promotion Challenge, with wins over Staffs (8-2), Devon (6-4) and a draw (5-5) against Sussex. Devon will accompany Lancashire into next season's Junior Premier Division.

The AGM's of the Lancs TTA and the Lancs and Ches League will take place on May 10 at Leigh Library, the League AGM starting at 7-30 p.m.

In the Lancs and Cheshire League Manchester took the 1st Division title with a 100 per cent record although their final match away to Farnworth did not take place, as the home team had forgotten to book the venue!

Div. 2 (North) winners were Blackburn although Salford/Eccles, the other contenders, have lodged a protest. Div. 2 (South) was won by St. Helens who have also captured Div. 4 (S) and the Women's Div. 2. The Women's Div. 1 title was won by Stockport and the Junior first division by Barrow. Wigan won the Youth Division.

## WANTED

Zdenko Uzorinac of Zagreb, Yugoslavia, helped a great deal with material for the ITTF's 50th Anniversary souvenir Brochure in which material was also used from Richard Bergmann's book "21 Up". Although now out of print Zdenko would like to acquire a copy for which he is willing to pay. Please contact The Editor if you can oblige.



### WHAT A BEAUTY

Gay Spink, Butlin's Holiday Princess of Great Britain, centre, presents a trophy to members of the English table tennis team, following their attempt on the world speed-hitting record, at Butlin's Metropole Hotel, Blackpool.

With Gay, left to right, are players Jill Hammersley, Paul Day, Desmond Douglas and Linda Howard.

Jill and Linda, European women's doubles champions, created a world record for women, with 146 rallies in a minute. Douglas and Day equalled the existing world record, held by Desmond and Nicky Jarvis, sending 162 rallies in the 60-seconds allowed.

Butlin's sponsored the England team during the World Championships, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

# CONTROVERSY

by John Woodford

## IS OLYMPIC STATUS REALLY ON?

Fasten your safety belts for the biggest controversy of all time! A debate that might last for the next four years and make the duel between Alan Shepherd and myself seem like yesterday's news.

As I.T.T.F. President Roy Evans, unquestionably a table tennis diplomat in a class of his own, gave the staggering news to the world's press at Birmingham that the IITF were to apply to the IOC for recognition I watched the faces of the journalists . . . expressions varied between stark amazement and disbelief!

Not that anyone would disbelieve Roy Evans. If he said, as he did, that unofficial talks had already taken place between the I.O.C. and the I.T.T.F. and there appeared to be hopes that an application for recognition could succeed, then this must be so.

I couldn't help thinking that it was all some crazy dream and I would wake up at Birmingham University feeling that usual feeling, that I had run the Olympic marathon the previous day!

Anyway, we are told this is fact, not dreams or fiction. We were reminded that ninety per cent. of table tennis players throughout the world are amateur. I would suggest that the amateur percentage must be higher, obviously it is in England! What is nice to know is that whatever happens, the status of world and continental events as we know them would be unchanged, they would all be "open" as at Wimbledon.

It would seem that at one certain point in future there would be a cut-off point, possibly the date that the I.O.C. agreed to recognise table tennis. From that point, whoever had earned money in the past would have their slate wiped clean, from then on they would be raised to a new high level of "Olympic poverty".

Obviously, so many of the world's top players with the exception of the Asians are commercially sponsored, that a lot of them must elect to remain professional.

There are observers at Birmingham who were prepared to say that they thought the whole thing was a fascinating farce . . . That although the I.O.C. might recognise table tennis, there is no way that it could actually be played at the Olympics in 1982 or even 1986. My view is that it could happen in 1982. What I find annoying is that the I.T.T.F. must be one of the top international sporting bodies in the world and now it is going cap in hand to the Olympic organisation which has suffered a number of severe set-backs in recent times and is now clearly looking round for extra strength, so that is why a door that has been shut for so long is beginning to open.

The time has now come to end my battle with Alan Shepherd . . . the hatchets were buried at the N.E.C. at Birmingham, although we shall no doubt, continue to stand up for our respective arguments. This must be answered, "Of course, I would expect to find Stiga tables in use at any major championships in Sweden. But I speak frankly on the image that the two rival companies Jaques and Stiga present to the world. They are totally expert and professional in their field, that I am sure. But I have formed the impression that Stiga are the company who seem to operate on a much larger scale in terms of world markets. Clearly, their capital investment programme must be enormous.

Footnote: One tip for Jaques — the blue plastic screens in use at Birmingham do not match up in any way to the green variety used for many years by the English company.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ken and Karenza Mathews have changed their address to "Arlanda", Welcomes Road, Kenley, Surrey. ('Phone: 01-668 7722).

## SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE CLOSED TOURNAMENT

Richard Jermyn of North Herts was successful in winning the men's singles title when he defeated Keith Richardson of Ely in two close games. Jermyn is playing very finely now although he had a close one in the semis against Les Wooding of Milton Keynes, Results:—

M.S.: Semi-Finals:

K. Richardson bt R. Marchant (Wellingboro) 17, -11, 18; R. Jermyn bt L. Wooding -19, 11, 19.

Final:

Jermyn bt Richardson 19, 19.

W.S.: Mrs J. Allinson (Peterboro) bt M. Ringrose (Hunts Central) 19, 17.

M.D.: T. Clark (Milton Keynes)/Wooding bt B. Richardson (Ely)/Richardson 13, -13, 17.

Div. 2 Men's Singles:

D. Tiplady (Cambridge) bt K. Green (Cambridge) 10, 15.

### CHAMPIONS ALL

Men's Div. 1 Winners—Ely

Men's Div. 2 Winners—Cambridge

Junior Div. 1 Winners—North Herts

Veterans Div. 1 Winners—St. Neots

Reserve Division Winners—Northampton.

# Your personal bat from Tees Sport!

The growing trend in table tennis today, as was demonstrated at the recent World Championships in Birmingham, is that most of the players, whether attacking or defensive styles, have their own personal bat made to suit their specific requirements.

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# Study Groups at the Worlds

by GORDON STEGGALL

Chairman, ETTA Coaching and Schools Committee

The Coaching Scheme operates in England through the services of over 1000 Coaches who in the main give up their time completely free for the benefit of other players. They occasionally get some financial reward but this is easily spent on travelling expenses when ferrying some of their young potentials to Tournaments etc. To assist them in the instruction of players at Basic level a Coaching Manual was prepared and placed on the market last year. This has been received with great acclaim and has accelerated improvements immensely. With the advent of the Worlds being held in England, the Coaching Committee felt that to back up and, if necessary, to supplement the Manual, a Study group should be set up to analyse play and report back any variations or recommendations so that standards can be improved in the intermediate and advanced areas.

The Group comprised:-

Gordon Steggall (Chairman Coaching Committee)  
Peter Hirst (National Coach)  
Peter Charters (Selection Committee)  
D. Parker (Loughborough College)  
J. Clarke  
T. Teff  
A. Woolven (Video)  
D. Richards (Video)

The Sport was split up into four main headings and work has and at this moment is being carried out on the project.

**I. PSYCHOLOGICAL SURVEY.** Under this such items as the following were studied. Motivation, Arousal levels and performance — mental stimulation — mental preparation — mental rest — dedication — confidence — the role of a Captain — the role of Team Members — crowd response, situation response — mental practice.

**PERSONALITY** — Character — attitudes — styles of play (introvert) (extrovert) determination — aggressiveness.

**INTELLIGENCE** — decision making — reflex play — I.Q. problem solving.

**STRESS (Mental Pressure)** — breakdown of skill — nerves (Before, during and after a game) and at what stages.

**CONCENTRATION** — response to distractions — delays, etc.

**LEARNING** — adapting to different situations — practice and improvement of skills.

**CO-ORDINATION** — mental stroke — physical skill.

**MENTAL TACTICS** — against opposition.

**EMOTIONS** — the part they play.

Observation was done on successful players preparing for matches, playing and resting. Daily routines were observed of teams and individuals. Many questions and discussions took place between the study group and foreign competitors. The aim was to obtain evidence as to how the successful foreign teams prepare mentally for top competition, what psychological factors are required to be a top world class T.T. player and any mental common factors amongst successful players.

## 2. TACTICAL WITH VIDEO

### Part One

To log tactics used by and against world top class players.

### Part Two — General

A. Comprehensive system of categorising players into styles of play:

Roll of Backhand.

Role of Forehand.

General Comments recorded on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Games.

B. Table Position, Over, end, away, left, right (Percentages taken).

C. Timing. Early — peak — late (Percentages taken).

D. Pace. Slow, medium, fast. (Percentages taken).

E. Spin. Topspin — Backspin — Sidespin. Float. Within service and receive, Intermediate game, Winning points

F. How points are won.

G. How points are lost.

H. Table Craft — Target Areas in relation to table or to opponents, General Positioning Play.

## 3. TECHNICAL

A. Grips, Effects on strokes—changes within rally etc.

B. 3 Stages of stroke production, both backhand and forehand.

Stage 1. Service receive and generally holding play tight.

Stage 2. Intermediate all rallying strokes, top spins, counter hits, switching play, etc.

Stage 3. Winning of Points — smash — fast loops — forced errors — unforced errors.

C. Length of Strokes — relation to table — relation to width of feet.

D. Timings — early peak, late in relation to type of stroke required and received.

E. Recovery positions in relation to target areas taken.

## 4. PHYSICAL

Basically this study was divided into three areas.

A. Physical

B. Nutritional

C. Technical Stroke physical

Unfortunately, the main part of a player's physical preparation should have taken place before arriving at Birmingham but nevertheless there was ample scope in studying such items as:— Length of sleep, time of getting up, morning warm-ups, parts of feet used in different movement patterns, muscle structures used for various strokes, somatotypes per style of play, length of practice times, length of training times, how tensions affected performance, etc.

Naturally some of the jargon used in the foregoing brief notes might mystify the layman, but to the dedicated Coach all these aspects and more are important in determining policy for the next few years. To give the full benefit to such topics, a Coaching Conference has been organised for the weekend of July 1-3 and full discussion together with video back-ups will be presented.

It is still early days in the gathering of such detail but it would seem that common consensus of opinion among Coaches attending is that the Coaching Manual should be updated by what appears to be some minor modifications and that a second more advanced Manual be produced from the evidence and facts gained at Birmingham.

Whilst the study Group was working often into the night viewing recordings of Video taken that day and editing certain tapes, there was naturally much discussion and difference of opinion on play in general but the one factor that emerged was the way in which the group blended as a team and the enthusiasm and energy with which every member pursued their particular task. Several Meetings were held with Top Coaches from China, Japan, Hungary, Yugoslavia, etc., and co-operation was the key word. Information of great interest was obtained and recorded.

In addition to the Study Group, over forty Coaches were invited on a special scheme to attend for a three day period. They were asked to do two sessions per day and were divided into five teams, each team having set tasks to perform. As a guide here are a list of some of the tasks.

### 1. Timing Points

Form

Table positions

Spin

Speed

Stance

Stroke production in various stages of rally.

Stroke production in various stages of game.

### 2. Study of Set Pieces

Where and when and what stage does set piece break down.

3. Proportions of spin strokes to drive strokes.

Benefits of push strokes both Backhand and Forehand.

Proportion of push strokes to other strokes.

Study in detail style of modern push stroke.

Free Arm Movements.

4. Movement patterns in Attack

Movement patterns in Defence.

Techniques of Attack.

Techniques of Defence.

Stability within Strokes.

5. Recovery positions in relation to target Areas.

Number of Strokes in a Rally (Early, Mid and Late Game).

Extra Advantageous Position (Gamesmanship).

How Deception is achieved.

Has deception any connection with grip.

The Notes from this group are only just beginning to come in and one can see the great effort that has been made by some of these dedicated coaches.

Many people watching the Play at the Worlds might like to express a serious opinion on one of the subjects, and I shall be pleased to receive any correspondence and to reply in due course.

'Mayfield',  
South Green,  
Fingringhoe,  
Colchester,  
Essex.

## Commonwealth Rankings

Meeting after the 4th Commonwealth Championships at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, Guernsey, the Classification Committee chaired by Denis George of Scotland, issued the following revised rankings:—

### Men

1. Li Kuang Tsu (HKG)
2. A. Barden (ENG)
3. Chen Scheng Shien (HKG)
4. Vong Iu Veng (HKG)
5. J. Walker (ENG)
6. J. Hilton (ENG)
7. Cheng Ke Yick (HKG)
8. P. Pinkewich (AUL)
9. E. Caetano (CAN)
10. R. Tuckett (AUL)
11. S. Knapp (AUL)
12. R. Yule (SCO)
13. G. Lassen (NEZ)
14. A. Griffiths (WAL)
15. G. Davies (WAL)
16. J. Morris (NEZ)

### Women

1. Chang Siu Ying (HKG)
2. Siu Kit Man (HKG)
3. R. Banerjee (CAN)
4. K. Senior (IRE)
5. K. Witt (ENG)
6. S. Salokhe (IND)
7. K. Rogers (ENG)
8. M. Ludi (ENG)
9. I. Cordas (CAN)
10. A. Mitchell (ENG)
11. M. Domonkos (CAN)
12. G. McKay (SCO)
13. I. Puri (IND)
14. V. Woodward (AUL)
15. A. Stonestreet (NEZ)
16. Tan Kek Hiang (SIN)

## COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE

At the B.G.M. of the Commonwealth Championships in Guernsey Mr Horace Mallett of the Guernsey TTA, was elected Chairman for the next two years, in succession to Mr Keith Bowler of Australia. Mr Bowler succeeded Charles Wyles, the EETA chairman, as the Secretary.

The ETTA's Deputy Chairman, George R. Yates, was returned to the Management Committee along with Denis George of Scotland as the European representatives.

# 'It can't be done -'

## But it was!

By TONY GUBBA of the B.B.C.



When B.B.C. T.V.'s engineering manager first peeped inside the N.E.C. hall big enough to hide a fleet of jumbo jets he said: "It can't be done".

His shake of the head was a further indication that putting the 34th World Table Tennis Championships onto the nation's television screens was going to stretch the elasticity of nerves and equipment to the very limits.

To produce 33 hours of television with only five cameras to cover four main tables AND a studio is like playing expedite with a ball that explodes on the 12th stroke. It sharpens the concentration wonderfully, but plays havoc with the digestion.

It was not that the B.B.C. had been mean in their allocation of equipment and personnel to Birmingham. The fact that cameras were there at all is an indication that the demigods of Shepherds Bush had recognised the championships as a significant world event. But along the corridors of power, where football, cricket, golf, show jumping and tennis were the usual topics of conversation, it was inevitable that the first mention of table tennis would produce a thoughtful silence.

It had been 20-odd years since the championships had last graced our shores, and while sports outside broadcasting had developed in the meantime into a highly skilled, highly costly and very sophisticated form of television, the public interest in the game itself had diminished.

Long gone were the days when table tennis could attract crowds of 9,000 to the Empire Pool Wembley. So what sort of audience could we expect if we put the game onto the silver screen?

That was the much debated question before the decision was finally taken not just to COVER the world championships, but to saturate the screen with it. It was almost a Wimbledon operation; live for three hours each afternoon with an hour's highlights each evening. The difference was that while Wimbledon is a well tried and tested annual event, with a large number of experienced personnel, the table tennis was to be a one-off event produced by a handful of staff.

Apart from the riggers, cameramen, and other technicians, the editorial make-up for the B.B.C.'s Birmingham operation was an editor, Paul Lang, two producers, Bob Duncan and John Shrews-

bury, a video-editor, John Vigar; three girl producers' assistants, and four commentators, myself, Peter Walker, Alan Ransome and Johnny Leach.

Not a lot of people to produce the equivalent of seven Saturday 'Grandstands'.

It is not until a couple of weeks after a programme has been screened that we know how many people actually took the trouble to tune in.

With the benefit of hindsight and the baffling intricacies of audience research we know that in television terms at least, the 34th World Championships were a great success.

Audiences for the three hours of 'live' table tennis each afternoon numbered up towards the one million mark, with one and a half million watching on the Sunday afternoons.

### STAGGERING

**For the evening highlights programmes the audience rose steadily throughout the championships, from one million up to almost one and a half million, until on semi-finals day, Tuesday, April 4th, when we were on the air on B.B.C. 2 at the slightly earlier time of 9-20 p.m. it reached the staggering figure of TWO MILLION!**

Now at first glance those figures might seem small when you compare them say with an audience of nine million for 'Nationwide' or 'Match of the Day'. But don't forget this was on B.B.C. 2 and the sport is a new one to the majority of viewers.

At the time of writing I don't yet know what the audience figures were for finals day, but it is reasonable to anticipate that they might be even higher. We had felt that public interest would be greater for the individual competitions than for the team championships, but no one could have predicted that we would reach two million people and then be hoping for even more.

The next logical question is why were the championships so successful on T.V.?

Well there can be no doubt that the standard of play and skill took many people's breath away. I have never been involved in any sporting event in which so many people have approached me afterwards and wanted to talk about it. This was the greatest array of table tennis skills that had ever been assembled. In one of our programmes I said that the game had entered new dimensions, and that even seeing was sometimes not believing. It was like peeping through a keyhole at super beings from a different planet. Rallies like the one in which Johansson and Li Chen Shih exchanged 36 strokes in 20 seconds just defied belief.

But what a marvellous advert for the game.

Paul Lang, the editor, and I had felt that part of our job at the start of the championships was almost to re-educate the public about table tennis. There can hardly be a man, woman or child in the British Isles who hasn't held a table tennis bat at some time. But for most of them it was still a game remembered from youth club days, or a pleasant past-time to idle away a wet afternoon at a holiday camp. In their minds it was, and always would be, ping-pong. We set out to tell them that it wasn't any longer and show them the pictures to prove it.

### MILESTONE

Am I selling the case too hard if I suggest that the presence of the world championships in Birmingham and the saturation coverage on T.V. could prove as significant a milestone in the fortunes of the game as did the very first world championships 51 years ago?

Is this the moment for table tennis to re-emerge from the shadows of the past few years and re-establish itself in the eyes of the British public?

A few big audiences for a handful of programmes are a small indication that the worm might have turned. Perhaps in a few weeks time, the equipment manufacturers will tell us that a wave of post-championships enthusiasm has increased sales, and profits.

But what of the long term?

Even now, in some dusty church hall a grubby

nine-year-old hand might have a hand clasped around a battered old bat in the first act of producing a future world champion. I hope so. I wouldn't wish to castigate our current players on the basis of their performances in Birmingham, but the most frequently asked question by the many dozens of people who've spoken to me since Birmingham has been . . . "why were our lot so pathetic?"

That's a bit unfair on Jill Hammersley who prompted tears amongst the audience by her distress at that recurring thigh injury. Des and Denis were men's doubles quarter-finalists, and if Carole Knight's encounter with Pak Yung Sun had been a quarter or semi-final, rather than a first round match it would have been a classic, rather than just a great match.

We don't have the political structure that produces regimented lines of players, stretching like mirrored images of each other into the oriental middle-distance. Nor do we match the iron will of the Eastern bloc countries. We haven't the financial rewards that encourage players like Bengtsson and Johansson, and should we complain?

I have a lasting memory of Bengtsson during his quarter-final match with Mitsuru Kohno of Japan. Bengtsson's eyes were haunted by the importance of it.

I have many memories of Birmingham. I enjoyed every minute of it. But two things saddened me during the championships. One was the rip-off approach of the N.E.C. where a sandwich and a can of coke after work was £1.30, and the other was the predominance of newspaper headlines about the rows and disputes among the English team.



## Welsh Corner

H. Roy Evans

Guernsey, venue for a highly successful Commonwealth Championships, proved something of a disappointment for our men's team, whilst the World Championships in Birmingham brought them another serious set-back.

The friendly atmosphere of the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, and the splendid organisation of the Guernsey Association provided just the right setting for a Welsh "leap forward", and whilst a final sixth position seems creditable enough, it could have been much better.

We lost 19 in the third game of the ninth set against Canada, with Mike Owen going so close against Ma. A win then would have given us a chance to play for 3rd or fourth position. As it was, we played New Zealand for 5th or 6th, and in another match which went to the last game of the ninth set, we went down to a team we should have beaten 5-4.

We beat Guernsey 5-0, lost to Australia 1-5, beat Jersey 5-0, beat Jamaica 5-0, Trinidad 5-0, and Scotland 5-3, the last result being an ironical one in view of what happened subsequently in Birmingham.

Our women's team didn't win a match and finished bottom of their group.

Graham Davies had a very good first round win against one of the strong Hong Kong side—Wong Iu Veng, then beat Gladstone Wharton of Barbados, but lost in the third round to Scotland's Richard Yule whom he had beaten in the

team match, Alan Griffiths beat Evan Williams of Jamaica, but had to bow out to the strong Australian Bob Tuckett in the third round. Owen fell to the Canadian Alex Polisois in his first round.

Alan and Graham lost in the third round to the Hong Kong pair Chen Scheng Shien and Wong Lu Veng, who went on to win the title, losing only the one game they dropped to our Welsh pair.

All in all, it wasn't a bad performance, only that it could have been much better. Nevertheless it gave us heart for our battles in the Worlds at Birmingham.

Fate dealt us a cruel blow there. Scotland, who were not in Calcutta, were reinstated under ITTF rule into the Second Category, and Belgium and ourselves, being the two lowest teams in Category 2 in Calcutta, were relegated. When a vacancy occurred in Category 2, Belgium were put up, and we were left to prove our point in Category 3. And this we should have done. We beat Tunisia 5-0, Iceland 5-0, Trinidad 5-1, and Cyprus 5-0. Then, with victory in our Group staring us in the face, we went down to Norway 4-5, and thus lost the chance to figure in the play-off for promotion to Category 2.

The irony of the situation was that Scotland, who were lucky to be put in Category 2, won several matches there, and have thus assured themselves of a Category 2 position next time, whereas we shall again be struggling in Category 3. The further irony is that in the play-offs we beat Turkey 5-4, Saudi Arabia 5-1, and Spain 5-2, the latter a very good result considering our European League failure against them.

Regretfully, our failures against expected victims in both Guernsey and Birmingham were due entirely to some of our players being unable to deal with chop defensive opponents, and we look like being doomed to continued disappointment unless this weakness is eradicated.

Alan and Graham both had very good individual results. Alan beat Soh Eng Yip of Malaysia, Inokuchi of Brazil, and Rosenbaum of Israel to qualify for the first round proper. There he met Canada's Errol Caetano and lost in the fifth game of a fine match.

Graham beat Mabrouk of Tunisia, Christodoulatos of Greece, and Hartmann of Luxembourg also to qualify for Round 1 proper, where he lost to Hungarian Janos Molnar, also in the fifth game, and also a very good performance.

Mike Owen lost to Sombol of Egypt in the second of the qualifying rounds. Angie Evans beat S. Conradsson of Iceland, but then went out to Tineo of Brazil in the second of the qualifying rounds.

In the Men's Doubles, Graham and Alan had some very good wins to qualify. They beat Christodoulidis and Sofokleous of Cyprus, Engin and Aleksandridis of Turkey, and the Indian No. 1 pair Kabad and Venugopal. They then had a splendid win over Sweden's Gronlund and Liljegren in the first round proper, and took the first game in defeat by the strong French/Japanese pair Martin and Takashima.

Angie Evans and Mike Owen failed to survive their first qualifying round, going out to Doig Johnson of England and John Krier of Luxembourg.

Without Julie Ralphs, our No. 1 player, our women's team just wasn't strong enough for this class, and although Betty Gray tried her best to inspire Kim Wheatley and Van Duffin, the ability and experience weren't there.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### MAKE NO MISTAKE!

I would like to thank a number of people for the assistance they gave me in connection with the World Championships. Although Mike Watts was not a member of the Technical Committee, he and his staff had to work closely with us on the production of result sheets and other bulletins. His patience and co-operation were much appre-

ciated. In the absence of Iris Moss, who did much of the preparatory work with umpires, and to whom much thanks is due, the umpires were under the control of Doreen Stannard, Fred Groom, and Harvey Webb. All did a splendid job throughout. Len Pilditch, Tony Chatwin and Gordon Lightfoot, the three Assistant Referees, also earned the thanks of the Association for seeing the tournament progressed smoothly to its conclusion.

Then the umpires and table controllers. Ranging from the very young to the "mature", from "green" to very experienced, from newly qualified to holders of the International Umpire qualification, they all gave their best, mostly without complaint. Make no mistake about it: it was these people who were really in charge and a fine job they made of it!

The mention of umpires brings me to my last topic, and to two umpires in particular: John Masters and Jack Melnick, who, respectively, controlled the Men's and Women's Singles finals.

That both are personal friends of mine does not enter into this; that both are experienced and have the highest qualification is more important; that both are excellent umpires is the reason for this paragraph. No umpire **wants** to "fault" a player, but one who does not call a service which is foul, or which he is unable to see, is, quite simply, not doing his job. No blame can be attached to an umpire should a player produce a bad or hidden service at a vital point: the call must be made whether at love-all in the first or at 24-25 in the fifth. The reaction of sections of the crowd to officials doing their job, and doing it well, was quite deplorable.

**JOHN M. WRIGHT**

Hon. Referee,

World Championships 1977.

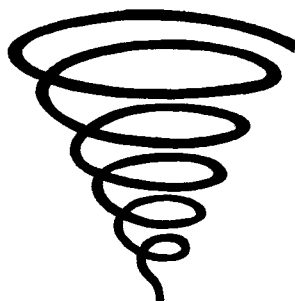
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# Fenland 2-Star Open

TOP SEED FALLS IN FINAL

submitted by Ray Drew

One of the country's up-and-coming stars came out on top in the Fenland 2-Star Open played at King's Lynn on March 6. Max Crimmins was the player winning the men's singles title to add to his successes in Kent and Cleveland.

He beat Nigel Eckersley who was top seed to collect the £50 top prize. Crimmins, aged 18, is almost certain to climb into the England rankings, for as well as this win he has also beaten Paul Day.

A chance for another title was lost by Crimmins when with Graham Sandley he went down in the men's doubles final to Alan Croome and Brian Hill. This was another upset, for Croome and Hill had been seeded 4, with beaten finalists seeded 3. Crimmins and Sandley had put out top seeds Eckersley and Mick Harper.

There was a disappointment in the women's singles event with top seed and former winner Karen Rogers unable to take part because of a pulled stomach muscle. Cheryl Buttery surprisingly got through to the final, but then this unseeded 17-year-old went down to No. 2 seed Linda Barrow.

Like Crimmins in the men's section, Mrs. Barrow also failed when she appeared in the doubles. With Tina Pickard the top seeds went down to teenagers Alison Gordon and Helen Williams. But the two singles winners teamed up to win the mixed.

Big upset in the Junior events came with the win by unseeded Alison Gordon who beat top seed Linda Holmes to take the girls' title. Top seed Chris Rogers beat No. 2 Doug Bennett in a clash between two 16-year-olds for the boys' title.

There was once again a full entry for this popular tournament and although England's top players were unable to take part because of their preparations for the World Championships, the competition was keen and standards high. The finalists were all county players and with total prize money of £220 at stake they could not afford to relax. Final results:—

- MS: M. Crimmins (Sy) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 16, -19, 9.  
 WS: L. Barrow (E) bt C. Buttery (Li) 12, 22.  
 BS: C. Rogers (Le) bt D. Bennett (Nk) 13, 11.  
 GS: A. Gordon (Bk) bt L. Holmes (Dy) -18, 12, 13.  
 M.D.: A. Croome (Ng)/B. Hill (Li) bt Crimmins/G. Sandley (Mi) 15, -10, 16.  
 WD: A. Gordon/H. Williams (Mi) bt Barrow/T. Pickard (E) 19, -21, 13.  
 XD: Crimmins/Barrow bt G. Hall/Pickard -19, 16, 17.

# SALFORD/ECCLES 2-STAR OPEN

PARKER ON DRAUGHT

by The Editor

Lancashire's Donald Parker won his first men's singles title of the season at Stretford Sports Centre on Apr 10 with a final victory over Dave Constance in the Salford/Eccles 2-Star Open.

The tournament was sponsored by John Smith Tadcaster Ales, the prize fund amounting to £293 with Parker reaping the top award of £60. To this the Lancastrian added the men's doubles title, with Nigel Eckersley, but failed to make the triple crown when beaten, with Sue Alexander (nee Manning) in the final of the mixed.

Susan Lisle of Cheshire also figured in two wins, the women's singles with a final victory

over Karen Rogers, and the doubles when partnered by Judith Walker. Former Cheshire international Mike Johns made a comeback in this tournament and succeeded in reaching the quarters of the men's singles, losing to Eckersley, going one stage further in the men's doubles with brother Brian.

Visiting Australian, Vicki Woodward, lost to Sue Lisle in the semis of the women's singles and, at the same stage both in the women's doubles and the mixed when partnered by Wendy Shaw and Eckersley.

Results:—

**M.S.: Quarter-finals:**

- J. Hilton (Ch) bt P. Bowen (La) 17, 15;  
 D. Constance (Ch) bt J. Marshall (La) 13, 11;  
 N. Eckersley (Ch) bt M. Johns (Ch) 17, 7;  
 D. Parker (La) bt K. Beadsley (Y) -19, 18, 16.

**Semi-finals:**

- Constance bt Hilton 12, 19;  
 Parker bt Eckersley 12, -15, 10.

**Final:**

- PARKER bt Constance 9, -17, 11.

**W.S.: Semi-finals:**

- K. Rogers (Le) bt J. Walker (Y) 14, 15;  
 S. Lisle (Ch) bt V. Woodward (Aul) -20, 11, 15.

**Final:**

- LISLE bt Rogers 17, 20.

**M.D.: Semi-finals:**

- Eckersley/Parker bt Constance/B. Kean (La) 9, 20;

- Bowen/Hilton bt B. Johns (Ch)/M. Johns 19, 18.

**Final:**

- ECKERSLEY/PARKER bt Bowen/Hilton -21, 21, 13.

**W.D.: Semi-finals:**

- Lisle/Walker bt L. Hryszko/S. Midgeley (Y) 11, -18, 14;

- C. Hancock (Ch)/Rogers bt W. Shaw (La)/Woodward -18, 19, 14.

**Final:**

- LISLE/WALKER bt Hancock/Rogers 20, 19.

**X.D.: Semi-finals:**

- Hilton/Rogers bt Eckersley/Woodward -10, 7, 14;  
 Parker/S. Alexander (La) bt Beadsley/Hryszko 16, -13, 16.

**Final:**

- HILTON/ROGERS bt Parker/Alexander 17, -22, 9.

**V.S.: Semi-finals:**

- P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt J. Evans (La) 15, 16;  
 T. Donlon (Ch) bt J. Clewett (La) 16, -13, 12.

**Final:**

- D'ARCY bt Donlon 15, 15.

## STATUS QUO

Charles Wyles (Chairman), George Yates (Deputy Chairman) and Tom Blunn (Hon. Treasurer) have all been returned unopposed for a further term of office and tender their thanks for your continued support of their combined efforts as officers of the English Table Tennis Association.

## Omega on the Horizon

On completion of their own premises midway through the 1975/76 season, Omega TTC was formed with approximately 20 playing members ranging between the ages of 11 to 21. Being an ambitious club, they have set themselves an "elite" policy.

Drawing on juniors throughout the County, Peter Charter and Reg Hart, almost had one of their dreams realised in their first season. The women's team comprising Alison Gordon, Jill Purslow, Caroline Reeves, Mandy Smith and Karen Witt narrowly lost to Ormesby, in the final of the National Club competition for women, in a fiercely contested final. This reverse at the ultimate stage of the competition followed a fine win against Fellows Cranleigh, one of the favourites.

On the men's side Omega have reached the last eight after beating some of the strongest club sides in the south of England. Spearheading the team is David Reeves, the current English Junior champion, and he is ably assisted by Andy Wellman, Simon Heaps, Jim Cloos and Mats Wielbass to name but a few.

For the past two seasons Omega have supplied virtually all members of the Berkshire Senior County side and about 75% of the Junior first and second teams.

Only being able to use one table for match play makes the club slightly restricted, and with lease restrictions on the property, expansion is nearly impossible. It is the hope of the 7-man committee to be able to loan, rent or buy, new premises if and when the financial backing is there, and to make it a club in every sense of the word.

So with the aim of forming an elite table tennis club for younger players, it is only fair to say that Omega are on the horizon.



The Ascot-sponsored Omega TTC, Bracknell League champions 75/76, Reading League champions 76/77, and currently through to the quarter-finals of the National Club competition. Pictured (from left to right):- Andy Wellman, Dave Reeves and Simon Heaps.

# National Leagues Championships

by Keith Ponting

Shock result of the Quarter-finals in the **Wilmott Cup** was the 5-3 defeat of the holders, Ormesby, at Manchester. Ormesby have dominated this competition for many years and this was their first defeat since the 1968-69 season, a tremendous record by any standards. Denis Neale had to withdraw from the visitors' team with a bout of flu and was replaced by Nicky Jarvis, far from fit owing to an injured back, but sport is all about taking your chances when they come and Manchester's Nigel Eckersley, Phil Bowen and John Hilton did just that, and good luck to them. Eckersley and Hilton won two each and Bowen one, whilst the three wins for Ormesby were gained by Jimmy Walker. Birmingham must now be considered favourites to take the title and against Chesterfield had little trouble in a 7-2 win, with Derek Munt unbeaten, the remaining wins coming from Bob Brown and Paul Judd. Maurice Billington won the two for Chesterfield. Dagenham have done well this season and a fine maximum from Kevin Caldon plus two from Ian Robertson gave them a 5-2 win at St. Albans whose Firoz Nilam and Les Wooding scored one each.

### ROSE BOWL

Ormesby's spirits were lifted two days later with a 5-2 win against Bradford. New English Open and Closed Champion Carole Knight led the way with a fine maximum, although taken to three by Melody Ludi. Angela Tierney and June Williams notched one set each. North Middlesex gained a good win at Ipswich thanks to unbeaten Angela Mitchell, Helen Williams and Sue Tyler.

### CARTER CUP

After their fine win against Ormesby in the previous round, Barrow's progress was halted by

visitors Hull. Joe Naser, Chris Pindar and Michael Harrison were in fine form and have done well to reach this stage of the competition. Barrow's wins were recorded by Neil Smith and Chris Reed. Another superb display by Leicester's Chris Rogers stopped Wolverhampton in their tracks after they had taken the first two sets and again led 3-1. Chris, as usual, held Leicester together, along with Steve Day and Dave Gammon and brought off a thrilling 5-4 win. Andrew Rich and Paul Draisey won two each for Wolverhampton. The West Wilts team of Kevin Edwards, Duncan Cleveland and Kevin Satchell have had an outstanding season but had to take second place to the more experienced Bromley team, of Paul O'Connor, Ian Kenyon and Joe Kennedy and lost at home 1-8 with Satchell gaining their only success.

### BROMFIELD TROPHY

Wolverhampton's hopes were dashed by holders Ormesby who won 5-1. June Williams, Angela Tierney and Jane Skipp did the damage for the visitors whilst Stephanie Jones scored the lone win for the Midlanders.

### RESULTS AND DRAWS

- Wilmott Cup** Quarter-finals:  
 Manchester 5 — Ormesby 3  
 Chesterfield 2 — Birmingham 7  
 St. Albans 2 — Dagenham 5  
 Bristol 5 — Brighton 1  
 Semi-final draw (Competition date 17.4.77)  
 Birmingham v. Manchester  
 Bristol v. Dagenham
- J.M. Rose Bowl** Quarter-finals:  
 Ormesby 5 — Bradford 2  
 Leicester w.o. Dagenham  
 Ipswich 2 — N. Middlesex 5  
 Eastbourne 3 — Bournemouth 6  
 Semi-final draw (Competition date 17.4.77)  
 Ormesby v. Leicester  
 N. Middlesex v. Bournemouth
- Carter Cup** Quarter-finals:  
 Barrow 2 — Hull 7

- Wolverhampton 4 — Leicester 5  
 Leatherhead 7 — N. Herts 2  
 W. Wilts 1 — Bromley 8  
 Semi-final draw (Completion date 17.4.77)  
 Leicester v. Hull  
 Leatherhead v. Bromley
- Bromfield Trophy**  
 Semi-finals:  
 Ormesby 5 — Wolverhampton 1  
 Reading 5 — Guildford 2

Winning teams will go forward to the Finals which will take place on Sunday, May 22 at a venue yet to be announced.

## Somerset Closed

by Dennis Pope

Jill Wilson of Bridgwater won three titles in the Somerset Closed played at Taunton Y.M.C.A. Seeded No. 1, Jill won the women's singles and doubles, partnered with Pat Reeves, and mixed with Bridgwater team-mate Graham Green.

The men's singles final between John Hartry and Brian Reeves went to expedite at 6-3 in the second, with Hartry finally winning the title two-straight.

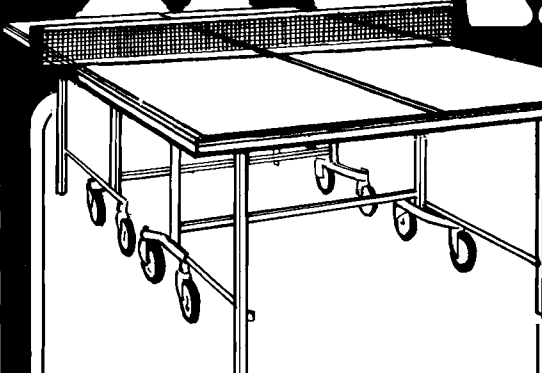
Fifteen-years-old Paul Holder of Failand won the Boys' Under-17 Singles title.

### Results:

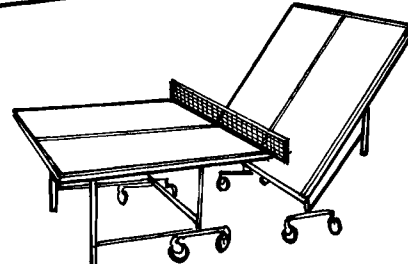
- M.S.: J. Hartry bt B. Reeves (Failand) 11, 12.  
 W.S.: J. Wilson bt Pat Reeves (Failand) 13, -14, 11.  
 M.D.: Reeves/Colin Feltham (Failand) bt Hartry/Ray Philpot (Weston) 19, 17.  
 W.D.: Wilson/Reeves bt Wendy Pryce/Betty Norman (Bridgwater) -21, 14, 9.  
 X.D.: G. Green/Wilson bt Reeves/Reeves -12, 15, 16.  
 V.S.: Les Bridges (Bridgwater) bt Desmond Poole (Taunton) 19, 17.  
 B.S.: U-17 P. Holder bt Benjamin Fear 20, 17.

# JOOLA

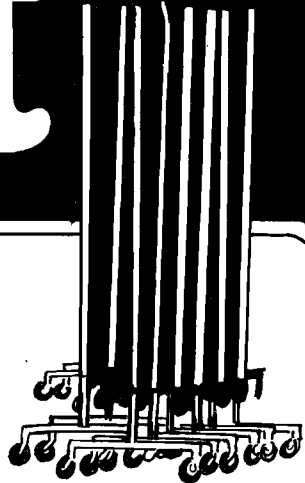
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# JOOLA

## table tennis



Continued from page 39

**JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH**

- Devon 7, Middlesex 3
- Hampshire 8, Dorset 2
- Kent II 9, Berkshire II 1
- Surrey II 5, Sussex 5

**JUNIOR 2nd NORTH**

- Clwyd 7, Cleveland II 3
- Cleveland II 3, Lancashire 7
- Cumbria 4, Yorkshire II 6
- Derbyshire 8, Clwyd 2
- Durham 8, Northumberland 2

**JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND**

- Staffordshire 10, Suffolk 0
- Cambridgeshire 2, Essex II 8

**Northamptonshire 4, Staffordshire 6**

An absorbing struggle with unbeaten Gary Alden leading Northant's efforts, but with the boys events even as expected the result hinged on the girls events which Staffs took without any trouble.

**Suffolk 6, Norfolk 4**

Suffolk off to a flying start, but a 3-0 lead quickly became 3-all and the home side realised they had a fight on their hands.

**Warwickshire 2, Leicestershire 8**

**JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH**

- Hertfordshire II 2, Essex III 8
- Sussex II 6, Buckinghamshire II 4

**JUNIOR 3rd NORTH**

- Clwyd II 2, Cleveland III 8
- Cleveland III 2, Cumbria II 8
- Clwyd II 5, Nottinghamshire 5
- Lincolnshire 4, Cheshire 6

**JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND**

- Shropshire 9, Herefordshire 1
- Staffordshire II 5, Gloucestershire 5
- Worcestershire 4, Shropshire 6

**JUNIOR 3rd EAST**

- Buckinghamshire 8, Bedfordshire 2
- Cambridgeshire II 3, Huntingdonshire 7

**JUNIOR 3rd WEST**

- Gwent 4, Glamorgan 6
- Somerset 0, Cornwall 10
- Wiltshire 9, Avon 1

**VETERAN MIDLAND**

- Clwyd 4, Cheshire 5
- Clwyd II 0, Nottinghamshire 9
- Warwickshire 6, Leicestershire 3

**VETERAN EAST**

**Essex 7, Kent 2**

A very entertaining match with five sets requiring the decider but Kent only getting theirs after the seventh set. Florence Birkbeck did well to beat June Brenchley two-straight.

**Huntingdonshire 1, Essex II 8**

**Middlesex 7, Hertfordshire 2**

**VETERAN WEST**

- Dorset 7, Worcestershire 2
- Worcestershire 2, Oxfordshire 7
- Hampshire 7, Wiltshire 2

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS CONFERENCE**

John Woodford's bit of 'Controversy' last month about the Junior Premier county which gained promotion last season and are this season in trouble at the foot of the Division (a couple of hypotheses were put forward) could be answered by a Regulation alteration proposed by Hertfordshire in that the players playing in Junior play-offs must be juniors in the following season.

Herts. have put forward some other proposals which deal with Senior and Junior promotion play-offs and introduce the concept of Second Division Counties challenging for promotion against the two relegated Premier Division Counties.

Worcestershire and Suffolk have a similar theme in the re-instatement of Mixed Doubles into the County match, the former wanting it over the whole competition, whilst Suffolk want it just for the junior section.

Conference is to be held on Saturday, June 11 at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, WC1, at 2-00 p.m.

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS TABLES**

(Up to March 13th)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
<b>PREMIER</b>							
Cleveland	6	6	—	0	45	9	12
Middlesex	7	4	—	3	34	29	8
Warwickshire	7	4	—	3	34	29	8
Yorkshire	5	3	—	2	23	22	6
Essex	5	3	—	2	19	26	6
Cheshire	5	3	—	4	26	37	6
Surrey	6	2	—	4	24	30	4
Leicestershire	7	0	—	7	20	43	0

games: Middx — 80-71  
Warwicks — 77-70

not included above:

- Yorkshire v. Surrey
- Essex v. Yorkshire
- Cleveland v. Essex

**2nd SOUTH**

Sussex	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Kent	5	3	2	0	33	17	8
Essex II	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Middlesex II	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Hampshire	4	1	0	3	10	30	2
Surrey II	5	0	0	5	13	37	0

**2nd NORTH**

Yorkshire II	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Lancashire	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Cleveland II	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Northumberland	5	2	1	2	19	31	5
Durham	5	1	1	3	18	42	3
Lincolnshire	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

**2nd MIDLAND — FINAL TABLE**

Glamorgan	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Cheshire II	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Staffordshire	5	2	2	1	31	19	6
Warwickshire II	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Derbyshire	5	1	2	2	26	24	4
Clwyd	5	0	0	5	2	48	0

**2nd EAST — FINAL TABLE**

Buckinghamshire	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Cambridgeshire	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Northamptonshire	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Norfolk	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Bedfordshire	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
Hertfordshire	5	1	1	3	22	28	3

**2nd WEST — FINAL TABLE**

Berkshire	6	6	0	0	48	12	12
Wiltshire	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Somerset	6	3	1	2	26	34	7
Devon	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Worcestershire	6	2	0	4	28	32	4
Gwent	6	1	1	4	17	43	3
Avon	6	0	0	6	21	39	0

**3rd SOUTH — FINAL TABLE**

Sussex II	5	4	0	1	39	11	8
Essex III	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
Kent II	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Hertfordshire III	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Buckinghamshire II	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Bedfordshire II	5	1	0	4	11	39	2

games: Herts III — 45-71  
Bucks II — 44-76

**3rd NORTH — FINAL TABLE**

Lancashire II	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Derbyshire I	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Nottinghamshire	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Cumbria	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Northumberland II	5	2	0	3	16	34	4
Cleveland III	5	0	0	5	16	34	0

**3rd MIDLAND**

Glamorgan II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Leicestershire II	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Staffordshire II	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Northamptonshire II	5	2	0	3	17	33	4
Shropshire	5	1	0	4	19	31	2
Clwyd II	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

**3rd EAST**

Suffolk	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Norfolk II	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Hertfordshire II	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Cambridgeshire II	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Huntingdonshire	4	0	1	3	16	24	1

**3rd WEST**

Dorset	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Worcestershire II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Cornwall	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Avon II	5	1	1	3	23	27	3
Herefordshire	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
Gloucestershire	5	0	1	4	19	31	1

**JUNIOR PREMIER**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	7	6	0	1	48	22	12
Yorkshire	6	5	0	1	42	18	10
Essex	6	4	1	1	43	17	9
Cleveland	7	2	2	3	36	34	6
Berkshire	7	3	0	4	26	44	6
Surrey	7	2	0	5	26	44	4
Hertfordshire	7	2	0	5	25	45	4
Kent	7	1	1	5	24	46	3

**JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH — FINAL TABLE**

Devon	7	7	0	0	56	14	14
Sussex	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
Middlesex II	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
Hampshire	7	4	0	3	32	38	8
Surrey II	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Kent II	7	2	0	5	26	44	4
Berkshire II	7	2	0	5	24	46	4
Dorset	7	1	0	6	24	46	2

**JUNIOR 2nd NORTH — FINAL TABLE**

Yorkshire II	7	6	0	1	58	12	12
Lancashire	7	5	2	0	53	17	12
Derbyshire	7	5	1	1	45	25	11
Cumbria	7	4	1	2	46	24	9
Clwyd	7	3	0	4	27	43	6
Cleveland II	7	2	0	5	26	44	4
Durham	7	1	0	6	16	54	2
Northumberland	7	0	0	7	9	61	0

**JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND — FINAL TABLE**

Staffordshire	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
Essex II	7	5	1	1	46	24	11
Northamptonshire	7	5	0	2	44	26	10
Warwickshire	7	4	1	2	43	27	9
Leicestershire	7	3	0	4	35	35	6
Norfolk	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
Cambridgeshire	7	1	0	6	17	53	2
Suffolk	7	1	0	6	12	58	2

**JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH — FINAL TABLE**

Essex III	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Sussex II	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
Hampshire II	4	2	0	2	19	19	4
Hertfordshire II	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Buckinghamshire II	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

**JUNIOR 3rd NORTH — FINAL TABLE**

Cheshire	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Nottinghamshire	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Lincolnshire	5	3	0	2	32	18	6
Cumbria II	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Cleveland III	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Clwyd II	5	0	1	4	9	41	1

**JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND — FINAL TABLE**

Shropshire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Staffordshire	5	3	2	0	35	15	8
Gloucestershire	5	1	3	1	26	24	5
Worcestershire	5	1	2	2	23	27	4
Herefordshire	5	0	2	3	18	32	2
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# County Championships Round-up

by **BOB BRIDGES**

## SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

A question mark still hangs over the outcome at the foot of the Premier Division, but I imagine some sleepless nights in the Surrey camp after Cheshire had applied the thumbscrews with a 6-3 win over Essex — also putting Essex in an unenviable position of possible relegation candidates, only three wins, a poor sets average and two matches to go against Yorkshire and Cleveland.

Surrey's original match at Yorkshire was curtailed with Surrey leading 1-0 after "Connie" Warren's car broke down on the way North and the team arrived some three hours late (Linda Howard was already at Huddersfield and she had played Melody Ludi). The initial Yorkshire reaction was CLAIM, but within two days a new date for completion of the match was agreed.

At least the promotion contenders have sorted themselves out and five Counties will play for the two available places in the Premier Division next season at St. Neots on April 30/May 1.

Glamorgan ought to improve their latest performance (losing 3-7 to Warwickshire II) if they wish to improve their status, while Buckinghamshire can thank inconsistent Northants for their place in the play-offs. Two months ago, Bucks. lay at the foot of the 2nd Division East, but two 8-2 wins and a combination of unlikely results elsewhere in the Division, have given them the opportunity to return to the Premier Division.

Sussex also wish to return to the Premier as do Lancashire, the only County who haven't contested the Premier Division title are Berkshire, but their Challenge will be the third in successive years.

Champions of 3 South are Sussex II, thanks to a fine performance by Kent II in defeating Essex III, with other third divisions going to Lancashire II, Glamorgan II, Suffolk and Dorset.

The final match in the Junior Premier will be decisive, with Middlesex on 12 points and no more to play, Essex play Yorkshire in the crunch for both — a 7-3 or better win for Yorkshire will make them champions, but a win or draw will give Essex the runners-up spot.

Hertfordshire produced a late burst at the foot of the Premier with two wins (6-4 over Cleveland, 7-3 over Berkshire) but two sets obtained by Surrey in an 8-2 defeat by Yorkshire were good enough to keep Surrey up and put Herts down with Kent.

Surprise package in the Junior 2nd Midland are Staffordshire who finish on top of the division after beating Northants 4-6 in the top-of-the-table clash, while Warwickshire (tipped for top spot) were amazingly crushed 8-2 by Leicestershire.

No prizes for guessing who came out on top of Junior 2nd North (Yorkshire II), but they only just pipped Cumbria 6-4, putting Cumbria out of reach of promotion and the division representatives being Lancashire and Derbyshire.

Devon were run-away winners of Junior 2nd South with Sussex three points adrift, runners-up.

Junior 3rd Divisions were won by Essex III, Cheshire, Shropshire, Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire.

Veteran Divisions were won by Nottinghamshire, Middlesex and Hampshire.

## PREMIER DIVISION

### Essex 3, Cheshire 6

I. Horsham lost to J. Hilton -17, 17, -17, lost to N. Eckersley -14, -13.  
R. Potton lost to Hilton -14, -17, bt D. Constance 17, 9.  
D. Brown lost to Eckersley -15, -11; bt Constance 25, -19, 16.  
Brown/Horsham bt Constance/Eckersley 16, 18.  
Shelagh Hession lost to Sue Lisle 19, -17, -16.

D. Iszatt/Miss Hession lost to Hilton/Miss Lisle -6, -19.

### Warwickshire 5, Leicestershire 4

D. Johnson lost to C. Rogers -18, -14; bt G. Hall 9, 13.  
D. Munt bt Rogers 17, 10; bt M. Newman 8, 11.  
P. Judd bt Hall 17, 15; lost to Newman -17, -16.  
Johnson/Munt bt Hall/Rogers 19, 14.  
Karen Groves lost to Karen Rogers -13, -13.  
Judd/Miss Groves lost to Newman/Miss Rogers -15, -13.

With Leics' fate already sealed and Warwickshire mid-table, this match was for Midland's pride only. Warwicks without Des Douglas and Paul Randell out of the Leicester team on medical grounds leaving Derek Munt — as in so many similar occasions — the saviour for the home side.

## 2nd SOUTH

### Essex II 5, Kent 5

John Dabin's first outing of the season for Kent secured two sets, but with Ian Robertson making an appearance for Essex, this was a fair result.

### Middlesex II 9, Hampshire 1

Keith Summerfield saved the "whitewash" with a 21, 20 victory over Dave Jemmett, but visitors saw a couple of other very close finishes go the wrong way.

### Surrey II 1, Sussex 9

## 2nd NORTH

### Durham 5, Northumberland 5

### Cleveland II 4, Lancashire 6

### Lincolnshire 1, Yorkshire II 9

## 2nd MIDLAND

### Cheshire II 5, Derbyshire 5

Visitors fighting all the way to collect one point from a match that Cheshire thought didn't matter, but had they known Warwickshire were to beat Glamorgan a couple of hours later . . .

### Glamorgan 3, Warwickshire II 7

Three sets in defeat just enough to pip Cheshire for the title, but a draw would have been a fairer result.

### Staffordshire 10, Clwyd 0

## 2nd EAST

### Bedfordshire 6, Northamptonshire 4

Firoz Nilam responsible for this, yet another surprise result where a team lying bottom of the table beats the leaders, along with Barbara Hammond and Joyce Reeves scored the six sets between them.

### Buckinghamshire 8, Norfolk 2

Mick Musson's two wins for Norfolk weren't enough to stop Buckinghamshire scoring their second win of the season and the securing top place in a very close section.

### Hertfordshire 4, Cambridgeshire 6

Paul Day untroubled in singles but Jon and Simon Proffitt saw Day and Mick Harper off in the doubles without any trouble.

## 2nd WEST

### Avon 2, Wiltshire 8

### Berkshire 10, Somerset 0

The result flatters Berkshire, with five sets requiring decider.

### Devon 6, Worcestershire 4

## 3rd SOUTH

### Bedfordshire II 6, Buckinghamshire II 4

### Kent II 6, Essex III 4

### Sussex II 10, Hertfordshire III 0

## 3rd NORTH

### Cleveland III 4, Cumbria 6

### Lancashire II 7, Derbyshire II 3

### Nottinghamshire 8, Northumberland II 2

## 3rd MIDLAND

### Northants II 3, Staffordshire II 7

A comfortable win for Staffs who won the first five sets without being extended, Northants rallied well but with Steve Dunning and Andrew Rich (on senior debut) Staffs had little trouble.

### Shropshire 4, Leicestershire II 6

Malcolm Green secured three of Salop's four!

## 3rd EAST

### Cambridgeshire II 6, Huntingdonshire 4

## 3rd WEST

### Avon II 3, Dorset 7

### Gloucestershire 3, Herefordshire 7

## JUNIOR PREMIER

### Hertfordshire 6, Cleveland 4

R. Jermyn bt I. Plummer 18, 18; bt M. Murphy -18, 9, 10.

G. Booth bt Plummer -18, 17, 14; bt M. Laird 14, 12.

T. Pleasance bt Murphy 20, 21; lost to Laird 19, -20, -15.

Booth/Jermyn bt Laird/Plummer -19, 18.  
Janice Glazebrook lost to Angela Tierney -13, -10.

Carol Webster lost to June Williams -15, -5.  
Gill Smith/Miss Webster lost to Miss Tierney/Miss Williams -17, -15.

Hertfordshire fortunate to chalk up first win of the season, but Cleveland saw two sets go the wrong way — Mark Murphy was 20-17 up in both games against Terry Pleasance, and went down 22-20, 23-21! the other was the boys' doubles.

### Essex 10, Kent 0

D. Newman bt J. Kennedy 17, 15; bt P. Ptak 11, 12.

K. Jackson bt Kennedy 16, 13; bt P. O'Connor 14, 13.

L. Smith bt Ptak 13, 17; bt O'Connor 24, 15.

Newman/Smith bt Kennedy/Ptak 19, 16.  
Helen Gore bt Anne Pilcher -19, 10, 10.

Elaine Sayer bt Diane Collar 7, 17.  
Miss Gore/Miss Sayer bt Miss Pilcher/Miss Collar 23, 17.

### Hertfordshire 7, Berkshire 3

R. Jermyn bt D. Barr 3, 13; bt R. Johnson 15, 12.

G. Booth bt Barr 14, 15; bt D. Gloster 9, 13.  
T. Pleasance bt Johnson 19, 21; bt Gloster 16, -19, 11.

Booth/Jermyn bt Johnson/Barr -19, 10, 16.  
Janice Glazebrook lost to Mandy Smith -13, -16.

Carol Webster lost to Alison Gordon -11, -7.  
Miss G. Smith/Miss Webster lost to Miss Gordon/Miss M. Smith -11, -15.

Hertfordshire's high spirits continuing from the earlier match against Cleveland where Jermyn, Booth and Pleasance were unbeaten in boys' games.

### Middlesex 6, Cleveland 4

D. Wells bt I. Plummer 17, 19; bt M. Murphy -22, 13, 12.

G. Sandley bt Plummer 16, 24; bt M. Laird 13, -19, 17.

B. Tyler bt Murphy -17, 12, 22; bt Laird 15, -23, 14.

Sandley/Wells lost to Laird/Plummer -20, -16.  
Mandy Reeves lost to Angela Tierney -6, -10.

Helen Williams lost to June Williams -12, -21.  
Miss Reeves/Miss H. Williams lost to Miss Tierney/Miss J. Williams 14, -22, -18.

### Yorkshire 8, Surrey 2

K. Beadsley lost to S. Boxall 21, -16, -18; lost to D. Hannah -19, -15.

M. Harrison bt Boxall 19, 18; bt S. Holloway -12, 19, 17.

S. Mills bt Hannah 18, 17; bt Holloway -16, 10, 14.

Beadsley/Harrison bt Boxall/Hannah 16, 19.  
Linda Hryzsko bt Lorraine Garbett 17, 11.

Sally Midgeley bt Nicola Hayward 5, 10.  
Miss Hryzsko/Miss Midgeley bt Miss Garbett/Miss Hayward 16, 14.

This was an excellent win for the home side, but the result did not in any way show how evenly the teams were matched. Special mention for Steve Holloway making his debut, but is obviously going to make an impression in the division in the future.

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