

"INSURANCE QUOTATION"

For all classes of business

**TRY US FIRST
PARKSIDE (WORLD WIDE)
INSURANCE AGENCY**

Member of the Federation of Insurance Brokers
Represented at Lloyds of London

**THE LODGE, WOODCROFT,
MOTTINGHAM LANE,
LONDON S.E.9.**

'Phone **BARRY MEISEL**
01-857 8589

Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY **GEORGE YATES**

No. 84

January, 1977

Price 25p

: *A Piece of Cake* :



Photo by courtesy of Simon Livingstone Studios, Birmingham

buy British and Best by

Jaques

Published each month, October to May inclusive. Postal subscriptions £2.75 for eight issues. Overseas airmail £4.50.

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

Subscriptions: Mrs. Bessie Clark, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA. Phone: (0424) 433121.

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

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

Life at the Top

Other than to remain static there is only one way to go when you are at the top and that is downwards.

Having reached the pinnacle in Prague last April to become the European women's singles champion, England's Jill Hammersley has subsequently found it difficult to keep her foothold on the lofty summit.

Losses to Zoya Rudnova, of the Soviet Union and to Ann-Christin Hellman, of Sweden, in European League matches and defeat by Judit Magos, of Hungary, in the French Open, are bound to be taken into consideration when next the classification committee of the E.T.T.U. revise their rankings.

Unfortunately for Jill, an appendix operation at the outset of the current season had adverse repercussions on her playing capabilities.

But, through the good offices of the Sports Aid Foundation, Jill is being sent to Japan following the Norwich Union International Championships on Teesside and hopefully the brilliance of her play in the Czech capital will again be in evidence when she crosses swords with the world's best at Birmingham.

A happy New Year to you, Jill.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.

President: M. Goldstein.

Life Vice-President: Hon. Ivor Montagu.

Chairman: C. M. Wyles, O.B.E.

Deputy Chairman: G. R. Yates.

Hon. Treasurer: T. Blunn.

General Secretary: Albert W. Shipley.

Management Committee:

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



ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR

STILL UNBEATEN

Hungary continued their winning ways in the **Super Division of the European League** by accounting for Yugoslavia 5-2 in Zagreb on December 15.

Reigning world champion, Istvan Jonyer, figured in three of the visitors' successes, beating both Dragutin Surbek and Milivoj Karakasevic in singles combat and sharing, with Tibor Klampar, a win in the men's doubles.

Surbek set the home team on the right course by beating Klampar in the opening set but, other than the mixed, won by Surbek and Branka Batinic, nothing else went the Yugoslavs' way. Individual scores: D. Surbek bt T. Klampar 16, 18.

M. Karakasevic lost to I. Jonyer -24, -22.

B. Batinic lost to J. Magos -18, -11.

Z. Kosanovic/Surbek lost to Jonyer/Klampar 15, -18, -16.

Surbek/Batinic bt Jonyer/Magos -9, 18, 18.

Surbek lost to Jonyer 17, -20, -15.

Karakasevic lost to Klampar 14, -17, -17.

In direct contrast England tumbled to their fourth successive defeat when "white-washed" 7-0 by Sweden in Varberg on the same night. Only one of the seven sets went into a deciding game, that being the men's doubles won by Stellan Bengtsson and Ulf Thorsell over Desmond Douglas and Paul Day.

Flu victim Linda Howard was an absentee from the party to assemble at Heathrow, as was Denis Neale, the latter being fog-bound on the M6 and M1 on his journey South. The Clevelanders could have caught a later plane but in the departure lounge at Heathrow made the mistake of leaving

his luggage unattended and had it stolen . . . the lot! Scores in Varberg were:—

U. Thorsell bt P. Day 8, 8.

S. Bengtsson bt D. Douglas 20, 19.

A-C. Hellman bt J. Hammersley 20, 18.

Bengtsson/Thorsell bt Day/Douglas -14, 9, 17.

Bengtsson/Hellman bt Douglas/Hammersley 11, 15.

Thorsell bt Douglas 20, 15.

Bengtsson bt Day 16, 15.

The Soviet Union put themselves back into the reckoning when, in Julich, on the same night, they beat Federal Germany 5-2, the two to evade them being a men's singles won by Jochen Leiss over Sarkis Sarkhojan and the men's doubles captured by Leiss and Peter Engel. Scores:—

W. Leick lost to A. Strokotov 15, -13, -18.

J. Leiss bt S. Sarkhojan 19, 24.

W. Hendriksen lost to Z. Rudnova -9, -19.

P. Engel/Leiss bt Sarkhojan/Strokotov 13, -13, 8.

Engel/U. Hirschmüller lost to Strokotov/Rudnova -11, -18.

Lieck lost to Sarkhojan -9, -18.

Leiss lost to Strokotov -15, 19, -16.

France, at home to Czechoslovakia, in Amiens, went down 3-4 after trailing 0-3, with Jacques Secretin losing to Milan Orlovski in the second set. It was at this stage that the French staged a recovery by capturing both doubles but Orlovski assured the Czechs of a win by beating Christian Martin very easily in the penultimate set. Scores:—

C. Martin lost to J. Kunz -20, -14.

J. Secretin lost to M. Orlovski 18, -16, -18.

B. Thiriet lost to B. Silhanova 14, -19, -15.



Ulf Thorsell, of Sweden, who accounted for Desmond Douglas and Paul Day in the European League match in Varberg.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden.

P. Birocheau/Secretin bt Kunz/Orlowski 16, 12.
 Secretin/C. Bergeret bt Orlowski/Silhanova 17, 10.
 Martin lost to Orlowski -10, -7.
 Secretin bt Kunz -15, 13, 15.



Guess the name of the player? He is more often seen on the football field playing for Barcelona, but Netherlands ace forward Johan Cruiff can also take good care of himself on the table tennis table and is a regular at the Barcelona 7 a 9 club, in Spain.

Photo by courtesy of Cor du Buy.

	Super Division					
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	4	0	17	11	4
Sweden	4	3	1	20	8	3
U.S.S.R.	4	3	1	19	9	3
France	4	2	2	18	10	2
Czechoslovakia	4	2	2	15	13	2
Yugoslavia	4	1	3	11	17	1
Federal Germany	4	1	3	10	18	1
England	4	0	4	2	26	0

January Fixtures

Jan. 19—Yugoslavia v U.S.S.R.
 England v Czechoslovakia
 (Horwich Leisure Centre, Bolton, 7-30 p.m.)
 France v Sweden
 Hungary v Federal Germany

Netherlands, by beating Greece 6-1, held on to their leadership of **Division 1**, but in close attendance are Poland, 5-2 winners over Belgium, in Virton, and Bulgaria who, in Pressbaum, defeated Austria 6-1. Scores: Austria 1, Bulgaria 6

E. Amplatz bt P. Mitev -18, 14, 14.
 H. Koller lost to D. Hasanov -16, -22.
 D. Fetter lost to E. Neikova 16, -16, -4.
 Amplatz/G. Müller lost to Hasanov/Mitev -14, 17, -13.
 Müller/Fetter lost to Mitev/A. Rangelova -13, -20.
 Amplatz lost to Hasanov -17, -19.
 Koller lost to Mitev -14, 15, -18.

Belgium 2, Poland 2
 N. van de Walle lost to Z. Fraczyk 15, -15, -18.
 W. Dugardin lost to S. Fraczyk -17, -11.
 M-F. Germiot bt J. Szatko -13, 19, 16.
 Dugardin/v.d. Walle lost to Fraczyk/Fraczyk -14, -18.
 v.d. Walle/Germiot bt Z. Fraczyk/Szatko 20, 16.
 v.d. Walle lost to S. Fraczyk 16, -15, -13.
 Dugardin lost to Z. Fraczyk -10, -18.

Regrettably the scoresheet of the match Netherlands versus Greece is not to hand

nor the one recording Italy's 5-2 away win over Ireland. Black mark here to the offending parties.

Scores in respect of the Netherlands 5-2 win over Italy, in Varese, on November 11, were:—
 S. Bosi bt B. v.d. Helm -13, 19, 18.
 M. Costantini bt N. v. Slobbe 18, -13, 18.
 S. Clementoni lost to S. Heltzel -9, -9.
 Bosi/S. Malesci lost to v.d. Helm/v Slobbe -14, -19.
 Malesci/F. Saporettil lost to v.d. Helm/Heltzel -9, -14.
 Bosi lost to v Slobbe -14, -22.
 Costantini lost to v.d. Helm -10, -10.

Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	4	3	1	20	8	3
Poland	4	3	1	17	11	3
Bulgaria	4	3	1	15	13	3
Belgium	4	2	2	14	14	2
Greece	4	2	2	13	15	2
Italy	4	1	3	13	15	1
Ireland	4	1	3	12	16	1
Austria	4	1	3	8	20	1

January Fixtures

Jan. 19—Greece v Italy
 Bulgaria v Poland
 Ireland v Netherlands
 Austria v Belgium

Although unbeaten after two matches, Scotland are by no means assured of the **Division 2** championship, not whilst Luxembourg are knocking up the sets as they did to beat Spain 6-1 in Barcelona on December 15. Scores:—

D. Sanchez lost to C. Putz -16, -15.
 J. Feliu bt A. Hartmann 18, -17, 12.
 M. Sanahuja lost to J. Dom -14, -12.
 Junyent/S. Moles lost to Hartmann/Putz -15, -15.
 J. Lupon/P. Lupon lost to Hartmann/Dom -14, -14.
 Sanchez lost to Hartmann -12, -19.
 Feliu lost to Putz -12, 13, -13.

Scores in the match Switzerland versus Spain, played on November 4, were:
 B. Chatton lost to D. Sanchez -15, -19.
 T. Busin lost to J. Feliu -17, -14.
 V. Lehmann lost to P. Lupon -18, -19.
 Barcikowski/Busin bt J. Lupon/Sanchez 12, 15.

Busin/Lehmann bt Feliu/M. Sanahuja -19,

18, 19.
 Chatton lost to Feliu -8, -16.
 Busin bt Sanchez 9, 25.

Division 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Luxembourg	2	2	0	13	1	2
Scotland	2	2	0	9	5	2
Switzerland	3	1	2	8	13	1
Spain	3	1	2	7	14	1
Wales	2	0	2	5	9	0

January Fixtures

Jan. 19—Luxembourg v Wales
 Switzerland v Scotland

DUTCH LEADERS

Amsterdam's Tempo-Team, comprising former English international Trevor Taylor, Nicco van Slobbe and Rene Hijne, won the Dutch Autumn Team Championships with maximum points from 10 matches, 4 points clear of H.I.A. Panels, of Apeldoorn (writes **Bas den Breejen**).

Yet another former English international, Judy Williams, spearheaded Deltalloyd of Amsterdam, to the championships of the women's league, her team-mates being Annemieke and Conny van Moorst. They finished with a 2 points advantage over Tempo-Team's Heltzel, van de Vliet and Arntz.

JOHANSSON BACK

News from Tommy Andersson, in Sweden, is that Kjell Johansson is playing again. He won a tournament in Arlöv, near Malmo, beating Per Sandström (who beat Ulf Thorsell) in the final. Kjell will play in Bratislava in the Czech Open... his international comeback.

Just before Christmas the Swedish Youth Championships were played in Västerås, near Stockholm. It was terrible, writes **Tommy**, badly organised, 24 tables in three courts, something like Tivoli, nowhere to sit... grrrr!

152 clubs from the whole of Sweden had sent 730 players! 301 played in the Boys' A Singles (Under-15). Ultimate winner was Anders Thunström, boys' Cadet winner in Mödling, and his prize... a visit to the 34th World Championships in Birmingham. Other results: U-17 Boys—Ulf Bengtsson (beat Lars Franklin in semis). G.S.: Anneli Hernvall.



These two players had never seen each other before the Scandinavian Open. Both are defensive players. Christian Martin, of France (left) and Peter Skullman, of Norrköping, reached the semi-final of the Men's Doubles. Skullman is not among the 20 best senior players in Sweden. He is aged 19.

Photo by Tommy Andersson, Lund, Sweden.

The next Scandinavian Open will be played in Borlänge, in the province of Dalarna, famed for ice hockey and skiing. Borlänge is 750 kilometres from Malmö. This season's Scandinavian Open made a profit . . . some 50,000 Swedish crowns! **Tom Blunn please note.—Ed.**

9th Southend 2-Star Open

CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR DOUGLAS

by Mike Watts

Following on his success in the Nissen Tournament at Sale the night before, Desmond Douglas moved South to capture all three titles in the 9th Southend Open, held at the Park Sports Centre, Rayleigh, Essex, over the weekend of November 13-14, 1976.

The tournament, sponsored by Midland Bank Limited, was a huge success with a capacity entry of 270 players providing two hectic days for the organisers. The awards at the finals on the Sunday evening were made by Mr. T. Walker, Manager of the Southend Branch of Midland Bank, accompanied by his wife, and amongst the many other dignitaries present were Councillor A. Harvey, Chairman of the Rochford District Council, Mr. Lawrence, Manager of the Midland Bank at Rayleigh, and Mr. W. E. Wynne, from the Midland Bank Public Relations branch.

Douglas, out to quickly prove the selectors wrong in down-rating him to No. 2 in the latest England rankings, was untouchable. In quick succession he disposed of Graham Sandley, Alan Lamprell, Bob Aldrich and Bob Potton in the quarters. Chris Sewell, the No. 4 seed, quickly followed just as easily in the semis, and although Alan Hydes, his final opponent, gave Desmond a few shocks with some fine quick hitting in the early part of the first game, the final result was never in doubt as Desmond took the first prize of £70 without dropping a game.

Angela Mitchell, the young Middlesex star, following hard on the heels of Douglas in attempting to clinch the hat-trick, only just failed to take the women's singles title when she lost, narrowly, what was to be the best final of the evening, to Shelagh Hession at -18 in the third, in a repeat of the 1974 final. The rallies here were long and drawn out, with Shelagh retrieving some magnificent hits from Angela with the coolness of the very good player that she is. Many other girls would have wilted under the pressure, but Shelagh hung on in the third game, after being pegged back to one-all, and two very fine edges proved to be the turning point of the match.

Douglas gained his second title when, in partnership with Richard Yule, the Scottish No. 1, they disposed of Ian Robertson and Potton comfortably in the third. Earlier, Ian and Bob had proved that their performance last year in the English Closed when they reached the semi-final, was no fluke, as they disposed of a number of good pairings including the No. 2 seeds, Hydes and Landry.

The women's singles finalists teamed up to take the doubles from Lesley Radford and Helen Gore in what was a one-sided final.

The fifth main event, the mixed, saw Douglas and Angela Mitchell triumph over surprise finalists David Iszatt and Julie Reading. Iszatt and Miss Reading played extremely well throughout the event and took the champions to a deciding game before going down.

What was probably a unique event occurred in the boys' singles. All four semi-finalists, David Newman, Sandley, Colin

Wilson and David Wells were all left-handers, and if most people there had been asked to pick a winner not many would have settled for Wells, who finally took the title after beating Newman in the semi-final and his Middlesex team-mate Sandley, in the final.

Alison Gordon won the girls' singles, her final opponent being Mandy Reeves, and Vic Ireland finally managed to win the Veterans from Laurie Fountain who earlier had disposed of Peter D'Arcy.

The finals were well attended by nearly 300 people, despite the atrocious weather conditions, and the organisers were happy that this probably was the best Southend-organised tournament that has been held so far.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

D. Douglas (Wa) bt R. Potton (E) 10, 14.
C. Sewell (Av) bt J. Kitchener (Sk) 17, -19, 20.

D. Brown (E) bt P. Bowen (La) 15, 13.
A. Hydes (Y) bt I. Horsham (E) 19, -19, 11.

Semi-finals

Douglas bt Sewell 14, 14.
Hydes bt Brown 10, 12.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Hydes 11, 12.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

S. Hession (E) bt L. Radford (E) 14, 15.
A. Mitchell (Mi) bt A. Gordon (Bk) 17, 9.

Final

HESSION bt Mitchell 18, -18, 18.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/R. Yule (Sc) bt Brown/Horsham 14, 19.

Potton/I. Robertson (E) bt Hydes/L. Landry (Mi) 22, 21.

Final

DOUGLAS/YULE bt Potton/Robertson 10, -9, 12.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Hession/Mitchell bt L. Budd (E)/J. Reading (Ha) 10, 12.

H. Gore (E)/Radford bt C. Reeves/M. Smith (Bk) -11, 16, 18.

Final

HESSION/MITCHELL bt Gore/Radford 7, 6

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Mitchell bt B. Tyler (Mi)/Smith 15, -19, 7.

D. Iszatt (E)/Reading bt Horsham/Radford 19, -17, 19.

Final

DOUGLAS/MITCHELL bt Iszatt/Reading 12, -17, 15.

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals

D. Wells (Mi) bt D. Newman (E) 15, 16.

G. Sandley (Mi) bt C. Wilson (Ha) 12, -21, 15.

Final

WELLS bt Sandley -21, 16, 21.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals

Gordon bt Gore 14, -18, 19.

M. Reeves (Mi) bt Smith 19, 14.

Final

GORDON bt Reeves 14, -15, 14.

Veteran Singles—Semi-finals

V. Ireland (E) bt B. Meisel (K) 14, 17.

L. Fountain (E) bt P. D'Arcy (Che) 19, 16.

Final

IRELAND bt Fountain 15, 22.

RESIDENTIAL COURSE

A Residential Coaches Course has been arranged at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, from Friday, 21st—Sunday, 23rd January, 1977. There will be no evening meal available on the Friday evening.

The Syllabus of this course will be of interest to all qualified coaches wishing to further their knowledge in the development of the sport.

The fee for this course will be £10.50 and the staff will be Peter Simpson, National Trainer, Harry Dignam, Coaching Adviser, Bob Wiley, 3-Star Diploma Coach, and Alan Hydes, English International player and 2-Star Diploma Coach.

Applications, together with fee for £10.50 per person (cheques and postal orders to be made payable to E.T.T.A.) to Peter Simpson, 9 Lisker Avenue, Otley, LS21 1DG.



GOLD CUP TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT FROM CHINA

Officially recognised by the Table Tennis Association of the Peoples Republic of China, and used by leading Chinese players. Reasonably priced range. Everyone can now own a bat used by world-ranked players. Available from leading sports shops or enquire direct.

Model 550 NB

- Special 7-ply laminated blade.
- Unique TIENTSIN 72 rubber sandwich.
- Every bat provided with Gold Cup case.

Other products available include:
Model 580 S and Model 527 P bats.
Gold Cup bat cases. Gold Cup balls No. 816.
Chromed Steel heavy-duty TT posts, automatic, with spring grips.

Actif

Actif Sports Co.
6 Mill Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Well Done, Philip!



Sylvia Mulcahy

Philip Mulcahy

Felicity Green
Publicity Director,

Mirror Group Newspapers Ltd.

Photo by courtesy of the "Daily Mirror".

Philip Mulcahy, Deputy Director, Promotion and Publicity, IPC Newspapers, retired on the 10th December, 1976, after 38 years' service with the Company. Some 200 guests attended his farewell party at the offices of the "Daily Mirror" on the 9th December, when Bill Vint (who was the Hon. General Secretary of the ETTA when the "Daily Mirror" Tournaments were organised), and Bill Latto, the Announcer at the Finals of the Tournament, were present to witness Felicity Green, the "Mirror" Publicity Director, present numerous gifts and pay tribute to his loyal and conscientious service over a long period of time.

Philip, elected a Vice-President of the ETTA in 1964, was the inspiration and organiser of the "Daily Mirror" National Table Tennis Tournament, which commenced in 1950 and continued until 1957. It was the world's biggest tournament, attracting entries of around 10,000-12,000 each year with Finals at the Royal Albert Hall, Liverpool Stadium (1956) and the Free Trade Hall, in Manchester, 1957.

Bill Pope was the first Secretary to plan the Tournament and it is interesting to read the programme to find Ivor Montagu as the Referee, Bill Vint, H. Roy Evans and R. W. Stewart (subsequently R. D. Dykes) as the Organising Committee representing the Associations for England, Scotland and Wales.

Well done, Philip! You did a good job for Table Tennis, may you have a long and happy retirement.

Welsh Corner

H. Roy Evans

GOOD NEWS AND BAD

Triumph and disaster, all within the space of two days. This was the story of the Cardiff Open, followed by our European League match against Switzerland. The good news first—

Alan Griffiths won the Cardiff Open in fine style, with a first-ever win over the highly unorthodox John Hilton, of Cheshire, in a final that had Alan trailing in the closing stages but coming through when even John's tricks failed to win the all-important points. Alan had staged a last-minute gallop through against Tony Clayton in the semi-final, again getting those last valuable points just when Tony looked like being in with a chance to take the Cardiff title for the third time.

Graham Davies lost in the semis to Hilton and he and Alan went out to Hilton and Phil Bowen in the men's doubles semi-final. John and Phil went on to beat Clayton and Alan Fletcher in the final, but one wonders

whether Hilton does not impose just as much a puzzle on his partner as he does on his opponents!

Teri Foldy, of Switzerland, beat Diane St. Ledger, of Warwickshire in the third game of the women's semi, then went on to triumph over Warwickshire's other young star, Karen Groves, also in the third. Julie Ralphs took the first game against Karen in the other semi, but just wasn't steady enough in the decider.

Teri partnered her team-mate, Vicky Lehmann, to register another victory over Diane and Karen in the women's doubles, but Diane got some consolation in a mixed win with Nigel Eckersley over the Welsh Pair, George Evans and Margaret Phillips.

The tall Devonian, Terry Fairbanks, won the boys' singles, with an easy win over the Welsh No. 1, Jeffrey Morgan, who has only his lack of temperamental control to blame for this set-back. The young Swiss girl, Wyder, took the girls' event, against little real opposition. Rhyl's Mark Thomas beat Alan Coulthard comfortably in the boys' cadets, whilst Susan Jones beat Brenda Annand in the cadet girls' event.

This was the biggest ever Cardiff Open, with real depth in the men's singles, and

the Cardiff officials did well to get through it all by 11 p.m.

And so on to Abercynon Sports Centre on the Sunday, for the very important match against Switzerland. The visitors had gone down 3-4 to Spain and been "whitewashed" by Luxembourg, but they had been without Laszlo Foldy, the experienced Hungarian, who has played so well for the Swiss in World and European Championships. With several wins to his credit against Griffiths and Davies, it was not surprising to see Laszlo back in the side, and also his wife, for both of these are still better than the younger Swiss.

And so the tale, unfortunately predictable, unfolded. Perhaps suffering a reaction from his Cardiff Open triumph, Alan was very unconvincing in an opening win over Busin. Then Graham made a very good effort indeed to lose to Foldy in the third. After that it was Julie against Teri, and we were delighted to see the Welsh girl play her most controlled ever, although losing in the third. Disaster struck in the men's doubles when Alan and Graham must have played their worst for a long time to lose to Busin and Barcikowski. In the mixed which followed, Julie produced her best-ever form for Wales, and the fact that she missed a couple of potential winners in the closing stages must not be allowed to cloud the fact that she played as well as Graham in most other respects.

Alan was completely astray against the wiles of Foldy, and has not looked so ineffective for a long time. Graham saved our faces a little with a last set win over Busin, but it was a sad night for Wales, with matches against Luxembourg away to come and against Spain at the time of the Welsh Open.

CARDIFF OPEN — RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

Hilton bt Davies 17, 17.

Griffiths bt Clayton 19, -13, 20.

Final

GRIFFITHS bt Hilton 17, -16, 19.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

Foldy bt St. Ledger 15, -19, 10.

Groves bt Ralphs -16, 19, 18.

Final

FOLDY bt Groves.

Men's Doubles—Final

HILTON/BOWEN bt Clayton/Fletcher 22, 18.

Women's Doubles—Final

FOLDY/LEHMANN bt St. Ledger/Groves

19, -19, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Final

ECKERSLEY/ST. LEDGER bt Evans/Phil-

lips 11, 17.

Boys' Singles—Final

FAIRBANKS bt Morgan 18, 19.

Girls' Singles—Final

WYDER bt Harper 13, 17.

Cadet Boys' Singles—Final

THOMAS bt Coulthard 12, 13.

Cadet Girls' Singles—Final

SUSAN JONES bt Annand 16, 8.

Wales v Switzerland

Griffiths bt Busin 20, 23; lost to Foldy -10,

-20.

Davies lost to Foldy 16, -13, -15; bt Busin

15, 18.

Ralphs lost to Foldy 16, -16, -12.

Griffiths/Davies lost to Busin/Barcikowski

-15, 10, -12.

Davies/Ralphs lost to Foldy/Foldy 19, -19,

-15.

Cover Photograph

Councillor Edward Hanson, Chairman of Birmingham's Leisure and Amenities Committee, cuts into the celebratory cake at the National Exhibition Centre following the formal exchange of agreements between Birmingham and the English Table Tennis Association in connection with the 34th World Championships. ETTA President, Maurice Goldstein (extreme left) and ETTA Chairman, Charles M. Wyles, OBE, take pleasure in observing the operation.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Christopher Hillan

All our teams were in action on November 20, our main adversaries being Hertfordshire, against whom we played in three matches at senior and junior level.

Two of these matches, the senior first and junior seconds, were played at Wolverton Sports and Social Club. It was the first time this venue had been used for County matches and our thanks go especially to Jeff Wilson for the great effort he put into the organisation.

With absolutely no disrespect to Jeff and the club, the day turned out to be a "tale of two tables". The junior seconds were first on in the afternoon against Herts II, the match being played on the club's first choice table which, in my humble opinion, is far too slow for County play, having played on it myself in a local league match last season. Nevertheless, conditions were the same for both sides and having been suitably warned, the Bucks team could be said to have had a real home advantage.

The match started off well enough for the home side with Alex Pratt making his County debut, accounting for Paul Mason 19 in the third, through adapting very well. The turning point came at the end of the second set when Chris Duffin failed to capitalise on a 20-18 lead in the final game against Andrew Smith and went down -20. Philip Bradbury, another young debutant, went down to Rhys Williams, and Herts took the girls' doubles.

Our boys' pair, Duffin and Pratt, rekindled hope with a comfortable win, but young Nicola Hamilton, despite a very brave display on a table which gave no help to her all-out attacking style, narrowly failed against Janice Harding, going down -17, -22. From then on it was all Herts with County debut nerves overcoming Angela Long to a greater extent than her opponent, and only Pratt managed to salvage a game in the last four sets before losing out by -13 in the third to Williams. The resulting 2-8 defeat was a disappointment for Bucks but full credit must be given to Herts for adapting so well to the conditions.

Meanwhile our junior first team were setting about Lincolnshire II in Div. 3 East and, as expected, our boys carried us to a 7-3 win with Chris Leslie, Sam Harmer and Ian Haines all disposing of the opposition with ease. Ian, making his County debut, put in a very encouraging performance, but the girls, also as expected, failed to pick up a set.

Back at Wolverton, the Herts senior team decided that, after less than five minutes knock-up, the table was far from ideal and it was eventually agreed by both sides to play the match on a much faster table which the club had recently purchased second hand and had not previously used. As it spills over with defenders, our team would obviously have been much better suited to the original table, while, with hindsight, it is quite obvious that our juniors would have done far better on the table chosen for the senior match!

Alec Watson, still looking far from his best, lost to Jonathan Proffitt and then Les Wooding, most uncharacteristically, failed to take advantage of a total of 8 set points before going down to Richard Jermyn 14, -21, -20. Tony Clark scraped home against Geoff Giles and the Wat-Wood combination

took the men's doubles with ease. But our weakness in women's doubles was once again seen to Hertfordshire's advantage. Brenda Stevens celebrated her promotion to the first team with what was finally a very comfortable win over L. Towler, but Jean Williams again showed an acute lack of match sharpness and never held out any hope in her singles. Sandwiched between these two sets, Wooding, playing at his best, humbled Proffitt 12 and 15, and Clark went on to record one of his best-ever wins in beating Jermyn 19 and 19. It was left to Watson to clinch the match for Bucks against Giles.

Following their 1-9 walloping by Essex III, our senior second team picked themselves up very well to snatch a 6-4 win away to Herts II.

Mainly due to an outbreak of 'flu our turnout at the Kent Junior Open was far lower than intended, but this tournament gave Leslie and Harmer the opportunity to demonstrate once again what a good doubles pair they are by reaching the final of the U17's.

The first weekend of December saw a further round of County matches, but only our junior first team emerged with a win in doing a repeat of their previous match by beating Hunts 7-3 with the boys once again sweeping the board. Although the girls failed to win a set, Dawn Risby played with much more self-confidence and made Melanie Ringrose work hard for her win.

The junior seconds again went down 2-8, the victors on this occasion being Hampshire II. Both Bradbury and Stuart Lines beat Dave Oakley to record their first wins for the county, while on the girls' side Susan Harvey went down only narrowly to Judith Fairhall in the third and she must be a strong contender for a first team outing.

2-8 defeats were also the fate suffered by both senior teams. Our first team were without the services of Watson but Robert Harman proved to be a capable deputy despite being unsuccessful. Our wins came through Wooding beating Ken Marchant and siding with Clark to preserve the team's unbeaten record in the men's doubles. The same situation prevailed in our second team's defeat by Sussex, with John Leith gaining one win and partnering John Cooper to take the men's doubles.

For me, by far the most encouraging performances by Bucks players over the past month were those given by our youngsters in the Middlesex U-15 Open. Our very inexperienced squad made its mark in most events, with Simon Skeet taking a game off John Souter in the 'U-15 Boys', and Haines, despite being off form, reaching the fourth round of this event before falling to Richard Bergemann.

In the U-13 Boys, Bradbury nearly caused one of the biggest upsets of the day against England No. 4 Cadet, Mark Oakley. Having walloped the Surrey boy 21-9 in the first, Philip immediately built up a lead at the start of the second, at which stage poor Mark was literally reduced to tears. Philip was distracted rather than encouraged by this—lack of experience, unfortunately—and Mark squeezed home in the second by 21-19 and took full advantage of this reprieve to take the decider comfortably. It was then Philip's turn to shed the tears! Lines reached the quarters in this event but lost to Stephen Edwards, of Essex.

Philip and Stuart caused an even bigger stir in the U-13 Doubles when facing the top seeds, Souter and Oakley. Having played very sensibly to take the first game 21-16, they stormed away to an 18-6 lead in the second. With Philip's father going potty on my right I felt I was the only member of the Bucks contingent to expect the worst, even at that stage. My worst fears proved to be well-founded as Souter and Oakley proceeded to make one of the best come-backs I have ever seen, to take the next 15

points on the trot to miraculously win the game 21-18! Considerably deflated, Philip and Stuart collapsed in the third, but both boys have a further season left as cadets, and I, for one, will be disappointed if at least one of them does not figure in the national rankings before their cadet days are over.

Bucks fared excellently in the consolation events, with Karen Purcell winning the U-13 Girls, and Angela Long, Chris Haines and Sarah Walters all reaching semi-finals. Karen is 12 and has been playing for little more than a year. She possesses an excellent match-play temperament and my main regret is that she did not take up the game earlier. Nevertheless, the future looks very rosy for her if she works hard on her game and is given the right kind of advice.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

One solitary point from our latest batch of four County fixtures brought 1976 to a sad closure. The point came from our senior team when they played hosts to Norfolk II, wiping away a 1-4 deficit to salvage a 5-5 draw. The senior squad found themselves on the wrong end of a 4-6 scoreline a fortnight earlier when Suffolk were our opponents. Add to this defeats to our Junior and Veterans by Bucks and Hertfordshire respectively, and it all looks a bit gloomy.

In the Norfolk encounter Alan Lamprell played well to take both his singles whilst Tim Speller took the final singles of the evening. Barbara Pace continued her good run this season with another solo win whilst Belinda Chamberlain, in her first senior outing, also weighed in with a singles win. This was the same result as last time the two counties met and it was good to see Hunts fighting back from a bad position.

A 4-6 defeat was the outcome when Hunts encountered Suffolk. The women, Barbara Pace and Dianne Bushby, were unbeaten in their 3 visits to the table whilst Lamprell had another good singles win. The distaff side also came to the fore when our Juniors entertained Buckinghamshire, Belinda Chamberlain and Melanie Ringrose again being unbeaten to maintain their 100% record this term. Their 3 gains were, however, all the home county could muster as the boys again proved disappointing with only Mark Fisher in the same gear as the Bucks lads.

The Veterans were involved in a tense struggle against Hertfordshire, losing by the odd point of the nine sets. Gordon Cockrom took a singles, losing another at deuce in the decider, and Ken Green also had a solo win whilst Dianne Bushby took the women's singles, continuing her good service to the Hunts County teams at this new level. Gordon and Dianne teamed up to win the mixed. It must be noted that from the aforementioned four matches at three different levels, that the females have amassed 10 points from a possible 11 total.

Melanie Ringrose, from St. Ives, reached her first junior open final when partnered by Sarah Cresswell (Surrey) though they lost at that stage of the Middlesex Under-13 doubles. Their conquerors were Helen Williams (Middlesex) and Lorraine Garbet (Surrey). The Hunts/Surrey partnership had 2 match points when 20-18 up in the second but were unable to take advantage. Belinda Chamberlain, competing in the England Junior Closed, overhauled Carole Colegate (England No. 14) before going out to No. 1-ranked Karen Witt (Berks).

In the latest South East Midland League fixtures Peterborough Juniors have obtained some good results in the second division. The team of Stuart Smith, Gregg Baker and Andrew Roughton are at present unbeaten, with their latest victories showing their heels to the second teams of North

Herts and Hunts Central by 10-0 and 7-3 scorelines respectively. In the latter Michael Bradford turned in a good performance to defeat all three Peterborough boys.

Hunts Central 'B' men's team proved too strong for Peterborough in the second division, obtaining an 8-2 result, Mark Fisher, Derek Smith, Joe Thorogood and Eddy Beeches doing the damage. Central also won the Reserve encounter. The same league's junior first team were good 9-1 winners over Wisbech whilst the men's 'A' side held Wisbech in their first division encounter. Tim Speller, Alan Smith, Sid Burgess and Martin Murden fought back from 1-5 down to a respectable draw. Murden was unbeaten.

St. Neots Juniors are showing improved form with a 6-4 win over Cambridge the latest proof. Keith Mitchell, one of the most improved youngsters locally, was unbeaten, whilst brother John weighed in with one while Keith Mitchell was responsible for the other two gains. St. Neots women found Wellingborough too good, going down 2-8 in their latest fixture.

Hunts Central's Junior girls made their exit from the Bromfield Trophy at the zone final stage going under 1-5 to Norwich with a gain from Melanie Ringrose, the only local success.

The purpose built table tennis centre at St. Neots was featured on Anglia Television recently. The tables are in almost constant use and by the time this column is read National Coach Peter Simpson will have held a Cadet Coaching/Training session on the opening Sunday of the New Year.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

UP TO EXPECTATIONS

The much anticipated Cumbria Junior I versus Derbyshire encounter certainly lived up to expectations with respect to the closeness of the scores, but no one could have expected the first defeat of the season for Chris Reed which led to further disappointments and eventual 4-6 defeat.

Ian Reed saw Cumbria off to a tremendous start in the first set when he beat Stephen Yallop -30, 16, 20. The second proved to be in sharp contrast as Chris suffered that initial defeat against Robert Allen; the set went to a decider but Chris was never able to assert his authority over the Derby No. 2.

The visitors also took the next two sets after a disappointing show from Neil Smith against John Hibbert and a girls' doubles defeat for Gail Smith and Miranda Gray which had looked promising when leading 10-5 in the decider.

Things began to look up again with Cumbria taking the next three sets through Chris and Neil in the doubles, Miranda Gray with an excellent win over Karen Smart, and a 2-straight success for Chris over Yallop. At this stage fortune again changed hands as the visitors took the last three sets to snatch victory. Gail lost her singles 16 and 17 against Linda Holmes, Neil losing to Allen at 19 in the third, and Ian going down to Hibbert 18, -18, -18 after being 12-4 up in the second.

Tough luck for Cumbria but the team will still be going all out to gain that promotion challenge place and eventual Premier Division status. Remaining obstacles include Yorks II and Lancashire, and in each case Cumbria have home advantage.

The senior side also met with disappointment in their second match of the season at Northumberland. Brian Towell and David Kirkpatrick got the team off to a good start by taking the first two sets but further success proved hard to come by with a doubles win for Towell and John Willis and a singles success for Jennifer Pachul being our only pluses during the next six sets. The

final two proved equally barren as David lost 15, -16, -21 to Glenn McArdle and John lost 18, -19, -19 to Tony McQueen, which left the Cumbrian team pointless, and speechless for the journey home.

Carlisle and Barrow are setting the pace in this season's inter-league competition after convincing opening matches over Kendal and Workington respectively. Willis led the strong Carlisle team and was unbeaten in their 10-2 win over opposition which included County No. 2 Towell. Barrow had little trouble in their 11-1 win over Workington, whose only success was in the doubles.

Whitehaven provided the fireworks in the opening round of matches with the 8-4 success over last season's champions, Millom. Whitehaven's 2-set deficit at the start, due to the unavailability of a female player, was to prove no handicap as veteran Bernard Hand showed the way with an unbeaten performance.

Millom's No. 1, Neil Smith, was no match for Hand on the day but took his side's two "real" wins over Jimmy Cummings and Carl Farrer. Ian Harrison, Allan Fallows and Jeanette Bullock made up the rest of the Millom team.

Prize money in next season's Cumbria Open is to be raised following more offers of sponsorship from the Workington firm of "ON TIME" in particular, the men's singles prize going up to £50. The Cumbria Closed Championships also benefits from sponsorship this year and from now on will be known as the LLOYD BROTHERS CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS.

New venue is to be Whitehaven Sports Centre, Flatt Walks, and the date is Sunday, February 6, 1977, commencing at 9-30 a.m. Entry forms are available from local league secretaries and should be returned to the tournament secretary, Mr. Ron Riggs, by January 29, 1977.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE GALLERY

by Dave Foulser

FURTHER DEFEAT FOR THE COUNTY

It is with regret that I have to open this month's column with news of further defeats for the County senior and junior teams. The Seniors travelled to Poole to play Dorset showing two changes from the team that lost to Worcestershire. Dave Harvey maintained his 100% record disposing of both his opponents two-straight but Steve Moreman, making his first senior appearance of the season, could not put it together sufficiently to win either, although he took the first game off the Dorset No. 1, John Robinson. Guy Greening, the County No. 1 junior, maintained his improvement by beating both his opponents. He was particularly impressive against defender Sid Brice, winning 19, -18, 19.

Our women were no match for England-ranked junior Janet New or recent winner of two open tournaments, Joyce Coop. Both Christine Iacopi and Jan Foulser (on her debut) were soundly beaten in both doubles and singles. Whereas in the senior match the women were left wanting, the reverse applied in the junior match against Shropshire, at Shrewsbury, where the boys lost all seven sets and Cathy Robb and Julie Phillips won both their singles and combined to take the doubles as we lost 3-7. Ranked junior, Malcolm Green, spearheaded the home team's success although both Martin Lane and Andrew Golding took a game off him.

We followed this up with a 3-7 home defeat against Cornwall seniors with Harvey again winning his two and Greening the other. Forced to make a late change due to the withdrawal of Willie Dawe, reserve Martin Lane made his debut and played above himself to go the distance with both opponents, losing to R. Bunt -16, 16, -16 and to I. James -18, 14, -19. Christine and

Jan played again but made little impression on the Cornish women.

The same evening the juniors entertained Oxfordshire and ran out 8-2 victors. Golding, John Turner and Lane (in his second match of the day) were all unbeaten and the boys also took the doubles. Cathy Robb also won her singles, but Julie Phillips could not match her.

Harvey, after losing in the final last season to Dawe, fulfilled an ambition last month in winning the Men's Singles in the Gloucestershire Closed for the first time, beating Willie 17 and 16. With Moreman, he also gained the Men's Doubles title beating Willie and Mike Collier -17, 10, 16, but could not make it a hat-trick with the mixed as he and girlfriend Shelley Smith lost to mother and son pairing, Jean and Andrew Golding 7, -15, -15. Christine Iacopi proved undisputedly that she is the County No. 1 by winning the women's singles. Jean Golding and Sylvia Giles showed great experience in taking the Women's Doubles against a host of younger opposition.

The junior events provided the surprises, particularly when Cathy Robb became girls' champion, defeating Vanessa Cruwys in the final -16, 16, 19. The find of the season, 10-years-old Darren Griffin, reached the quarter-finals of the U-17 and the semi-finals of the U-14 boys, losing closely to John Turner. In the Open Singles, Lane beat Mike Prosser and went on to the quarters before losing to Harvey and 12-years-old Andrew Golding defeated Alan Williams before going out in the fourth round to Jeff Spencer. This was the first time the event was held at Stroud Leisure Centre and it proved highly successful.

Gloucester City men played Tamworth for the first time ever and trounced them 9-1 in a match that lasted 3½ hours with six sets going the distance. Dawe and Richard Peppard both scored maximums with support from Prosser, who won two and only lost his other -19 in the third. Gloucester City Veterans suffered their third successive defeat, this time against Cheltenham, with Brian Greaves recording their only success when he got the better of Sam Ewens. Peter Slack and Williams were both unbeaten for Cheltenham. Gloucester City Juniors travelled to Stroud in their first County league match and won 7-2. Golding won the two against Derek Morgan and Darren Griffin.

Stroud men suffered a 3-7 home defeat to Gloucester City with Alan Giles playing well to beat both Prosser and Peppard, but the shock victory was by John Heathcote over Dawe 17 and 11! Young Golding performed creditably and did well to take a game off Peppard.

Cheltenham Women played two matches against Oxford and the 'A' team triumphed 7-3 whilst the 'B' team went down 4-6. In the former match Christine Iacopi won three and Cathy Robb was also unbeaten. Jan Foulser was rather out of touch but still beat the Oxford No. 3. Shelley Smith was the hero for the home team in the 'B' match playing exceptionally well to collect two wins, as well as taking the doubles with Julie Bearcroft. Julie had little luck, losing all her singles, although she was the only player to take the Oxford No. 1 the distance, losing -19 in the third. Diane Marsh gained the other point in startling fashion, winning 21, -14, 5. Jan, Shelley and Julie were all making their debuts for the town.

Around the leagues Cope Chat appear to be coasting home in the Stroud 1st Division whilst Frocester C.C. 'A' are leading Div. 2. In Gloucester, Gordon League 'A' are running the usual battle for the 1st Division championship with Taynton. The two have already faced each other when the League ran out 7-3 winners due to Bryan Merrett being in their team. In the second division Taynton are in the driving seat, thanks to Graham Bonser, although Newent, D.H.S.S. and Jamaican Club are all trying desperately to catch up.

22nd YUGOSLAV OPEN

HOME TRIUMPH FOR SURBEK

by George R. Yates

In Novi Sad, on November 20, in front of his own vociferous supporters, **Dragutin Surbek** sent them home rejoicing following his triumph in the men's singles event of the 22nd Yugoslav Open Championships.

It was a titanic final encounter which saw the Yugoslav nose home 21-19 in the fifth game over Tibor Klampar, of Hungary.

In the semi-finals Surbek accounted for China's No. 1 world-ranked Liang Ko-liang and Klampar advanced at the expense of his compatriot, Istvan Jonyer, the reigning world men's singles titleholder.

Pak Yung Sun, the other world singles champion, from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had better fortune in taking the women's title at the final expense of China's Ke Hsian-ai, world-ranked at No. 3.

In all some 30 world-ranked players—11 men and 19 women—participated in this star-studded tournament, which attracted entries from 16 countries in addition to the home contingent.

China dominated the team championships, beating Yugoslavia 3-2 in the men's event and Hungary 3-1 in the women's. In addition **Liang Ko-liang** and **Ke Hsian-ai** won the mixed, the latter pairing with **Liu Hsin-yen** to win the women's doubles.

Gabor Gergely and **Milan Orlovski**, a Hungarian-Czech combine, took the men's doubles with a final victory over Yugoslavia's Surbek and Zoran Kosanovic. But the day belonged to Surbek, for his was the victory which set the stadium alight on an otherwise dull Saturday afternoon.

SHORT NOTICE

Dogged by illness and injuries, England had Jimmy Walker called up at short notice to replace a sick Denis Neale and, after participation against Poland, in the men's team event, Nicky Jarvis was packed off home nursing an injured back.

On the male side this left Paul Day and Walker to carry the flag in the individual events and proudly they did so. Day, in particular, after a first round bye, finally disposed of Dejan Kukin 21-13 in the fifth after the 19th-ranked Yugoslav had put up a whale of a fight.

Subsequently, match tight, the Scham left-hander then proceeded to eliminate the No. 2-ranked Czech, Jaroslav Kunz, 3-1, losing the second game, remarkably 5-21!

Next engaged by Jonyer, the English No. 3 won the first game against the world champion, but thereafter lost his momentum and fell away in the next three.

Walker, also with a first round bye, initially met a substituted host nation player, by name of Subotin, winning 3-straight, but having established a 2-1 lead over Lu Chi-wei, of China, eventually fell -14 in the fifth.

With Jarvis scratched, Walker sat out the men's doubles event in which Day, partnered by René Hatem, of France, fell to the Yugoslavs Lazar Kurtes and Kukin at the first time of asking.

INEVITABLY

Jill Hammersley, in the women's singles, did all that was expected of her in beating the North Korean Kim Chang-ae, world-ranked at No. 16, and the host nation's youthful Branka Batinic albeit 15 in the fifth.

Inevitably, or so it would seem, it was a Chinese opponent, Chu Hsiang-yun, world-ranked at No. 11, who brought Jill's run to an end in the quarters.

Carole Knight, in the top half of the draw, began brightly with a 3-0 win over Vladana Trifkovic, of Yugoslavia but, well as she fought, failed to master Hungary's Gabriella Szabo, who won 15, -21, 20, 19 in the next round.

Together the English girls reached the quarters of the doubles, losing to the eventual winners, Ke Hsian-ai and Liu Hsin-yen. In the mixed event, with Jarvis absent, Jill was a non-starter and the Teesside duo of Walker and Carole, after a 3-0 win over Petre Mitev of Bulgaria and Christine Forgo, of Canada, fell by a similar score to Surbek and Erzebet Palatinus, of Yugoslavia.

Day found himself paired with the trim-figured Claude Bergeret, of France, and well they combined in reaching the third round before being ousted -19, 12, -16, -23 by the home pair, Kosanovic and Batinic.

TEAM EVENTS

In the team events, England's men registered a narrow 3-2 win over Poland, with Day beating the Fraczyk brothers, Stanislaw and Zbigniew, and combining with Jarvis for the doubles.

Subsequently, with Walker replacing Jarvis, only token resistance was offered to the all-conquering team from the People's Republic of China, Liang Ko-liang and Kuo Yao-hua.

In their first match in the women's team

event, Jill and Carole succeeded only in taking the doubles set to three against Korea D.P.R., whose Pak Yung Sun and Pak Yung Ok, reigned supreme.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Round 4

Liang Ko-liang (CN) bt G. Gergeley (HU) 10, 11, 17.
S. Bengtsson (S) bt P. Birocheau (FR) 18, -6, 23, -19, 14.
M. Orlovski (CS) bt Huang Tung-sheng (CN) 19, 19, 14.
D. Surbek (YU) bt P. Mitev (BU) 10, 11, 13.
T. Klampar (HU) bt Wang Wen-yung (CN) 13, 20, -17, 12.
Lu Chi-wei (CN) bt S. Fraczyk (PL) 20, 20, 16.
Kuo Yao-hua (CN) bt U. Thorsell (S) 19, 9, -22, 9.
I. Jonyer (HU) bt P. Day (EN) -15, 13, 14, 13.

Quarter-finals

Liang Ko-liang bt Bengtsson 16, 8, 14.
Surbek bt Orlovski 20, -17, 13, -9, 15.
Klampar bt Lu Chi-wei 18, -8, 19, 18.
Jonyer bt Kuo Yao-hua 19, 19, 19.

Semi-finals

Surbek bt Liang Ko-liang 16, 15, 16.

Klampar bt Jonyer -18, 18, 17, 15.

Final

SURBEK bt Klampar -17, 18, -15, 15, 19.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

Pak Yung Sun (KD) bt G. Szabo (HU) 8, 18, 10.
Chang Teh-ying (CN) bt D. Fabri (YU) 17, 23, 18.
Chu Hsiang-yun (CN) bt J. Hammersley (EN) 20, 13, 17.
Ke Hsian-ai (CN) bt Pak Yung Ok (KD) 15, -12, -17, 14, 17.

Semi-finals

Pak Yung Sun bt Chang Ten-ying 18, 14, 10.

Ke Hsian-ai bt Chu Hsiang-yun 10, 16, 19.

Final

PAK YUNG SUN bt Ke Hsian-ai 10, 14, 17.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals

Gergely/Orlovski bt Kuo Yao-hua/Liang Ko-liang 19, 15, 16.
D. Jurcic/M. Karakasevic (YU) bt Bengtsson/L. Frankli (S) 17, -13, 20, 14.

Z. Kosanovic (YU)/Surbek bt E. Amplatz/G. Muller (AU) 11, 18, 13.

Jonyer/Klampar bt R. Lagerfeldt (S)/Thorsell -10, 22, 14, 10.

Semi-finals

Gergely/Orlovski bt Jurcic/Karakasevic 12, -19, 12, 10.

Kosanovic/Surbek bt Jonyer/Klampar 17, 16, 17.

Final

GERGELY/ORLOWSKI bt Kosanovic/Surbek 17, 18, -18, 20.

Continued on Page 12



A new picture of Dragutin Surbek, winner on his own soil, of the Yugoslav Open Men's Singles title in Novi Sad.

Photo by Don Morley. Morden.

Continued from Page 10

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals
 D. Dubinova/I. Uhlíkova (CS) bt Kim Chang-ae/Pak Yung Ok (KD) 19, 16, 19.
 Chang Teh-ying/Chu Hsian-yun bt C. Bergeret/B. Thiriet (FR) -18, 13, 16, 17.
 A-C. Hellman/B. Olsson (S) bt Fabri/E. Palatinus (YU) 17, 18, -20, 18.
 Ke Hsian-ai/Liu Hsin-yen bt Hammersley/C. Knight (EN) 8, -16, 6, 20.
Semi-finals
 Chang Teh-ying/Chu Hsian-yun bt Dubinova/Uhlíkova 17, 9, 16.
 Ke Hsian-ai/Liu Hsin-yen bt Hellman/Olsson 15, 11, 7.
Final
 KE HSIAN-AI/LIU HSIN-YEN bt Chang Teh-ying/Chu Hsian-yun 16, 9, 16.
Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals
 Liang Ko-liang/Ke Hsian-ai bt Kosanovic/B. Batanic (YU) 16, 14, 16.
 Bengtsson/Olsson bt Jo Yong Ho (KD)/Pak Yung Ok 20, 19, 14.
 Orłowski/Uhlíkova bt Lu Chi-wei/Liu Hsin-yen 4, 13, 16.
 Surbek/Palatinus bt Kuo Yao-hua/Chang Teh-ying 22, 25, -17, 18.
Semi-finals
 Liang Ko-liang/Ke Hsian-ai bt Bengtsson/Olsson 15, -20, 7, 20.
 Orłowski/Uhlíkova bt Surbek/Palatinus 15, 19, -9, -16, 18.
Final
 LIANG KO-LIANG/KE HSIAN-AI bt Orłowski/Uhlíkova -19, 19, 11, 14.

TEAM EVENTS

MEN

Round 1
 Poland 3, Egypt 0
 Yugoslavia II 3, Austria 1
 Korea DPR 3, Italy 0
Round 2
 China 3, Bulgaria 0
 England 3, Poland 2
 P. Day bt S. Fraczyk 17, 19; N. Jarvis lost to Z. Fraczyk -25, 15; Day/Jarvis bt Fraczyk/Fraczyk 11, 20; Jarvis lost to S. Fraczyk -13, -14; Day bt Z. Fraczyk 16, 6.
 Hungary 3, Yugoslavia II 1
 Sweden 3, Indonesia 0
 Korea DPR 3, Czechoslovakia 2
 France 3, Yugoslavia Jnr 0
 Rumania 3, Greece 0
 Yugoslavia 3, Tunisia 0
Quarter-finals
 China 3, England 0
 Liang Ko-liang bt Day 14, 10; Kuo Yao-hua bt J. Walker 15, 11; Kuo Yao-hua/Liang Ko-liang bt Day/Walker 21, 10.
 Sweden 3, Hungary 1
 Korea DPR 3, France 1
 Yugoslavia 3, Korea DPR 0
Semi-finals
 China 3, Sweden 0
 Yugoslavia 3, Rumania 1
Final
 CHINA 3, Yugoslavia 2
 Kuo Yao-hua lost to D. Surbek -13, 19, -17; Liang Ko-liang bt M. Karakasevic 13, 18; Z. Kosanovic 13, 18; Kuo Yao-hua/Liang Ko-liang lost to Kosanovic/Surbek -12, -22; Liang Ko-liang bt Surbek 20, 17; Kuo Yao-hua bt Kosanovic 10, 12.

WOMEN

Sweden 3, Yugoslavia II 0
 Korea DPR 3, England 0
 Pak Yung Sun bt J. Hammersley 15, 14; Pak Yung Ok bt C. Knight 12, 19; Kim Chang-ae/Pak Yung Sun bt Hammersley/Knight -15, 17, 14.
 Yugoslavia 3, Greece 0
 France 3, Bulgaria 2
 Czechoslovakia 3, Yugoslavia II 1
 Hungary 3, Austria 0
Quarter-finals
 China 3, Sweden 1
 Korea DPR 3, Rumania 0
 France 3, Yugoslavia 2
 Hungary 3, Czechoslovakia 2
Semi-finals
 China 3, Korea DPR 0
 Hungary 3, France 0
Final
 CHINA 3, Hungary 1
 Chang Teh-ying lost to J. Magos -19, 10, -17; Ke Hsian-ai bt G. Szabo 5, 7; Chu Hsian-yun/Liu Hsin-yen bt Magos/Szabo -17, 22, 15; Ke Hsian-ai bt Magos -19, 11, 11.

What's On this month & next

- Jan. 15—County Championships (5).
- 19—*England v Czechoslovakia (Horwich Leisure Cntr., Bolton).
- 22—National Council Meeting (London).
- 22—Pontefract 1-Star Open.
- 22/23—Kent 2-Star Open (Folkestone).
- 22/23—E.S.T.T.A. Regional Finals.
- 23—West of Scotland 2-Star Open (Glasgow).
- 29—County Championships (6).
- 29—Edinburgh Junior and Youth 2-Star Open.
- 29/30—Cotswold Junior 2-Star Open (Gloucester).
- Feb. 4/6—Stiga Welsh Open (Cardiff).
- 5—Lancashire 2-Star Open (Lostock, Bolton).
- 5—Exeter Junior 1-Star Open.
- 6—North Bournemouth 1-Star Open.
- 10—*England v Hungary (Guild Hall, Portsmouth).
- 12—E.S.T.T.A. National Team Finals (Lea Green, Matlock).
- 12/13—Cleveland 3-Star Open (Thornaby Pavilion).
- 13—Lanarkshire 2-Star Open (Coatbridge).
- 17/19—Norwich Union English Championships (Woking Sports and Leisure Centre, Woking Park, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey). Finals: Saturday, at 1-30 p.m.
- 20—Millom Junior 1-Star Open.
- 26/27—Middlesex 3-Star Open (Edmonton, London).
- 27—Strathclyde 2-Star Open (Glasgow).

GWENT OPEN

Not shown in the E.T.T.A. Tournament Diary is this season's GWENT OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS to be played at Cwmbran Sports Stadium on Saturday, April 16. Events comprise M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., X.D., B.S. and G.S. and entries, which close on April 2nd, to Mr. Grove E. Motlow, 29 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Gwent, NPT 8NX. (Phone: Newport 71964).



(Pictured at the Sports Administrators' Conference, held in Bournemouth in November, our General Secretary, Albert Shipley, seems to be imparting some serious views to Treasurer Tom Blunn. Photo by courtesy of Morris Benjamin, Boscombe, Bournemouth.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A READER'S REQUEST

As a recent subscriber to "Table Tennis News" first let me say congratulations for such an informative magazine. I feel, however, that unless one is a County player of relative high standing, much of the space is of little use to the average player (like myself!). I realise, of course, that each county has its followers who wish to know how their clubs are performing, but would it not be possible to run articles similar, perhaps, to the "Sunday Times" on how to improve your game at club level?

Not all of us are members of clubs with coaches or able to call on (or pay for!) the services of a coach and books on the subject seem to be almost non-existent. Many years ago I purchased a book written by Carrington on Table Tennis and at the Norwich Union English Championships, held near Luton last year, I saw a book by Carrington on your stand, and apart from new cover, etc., it appeared to be virtually a reprint of his original.

A letter in the December issue of "T.T.N." might provide an answer. Written by John Diggins it mentions a publication "Coaching Manual" which could fill the gap. I have written to him regarding availability and cost, as I have recently started a Table Tennis Club for the youth in my village, and as I have no experience of coaching, perhaps this publication would give me a few guidelines to work on. But I feel articles in your magazine concerning "How to improve" would be of great assistance to the average player and, who knows, might result in an increase in the circulation of "T.T.N."

There appears to be a speight of adverts recently on "Tacky rubbers" and I wonder how they reconcile themselves to the laws of Table Tennis.

Some time ago I was introduced to this material in the context of flooring for clean areas where dust, etc. from shoes was prohibited. I thought at the time what a super surface it would provide for the spinner and defensive player. One can literally place a 50p piece horizontally on the surface and turn to near vertical before it slides off. As this tacky material is not rubber, does it mean that there is no restriction of material for covering the blade only in its thickness and that it must be continuous (pimples "out" are not really continuous in the strict sense of the word but are a "broken-up" surface). I believe also experiments were tried out using a metal blade. I would be interested in knowing the result and whether a metal blade is now acceptable. With wooden blades now costing such a fantastic amount, strength for strength the cost of a metal blade could work out a lot cheaper and would probably last a lifetime.

DON COOPER.

62 Heydon Road,
 Great Chishill,
 Royston, Herts.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

England's teams, announced on January 8, for the 34th World Championships are:—Men—D. Douglas, D. Neale, P. Day, J. Walker and A. Barden. Reserve—J. Hilton. Women—J. Hammersley, C. Knight, L. Howard and Melody Ludi. Reserve—K. Rogers.

CLOTH CLUB BADGES

made to your own design — Low prices — Quick Delivery

S. A. CORY and COMPANY LIMITED

GLENGARRIFF, CO. CORK, EIRE.

WORCESTERSHIRE NEWS

by Doug Moss

SPECIAL PROVISION

The Worcester County League, for which special provision was made for Hereford teams to take part, is now well under way. Div. 1 is a four-a-side men's competition, but Div. 2 comprises mixed teams (two men and two women, including 2 mixed events) and there is a Junior Division. A proposal to form a Veterans' Division did not get off the ground. Leading Veteran players have plenty of competition as Worcester fields a team in the Midland League; there is a County Veterans' team and in fact two Veterans are included in the County II team. It is also of some significance that one third of the players in Div. 1 of the Worcester League are of veteran age.

It is pleasing to see that Russell Preece is again representing Hereford in the County League. Russell was a Worcs. County men's singles champion at the time when Hereford was included in the Worcester Association. He was in good form in winning his three singles against Bromsgrove. Hereford were without Preece when they met Kidderminster; the result was a 5-5 draw with Cliff Benson, a newcomer to the County I team, winning 3 singles. Halesowen, always strong contenders for the County League Championships, got off to a good start with an 8-2 win over Bromsgrove. In this match Simon Gray (Bromsgrove) played two County team players, beating Brian Belcher 15, 18, and narrowly losing to Bob Brown 15, -25. Bromsgrove could only gain two events against Dudley when again Simon Gray was to the fore, including a good win 17, 19 over Malcolm Lockley. Simon Claxton, Andrew Oakley, Steve Phillips and Malcolm Dicks form the Worcester team for their first match against Dudley. They started off with a convincing 9-1 win.

In the Mixed Division, Lynda Reid, County II team player, is representing Evesham. They lost to Worcester 3-7. In a drawn match versus Kidderminster, Lynda was beaten by County Junior, Lesley Duffield, 22, 14. She also had a very hard match against Sheila Randle, playing in the County Veterans' team this year, before winning 20, 20.

Frank Southam has been organising coaching sessions for Coaches this season. There has been a satisfactory outcome with Geoff Aston becoming a Diploma Coach and Molly Hough (Worcester) and Peter Brin, Brian Haines and John Mytton (all of Evesham) becoming Club Coaches.

The draw for the County Team K.O. Competitions has been circulated. There is always a reasonable entry for the Handicap Competition; this season drawing 30 teams. These are 3-a-side teams and handicaps range up to 270 points over the 18 games which are played. A "scratch" team playing against a team with the maximum handicap is therefore giving away an average of 15 points per game! The non-handicap team competition unfortunately draws a smaller entry, 13 teams taking part this season.

December 4 was a bad day for Worcestershire so far as the County Championships were concerned. The first catastrophe occurred when the Veterans' team, due to visit Dorset, had to cancel, being unable to field a full team! The County II team, being unbeaten at that stage, entertained Dorset, at Malvern, and were beaten 4-6. Belcher performed well for Worcs. in winning his 2 singles. However, the Dorset women, namely Janet New and Joyce Coop, were too strong and gained 3 sets.

The County I team visited Weston-super-Mare to oppose Somerset. This is always a close match, a draw being the final result.

However, on this occasion, Somerset earned a 6-4 win; again Worcs., somewhat unusually, lost out on the 3 women's events to Alma Taft-Heath and Julie Wilson. Joyce Lloyd played well in winning the first game against Alma and narrowly losing the second game -19, but succumbed in the third. Bring back the Mixed Doubles!

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

With an entry of approximately 200 the first-ever Lincolnshire Junior Open should have got off to a good start, being held at North Kesteven Sports Centre on the first weekend of the New Year. Lincolnshire supporters are, however, disappointed that its No. 1 player, Suzanne Hunt (Grantham), is unfortunately unavailable.

The three County teams were all in action in the latest series of matches. The Senior team lost its third consecutive match, going down 4-6 to Durham. The women, Suzanne Hunt and Jean White (Spalding) won their three sets whilst Peter Taylor (Grimsby) won one for the men and just lost in three to A. Gelder.

The Junior 1st team had an easy passage against Cleveland III, winning 9-1, with Stuart Barr (Grimsby) and Stephen Barnes (Scunthorpe) taking two each, and the doubles, and Martin Norman (Louth) one. The ranked Lincs. girls, Suzanne and Cheryl Buttery (Lincoln) both had comfortable wins and combined for success in the doubles.

Lincolnshire Junior II lost a close match to Bedfordshire I, going down 4-6. Again it was the girls who supplied the backbone of the Lincs. team with Gillian Galloway (Lincoln) and Carole Exton (Grantham) taking their three rubbers. Although David Johnson (Lincoln) won the first game of his set against P. Webb, the Lincs. lads were unable to win any others, although several were lost in the third.

On the domestic front, Wyberton (Hill, East, King) took further steps to retaining the Haigh Cup with 8-2 wins over Gainsborough (Edlington, Slater, Patrick) and Louth respectively. For Gainsborough, Brian Edlington and Norman Slater both beat Gary King, and for Louth, evergreen Matt Shearer had good wins over King and Mick East. Grimsby (Taylor, Plaskitt, Dibdin) maintained their challenge with a 10-0 victory against Boston, whilst Lincoln accounted for Mablethorpe 6-4.

The Butlin Cup, for women, saw Boston (Robinson, Cammack, Wilson) lose 3-7 to Grimsby (Hackford, Hale, Sinclair) and then beat Grantham (Exton, C. Hunt, Mason) by the same score with a maximum for Joan Robinson and Jean Cammack. Grantham had previously made a 5-5 draw with Louth (Fisher, Green, Brown). Spalding (White, Burgess, Green) head the Butlin Table, the only team on maximum points.

The Butcher Cup saw the holders, Grantham, register a 7-3 win at Louth and then account for Boston 8-2. Their nearest rivals, Grimsby, beat Boston 9-1, and the stage looks set for a fine match when these two teams meet at the end of the season.

The latest Junior Ranking Lists are as follows:—

Boys

1. Stuart Barr (G)
2. Martin Norman (Lo)
3. Stephen Barnes (Sc)
4. David Johnson (Li)
5. Ian Wilson (M)
6. David Skerratt (Sc)
7. Michael Bradford (St)
8. Kevin Worth (G)
9. Neil Parkin (Sc)
10. John Chesworth (Li)

Girls

1. Suzanne Hunt (Gr)
2. Cheryl Buttery (Li)
3. Gillian Galloway (Li)

4. Carole Exton (Gr)
5. Susan Radley (Li)
6. D. Brown (Lo)
7. G. Sharpe (G)
8. S. Worrell (Li)

Key: G—Grimsby; M—Mablethorpe; Gr.—Grantham; Sc—Scunthorpe; Li—Lincoln; St.—Stamford; Lo—Louth.

Entry Forms are now available for the East of England 2-Star, to be held on the 13th March, 1977, from Mrs. Joan Robinson, 13 Croppers Way, Freiston, Boston, Lincs. Tel.: Butterwick 267. Over 30 entries had to be returned last season, so interested entrants are advised to post their entry early.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

MONEY MATTERS

With ticket sales already well in excess of 500 at the time of writing (16th Dec.), the County was assured of at least £250 profit from the festive social evening at the Madison Night Club, in Middlesbrough, on December 28.

In 1975 the venture was tried for the first time and the County's profit was in excess of £100. The evening proved so popular that last year it was possible for over £500 to be raised.

The organiser of this event, County Social Secretary Pam Richmond, distributed tickets early to all leagues and clubs throughout the County and received excellent overall support.

In the summer Pam arranged a similar event in the form of a barbecue at her own farm at East Cowton, in aid of Ormesby Girls' team to play in the European Club Cup and this event raised well in excess of £200.

We are indebted to Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department once more for the updated production of "Table Tennis in Cleveland", which has now been issued for the second time. Several additions have been made to this booklet with a view to taking advantage of the upsurge in interest in connection with the World Championships. Should anybody wish to receive a free copy of this booklet it can be obtained from me at 21a Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

AVON NOTES

by M. J. Hawkins

SPOTLIGHT ON BRISTOL

Spotlight in Avon County table tennis circles goes to the Bristol and District League who boast two nationally-ranked players in Tony Clayton and Chris Sewell.

Totterdown Y.M.C.A. are to represent Bristol in the National Club Championships. Mixed fortunes for Bristol in the Midland League, beating Nottingham 7-3 (Sewell, Lloyd, Stewart and Robert Oldfield two each and the doubles) but going down 4-6 to Potteries (Mildred (2), Reeves (1) and the doubles).

In the Western Counties, Bristol beat Swindon 6-3 with Gordon "Ginger" Mildred again in fine form, winning three, assisted by Tony Brown (2) and Nigel Stopher (1). In the Wilmott Cup, Poole were k.o'd by the same score, "Ginger" being again undefeated, with Stewart (2) and Brown (1) doing the rest.

In the Carter Cup, Reading handed out a 9-0 thrashing—no wonder I received no details from Bristol on this one! Only 20 entries for the Gilbert Belston Memorial Cup in which the holders, Weston-super-Mare Y.M.C.A. play Knowle and Brislington, with the losing finalists, Totterdown Y.M.C.A., paired with Stokedene 'A'.

The Morley C. Mordecai Memorial handi-

cap competition has attracted an entry of 75 clubs with Nailsea and P.O. Phones entering six teams each. On the County scene Avon still seek their first success in Div. 2 West, posing the selectors many problems. The second team have a good combination in Robert Murray and Oldfield, who deserve a chance in the first team.

The Juniors, in their last match, met old friends Cornwall, and after trailing 3-5 pulled off the draw, thanks to Cara Rowe beating Susan Hancock after a third game struggle.

Twelve hours of sponsored table tennis was due on December 19, at Totterdown, in aid of raising money for the New Year weekend junior session at Lilleshall, where 40 juniors will be given video and film with progressive Avon coach, Michael Lewis, assisted by Bryan Merrett, of Gloucs.

Dunkerton lead Mendip. Alan Maidment (ex-Wilts. star) plays for Littery Sports 'A', of Frome. Villagers Henton, can anyone find them? Their H.Q. read: "The Hut", Henton. Terry Millard leads their full-strength team. In Div. 3 all eyes are on Dunkerton 'B', all girls, who are setting a hot pace.

After nine matches in the Bath & D.T.T.L. Frys 'A' have Tony (the best in the West) Clayton 100%. Mayfield 'D' lead Div. 1, Longwell Green 'A' head Div. 2, and Three Firms shoot top of Div. 3. Bath 'A' had one of their best results for years in beating Weston Y.M.C.A. 6-4 at Weston!

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Anne Fearnhaugh

The season got off to a disastrous start by the complete gutting of Derby & District T.T.A. headquarters by fire. To say it was burnt to the ground would be an understatement, as the wooden floor also went up in flames along with the building's contents. With the assistance of Derby Estates Department, the Association obtained new headquarters at Tobruk Hall. Renovation work has been completed with league matches now being played there. Much hard work is still needed but the new building has far more possibilities than its predecessor.

With 30 teams competing in the league using these premises, the league record entry of 97 teams last season appeared to be depleted; yet a new spirit of co-operation emerged from the ashes and clubs helped the players and teams displaced, which, together with new clubs entering the league, saw the season commence with a new record entry of 106 teams competing in 9 divisions.

The Juniors so far have taken 3 points from a possible 6. After a draw with Lancashire they were completely outclassed by Yorkshire 2nd. This was then off-set by a good 6-4 win over Cumbria with Bob Allen having a very good win over England-ranked Chris Reed.

The men were eliminated, as were the women, in the 1st round of the National Knockout competitions.

The Junior Boys' team are now in the 3rd round of the Carter Cup after a win over Chesterfield.

In the Bromfield Trophy our girls had a good 5-4 win over Leicester with Linda Holmes and Anne Fearnhaugh playing well for two wins each, and Karen Smart chipping in with one.

The Derbyshire School tournament was played on November 28, 1976, at Dronfield. There was some very good table tennis played by the younger entrants, which looks promising for the County in the future.

Under-14 England-ranked Steven Young won the U-14 event again and was runner-up in the U-16 event to Stephen Yallop. In the final of the U-19's the two junior County players, Bob Allen and Yallop, produced some excellent table tennis with Bob coming out the victor. Results:—

Boys

U-11: Alan Hearne bt Ashley Hunt.

U-13: Roy Parnham bt C. McGovan.

U-14: S. Young bt D. Hinchcliffe.

U-16: S. Yallop bt S. Young.

U-19: R. Allen bt S. Yallop.

Girls

U-13: J. Horsfield bt J. Brightmore.

U-14: K. Payne bt J. Horsfield.

U-16: M. Sargent bt K. Payne.

U-19: F. Brown bt M. Sargent.

It was a well-organised tournament and every credit to John Taylor, who sadly retires this year.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

By Alan Cavell

This season's County tournament has established beyond all doubt that 15-years-old Malcolm Green is the best table tennis player in Shropshire. When he captured the men's singles title last season I predicted that that would be the first of many triumphs for him and that his win was the first breakthrough of the current very promising teenage players.

Green retained the men's singles title with ease, not losing a game. In the semi-final he beat last season's runner-up, veteran Albert Hiscock, and in the final he demolished County team player Clive Roberts.

Green teamed up with 15-years-old Nigel Thomas to win the men's doubles, beating last season's winners, Chris Neal and Keith Walton, in the final. To complete the hat-trick, Green and his partner, cadet Tracey Powell, won the mixed.

In the women's singles, Tracey, the County junior girl No. 1-ranked player, reached the final by beating the County's senior top-ranked woman player, Grace Gee. In the final against Heather Flint, she won the first game and had a good chance to extend the domination of the juniors when she led 19-16 in the second. Heather then played very well to win the next five points and then the third game to take the title for the first time.

Heather, and her penholder partner, Mavis Robinshaw, won the women's doubles. In the final they beat last season's winners, Grace Gee and Sue Evans.

Graham Cheetham beat Pat Gosnell to take the veterans' singles title. Congratulations to Barry Taylor on becoming a qualified County Umpire.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

Newport, following their heavy home defeat by Bournemouth, were hoping to come away from Poole with two points, but it was not to be, as Poole proved worthy winners 6-3.

Newport included their No. 2 junior of last season, Alan Young, and he gave a creditable performance in beating John Robinson. At one stage Newport were leading 3-1 following wins by John Bloomer over Howell Davies and by Nocivelli over Robinson, Michael having previously lost to Martin Adjott.

But from then on Poole pulled out "all the stops" to take the remaining sets, Adjott beating Bloomer (18, 20), and Young (8, 13) while Davies beat Young (11, 13) and Nocivelli, -12, 13, 17).

Meantime Bournemouth followed up their win over Newport with a 6-3 win at home to Plymouth. Once again Trevor Smith was in fine form, beating Keith James (11, 17), Mike Short (14, 9) and Terry Fairbanks (10, 15). Steve Wilson accounted for Short (15, 15) but lost to James (-18, -18) and to Fairbanks (-14, 19, -22). Cyril Bush stepped in to beat Short (14, 18) and Fairbanks (13, 12) losing to James (-19, 14, -18).

Plymouth, away to Bristol, had a com-

fortable 8-1 victory. Both Short and Mike Shearman won their three with young Paul Whiting losing only to Gordon Mildred, Bristol's best player, as he was at Swindon.

Weston, at home to Swindon, won 7-2 with Ray Philpott, easily the longest-serving player in the league, claiming a maximum with his pengrip attack. He accounted for K. Oung (8, 15), K. Harrison (16, -12, 22) and P. Ashe (16, 19). Roger Morris also weighed in with a treble while John Crabtree beat Oung.

In the first of the Youth matches West Wilts., at home to Newbury, won 6-3. Newbury included Gillian Heath in their side and although losing her three never gave up trying. Newbury took the first set when B. Johnson beat J. Chandler, 18 in the 3rd, and made it 2-0 when D. Barr beat K. Satchell.

D. Cleveland then scored for West Wilts over Miss Heath and the match score was equated when Satchell beat Johnson. A win for Chandler over Miss Heath was countered when Barr beat Cleveland to bring the scores level at 3-all.

From then on West Wilts. took a firm grip of the proceedings to win the remaining 3 sets but it was hard going with Cleveland beating Johnson 23 in the 3rd and Johnson getting home at 22 in the 3rd against Barr.

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

Following the retirement of Barry Davis the County was dealt another severe blow when Mike Rattue, after completing 50 matches, announced that he, too, was to retire from County play. Mike has been a model County player for many years and his sportsmanship has always been of the highest order. Mike's other commitments makes it impossible to practice enough for County play and he has, most unselfishly, made way for a younger player. This is typical of him and we wish him well in the future.

After a good start the Senior team have lost their last two matches. They only just went down 4-6 to Wiltshire, at Swindon, but were well beaten by a fine Berkshire team. Bob Parkins has played well on his return to the team whilst newcomer Terry Fairbanks continues to make a good impression and must keep his place for the remainder of the season. He is a player of immense promise and has done well in his first season of senior competition.

The juniors, under Frank Hatton, are having a great season. After gaining promotion last year they have swept all before them so far and have high hopes of gaining Premier status one day. Frank's determination and keenness gets through to the players and he is to be heartily congratulated on all his efforts, which deserve the highest success.

The Plymouth League made an early exit from the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl but their Junior teams are still involved in the Carter Cup and Bromfield Trophy. These are two fine teams and will do well.

Exeter are still involved in the Wilmott Cup but fell at the first hurdle in the Rose Bowl. Pam Mortimer played again, after her long illness, and while being a little slower, showed all her fighting qualities and was unbeaten.

The Devon Junior Championships will be staged this year by the Exeter League on Sunday, 6th February, whilst the Plymouth League will be staging the Senior Championships on Saturday and Sunday, 19th and 20th February.

Other good news is that County President Mrs. Frances Jarvis will be a Table Manager at the World Championships in March. I know Frances is thrilled with this appointment which brings honour to our County.

New Leader at the head of the Hungarian Federation



Discussion with Dr. György Lakatos on achievements, plans and tasks Conducted by Mihaly Kozak, E.T.T.U. Publicity Committee

Dr. György Lakatos has reached the top of his activities which he carried out in his sports section for more than four decades: He became president of the Hungarian Federation. While sitting side by side at the traditional "Championship of the Ten" and following eagerly the competition, carried out to a high standard, I took this opportunity to ask him a few questions. In my opinion, the answers he so willingly gave, should also be of interest to the T.T. fans abroad.

Congratulations

"I would like to state above all that my nomination as President not only gives me great pleasure but that I also value it as an honour", he said. "It is an impressive feeling to reach the top of that federation which among all the sports branches was most successful for the Hungarian Colours. And as shown by the countless congratulations, others too were pleased by my nomination. Among the first ones I received greetings from Nancy and Roy Evans and Jupp Schlaf, who are the highest leaders of the international organisations, from board members, from the officials of the associations from the socialist countries. I hope that our contacts, which were productive so far, will, in future, become even more successful!"

Dr. György Lakatos effectively keeps excellent contacts with the federation leaders from all the countries in the world. The 58-year-old Hungarian sports leader is board member of the International Table Tennis Federation (I.T.T.F.), Chairman of the ranking list committee and was—with Nancy Evans and Jupp Schlaf—one of the founders of the European Table Tennis Union (E.T.T.U.) in which he is also board member. In "civilian life" he holds an important function; he is editor of the Budapest Kossuth Publishing House.

Besides carrying out his job he dedicates almost his entire spare time to table tennis and with his nomination as President, his tasks have been increased.

By chance, during our discussion, the cream of the Hungarian top-ranking field were facing each other at the tables, so the question—so to speak—arose by itself as to how he assesses the standard of the present Hungarian National Team, what his hopes are as to the world championship taking place in Birmingham in spring?

The best ones together again . . .

"The last competition season was very difficult for us because our best players had to stay away from home and international contests due to injury, military service, penalties and pregnancies. But now we very quickly want to forget those months . . . The strong and, I hope, powerful Hungarian National Team is together again, which drew attention to itself in the last few years for gaining world and European titles. Istvan Jonyer, Gabor Gergely, Tibor Klampar, Judit Magos, Beatrix Kishazi and the others, including the later, younger generation, fill us with confidence. And our Federation is doing everything in maximum support for the preparation of the national players, who are guided to a high standard by the excellent trainer, Zoltan Berczik".

"You mentioned the young generation—would you give a few concrete names?"

"We have talented, skilled, but still quite unfinished youngsters who can advance within a few years into the lines of the best. I primarily think here of Gabriella Szabo, Zsuzsa Olah, Gabriella Ivasko., Katalin Bogyo, Janos Molnar, Zoltan Horvath and Mihaly Potari, whose names we could easily meet again in future list of successes. And what, in my opinion, is of great importance in our work is that we not only take great care in the specialised training of our players but we also pay equal attention to their moral education. We not only want to raise sportsmen but honest people, and I am of the opinion that this has always been an important basis for the success of the Hungarian Table Tennis Sport".

For the Hungarian, table tennis has actually always been able to score successes. As the records prove, the following brilliant balance has been shown since the first big international contest in 1926—the London Competition—where the Hungarians were first in all five numbers:—

- 28 Hungarian sportsmen were world champions,
- 17 Hungarian sportsmen were European champions,
- 72 First places in championships of the world,
- 19 First places in European championships,
- 2 First places in the Europa League,
- 5 First places in Single tournament "Europa 12",
- 9 victories in the Europacup of the champion team,
- 12 victories in the City Fairs Cup.

No other country in the world can show such a list of success!"

"How could you keep up with the growing competition to remain among the top for 52 years?", I asked.

"In Hungary the sports branch has traditions. It is always in the reflector light, the sports lovers follow with particular attention to the achievement, career of the sportsmen. Our federation looks upon it as a special task to detect the young talents, to select these from a relatively small player group of 12,000. Of course, we have worries now as before. Our sports branch, for example, is very much centred around Budapest, in the provinces only the cities of Miskolc, Györ and Szolnok are more important bases. We would therefore like to increase the camp of the T.T. players because this sports line offers the young generation also a good amusement. By the way, I think that the reason for being also

so popular throughout the world is that table tennis is a good playing game. More and more perspectives are opened to it also in those countries where up to now little relative news has come from".

System to meet requirements

"As President, what is your opinion on the provision of experts, trainers; is there not a lack of these in the Hungarian sports branch?"

"The increase in the number of contests naturally demands that we have to educate more and more experts and that these should possess a high qualification. In Hungary the training of teachers is organised and is good, but table tennis is also a teaching subject in the Budapest High School for Physical Culture. Doubtless a lack of trainers is noticeable, especially in the province, so it is therefore one of our most important tasks to remove this evil. And for raising the standard of training we have drawn up a "requirements system" which determines which technical and physical exercises have to be carried out in the clubs on individual days. With this we do not want to achieve that the training is the same all over but we want to make the basic exercises compulsory."

It is generally known of Dr. György Lakatos, who has already taken part in 15 world and 9 European Championships, that he is not only a scholar of the rules but is also active as initiator in the sports branch. One asks for his opinion in the most important problems and he is entrusted with important tasks in the international as well as the European Federation.

"The ever-increasing participation in world competitions creates, to most of the host countries, worries as to carrying these out. What should one therefore do in your opinion?" I asked.

"We should under no circumstances make a rash decision. When suggestions are submitted these should be discussed and studied thoroughly. Some think one should possibly hold qualifying meetings before the world championship, lower the number of participants in the singles, set up categories in accordance with the output conditions, cancel consolation competitions in order to gain time and space in this manner. But irrespective of what decisions are taken, we should not forget one thing. Our aim is the principle of the 'open doors'—the raising of the popularity of the table tennis sport, to increase its camp. And for this we should be willing to make sacrifices!"

Anthem and Banner

"We are going to make the suggestion at the Congress of the I.T.T.F. that like in the case of the European Championships, also at World Championships, in honour of the winners the Anthem of their nation should be played and the flag of their country should be raised. This act will make the festivities really festive!"

Many questions remained without being asked, to which I am sure I would have received answers so willingly, too. But duty called Dr. György Lakatos away from my side—he was asked by the Jury to present the prizes to the winners of the "Championship of the Ten". And the new President gladly obliged.

CLUB BADGES

* Attractive Cloth Badges, made to your own design, in any quantity from 10 upwards.

* Suitable for Blazers, Sweaters, etc.

* LOW PRICES AND QUICK DELIVERY

S. A. CORY & CO. LTD.

GLENGARRIFF, CO. CORK, EIRE.

Wigan Spectacular

DOUGLAS LAST TO FALL

by George R. Yates

Stellan Bengtsson, Sweden's 24-years-old former world and European champion, was the winner of the Norwich Union Invitation Tournament and the £500 cash prize put up by the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan, at Howe Bridge Sports Centre, on December 18. His final victim was England's No. 2-ranked Desmond Douglas, another left-hander.

Douglas had earlier distinguished himself with a hard-earned semi-final victory over Dragutin Surbek, of Yugoslavia, another former European champion, Bengtsson eliminating yet a third previous champion of Europe in Milan Orlovski, of Czechoslovakia.

In the early play, when the eight players were split into two groups of four, with two going forward, a state of equality prevailed in both with three players having two wins each, England's Paul Day and Jimmy Walker—the latter substituting for the injury-plagued Nicky Jarvis—being totally without success.

Referee Brian Leeson, a Liverpool school-teacher, then followed the dictates of the European Table Tennis Union for such competitions. They state that in the case of parity, such as prevailed at Howe Bridge, precedence among the players shall be determined by the results of their matches, one with another, reckoning, in respect of the results only of contests between these players, the ratio of wins against losses in individual sets.

By such a ruling Mr. Leeson invoked the wrath of Denis Neale, England's No. 1, who was far from contented at being placed third in his group with a games analysis of 2-3, which was inferior to Surbek's 3-2 and Orlovski's 3-3. Neale, who alone of the trio, had a 2-straight win over the luckless Day, claimed that this should have been taken into consideration, but his subsequent threat to put the matter in solicitor's hands can hardly be taken seriously.

Douglas, by the same ruling, was placed second to Bengtsson in the other group at the expense of Istvan Jonyer, the reigning world champion, from Hungary, whose form throughout was disappointing, his win over Bengtsson being a blatant giveaway by the Swede in the last of the group matches which might have got the Hungarian through had not Douglas, playing simultaneously in the adjoining court, despatched Walker in straight games.

Individual scores:—

Group A

D. Surbek (YU) bt D. Neale (EN) 15, 18; bt P. Day (EN) -15, 14, 16; lost to M. Orlovski -12, 16, -17.
Orlovski bt Day -15, 17, 14; lost to Neale 17, -18, -17.
Neale bt Day 17, 16.

Group B

S. Bengtsson (S) bt D. Douglas (EN) 18, 6; bt J. Walker (EN) 15, 13; lost to I. Jonyer (H) 5, -15, -23.
Douglas bt Jonyer 10, 14; bt Walker 14, 18.
Jonyer bt Walker 20, 19.

Semi-finals

Douglas bt Surbek 19, -13, 15.
Bengtsson bt Orlovski 14, 16.

Final

BENGTSSON bt Douglas 18, 15.

Between the men's semi-finals and final a women's challenge match brought into opposition Jill Hammersley and Carole Knight with £100 at stake. Carole began by

taking the first game, at 18, but thereafter Jill, playing with much more control, took the next two 11 and 8, to put her young challenger firmly in her place.

In a subsidiary competition for the Norwich Union Trophy, played on the Friday evening, Surbek had a final victory over Orlovski, the latter having disposed of Douglas in the semi-finals. Scores:—

Group A

Bengtsson bt Day 12, 22; bt N. Jarvis (EN) 5, 8; bt Surbek 15, 16.
Surbek bt Jarvis 7, 14; bt Day 15, -15, 11.
Day bt Jarvis 17, 12.

Group B

Douglas bt Neale 16, 17; bt Orlovski 17, -14, 19; bt Jonyer 18, 18.
Orlovski bt Jonyer 18, -16, 12; bt Neale -19, 22, 9.

Neale bt Jonyer -13, 14, 15.

Semi-finals

Orlovski bt Bengtsson 20, 16.
Surbek bt Douglas 16, 22.

Final

SURBEK bt Orlovski 15, -17, 18.

PROFILE

As well as supporting the World Championships in March, the National Westminster Bank will have a special interest in one of the England squad at Birmingham. That player is **LINDA HOWARD**, who is employed by the National Westminster Bank in Guildford, and who this month, talks to JOHN PIKE.

Birthplace: Guildford.

Birthdate: 28th July, 1955.

Which school did you attend: George Abbott Secondary Modern.

Hobbies: Darts and Golf.

Favourite T.V. Programme: The Two Ronnies.

Favourite Food: Steak and Chicken.

Favourite Drink: White Wine.

Favourite Colour: Yellow.

Favourite Singer: Cat Stevens.

Favourite sport outside table tennis: Golf.

What is your pet like?: Tomato Sauce.

What is your pet dislike?: Unreliability.

Biggest influence on your career?: My Father for building a table tennis hut so I could practice and also the National Westminster Bank for all the time off they have given me.

Ambition: to enjoy life and to be as successful as I can.

Which person in the world would you most like to meet?: Robert Redford.

Greatest moment in table tennis: Winning the European Ladies' Doubles in Prague.

Most difficult opponent: Chinese.

Representative Honours: Played for England juniors and for the past five years played for England at senior level.

Favourite holiday resort: Cornwall.

Favourite Car: Porsche.

Your thoughts on the World Championships and the future of English table tennis: "I think the Worlds will create a great boom in English table tennis and will attract a lot more players, spectators and sponsors to the game".

Next month's "Profile" features Paul Day.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

OPPOSING VIEW

Giving the opposing point of view a fair hearing is a long-established journalistic principle. However, amongst the mass of verbiage in recent issues of "Table Tennis News" defending the official decision to use foreign tables at the World Championships, I didn't detect a single item outlining Keith Buckle's specific objections.

I find this state of affairs disquieting for two reasons. Firstly, in these circumstances how can any fair-minded reader make up his mind on the issue? Secondly, and more importantly, how could the E.T.T.A. of all people, fail to recognise this sporting concept and embrace, instead, the tawdry attempt of John Woodford to impugn Mr. Buckle's character? Apparently, not content with his sycophantic victory, Mr. Woodford feels the need to put the boot in . . . repeatedly.

That Keith Buckle acted precipitately I think there is little doubt; but he was genuinely trying to support the claims of tables of English manufacture as part of an unparalleled devotion to the game at every level, not least of which, as Editor of a monthly League magazine which never fails to give equal space to the opposing, minority viewpoint.

KEITH GOOD.

136 Halton Mansions,
Canonbury,
London, N.1.



LINDA HOWARD

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

TITLES SWAPPED

Kevin Beadsley is Yorkshire's new men's singles champion. Just three weeks after his sixteenth birthday, the Halifax left-hander beat Robert Hazelwood in the final at the Yorkshire Closed, on Dec. 5 last, at Parkside Sports Centre, Bradford. For Leeds' Robert Hazelwood, it was his second successive year as runner-up. But this time he turned the tables on title-holder Mike Harrison in the quarter-finals, his previous final conqueror.

In the boys' event, Kevin, the title-holder, was defeated by Mike in the final, and so the two boys ended the day swapping titles. Seeded No. 1 in the men's doubles, Kevin and Mike were tactically outmanoeuvred in the final by the holders (unseeded), selector Jim Yeats (Bradford) and Nicky Davies (Leeds). A surprise in the boys' singles was the defeat of Sheffield's Steven Mills by the county No. 1 cadet boy Neil Barley, of Hull.

The women's singles title went to Hull's Julie McLean, after a final win over Linda Hryszko (Bradford). Linda was again the runner-up, this time in the girls' singles, to the improving Sally Midgley (Bradford).

Results

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals:

K. Beadsley (Halifax) bt S. Mills (Sheffield) -13, 8, 15.

A. Metcalfe (Leeds) bt C. Williams (Leeds) 9, 16.

R. Priestley (Bradford) bt A. Jones (Leeds) 15, 12.

R. Hazelwood (Leeds) bt M. Harrison (Hull) 17, 15.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Metcalfe 11, 10.

Hazelwood bt Priestley 14, 13.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Hazelwood 13, 12.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals:

J. McLean (Hull) bt S. Midgley (Bradford) 16, -10, 15.

L. Hryszko (Bradford) bt H. Shields (Bradford) 9, 15.

Final:

McLEAN bt Hryszko 13, 14.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals:

Beadsley/Harrison bt A. Metcalfe/B. Metcalfe (Leeds) 22, 14.

J. A. Yeats (Bradford)/N. Davies (Leeds) bt Jones/I. Walmsley (Leeds) 17, -22, 11.

Final:

YEATS/DAVIES bt Beadsley/Harrison -13, 17, 15.

Women's Doubles—Final:

McLEAN/MIDGLEY bt Hryszko/Shields -15, 16, 18.

Mixed Doubles—Final:

BEADSLEY/HRYSZKO bt A. Metcalfe/J. Kinnersley (Hull) 6, 17.

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals:

Beadsley bt P. Makinson (Bradford) 15, 14.

J. Naser (Hull) bt T. Bottomley (Halifax) -15, 18, 12.

A. Summerscales (Doncaster) bt N. Barley (Hull) 12, 9.

Harrison bt N. Harris (Bradford) 10, 11.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Naser 14, 12.

Harrison bt Summerscales 18, 20.

Final:

HARRISON bt Beadsley -13, 17, 15.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals:

Hryszko bt J. Guanaria (Leeds) 18, 13.

Midgley bt C. Haworth (Leeds) 13, 9.

Final:

MIDGLEY bt Hryszko -20, 18, 15.

Veteran's Singles—Final:

G. BROOK (Huddersfield) bt G. Summerscales (Doncaster).

A week later, Beadsley reached the final of the boys' singles at the English Junior Closed at Reading, beating No. 1 Martin Shuttle in a long semi-final before finally going down to Berkshire's David Reeves, against whom Mike Harrison had held but lost match point in the second game of a quarter-final, having won the first. But it was back to earth for Kevin and Mike in the Yorkshire Junior, played in Hull on Dec. 18/19, both failing to achieve the form of the week before. They did, however, win the boys' doubles title.

On Dec. 11, Andrew Metcalfe recorded what is probably the best win of his career so far, beating England-ranked Donald Parker 17 in the third in a National Club Championships tie between Savoy Club, Blackpool, and Leeds Y.M.C.A. The score was 5-3 to the Blackpool club, the Leeds' 3 all being Metcalfe's.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

SENIOR START WELL

Suffolk made a promising start to their County Championships programme when they visited Hunts at St. Neots to win 6-4. For Suffolk, John Kitchener led the way with a 2-straight win over Tim Speller and later demolished the opposing No. 1, Alan Lamprell 13 and 10.

Between these successes he sandwiched a great win partnered by Robert Hellaby in the men's doubles against Lamprell and Speller. Hellaby, a former Essex junior international, was unsettled over a disputed point in his set against Lamprell but his win over Len Saywell indicated that there are great things to come from this player.

The seal of superiority of Suffolk's men was set when skipper Mike Palmer turned on the heat against Saywell and Speller in two no-nonsense singles. Luck ran out for the women but what a struggle they provided. First Christine Ting and Debby Wootton went down -17 in the third then, following an epic battle by Debby in her singles against Barbara Pace -10, -18 down in the second to level at 20-all and a see-saw fight to win the game 26-24—luck deserted her in the decider when she went down -17.

A useful point came Suffolk's way when the senior team drew with a strong Herts side at Ipswich. Once again Suffolk had the edge in the men's events but the visitors held sway on the distaff side. Kitchener had his customary two wins in singles and his partnership with Hellaby in the men's doubles was again successful.

Herts veteran Jack Baxter armed with what looked like an ancient wooden bat gave Palmer and Hellaby the sets of their lives. Palmer was possibly a little unfortunate to go down -20 in the third but Hellaby recovered to win. The home county owed their point to a great recovery by Palmer in the third game of his set with Barry White. The closing stages found him 16-20 down but a typically fighting finish saw him clinch the win 23-21!

The Suffolk Junior Closed, staged at Copleston School, Ipswich attracted over 200 entries. The new champions Debra Hubble (Lowestoft) and Julian Hall (Bury St. Edmunds) both appear to have a great future ahead of them particularly as they are still available to play as Juniors for a further 2 or 3 years.

Results:—

U-17 BS: J. Hall bt G. Douglas -13, 9, 16.

U-17 GS: D. Hubble bt J. Duncombe 13, 14.

U-15 BS: Hall bt C. Bennett 17, 12.

U-15 GS: Hubble bt Duncombe 18, -15, 12.

U-13 BS: S. Carvalo bt N. Douglas 10, 21.

U-13 GS: J. Leonard bt J. Richards 14, 15.

BD: G. Douglas/Hall bt A. Booth/M. Logan 10, 4.

GD: L. Harris/Hubble bt M. Thomas/J. Wilgoss 14, 19.

XD: M. Shorten/Hubble bt N. Hodder/Harris 11, 12.

Suffolk's very young team found themselves up against tough opposition when they met the skilful and experienced juniors from Northants losing 1-9. Julian Hall and Debbie Steward, both

making their debuts for the County, fought hard to no avail; as also did Debra Hubble and Michael Shorten.

Stuart Palmer gained Suffolk's only success, but the performance of Northants' Gary Alden was the outstanding feature of the match. Palmer's sole victory was at the expense of David Gallo 11 and 9.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

TAKING STOCK

At this time of the season it might be as well to take stock of the position. With four county teams the Hunting shire were optimistic, but frankly things have not gone as well as may have been expected. Clearly the first team would struggle in the Premier Division but although three of the four counties so far played were unable to field a full-strength team Leicestershire are still pointless; Outstanding has been Leicestershire's No. 1 Paul Randell who has won five of his eight sets but there has been little else to enthuse about apart from two wins in the last two matches from Chris Rogers. The team though are benefiting from this high standard of play and both home matches played have brought good crowds. Our sponsors—The Town and Country Building Society—appeared at the Loughborough match and appeared well pleased with the arrangements.

[The Veterans team continue to play more for enjoyment than anything too ambitious, but Charlie Jacques showed he can still turn it on when he won two men's singles and was also successful in the men's doubles (with Phil Overend) when they played champions Cheshire. These three sets though were the only ones the team could collect and their sole victory so far was against Clwyd II. The Juniors too have gained only one win but the emergence of David Gannon and Steve Day as players of ability to match their promise augers well.

The county second team have made an excellent start, winning all three games played though the match with Staffordshire hung on the last set, duly won by Philip Smith—another player improving in leaps and bounds, Maurice Newman made his debut in this team and played magnificently. So county-wise, nothing special in the results but good results from some of the still-improving players.

The Town and Country Building Society will once again sponsor the Leicestershire Closed Championships being held at Loughborough at the end of February. Loughborough is always a popular venue in that there are never any organisational problems. With six tables, good lighting, Reg Billson and Dick Johnson there is not much else a tournament needs! The Rose Johnson Bowl is still progressing though perhaps not as fast as I would wish. The new system tried has not been a 100% success and it seems likely that next season points rather than games will again be the deciding factor.

Leicester are going well in the Midland League with Chris Rogers playing particularly well. Clearly they are going to finish near the top of the chart. The second team recorded their first win of the season when they beat West Bromwich. Whilst the Midland League 2nd Division is very strong I was a little surprised to see such a strong team as Brian Mayfield, Philip Smith and Alan Philpott struggling so much. However their 9-1 win over West Bromwich will put them in good stead for the rest of the season. Brian Mayfield had a long set with Dick Coley, all three games going near to expedite. Alan Philpott—often very much under-estimated—gave a magnificent display and won all three comfortably.

Similarly Loughborough will be pleased to have an 8-2 win under their belts against Lichfield. Roger Morley made one of his infrequent appearances and won three as did the versatile Ian McKelvey. At this stage it might be as well to say a little about Mr. McKelvey, a comparative newcomer to Leicester. Ian is secretary of the Leicester and District League, Division 1 secretary,

Division 2 secretary of the Loughborough League, County Umpires secretary, Non-playing captain of Leicester junior team, Midland League secretary, on the Selection Committee of the Leicester League and also the County Association. He represents Loughborough in the Midland League and plays in the Leicester, Loughborough, and Hinckley Leagues. What does he do in his spare time did someone say? — Oh yes, he's a keen and competent mountaineer too!

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

COUNTY STUNNED

Table tennis followers in Essex have been stunned by the sudden death of County Chairman (Ted Pritchard on Nov. 27. Ted's love of Essex table tennis took him to all parts of the county, and his unselfish efforts to promote the sport made him many friends. No one gave more and he will be sorely missed by us all.

The County Championships picture has been very rosy for us of late with our Senior teams in particular in unbeatable form. The Senior Premier team have defeated both Leics. and Surrey by 5-4 to go well up the table. Junior No. 1 David Newman was included in both these matches and won a vital tie in both. The Surrey match in particular was a very exciting affair and, from the spectators' point of view, quite the best for some time. Lesley Radford had a tremendous tussle with Linda Howard while Bob Potton was in the form that makes him such an exciting prospect.

The Senior second team also defeated Surrey II with Stuart Gibbs shepherding his flock well. Essex III have also chalked up convincing wins over Beds II and Herts III and look well set to again win honours. The women in particular have played their part well and Snr. Sec. Ron McKenzie is all smiles.

Likewise with the Juniors, Alan Shepherd has moulded a fine squad of players together who are a team in every sense of the word. The Premier team had little difficulty in disposing of Herts 9-1 and then surprised everyone except perhaps Alan and themselves by thwarting Middlesex 6-4 in one of their best matches.

This win was perhaps all the more meritorious in view of the fact that their top player David Newman had a bad patch and lost both his singles. There might have been times in the past when such an event would have made the side fold



Linda Barrow and Marilyn Nash on the way to a comfortable win in the Essex v Herts Senior Div. 3 South county match.

Photo by Geoff Newman.

up but not so nowadays. Leon Smith and Kenny Jackson really played their hearts out for Dave and the County and no praise can be too high for their efforts. Elaine Sayer, as well, really put it together to gain an excellent girls' singles win.

Owing to illness a depleted second string had to give second best to Warwicks but gained a good 7-3 win over Leics. with Janet Boulter and Julie Dowsett showing up well. Essex Jnrs. III with Skylet Andrews and Desmond Charlery well to the fore beat Hants II 8-2. Our veterans teams are also doing well with the first team in the lead in their division their clash with their own second team producing a 9-0 win for the first.

Most of our leagues are having good runs in the National League competitions and it is pleasing to note that Braintree have just had their best run ever, going to fellow Essex League Dagenham in Rd. 3 after good wins over Billericay and Lowestoft. Chelmsford and Romford are also going well although it looks as if they will end up knocking each other out.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

LOW NOTE, THEN HIGH

Northumberland County first team ended their November fixtures on a low note when they lost 0-10 to Lancashire at the new Eldon Square Recreation Centre.

The novelty of the new surroundings and the undoubted quality of the visiting team, who included England No. 6 Donald Parker, attracted well over 100 spectators, the County's biggest attendance for some time. Unfortunately, the match as expected turned out to be rather one-sided, with only the second women's singles, men's doubles, and a magnificent last set involving Chris Shepherd and Clive Heap going close enough to create a sense of excitement.

However, there was plenty of excitement a fortnight later, on Dec. 4, when Northumberland achieved the double over Cleveland! The first team at last gained their first points when they beat Cleveland II 6-4 at Byker. But, to be fair to Cleveland, they were without Robert Wiley and Tony Martin. Five out of the six sets won came in the men's singles, with Andrew Clark and Fred Short winning two each and Shepherd one. Kit Cheung scored a win over Helen Robinson, ranked No. 3 Cadet in England and a Group A ranked-junior to take the other set.

Meanwhile, the second team travelled to Ormesby to meet Cleveland III, and came back 6-4 winners to record their second win in successive matches—already making this their best season for some time. Most of the sets won again came in the men's events, with Malcolm McMaster and Tony McQueen taking two singles each; and Glenn McCardle, although unsuccessful in his singles, shared a men's doubles win with McMaster. Pauline Jackson beat Eileen Robinson to take the other set.

The juniors nearly made it a treble in the afternoon match at Byker against Cleveland II, but lost 4-6 after being 4-1 up. Eddie Thomas, Bernard Clark and Mark Kimberley each won one singles, and Thomas and Clark took the boys' doubles.

Northumberland met Carlisle in Rd. 2 of the Wilmott Cup at Byker and won 7-2.

Scores:—

A. Clarke bt D. Kirkpatrick 16, 15; bt J. Willis 15, 19; bt S. O'Neil 18, 11, 16.
C. Shepherd lost to Kirkpatrick 18, 12; bt Willis 19, 14; lost to O'Neil 17, 20, 15.
F. Short bt Kirkpatrick 16, 8; bt Willis 18, 16; bt O'Neil 20, 17.

In the Newcastle Schools' League, the current tables show that R.G.S. and Heaton still top the Senior and Intermediate Divisions respectively, both having gone 6 matches without dropping a point. The Junior division which has only 6 teams competing, shows St. Cuthbert's and R.G.S. with maximum points.

The Girls' Division, now completed, the final

table being:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Gosforth High	4	4	0	33	7	8
Benfield	4	3	1	33	7	6
Manor Park	4	2	2	22	18	4
Westerhope	4	1	3	8	32	2
Kenton	4	0	4	4	36	0

Finally, congratulations to Lucille Clark, who "took the plunge" on Dec. 18, eight days before her 21st birthday, to marry Mark Deeming. Best wishes to them both for their future happiness.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

THIRD WIN FOR KEITH



KEITH SUMMERFIELD, winner of the Hants. Closed Men's Singles Title.

Main event recently has been the county closed tournament. Staged as usual by Basingstoke at Park Prewett Hospital with little to choose between the seeded players, some good matches were in prospect. The first seed to go was Trevor Smith who lost 12, 19 to Mary Hill. In the quarters Steve Wilson beat Chris Shetler, Steve Kitcher beat Hill, Bill Moulding beat Colin Wilson and Keith Summerfield beat M. Foster. Probably the best set of the day was Summerfield's semi-final win over Moulding 12, 19, 24. In the other semi Steve Wilson beat Kitcher 12, 17. Although Summerfield was not at his best in the final, he appeared always in control to beat Steve Wilson 23, 19 and chalk up his third championship.

In the absence of the last five winners, Julie Reading, Chris Davies, Joyce Coop, Sheila Foster and Daphne Gray, entries in the women's singles were thin. Jean Smith the County No. 1 and No. 2 seed went out in the first round to Lesley Jerram (né King) 13, 13, Leslie who has not been playing regularly since her marriage went on to beat the County No. 1 junior Jane Whitcher 12, 20, 18 in the semis. In the other half Janet New was in a class of her own and beat Julie Hudson in the semi 16, 11 and then trounced Lesley in the final 8 and 9. How the county must envy Dorset for Janet must have a great future playing most of her table tennis in Bournemouth. However, before the county boundaries were altered Hampshire were committed to Julie Reading and Linda Wales and Janet could see no future in Hampshire and quite rightly allied with Dorset. Now her dedication, temperament, and ability have brought not only the Hampshire senior title but more notably the recent England closed

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Ayres

TITLE RETAINED

David Rawlinson retained his men's singles title, which he took for the first time last season, in the Beds County Closed. Currently ranked No. 1 he disposed of Derek Holden in the semis and F. Nilam in the final.

Barbara Hammond also retained her women's singles title and with Joyce Reeves, wife of the County Chairman, Owen, won the doubles. Large entries came in the Junior events both in the U-17 and U-14 classes. Star of the tournament, no doubt, was Jackie Bellinger from Dunstable, who won every event she entered. She teamed up with her younger sister Lisa in the doubles to win her fifth title.

Coaching within the County is paying dividends, as the junior team, playing in Div. 3 East are to date unbeaten with one to go. The County have been enjoying some assistance from a sponsor this season. Associated Tyre Specialists provided all the trophies and medals for the junior events in the closed championships and at the recent match between Cambs and Beds, both teams were presented with A.T.S. sports holdalls. A.T.S. (Anglia) Ltd., have 25 branches in the region; A.T.S. Ltd., themselves boasting 360 branches throughout the U.K.

Closed results:—

M.S.: D. Rawlinson bt F. Nilam 15, 18.
 W.S.: B. Hammond bt J. Reeves 10, 17.
 M.D.: D. Holden/Rawlinson bt G. Major/T. Norton 16, 14.
 W.D.: Hammond/Reeves bt A. Robinson/S. Sharpe 20, 13.
 X.D.: Nilam/Hammond bt Hyde/Robinson 17, -18, 19.
 V.S.: Holden bt D. Harris 15, 15.
 Under-17's
 B.S.: M. Harlow bt G. White 22, 15.
 G.S.: J. Bellinger bt L. Bellinger 9, 8.
 B.D.: Harlow/P. Webb bt Byburn/White 16, 20.
 G.D.: Bellinger/Bellinger bt Clarke/Cutting 12, 12.
 X.D.: Sharpe/Bellinger bt Harlow/Clarke 19, 18.
 Under-14's
 B.S.: D. Sharpe bt D. Hurley 10, 9.
 G.S.: J. Bellinger bt E. Bellinger 10, 15.
 B.D.: Hurley/C. Yates bt Beard/Sharpe 18, 14.
 G.D.: Bellinger/Bellinger bt C. Prewett/S. Shaw 7, 8.

Bristol Club won both the women and mens doubles in their narrow 6-4 victory over Page Club.

Joy King won her singles and doubles for Mendip, but still found herself on the losing side, when Mendip lost 4-6 to Bath 'D' for whom Paul Hewitt won both his singles.

In the Junior Division, Bath beat Fromeside 8-2, but for Fromeside Paul Riley beat Avon County Junior Kim Morris "two straight", and Paul also played extremely well, before losing to the promising Bath youngster Kevin Thatcher. The Bristol Junior team of Julie Cooper, Martyn Smith, Geoff Totterdell and Mark Newland were much too strong for Bridgwater 'B' winning 9-1.

Results:—

PREMIER DIVISION: Bristol Club 6, Page 4; Bath 'A' 6, Weston 'A' 4; Bath 'B' 6, Page 4; Bridgwater 'A' 7, Bristol Club 3; Bridgwater 'B' 0, Failand 'A' 10; Bridgwater 'B' 0, Weston 'A' 10; Bridgwater 'A' 9, Weston 'A' 1; Bath 'B' 2, Failand 'A' 8.

DIVISION ONE: Bedminster 6, Yeovil 4; Portishead 6, Southmead 4; Taunton 'A' 3, Weston 'B' 7.

DIVISION TWO: Bath 'D' 6, Mendip 4; Failand 'B' 6, Fromeside 4; Mendip 4, Taunton 'B' 6; Bridgwater 'C' 10, Tiverton 0.

JUNIOR DIVISION: Bath 8, Taunton 2; Bath 8, Fromeside 2; Bridgwater 'B' 1, Bristol 9; Mendip 9, Taunton 1.

LEADING POSITIONS

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Failand 'A'	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Bath 'A'	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Bridgwater 'A'	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Weston 'A'	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Division One							
Portishead 'A'	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Weston 'B'	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Southmead	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Bedminster	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Division Two							
Bath 'D'	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Failand 'B'	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Bridgwater 'C'	1	1	0	0	10	0	2
Junior Division							
Bristol	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Bath 'A'	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Mendip	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Bridgwater 'A'	1	1	0	0	8	2	2

junior singles. What a great achievement and so thoroughly deserved.

The men's doubles produced the inevitable final with Shetler and Summerfield beating Moulding and Terry Bruce 16, 19.

Janet New paired with Julie Hudson in the women's doubles to beat Chris Davies and Judy Langridge -22, 13, 12. Colin Wilson combined with Janet New to beat Trevor and Jean Smith in the mixed final 14, 15. The boys' singles was predictably a one-horse race although I expected Colin Wilson to be pushed a bit harder in the semi by Richard Bergemann but he won 9, 9. Tim Boyle beat Steve Wilson 12, 11 in another equally one-sided semi. The final went to Colin 14, 11. The girls' singles semis saw Hants No. 2 Serina Sinanin beat the No. 1 Jane Whitcher 17, 12. Janet New beat Debrah James in the other semi. Janet was down 4-10 in the first game against Serina in the final but recovered to win her fourth title 18, 7. Ray Lush gained his fifth successive veterans' title. In the semi, he beat George Philpott and went on to beat Don Cartridge in the final 19, 12, 13.

What a sorry state the County teams are in this season! The senior team lost 1-9 to Sussex—Keith Summerfield gaining the only win over John Clarke—to be followed by an equally disastrous defeat by the same score against Kent. This time Trevor Smith picked up the only win. The first Junior team have, if anything, fared worse than the seniors with a 1-9 defeat against Sussex being the fore runner of a "white wash" down in Devon. Fortunately Kent sportingly agreed to a late postponement of their match when Hampshire were unable to find anyone to transport the team at the last moment. The second team although losing their opening matches against Sussex II and Essex III had a creditable 8-2 win over Bucks II. Steve White and Gary Kendall each won two singles and combined to win the boys' doubles. Joanna Bush making her county debut showed no nerves with competent singles win and Judith Fairhall also won her singles. On a brighter note the veterans again look likely to win their division and go forward to the play-offs. Wins over Worcester, Dorset, and Oxford have put them top and only Wiltshire barr their path to the title. Amid the chaos and disappointments of the first half of the season I must give a vote of thanks to the secretary of the county selection committee Bill Wilson. In his first season his patience and diplomacy have kept the county teams on their feet and his endless hard work in coping with more problems in three months than I can remember in years must earn a debt of gratitude from his fellow committee members.

The inter-town season reaches the half way stage with unfortunately still little interest outside the actual participants. In the mixed division Basingstoke 'A', Bournemouth 'A' and Portsmouth 'A' are all unbeaten. Both Bournemouth and Portsmouth have beaten Southampton and their clash in January could well decide this division.

Three unbeaten teams, Basingstoke, Portsmouth and Southampton head the men's division. Bournemouth 'A' must be favourite to retain their Junior Div. 1 title and have already beaten perhaps their closest rivals Southampton 'A'. Four very close three game sets went Bournemouth's way in a match which could easily have gone the reverse of the eventual 7-3 win to Bournemouth. But the winning of close games is how championships are decided. Gosport look favourites to gain promotion from the Junior Div. 2.

AVON AND SOMERSET LEAGUE

by Dennis Pope

100% MAINTAINED

Failand 'A' maintained their 100% record in the Premier Division of the Avon and Somerset League, with an 8-2 victory over Bath 'B'. Don Morris and Peter Dominey had victories for Bath, both over Ron Bowles, and Morris lost at "deuce in the third" to Somerset County No. 1, Brian Reeves. Bridgwater 'A' had a convincing 9-1 win over Weston 'A', the only victory for the latter being by Ray Philpott over Graham Green.



My picture shows the Cambs and Beds teams with the holdalls presented by A.T.S. (Anglia)

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

As if in answer to the implied criticism in my last article, the County Firsts replied in the only suitable way, with a superb 8-2 win against Buckinghamshire. Although talented Anne Wallis, and the ever consistent Connie Bane, were again in sparkling form to retain their 100% records, Gary Alden, with wins against Tony Clark and Les Wooding, and Steve Lyon with two outstanding wins over Robert Harman and Clark, contributed enormously to the best County performance for some seasons.

The Juniors also had a devastating win at Ipswich against a young Suffolk side, with Julie Robinson replacing Mandy Wallis, to make a superb winning debut, while Valerie Feakin, Alden and Keith Nicoll were all unbeaten. With Nicoll threatening to match, and ultimately overtake Alden, future prospects in the County are bright.

The County League has a more competitive appearance this season, with the eventual winners likely to emerge from the Kettering v Northampton clash on Mar. 20, although Wellingborough could still spring a late surprise despite losing both matches to date. The second of these was against near neighbours Kettering, who had the advantage of being able to call on five players playing in both leagues, who had dual eligibility. Anne Wallis and Nicoll, as expected, were much too good for their respective opponents, while superb wins from John Palmer and Terry Sutton against Brian Dangerfield were just enough to gain a narrow 6-5 win over a Wellingborough side whose five successes were shared by Alden and Graham Feakin, both of whom started their league careers at Kettering.

The match between Northampton and Daventry was a personal triumph for Alan Print, but otherwise a disaster for a Daventry side unable to add to the three wins he provided for them. With only Tim Chamberlain remaining of the Northampton side so convincing against Wellingboro', newcomers Cliff Cull, Keith Jones, Mick Edwards and Margaret Maltby all made sound contributions as Northampton swept to a substantial 8-3 victory.

County League Table

	P	W	L	Pts.
Kettering	2	2	0	16
Northampton	2	2	0	15
Wellingborough	2	0	2	9
Daventry	1	0	1	3
Towcester	1	0	1	1

News of the South East Midlands League remains sparse, although Kettering Juniors made big strides towards the Div. 2 Championship, when, in registering their fourth successive win, they accounted for nearest challengers Peterborough, 7-3, with Keith and Kenneth Nicoll well to the fore as they reeled off six sets between them. Kettering Women also had a fine win over Peterborough, with trebles from Valerie Feakin and Glennis Hooper, to add to an earlier 6-4 decision over Northampton, a match in which Miss Feakin was again unbeaten.

Meanwhile Daventry continue to consolidate as a force to be reckoned with in SEML circles, both Men's and Veterans' sides more than holding their own, with pride of place going to John Bishop for maintaining a 100% record after three matches, and to John Aspinall who has come out on top in ten of his eleven singles encounters.

YORKSHIRE JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

"MUCH OF A MUCHNESS"

by Rea Balmford

Although seeded players finally captured all the Under-17 titles at the Yorkshire Junior Open held at Hull on the weekend prior to Christmas, there was a 'much of a muchness' air about the

top of the National Junior Rankings, with only Angela Mitchell, ranked No. 2, coming up twice to the winners' table.

Martin Shuttle is not going to surrender his top Boys' spot without a struggle for, although he was pushed all the way by Kenny Jackson (-16, 18, 20), he went on to take the Boys' singles title with wins over David Wells, who created quite a stir in both singles and doubles events, and, in the final, over Chris Rogers, who made his final place at the expense of English Junior champion and No. 3 seed David Reeves.

Wells, ranked at 16, came through his group with a 20 in the third win over local boy Joe Naser, one below him in the national list—such is the margin between success and failure—and went on to the quarters as he shot out seeded Dave Newman before losing to Shuttle.

Also in the top half, Joe Kennedy was taken the distance by David Barr, [Tony Bottomley and Graham Sandley before he, in turn, was eliminated by Shuttle.

In the opposite half Reeves came comfortably through to the semis, putting paid to the challenge of Bryan Tyler, who had already shown the door to Leon Smith and Kevin Beadsley, while Rogers, who got the better of old rival Mike Harrison in Round 2, came past Eddie Wilkes, victor over Adam Proffitt in a Round 3 match and then second-seeded Keith Paxton before lining up against Reeves.

A 2-straight semi-final win saw the 8th ranked Rogers move into the final, but here Shuttle always looked to be in control.

Girls' winner Angela Mitchell dropped not a single game on her way to the final, and victory over Karen Witt who, on this form, did not really look an England No. 1, must cause the selectors to think very seriously.

Admittedly, however, Miss Mitchell's half of the draw was badly unbalanced by the absence of third-seeded Angela Tierney and her Teesside colleagues June Williams, both of whom failed to put in an appearance after entering and being seeded.

A good win in this event by Cadet Girls' winner Mandy Reeves, who dismissed Sue Hunt before going down to Miss Witt in the semi.

In the Boys' Doubles Wells again showed up when, partnering Leon Smith, the pair shot out the top seeded Kennedy/Paxton before moving on to the semis where they capitulated to the host county's top pair, Beadsley/Harrison, seeded 4, who had themselves come through via Sam Harmer/Paul Whiting.

In the other half Rogers and Shuttle, seeded 2, disposed of Reeves/Newman (3) at the semi-final stage, but the final saw another upset with the Yorkshire boys fighting back from a first game deficit to bring the title back to the Broad Acres.

The Girls' and Mixed Doubles were won by Witt/Mitchell and Rogers/Hunt respectively and it only remains to note 2 wins by Sandley/Alison Gordon over first the seeded Kennedy/Mitchell in the quarters of the Mixed and then over Newman/Stephanie Jones in the semi.

At Cadet level there seems to be a number of promising starlets bubbling through, and the name of Graham Sandley, who retained the Boys' Singles title he won in 75/6 is likely to figure prominently in T.T. reports.

He repeated last year's win over Colin Wilson, but in the Cadet Doubles the pair were on the wrong end of a shock win at the final hurdle by the two Pauls, Stratton and Whiting, while the latter also showed his singles prowess with a success over 4th seeded Mark Oakley in the Singles. John Souter went out at the same Round 1 stage to young Welshman Mark Thomas, but it is to be hoped that the Middlesex boy, who had the courage to play and put his ranking at stake when he could have withdrawn—no questions asked—with a broken left arm, is not penalized too harshly at the next ranking meeting.

Also creating quite a furore was the scratch Girls' Doubles pairing of Shirley Cain and Carole Butler, who reached the final before they were beaten in three by singles finalists Gordon/Reeves,

and it is good to see the contingent from previously unfashionable Devonshire making their mark on the Tournament circuit.

Another county which rarely figures at top level is Lincolnshire, despite Sue Hunt having been a long standing and popular member of the tournament 'circus', but a new name is coming up from that county in Gillian Galloway from Lincoln.

She showed good form in a Cadet singles run which took her to a semi-final place, while in the U-17 groups she had a first class win over Belinda Chamberlain.

It was the top two seeds who fought out the Cadet Girls' final and holder Alison Gordon and Mandy Reeves turned on a fine display with the Middlesex girl toppling the holder in three.

The future certainly looks bright for the politically non-existent Metropolitan county with the likes of Miss Reeves and Sandley on the scene for a number of years to come.

Results:—

Under-17 Events

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals:

M. Shuttle (Sy) bt D. Wells (Mi) 15, 12;
C. Rogers (Le) bt K. Paxton (Du) 16, 18;
J. Kennedy (K) bt G. Sandley (Mi) -16, 13, 17;
D. Reeves (Bk) bt B. Tyler (Mi) 10, 20.

Semi-finals:

Shuttle bt Kennedy 16, 16.
Rogers bt Reeves 19, 17.

Final:

SHUTTLE bt Rogers 19, 15.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals:

A. Mitchell (Mi) bt S. Jones (St) 15, 10;
K. Witt (Bk) bt M. Reeves (Mi) -13, 10, 6.

Final:

MITCHELL bt Witt 12, 11.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals:

K. Beadsley/M. Harrison (Y) bt L. Smith (E)/
Wells -20, 19, 14;
Rogers/Shuttle bt D. Newman (E)/Reeves 17,
-26, 16.

Final:

BEADSLEY/HARRISON bt Rogers/Shuttle -16,
18, 19.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals:

Mitchell/Witt bt W. Parker (Wi)/M. Smith (Bk)
18, 16;
L. Hryszko (Y)/S. Hunt (Li) bt C. Buttery (Li)/
B. Chamberlain (Hu) 18, 16.

Final:

MITCHELL/WITT bt Hryszko/Hunt 10, -17, 12.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals:

Sandley/A. Gordon (Bk) bt Newman/Jones 19,
-12, 12;
Rogers/Hunt bt Shuttle/Witt 15, -20, 19.

Final:

ROGERS/HUNT bt Sandley/Gordon -19, 12, 19.

U-14 (Cadet) Events

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals:

Sandley bt M. Thomas (Cw) 10, 17;
C. Wilson (Ha) bt P. Whiting (Dv) 16, 17.

Final:

SANDLEY bt Wilson 13, 18.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals:

Reeves bt H. Robinson (Cv) 12, -17, 10;
Gordon bt G. Galloway (Li) 16, 20.

Final:

REEVES bt Gordon 13, -16, 13.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals:

Sandley/Wilson bt B. Johnson (Bk)/P. Rainford
(La) 19, 19;
P. Stratton (Sy)/Whiting bt M. Cairns/S. Sharp
(Cu) 13, 12.

Final:

STRATTON/WHITING bt Sandley/Wilson 15,
-13, 17.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals:

Gordon/Reeves bt D. Partridge/J. Todd (Y) 7,
13;

C. Butler (Dv)/S. Cain (St) bt L. Garbet (Sy)/
H. Williams (Mi) 18, -16, 15.

Final:

GORDON/REEVES bt Butler/Cain 19, -15, 14.

24th French Open

DIRECT CONFRONTATION

by Brian Kean

In many respects the 24th French Open Championships, played in the Stade Pierre de Coubertin, Paris, over the period December 3-5, was a disappointing affair. But not so the final of the men's singles event which provided a direct confrontation between Istvan Jonyer and Jacques Secretin, the current World and European champions.

It was the French ace, Secretin, who shrugged off a 2-game deficit to storm back and win the title which, for the first 15 minutes, looked destined for the Hungarian. The Frenchman's victory should silence the critics who quickly reminded me that his European crown was won in the absence of Jonyer.

There were no Christmas presents in store for the English participants who, in keeping with the winter season, slithered and skidded into oblivion.

Main hope, Jill Hammersley, after accounting for Michele Gourmelon (France), Birgitta Olsson (Sweden) and the host nation's Claude Bergeret, was halted in an abrupt and ruthless fashion by the eventual winner, Judit Magos-Havas, of Hungary.

Carole Knight, nursing a cold and a knee injury, was granted an early change of apparel by courtesy of Rumania's ace defender, Maria Alexandru. Though taking the first game, Carole was subsequently ground to a near halt as the Rumanian tightened the vice just as it was turned against her, two rounds later, by Ann-Christin Hellman, of Sweden (famous for her inability to overcome defensive players!!).

Simple Messieurs proved no happier a hunting ground as Messrs. Neale, Douglas and Day sounded early retreats, only the latter, responding to the bugler's call, proceeded to the second round by beating Frank Vinitzki (Fr) thereafter the weight of the banner became too great and plummeted in the face of Federal Germany's Peter Engel.

Ralf Wosik, also of the DTTB, was responsible for the departure of Neale, while Douglas succumbed to the up-and-coming young Swede, Ake Grönlund, whose only singles defeat of the championships was in the semis of the M.S. to Jonyer.

The team championships saw England's women contest the final against Hungary. But it was Judit Magos and Beatrix Kishazi who took the top step of the rostrum, having squeezed home by the odd set in five. One round earlier, and by a similar margin, the men fell to Yugoslavia's Milivoj Karakasevic and Zoran Kalinic — penholders incorporated!

It was in this event that the lights shone for Desmond Douglas as he collected the scalps of Secretin and Christian Martin, of France, and Kalinic.

The tournament was played in a somewhat sombre atmosphere, the spectators being conspicuous by their absence, except for the finals, when Monsieur Jacques brought them in to support his title defence.

Perhaps the absence of such crowd-pullers as Kjell Johansson and Stellan Bengtsson, of Sweden, and Dragutin Surbek and Anton Stipanovic, of Yugoslavia, had its initial effect. Results:—

TEAM EVENTS

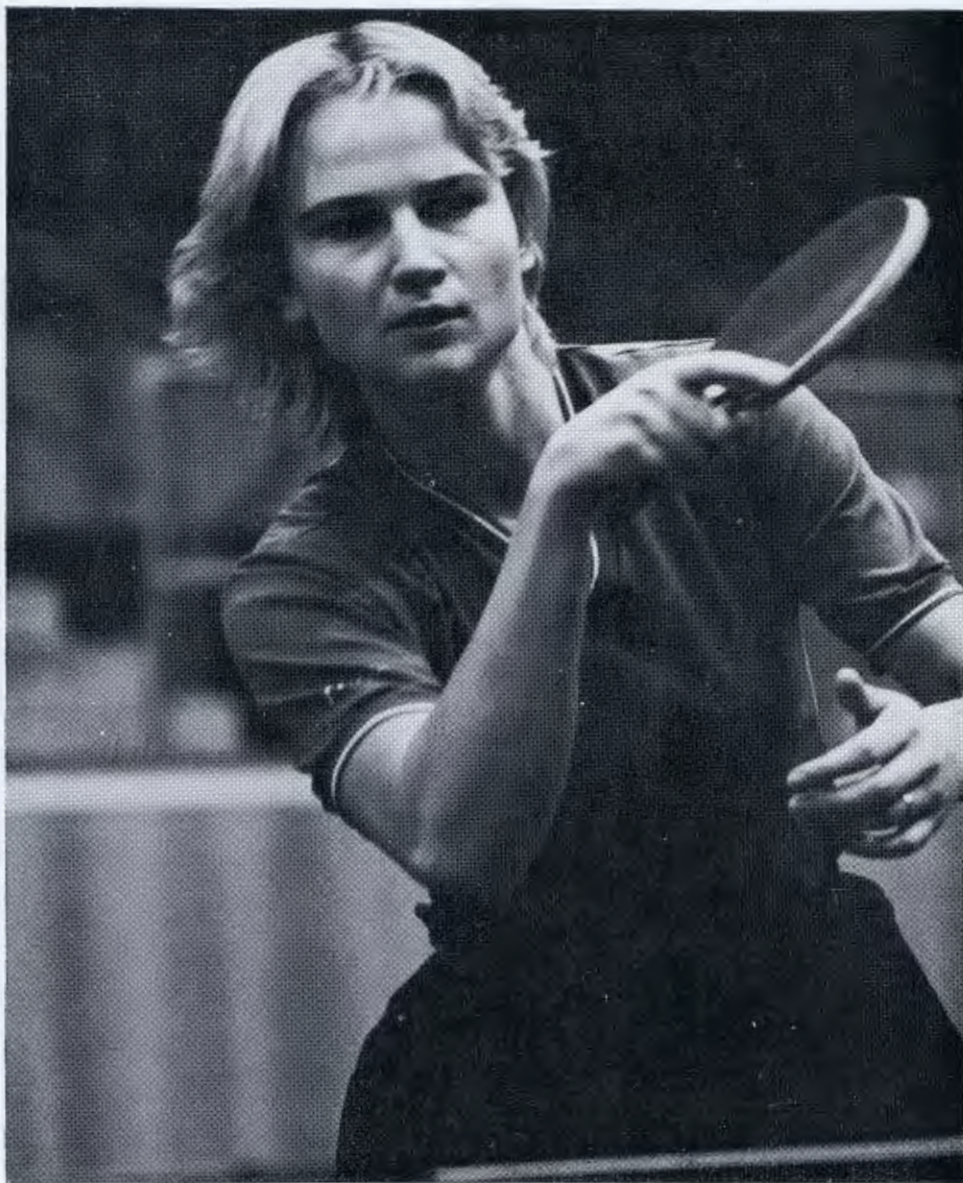
Men—Round 1

Yugoslavia 3, Federal Germany II 2

Sweden II 3, Scotland II 0

England 3, Belgium 0

D. Neale bt Lambiotte 2-0; P. Day bt R.



Ann-Christin Hellman, of Sweden, beaten by Hungary's Judit Magos-Havas in the final of the Women's Singles in the French Open.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden.

Frisque 2-0; Day/Neale bt Lambiotte/
Frisque 2-0.

France I bye

Federal Germany I 3, France III 0

Hungary 3, Luxembourg 0

France II 3, Scotland I 2

Sweden I 3, Austria 0

Round 2

Yugoslavia 3, Sweden II 2

England 3, France I 2

D. Douglas bt J. Secretin 2-0; Neale lost to

C. Martin 1-2; Douglas/Neale bt Martin/
Secretin 2-0; Neale lost to Secretin 1-2;

Douglas bt Martin 2-1.

Hungary 3, Federal Germany I 0

Sweden I 3, France II 1

Semi-finals

Yugoslavia 3, England 1

Z. Kalinic lost to Douglas 1-2; M. Karaka-

sevic bt Day 2-0; Kalanic/Karakasevic bt

Day/Douglas 2-1; Karakasevic bt Douglas

2-0.

Hungary 3, Sweden I 2

Final

HUNGARY 3, Yugoslavia 2

I. Jonyer bt Kalinic 16, 16; T. Klampar lost

to Karakasevic -16, 15, -14; Jonyer/Klampar

bt Karakasevic/Kalinic -14, 17, 16; Jonyer

lost to Karakasevic -15, -12; Klampar bt

Kalinic 17, 20.

Women—Round 1

England — bye

France II 3, Belgium 0

Federal Germany 3, France II 0

Sweden I — bye

Rumania — bye

France I 3, Austria 1

Hungary 3, Sweden II 0

Yugoslavia — bye

Round 2

England 3, France II 0

J. Hammersley bt M. Gourmelon 2-0; C.

Knight bt Y. Lecler 2-1; Hammersley/
Knight bt Gourmelon/Lecler 2-0.

Sweden I 3, Federal Germany 1

France I w.o., Rumania

Hungary 3, Yugoslavia 0

Semi-finals

England 3, Sweden I 1

Hammersley bt B. Olsson 2-0; Hellman

w.o., Knight; Hammersley/Knight bt Hell-

man/Olsson 2-0; Hammersley bt Hellman/
2-0.

Hungary 3, France I 0

Final

HUNGARY 3, England 2

J. Magos-Havas lost to Hammersley -14, -19;

B. Kishazi bt Knight 11, 17; Kishazi/Magos-

Havas lost to Hammersley/Knight -17, -18;

Kishazi bt Hammersley 19, 10.

Magos-Havas bt Knight 18, -18, 10.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Men's Singles—Round 3

J. Secretin (FR) bt R. Lagerfeldt (S) 13,

15, 16.

W. Lieck (D) bt T. Klampar (H) -20, 10,

19, 21.

G. Gergely (H) bt P. Birocheau (FR) -16, 11, -17, 17, 20.

R. Wosik (D) bt M. Hoffstetter (FR) 19, 12, 9.

A. Hartmann (LUX) bt P. Renverse (FR) -20, 17, 13, 11.

A. Grönlund (S) bt J. Leiss (D) 19, 13, 15.
Z. Kalinic (YU) bt V. Purkart (Fr) 8, 17, 15.

Quarter-finals

Secretin bt Lieck 19, 16, 17.

Gergely bt Wosik 15, 12, 17.

Grönlund bt Hartmann 18, 19, 14.

Jonyer bt Kalinic 11, 20, -20, 16.

Semi-finals

Secretin bt Gergely 19, 15, 14.

Jonyer bt Grönlund 9, 18, 16.

Final

SECRETIN bt Jonyer -17, -15, 19, 17, 17.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

J. Hammersley (EN) bt C. Bergeret (FR) -12, 19, -17, 18.

J. Magos-Havas (HU) bt W. Hendriksen (D) 9, 15, 17.

M. Alexandru (RU) bt B. Thiriet (Fr) 17, -15, 8, 16.

A-C. Hellman (S) bt G. Szabo (HU) 10, 10, -11, 13.

Semi-finals

Magos-Havas bt Hammersley 7, 15, 18.

Hellman bt Alexandru -7, 9, 19, 13.

Final

MAGOS-HAVAS bt Hellman 16, 18, 13.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals

D. Douglas/D. Neale (EN) bt C. Adam/T. Roesch (FR) 11, 16, 9.

Engel/Leiss (D) bt R. Hatem/C. Martin (FR) -9, 15, 13, 13.

Jonyer/Klampar (H) bt Kalinic/M. Karakasevic (YU) 14, 17, 17.

Birocheau/Secretin (FR) bt Lagerfeldt/U. Thorwell (S) 13, 9, -17, 20.

Semi-finals

Engel/Leiss bt Douglas/Neale 18, 13, -19, -15, 19.

Jonyer/Klampar bt Birocheau/Secretin -16, 9, 15, -23, 13.

Final

JONYER/KLAMPAR bt Engel/Leiss 16, -17, 17, 14.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals

U. Hirschmüller/K. Kruger (D) bt Bergeret/Thiriet 17, 13, -15, 17.

Hammersley/C. Knight (EN) bt Magos-Havas/Szabo 22, 18, -16, 19.

Hendriksen/B. Kishazi (H) bt Alexandru/B. Batinic (YU) 15, 19, -15, -17, 12.

Hellman/B. Olsson (S) bt M. Gourmelon/Y. Lecler (FR) 12, 19, -20, 16.

Semi-finals

Hirschmüller/Kruger bt Hammersley/Knight 20, 21, -16, 18.

Hendriksen/Kishazi bt Hellman/Olsson -16, 13, 16, 12.

Final

HENDRIKSEN/KISHAZI bt Hirschmüller/Kruger 15, 14, 18.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals

Lieck/Hendriksen bt Klampar/Szabo 12, -13, 15, 12.

Neale/Hammersley bt Thorsell/Olsson 10, 14, 18.

Gergely/Magos-Havas bt Hatem/Thiriet -16, 12, 12, 12.

Karakasevic/G. Perkucic (YU) bt Grönlund/Hellman -17, 19, 14, 11.

Semi-finals

Lieck/Hendriksen bt Neale/Hammersley 18, 10, -14, -18, 13.

Karakasevic/Perkucic bt Gergely/Magos-Havas -10, 19, -17, 17, 15.

Final

KARAKASEVIC/PERKUCIN bt Lieck/Hendriksen -18, 19, 25, 16.

Douglas takes over

In the revised E.T.T.A. rankings released on January 12, Desmond Douglas was reinstated as England's No. 1 with Denis Neale dropping into second position. Jill Hammersley retains her No. 1 women's position.

★ 34th World Championships



Pictured above (from l to r) are Brian Kean, John Hilton and Phil "Shaft" Bowen who, in December, at Red Bank School, Newton-le-Willows, gave an exhibition which brought the house down. They are prepared to do the same elsewhere for out-of-pocket expenses only, with the proviso that all profits go to the World Championships Fund. Interested associations should contact Brian Kean at 22 Braemar Avenue, Flixton, Manchester. Phone: 061-747 7268.

Photo by courtesy of Jon de Pledge, Manchester.

TEAM SELECTIONS

Commonwealth Championships (Guernsey, March 16-23)—J. Hilton, J. Walker, A. Barden, D. Parker, K. Rogers, K. Witt and M. Ludi.

Stiga Welsh Open (Cardiff, February 4-6)—D. Douglas, D. Neale, P. Day, A. Barden, C. Knight, L. Howard, K. Witt and M. Ludi.

ANNOUNCEMENT

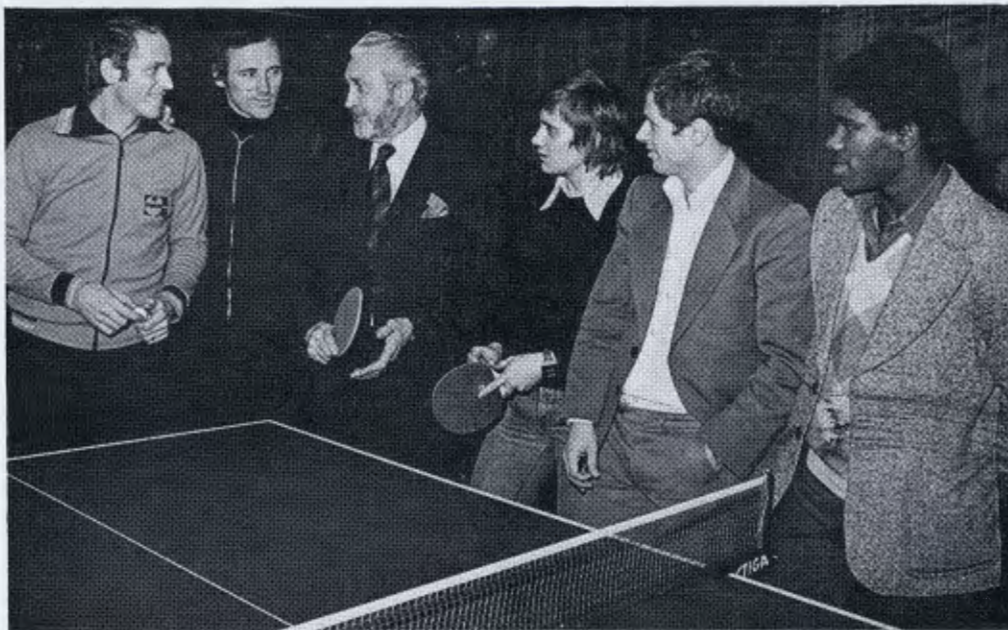
Alec Brook of A.D.B. (London) Ltd., is pleased to announce that they have been appointed official suppliers to the English Table Tennis Association for the World Championship competitors' awards.

Plus a special commemorative medallion and souvenirs which will be available through the E.T.T.A.

A.D.B. (London) Ltd.,
31 Ebury Street,
Victoria,
London, SW1W 0NZ.

Telephone 01-730 0394

Telex 21120



STAR LINE-UP

Capable of handling a bat himself, Councillor Edward Hanson, Chairman of Birmingham's Leisure and Amenities Committee, accepts a tip from the World Champion himself, Istvan Jonyer (extreme left). Also in the picture (from l to r) are Dragutin Surbek, Stellan Bengtsson, Milan Orlowski and England's Desmond Douglas. The players called in at the National Exhibition Centre en route to the Norwich Union Invitation tournament, at Howe Bridge Sports Centre, Wigan.

Photo by Simon Livingstone Studios, Birmingham.

Letters to the Editor

SHEPHERD'S PIE

My immediate reaction to certain of the contributions to the December "Table Tennis News" was one of utter disgust. Your own mild Editorial in November was what one may have expected from the Deputy Chairman of the Association, but Messrs. Pike, Woodford and Blunn surely could have done better.

Mr. Pike seems to know precisely what Mr. Buckle was complaining about, i.e., that the British manufactured goods are not being used in the World Championships staged in Great Britain, but then reveals his own incredible lack of political, economic, and even general knowledge, by saying that the Prime Minister would not be interested. Has he not heard that there is something called a balance of trade which figures largely in our current economic crisis, and that this can only be solved if we increase our exports and reduce our imports? Bringing a large number of grossly over-priced Swedish table tennis tables into this country is hardly likely to reduce the trade-gap. Oh, and one other thing Mr. Pike ought to know—much as it is to be regretted—Mrs. Thatcher is not yet Prime Minister, although perhaps she will be come next March.

Page 8 featured another dose of John Woodford for the long-suffering public. I do not know why he thinks Mr. Buckle hoped "to be actively engaged in his second assault, reinforced by a lot of independent support". As far as I can see, Mr. Buckle, having written his letter, could do no more and if the Government or the other bodies mentioned chose to take no action, then the matter would perforce rest.

The idea of Mr. Woodford travelling around that hive of table tennis activity, Eastbourne, searching for furious table tennis players is a little mind-boggling. The Sussex selectors would probably have been

pleased had he found any, furious or otherwise. I would suggest, with due modesty, that my table tennis activities permit me to meet many more players than Mr. Woodford and I can report that the vast majority of them, whilst not being exactly furious, did express the view that the failure of the E.T.T.A. to contract with a British table manufacturer was deplorable. I am afraid also that the conclusion Mr. Woodford has drawn from the P.A.T.T. statement is also untenable. All that showed is that P.A.T.T. as an organisation which is pledged to work in close harmony with the E.T.T.A., is not prepared to be drawn into a controversy launched by one of its individual members in his personal capacity.

So finally to my old sparring partner, Tom Blunn. His article is headed in great black type with the refrain "Let's put our cards on the table says Tom Blunn". I took this, possibly naively, to mean that Mr. Blunn was at last going to tell us exactly what happened, if anything, in the Lawless-Jaques or Lawless-Stiga negotiations I searched everywhere in the article which followed for this elusive information, but all I could find was a sentence saying that, "it is not possible at the present time to give complete details of the offers made by the various firms". Mr. Blunn then went on to give not details at all, complete or otherwise. Accordingly the rest of his article was completely invalidated insofar as it attempted to justify the E.T.T.A. action. Until the E.T.T.A. negotiating team proves conclusively that Jaques were given the opportunity of at least equalling the Stiga offer and turned it down (and on this important point Mr. Blunn was silent) the table tennis fraternity in this country will continue to think that they have been sadly let down by those they have elected to look after their interests and the interests of the game as a whole.

ALAN SHEPHERD.

10 Woodedge Close,
London, E4 6BB.

Tom Blunn, the E.T.T.A.'s Hon. Treasurer, comments:—

Alan Shepherd has his economics right but his conclusions very wrong. Imports occurs when goods brought into the country are paid for: the "grossly over-priced Swedish tables" are being given to the E.T.T.A. along with a cash grant giving a total value of £20,000 for the privilege of using the tables. In any language the £20,000 is equivalent to an export and therefore in favour of the country's balance of payments, and does, in fact, reduce the trade gap. No bouquets to the E.T.T.A. for this, as it was for another reason that the decision was made—it was of benefit to the members who elected the people to take such decisions. My article explains what opportunities were given to all manufacturers and that we were not prepared to bargain one off against the other.

Alan's comment on the P.A.T.T. situation is "completely invalidated" (his words) by the fact that Keith Buckle signed himself as Press Officer to P.A.T.T., and in doing so created the impression that he had their agreement to do so. As is probably known, the officers of P.A.T.T. were not consulted and gave no permission for the name of the Players' Association to be used.

I would like to think that, in obtaining the opinions of his player friends, Alan gave them the interpretation of both sides, but I doubt it. I would rather think these players are far more interested in seeing that their guarantee fund is returned intact.

**POLES APART . . .
WANDSWORTH LEAGUE**

When Kim Vincent (a loser in the semi-final of the girls' doubles in the Newbury Junior 2-Star Open, in October) played the writer in a handicap match on November 24, there was a difference of 54 years between our ages. Kim was giving me 4 start, and it was a fight all the way. She attacked from start to finish. The score in my favour was 15, -18, 17. I had to resort to a side spin service on her backhand to pull me through. Who would have won had we been playing level? I'm inclined to think youth would have prevailed.

KEN WOODWARD.

6 Waldemar Avenue,
Fulham,
London, S.W.6.

**Calling All
Photographers**

The International Table Tennis Federation are conducting a photographic competition as part of their 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Each member Association is invited to submit a maximum of twelve prints, in colour or black and white, on a table tennis theme.

Therefore all E.T.T.A. members are invited to submit prints which may then be selected to form part of the Association's entry.

The competition is sponsored by Yashica and the owners of the winning prints will be rewarded with prizes of cameras and watches. In return, the I.T.T.F. require the right to use the prizewinning photographs in any of their publications.

Please send your photographs (whole-plate size preferred) together with your name and address, the date the photograph was taken and any other details which might be of interest, to the General Secretary, E.T.T.A., 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, by 31st January, 1977.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by Leslie Constable

FIRST DEFEAT

Cambridgeshire suffered their first defeat for over two years when they went down 4-6 to Bedfordshire at Dunstable. After holding a 2-1 lead with singles wins from Mick Harper and Geoff Davies, the latter substituting for Paul Day, who was on international duty, Cambs then lost both doubles and the women's singles, which put them in deep trouble. Harper put Cambs back in the picture with a straight-games win over Dave Rawlinson, but Bedfordshire made sure of a point when Barbara Hammond fought back to beat Sally Hirst after the latter had won the first game 21-11. Cambs still had hopes of a draw when Keith Richardson beat Holden, but an on-form Davies was unable to make any impression on the wily Major in the final set.

When Cambs entertained Norfolk at Cambridge Y.M.C.A. they had a reversal of fortunes when they won 7-3. Richardson and Harper were hard-pressed to win in the opening sets, both players fighting back from set point in the second game to win against Bob Thornton and Mick Musson respectively. From then on the home county were well in command and although the visitors took both doubles, they had to wait until the ninth set before they took a singles, Musson beating Davies in three games. Jean Allinson, who beat Wendy Hogg, is making her first season's appearance for Cambs and seems to be running into form.

Cambs second team were involved in a last set decider when they drew 5-5 with Hertfordshire II at Soham. A win for David Tiplady over David Seaholme was all Cambs had to show for the first four sets, but they pulled back to 3-3 with a men's doubles victory and a shock women's singles success for Valerie Parkes over the experienced Janet Rodgers. Simon Proffitt restored the visitors' lead with a win over Davies, but again the women came to the rescue with Joanne Palmer beating Barbara Peters to level the score. Barry White beat Tiplady to give Herts a 5-4 lead, but Brian Richardson, giving his best County performance to date, beating Seaholme, enabling Cambs to annexe a well-earned point.

Cambs Juniors lost their fourth consecutive match in Div. 2 Midland when they went down 2-8 to Norfolk at Cambridge Y.M.C.A. Andy Withers won both his singles against Michael Minors and Martin Ecclesstone to save the home county from a complete rout. Norfolk's best player was Doug Bennett, who seemed in a class above the rest.

In the South East Midlands League, Cambridge had a good 6-4 win over North Herts in the Men's Division, which enabled them to top the League with three consecutive victories. In the Junior Section, Cambridge forced a 5-all draw with Wisbech II, although they are struggling in the second division. Wisbech had fluctuating fortunes against Hunts Central. In the Senior fixture they forced a 5-all draw; Geoff Davies won two and Geoff Calvert one. The Junior first team lost 1-9 and only John West was able to win a singles, but the Junior "B" team won 7-2 and followed up with a 6-4 victory over Cambridge, but in turn lost 4-5 to Dunstable. The Reserve Team got the better of the Hunts team by 6-4 with Derek Kiddle gaining a maximum with good support from Robert Swift and Jane Hunter.

In the East Anglian League Second Division, Wisbech maintained their 100% record by beating Norwich 6-4. In this encounter Geoff Ward was the star for Wisbech, winning all his sets.

In the North Norfolk League, Wisbech top the table with two wins and two draws

to their credit. In their last two fixtures they had a good home win over Wymondham and a fine away draw against last year's champions—Thetford—Chris Gay giving outstanding performances in both matches.

Sutton Bridge continued to maintain their lead in Div. 1 of the Wisbech League, with Wisbech Institute close at hand. Wisbech Centre Buffaloes lead Div. 2 and look like holding on to their lead with the rapid improvement of juniors Robert Swift, Keith Burlingham and Michael Jackman. Smedleys are trying hard to keep up with the leaders.

The latest ranking list in the Wisbech League is as follows:—

1—Barry Wilson (Tydd)	100%
2—Chris Brewer (W.T.T.C.)	96%
3—Geoff Davies (Institute)	96%
4—Ian Marshall (W.T.T.C.)	87%
5—Geoff Calvert (Institute)	86%
6—Paul Jackson (Sutton Bridge) ...	83%
7—Chris Gay (Institute 'A')	80%
8—Peter Laughlin (Welney)	78%
9—Peter Berna (Bury Cars)	78%
10—Howard Lupton (Rokewood)	77%

In the Cambs League Soham I continue on their winning way with victories over St. Ives and Telephones II, and look as if they will again succeed in winning the title. Their nearest rivals, N.C.I. I, are also having great success and have had victories over Telephones II and St. Ives. In the other divisions there is still great competition, with Div. 3a being outstanding in respect of the number of close results and draws. It will be a good man who can pick out the eventual winner of this division, although at the moment C.I.B.A. lead.

There were the usual crop of surprise results in the second round of the Cambs Handicap Knockout Trophy, with second division clubs, in particular, having a rough passage against teams from lower divisions. The best performance came from fourth division Torchbearers II, who beat second division Haverhill II 5-2. John Jaggs was the main instrument of the Suffolk club's downfall, winning his three, with T. Barber and veteran Ralph Rust each beating Peter Ward. Soham III also fell by the wayside, losing 3-7 to Bassingbourn from Div. 3. Izzard won three and Pearce and Trigg two each for the victors. Y.M.C.A. III beat Herbert Robinson 5-4, despite three wins from Tony Rayner for the losers. Ely Fire Service, from Div. 5, beat G.O.R.D. 8-1 and Eastern Electricity beat Animal Research 5-4. The latter was a strange match, with Electricity leading 4-0 at one stage, but finally just scraping home by the odd set, thanks to three from D. Taylor. Wesley II's run of success finally came to an end when they lost 4-5 to N.C.I. III, who also play in Div. 4, being well served by John Puddick (3) and Mike Sherry (2), these two players proving a thorn in the flesh to last season's finalists. Soham I, who won the title last year, took a step nearer the final when they beat Fisons II by 5-2.

Congratulations to Mike Jackson in passing his Umpire's Exam. in both theory and practical. He took his practical examination in the Cambs v Norfolk match and, I understand, was impeccable!

S.E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE CHATTER

by Leslie Constable

ELY AGAIN

Ely are again fighting it out for the Men's title in the S.E.M. League. Although they were held to a 5-5 draw by Wisbech, they have such a good sets average that this may see them through at the finish. St. Neots and Milton Keynes are also unbeaten and will do all they can to catch the leaders.

Cambridge head Div. 2 of the Men's Section and look like making a return to the top flight after two seasons in the "wilderness". They are unbeaten and, to

date, have won all their matches 9-1. R.A.F. to have a good record and are also unbeaten.

Bedford head the Junior Section in Div. 1 but N. Herts and Northampton are in a better position with the latter having beaten Bedford 9-1 as did N. Herts. Peterboro and Kettering head Div. 2 with both unbeaten, having accounted for Hunts Central 10-0.

In the Women's Div., N. Herts are without defeat but their lead is being challenged by Dunstable, who are only 4 points behind. St. Neots head the Vets Section—Div. 1, but it is early days yet and Cambridge and Northampton are lurking dangerously behind!

Ely have withdrawn from Div. 1 of the Junior Section, which is a big surprise, and Wisbech have withdrawn from the Women's Section which, of course, is another disappointment. Leading positions:—

S.E. MIDLANDS T.T. LEAGUE

League Tables as at 30th November, 1976

DIVISION 1 (Men)					
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Ely	3	2	1	0	25
St. Neots	3	3	0	0	18
Milton Keynes	2	2	0	0	15
Bedford	4	0	0	4	14
Wisbech	3	0	2	1	14

DIVISION 1 (Junior)					
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bedford	4	2	0	2	18
North Herts	2	2	0	0	17
Northampton	2	2	0	0	16
Hunts Central	2	1	1	0	14

DIVISION 1 (Veterans)					
	P	W	L	D	Pts
St. Neots	3	2	0	1	17
Cambridge	2	1	1	0	11
Northampton	2	1	0	1	10
Peterborough	2	1	0	1	10

LADIES' DIVISION					
	P	W	L	D	Pts
North Herts	3	3	0	0	27
Dunstable	3	2	1	0	23
Bedford	5	2	0	3	17
St. Neots	3	2	0	1	17

CLWYD REPORT

By Roy Williams

NEW SYSTEM

For the first time the Welsh League (North) matches are being played off on four weekends at a central venue. This has been put into force to cut down on travelling expenses and, according to League Secretary Malcolm Hook, should mean a 50% saving by the participating leagues.

The first session was on November 21, at the Coventry Co-op Holiday Camp, Kinnel Bay, Rhyl, which proved very successful. Wrexham were excluded from the first series, the results of which were:—

Senior Division
Rhyl 9, Llandudno 1
East Flint 9, Llandudno 1
Rhyl 6, Anglesey 4

Veteran Division
Llandudno 4, Rhyl 6
Anglesey 6, Llandudno 4
East Flint 7, Anglesey 3

Junior Division
Rhyl 7, Anglesey 3
Rhyl 8, Llandudno 2
Llandudno 1, East Flint 9

Welsh No. 1 Cadet, Mark Thomas, of Rhyl, won the cadet singles at the Cardiff Open in convincing style. In just over two seasons Mark has made rapid progress and is now beating most of the senior players in the Rhyl League. Last season he was capped for Wales as a Cadet and was runner-up in the Welsh Closed Cadet singles.

At Llandudno, Alf Hardman won the closed men's singles for the first time, beating the holder, Sid Sillah, a student at the

U.C.N.W., Bangor, in the final. In the men's doubles Jim Johnson and Sillah had a final win over Hardman and Peter Harplin.

The Junior singles title was contested by the holder, Glyn Gibbons, who just about held off the challenge of David Williams. Williams did win the cadet singles, however, with a final victory over Derek Butterworth. Miss C. Wiseman won the women's singles beating Mrs. V. Williams in a surprise final result.

John Hook Snr. won the Rhyl Handicap singles, only the second player to do so off the back mark. With 42 entries John ploughed his way through to the final to meet young Mark Thomas (+3), John winning 16 in the third. Sue Powell (+14) did well to reach the semis as did Terry Sinclair (+9).

Six North Wales umpires are candidates for the I.T.T.F's International Umpire qualification. They are:—Roy Williams (Rhyl), Les Jones (Llandudno), Mike Holden and Jim Bishton (Wrexham) and Ron Bishop and Harry Maddison (East Flint).

County kit, including bags, track suits, etc., are still available, and all items bought means more for the County coffers. A dance is to be held by the Fund Raising Committee at the Plough Hotel, St. Asaph. Details will be available shortly.

Julie Ralphs was again selected for Wales for their European League match against Luxembourg, at Abercynon, on December 12.

At last Clwyd have won a few County matches. The Junior 1st beat Northumberland whilst the Vets 1st beat Warwicks and Clwyd 2nd. The Senior 1st still struggle and, to date, seem to be outclassed in Div. 2 Midland.

Due to adverse weather conditions the two Junior away matches to Cumbria and Durham were cancelled. May I apologise to both counties for the short notice brought about by dense fog and ice.

It is with regret that I report that Keith Fitzsimmons has resigned as Senior and Junior County Match Secretary. I shall be taking over. Due to Hungary having to play England in a European League match the Wales v Hungary match due to have taken place in North Wales, has been cancelled. Perhaps the T.T. of W. can arrange with another country to maintain international table tennis in this area. May I take this opportunity to wish all players and officials a happy New Year.

SURREY NOTES

By Ted Simpkin

SHAME ON YOU

After a break of a year, due to lack of enthusiasm by both top players and league officers, two Inter-League competitions have been organised by Redhill and Epsom's Jack Wardle on behalf of the County Committee. Only four leagues have come forward to contest the long-established Percy Johnson competition—Byfleet, Leatherhead, Croydon Business Houses and Reigate/Redhill. Shame on Guildford, Wandsworth, Thames Valley, etc.!

For the new Knockout Club Competition the 16 entries comprise:—seven from Leatherhead, four from Reigate/Redhill, two from Byfleet and one each from Guildford, Thames Valley and Dulwich. The favourites appear to be Rosehill, from Leatherhead, and Graham Spicer, from Thames Valley. The Committee hope that these two tournaments will be a success and lead to a reawakening of the inter-league set-up which ran so well for so many years in the past.

The Reigate/Redhill League staged their second County match, in November, when a reasonably encouraging number of spectators turned up to see Middlesex take the honours. From the results so far it looks as though the loss of Richard Yule and

Martin Shuttle has considerably weakened the County's chances. All is not gloomy, however, as there are a number of young players coming through who are more than capable of filling the gap, provided they make the bigger effort needed to reach and maintain the higher levels. Looking further ahead, the prospect is very healthy, and County Coach, Mick Kercher, is quoted as boldly predicting that from the ranks of the present juniors another two years could well see Surrey winning the Premier Division title.

Leatherhead's Bob Pearson tells me that the annual Comet Gold Cup tournament, at the Goblin factory, Leatherhead, attracted over 100 entries from schools and youth clubs from many areas of the County. Mick Kercher presented awards to winners:—
U-14 Boys: Steven Grove bt Paul Cook.
U-14 Girls: Nicola Teague bt Pauline Kathalria.

U-18 Boys: Ru Bole bt Muhammed Ramji.
U-18 Girls: Dona Mangani bt Julie Knight.
Overall: Ru Bole bt Muhammed Ranji.

The next big event to be staged in Guildford will be the very popular Handicap Pairs competition, which is now run in conjunction with the Handicap Singles tournament for the Allison Trophy. This is a competition in which the Organising Committee does not need to drive itself into the ground once the play has begun because as it is on a group basis, it largely runs itself. Following that event comes the separate Guildford Junior Championships, to be held this year as an experiment, over several days at the Bellfields Coaching Centre premises, and which could well turn out to be a successful departure from tradition.

EAST KENT COMMENTARY

by Brian Jordan

LINKS FLOURISH

Links with continental clubs continue to flourish in this part of the country and two clubs in the Canterbury and District League recently returned from visits to European clubs. First of the trips was made by Whitstable Natives, who were making their third journey to play Atlantic, of Antwerp. For the Natives the trip was a great success for they recorded their first win in the Belgian city and only their second in the series of six they have played with Atlantic since 1971.

Eighteen players accompanied by friends made the journey arriving in Antwerp early on Friday evening, in good time to play 68 singles on the same evening. The following afternoon, after a morning spent sight-seeing 45 doubles matches were played. Competition was close in the singles with both clubs winning 34, but Natives had the upper hand in the doubles, winning 25 to run out overall winners 59-54. As in the past the table tennis played on the top table was of a high standard, the Belgians winning 13-8, but the Whitstable players had greater strength in depth than in former encounters and the "E" team recorded a decisive 21-4 victory.

Roy Thomas, organiser of the trips, and Bernard Emm, the Club Chairman, were two of the four visitors to win all their sets, the others being Ted Inge, from Sittingbourne, a player well known in Kent coaching circles, and Peter Chapman. At the conclusion of the second day's play the two club chairmen exchanged the trophies for winners and runners-up.

More recently Herne Bay Table Tennis Club made the 600-mile round trip to Dortmund to play the German club Lichtendorf. This was a return fixture following the Germans' visit to Herne Bay in 1975. Twenty-two players made up the party which was augmented by several guest players, including Maurice Billington, a former Canterbury player now playing for Derbyshire. Billington was undefeated in the singles but he could not stop his side going down 16-48, and leaving the "Kentish

Gazette" Trophy in German hands for at least another year, Herne Bay returning with the consolation trophy, the Sunspot Sauna Cup.

Ted Inge, who was also included in this party, thanked the Germans for their hospitality and friendliness with a most impressive speech in German.

In the First Division of the County league Canterbury "A" remain the only East Kent side playing in a league dominated, as ever, by the Metropolitan Associations such as Bromley, Beckenham and Woolwich. Thanks to the impressive form of Dennis Whittaker and Brian Maxted, Canterbury have won three of their four matches and will hope to avoid the annual battle against relegation this time. In the Second Division of the league, Ashford, strengthened by the inclusion of Peter Kemp, from Folkestone, made a fine start in their bid to join Canterbury in the First Division, but they have faltered recently and will probably miss out to Bromley "B" and Medway "B". Ashford "B", Canterbury "C" and Dover "A" currently lead the Fourth Division of the league so promotion seems likely for at least one side from this part of the county.

In the Veterans' Section, Canterbury are making a great bid to win the title for a fourth successive year, despite greater competition from an enlarged league. Their recent success against the strong Sittingbourne side that included county veteran Mick Forrester, suggests that they will probably retain their title but the outcome could well hinge on the last fixture against Medway "A", who are also unbeaten.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

GOING HARD

There having been no major tournaments in Norfolk before Christmas, the spotlight is once again on County Championship matches. The County were in action on November 20 and December 4.

Our November matches were both against Northants at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S., and we found the going hard, our Juniors going down 3-7 in the afternoon and our first team managing to salvage one point in a 5-all draw in the evening. This latter was largely due to a fine display by Bob Thornton, who beat Gary Alden and Rod Marchant in the singles, and teamed with his captain, Mick Musson, to take the men's doubles. Our Juniors slipped from 1-all to 1-6, Alden justifying his ranking by beating schoolboy international, Douglas Bennett, by -19, 10, 10. Next on was Wendy Hogg, who disposed of Valerie Feakin to take her unbeaten run in Div. J.2 Midland to 10 sets. She was last defeated in February, 1975. Valerie's style made an excellent impression, and Wendy had some anxious moments!

The December encounters saw the first team at Cambridge, where we lost 3-7 to a County side without Paul Day, but our Juniors, also at Cambridge, redressed the balance with an 8-2 win. This match saw the debut of Ruth Harrowven, with her individual style, and she won her singles and her doubles, with Wendy Hogg. Finally, our second team drew once again with Hunts at St. Neots.

In the Bromfield Trophy, Norwich girls were given a surprise walkover by North Herts, and thus for the first time they entered the Zone final. This was against Hunts, Central, and, as I write these notes, I have had telephone information that they triumphed 5-1, and that Ruth Harrowven beat the ranked Belinda Chamberlain. Well done, Norwich girls!

Norwich League's magazine, "Monthly Marle", has a new editor. He is Graham Johnston, of Norwich Union, and the Div. 6 Secretary. In the Premier Division of Norwich League, C.E.Y.M.S. 'A' lead the way, with their 'B' team in second place.



77 34th WORLD'S

Situations Vacant

Urgently required for the period March 25—April 6, 1977, in the Office of the World Championships Administration, **TWO** Copy Typists proficient in the Spanish language.

The work, which must be voluntary, is of an interesting nature, and involves servicing the needs of the International Table Tennis Federation and its various Sub-Committees in the preparation of Agendas, Minutes, Papers and Reports for the Biennial General Meeting of the Federation which takes place during the Championships. The work will be on a two shift basis (09.00 to 15.00 and 15.00 to 21.00 hours). Accommodation, if needed, will be at the Birmingham University site.

Only persons willing to work at least one full week of the Championships need apply. Anyone interested in becoming part of the 34th World Championships team with an important part to play in fulfilling the needs of administration should apply by letter to Mr. M. D. Watts, "Gleneagles", 25 Church Green, Canewdon, Essex, as soon as possible.

AREA within the exhibition, where a daily programme will be presented for the benefit of visitors.

SPORTACUS will be full of interest for the large attendance expected during the 11 open days of the exhibition, including a DARTS TOURNAMENT, a FOOTBALL and CRICKET special, a SKI slope, a COIN and STAMP fair and display, and all this in addition to nearly 100 companies planning to make a visit to SPORTACUS a memorable and worthwhile event.

The WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS are a major world sporting event with over 100 teams from 70 countries participating, attracting players, spectators, officials and press from all over the world, and the opportunity to be a spectator at

the "Worlds" will be an added attraction offered to all SPORTACUS visitors.

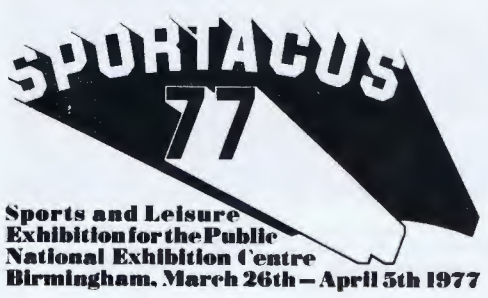
OPENING HOURS—10.00 to 20.00 hrs. daily
Mar. 26 to Apr. 5, 1977

Exhibitor and Visitor Information to the Organisers:

Cunningham Associates,
High Street,
Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4PS.
(Tel.: 05805 2611)

World Table Tennis Championships Information:

World Table Tennis Championships,
21 Claremont,
Hastings, Sussex, TN34 1HA.
(Tel.: 0424 431582)



**Sports and Leisure
Exhibition for the Public
National Exhibition Centre
Birmingham. March 26th - April 5th 1977**

The first presentation of SPORTACUS, the new sports and leisure event for the public, will be staged at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, at the same time as the World Table Tennis Championships, from March 26th to April 5th, 1977. The combined events, occupying over 25,000 square metres of floor space, will not only attract the attention of table tennis players throughout the U.K., but also those with an interest in the wide range of sports and leisure activities presented in the exhibition.

SPORTACUS has been planned with the whole family in mind. Visitors of all ages will gain more from their leisure time after viewing and participating in the special features and sports attractions at this exciting new event.

- Squash.—A specially-built squash court will feature professionals in action and squash clinics will also be held.
- Badminton.—A new approach to this popular sport can be seen by visitors, and enthusiasts will see how it should be played.
- Table Tennis.—Play against a robot. Also a chance to challenge a Chinese table tennis champion on a feature stand which is part of the Chinese presentation on over 7,000 sq. ft. of floor space.
- Many other sports and leisure activities will be featured on a DEMONSTRATION

TEES SPORT

OFFERS A COMPLETE TABLE SALES AND HIRE SERVICE!..

Do you wish to buy or hire table tennis tables? If so, we can give you all the help you need.

We offer advice and information on all leading makes of tables, Jaques, Dunlop, Stiga, Halex, Joola and Cor du Buy. On transport systems, whether foldaway or wheelaway. On surfaces, fast, medium or slow, in plywood or chipboard tops.

We have in our range a table to meet every need, for the home, school, canteen, youth or community centre, specialist club, tournament or international play.

We give discounts, best delivery times and offer full credit facilities.

So, if you are thinking about a new table, contact us first and take full advantage of our complete service.



Joola 2000S Rollomat

Jaques

Stiga Expert

Dunlop Foldaway

TEES SPORT

Specialists in Table Tennis
8 Baker Street Middlesbrough
Cleveland County TS1 2LH
Telephone (0642) 249000

The Defending Champions at Birmingham



Women's Singles — PAK YUNG SUN
(Democratic People's Republic of Korea)



Men's Singles — ISTVAN JONYER
(Hungary)

Photos by Don Morley, Allsport Photographic, Morden, Surrey.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GROSSLY UNFAIR

It takes a lot to make me put pen to paper, but having been at the Wayfarers English Junior Closed, at Reading, I must express my disgust at the conditions under which they were held.

This venue is often used and always people moan about the lighting, yet the Tournament Committee consider it was not necessary to have individual table lighting until much too late. If the Norwich Union English Championships were to be held under the same conditions there would be an uproar.

As the selectors only take note of four tournament results, it is grossly unfair that the young players should have sub-standard conditions when results are so important to them. Surely they, too, warrant 3-star conditions with proper lighting and separate courts.

Another point of contention is that with parties travelling together some of the U-17 boys arrived at 9 a.m. with their first match not scheduled until 9 p.m. On the Sunday, time and again, there would be only one or

two sets in play. In my opinion there should have been Cadet doubles and even so, the U-17 events could have been concluded in reasonable time with good organisation. I know I am not alone in being disgusted with an event that is seemingly only staged because it has to be, and does not do justice to the sponsors.

One last moan concerns the playing, on consecutive weekends, of this tournament and a "Select" one on Humberside. Some parents could not afford both weekends with the result that some players may suffer by non-attendance at the Yorkshire Junior "Select". I disagree with using only

certain results for ranking purposes but if this is to be the policy, then such tournaments should be properly spaced, which is only fair to all. Finally, congratulations to Yorkshire, after the moans of the previous tournament. While again the lighting was not really good, it was at least better than Reading and the setting and overall organisation far superior to the previous boring weekend.

TONY PACITTO.

Slough,
Berks.

OLYMPUS SPORTS THE T.T. SPECIALISTS

For your special T.T. needs Ring 01-863 2455 or drop us a line.
Prompt service on bats and rubbers, and advice when required.

No postage charges. No lists.

OLYMPUS SPORTS

9-13 Headstone Drive, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex

UAU/WIVAB Individual Championships

By DEREK OLDMAN

Nottingham University provided the venue for this season's championships, where 160 students entered for the five events on Nov. 27-28. This number was cut by some 20 owing to last-minute withdrawals but the event ran smoothly and was never behind schedule. This was mainly due to referee Arthur Morgan and his assistants, together with the players' willingness to umpire without too much persuasion.

There were 36 groups for men played during the first session with the 8 seeded players joining the group winners in the first round. Early departures included the No. 8 seed, Colin Williams, from Leeds, beaten by C. Taylor, of Manchester, and in the second round C. Musselwhite, seeded 7, was ousted by his Avon County colleague, Bob Oldfield. The other 6 seeds duly reached the quarter-finals and eventually the predicted 4 made it to the semis. Top seed Donald Parker, representing Loughborough, was paired with Jonathon Proffitt, a "fresher" from Sussex University and former nationally-ranked junior, while the other semi-final featured familiar opponents Clement Lo, of Bradford, the holder of the title and recently ranked 5 by Yorkshire, and the Norfolk No. 1 from Warwick, John Fuller. This match took the familiar pattern of Fuller being completely dominated by Lo and never being able to get up to the table, the scores of 14, 16 really telling their own story. Parker, while never reaching his best form, managed to get through to the final 18, 15, although at times it was made more difficult for him by the determined Proffitt. In the final Parker never allowed Lo to dominate, as the latter had done in earlier rounds. Rallies were very short and in no time at all Parker was the new champion.

Mandy Mellor, the Derbyshire player, and a newcomer to Loughborough ranks, was top seed in the women's singles, with Janet Carr, the holder, seeded to meet her in the final. Janet's failure to reach the final was due to "dark horses" Linda Clemett, from Leeds (daughter of Colin Clemett). Linda was seeded No. 5 and disposed of 4th seed Sarah Jackson, from Sheffield, in the quarters, and then Janet Carr. Meanwhile, K. Saywell, of Birmingham, had been knocked out by "Lolly" Stalbow, of Nottingham in the quarters, but she, in turn, lost to Mandy Mellor at the penultimate stage. Both players appeared very nervous in the final, but although Linda had game point in the first she eventually bowed out.

The men's doubles had been a very difficult event to seed, mainly due to so many new pairings, but eventually, to the great relief of the organiser, the first 4 seeded pairs reached the semis and the final was contested by the predicted pairs. The first semi was between Proffitt and A. Wellman, the top seeds, from Sussex, and P. Vickers and Musselwhite, from Aston. This was probably the best match in the later stages of the tournament with the Sussex pair making it to the final, but not before losing a game and only really getting on top when it really mattered, at the end -21, 14, 10. Steve Lawson and Parker fought like tigers against the well-established couple Fuller and Mo Shaben, from Warwick, and this also went to 3 games, but eventually the Warwick pair got through to the final 17, -14, 11. This final was probably the best, with the pairs very evenly matched. The Sussex pair managed to get away in the middle of the third game and eventually won 21-12 in the decider.

The final of the women's doubles was contested by Sarah Jackson and Sheila Sutherland, the No. 2 seeds, from Sheffield, and the 3rd seeds, K. Saywell and S. Glover, representing Birmingham, which Saywell and Glover won. The beaten semi-finalists were, surprisingly, Mandy Mellor and Anne Driver, from Loughborough, the top seeds, and Janet Carr and Pat Barnes, of Manchester.

The mixed went very much according to plan up to the semi-final stage. Here, top seeds Parker and Mandy Mellor met Peter Edon and K. Saywell, of Birmingham, and won, but the other semi saw a similar comfortable victory by Williams and Linda Clemett, of Leeds, over the holders, Michael Penney and Janet Carr, the Manchester pair. Without ever producing their best form, Parker and Mellor took the title, although the Leeds pair gave their victors some tough moments.

The finals were rather disappointing and not up to standards reached in earlier years. The ability of the players was definitely much higher but unfortunately the class did not show up too often. Overall it was an enjoyable occasion; it is always good to see old friends again and now we all look forward to the British Universities' Championships in Bath at the end of January.

Results:—
M.S.: D. Parker (Loughborough) bt C. Lo (Bradford) 19, 13.
W.S.: M. Mellor (Loughborough) bt L. Clemett (Leeds) 21, 10.
M.D.: J. Proffitt/A. Wellman (Sussex) bt J. Fuller/M. Shaben (Warwick) -14, 18, 12.
W.D.: K. Saywell/J. Glover (Birmingham) bt S. Jackson/S. Sutherland (Sheffield) 17, 11.
X.D.: Parker/M. Mellor bt C. Williams/Clemett (Leeds) 13, 18.

NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Keith Ponting

Wilmott Cup

2nd Round Results
Northumberland 7, Carlisle 2
Stockton 2, Ormesby 5
Leeds 5, Bradford 2
Liverpool 4, Halifax 5
Salford 5, Blackpool 1
Derby 1, Chesterfield 8
Potteries 5, Nottingham 3
Wyberton 6, Macclesfield 3
Birmingham 5, Hinckley 0
Oxford 9, Leamington Spa 1
North Herts 5, Ely 1
Norwich 0, Chelmsford 5
Lowestoft 4, Braintree 5
Harlow 3, Dagenham 6
St. Albans 5, N. Middlesex 2
High Wycombe 7, Reading 2
Staines 6, Watford 0
Willesden 7, Walthamstow 2
East Grinstead 6, Byfleet 3
Brighton 6, Southend 0
Tunbridge Wells 6, Leatherhead 3
Basingstoke 1, Exeter 5
Southampton 8, Plymouth 1
Poole 3, Bristol 6
Bournemouth 6, Portsmouth 3

Rose Bowl

2nd Round Results
Bury 1, Blackpool 8
Leeds 2, Manchester 5
Chesterfield 6, Derby 0
Grimsby 2, Leicester 7
Bedford 8, Luton 1
Northampton 1, North Herts 8
Maidenhead 0, North Acton 6
Bracknell 0, Wembley 6
St. Albans 2, North Middlesex 5
High Wycombe 1, London Civil Service 5
Chelmsford 5, Acton 4
Worthing 1, Crawley 5
Leatherhead 0, Eastbourne 6
Hastings 2, Southend 7
Plymouth 2, Bournemouth 5
Exeter 4, Swindon 5

Carter Cup

2nd Round Results
Bury 4, Bolton 5
Manchester 2, Preston 5
Stockport 0, Halifax 6
Derby 6, Chesterfield 1
Lincoln 0, Grimsby 9
Nottingham 5, Liverpool 4
Potteries 2, Leicester 7
Luton 0, Wolverhampton 6
Leamington Spa 4, Hinckley 5
Stratford 5, Kettering 4
Norwich 9, March 0
Bury St. Edmunds 6, Hunts Central 3
Barnets 1, North Herts 8
Silvertown 0, Leatherhead 5
Romford 7, Barking 2
High Wycombe 1, N. Middlesex 5
Willesden 6, Guildford 3
Worthing 0, Crawley 9
Bramley 8, Gravesend 1
Hastings 5, Brighton 4
Billerica 5, Littlehampton 4
Bracknell 3, Reading 6
Maidenhead 5, Bournemouth 2
West Wilts 8, Southampton 1

Bromfield Trophy

2nd Round Results
Leeds 5, Bury 4
Leicester 4, Derby 5
Lincoln 6, Grimsby 3
Birmingham 0, Wolverhampton 6
Leamington Spa 3, Dagenham 6
Lowestoft 3, Hunts Central 6
North Middlesex 5, Newbury 1
Bracknell 0, Reading 9
Gravesend 2, Guildford 5
Crawley 5, Chelmsford 4
Basingstoke 1, Swindon 8
Plymouth 5, Bournemouth 3

WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED

Berkshire's David Reeves, nationally ranked at No. 3, was the winner of the Boys' Singles event in the Wayfarers English Junior Closed, held at Reading over the weekend of December 11-12, his final victim being Yorkshire's Kevin Beadsley.

TRAGIC DEATH

Table Tennis the world over will mourn the loss of Hasse Alser, national coach to the Swedish Association, having previously served the Federal German Association in the same capacity, who on January 14th, was a victim of the air crash in the suburbs of Stockholm, when 22 people lost their lives.

Fully expected to be the non-playing captain of the Swedish Men's Team at this year's World Championships, in Birmingham, the game has now been deprived of one of its most likeable characters.

PLAYRITE SPORTS

THE EXPERTS IN YOUR GAME

58 STREATHAM HILL, LONDON S.W.2

01-674-9121

162 CHILTEN DR., BERRYLANDS, opp. Station, Nr. SURBITON, SURREY
01-399 7417

Just arrived from Sweden — Stiga Blades

2,000 JOHANSSON - ALSER - BENGTSOON
Allround — £6.37 - Offensive — £9.55 - Defensive — £9.55
Stiga Clothing - Shirts and Shorts - Red and Navy - All sizes
Mark V 1.5 and 2.0 — £7.95

NOW IN STOCK — TACKINESS, CHOP & DRIVE

Chop Drive Feint Black
1.0, 1.5 — £8.50 1.5, 2.0 — £8.50 1.0, 1.5 — £7.50

All Postal Orders add 50p :: Send for FREE Fully Illustrated Catalogue

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

CHALLENGE MAINTAINED

Staffs. 'A' team maintained their challenge for the honours in Div. 2 (Midland) of the County Championship with a 5-all draw away against Glamorgan and a 7-3 win against neighbouring Warwickshire 'B'. A change in the arranged date meant that we had to play our second string girls against Glamorgan and although they did well to win two out of three, the team as a whole failed to capitalise on the 5-1 lead which they held at one stage. Tony Isaac, Steve Rowe and Shirley Cain were the singles winners. Staffs. came back to form with a workmanlike victory in the other match, Brian Keates playing a full part with two singles wins and other wins coming from Isaac (2), Stephanie Jones, Janet Carr and the women's doubles.

Staffs. 'B' ran into a bad patch with defeats by both Glamorgan 'B' (4-6) and Leicester 'B' (3-7). Keith Fellows contributed two singles against Glamorgan and one against Leics., but the rest of the team—Trevor Burrows, Steve Dunning, and the women—were unable to make sufficient impression on the opposition. In the Glamorgan match we were obviously handicapped by having to play our third string girls, and Shirley Cain and Sue Watton were only able to win the doubles against the strong Leicestershire girls.

The draw for the Beattie Trophy—now a Champion of Champions event—is as follows:—

- Cannock v Lichfield
- Bridgnorth v Walsall
- Darlaston v West Bromwich
- Potteries v Wolverhampton

Matches are to be played before Jan. 23.

The Malcolm E. Scott Memorial Tournament is now to be played on Sunday, January 23—this was wrongly confused with the Woodfield Tournament in last month's column. Both events are, of course, staged at the Woodfield Club, in Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton youngsters continue to feature in the news. The girls gained an easy victory over Birmingham in the Bromfield Trophy, Stephanie Jones, Shirley Cain and Sue Watton chalking up six wins without defeat. Andrew Dixon reached the Under-13 quarter-finals in the Middlesex Open and the last 16 of the Under-15's. In the County League, Wolverhampton 'C' and 'D' sides, which are mainly composed of juniors, are beating most of the opposition in Divisions 4 and 5. Moseley Park, representing Wolverhampton schools, were the winners of the West Midland counties play-off against Birmingham and Coventry. Their team of Andrew Dixon, Andrew Rich, Prakash Patel and Andrew Bellingham, lost only one of the 16 matches played.

County rankings at December 1 show Rowe moving above Keates and Fellows in No. 5 spot above John Riley. Dunning is in seventh place. The women's and girls' rankings remain unchanged, but in the boys' Under-17 list, Eddie Wilkes moves up two places to No. 2 and Mark Evans takes over at No. 5.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championships positions after matches played 4th/5th December, 1976.

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cleveland	4	4	-	0	30	6	8
Middlesex	5	3	-	2	28	17	6
Essex	4	3	-	1	16	20	6
Warwick	4	2	-	2	20	16	4
Yorkshire	3	2	-	1	13	14	4
Cheshire	4	1	-	3	13	23	2
Surrey	4	1	-	3	13	23	2
Leicesters	4	0	-	4	11	25	0

2nd SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Sussex	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Essex II	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Middlesex II	3	1	0	2	12	28	2
Surrey II	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

2nd NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire II	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Cleveland II	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Lancashire	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Durham	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Northumb	3	1	0	2	8	22	2
Lincolnshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

2nd MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Staffs	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Glamorgan	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Derbyshire	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Warwicks II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Clwyd	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

2nd EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambs	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Northants	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Herts	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Norfolk	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Beds	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Bucks	3	0	2	1	12	18	2

2nd WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wilts	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Berks	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Devon	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Somerset	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Worcs	2	1	0	1	15	7	2
Avon	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Gwent	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

3rd SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex III	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Sussex II	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Kent II	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Bucks II	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Herts III	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Beds II	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

3rd NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancs II	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Northumb II	3	2	0	1	13	17	4
Cumbria	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Derbys II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Notts	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Cleveland III	3	0	0	3	10	20	0

3rd MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leics II	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Glamorgan II	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Staffs II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Shropshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Northants II	3	1	0	2	7	23	2
Clwyd II	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

3rd EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Herts II	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Suffolk	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Norfolk II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Cambs II	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Hunts	2	0	0	2	7	13	0

3rd WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cornwall	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Dorset	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Worcs II	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Herefords	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Gloucs	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
Avon II	2	0	0	2	7	13	0

JUNIOR PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Middlesex	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Berkshire	4	3	0	1	20	20	6
Cleveland	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Kent	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Surrey	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
Herts	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Devon	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Sussex	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Middx II	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Surrey II	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Berts II	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Dorset	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Hampshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0
Kent II	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancashire	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Yorks II	4	3	0	1	32	8	6
Cumbria	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Derbyshire	4	2	1	1	18	22	5
Cleveland II	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Clwyd	3	1	0	2	8	22	2
Durham	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Northumb	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwicks	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Northants	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Staffs	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Norfolk	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Essex II	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Liecs	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Cambs	4	0	0	4	5	35	0
Suffolk	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex III	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Sussex II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Herts	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Hants II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Bucks II	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Lincs	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Notts	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Cumbria II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Cleveland III	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Clwyd II	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Staffs II	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Shropshire	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Gloucs	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Worcs	3	0	2	1	11	19	2
Herefords	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Oxfords	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

JUNIOR 3rd EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Beds	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Bucks	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Lincs II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Hunts	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Cambs II	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

JUNIOR 3rd WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	24	6	5
Wilts	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Avon	3	1	1	1	19	11	3
Gwent	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Cornwall	3	0	2	1	11	19	2
Somerset	3	0	0	3	0	30	0

VET. MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Notts	3	3	-	0	24	3	6
Cheshire	3	3	-	0	23	4	6
Clwyd	3	2	-	1	14	13	4
Leics	3	1	-	2	11	16	2
Warwicks	3	0	-	3	6	21	0
Clwyd II	3	0	-	3	3	24	0

VET. EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex	2	2	-	0	16	2	4
Kent	3	2	-	1	18	9	4
Middlesex	2	2	-	0	10	8	4
Essex II	3	1	-	2	10	17	2
Herts	3	1	-	2	10	17	2
Hunts	3	0	-	3	8	19	0

VET. WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hants	3	3	-	0	20	7	6
Oxfords	2	1	-	1	10	8	2
Wilts	2	1	-	1	10	8	2
Dorset	2	0	-	2	4	14	0
Worcs	1	0	-	1	1	8	0

In the Coaching Field

by JOHN O'SULLIVAN

When discussing, or reading of plans to establish new table tennis training venues, one learns more and more of the term "Centres of Excellence".

On further enquiry I found that many people using the expression had little idea of what such a Centre was, or what its proposed functions were supposed to be. There were the so-called "pundits" whose explanations added even greater confusion.

I have before me two reports from representatives of the governing bodies of sport who were present at meetings held in different parts of the country to discuss the establishing of "Centres of Excellence".

From these reports I have extracted what appears to be required before a venue can be described as such a Centre: (a) Provision of opportunity for talented sportsmen and women to receive coaching of high quality in suitable facilities. The participants to be of International or potential International standard and the coaches to be the highest qualified available.

(b) A location, not a building, should be based on existing facilities, coaching must be of the highest quality and be considered of greater importance than facilities. Performers must be of the highest calibre.

In one case, facilities, coaches and performers must be of the highest quality available. In the second, adequate facilities will suffice if the coaching is of a sufficiently high standard. The first Centre will open in Leeds this month and another, in Reading, in April. Yet another in the London area is under consideration.

It is practically impossible at present to talk about table tennis and not mention the forthcoming World Championships. As with the Olympic Games, the cost of hosting such an event is becoming such that very few countries in the world will be able to afford the undertaking.

With a figure approaching £1m for the Birmingham venture, it would appear to me that this may be the last opportunity that many of us will have of witnessing such a spectacle. Apart from the very obvious talent to be on display, it is hoped that Video films will be obtained of the outstanding players for study by the coaches unable to be present.

To record this information will be two Video cameras in the hands of competent operators who also have table tennis experience. It is a great advantage to have a cameraman who understands the points of the game and knows what will be of interest to the audiences viewing the final film.

I am sure many have experienced the beautiful shots of crowds we are often treated to at football matches, especially when a goal has been scored.

At Birmingham there will also be tables and a Stiga Robot for use by the general public under the instruction of qualified coaches who will be on hand, on a rota system, to answer queries and supply information.

So much information can be gleaned from the World Championships that some plan has to be formulated to ensure the right people are in the right place at the right time. The two National sub-committees for Selection and Coaching are to hold joint meetings with three people from each committee taking part.

The exchange of ideas on what is required from the Championships should be of great

help in ensuring that the most qualified people are available to extract the greatest amount of information.

The launching of the Coaching Manual appears to have met with enthusiasm from most coaches, and new students have expressed delight in the simplicity of following the programmes.

Comments that have been made to me by coaches make it appear that they intend to use the manual as a bible for coaching juniors. Some of the terminology used in the manual would certainly cause confusion if simply quoted to children.

Whilst on the subject of student coaches, there seems to be no limit on the age of people wishing to register. The record, I think, must go to a new student from Bristol, who is over 70 years old! The latest supplement to the coaches' register shows 60 new club coaches around the country. With the obvious rise in interest generated by the World Championships, I feel that by summer they will all be run off their feet.

MIDDLESEX AUTHORISED JUNIOR

WHITE ROSE DOMINANT

Yorkshire's Michael Harrison, who finished second to David Newman, of Essex, in Group 2, and Steven Mills, who finished second to Joe Kennedy, of Kent, in Group 4, fought out the final of the U-17 boys' singles in the Middlesex Authorised Junior, at South Ruislip, on November 7, with Harrison edging home 19 in the third, to claim the title.

Mandy Smith, of Berkshire, winner of Group 2, had an easier victory in the counterpart girls' event when, in the final, she put down the challenge of Staffordshire's Stephanie Jones, who had finished as runner-up to Alison Gordon, of Berkshire, in Group 1.

Yet another cadet title was captured by Colin Wilson, of Hampshire, with a final win over Paul Whiting, of Devon. On a round robin basis, Alison Gordon took the cadet girls' title with an unblemished performance. Mandy Reeves, of Middlesex, with one loss, came home second. Results:—

Boys Singles—Quarter-finals

S. Mills (Y) bt G. Gillett (Sx) -16, 15, 15.
C. Rogers (Le) bt D. Newman (E) 13, 11.
M. Harrison (Y) bt D. Wells (Mi) 17, -17, 20.
J. Kennedy (K) bt G. Sandley (M) -19, 10, 12.

Semi-finals

Mills bt Rogers 13, -14, 20.
Harrison bt Kennedy -13, 16, 8.

Final

HARRISON bt Mills 19, -16, 19.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals

A. Gordon (Bk) bt Y. Brown (E) 15, 12.
M. Smith (Bk) bt J. Purslow (Bk) 8, 22.
H. Gore (E) bt B. Chamberlain (Hu) 20, 11.
S. Jones (St) bt J. New (Do) -14, 18, 16.

Semi-finals

Smith bt Gordon 14, -19, 14.
Jones bt Gore 12, 15.

Final

SMITH bt Jones 19, 16.

Cadet Boys' Singles—Semi-finals

C. Wilson (Ha) bt S. Moore (Sx) 14, 20.
P. Whiting (Dv) bt M. Owens (Hr) -19, 16, 15.

Final

WILSON bt Whiting 8, 20.

Cadet Girls' Singles—Final Placings

	W	F	A	Pos.
A. GORDON (Bk)	7	14	2	1
M. Reeves (M)	6	13	3	2
H. Williams (M)	5	11	5	3
J. Dowsett (E)	4	9	9	4
L. Garbet (Sy)	3	7	9	5
S. Cresswell (Sy)	2	6	11	6
S. James (Co)	1	3	12	7
P. Townsend (Wi)	0	2	14	8

Obituary



TED PRITCHARD

Many within our fraternity will be shocked to learn that Mr. E. (Ted) Pritchard, Chairman of the Essex County Table Tennis Association, passed away suddenly in the early hours of Saturday morning, the 27th November, 1976.

His death was totally unexpected. The night previous the Tournament Committee had met at his Romford home to plan the 1977 Essex Open, when he appeared to be well and looking forward to the event.

Ted first joined the Essex Management Committee in July, 1968, when, at a Special General Meeting, held in Loughton, to fill the posts of General Secretary and Treasurer, he volunteered to stand as Treasurer. Without this offer, and that of Mr. John Harris, who took on the post as General Secretary, the County Association may well have ceased to function. Ted served the County faithfully in this position until May, 1973, when Mr. Bob Gingell resigned as Chairman and he agreed to take the post. Since that time Ted has led the County Executive and involved himself totally in every aspect of County affairs. His enthusiasm and drive will be sadly missed, not only by the County Association, but also by the Dagenham League, for whom he was also Chairman.

Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Beryl, and two sons, Colin and Barry, who supported him faithfully in all his endeavours.

It will indeed be difficult to find anyone to fill the enormous gap that sadly has now appeared in the Essex Table Tennis Association ranks.

MIKE WATTS.

TEAM TITLES FOR ENGLAND

England won both team titles, against the Soviet Union, in the Norwich Union International Championships played at Thornaby Pavilion, Cleveland, over the period January 6-8. But, then as favourites, they faltered in the individual events, winning only two of the five titles at stake, the other three going to the Russians.

Stanislav Gomozkov took the M.S. with a final win over Desmond Douglas, the W.S. title going to Carole Knight, who beat Jill Hammersley, the defending champion. Jill and Linda Howard had success in the W.D. with the M.D. and X.D. being taken by Gomozkov/Strokatov and Burnazian/Ferdman respectively. A full report will be published in the February issue, written by Alan Ransome.

19th SCANDINAVIAN OPEN

BALTIC SHORE INVASION
by Keith Gorman (Marcom Associates)

This season's Scandinavian Open Championships were held at Kristianstad, on the Baltic shore of Southern Sweden. As always, the Swedish Association managed to draw a top class entry to their event, which was run for them by local club, Vilans BøIF.

Seventy-eight internationals from 13 countries plus 32 top Swedish club players made for a very strong event. Of the national team members over 30 were in the current World or European ranking lists. The major draw for the Swedish spectators and TV viewers—local TV transmitted over eight hours of the play during the four days—were the powerful squads from Asia.

After taking the major spoils at Novi Sad the previous week, it was clear that the Chinese team, lead by current world No. 1, Liang Ko-liang, and the North Koreans, headed by distaff world champion, Pak Yung Sun, would be the ones to beat. As things turned out, the teams from the East did even better than in Yugoslavia.

Nearly all the top European nations, apart from Russia, were at the Idrottshallen venue including the current European champion, Jacques Secretin, from France, in his first major tournament outing since his victory the previous spring. The England squad was Desmond Douglas, Paul Day—who came for original selection Nicky Jarvis, still injured after his early return from the previous weeks tournament—and Jimmy Walker, for the men. Our women were headed by Jill Hammersley supported by Linda Howard and young Karen Witt, our No. 1 Junior, in her first cap at senior level.

Team Events

The opening day was taken up with the team events up to the semi-final stage. On previous form it was expected that the titles would go to China without difficulty, but only the women's event went Eastwards, as it transpired. Both our squads managed to reach the quarter-final. The men in the form of a walk-over, as the Japanese squad they were due to meet cried off at the last moment—perhaps not wanting to show their hand before Birmingham?

However, by early afternoon our interest in both the first day's events was over.

England men, met the strong Yugoslavian pair of Dragutin Surbek and Zoran Kosanovic in their first and only match. Certainly both Paul Day and Desmond fought hard but clearly the class of the Yugoslavian duo was too great. With Paul going down to Kosanovic 1-2 in the first set despite having taken the first at 19, Douglas then faced Surbek, and though winning the first game 13, the hard forehand attack of the Yugoslavian was too strong as he took the next two 14 and 16. Our two came back in the doubles with a fighting 22, -16, 17 win. In the first reverse singles Day faced Surbek, losing the first game rather easily -8, coming back in the next to snatch it 22-20, but in the third Surbek had the measure of young Paul at 12. Thus England's men were out, but all sets went the distance.

The other quarter-finals going as expected, the semi-final line-up was Hungary/China and Sweden/Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile our girls had a good first round win over Sweden II, 3-1. Linda lost

the opening game to Sweden No. 3, Eva Strömvall, in two quick games -18, -14. Jill evened it up by an equally quick win over Ulla-Marta Gustafsson. The girls, as European Doubles titleists, had no trouble in the next set, taking it 2-0, and Jill clinching the match with a very easy win over Strömvall 11, 8.

The only surprise of the first rounds of the team event was the defeat of the North Korean world champion, Pak Yung Sun, by the French No. 2, Brigitte Thiriet 16, 15, although the French went down 2-3 in the end.

In the quarters our girls faced Czechoslovakia's Iлона Uhlíkova and Blanka Silhanova. Jill won the first over Silhanova quite easily and we thought our girls were on their way to the semi-finals.

However, Linda could not quite get her game going, losing to Uhlíkova -17, -20. This was followed by a poor doubles performance, with Jill clearly showing her lack of top match practice and Linda still

right off her game as they went down 14, -17, -14. The slide then continued as Jill lost to Uhlíkova -18, -13. A great disappointment all round.

The line-up for the Women's semi-finals thus was China/Czechoslovakia and Hungary/Sweden, with China and Hungary both going through 3-1. It was the Men's semis which provided the second shock of the day. First Sweden beat Yugoslavia 3-2, then Hungary faced China in the final match of the evening.

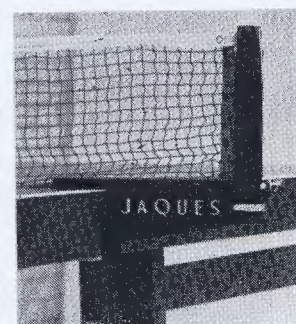
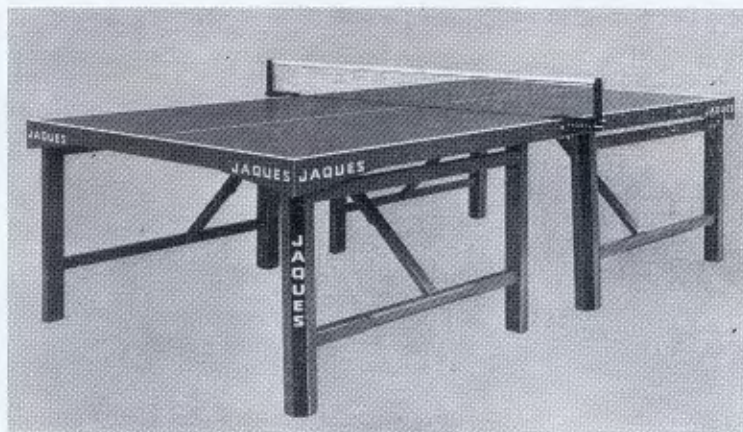
The Chinese played their Nos. 3 and 4 in the singles and only used their top world-ranked pair, Liang Ko-liang and Kuo Yao-hua, in the doubles and paid the price, **Over-confidence or just an Eastern hand of friendship, one can never tell; certainly it seemed a strange move against the strongest squad in Europe.**

Anyway, although Tibor Klampar lost the first set to Lu Chi-wei -12, -11, Jonyer squared it against Wang Wen-yung 2-0 in the next. With China winning the doubles,

1902 - first in the field . . .

- still leading in 1977

JAQUES WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE



World Championship posts. Conform to full ITTF specification.

**CHOSEN FOR MORE WORLD AND ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS
THAN ALL OTHERS**

● **Fastest table
in the world**

● **Outstanding
modern design**

Other

JAQUES Firsts . . .

➔ **J7 'TORNADO' bat fitted
with 'CAOUTCHOUC'
pure Japanese rubber -
no fillers**

Rubber supplied separately.

➔ **'Spin-off' rubber restorer.**

buy British - buy best - by

& Son Ltd

THORNTON HEATH, SURREY, CR4 8XP

Tel: 01-684 4242

the Hungarians swept back to win both the reverse singles 2-0.

Both finals next evening went to form, Hungary winning 3-1 over Sweden I, losing only the doubles, as Stellan Bengtsson lost both his singles at the start of what was to be a very disappointing tournament for the Swedish star. The Chinese girls crushed Hungary 3-0 in the Women's final, to gain revenge for their men's fall the previous day.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

The Friday also saw the start of the individual events and our mixed doubles pairing of Day/Hammersley made the main news of the day.

It was the second round match against the North Korean pair of Kim Chol/Kim Chang-ae that provided the drama. Paul and Jill won the first game easily, 21-17, and were leading 3-1 in the second when a disputed point, coupled with a miscall by the umpire, started the trouble. Day mishit a return, but it caught the edge of the North Korean girl's bat and it should have been England's point for a 4-1 lead. The umpire, however, made it 3-2, whereupon our pair protested and he reversed the decision. Then it was the turn of the Koreans to protest and claim it had hit Kim Chang-ae's leg. In the row that followed the Asian pair walked off the court.

England sportingly offered to play a let, returning the score to 3-1. This was refused by their opponents and the tournament referee suspended the match.

Five hours of furious argument then followed between the four grey-coated North Korean officials and the Swedish organisers, during which threats were made by the Koreans to take their team of nine home.

After further discussions with England team captain Peter Simpson, it was agreed that the game would continue with the let being allowed.

The delay and subsequent tactics of the Korean pair clearly upset both Paul and Jill as they lost the game -18 and went on to drop the next two -11, -11 and the set 1-3.

Next day's Swedish paper coverage all commented very adversely on the North Koreans' lack of sportsmanship, including the tactic of Kim Chol in shouting each time he or his partner won a point, plus the chanting of the Korean players and officials throughout the resumed game.

Meanwhile our other pairs of Douglas/Howard and Walker/Witt both lost their match to Asian opponents. Whilst Douglas/Day advance to round three of the men's doubles, they also won their first round singles but Linda Howard lost hers disappointingly to Sweden's Eva Strömvall (1-3), Jimmy Walker going down to Claus Pederson, of Denmark (2-3).

Thus the third day started with two of our men left in the singles and doubles and Jill and Karen with byes moving into the second round of their singles.

Karen Witt was soon out, losing to the Hungarian third string, Zsuzsa Olah 1-3, whilst Jill stormed through to the quarters at the expense of Kruger (Fed. Germany) and Ro Jung Suk (North Korea) before falling to the No. 3 Chinese girl and currently ranked 11 in the world, Chu Hsiang-yun.

It was a disappointing match as Jill had really no answer to the spin and powerful attacking play of her rival, going down quickly -16, -13, -13. It is only fair to say that none of the other two European quarter-finalists did any better, as three Chinese and world champion Pak made the semi-finals.

Meanwhile, our men were having a fine day. Both Day and Douglas won their second round matches to reach the next series. Here Day beat Miroslav Cich 3-1 to reach the quarters for the second week running.

It was Douglas who provided the sensation of the round as he faced Sweden's pride, Stellan Bengtsson, in the afternoon's key television match.

The local idol seemed very listless and off form, while Desmond, though clearly nervous in the early part of the first game, took it at 16. Stellan's game picked up in the next for him to win at 18, with

Desmond snatching the third 22. Although the Birmingham boy lost the next -16, he showed great skill against the former world champion and led almost all the way in the final game to win easily 21-13.

A fine win by Desmond and one that indicated that he will be a player to watch on his home ground next April.

However, in the quarter-final our two players' run ended, Day losing to the informal European champion, Jacques Secretin -10, -15, -18, and Douglas going out to the world champion, Jonyer, in a hard five-setter 17, -21, -12, 21, -10.

In the evening doubles, Douglas/Day fell in their third round match to Orlowski/Gergely 2-3, whilst our girls advanced through the quarter-final of their doubles over another dual national pair of Gustafsson and Olah 3-1.

The last day saw our only remaining interest in the championship end in the semi-finals as Jill and Linda lost their doubles match against the North Korean pair of Pak Yung-sun/Kim Chang-ae 18, -18, -11, -15.

This pair went on to win the title over Ke/Liu, of China, 3-2, to start an afternoon which saw the Asians grab all five individual titles.

The men's doubles went to China as Liang/Kuo beat the conquerors of Paul and Desmond 3-2, with Liang then partnering Ke to take the mixed over Yugoslavia's Surbek/Palatinus easily, 3-0. The women's singles went to the world champion, Pak, who beat Chu Hsiang-yun 3-1.

The men's final also went to China as Kuo Yao-hua stormed to victory over European champion, Secretin, 19, 10, 17. Thus the Asian teams made it 6-1 in Sweden and 11-3 over the two weeks' flying visit to Europe.

Certainly most of the European stars seemed to have very little answer to the powerful play of their Asian opponents. At the Press conference after his singles defeat, Jacques Secretin admitted that even if he had been fully match fit—this was his first major tournament of the season—he doubted if he could have found any answer to the spin attack of Kuo.

He also indicated that the rubber that the Chinese were using was causing real problems for all the Europeans and that unless Europe could find an answer before Birmingham, he forecast a clean sweep for Asia.

This problem apart, the 1976 Scandinavian Open was a real feast of top quality table tennis. Our team did well on the whole, though Jill clearly is not yet back in top form. Paul and Desmond, by their fine performances in reaching the quarter-finals over top-ranked players, showed that they have the temperament and fighting qualities which will certainly make a mark in the Worlds.

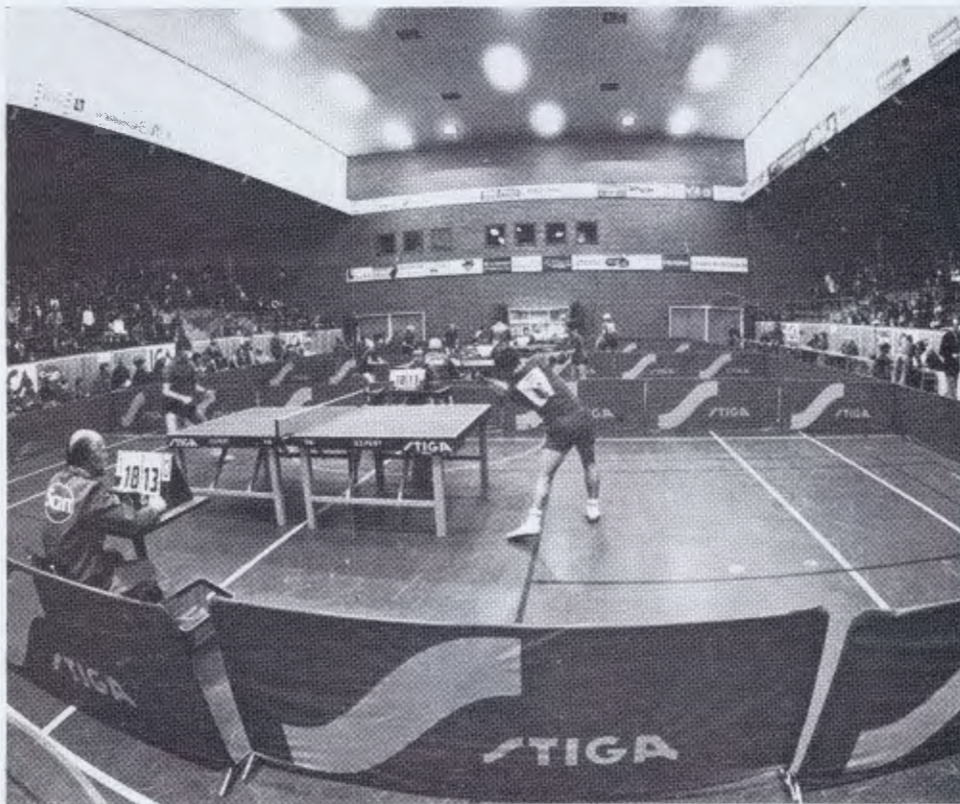
RESULTS

TEAM EVENTS

- Men**
Round 1
 China 3, Norway 0
 France 3, Sweden Jnrs. 1
 Hungary 3, Korea DPR 0
 Czechoslovakia 3, Sweden 'B' 2
 Sweden 'A' 3, Finland 0
 Federal Germany 3, Denmark 0
 England w.o., Japan scr.
 Yugoslavia 3, Poland 0
- Quarter-finals**
 China 3, France 0
 Hungary 3, Czechoslovakia 1
 Sweden 'A' 3, Federal Germany 0
 Yugoslavia 3, England 1
 Z. Kosanovic bt P. Day -19, 17, 18; D. Surbek bt D. Douglas -13, 14, 16; Day/Douglas bt Kosanovic/Surbek 22, -16, 17; Surbek bt Day -8, 20 -12.
- Semi-finals**
 Hungary 3, China 2
 Sweden 'A' 3, Yugoslavia 2
- Final**
HUNGARY 3, Sweden 1
 I. Jonyer bt U. Thorsell 18, -17, 21; T. Klampar bt S. Bengtsson -13, 18, 11; Jonyer/Klampar lost to Bengtsson/Thorsell 12, -11, -14; Jonyer bt Bengtsson -12, 16, 10.

Women

- Round 1**
 China w.o., Poland scr.



A general shot at the Scandinavian Open Championships played at Kristianstad.
 Photo by Don Morley, Morden.

Federal Germany — bye
 Czechoslovakia — bye
England 3, Sweden 'B' 1
 L. Howard lost to E. Stromvall -18, -14; J. Hammersley bt U. M. Gustavsson 12, 21; Hammersley/Howard bt Gustavsson/Stromvall 13, 15; Hammersley bt Stromvall 11, 8.
 Yugoslavia — bye
 Sweden 'A' 3, Finland 0
 Korea DPR 3, France 2
 Hungary 3, Sweden Jnrs 0

Quarter-finals
 China 3, Federal Germany 0
 Czechoslovakia 3, England 1
 B. Silhanova lost to Hammersley -14, -11; I. Uhlíkova bt Howard 17, 20; Silhanova/Uhlíkova bt Hammersley/Howard -14, 17, 14; Uhlíkova bt Hammersley 18, 13.
 Sweden 'A' 3, Yugoslavia 1
 Hungary 3, Korea DPR 2

Semi-finals
 China 3, Czechoslovakia 1
 Hungary 3, Sweden 'A' 1

Final
 CHINA 3, Hungary 0
 Ke Hsian-ai bt G. Szabo 3, 9; Shu Hsiang-yun bt J. Magos 11, 17; Chang Teh-ying/Ke Hsian-ai bt Magos/Szabo 14, 14.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Men's Singles—Round 3
 T. Klampar (H) bt Liang Ko-liang (CN) -6, -18, 16, -11, 20.
 J. Leiss (D) bt M. Orłowski (CS) 13, 9, 18.
 P. Day (EN) bt M. Cich (CS) 14, 12, -10, 12.
 J. Secretin (FR) bt Wang Wen-yung (CN) 10, 18, 18.
 U. Thorsell (S) bt D. Surbek (Y) 19, 18, 16.
 Kuo Yao-hua (CN) bt C. Martin (FR) 18, 12, 11.
 D. Douglas (EN) bt S. Bengtsson (S) 16, -18, 22, -16, 13.
 I. Jonyer (H) bt Lu Chi-wei (CN) 10, 18, 17.

Quarter-finals
 Klampar bt Leiss 13, -17, -12, 19, 15.
 Secretin bt Day 10, 15, 18.
 Kuo Yao-hua bt Thorsell 10, 12, 11.
 Jonyer bt Douglas 17, -21, -12, 21, 10.

Semi-finals
 Secretin bt Klampar 16, 13, 17.
 Kuo Yao-hua bt Jonyer -14, 15, 12, -20, 15.

Final
 KUO YAO-HUA bt Secretin 19, 10, 17.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
 Pak Yung Sun (KD) bt D. Fabri (YU) 5, -17, 14, 17.
 Chang Teh-ying (CN) bt C. Bergeret (FR) -19, 6, 12, 10.
 Chu Hsiang-yun (CN) bt J. Hammersley (EN) 16, 13, 13.
 Ke Hsian-ai (CN) bt Pak Yung Ok (KD) 20, 9, -15, 15.

Semi-finals
 Pak Yung Sun bt Chang Teh-ying 21, 14, 15.
 Chu Hsiang-yun bt Ke Hsian-ai 16, 14, 12.

Final
 PAK YUNG SUN bt Chu Hsiang-yun 10, 13, -20, 16.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals
 Bengtsson/Wang Wen-yung (CN) bt T. Andersson/B. Persson (S) -9, 16, -18, 6, 13.

G. Gergely (CS)/Orłowski bt P. Birocheau (FR)/Secretin -17, 27, 14, -22, 16.
 Martin/P. Skullman (S) bt P. Engel (D)/Leiss 19, 18, -17, -18, 22.
 Kuo Yao-hua/Liang Ko-liang bt D. Jurcic (YU)/Surbek 19, 13, -20, 16.

Semi-finals
 Gergely/Orłowski bt Bengtsson/Wang Wen-yung -18, 20, 18, -14, 15.
 Kuo Yao-hua/Liang Ko-liang bt Martin/Skullman 14, 9, 11.

Final
 KUO YAO-HUA/LIANG KO-LIANG bt Gergely/Orłowski 17, -17, -17, 15, 9.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
 Ke-Hsian-ai/Liu Hsin-yen (CN) bt Hong Gil Son (KD)/Pak Yung Ok 14, 15, 16.
 Kim Chang-ae (KD)/Pak Yung Sun bt Hammersley/L. Howard (EN) -18, 18, 11, 15.

Final
 KIM CHANG-AE/PAK YUNG SUN bt Ke Hsian-ai/Liu Hsin-yen -18, 13, -16, 18, 10.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
 Liang Ko-liang/Ke Hsian-ai bt Jo Yong Ho (KD)/Pak Yung Ok 15, 16, 13.
 Surbek/E. Palatinus (YU) bt Orłowski/I. Uhlíkova (CS) -14, 18, 18, -16, 12.

Final
 LIANG KO-LIANG/KE HSIAN-AI bt Surbek/Palatinus 13, 11, 11.

I have recently witnessed the farcical situation in the Yorkshire Select Cadet Boys' Singles 1st round where the No. 7 ranked boy was drawn against the No. 2, and the No. 9 was drawn against the No. 4. I can imagine the outcry at a 3-Star Senior Tournament if this happened in the 1st round, i.e., Douglas v Barden and Jarvis v Horsham. What chances had the losers of these matches in the 1st round to obtain results for the selectors. A far better and fairer method at "select" events would be to hold singles events only. The Under-14 on the Saturday and Under-17 on the Sunday, and to stage these using a similar system to that used at the Middlesex Authorised Tournament, i.e., Large groups say of 8. In this way a player could have the top player in his group, but he would also have 6 other players to play against, which would give a better picture of the players' potential than the present system.

If 64 boys and 32 girls were "selected" for Cadets, likewise for Juniors, divide the boys into 8 groups of 8, and the girls into 4 groups of 8. The winners to stage a straight knockout, the seconds ditto, and so on. Each player would therefore play a minimum of 8 matches in the day, which would surely be a better guide than the present "luck of the draw" system.

I realise the selection of players would not be easy, but after all this is done each summer in preparation for the Assessment Camps, and surely the 3 staff coaches could meet and discuss their players, and select them accordingly.

TOM TYE.

8 Oxford Street,
 Rothwell,
 Kettering,
 Northants.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"SELECT" SYSTEM UNFAIR

I was interested to read the article in the November edition by Alan Ransome regarding select tournaments. I am all in favour in holding selects, but I am of the opinion that the present straight knockout system used at select events is grossly unfair and depends entirely on the "luck of the draw". In the October edition it was stated that the National Selection Committee would compile ranking lists with most credit being given to results obtained in "select tournaments", etc., yet under the present straight knockout system it is possible for the draw to pair say the No. 9 ranked player with the No. 1 in the 1st round. What chance has the loser of this match to obtain any results?

**JOOLA
 INTRODUCE**

KOYO BEAR

THE PERFECT SHOE FOR TABLE TENNIS!



The Koyo Bear Shoe was specially designed for table tennis by the Japanese World Champion Mr Ogimura who is a top expert in many departments of the game.

The Koyo Bear is accepted by top players from all continents as the No 1 table tennis shoe and is worn by many World Champions.

The main advantages given by the Koyo Bear is its fantastic grip on almost any surface together with a light comfortable upper that allows you to concentrate fully on your play.

If you are looking for an easy way to put points on your game, then follow the World Champions and use Koyo Bear.

JOOLA
 table tennis

scoring on his three visits to the table for Notts in their 3-7 defeat by Lancashire, and getting more support from his team-mates in the 6-4 defeat of Derbyshire II.

Results:—

- Derbys II 4, Notts 6
- Lancs II 8, Cleveland III 2
- Cleveland III 4, Northumberland II 6
- Notts 3, Lancs II 7

3rd DIVISION MIDLAND

Glamorgan and Leicestershire second teams dominate this division, with the latter conceding their first set in their third match when Staffs II were the visitors to Leicester and almost stole a point.

Glamorgan II have not been putting their winning chances to any risk and would now appear to be favourites to win this division now that Karen Rogers is no longer eligible for Leics II!

Clwyd's second team not having a happy time, with Shropshire gaining their only success so far at Clwyd's expense, while Salop gave Northants II their only win to date, all these ending 6-4.

Results:—

- Leics II 10, Clwyd II 0
- Salop 4, Northants II 6
- Staffs II 3, Glam II 7
- Clwyd II 4, Salop 6
- Leics II 6, Staffs II 4
- Northants II 1, Glam II 9

3rd DIVISION EAST

A division producing some very close games, three out of the four played have produced draws, and the other a 6-4 win by Suffolk over Hunts.

Suffolk strengthened by the inclusion of Robert Hellaby at No. 2 behind John Kitchener, also drew with Herts II, after trailing 3-5 with Mick Palmer scoring a fine win (21 in the third) over Barry White to put them in with a chance, although it was Jack Baxter's displays that were the highlights.

Hunts did well to recover from a 1-4 deficit against Norfolk II, they pulled back to share the points with Alan Lamprell outstanding.

Results:—

- Cambs II 5, Herts II 5
- Hunts 4, Suffolk 6
- Hunts 5, Norfolk II 5
- Suffolk 5, Herts II 5

3rd DIVISION WEST

Cornwall's hardest opponents so far has been the weather, getting home from Gloucester almost 10 hours after starting out, and they deservedly lead the division with a hundred per cent record.

Cornwall look favourites to win this division although Dorset are only a point behind and look threatening.

Results:—

- Cornwall 8, Herefords 2
- Dorset 6, Gloucs 4
- Gloucs 3, Cornwall 7
- Wores 4, Dorset 6

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION

Middlesex have given over top place to Essex after Essex had beaten Middlesex on December 4 in a match where the form book went out of the window—Graham Sandley gave Middlesex a good start by beating David Newman (13, -14, 19), but finished badly by losing to Kenny Jackson (-16, -20) when the score stood 4-5.

In between, David Wells lost to Leon Smith (-19, -14) and beat Newman (-17, 16, 14) and Mandy Reeves lost to Elaine Sayer (-12, -11).

Elsewhere in the Junior Premier, things are much the same, although Cleveland are having a better time this season than last and have picked up three points from two matches with a win over Berkshire 8-2 (was 7-3 but B. Johnson and R. Barr played out of order!) and draw against Kent.

Results:—

- Herts 1, Essex 9
- Cleveland 8, Berks 2
- Surrey 2, Middlesex 8
- Berks 6, Surrey 4
- Cleveland 5, Kent 5
- Middlesex 4, Essex 6
- Yorkshire 8, Herts 2

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Surprise package from the South-West seems to be the ease with which recently-promoted Devon are taking this division, having conceded one set only in their last two matches against Hampshire (10-0—losers admittedly without Colin Wilson) and Dorset (9-1—Dorset without Janet New). Elaine Lamb is giving Juniors preference in her last season at this level, and it should secure Devon's future in the Premier Division, as the rest of the team stay together for a few more seasons yet.

Results:—

- Berks II 6, Dorset 4
- Devon 10, Hants 0
- Middlesex II 6, Surrey II 4
- Sussex 9, Kent II 1
- Dorset 1, Devon 9
- Surrey II 6, Berks II 4
- Sussex 6, Middlesex II 4

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Lancashire have taken over top position from Yorkshire II after the two teams met and Lancs won 7-3, Yorkshire having promoted top two second team boys into Premier Division duty and were that much weaker although Bottomley, Harris and Hill each figured in a win, while Lancashire's No. 1, Tony O'Connor, was unbeaten.

Cumbria were having a good run and looking like Challengers, but Derbyshire eased the last three sets from the match and won 6-4 after trailing 3-4, Robert Allan and John Hibbert gaining their wins in the deciding game in every case.

Results:—

- Cleveland II 3, Cumbria 7
- Derbys 1, Yorks II 9
- Durham 0, Lancs 10
- Cumbria 4, Derbys 6
- Lancs 7, Yorks II 3
- Northumberland 4, Cleveland II 6

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Warwickshire, winners in this division last season, are heading once more for honours. Their latest victims were Essex, when they scored a 6-4 success, although I suspect that the score could have been a lot different if Essex had a full team. (Second time this season that this Warwickshire team have opposed incomplete teams).

Northants move into second place with two wins, 7-3 over Leics and 9-1 over promoted Suffolk. Another promoted county having a great deal of success are Staffordshire, who have a game in hand (to Suffolk) but have yet to meet Warwickshire and Northants.

Results:—

- Essex II 7, Leics 3
- Norfolk 3, Northants 7
- Cambs 2, Norfolk 8
- Leics 2, Staffs 8
- Suffolk 1, Northants 9
- Warwicks 6, Essex II 4

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Essex strength in depth is likely to earn them honours for their third team in this division, as they have added Hampshire II to their recent list of scalps—Hampshire II went on later to beat Buckinghamshire II 8-2, so the variance in standard between top and bottom is substantial.

In between, Hertfordshire II scored an 8-2 success over Bucks, and Sussex II recorded a 7-3 defeat on Herts.

Results:—

- Bucks II 2, Herts II 8
- Essex III 8, Hants II 2
- Hants II 8, Bucks II 2
- Herts II 3, Sussex II 7

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

The gap between the top three counties and the bottom three counties still exists, although Nottinghamshire are the first of the top teams to suffer defeat, inflicted by Cheshire, who are seeking 2nd Division status after relegation last season. Lincolnshire are on their heels still, helped by their 9-1 over Cleveland III.

Results:—

- Cheshire 7, Notts 3
- Lincs 9, Cleveland III 1

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

With Staffordshire going well in the 2nd Midland, their second team are keeping the flag flying in the 3rd Midland and look set to retain honours in this division, unless Shropshire have different ideas when the two meet at the end of January; both teams still have hundred per cent records.

Results:—

- Salop 7, Gloucs 3
- Staffs II 9, Oxfords 1
- Gloucs 8, Oxfords 2
- Staffs II 9, Wores 1

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

It won't be March until accounts are settled here, with Beds and Bucks both winning their matches, Beds ahead on matches played so far, although Lincolnshire II came close to upsetting the leaders with three successes in girls' matches, but the boys couldn't match that.

Results:—

- Cambs II 1, Beds 9
- Lincs II 3, Bucks 7
- Beds 6, Lincs II 4
- Hunts 3, Bucks 7

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

With Glamorgan and Wiltshire sharing top spot on five points with latest successes over Somerset (10-0) and Gwent (8-2) respectively, lower in the table, Avon can feel some relief to have obtained a draw from the visit of Cornwall—four of their five wins gained in the decider while the visitors took theirs two-straight.

Results:—

- Avon 5, Cornwall 5
- Glamorgan 10, Somerset 0
- Wilts 8, Gwent 2

VETERAN MIDLAND

- Cheshire 9, Clwyd II 0
- Clwyd 5, Warwicks 4
- Notts 8, Leics 1
- Clwyd 8, Clwyd II 1
- Notts 8, Warwicks 1
- Leics 3, Cheshire 6

VETERAN EAST

- Essex II 4, Middlesex 5
- Herts 2, Kent 7
- Hunts 2, Essex 7
- Essex 9, Essex II 0
- Hunts 4, Herts 5
- Kent 4, Middlesex 5

VETERAN MIDLAND

- Hants 6, Dorset 3
- Oxfords 7, Wilts 2
- Oxfords 3, Hants 6

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Annual County Championships Conference will be held on Saturday, 11th June, 1977, at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London W.C.1, at 2-00 p.m.

County Associations wishing to put forward proposals dealing with amendments to Championships Regulations must submit them to the Administrator, Bob Bridges, 4 Tysoe Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 6DY, to be received no later than 28th February, 1977.

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

With two County sessions to report on this month, a slightly altered layout, but I will revert to the regular pattern next month.

LEICESTERSHIRE LOOK DOOMED PREMIER DIVISION

Leicestershire came as close to victory as was possible when Essex were visitors to Loughborough at the end of November and travelled home with a 5-4 victory under their belts. The home side got as much out of the match as possible with their four wins obtained in the deciding game in each case while their defeats were emphatically scored two-straight.

Leics. are firmly rooted at the foot of the Division and look sure for relegation, but as to who will accompany them has still to be decided. It looks like Cheshire or Surrey, who have yet to play each other, and whose only successes so far have been over Leicestershire.

Surrey are still competing without Martin Shuttle and at Maldon, in December, Essex again won 5-4 over Surrey. Essex were without their No. 1, Ian Horsham, and the story of that match was much the same as at Loughborough—won four out of the five two-straight, while three of Surrey's four came in the decider.

Another County without the services of their top player was Warwickshire, at the Abbeydale Club, in Sheffield, against Yorkshire, where Alan Hydes was making his first Yorkshire appearance for nearly three years. Des Douglas was in France and made way for Doug Johnson to lead Warwicks for the first time—and admirably he did it as well, winning both singles, but the only other success for the visitors was Derek Munt's over Hydes.

Middlesex have played five of their seven matches and are placed second in the division, level on points with Essex, but with a far superior sets average, their latest victories over lowly-placed opposition, Surrey and Leicestershire, both 7-2.

Match details:—

Surrey 2, Middlesex 7

S. Lyons lost to M. Mitchell 15, -17, -16; lost to D. Tan -10, -9.

M. Crimmins lost to Mitchell -15, -7; lost to P. Guttorsman -11, 18, -15.

D. Welsman lost to Tan -13, -22; lost to Guttorsman -17, 17, -20.

(Crimmins/Welsman lost to Mitchell/Tan 16, -21, -16.

Miss L. Howard bt Miss A. Mitchell -11, 11, 9.

Lyons/Miss Howard bt Guttorsman/Miss Mitchell 17, 19.

Leicestershire 4, Essex 5

P. Randell lost to I. Horsham -17, -13; bt D. Brown 17, -22, 19.

C. Rogers lost to Horsham -18, -18; bt D. Newman -19, 13, 12.

G. Hall lost to Brown -8, -15; lost to Newman -18, -17.

Hall/Rogers lost to Brown/Horsham -15, -15. Miss K. Rogers bt Mrs. L. Barrow 17, -16, 16. Randell/Miss Rogers bt Newman/Mrs. Barrow 19, -8, 8.

Essex 5, Surrey 4

D. Brown bt S. Lyons 13, 18; lost to M. Crimmins -13, -14.

R. Potton bt Lyons 19, 17; bt D. Welsman 14, 12.

D. Newman lost to Crimmins -19, 19, -17; bt Welsman 14, 12.

Brown/Potton bt Crimmins/Welsman -13, 19, 14.

Mrs. L. Radford lost to Miss L. Howard 20, -14, -20.

Newman/Mrs. Radford lost to Lyons/Miss Howard -17, 20, -12.

Middlesex 7, Leicestershire 2

M. Mitchell lost to P. Randell -20, 17, -17; bt C. Rogers 16, 12.

D. Tan bt Randell 23, 17; bt G. Hall 13, -19, 16.

P. Guttorsman lost to Rogers -17, -13; bt Hall 13, -19, 15.

Mitchell/Tan bt Hall/Rogers 17, -19, 17. Miss A. Mitchell bt Miss A. Stevenson 19, 17.

Guttorsman/Miss Mitchell bt Randell/Miss Stevenson 15, 17.

Yorkshire 6, Warwickshire 3

A. Hydes lost to D. Johnson -16, -16; lost to D. Munt 22, -8, -15.

A. Clayton lost to Johnson -16, 14, -13; bt P. Judd 15, 18.

A. Fletcher bt Munt 15, 13; bt Judd 17, 18. Clayton/Fletcher bt Johnson/Munt -18, 22, 16.

Miss M. Ludi bt Miss K. Groves 9, 14. Hydes/Miss Ludi bt Judd/Miss Groves 19, 14.

2nd DIVISION SOUTH

Kent and Sussex share top position and each set in their final matches are crucial in their respective bids for a place in the promotion challenge matches and Premier Division status next season. While both have yet to play Essex II, the Essex Premier team "look" safe and even if Essex take eventual honours, the second-placed County go to the Challenge.

Carol Colgate's win over Diane Gard (-15, 17, 16) was the highlight of the Kent-Sussex match at Gravesend—it gave the hosts the lift to salvage a point after training 2-5 in a match which required the decider seven times and took four hours to complete. Kent have been looking towards their younger players more this season than in the past and with a continuing "youth" policy, put paid to Hampshire 9-1.

Middlesex continue to have travel difficulties and arrived late at Bexhill for the Sussex match; nevertheless, it didn't do them any good and the home side kept up the pressure with a 7-3 win.

Results:—

Kent 5, Sussex 5
Middlesex II 8, Surrey II 2
Kent 9, Hampshire 1
Surrey II 4, Essex II 6
Sussex 7, Middlesex II 3

2nd DIVISION NORTH

Yorkshire II have a distinct lead over Lancashire and Cleveland II after they went to Blackpool and beat Lancs and Cleveland II went to Northumberland with a weakened team and went down 4-6.

Although Donald Parker won on his three trips to the table for Lancashire, Yorkshire's women were too strong for Lancashire's and made the difference. Northumberland scored their first success of the season in the 6-4 defeat of Cleveland II, the highlight being Fred Short's win over Malcolm Corking 19, 20, to make the score 5-4, after which Chris Shepherd beat Ian Plummer to give hosts victory.

Durham also scored their first victory of the season with their trip into Lincolnshire, leaving Lincs at the bottom of the division without any points.

Results:—

Cleveland II 10, Lincolnshire 0
Durham 2, Yorkshire II 8
Northumberland 0, Lancashire 10
Lancashire 4, Yorkshire II 6
Lincolnshire 4, Durham 6
Northumberland 6, Cleveland II 4

2nd DIVISION MIDLAND

Clwyd, promoted from the third division this season, are not having a happy time in Second Midland. Their last two matches have produced only one touch of success

in defeats 1-9 to Cheshire II and 0-10 to Derbyshire.

Cheshire II currently lead the division and have yet to play Glamorgan who are the other main challengers, but who dropped a valuable point to draw specialists Staffordshire.

Results:—

Clwyd 1, Cheshire II 9
Derbyshire 3, Warwicks II 7
Glamorgan 5, Staffordshire 5
Clwyd 0, Derbyshire 10
Warwicks II 3, Staffordshire 7

2nd DIVISION EAST

After Beds. had beaten Cambs. 6-4, Beds. had visions of Challenging once again for the Premier Division, and one might have thought how much Cambs. relied on Paul Day—absent on International duty, but subsequent matches revised both theories.

Bedfordshire failed to Hertfordshire 3-7, giving Herts. their first taste of success this season, and Cambridgeshire, still without Day, beat Norfolk 7-3, although it could have been a different story had Norfolk taken the first two sets (both closely resolved in the decider).

Buckinghamshire were looking for their third successive draw, but a good performance by Garry Alden over Les Wooding practically put the result beyond Bucks' reach and Northants romped home 8-2 to move into second place.

Results:—

Bucks 5, Herts 5
Norfolk 5, Northants 5
Beds 6, Cambs 4
Cambs 7, Norfolk 3
Herts 7, Beds 3
Northants 8, Bucks 2

2nd DIVISION WEST

Following wins over Gwent (10-0) and Devon (8-2), Berkshire are heading for their third consecutive title in this division, and maybe it will be third time lucky at the Challenge!

Somerset scored a good win over Worcestershire and give much of the credit to Westland Helicopters, at Weston-super-Mare, who gave them a flying start with some of the best conditions witnessed around that part of the country for some time.

Results:—

Berks 10, Gwent 0
Wilts 6, Devon 4
Somerset 6, Worcs 4
Wilts 9, Gwent 1
Devon 2, Berks 8

3rd DIVISION SOUTH

Essex III and Sussex II are forging ahead, but it's closer at the top than actual results have produced. Essex lost a set when playing Brian Parrish and Jeff Dew out of order against Herts III, revising the score from 9-1 to 8-2, and Sussex profited by two sets when Kent II was represented by Jeff Williams, who was not eligible, score changing from 6-4 to 8-2 in favour of Sussex.

Herts III and Bucks II played a marathon lasting over four hours when Bucks won 6-4, and took a 3-0 lead with the first three sets going their way 19 in the third.

Results:—

Essex III 10, Beds II 0
Herts III 4, Bucks II 6
Sussex II 8, Kent II 2
Bucks II 2, Sussex II 8
Essex III 8, Herts III 2
Beds II 2, Kent II 8

3rd DIVISION NORTH

Lancashire II move two points clear of second-placed Northumberland II with wins over two bottom-placed teams, Notts and Cleveland III, although Northumberland faced weakened Cleveland side to win 6-4 and move into second place.

Alan Croome is meeting a run of success,

Continued on Page 38