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Table Tennis News

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Cometh the hour

To recover from being 1-3 down in the Federal German township of Munster and win 4-3 to inflict not only defeat but demotion on their hosts, speaks volumes for the fighting spirit of England's team in the SuperDivision of the European League.

Up to their meeting with Czechoslovakia, at Horwich Leisure Centre, Bolton, on January 19, the chances of England maintaining contact with the elite seemed remote indeed. But that 6-1 win over the Czechs, unbelievable as it was, created the necessary morale booster.

It could have had its effect in Portsmouth against Hungary, whose win was by the closest possible margin.

But cometh the hour cometh the man, and in Munster, with Neale abed at home with influenza, Paul Day became the hero when, in the final set with the match score poised at 3-3, the Cambs. left-hander did his country proud by defeating Wilfried Lieck, winner of the Stiga Welsh Open.

Yet all in all, it was a team effort and congratulations go to each and every member, not least the non-playing captain, Peter Simpson, who, since taking over the role from Brian Burn, can be justly proud of the achievements attained, especially in this year of the World Championships in England.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR

INCENTIVE CREATED

Although at pains to preserve their unbeaten record in the **Super Division** of the **European League** Hungary's 4-3 win over England (reported elsewhere in this issue) should have created the incentive for them to defeat Czechoslovakia in their final match and take over the title from Yugoslavia.

The former champions went down to their fifth defeat of the season when beaten 5-2 by France in Nis on Feb 10. Only after taking a decisive 4-0 lead did France allow their opponents into the picture when, in the mixed, Anton Stipanovic and Erzebet Palatinus triumphed over Jacques Secretin and Claude Bergeret. Having lost to Secretin in the second set Dragutin Surbek took the other Yugoslav set in the final encounter against Patrick Birocheau. Individual scores:—
A. Stipanovic lost to P. Birocheau -17, -15;
D. Surbek lost to J. Secretin -12, 12, -19;
E. Palatinus lost to C. Bergeret -15, 13, -23;
Z. Kosanovic/Surbek lost to Birocheau/Secretin -14, 18, -17;
Stipanovic/Palatinus bt Secretin/Bergeret -14, 17, 9;
Stipanovic lost to Secretin 10, -18, -12;
Surbek bt Birocheau 11, 14.

Heartening from England's point of view was the 4-3 win obtained by Czechoslovakia over Federal Germany in Plzen on the same date. Both Milan Orlowski and Jaroslav Kunz won their opening singles, as did Ilona Uhlíkova, over Kirsten Krüger, the vital set being the mixed won by Orlowski and Uhlíkova against Jochen Leiss and Krüger. Scores:—
M. Orlowski bt J. Leiss 6, 16;
J. Kunz bt P. Stellwag 18, -19, 18;
I. Uhlíkova bt K. Krüger 13, 9;
Orlowski/Kunz lost to Leiss/Stellwag -18, 18, -18;
Orlowski/Uhlíkova bt Leiss/Krüger -18, 18, 15;
Orlowski lost to Stellwag -12, -16;
Kunz lost to Leiss -15, -15.

All now rests on the final match between Federal Germany and England in Munster on Mar 3 when it would be possible, should England win 4-3 and Sweden beat Yugoslavia 7-0, for the latter to be demoted!

The Soviet Union by beating Sweden 4-3 in Leningrad kept themselves in title contention but Hungary, like England, are in a position to dictate their own destiny. In the Leningrad encounter all rested on the outcome of the final set in which Anatoliy Strokotov brought off his second singles win in beating Ulf Thorsell. Scores: S. Gomozkov lost to U. Thorsell -15, 19, -19;
A. Strokotov bt K. Johansson 19, 17;
E. Antonian lost to A-C. Hellman -14, -18;
Gomozkov/Strokotov bt Johansson/Thorsell 14, -23, 17;
S. Sarkhojan/Antonian bt Johansson/Hellman 17, 16;
Gomozkov lost to Johansson -18, -14;
Strokotov bt Thorsell 18, -11, 15.

DIVISION 1

A 5-2 win for the Netherlands over Austria was not as decisive as anticipated but sufficient to keep the Dutch in front of Poland who beat Greece 6-1. Scores in these matches were:—
Poland v. Greece
S. Fraczyk bt J. Mandilas 17, 12;
L. Kucharski bt N. Kostopoulos 13, 17;
J. Szatko bt D. Joannidow 12, 8;
R. Czochanski/A. Grubba bt Kostopoulos/Mandilas 10, 17;
Kucharski/Szatko lost to Kostopoulos/Joannidow

14, -22, -19;
Fraczyk bt Kostopoulos 15, 12;
Kucharski bt Mandilas 18, -17, 14.
Netherlands v. Austria
N. v. Slobbe lost to G. Müller -12, 14, -16;
B. v.d. Helm bt E. Amplatz 10, 15;
B. Vriesekoop bt B. Gropper 10, 12;
v.d. Helm/v. Slobbe bt Amplatz/Müller 18, -12, 15;
v.d. Helm/Vriesekoop lost to Müller/Gropper -11, -18;
v. Slobbe bt Amplatz 18, -11, 14;
v.d. Helm bt Müller 12, 12.

Italy, beaten 5-2 by Bulgaria in Rome, must beat Poland away in their final match to stay up. As this would appear most unlikely they will give way to Luxembourg next season.

Scores in Rome were:—

S. Bosi bt P. Mitev 13, 10;
M. Constantini bt D. Hasanov 16, -18, 20;
S. Milic lost to A. Rangelova 8, -12, -17;
Bosi/Malesci lost to Hasanov/Mitev -19, -19;
Malesci/Milic lost to Hasanov/Rangelova -18, 10, -17;
Bosi lost to Hasanov -18, -15;
Constantini lost to Mitev 19, -19, -20.

Away to Belgium in Corenne on Feb 10 Ireland were beaten 5-2 but, in a match brought forward from Mar 3 accounted for Austria 6-1 in Galway on Feb 17. Only in the final set of this latter engagement did Ireland relax their grip when Kevin Keane succumbed to Gunter Müller. Scores:

In Corenne

N. v.d. Walle bt K. Keane 18, 5;
D. Nasseaux lost to J. Langan 19, -8, -14;
M-F. Germaat lost to K. Senior -18, -21;
v.d. Walle/Nasseaux bt Langan/Keane -15, 18, 20;
v.d. Walle/Germaat bt Langan/Senior -18, 18, 13;
v.d. Walle bt Langan 22, -19, 9;
Nasseaux bt Keane 14, 13.

In Galway

Langan bt G. Müller 13, 18;
Keane bt E. Amplatz 16, 19;
Senior bt D. Fetter 12, 18;
Langan/Keane bt Amplatz/Müller 22, 15;
Langan/Senior bt Müller/Fetter 12, 19;
Langan bt Amplatz 13, -13, 18;
Keane lost to Müller -19, -7.

DIVISION 2

At Bannerman High School, Glasgow on Feb 12 Luxembourg beat Scotland 5-2 to win not only the title but, more significantly, promotion. It proved a sad night for the Scots whose Richard Yule put them on the right path with an opening win over Andre Hartmann. But only after the visitors had taken a decisive 4-1 lead did Scotland again take over the driving seat when, in reverse, Yule accounted for Camille Putz. Scores:—
R. Yule bt A. Hartmann 15, 17;
J. McNee lost to C. Putz -17, 13, -20;
P. Fleming lost to J. Dom -18, -14;
Yule/McNee lost to Hartmann/Putz 18, -17, -18;
Yule/Fleming lost to Hartmann/Dom -21, -10;
Yule bt Putz 19, 16;
McNee lost to Hartmann -11, 17, -19.

Five days earlier, at Bridgend Sports Centre, Wales were beaten 5-2 by Spain thus qualifying for the wooden spoon and relegation. After going into a 2-0 lead, following wins by Alan Griffiths over David Sanchez and by Graham Davies over Jose Feliu, the Welsh dragon lost its fire and although not slain by St. George, totally collapsed in the ensuing five sets. Scores:—
A. Griffiths bt D. Sanchez -17, 12, 17;

G. Davies bt J. Feliu 10, -19, 13;
 D. Coulthard lost to M. Sanahuja -9, -10;
 Griffiths/Davies lost to Sanchez/Feliu -15, 17, -18;
 Davies/Coulthard lost to Sanchez/Sanahuja 19,
 -16, -17;
 Griffiths lost to Feliu -9, -13;
 Davies lost to Sanchez -13, -20.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Luxembourg	4	4	0	24	4	4
Scotland	4	3	1	15	13	3
Spain	4	2	2	12	16	2
Switzerland	4	1	3	11	17	1
Wales	4	0	4	8	20	0

Qualifying for promotion by beating Norway (5-2), Guernsey (7-0) and Turkey (5-2), Finland took the **3rd Division** title at Cardiff over the two days Feb. 2-3. Their team of J. Ikonen, M. Autio, M. Kurvinen and Mesdames S. Grefberg and L. Jarvenpaa will provide Scotland with yet another hurdle next season. Results:—

Finland bt Norway 5-2, bt Guernsey 7-0, bt Turkey 5-2.
 Norway bt Turkey 4-3, bt Guernsey 7-0.
 Turkey bt Guernsey 7-0.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	3	3	0	17	4	3
Norway	3	2	1	13	8	2
Turkey	3	1	2	12	9	1
Guernsey	3	0	3	0	21	0

STATE DIRECTOR

Miss Pat Hopkin, the New South Wales Director of Coaching, has accepted a full time coaching position in West Australia. She will be a tremendous acquisition to the "Sandgroppers" (writes Terry Halling, from Fivedock). On another note Barbara Kierney the Australian WS winner has fully recovered from her back injury and is proudly displaying a very un-English sun tan.

AFRICAN FEDERATION

In a report on the future development of Table Tennis in Africa it is noted that the sport is making steady but varied progress, but generally, the following factors have mitigated against the desired rapid progress:—

- (a) Equipment and facilities
- (b) Coaching
- (c) Officials
- (d) Organisation
- (e) Finance
- (f) Junior Development

In the field of Coaching the ATTF appreciates the contribution of the People's Republic of China, who have within the last four years sent coaches to many African countries on a technical assistance programme. This has helped to raise the level and standard of performance of African players. As a supplement to the efforts of the Chinese, the ATTF realised the importance of producing African coaches and in conjunction with the ITTF it organised a Coaches Seminar in Egypt last August. This year two such seminars will be held in Senegal and Nigeria, the former under the auspices of the ITTF, and the latter under the auspices of the Supreme Council of Sports in Africa.

Executive Members of National Associations, Secretaries, Referees, Scorers and Recorders need to be interested and hard working, if national associations aim at producing good results. The ATTF strongly recommends that officials of national associations should become more involved in the day to day administration.

In the concluding paragraph of the report, prepared by **Abdel Hai Abou Heif**, Hon. Gen. Sec. and Chairman of the Technical Committee, states the future of Table Tennis, like other sports, depends on junior development. The ATTF appreciates this fact and has therefore urged all national associations to intensify their junior training programmes.

It recommends:—

- 1. A sizeable part of the annual subvention of National Associations should be used for the training of juniors.
- 2. Regular competitions should be organised for the juniors at national and zonal levels with

the necessary encouragement in the form of prizes, trophies, awards etc.

3. Where possible top juniors should be given preference and included in national teams in order to expose them to International Competition.

4. In the future, junior events for (a) U-17 and (b) U-15 should be held in the African Championships and if accepted be included in the AA Friendship Invitational Tournament.

5. Junior Holiday Camps should be organised for training juniors at national and zonal levels. Competitions should be organised for them during these camping periods, lasting 4-6 weeks.

JILL SHINES IN SARAJEVO

England's **Jill Hammersley** showed a welcome return to form in the European 'Top 12' tournament, played over the period Feb 25-27 in Yugoslavia, finishing second to Beatrix Kishazi of Hungary. Jill had 8 wins to 3 losses to the winner's 9 and 2.

In the counterpart men's competition Milan Orłowski, Dragutin Surbek and Jacques Secretin all finished with 8 wins and 2 losses but on games analysis between the threesome Orłowski came out on top (6-0), Surbek (3-5) and Secretin (2-6).

Finishing positions were:—

Men:

1. M. Orłowski (Cze).
2. D. Surbek (Yug).
3. J. Secretin (Fra).
4. I. Jonyer (Hun).
5. G. Gergely (Hun).
6. A. Strokotov (USS).
7. S. Sarkhojan (USS).
8. A. Stipancic (Yug).
9. U. Thorsell (Swe).
10. J. Kunz (Cze).
11. J. Leiss (GFR).
12. J. Johansson (Swe) - retired injured. (Jaroslav Kunz replaced Stellan Bengtsson who was suffering from 'flu).

Women:

1. B. Kishazi (Hun).
2. **J. Hammersley (Eng).**
3. I. Uhlikova (Cze).
4. M. Alexandru (Rum).

5. A-C. Hellman (Swe).
6. J. Magos (Hun).
7. Z. Rudnova (USS).
8. E. Palatinus (Yug).
9. C. Bergeret (Fra).
10. G. Szabo (Hun).
11. W. Hendriksen (GFR).
12. B. Silhanova (Cze).

Jill's scores were:—

bt Bergeret 19, 12;
 bt Alexandru 12, -12, 20 (all expedite);
 bt Uhlikova 12, -18, 14;
 lost to Palatinus -15, 16, -22 (was 20-15 up in 3rd!);
 lost to Kishazi -6, -19;
 bt Szabo 18, -14, 13;
 bt Hellman 13, 18;
 bt Hendriksen 6, 8;
 bt Rudnova -14, 27, 17;
 bt Silhanova 9, 13;
 lost to Magos -17, -17.

STOP PRESS

STATUS MAINTAINED

ENGLAND recovered from being 1-3 down to stage a magnificent recovery and beat Federal Germany 4-3 to preserve their status in the Super Division of the European League in Munster on Mar 3.

The turning point came in the mixed doubles with a win for Desmond Douglas and Linda Hinward to be followed by a straight games win for Douglas over Peter Stellwag, leaving Paul Day to win the match with a final victory over Wilfried Lieck 18, -8, 16. England's other win was obtained by Jill Hammersley who, after England had lost the two opening men's singles, beat Weibke Hendriksen 18 and 16.

Hungary with a final 4-3 win over Czechoslovakia maintained their unbeaten record throughout to take over the title from Yugoslavia. Other results:—
 Sweden 3—Yugoslavia 4; USSR 3—France 4.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	7	7	0	32	17	7
U.S.S.R.	7	5	2	31	18	5
France	6	4	2	27	15	4
Sweden	6	3	3	26	16	3

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Czechoslovakia	7	3	4	23	26	3
Yugoslavia	7	2	5	19	30	2
England	7	2	5	15	34	2
Federal Germany	7	1	6	16	33	1

As a result of beating Belgium 7-0, the Netherlands won the **Division 1** title and, next season, will replace Federal Germany in the Super Division. Other results:—

Poland 5—Italy 2; Greece 3—Bulgaria 4;

Italy will be replaced by Luxembourg in Div. 1 next season. Final Division 1 table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	7	6	1	37	12	6
Poland	7	6	1	33	16	6
Bulgaria	7	5	2	26	23	5
Belgium	7	3	4	20	29	3
Austria	7	3	4	22	27	3
Ireland	7	2	5	22	27	2
Greece	7	2	5	17	32	2
Italy	7	1	6	19	30	1

RED CARPET TREATMENT

Following the sponsorship by Tufted Carpet Tile Limited, Craigavon, Northern Ireland, of the recent table tennis international between Holland and Ireland, the Dutch team declared themselves "delighted" at the hospitality they received during the event.

A spokesman for the Dutch said: "We certainly would have no hesitation in playing again in Craigavon or anywhere in Northern Ireland."

Tuca Tile met the Dutch on their arrival and joined them in a lunchtime civic reception at which both teams met Craigavon's Mayor, Councillor Thomas Creith. The teams were taken on a tour of Tuca's modern carpet tile factory on the nearby Silverwood estate, and after the match, at nearby Brownlow Recreation Centre, were entertained at a local country club.

Ireland needed to beat Holland to stand any chance of staying in the European League Division 1. With just three matches to play they had only one victory under their belt—against Poland.

They fielded a strong side including Jim Langan, regarded as Ireland's best ever player, Kevin Keane, 17 years old and current Irish No. 1 junior, and Karen Senior, 20 years old and Ireland's greatest ever lady player.

But it took the Dutch side just 75 minutes to

demolish the Irish squad. Jimmy Langan was beaten in three sets by Dutchman Bert Van Der Helm, and Kevin Keane was no match for Nico van Slobbe who won in straight games.

The player who really shone was 14-year-old Bettine Vrieskoop who disposed of Karen Senior in straight games. Bettine raced to a 21-3 victory in the first game and won the second 21-16.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Cleveland's Denis Neale, winner at Woking Leisure Centre, on February 19, of the Norwich Union English Championships men's singles title. Denis now has one more win to his credit than Chester Barnes in this former English Closed tournament.

CONTROVERSY

by John Woodford

PAGE 3 AS WELL

Any sort of breakthrough for table tennis in the popular national press is more than welcome, so let us hope that Chester Barnes's spiky, chatty column in "The Sun" is here to stay, even after the World Championships. Chester and "The Sun" are clearly seeking stories that will give table tennis readers a second reason for buying the newspaper other than the popular photographic reproductions on Page 3!

Chester and myself are, as far as I know, the only two scribes who have pronounced publicly in the national press that Denis Neale will retire after Birmingham. Having shown us at Woking that he can still play to world class by out-hitting and out-thinking Desmond Douglas, Denis would, I feel, make an England captain whose tactical advice to his players between games would be second to none, with respect to present and former captains.

Denis would never claim to be the greatest organiser in the world, when it comes to the graft of transporting a team

to the other side of the earth and dealing with all the problems that arise in a continuous stream. But, he has travelled abroad far more than any other player and must know most if not all the administrative, personal and technical problems inside out.

I am sure that when the time comes an application for the England job from Denis will be treated seriously in the corridors of power. If he was appointed I am also sure that this would meet with the approval of the England squad players, because Neale's record of success is the greatest in the history of English table tennis.

Neale's wealth of experience opens up the possibility, should he be appointed, of him playing in the team should the need arise tactically or through an injury emergency.

Here is a problem that appears to have no answer. It can happen at any level, county, league, whatever. In this case I am told, it has happened in the Junior Premier Division of the County Championships. My information is that a team last season won the challenge matches and was duly promoted, but then two of its star players decided to make themselves available for other counties. One succeeded, one didn't, but any way this promoted team is getting hammered without mercy all season, thus keeping out teams who have the power to compete at premier level. I suppose its a question of loyalty, but I fear that on occasions the desire to play alongside more accomplished performers is the over-riding factor.

Despite all the sweat, toil, tears and troubles, I believe the World Championships now almost here, is going to be the greatest success ever seen in table tennis. From every angle, especially financial, the latest ticket sales indicate it could even be a sell-out for every day's play from the start. The enormous entry suggests to me that the greatest problem will be manpower, a view shared by Norman Reeve, a man of great experience in world events. Having seen officials working 16 hours a day at Sarajevo and Munich with considerably fewer nations involved, the army of administrators may not be large enough.



Cor Van Heugten, managing director of Craigavon-based Tufted Carpet Tile Ltd., holds the trophy won so convincingly by Holland in their recent table tennis international against Ireland. With him are Minister of State for Northern Ireland Lord Melchett, (left) and Craigavon's mayor, Councillor Tom Creith.

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Norwich Union English Championships



Six times winner Denis Neale recaptures the Guernsey Trophy at Woking Leisure Centre. Photo by Allan Batchelor, Cranleigh, Surrey.

WINNER FOR THE SIXTH TIME by George R. Yates

Serving up a style of play that belied his 32 years and augurs well for the forthcoming World Championships, Denis Neale, for a record sixth time, won the men's singles title of the Norwich Union English Championships, at Woking Leisure Centre, on February 19, beating Desmond Douglas, the defending champion and 11 years his junior, by 3 games to 1.

Only after going into a 2-0 lead did Neale allow himself a breather before reasserting his dominance that had prevailed throughout the opening games, particularly the second. The threat posed by Carole Knight to deny Jill Hammersley a fifth successive

win in the women's singles duly came about although it took the Cleveland girl five games to clinch the issue and let out a shriek of delight.

Time and again in a protracted final Mrs. Hammersley returned the ball at a height convenient for Miss Knight to employ her powerful loop drive which, other than when she overhit, often left her opponent stranded.

Not so in the women's doubles when more co-ordinated play brought a retention of title for Jill and Linda Howard over Carole and Melody Lüdi. The only other title to be retained was the men's doubles, Douglas and Neale, combining their talents to finally dispose of a game Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker.

Youth triumphed over experience in the final of the mixed doubles, played on the Friday evening, when 18-years-old Paul Day and Miss Lüdi beat Neale and Mrs. Hammersley. In truth, it was a lethargic performance by the older pair who, as second seeds, had their way cleared by the removal of the title holders, Douglas and Miss Howard, also by Day and Lüdi.

It was quite a tournament for the Bradford girl who, in the quarters of the women's singles, came back from two very decisive reverses, and from being 13-17 down in the fifth, to beat Linda Howard. Linda was seeded No. 4 and Karen Witt at No. 3, also fell at the same stage to the honest endeavours of Susan Lisle.

Seeds of note not to reach their allotted positions in the semi-finals of the men's singles were Paul Day (3), who fell to Andy Barden, and John Hilton, who gave second best to Dougie Johnson. But it was Jarvis, bad back and all, who came through in Hilton's quarter to put paid to the ambitions of the young Warwickshire defender and put up quite a show before surrendering to Douglas.

Neither Douglas nor Neale dropped a game in reaching the final, Neale, in top gear from the outset, disposing of Maxwell Crimmins, "Cosmo" Graham, Chris Rogers, Alan Fletcher and Barden. Douglas had the benefit of a walk-over, with Tony Clayton an absentee, before getting down to business against David Tan, Bob Potton, Nigel Eckersley and the brave Jarvis.

One interesting result from the qualifying competition was the win of 12-years-old Mark Oakley over Keith Buckle, the Press Secretary of P.A.T.T.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Round 3

- D. Douglas (Wa) bt R. Potton (E) 17, 12, 19.
- N. Eckersley (Ch) bt J. Walker (Cv) 18, 12, -15, -22, 15.
- N. Jarvis (Cv) bt M. Mitchell (Mi) -21, 12, -17, 14, 16.
- D. Johnson (Wa) bt J. Hilton (Ch) -17, 16, 17, 13.
- P. Day (Ca) bt D. Munt (Wa) 9, -9, 11, 17.
- A. Barden (Mi) bt J. Kitchener (Sk) -14, 13, 13, 20.
- A. Fletcher (Y) bt I. Horsham (E) 20, 6, -13, -19, 13.
- D. Neale (Cv) bt C. Rogers (Le) 15, 18, 11.

Quarter-finals

- Douglas bt Eckersley 9, 14, 13.
- Jarvis bt Johnson 15, 20, 15.
- Barden bt Day -15, 14, -17, 14, 15.
- Neale bt Fletcher 12, 8, 15.

Semi-finals

- Douglas bt Jarvis 16, 12, 21.
- Neale bt Barden 10, 17, 21.

Final

- NEALE bt Douglas 19, 6, -18, 14.

Women's Singles—Round 2

- J. Hammersley (Bu) bt S. Hunt (Li) -18, 6, 14, 7.
- S. Hession (E) w.o., J. Williams (Cv) scr.
- S. Lisle (Ch) bt A. Gordon (Bk) 9, 11, -20, 15.
- K. Witt (Bk) bt J. Mitchell (Sy) 12, 18, 11.
- L. Howard (Sy) bt A. Stevenson (Le) 20, 12, 18.
- M. Lüdi (Y) bt B. Chamberlain (Hu) 10, 15, 15.
- S. Jones (St) bt K. Mashford (Mi) 15, 15, 18.

C. Knight (Cv) bt A. Mitchell (Mi) 17, 18, 14.

Quarter-finals

Hammersley bt Hession -16, 17, 14, 14.

Lisle bt Witt 11, -17, 16, 19.

Lüdi bt Howard -7, -9, 18, 18, 21.

Knight bt Jones 7, 10, 7.

Semi-finals

Hammersley bt Lisle 10, 12, 12.

Knight bt Lüdi 17, 6, 10.

Final

KNIGHT bt Hammersley 14, -19, 13, -19, 14.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals

Douglas/Neale bt D. Iszatt (E)/Mitchell 15, 14, 11.

Kitchener/D. Tan (Mi) w.o., Hilton/C. Sewell (Av) scr.

Jarvis/Walker bt Johnson/D. Munt (Wa) 18, 15, 19.

Barden/Day bt D. Newman (E)/D. Reeves (Bk) 10, 14, -16, 14.

Semi-finals

Douglas/Neale bt Kitchener/Tan 17, 13, 11.

Jarvis/Walker bt Barden/Day 24, -18, 17, 18.

Final

DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Jarvis/Walker 15, 11, 15.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt L. Barrow (E)/M. Walker (Mi) 7, 22, 14.

Lisle/Stevenson bt Chamberlain/Gordon 14, 14, 14.

A. Mitchell/Witt w.o., Mashford/C. Reeves (Bk) scr.

Knight/Lüdi w.o., first round opponents both scratched.

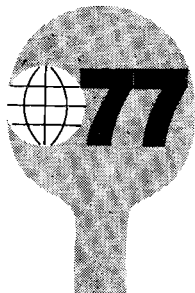
Semi-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt Lisle/Stevenson 13, 9, 15.

Knight/Lüdi bt Mitchell/Witt 20, 14, 9.



A kiss for Carole Knight, winner of the Women's Singles, from the E.T.T.A's Deputy Chairman, George Yates. Photo by Allan Batchelor, Cranleigh, Surrey.



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Ron Crayden (left) receives the Geoffrey Harrower Trophy from twice former world champion, Johnny Leach.

Photo by Allan Batchelor, Cranleigh, Surrey.

Final
HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Knight/Lüdi 19, 12, 13.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals
Douglas/Howard bt Barden/A. Mitchell 6, 15, 16.
Day/Lüdi bt M. Shuttle (Sy)/Knight -17, 18, 15, 16.
Hilton/Stevenson bt R. Hampson (Ch)/Lisle 18, 19, -13, 18.
Neale/Hammersley bt Mitchell/Hession 18, -14, 19, 17.

Semi-finals
Day/Lüdi bt Douglas/Howard 11, -10, 21, -9, 19.
Neale/Hammersley bt Hilton/Stevenson 10, -17, 7, 12.

Final
DAY/LUDI bt Neale/Hammersley 15, 18, -19, 9.

BOOK REVIEW

ADVANCED TABLE TENNIS TECHNIQUES

by Chester Barnes

Published by Angus & Robertson (U.K.) Ltd.

If this book is a guide to character then Chester Barnes, for so long 'l'enfant terrible' of English table tennis, has matured, or at least is chartering a course that runs strangely parallel with the establishment. Drawing on his vast experience of International play, Chester has written a book

that is laced with commonsense, easy to read and is studied with sound logic. He has resisted the temptation to shock his readers or even to contradict modern thinking on the game.

Personally, I would have liked more space and detail given to the chapter on equipment. Throughout the book, Chester emphasises that the changing face of table tennis and its problems are mainly created by new materials and techniques. I wish, therefore, he had enlarged upon soft, hard and tacky rubbers even to the extent of recommending the types of materials most suitable to the varying styles of play. In addition this chapter was crying out for some of the excellent line drawings by Sylvia Gainsford that are featured throughout the book.

I was pleased to see that Chester managed to introduce a degree of controversy by stating that the defensive game in top class men's play is almost dead. If the last World Championships in Calcutta were any guide, then no one has told the Asians about this, for the Japanese included two defensive stars in their team and one reached the semi-final. In addition, the Chinese included a defensive player in the final of the Swaythling Cup and he promptly chopped off supreme 'looper', Dragutin Surbek. This section of the book is thought-provoking and further interest is added by an analysis of the women's game and Chester's views on it.

Chester's skill at playing table tennis and his knowledge of the game is immense, but

I feel I must take him to task on a statement he makes that exceeds descriptive licence. He writes about players returning shots some 60 feet behind the table and carrying on a breathtaking rally. A full international arena is rarely more than 50 feet long with a run-back that is around the 20 feet mark! This is, however, only a small point in an otherwise first-class presentation that is available in hardback at £3.60 and in limp covers at £1.95. Coming on to the market as it is just prior to the World Championships in Birmingham, the sales for this well-produced book should be high.

RON CRAYDEN.

European League SUPER DIVISION

DOWN BUT NOT OUT
by Albert W. Shipley

Before a record crowd of 1,500 spectators in the magnificent setting of Portsmouth's Guildhall, England gave Hungary the fright of their lives when they lost by the narrow margin of 3 sets to 4 on February 9.

Denis Neale opened the proceedings against Gabor Gergely and after raising our hopes by winning the first game, he went down in three to give Hungary first blood. Des Douglas continued his winning ways by disposing of the World Champion, Istvan Jonyer, two-straight, thus levelling the scores. Carole Knight was preferred to Linda Howard for the women's singles but the awkward penholder style of former European Champion Judit Magos, gave Miss Knight no opportunity to use her big fore-hand topspin and so won in convincing style.

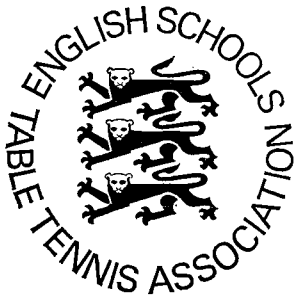
Then followed a first-class victory by Des and Denis over the world champions Jonyer/Gergely, to put England in with a chance at two-all. Hopes were high for a mixed doubles win because our pair had beaten the Hungarian pair only three days earlier at the Welsh Open, but this time the Hungarian tactic of short, chopped services followed by topspin drives, unsettled the usually steady combination of Des and Linda.

All our hopes now rested on Denis beating the out-of-form Jonyer and by being a game and 18-17 up, you could have heard a pin drop as the players prepared to serve. The tension could almost be heard, seen and felt as Denis went to 19-18 and then 20-19. One point for three-all with Des to come! That moment will live for a long time in the minds of everyone present and how sick we all felt when Jonyer achieved 20-all and pressed home at 23-21. The moment to grab glory had gone and Denis was never in with a chance after that and Hungary were safe at 4-2. Although the last set was a light-hearted affair by comparison, you could not find anyone who would have given Gergely a chance of beating Desmond on his present form.

With the match fee covered by I.B.M. Ltd., the Portsmouth League showed a handsome profit for all their superb organisation, but I do believe they would have sacrificed it all for the opportunity to cheer an England victory.

Scores:—

D. Neale lost to G. Gergely 15, -14, -15.
D. Douglas bt I. Jonyer 14, 15.
C. Knight lost to J. Magos -18, -9.
Douglas/Neale bt Gergely/Jonyer 19, 16.
Douglas/Howard lost to Gergely/Magos -17, -13.
Neale lost to Jonyer 19, -21, -17.
Douglas bt Gergely 10, 15.



NATIONAL SCHOOL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS 1977

by David Lomas

There was more than the usual enthusiasm from spectators at the 11th National School Team Championship finals—organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association and sponsored by Stiga AB—held at Lea Green, Matlock, on Saturday, February 12th.

Several of the 21 teams involved were well supported and mention must be made of Aston Manor School, Birmingham who, although they finished third in the Boys' Under-13 event, were supported by no less than 10 members of staff!

Millom School stole the headlines, winning two more events Boys' (U-19 and Girls' U-16) to add to their previous two different titles. This feat must rank them as the premier school club in the country.

Four of the seven events (for 4-a-side teams) were being defended but none of the holders met with any success and there were first national titles for Shropshire (Meole Brace Modern, Shrewsbury), Devon (Littleham Junior, Exmouth) and West Yorkshire (Wibsey Middle, Bradford).

Tolworth Girls', who were so narrowly defeated in last year's final, found more than adequate compensation by winning the Senior Girls' Trophy. London neighbours, Lister Comprehensive, maintained the London Borough of Newham's tremendous record of a winner in every finals since the inaugural competition in 1967, although Brampton Manor's two teams were both defeated.

This was the third consecutive year that the finals had taken place at Lea Green and thanks are extended to the Principal, Peter Townend, and his staff, for their co-operation and hospitality.

Over 50 players stayed overnight to take part in a coaching course under the direction of E.T.T.A. Staff Coach, Peter Hirst.

Boys' Under-19

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
(Chris Reed, Neil Smith, Ian Reed, Diccon Grey).
2. Beverley Boys' New Malden (Surrey Metropolitan)
(Stephen Boxall, Peter Bruntnell, Muhammad Ramji, David Hillson, Peter Manning).
3. Washwood Heath, Birmingham (West Midlands)
(Richard Mountford, Kevin Grundy, Robert Dee, Haydon Chilton, Neil Thomas).
Washwood Heath 2, Beverley 6
Millom 6, Washwood Heath 2
Beverley 1, Millom 7

Girls' Under-19

1. TOLWORTH GIRLS' (Surrey Metropolitan)
(Elaine Starr, Susan Walker, Jane Redford, Jane Grove, Gaynor Kelly).

Continued on Page 12



Malcolm Green, of Meole Brace Modern School, Shrewsbury, receives the President's Trophy (for the boys' best performance) from E.S.T.T.A. Vice-President and Press Officer, David Lomas. Malcolm was unbeaten throughout all stages of the competition.



Stiga Marketing Executive, Martin Foulser, presents Stephanie Jones, of Highfields School, with the 'Stiga Award' for the best girls' performance.



First-ever West Yorkshire winners, Wibsey Middle School, Bradford, who were presented with the Hartshill Cup by Lea Green's Principal, Peter Townend.



Tolworth Girls', who won the Under-19 event and were presented with the Claud Kitchenside Cup by the Chairman of Derbyshire County Council, Councillor G. C. Coleman. The players (l to r): Gaynor Kelly, Jan Redford, Elaine Starr, Susan Walker and Jane Grove).

PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE BY JOHN O'SULLIVAN.

Continued from Page 10

- Highfields, Wolverhampton (West Midlands) (Stephanie Jones, Beverley Pike, Frances Carr, Elizabeth Ford, Janine Alderton).
- Roundhay, Leeds (West Yorkshire) (Cathryn Haworth, Jane Guanaria, Carole Ingram, Susan Timothy). Roundhay 2, Tolworth 6 Highfields 4, Roundhay 4 Tolworth 4, Highfields 4

Boys' Under-16

- MEOLE BRACE MODERN, SHREWSBURY (Salop). (Malcolm Green, Nigel Thomas, Mark Pugh, Graham Edwards).
- Allerton Grange High, Leeds (West Yorkshire) (David Roseman, David Gee, Ivan Lewis, Neil Edgecock, David Aspinall).
- Queen Elizabeth's Boys', Barnet (Middlesex). (Adam Proffitt, Nicholas Ison, Mark McCarthy, Simon Mortimer). Allerton Grange 6, Queen Elizabeth's 2 Queen Elizabeth's 1, Meole Brace 7 Meole Brace 7, Allerton Grange 1

Girls' Under-16

- MILLOM (Cumbria) (Gail Smith, Elaine Mathie, Jan Sephton, Bella Gray).
- Highfields, Wolverhampton (West Midlands) (Suzanne Watton, Shirley Cain, Joanne Chubb, Kathryn Hayhurst, Lucy Taylor).
- Brampton Manor Comprehensive, Newham (Essex Metropolitan) (Maxine Abbott, Janice Collings, Sharon Deal, Jeanette Watts). Highfields 7, Brampton Manor 1 Brampton Manor 2, Millom 6 Millom 5, Highfields 3

Boys' Under-13

- LISTER COMPREHENSIVE, NEWHAM (Essex Metropolitan) (Stephen Edwards, Ian Attridge, Terry Pascal, Sultan Zuberi, Kamlesh Pithia).
- The King's School, Grantham (Lincolnshire) (Christopher Bryan, Simon Pullen, Raymond Measures, Timothy Brendon).

- Aston Manor, Birmingham (West Midlands) (Ivor Wekpe, Keith Collins, John Cleary, Stephen Duddell). King's 1, Lister 7 Aston Manor 1, King's 7 Lister 8, Aston Manor 0

Girls Under-13

- WIBSEY MIDDLE, BRADFORD (West Yorkshire) (Julie Todd, Tracy Robertshaw, Deborah Gilyard, Sandra Fieldhouse).
- Brampton Manor Comprehensive, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)

- (Karen Cox, Leigh Crosby, Tracy Bull, Deborah Scott, Jacqueline Sexton).
- Callington School, Callington (Cornwall) (Alison Dustan, Pat Green, Alison Hancock, Sarah Husband, Sarah Perry). Wibsey 5, Callington 3 Callington 2, Brampton Manor 6 Brampton Manor 3, Wibsey 5

Under-11

- LITTLEHAM JUNIOR, EXMOUTH (Devon) (Gary Lambert, Mark Ellett, Martin Gardner, Francis Treece, Mark Di-Iono).
- St. Felix Middle, Newmarket (Suffolk) (David Anderson, Alexander Adamson, Gary Marvell, Kevin Foreman).
- Danepark Junior High, Hull (Humber-side) (Mark O'Hara, Steven Ponsonby, Kevin Hoodlass, David Williams). Danepark 4, St. Felix 4 Littleham 6, Danepark 2 St. Felix 2, Littleham 6

'BEST PERFORMANCE' AWARDS

Girls

Stephanie Jones, of Highfields U-19 team was the winner of the "Stiga Trophy" presented to her by Marketing Executive, Martin Foulser. Stephanie was unbeaten and being an England-ranked Senior, was the girls' top player.

Boys

Malcolm Green, of Meole Brace, received the President's Trophy from E.S.T.T.A. Vice-President, David Lomas, in the absence of the President, Mr. G. N. Gurney. Malcolm was unbeaten throughout all stages of the competition.

E.T.T.U. Postscript

European League—Super Division
France 5, Sweden 2

Europe Club Cup of Champions

Final Ties—Men:
Sparta Prague 5, Falkenburk BTK 2

Women:

Statisztika Budapest 5, Varbergs BTK 3

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NO MORE JOKES

It is very hard to know where to start replying to Mr. Woodford, so full of holes are his arguments. His column headed "Controversy" seems to have been taken over by the Establishment if Mr. Woodford's enthusiasm with all they do is anything to go by, and his support for the fast-talking Tom Blunn is evidence of his confusion. Far from my point on the balance of trade being wrecked by Tom's "answer", it is actually strengthened. Maybe the gift of cash and goods is not an import, but to say it is "equivalent to an export" makes me wonder whether Tom thinks all the table tennis public are morons. For Mr. Woodford to accept this nonsense does him no credit.

Both Tom Blunn and John Woodford rely heavily on the suggestion that the players to whom I have spoken were not given "the interpretation of both sides" and "the correct version", but as I said in my last letter, there were no details available from the E.T.T.A., or contained in Tom's article, upon which any right-minded person could form a conclusion.

It is remarkable how people such as Mr. Woodford, who are used to lashing out in all directions, regard any opposition to their views as a personal attack on them. I have looked back at my letter, but apart from a little hyperbole, I do not appear to have said anything nasty about anybody. Would Mr. Woodford rule out all criticism of himself or the E.T.T.A.? He even dredged up out of my letter something that was not in it and proceeded to make what he obviously believed to be a very amusing riposte. There was no "taunt" about his "limited travel" but a suggestion, which I defy him to disprove, that I "meet many more players than Mr. Woodford".

The last word on this Stiga v Jaques tables controversy was spoken to me by my Essex colleague, Graham Blomfield. He said: "Ask John Woodford whether he thinks that if the World Championships were to be held in Stockholm they would use Jaques tables"!

If I may be permitted a few more lines to answer Ron Vine, I would comment that he must have a very poor sense of humour if he saw my little joke about Eastbourne as "unprovoked offensive remarks". On the basis of what he said in the December issue when he was himself arguing with John Woodford, he has little interest in the World Championships. As it happens, Ron, I have nothing against Eastbourne the Town, or Sussex the County. I went to school in Hove and have been a fanatical supporter of Sussex County Cricket Club and Brighton and Hove Albion since I was 10 years old. However, I am sorry if I upset you and in the future will not make jokes about Sussex.

ALAN SHEPHERD.

10 Woodedge Close,
Chingford,
London, E.4.

A NEW WELSH JUNIOR OPEN

As part of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the Welsh Association will run its first Welsh Open Junior Tournament, at the National Sports Centre, Cardiff, venue of the highly successful Stiga Welsh Open.

The date is Saturday, June 11th, when all five events—boys' and girls' singles and doubles and mixed—will be played throughout the day.

Special Silver Jubilee Medals will be awarded, in addition to valuable prizes. The event is sponsored by Willis Faber & Co.,

Entry Forms will be available shortly, but enquiries may be sent immediately to Mrs. Roy Evans, 198 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff.

No Losers

by Geoff Newman

In a match between Essex and the International Club, in aid of mentally handicapped children, played at Athan Boys' Club, Walthamstow, on February 25, six of the younger top players in the country fiercely contested every set. Throughout the match there just wasn't a dull moment.

Every player tried his utmost, and as it turned out, all of them had a measure of success. For the record it was a close success for the Essex team (5-4) but on this night there were no losers. All six players deserve every plaudit for some really fantastic table tennis. Individual scores (Essex names first) were:—

Bob Potton bt John Kitchener -21, 14, 16; bt Mark Mitchell 15, 19; lost to Martin Shuttle 14, -13, -20;
Dave Newman bt Kitchener -17, 10, 18; lost to Mitchell -21, -14; bt Shuttle 22, 19.
Kevin Caldon lost to Kitchener -19, -18; bt Shuttle 15, -18, 19; lost to Mitchell -19, -20.

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On selected evenings social activities will be organised including a barbecue and a final night's party. A bar will be open in the Castle at the usual hours.

DATES

Players can book for either one, two or three weeks. 25th to 30th July. 1st to 6th August or 8th to 13th August. Players are asked to arrive at the Castle for lunch 12.30 p.m. on Monday and departure will be after breakfast on Saturday. Further details including how to apply for grant aid are available from Alan Ransome, Course Director, Tees Sport Summer School, 8 Baker Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, 24 hour answering service on Middlesbrough 249000.



PROGRAMME The programme will include approximately 5 hours table tennis each day plus fitness training geared to the individual. Personal instruction will be given by the coaches with video films also being available. There will be a tournament with good quality prizes towards the end of the course.

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Brian Burn

England's National Trainer Coach 1974/76. English International player and 3 Star Coach. Qualified physical education instructor and coach to the University of Dharan, Saudi Arabia.

Nicky Jarvis

Director of Tees Sport. English International World and European ranked player until this year when a serious back injury forced him to withdraw from several major events. Generally accepted as the most knowledgeable technical player amongst the younger breed of English stars.



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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

The Senior County Team suffered a further defeat at the hands of Northumberland, losing 4-6 at Newcastle. Lincs. successes came from the women, yet again, and Brian Allison winning his first County set, beating F. Short 17, -19, 17. Three other sets were decided in the third game, but all went to the home team.

The Junior 2nd team have completed their County fixtures in this their first season. Whilst only winning one match, the experience gained by the youngsters is invaluable. Their last match, against Hunts, saw debuts for Michael Bradford (Stamford) and Debra Brown (Louth). The main highlight, which resulted in a win to Hunts 8-2, was the great performance by 12-year-old Carole Exton (Grantham) who played extremely well to beat English-ranked No. 16 Junior Girl, Belinda Chamberlain 19, -10, 19.

The female side of Lincs has the edge over the men, with Suzanne Hunt (Grantham) ranked in the Junior Girl List and the Women's List, and both Cheryl Buttery (Lincoln) and Gillian Galloway (Lincoln) in Group A of the Junior Girls. Congratulations to all girls.

The battle for the Haigh (Men) Cup still continues with Grimsby and Wyberton both on maximum points, and unless either slip up in the next round, the climax should come when they meet in the last match of the season. Grimsby (P. Taylor, S. Morley, A. Dibdin, M. Newbould) have had recent wins over Mablethorpe (R. Ryan, P. Stern, A. G. Birks), Grantham (R. Brown, F. Leadbetter, K. Eldred), both 10-0, and an 8-2 win over Gainsborough (B. Edlington, A. L. Patrick, N. B. Slater). Wyberton beat Boston (J. Brewster, C. Brown, D. Armstrong) 10-0 and Lincoln (R. Oglesby, A. Henderson, J. Wilkinson) 9-1, Lincoln's only rubber coming from Rod Oglesby, who had a 13, -16, 19 win over Mick East.

Louth failed to fulfil the match at Stamford, so giving Stamford their first points of the season. Lincoln (Oglesby, D. Johnson, P. Banks) beat Grantham (Brown, J. Clayton, Eldred) 8-2 with a maximum for Oglesby, who was well supported by the Junior County player, David Johnson, who won two, and Pete Banks two. The Doubles also went to Oglesby and Johnson.

In the Butlin (Women) Cup, Spalding (Jean White, Mary Burgess, Monica Green) are still unbeaten, their latest result being an 8-2 win over Boston (Joan Robinson, Jean Cammack, Di Wilson). Lincoln have now completed their matches, and look like finishing runners-up, following their successes against Grantham (Carole Exton, Christine Hunt, Trica Mason) and Boston. Cheryl Buttery won her three in both these matches, to give her a total of 11 wins out of a possible 12.

After dropping an unexpected point to Spalding, Grimsby's (R. Blow, S. Barr, K. Worth) Butcher Cup team have now increased their chances of taking the title by beating Grantham (K. Philipson, S. Gibson, B. Harrop) 6-4. Grantham were without the services of their No. 1 player, S. Hunt, and a maximum for Roger Blow made sure of 2 points for Grimsby. Skegness (R. Sayer, P. Parr, F. Burbidge) gained their first point with a 5-5 draw against Gainsborough (K. Markham, R. Elsham, R. Taylor). Frank Burbidge won three and the

doubles with R. Sayer, who also won one. Their taste of success soon disappeared when, without Burbidge, Skegness (A. Cawthorpe, Sayer, C. Gardner) played Louth (M. Norman, M. & P. Emmerson) and lost 0-10, even though they played well and didn't really deserve to lose all ten. Wyberton (A. Dixon, M. Fordham, D. Traves) won their first rubber of the season, taking the doubles only against Boston (K. Popple, G. Lacey, S. Hill).

LEAGUE TABLES

Haigh

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grimsby	7	7	0	0	66	4	14
Wyberton	7	7	0	0	64	6	14
Louth	7	3	2	2	37	33	8
Gainsborough ..	7	2	3	2	35	35	7
Lincoln	7	2	2	3	31	39	6
Grantham	7	2	1	4	27	43	5
Boston	6	2	0	4	23	37	4
Scunthorpe	5	2	0	3	16	34	4
Stamford	6	1	0	5	16	44	2
Mablethorpe ...	6	1	0	5	15	45	2

Butlin

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spalding	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Lincoln	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Boston	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Louth	3	0	3	0	15	15	3
Grimsby	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Grantham	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

Butcher

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grantham	8	7	0	1	62	18	14
Grimsby	7	6	1	0	53	17	13
Louth	7	4	1	2	45	25	9
Lincoln	9	4	0	5	43	47	8
Gainsborough ..	6	3	2	1	34	26	8
Spalding	6	3	1	2	40	20	7
Boston	9	3	0	6	39	51	6
Scunthorpe	5	3	0	2	32	18	6
Mablethorpe ...	6	3	0	3	31	29	6
Skegness	7	0	1	6	10	60	1
Wyberton	8	0	0	8	1	79	0

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

THREE CHEERS FOR LITTLEHAM SCHOOL

Pride of place this month must go to the boys of Littleham School, Exmouth, who won the Under-11 Schools' Team Championship of England. The team of Gary Lambert, Martin Carder, Mark Ellett and Francis Treece defeated last year's champions, St. Felix Middle, 6-2 and Dane Park Junior High also 6-2. The school team became Devon Champions in December and champions of the Midlands and South West in January. This is the first time ever that a schools' National Championship has come to Devon and the boys deserve our heartiest congratulations. Both Mark and Gary were unbeaten in the whole competition, whilst Martin was beaten only twice. Although not winning a match, Francis played well. The boys' weekend excitement did not end by winning the championship because on the Monday evening following, they all appeared on Westward Television and their appearance and manner were a great credit to our sport, their school and their families. Well done boys.

In the Devon Junior Closed Championships, held in Exeter on February 6, the Plymouth League again dominated the finals, winning nine of the 11 events. The only two to elude them were the Boys' U-11 and U-13 titles, which went to Gary Lambert, of Exmouth.

Results:—
B.S. U-11: G. Lambert bt M. Ellett 17, 17.
G.S. U-11: C. Trainer bt M. Marshall -19, 13, 13.
B.S. U-13: Lambert bt L. Cooper 17, 21.
G.S. U-13: C. Butler bt G. Pritchard 9, 9.
B.S. U-15: J. Hodges bt P. Whiting -17, 12, 12.
G.S. U-15: Butler bt N. Pine 13, 13.
B.S. U-17: Whiting bt M. Shearman 19, -15, 15.

G.S. U-17: E. Lamb bt Butler 4, 18.
Boys' Doubles: Hodges/S. Gwynn bt Shearman/Whiting 16, 19.
Girls' Doubles: Pine/Butler bt J. & G. Pritchard 11, 18.
Mixed Doubles: Whiting/Lamb bt Hodges/Butler 8, 19.

The Referee for the championship was C/T Stan Ford, R.A.F., N.R., who joined the Association this season, whilst awards were presented by Mrs. Frances Jarvis, President of the Association.

Earlier this season the Exeter League Executive Committee accepted a suggestion made by Valerie Addicott to hold a tournament in memory of the late Bill Spry. The event was titled "The Bill Spry Memorial Tournament" and its purpose was two-fold; to perpetuate the memory of Bill and to raise funds for the Devon County Association, with whom he had long-standing associations. The high esteem in which he was held was evident by the large entry received and the event was held over two weekends. In order that all levels of player could take part, the tournament was handicapped and after the usual surprises, the league's two leading players, Mike Rattue and Paul Stone, fought out the final, with Rattue winning a thrilling three games. Bill's daughter, Julie, presented the awards and we all feel the tournament was a great success and a worthy tribute to Bill.

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

CHANCES GONE

On the County Championships front we have had some excellent matches of late but, unfortunately, we have ended on the losing side, thus putting paid to our chances in some of the divisions.

At Sussex our Senior second team lost their chance of the title when they were beaten 6-4. From all accounts Sussex came good on the night and scored some outstanding wins. Shelagh Hession was as steadfast as ever but all to no avail. The Senior third team entertained Sussex II in another fine tussle, but this time were successful 7-3. Steve Whiteley, Brian Malley, Jeff Drew all won one and the men's doubles, while Linda Budd and Jane Livesey were unbeaten in the women's events. It looks odds on our third team winning the title again this season.

On the Junior scene our Premier team dropped a point at Cleveland thus putting paid to their chances of honours, Kenny Jackson again played well and is showing rapid improvement, which augurs well for the future. The Junior seconds had a good win over Norfolk, whose Doug Bennett surprised Stuart Kimm and Stephen Low. At home to Sussex II, the third Junior team won 7-3 with Terry Dowsett showing up well in his first County outing of the season.

Our Veterans' first team entertained Middlesex in a top-of-the-table clash and in yet another fiercely-contested struggle, lost 4-5.

The Essex Leagues' programme in all 19 divisions is going well, leading positions being:—

Senior Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dagenham	3	3	0	0	26	4	11
Southend	3	0	3	0	15	15	6
Chelmsford	3	2	0	1	15	15	6
Romford	3	1	1	1	14	16	6

Junior Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romford	3	3	0	0	22	5	11
Barking	3	3	0	0	19	8	9
Chelmsford	3	2	0	1	19	8	8

As is usual at this time of the year the vast majority of our leagues are either staging their closed championships or are in the process of organising them. I had the pleasure of attending the Basildon League's

finals night and a large and appreciative audience enjoyed some thrilling games. The array of trophies was certainly a showpiece and a credit to the organising committee. Final results were:—

M.S.: S. Gibbs bt D. Newman 18, -22, 16.
W.S.: L. Barrow bt L. Budd 18, 16.
M.D.: A. Condon/Newman bt Gibbs/F. Lockwood -16, 21, 15.
W.D.: Barrow/L. Gore bt Budd/M. Nash 18, 19.
X.D.: J. Willson/Barrow bt J. Poysdon/Nash -13, 14, 19.
V.S.: B. Raybould bt Lockwood -17, 16, 9.
B.S.: Newman bt G. Webb 4, 13.
G.S.: Y. Brown bt C. English 12, 14.

Over at Baintree their championships take place on April 16-17 with finals night on April 22. Barking's event takes place at Barking Sports Centre, Wood Lane, Dagenham, on March 19. Both Billericay and Chelmsford have staged their rounds with fantastically high entries and their finals nights have yet to be played.

At Chelmsford play commenced on the Friday evening (7 to 10-30), Saturday (9 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and Sunday (9 a.m. to 8-30 p.m.) on seven tables with over 700 games being played, quite some closed tournament! Becontree stage their event from March 25-26 at Questors T.T.C., Northbury School, Barking.

Romford's Junior Closed has been played and with favourites Kenny Jackson and Stuart Kimm non-runners, due to a training weekend, Romford's overall strength in the junior field was on show. Results:—

B.S.: T. Penny bt G. Lewsey 18, 18.
G.S.: J. O'Keefe bt K. Jenkins -18, 18, 16.
B.D.: Penny/R. Veale bt Lewsey/G. Reeves Jnr. 11, 20.
G.D.: Jenkins/O'Keefe bt R. Elanor/E. Gilbert 9, 12.
X.D.: Veale/O'Keefe bt Lewsey/Jenkins 19, 18.
U-13's: G. Clement bt R. Stevens 10, 19.
U-15's: Clement bt Stevens 9, -18, 11.

Ilford's championships will be at Wanstead Sports Centre on May 1 when a special Silver Jubilee Trophy will be presented by Ilford's "Table Tennis Person of the Year". Burnham's tournament will be on April 23 with the finals on the following Tuesday. Southend's final results were:—

M.S.: M. Watts bt P. Ballard 18, 14.
W.S.: L. Budd bt L. Barrow -19, 18, 14.
B.S.: M. Stones bt G. Webb 19, 16.
W.D.: Barrow/J. Livesey.
M.D.: A. Bawden/Watts.
X.D.: Watts/Budd.
G.S.: Y. Brown.
V.S.: B. Raybould.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

UNUSUAL SITUATION

As briefly reported in the February issue, Northamptonshire is currently enjoying the unusual situation of leading in two of the County Championships Divisions, thanks to some sterling performances from the women, soundly supported by Gary Alden and Keith Nicoll.

The First Team holds a slender lead in Div. 2 (East) and only needs to beat Beds. in the final match if the National play-offs are to be contested. Similarly, the Juniors need a sound win over Staffs if they too, are to finish on top. In the First's last match against a casual Herts., a strong team performance, led by Anne and Mandy Wallis, gave Northants a 7-3 win, while Mandy Wallis and Alden, joined by Valerie Feakin and Keith Nicoll—who has now won his last eight sets, carried enough strength in depth to beat the hitherto unbeaten Warwickshire. It was nice to see Mark Dexter—if not a carbon copy of his father, Les—displaying much of the grit and determination that has stood Les in good stead

during his 30 years of endeavour in the Coventry League.

While we wait with interest the next and crucial series of matches, the tournament season is in full swing. Results from Northampton are not to hand, but I understand that John Goodall displayed all his old expertise to take the Men's Singles, beating Steve Lyon in the final.

As befits an up-and-coming organisation, Daventry's Publicity Officer was not so lax, and the full results of their Championships, held on February 5, are:—

M.S.: C. Boyd bt G. Tsow 20, 18.
W.S.: Sue Edwards bt Jean Parkin 11, 9.
M.D.: A. Print/C. Bull bt Boyd/D. Smith 18, 17.
W.D.: Edwards/G. Burrows bt Parkin/E. Heathcock 9, 19.
X.D.: P. Edwards/S. Edwards bt T. Jones/Parkin 9, 14.
J.S.: N. Chaplin bt P. Smith 19, 13.
V.S.: C. Bull bt R. Castle -18, 12, 14.

In keeping with a modern tendency for finals not to require a decider, Daventry was true to type, with only veterans Cliff Bull and Roger Castle really disputing the issue. Newcomers to the town, Colin Boyd and Jean Parkin, were well to the fore, with Jean unfortunate to meet a top form Sue Edwards in three finals. It was also pleasing to see County Chairman Peter Edwards back in action after a long illness, even though rumour has it that his wife, Sue, was hard-pressed to carry him to victory in the Mixed.

It is perhaps fortunate for the County that the names cropping up most frequently when the honours are being handed out, are those of the younger brigade. I refer, of course to Alden, Keith Nicoll, Anne and Mandy Wallis. The 1977 County Closed proved no exception to the rule, and if this talented quartet, backed by the dependable Valerie Feakin and Ken Nicoll, is able to maintain interest and enthusiasm, not always sustained by some more wayward predecessors, County play could reach unheard of heights in the not too distant future.

Wellingborough staged this year's County Closed, and the meagre entry was an inadequate reward for organiser David Byrom, who, as usual, made a difficult job easy, with just the right amount of humour, tact and firmness necessary to keep the competitors on their toes, and to keep things moving with a swing. Regrettably not all the entrants were able to match these qualities, and one looks forward to an improvement next year at Kettering.

Alden monopolised the Men's Singles, treating his final with Rod Marchant in the same casual way he had started the day against Gary Smith in the first round of the Junior event. Earlier Marchant, too, had seemed a class above his rivals, but in the final he, too, fell to a succession of brilliant shots, as Alden retained his title. Ever! Keith Nicoll had no answer in the final of the Boys' Singles, which Alden took for the third year in succession, a feat previously accomplished by both Marchant and John Goodall, while in the Boys' Doubles Alden got his name on the trophy for the fifth time, on this occasion aided by Rothborough's Howard Roberts.

Anne and Mandy Wallis joined together to take the Women's Doubles, before facing each other yet again in the final of the Singles. As is becoming customary in these clashes, Anne dominated the early exchanges before Mandy got on level terms. This she achieved by taking the second game, and then playing her best table tennis to race into a comfortable lead in the decider, before Anne again took charge to run out a close but decisive winner.

Northampton's success came in the Mixed in which the reliable Steve Lyon and Connie Bane held on to the title they took for the second time last season, beating John Palmer and Anne Wallis in the final,

and in the Veterans' Singles, in which Colin Hogg registered a third consecutive win, still a long way short of Dick Ingle's 10 triumphs. Dick was again in contention, but after beating Connie Bane in a game requiring expedite, he fell to the much-improved Dave Pipe, who went on to gain a narrow semi-final win over Cliff Bull, before falling at the final obstacle.

Young Keith Nicoll also had a good tournament, reaching the finals of both junior events and then winning the U-14 Boys' Singles, in which he defeated twin brother Ken, while Valerie Feakin again took the verdict in the Girls' Singles when she accounted for the higher-ranked Mandy Wallis.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
Gary Alden bt Romano Gallo 9, 17.
Rod Marchant bt Steve Lyon 8, -18, 13.
Final
ALDEN bt Marchant 11, 9.
Women's Singles—Semi-finals
Mandy Wallis bt Connie Bane 21, 19.
Anne Wallis bt Joyce Porter 10, 14.
Final
ANNE WALLIS bt Mandy Wallis 16, -18, 14.
Men's Doubles—Final
LYON/PHIL SNELLING bt Alden/Marchant 16, 17.
Women's Doubles—Final
A. & M. WALLIS bt Margaret Maltby/J. Porter 10, 9.
Mixed Doubles—Final
LYON/C. BANE bt John Palmer/Anne Wallis 13, 17.
Veteran Singles—Final
COLIN HOGG bt Dave Pipe 17, 15.
U-17 Boys' Singles—Final
ALDEN bt Keith Nicoll 8, 16.
U-17 Girls' Singles—Final
VALERIE FEAKIN bt Mandy Wallis 15, -9, 13.
U-14 Boys' Singles—Final
KEITH NICOLL bt Ken Nicoll 9, 7.
U-14 Girls' Singles—Final
JOANNE CUTLER bt Jane Nicoll 15, 9.
Boys' Doubles—Final
ALDEN/HOWARD ROBERTS bt Keith/Ken Nicoll 17, 15.
Girls' Doubles—Final
V. FEAKIN/M. WALLIS bt Helen Cottler/J. Cutler 12, 8.

The positions at the top of the major leagues have changed somewhat of late, with the holders of the top divisions now not certain to retain their titles. The Wellingborough League Committee's attempt to discipline a lax Compton Nomads side by suspending each of the Nomads players in turn has produced an unfortunate turn of events. The subsequent registration of Tony Clark has so strengthened the Nomads side that they, not Rothborough, could now take the title. However, Rothborough, beaten for the first time for many seasons, by Compton, have countered the setback by elevating Keith Nicoll to the 'A' side and this move could just tilt the scales at the end of the season.

U.T.C. 'A' is another club showing signs of stress at the top, with Colin Hogg losing more games than of old. However, with John Goodall in good form, and John Palmer returning to something approaching his best, U.T.C. could take yet another title.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

SENIORS IN LINE FOR PROMOTION

With a most workmanlike 9-1 victory over Cambs II, at Ipswich, the Seniors have greatly enhanced their chances of gaining promotion from Div. 3 (East).

In a fine all-round team performance, Debbie Wootton, our only loser, was a shade unfortunate to find her opponent, Ruth Newman, really playing at the peak of her form. John Kitchener, Robert Hellaby, Mick Palmer and Janet Falers, all superbly in

form, went confidently through this match unbeaten.

If this standard can be maintained in our final match, away to Norfolk II, promotion will be assured.

Results (Suffolk names first):—

M. Palmer bt Brian Jones 13, 17; bt David Tiplady 10, 11.
J. Kitchener bt Tiplady 15, 17; bt Brian Richardson 11, 14.
R. Hellaby bt Richardson -13, 12, 8; bt Jones 19, 15.
J. Faiers bt Joanne Palmer 10, 12.
D. Wootton lost to R. Newman -16, -20.
Kitchener/Hellaby bt Richardson/Jones 12, -18, 19.
Faiers/Wootton bt Palmer/Newman -16, 12, 12.

JUNIORS STRUGGLE

The Junior team, all very young but most promising, are having a much tougher season and suffered another defeat against Cambs. at March.

Stuart Palmer won both his sets without difficulty and Julian Hall, after a fine win over Robert Swift, was unlucky to lose against Andrew Hubble by -24 in the third. Our girls are still finding their standard a shade below that of other counties but must be sure and use these games to gain valuable experience.

Michael Shorten, a great fighter, has all the shots but lacks a little in confidence when playing his County matches. Results (Suffolk names first):—

S. Palmer bt O. Hubble 18, 17; bt Andy Withers 12, 12.
J. Hall bt R. Swift 19, 12; lost to Hubble -11, 15, -24.
M. Shorten lost to Withers -9, 16, -5; lost to Swift -9, -12.
Julie Duncombe lost to Joanne Palmer -11, -16.
Janet Matthews lost to Rachel Norris -17, -15.
Palmer/Hall lost to Withers/Hubble 20, -12, -18.
Matthews/Duncombe lost to Norris/Palmer -9, -6.
Result: Cambs. 3, Suffolk 3.

Judith Langridge, a member of the Suffolk Senior squad last season, still finds opportunities for table tennis in her chosen career with the W.R.N.S. Last month she was a member of the successful W.R.N.S. team which carried off the Inter-Services Women's 1977 Table Tennis Championships. This is the fourth successive year that the W.R.N.S. have held the "Crichton" Cup.

SURREY NOTES

By Ted Simpkin

NEARLY A "WHITEWASH"

A magnificent display by the Senior County team at Guildford, on January 15, surprised everyone, including Cheshire, when only John Hilton prevented a "whitewash". In fact, even John had to beat off a determined and aggressive Max Crimmins, although he thoroughly exposed some shortcomings in the game of England's top junior, Martin Shuttle. The Cheshire side fought hard but it was Surrey's night. For the fair-sized crowd which attended, perhaps the most impressive performance was by Linda Howard, who, after initial hesitation, really went to town against her rival, Susan Lisle.

Crimmins had it all his own way against David Constance, who, in turn, gave David Wellsman a hard run to 19 in the third, but Wellsman made it in two against John McNee. If Surrey can put it together again like this they should earn themselves another year in the Premier Division.

Guildford's almost complete lack of interest in the County team competitions was further illustrated by the walk-over given by their only entry, Abinger and Peaslake, in the first round of the new minla-

ture Knockout Competition. In the second round of the event combat will be between:

Chessington C.C. v Byfleet
Bluegates v Southwark
Lingfield v Graham Spicer
Airscrew or
Chessington Y.C. v St. Phillip's or
Rosehill

The Leatherhead and Epsom tournament produced some stirring finals, despite the non-appearance of Shuttle and Crimmins, and final results were:—

M.S.: David Hannah bt Brian Windett.
W.S.: Gail McCullough bt Susan Walker.
B.S.: Hannah bt Terry Taley.
G.S.: Walker bt Jenny Webster.
M.D.: Mike Fisher/Chris Thorns bt Mick Pearson/Dave Crowley.
W.D.: Walker/McCullough bt Webster/Nicola Heywood.
X.D.: Hannah/McCullough bt Terry Haley/Webster.
V.S.: Ron Stracey bt John Austen.

Guildford, despite the brickbats earlier mentioned, have had a fairly good month, with the highlight being the success of the girls in the Bromfield Trophy. Past holders, they show signs of an early recapture, perhaps next year. This time they have reached the semi-final by virtue of a 6-3 success against the very entertaining Swindon team of Claire Maisey, Wendy Parker and Pauline Townsend. The Guildford trio of Suzanne Roebuck, Sarah Cresswell and Kerry Merritt, took a 4-0 lead, Swindon pulled two back and then Suzanne beat Pauline 16 in the third, to gain the victory. For the winners Suzanne took all three, Sarah (2) and Kerry (1), and the scorers for Swindon were Pauline Townsend (1) and Wendy Parker (2).

In the recent Under-14 boys' trials, Guildford did well, with Glen Baker winning all his 10 games, and it looks like they will have five boys in the top six. Glen, who began table tennis last season, looks quite a prospect.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Christopher Hillan

ELUSIVE WIN

Saturday, January 29, was the best day for our County teams for three seasons, with our Junior first team "whitewashing" Cambridgeshire II 10-0 and, even more significantly, our Senior firsts gaining that elusive first win of the season in beating Cambs 8-2.

Both matches were staged by the Aylesbury League at Mandeville School, and the more superstitious members of our fold may well note this venue down for future use. But seriously, the main reason for our overnight transformation from strugglers to winners lies in the improved form shown by our distaff side, who kept a clean sheet in both Junior and Senior matches.

In the Junior match our confidence in the boys' ability to maintain their 100% record this season was easily justified. The girls, by contrast, entered the match with an unenviable 0% record, and it was especially pleasing to see both Christine Bahry and Dawn Risby winning their singles and doubles. 13-years-old Dawn registered her first successes for the County, and with promotion now looking fairly certain, the Juniors will be approaching their match with Bedfordshire with confidence.

The Seniors hardly got off to the best of starts, with Tony Clark losing to Mick Harper, at "deuce" in the third, and Les Wooding playing very indifferently to go down in straight games to Keith Richardson. This left us 0-2 down, but one commodity we do not lack is fight, and Alec Watson responded by producing something like his true form to account for Geoff Davies. Jean Williams and Brenda Stevens took the women's doubles equally impres-

sively and the Wat-Wood combination maintained our 100% men's doubles record to put us ahead. From then on there was no looking back as we took the remaining 5 sets, with Jean Williams battling well to overcome Sally Hirst in the third game, and Watson recovering from a bad start against Richardson to win in three.

The other big event was our Closed Championships, again held at Montem Sports Centre, Slough, over the weekend of February 12-13.

Results were:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
C. Leslie (A) bt L. Wooding (MK) 16, -13, 21.
D. Berry (c) bt P. Leckie (S) 13, 14.
Final
BERRY bt Leslie -17, 13, 13.
Women's Singles—Semi-finals
B. Stevens (S) bt D. Risby (MK) 9, 6.
S. Lines (MK) bt J. Thomas (S) 15, 19.
Final
STEVENS bt Lines -18, 16, 17.
Men's Doubles—Final
R. HARMAN (MK)/WOODING bt S. Harmer/Leslie 19, 17.
Women's Doubles—Final
LINES/L. O'DONOGHUE bt Stevens/Thomas 19, 16.
Mixed Doubles—Final
WOODING/O'DONOGHUE bt A. Watson (HW)/Stevens 20, 19.
Boys' Singles—Semi-finals
Leslie bt S. Brown (S) 13, 9.
I. Haines bt Harmer -18, 17, 20.
Final
LESLIE bt Haines 15, 19.
Girls' Singles—Semi-finals
S. Harvey (HW) bt N. Hamilton (MK) 19, -11, 19.
Final
RISBY bt Harvey 16, 12.
Junior Doubles—Final
HARMER/LESLIE bt Brown/I. Haines 14, 16.
Veteran Singles—Final
LECKIE bt L. Pratt (A) 16, 12.

Most notable feature was Don Berry making his first appearance on the County scene this season and taking the Men's Singles. Due to his self-enforced absence Don was not seeded but he quickly showed that he was going to cause a few upsets by disposing of third-seeded Alec Watson in Round 3, and another senior County player, Robert Harman, in the quarters. Two other third round upsets came when No. 2 seed, Tony Clark, fell to unranked Dave Martin and John Leith went down to Pete Leckie. All this happening in the same half resulted in a semi-final between two unseeded players, Berry and Leckie, which Berry won in double-quick time.

Events took a more conventional turn in the other half, with top and fourth seeds, Les Wooding and Chris Leslie, winning through. Their semi was undoubtedly the best set of the championships, with the top seed determined to regain the title and young Leslie, the defending champion, equally determined not to let it go. Fortunes fluctuated in the first two games, Leslie's attack seeing him home in the first, and Wooding taking the second with extra tightness and greater variation. The decider was just as close as the 23-21 outcome suggests; neck-and-neck stuff all the way with Leslie finally keeping his attack steady under extreme pressure to inch home.

Berry had a nightmare start to the final, making far too many errors, for Leslie to take the first game comfortably. It may have seemed too easy for Chris, for when Berry raised his game in the second and third he failed to do likewise and Don eventually ran out a decisive winner.

The jinx which seems to hang over Stephanie Lines in the Women's Singles remained, and she lost in the final for the third successive season, this time to Brenda Stevens, who justified her promotion to County No. 1. But Brenda had to fight hard for her win after losing the first through fatal backhand errors. Her clever combina-

tion of chop and topspin narrowly pulled her through but Stephanie showed a far more mature temperament this time, and if she maintains this improvement could well land that elusive title next season.

Milton Keynes pairs captured the three Senior Doubles events, with Wooding and Lesley O'Donoghue each picking up two winners' medals. The questionable decision of not seeding our top Junior pairing, Sam Harmer and Chris Leslie, in the Men's Doubles resulted in their knocking out the third seeds in the first round, and the second seeds, Frank Earis and Watson, in the semis to reach the final on merit. But Harman and Wooding were too much for them in the final.

Leslie took the Boys' Singles without trouble, posing too many problems for the promising Ian Haines in the final. The battle royal in this event was the semi between Haines and Harmer, the Milton Keynes boy eventually winning 22-20 in the third. Dawn Risby landed her first Girls' Singles title in impressive fashion. Her first victim was Susan Harvey, who had earlier put out the top seed, Christine Bahryj, in the quarters. The Junior Doubles went, as expected, to Harmer and Leslie, while Pete Leckie had little trouble in sewing up the Veterans' Singles, the runner-up being Len Pratt, who had gained a good win over David Noakes in his semi.

Playing in his first Bucks Closed, John Hiron won the Restricted Singles in an all-Milton Keynes final against Stephen Haines, who had a very good tournament and fully justified his recent promotion in the junior rankings.

Just a couple of thoughts, not criticisms, as a post-script to these championships. I was slightly disappointed in the size of the entry for the junior events, especially the boys. Having only U-17 events clearly discouraged some of our younger players from entering, and I think that the introduction of Cadet Singles would be welcomed next season. As time does not seem to be too much of a problem with this tournament, I see no reason why the Men's Singles should not be grouped to give more value for money to the early casualties. Entries for the Doubles and Distaff events were pleasing to see and my compliments go out to the organisers for a smoothly-run tournament.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

SURPRISE DEFEAT

Plymouth, at home to Poole, were surprisingly beaten 5-4. In the opening set the visitors' Mark Abbott narrowly defeated Mitchell, but the home team levelled when Keith James accounted for John Robinson.

Poole again went into the lead when H. Davies got the better of T. Fairbanks but the match score was again equated when James beat Abbott. The next two sets went to Poole with Davies beating Mitchell and Robinson accounting for Fairbanks. James next won his third set of the evening, beating Davies 18 in the third. Abbott clinched matters for Poole in beating Fairbanks, the final set going to Plymouth, whose Mitchell beat Robinson. Seven of the nine sets went into a third game decider.

Newport showed much improved form when, at home, they beat Bristol 8-1. Both Nocivelli and Watkins were missing from the Newport team, their places being taken by Graham Sell and John Williams, making their League debuts. Bristol's team was a young one under the captaincy of Tony Brown, and the 8-1 scoreline hardly did them justice.

John Bloomer and Sell each obtained maximums for Newport with Williams losing to Brown. Bristol have in Mike James and Paul Lewis, young players of great promise, while Newport have a "find" in Sell.

Poole registered another good away win when they beat Swindon 7-2. Abbott and Robinson set them on the right road in the opening sets with victories over Frank Bailey and Ken Harrison respectively. Karl Bushell pulled one back for Swindon when he beat Howard Davies, but Poole took the next two with Abbott beating Harrison and Davies beating Bailey.

Bushell again applied the brake with a win over Robinson but the remaining three sets all went to the visitors. Weston, at home to Bristol, just managed it 5-4 from being 3-4 down. Jim Andrews and Joe Garland taking the last two sets.

This was a hard-fought match lasting close on four hours. Bristol's Brown was the only player not to be beaten, their only other player to taste success being P. Harris. Andrews and Garland both had two wins for Weston with G. Green getting the other.

A final reminder re the Gwent Open, to be held on April 26, at Cwmbran Sports Stadium. Entries close on April 2 and forms can be had from me at 29 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon. (Phone: Newport 71964).

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

NATIONAL RANKING FOR EDDIE

After several years in which Staffordshire junior headlines have been restricted almost exclusively to the girls, it is pleasing to report that a Staffs. boy has reached national ranking. Eddie Wilkes, of the Potteries, has been listed in Group A of the English Junior Rankings and he joins Stephanie Jones and Shirley Cain to make a trio of Staffordshire juniors in the national lists. Congratulations to Eddie, who has achieved this recognition after good performances in recent open tournaments as well as sound play in the County junior 'A' side.

Despite losing to Warwickshire 3-7, the juniors still have hopes of reaching the play-offs providing they win against Northants in their last match. Prior to the Warwickshire match, the juniors travelled to Norfolk where they won 7-3. The junior 'B' side drew 5-5 with Shropshire, whose top lad, Malcolm Green, also appeared in the senior side against Staffs. 'B', where he gave an impressive performance although on the losing side by 3-7.

The senior 'A' team match against Cheshire was virtually lost after the first three men's singles, in which the Staffs. trio were all out of touch. Admittedly they were playing against top opposition—the England No. 12, David Constance, was No. 3 for Cheshire—but later in the evening Tony Isaac, with a good win over Roger Hampson, helped to level the score at 4-all, and Brian Keates went close to sharing the points before losing to Derek Schofield. A 100% performance from the girls, Stephanie Jones and Janet Carr, was the most cheering feature of this 4-6 defeat, which now leaves Staffs. with no chance of top position.

In the Beattie Trophy—a knockout competition for last season's league champions within the County—the clash between Wolverhampton and the Potteries resulted in Norton, from the North of the County, beating Woodfield 5-4. The Norton side of Isaac, P. Anderson and J. Deakin, should now go on to win the trophy. They next face the winners of Cannock v Lichfield. In the other first round matches, Cambridge (Walsall) easily defeated M.R.S., from Bridgnorth, and the young side from Moseley Park, Darlaston (formerly British Steel) beat Y.M.C.A. (West Bromwich) 5-3.

In the County League, five teams have 4 points each in Div. 1, but with Wolverhampton 'A' having two matches in hand, they would appear to be in the strongest position. Stone 'A' and Darlaston 'A' (Div. 2),

Walsall 'B' and 'C' and Stone 'B' (Div. 3), Cannock 'C' (Div. 4) and Wolverhampton 'D' and Cannock 'D' (Div. 5) are so far unbeaten, whilst Potteries 'B', Cannock 'A', Stone 'C', Stafford Vets. and Lichfield 'B' are propping up the five divisions in that order.

The Malcolm E. Scott Memorial Tournament (restricted) resulted in wins for Reg. Wain (Potteries) and Jill Harris (Walsall). Reg. battled it out to beat Sid Hodgetts (Wolverhampton) in the final 20, -14, 14, and 14-year-old Jill recorded a 10, 15 win over her mother, Peggy.

The County Closed Tournament, at Northwood, Stoke-on-Trent, on Sunday, March 20, will be without a familiar name in the women's event. Dot Deeley, who has won the event 13 times in the last 17 years (the other four years she did not enter because of family commitments), has decided that she has had her fair share of tournament play and will, in future, restrict her table tennis to her club and West Bromwich matches. With the emphasis on today's juniors, it is easy to forget that Dot herself was one of the top juniors in the country in the late fifties. She lost to Ann Haydon (now Ann Jones, of course) in the final of the English Girls' Open in 1956 and partnered Ann to win the Junior Doubles in the same year. Since then Dot has won the Midland Open, the Birmingham Open, the Midland Closed (5 times), the West Bromwich Championship (16 times) as well as reaching the final on many other occasions. She has the scalps of two top-ranking English No. 1's under her belt—Joyce Fielder and Pam Mortimer—both when they were at the top of the list, but Dot thinks that her performance against Mary Wright, in 1967, when Staffordshire reached the play-off, was the highlight of her career. At that time Mary was one of the best women players in Europe, but even so, Dot only just lost -19, -19. In the same play-off she beat Maureen Heppell, the England No. 2. 13 and 7, to confirm her form at the time. Of course, another highlight of her life must have been her marriage to that well-known personality in table tennis circles, her husband Alan, who is Chairman of West Bromwich and Vice-Chairman of the County. Well, we shall be sorry not to see Dot's name on the entry list, but we can thank her for gracing the event so attractively for so many years and at least look forward to seeing and meeting her as a spectator in the future.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Anne Fearnhaugh

COUNTY CLOSED

Derbyshire had mixed fortunes in the last batch of County matches on January 29. The senior 1st team lost 3-7 to Glamorgan our three sets were once again won by the women, Mandy Mellor and Jackie Billington. Sadly the men were completely outclassed.

The senior 2nd team went to Newcastle and came away with a 9-1 win with Derrick Marples Terry Moran, Marilyn Deakin and Alison Marples coming through unscathed, Tony Hunt being the sole loser.

9-1 was the margin by which the junior team beat Durham. Karen Smart losing the one. With only Clwyd to play the juniors look to be set for a mid-table position, as do the 1st and 2nd teams.

In the second round of the National Club Competition, St. Andrew's met Maurice Newman, Paul Randell and John Iliffe, of Barwell Liberals, at Leicester. Phil Vickers had Newman in great trouble, and the set could have gone either way as the scores indicate—Phil losing -21, 21, -19. This set seemed to be the crucial one and Barwell went on to beat the Saints 7-2.

The County Championships at Alfreton turned out to be a great success being the

strongest in numbers and ability for many years. With the addition of Dave Raynor, from Yorkshire, and Martin Kinsella, from Notts, the Men's Singles could have gone one of half a dozen ways. In the quarters, David Yallop and Kinsella fought a well-matched battle, each player relying on the other's mistakes, such as the nervous tension. In the other quarter of this half, Doug Foulds had a good win over Vickers, although it was not for the want of trying, but Doug was superior in both defensive and attacking shots, as he was in a well-deserved win over Neil Marples in Round 2.

In the other half, Ivor Warner beat Raynor 14 and 8, and Eric Hall bt Maurice Billington.

This left the semi-final with two unseeded players against two seeded players. After a shaky start, Warner soaked up Hall's early assault and went on to win comfortably. In the other semi, Yallop had an equally convincing win over Foulds, leaving the final to be contested by the two top players from Derby.

Ivor started off the most confidently and led all the way through the first game up to 20-17 when two seemingly easy shots were fluffed. With this Yallop gained in confidence to win the next three points and the first game 22-20. During the second, unforced errors prevailed, but the match slowly edged Yallop's way and he came out the winner 21-16.

The counterpart women's event provided some of the best play between Jackie Billington and Mandy Mellor. With Jackie defending well and Mandy attacking competently, the first two games could have gone either way, but they took one apiece. With this in mind, everyone was looking forward to a good decider. Nobody was disappointed! It was a matter of who could keep the ball going longest, Mandy, playing some brilliant shots, had the lead throughout and came through victor 21-19.

Yallop, combining with Vickers, won the men's doubles against Billington and Mick Askham for the third year in succession.

In the U-17 girls' singles final, Linda Holmes was on top form and never looked anything but a winner in beating Jane Griffin, of Alfreton, two-straight.

Linda, already ranked in the 'A' group, must get England ranked if she continues to play this high standard.

In the boys' event, there was a noticeable absence in Bob Allen. He was seeded No. 1 with Stephen Yallop at No. 2, but after an inquiry into his late entry he was not allowed to play. This meant the seedings had to be changed and the final outcome was Yallop at No. 1 and John Hibbert No. 2.

As expected, both players reached the final without much difficulty. In the first game both players started off very hesitantly, but as the game progressed, a couple of loose shots from Hibbert put Yallop in the lead, which he managed to hold on to and win 21-18. In the second game, John, fighting all the way, couldn't quite get into a rhythm and Stephen, producing some very sound attacking shots, gained a lead and came through to win 21-16.

The tournament was very well organised and thanks must go to Alfreton Sports Centre and Arthur Morgan for the hard work and effort put in to make it the success it was.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

I. Warner bt E. Hall 11, 17.
D. Yallop bt D. Foulds 12, 12.

Final

YALLOP bt Warner 20, 16.

Women's Singles—Final

M. MELLOR bt J. Billington 15, -16, 19.

Men's Doubles—Final

P. VICKERS/D. YALLOP bt M. Billington/
M. Askham 16, -10, 11.

Women's Doubles—Final

MELLOR/BILLINGTON bt M. Deakin/A.
Fearnough 16, 17.

Mixed Doubles—Final

N. MARPLES/A. MARPLES bt Billington/
Mellor 16, -11, 19.

U-17 Boys' Singles—Final

S. YALLOP bt J. Hibbert 18, 16.

U-17 Girls' Singles—Final

L. HOLMES bt J. Griffin 14, 16.

U-14 Boys' Singles—Final

S. YOUNG bt B. Bennet 14, 11.

U-14 Girls' Singles—Final

K. PAYNE bt A. Thompson 5, 13.

Veteran Singles—Final

MARPLES bt T. Carlisle 13, 7.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

By Alan Cavell

SUPERCEDED

Although 16-year-old Malcolm Green dominated the Shrewsbury and District T.T.A's championships, other young players showed much ability. The established players of the last decade are now being superseded.

Last year Green won the Men's Doubles in partnership with junior Steve Dixon. This year he retained that title in partnership with 15-year-old Nigel Thomas and he also won the Men's and Junior Singles, events in which he was runner-up last year. These wins emphasised his position as the best player in the County.

In the final of the men's doubles the two juniors beat Albert Hiscock and "Motto" Jones, whose combined ages exceed 100 years. The Men's Singles was a repeat of last year's junior final but this time Les Baker was the loser. The losing finalist in the Junior Singles was Nigel Thomas. The Mixed Doubles was won by Thomas and Grace Gee, who beat Chris Neal and 14-year-old Tracey Powell in the final.

Grace Gee won the Women's title for the sixth successive year with a victory over Tracey Powell. Albert Hiscock entered the Veterans' event for the first time, although eligible to take part many years ago, and duly beat last year's winner, Graham Cheetham, in the final.

During the forthcoming summer, the Shropshire Sports Advisory Councils will again be organising mini-Olympics. It is hoped that table tennis events will be included.

Table Tennis will also feature in the New Towns Jubilee Sports that will take place in March, April and May. The competing towns will be Daventry, Droitwich, Redditch, Tamworth and Telford.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE GALLERY

by Dave Foulser

COUNTY EARN FIRST POINT

Despite having to make two last-minute changes from the team originally selected, Gloucestershire seniors travelled to Avon and obtained a creditable draw. Continuing their youth policy, the County included four juniors. Dave Harvey won his two singles to retain his unbeaten record but the star of the evening was Martin Lane, who also won his two singles including a 21-4, 21-17 pasting of the Avon No. 1, R. Oldfield.

Cathy Robb beat Mrs. J. Watts -15, 17, 15 on her senior County debut, whilst Venessa Cruwys went down -14 in the third to Mrs. A. Seager. Andrew Golding found the going a little tough on his debut, but he can only improve.

Gloucestershire juniors travelled to Hereford and also drew. Lane was not in such good form on this occasion, and the Owens brothers proved too strong for our boys.

Gloucester City juniors entertained Walsall and pipped the Midlanders 6-4, thanks to Lane hammering all three opponents, whilst Darren Griffin won two and

Derek Morgan one. Martin was again in superb form when Gloucester juniors made the long journey to Nottingham. He thrashed his three opponents whilst Morgan had an excellent match winning two and partnering Lane to take the doubles. Griffin went to three with all the opposition but was unlucky not to win any.

Gloucester men "whitewashed" Darlaston 10-0 in Div. 4 of the Midland League with Bill Dawe, Richard Pepperd and Mike Prosser all recording maximums. Gloucester defeated Stroud 9-1 in a County junior league fixture with Lane, Griffin and Jane Dovey undefeated. Andrew Golding saved a complete humiliation, beating Morgan 18 in the third.

Stroud juniors also entertained Cheltenham and despite losing 2-8 to a team which included County seniors Guy Greening and Cathy Robb, can be well pleased with their performance. Their two sets came from Golding, who beat John Turner 12, -16, 20, and Golding and John Partridge beat Greening and Graham Slack 15, -17, 19.

Stroud 'B' men's team lost 1-9 to Gloucester 'B' in a friendly match with R. Webb beating Alan Goode 18 and 11. He very nearly caused a sensation, losing to Lane 19, -15, -19. Nick Matthews and Eric Watts had little success against Lane, Goode or Hogarth.

Cheltenham 'B' also played two friendlies against Stroud 'B', drawing at home and winning 6-4 away. Clive Little was in superb form in the away match, beating B. Willsher 16, 17 and Nick Matthews 6, 18, as well as teaming up with yours truly to take the doubles 11 and 16. Steve Murton won one as did Dave Metcalfe, the pair also winning their doubles, whilst Eric Watts won two for Stroud. The writer lost both his singles, one of them 14, -16, -19 to Keith Vinton who played well on his town debut. The return match was played at Thirstaine Hall, thanks to Chelsea Building Society, where Little again won two. Foulser and Metcalfe each won one, the former gaining revenge over Vinton, but Murton was sadly out of form, losing both his singles.

Cheltenham Women entertained Stratford in a friendly and somewhat embarrassingly won all sets played. They then played Stroud and lost 3-7, although it should be said that they had a passenger in Jan Foulser, who was suffering from flu. Cathy Robb beat Louise Willsher and Jane Syms whilst June Hall also beat Syms. Sylvia Giles was in stupendous form, winning her three for the home team. The return match, in Cheltenham, was played at Bournside School and the home team gained revenge, winning 11-9. This time Cathy Robb beat Sylvia Giles and narrowly lost in the third to Jean Golding. Jan Foulser, recovered, beat both Willsher and Syms.

Cheltenham are running a coach trip to the Exhibition Centre, in Birmingham, for the World Championships, which will include the cost of both travel and entry to the Championships — anyone wanting details or a ticket should contact Mr. Viv Pynner, 143 Caernarvon Road, Hatherley, Cheltenham (Tel: Cheltenham 38417 home or Cheltenham 21344, Ext. 222 work).

Gordon League 'A' team seem to have the Gloucester fifth division wrapped up now, having beaten close rivals Taynton 'A' 6-4. Taynton also dropped a point to Rudford who secured a draw, thanks to a great effort by Richard Pepperd, who was unbeaten. In Div. 2, Taynton 'B' have already made sure of the title but the runners-up spot now seems to be between only Newent and Jamaican Club, who meet each other in the last match of the season. Mention must be made of the Div. 2 match between Land Registry and Longford. Gerry Phillipott won

his three and his son, Ian, from Div. 7, made sure of a draw by beating Norman Preece two-straight.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

UP THE SCHOOL

Congratulations to Millom School who increased their number of National Schools' titles to five in the past three seasons when their U-19 Boys' and U-16 Girls' teams carried off the Norman Cook and the Mick Betts Memorial Cups in the E.S.T.T.A. Finals at Lea Green on February 12.

The Boys' U-19 team had two clear-cut victories and in their first match defeated Washwood Heath, Birmingham, 6-2 and then followed this with a 7-1 win over the title holders, Beverley School, New Malden, Surrey. This latter match was notable for Chris Reed's victory, 21 in the third, over fellow England-ranked junior, Stephen Boxall, who had beaten Chris in their three previous meetings going back to the semi-final of the English U-14 Championships three years ago in Leicester.

The Girls' final match was a much closer affair, as any of the many Millom supporters who made the long journey to cheer on the teams will testify to, and it was not until the very last game of the final set that Bella Gray, the youngest team member, put the match beyond all doubt with a 21-13 win over Kathryn Hayhurst, of Highfields, Wolverhampton, after the latter had taken a 9-6 lead.

With Highfields having beaten Brampton Manor, of West Ham 7-1, and Millom defeating the same team 6-2, the girls had to win by at least 5-3 to become champions. It was a real team affair with each girl playing a vital part. Gail Smith took her two sets in the top half to get the team off to a good start. Elaine Mathie held on to win one set 2-0 after trailing in both games, whilst Jan Sephton, playing very calmly for someone in their first National Final, defeated Hayhurst 2-0 before Bella's last gasp win.

The U-19 Boys, who are all available to defend the title next year, were represented by Chris, Neil Smith, who had a particularly good day, Ian Reed and Diccon Gray.

After dropping points against Lancashire and Derbyshire in their previous two matches Cumbria Junior I got back into winning ways with a convincing 9-1 win over Clwyd. Chris Reed, Neil Smith, Gail Smith and Miranda Gray were all unbeaten with Ian Reed losing the only one against the Clwyd No. 1, Alan Williams.

Chris, recently demoted from 12 to 13 in the English Junior rankings, has just one defeat against his name in this season's County Championships and he will be hoping to lead Cumbria to victory over the strong Yorkshire II side in their final match at Millom on March 12. A victory much needed if the team is to earn a place in the Junior Promotion Challenge, which could lead to Premier Division status next season.

Hot favourite to retain his men's singles title at the Lloyd Bros. Cumbria Closed Championships, Chris Reed duly obliged with a 2-straight final win over the No. 2 seed, Brian Towell, from Kendal. Both players dropped only one game each on the way to the final, Chris against Neil Smith in his semi and Brian against Carlisle's John Willis in the quarters. Ian Reed was Brian's semi-final opponent by virtue of his quarter-final win over the No. 3 seed, David Kirkpatrick, of Carlisle.

Ian, in fact, provided most of the usual tournament shocks, the biggest one being his win in the final of the Boys' Singles over brother Chris. He won that one 21, -19, 18. Previously, when partnered by Diccon Gray, he helped put Chris and Neil Smith

out at the semi-final stage of the Men's Doubles, a win which was to prove no fluke as the younger pair repeated the win in the final of the Junior Doubles.

The pair lost the Men's Doubles final, however, to No. 2 seeds Kirkpatrick and Stewart O'Neil (Carlisle). Jennifer Pachul (Millom) retained her Women's Singles title but not before taken close by Gail Smith, who took the Junior Girls' title with a win over Elaine Mathie. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

C. REED bt N. Smith -20, 10, 13.

B. Towell bt I. Reed 15, 19.

Final

C. REED bt Towell 14, 19.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

J. Pachul bt M. Gray -23, 13, 14.

G. Smith bt E. Mathie 23, 16.

Final

PACHUL bt Smith 18, 19.

Men's Doubles—Final

D. KIRKPATRICK/S. O'NEIL bt D. Gray/I. Reed 19, 9.

Women's Doubles—Final

C. ROSE/S. STUDHOLME bt Pachul/K. Willis 8, 15.

Mixed Doubles—Final

N. SMITH/G. SMITH bt O'Neil/Pachul 18, 15.

Boys' Singles—Final

I. REED bt C. Reed 21, -19, 18.

Girls' Singles—Final

G. SMITH bt E. Mathie 7, -14, 18.

Junior Doubles—Final

I. REED/D. GRAY bt C. Reed/N. Smith 12, 17.

U-14 Singles—Final

S. SHARP bt G. Rea 10, 16.

Veteran Singles—Final

E. O'HARA bt K. Gilmour 11, 12.

Latest results in the inter-league competition are:—Workington 1, Carlisle 11; Westmorland 6, Whitehaven 6; and Barrow 8, Millom 4.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

VARYING FORTUNES

Saturday, January 29, proved to be a day of varying fortunes for the three Northumberland County teams.

The good news was that the first team finally dispelled any fears of relegation by winning a close and tense battle against Lincolnshire 6-4, at Byker Community Centre. It was expected that any sets won would be in the men's events, and so it proved, with Andrew Clark and Chris Shepherd being undefeated in both singles and doubles, and Fred Short winning one of his singles. This second successive victory means that they can travel to their last match, away to Durham, free of any worries on that score.

The second team, with morale sky-high after two successive victories to make this their most successful season for some years, were brought sharply back to earth by a competent Derbyshire II side, losing by 1-9 in an afternoon match at the same venue. Malcolm McMaster was the lone winner in his singles against Tony Hunt, but the team's performance was a terrible disappointment bearing in mind their recent results. They will be hoping for better things when they travel to play Nottinghamshire in their last match of the season.

The junior team fared even worse when they travelled to Bamber Bridge to meet the current Division leaders, Lancashire, and lost 0-10 without any sets going to a deciding game. In fairness to the juniors, they did have three late changes in their side, but it is doubtful whether this would have made much difference against such strong opposition. They are still without a point this season, and their last chance to salvage something will come in their final match away to Durham.

It would seem that if a high standard of

consistency is to be achieved in Northumberland, regular practice sessions and get-togethers for both the senior and junior squads are essential, and with this in view, Arnold Warents has suggested that these should be seriously revived at regular intervals next season. This certainly seems to be a very good idea, as too often this side of the game has been sadly neglected within the County, and players are left to hope for the best on the day of the match.

This should certainly be of special benefit for the junior team. The number of boys and girls involved in table tennis at some level is higher than it has ever been before, mainly due to the outstanding success of the Newcastle Schools' Leagues. The future must be bright if the initial interest can be maintained, and it is hoped with the apparent wide interest, to hold the first-ever Northumberland Junior Closed tournament. The Northumberland Senior Closed tournament has provisionally been arranged for April 16, at Eldon Square Recreation Centre.

The Newcastle Schools' League season has now been completed and I am sure all players and officials would like to join me in thanking Phil Clark for the tremendous effort and hard work she has put into making this League the success it has proved. Leading finishing positions were:—

	Senior League						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Royal Grammar	9	8	1	0	69	21	17
Heaton	9	7	2	0	73	17	16
Benfield	9	6	1	2	67	23	13
St. Cuthbert's	9	6	0	3	48	42	12
Longbenton	9	4	2	3	56	34	10

	Intermediate League						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heaton	9	9	0	0	89	1	18
Royal Grammar	9	7	0	2	65	25	14
Slatyford	9	7	0	2	61	29	14
St. Cuthbert's	9	7	0	2	60	30	14

	Junior League						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Royal Grammar	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
St. Cuthbert's	5	3	2	0	32	18	8
Gosforth	5	3	1	1	32	18	7

The final Girls' League table was shown in the January issue.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

JUNIORS TO THE FORE

The County's Juniors lead the way this month with their first County win of the season and some good performances at the South East Midland League Junior tournament to their credit.

Their first win in the County Championships was gained at the expense of Lincolnshire II's by a comfortable 8-2 margin. Mark and Steven Fisher were unbeaten in their singles and joined forces for a duo gain. Michael Ringrose beat Michael Bradford and played well on his County debut, but Belinda Chamberlain was surprisingly beaten, the first loss on the girls' side this season. Melanie Ringrose won her set and with Belinda, took the doubles. Certainly a family look about this County side.

These players joined a large number of local youngsters who met at St. Neots Centre for the S.E.M.L. Junior tournament in which Hunts players figured in 5 of the 6 finals. Belinda Chamberlain appeared in three of them, partnering Steven Fisher to win the mixed, and Melanie Ringrose to take the girls' doubles title. Belinda found Mandy Wallis (Northants) in good touch and went down in straight games in the final of the girls' singles.

In the mixed the local pair overcame the very young Dunstable duo of David Sharpe and J. Bellinger 18, 17. The girls' doubles win came at the expense of Mandy Wallis and Joanne Palmer. The Fisher twins won the boys' doubles over Richard Jermyn and

Paul Mason (N. Herts). Melanie beat 4 boys in succession to reach the final of the Div. 2 singles but here found Keith Nicoll too strong.

The S.E.M.L. team events brought an opening round clash between local rivals Hunts Central and St. Neots. The former won 4-2, being represented by Tim Speller, Mark Fisher, Melanie Ringrose and Dilys Greenwood. St. Neots had Alan Lamprell, Len Saywell, Belinda Chamberlain and Debbie Roberts on duty. Central's run was to be short-lived as they went down 0-4 to Wellingboro' in their next match.

Central and St. Neots had met a fortnight earlier in a men's division league match and once again Central came through on top 6-4. Central's team comprised Speller, Jim Sizer, Sid Burgess and Martin Murden. The St. Ives-based team led 6-2 after the singles but fell in both doubles.

Peterboro's women lost 3-7 to Dunstable in their S.E.M.L. match. Shelley Holland played well to record 2 singles wins with the other point coming from Sylvia Upton. The same league's junior teams met and again it was the Beds side that won 7-3. Andrew Roughton, a promising youngster, had two successes, whilst Gregg Baker was responsible for the other win.

In the Peterboro League, City 'A' have gone clear in the Premier Div. but were recently beaten by middle-of-the-table Whittlesey 'A', whose Peter Berna was unbeaten. Hotpoint 'A' hold second place, 7 points down on City. In the Premier Div. of the Hunts Central League the two leading sides, U.C.I. and St. Ives 'A' fought out a draw.

Trophy with wins against teams from a higher division. Soham IV from Div. 2, found a handicap of 14 points far too much against Haverhill IV from 5B and were beaten 8-1 with Trevor Smith's win over Yvonne Driver their only success. Fourth Division General Accident, victors over St. George's II in the previous round, again proved too good for a Div. 3 team. They beat Police I 6-3 despite having only three points advantage. The draw for the Quarter-finals is as follows:—

General Accident v Torchbearers or
Howard Mallett
Bassingbourne or Sawston I v St. Ives
Haverhill IV v N.C.I. II
Soham I v N.C.I. III

In the S.E.M. League, Cambridge have won the Men's Section in Div. 2 and Ely are almost certain to champion Div. 1. Cambridge are unbeaten and this with a team whose ages are in or near veteran category! Cambridge are almost certain to win the Vets' Section and recently had 10-0 wins over R.A.F. and Northampton. Cambridge Juniors are in the lower half of Div. 2 and will have to "pull up their socks" before long! Wisbech are in the lower half of Div. 1 in the Men's Section and also bottom but one in Div. 1 of the Junior Section.

Congratulations to Wisbech Div. 2 team in the East Anglian League, who have now completed their fixtures in Div. 2B with a 100% record. They must now wait to see who their opponents will be from Div. 2A for the "play-off" for promotion to Div. 1. Their last fixture was a 6-4 win over Stowmarket, with Cyril Halstead and Geoff Ward winning two each, Paul Jackson won one and also teamed up with Diana Tooke to take a Mixed. Wisbech Juniors, in the League's Div. A, beat Dereham 6-4 away, with Jane and Andrew Hunter both gaining maximums. The Junior team, in Div. B, managed their first point of the season with a draw against Yarmouth 'B'.

Wisbech have slipped badly in the North Norfolk League, losing to Dereham (3-7) and Wymondham (3-7). Wisbech are now joint top with Wymondham who have a game in hand.

In the East Anglian Championships, held at Thurlston, the Wisbech pairing of Geoff Davies and Chris Brewer lost in the final of the Men's Doubles to C. Bensley and M. Broughton -18, -22. Representing March, Robert Swift lost in the "Under-15" final to S. Palmer -15, -14.

Still urgently required in the Cambs. Area —**UMPIRES and COACHES!** Do not let one or two persons do all the work, so come and be a coach or umpire!

Leading positions in the Wisbech League are:—

	Division 1				
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Tydd Trojans	14	12	1	1	98
Sutton Bridge	14	10	1	3	98
Institute	12	11	1	0	94
Division 2					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Smedley's	14	12	0	2	111
W.T.T.C. Buffaloes	14	12	0	2	108

In Div. 3 the quartet of Andrew Hicks, Paul Stacey, Gary Jordan and Wayne Jupp look the most likely candidates to take the title for the "Rowdies" and in Div. 4 the Junior team of Rokewood, with Martin Horsepole, Paul Warner and Peter Hammond, look like doing the double after taking Div. 5 last season.

S.E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE CHATTER

by Leslie Constable

PRESSURE ON ELY

Ely are at present top in the Men's Section of the League, without defeat, but are closely followed by North Herts and Milton Keynes and these three teams must surely be fighting it out at the end. In recent

matches Ely beat Milton Keynes 6-4 and Bedford 7-3 but Milton Keynes had a splendid 7-3 victory over North Herts, which puts the pressure on Ely, who cannot afford to falter.

North Herts, despite their defeat by Milton Keynes, had splendid wins over Hunts Central, Wellingborough and Northampton. In the Men's Section (Div. 2) Cambridge are romping home, having won five matches in a row, and are ahead of Hunts Central and North Herts, although it must be remembered that the latter have teams in Div. 1!

North Herts head Junior Div. 1, being closely followed by Northampton, with Hunts Central the next challengers at a distance. In Junior Div. 2, Peterborough are top but Kettering are in a good position and to date have won all their matches by good margins. Dunstable head the Women's Division but here again, North Herts are pressing with a game in hand and only three sets behind. Cambridge are leading the Veterans' Section and recently had overwhelming victories over R.A.F. and Northampton. St. Neots are in second place. In Div. 2, Bedford and St. Neots look like being the likely contenders at the end, with Daventry close behind.

The Men's and Women's events in the S.E.M. League Tournament will be held at St. Neots on April 17.

SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE CLOSED

In the Junior tournament held at St. Neots, Richard Jermyn and Mandy Wallis were successful in the Boys' and Girls' Singles. Belinda Chamberlain succeeded in winning two titles—the Girls' Doubles and the Mixed. North Herts won the team event.

Results:—
B.S.: R. Jermyn (NH) bt G. Alden (We) 15, -9, 16.
G.S.: M. Wallis (We) bt B. Chamberlain (St.N) 17, 13.
B.D.: M. Fisher/M. Fisher bt Jermyn/P. Mason (NH) 19, -20, 18.
G.D.: Chamberlain/M. Ringrose (HC) bt J. Palmer (Ely)/Wallis 19, 17.
X.D.: S. Fisher/Chamberlain bt D. Sharpe/I. Bellinger (Dun) 18, 17.
Div. 2: K. Nicoll (We) bt Ringrose 12, 13.
Team: N. Herts 4, Wellingboro' 3.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

STILL THE SUPREMO

Although the threat to Roger Chandler's supremacy continues to mount, the Brighton Y.M.C.A. player clinched his 11th Sussex title at Brighton Corn Exchange on February 13th, without being really tested.

This year's Sussex Closed Championships attracted 210 players even though the singles groups were eliminated, all matches on a straight K.O. The idea was to cut out the midnight finish. The plan almost succeeded in achieving a finish around 10 p.m., which was the real aim, but as all the finals were staged, it was nearly 11 p.m. when play concluded.

Gerald Pugh, still looking very much like Chandler's eventual successor, reached the final and lost -14, -15. Pugh's path to the last hurdle was made smoother by the shock removal of the two ace defenders, Sam Ogundipe and Emil Emezc. The biggest shock was Ogundipe's loss to John Proffitt.

Diane Gard (Eastbourne) retained her Women's Singles crown with some incredible counter-hitting. Her first alarm call came in the semi-finals when she dropped the first -19 to Angela Mock. Miss Gard soon recovered, climbing back into the contest with those demoralising counter-punches. In the final Julie Reading started very nervously, or at least that is how it looked, but slowly she began to get a grip on her task to take the second and challenge

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by Leslie Constable

SEVERE SETBACK

Cambs. suffered a severe setback to their championship hopes in Div. 2 (East) when they crashed 2-8 to Bucks, at Aylesbury. Cambs. started well with Michael Harper and Keith Richardson winning their opening singles against Tony Clarke and Les Wooding, but incredibly, these were to be their only successes. From then on the visitors faltered against the "stonewall" defensive play of Watson, Williams and Wooding. Geoff Davies put up a spirited show against Clarke but lost 2-straight. Sally Hirst lost in 3 to Mrs. Williams and Jean Allinson lost in 2 to Miss Stevens.

In Div. 3 (East) Cambs. II lost to Suffolk 1-9, at Ipswich. Ruth Newman, on her return, beat Debbie Wootton to record Cambs. only victory. To conclude an abysmal weekend, the Junior II team were beaten 10-0 by Bucks in Junior 3 (East). On the brighter side, Cambs. Juniors beat Suffolk 7-3 in their vital relegation match at March, now being virtually certain to retain their place in Div. 2 (Midland). Withers, Hubble and Swift all won a singles and Joanne Palmer and Rachel Norris both won theirs. Winning both doubles completed the victory.

In the Cambs. League, County Singles Champion, Keith Richardson, suffered his first defeat of the season when beaten by David Tiplady, of New Chesterton Institute II. Tiplady also beat Steve Palmer, but these were N.C.I.'s only wins and they went down 2-8 to Div. I leaders, Soham I. In the clash of the bottom clubs, Fisons beat University 7-3 to gain their first points but neither look capable of avoiding relegation. Soham IV beat Press II 8-2 and Y.M.C.A. II beat Herbert Robinson 7-3 to keep up their promotion challenge in Division II while Soham III pulled clear of relegation with a 7-3 win over Torchbearers II, leaving them anchored to the bottom with Herbert Robinson.

Haverhill IV and General Accident produced giant-killing feats in the 4th round of the Cambs. League Handicap Knockout

strongly in the last game, but fortune smiled on Miss Gard as she found herself with three netty points that gave Miss Reading no chance. The title was retained 21-18.

Of some consolation was Gerald Pugh's great win in the Men's Doubles final, partnered by that wily ace cricketer from Crawley, Andy Meads. In the final they had a little trouble before overcoming Chandler and Emezc.

Women's Doubles victors were Diane Gard and Angela Mock, who survived a match point to beat Christine Randall and Anita Gedge. To Miss Gedge went the honour of providing the only shock in the Women's Singles, the defeat of Carol Randall, whose win against Linda Barrow in Div. 2 (South) a fortnight earlier, had suggested that she might win the Sussex crown.

The tournament was enriched by the first appearance of Sussex University students John Proffitt and Andy Wellman. But these lads were somewhat bewildered to find England Group A boy, Graham Gillett, winner of the intermediate Men's Final, in such great form. Gillett (14) beat Wellman in two events and then put up a superb display to beat Proffitt 21, -17, 19 in that intermediate final.

The future of Sussex and even English table tennis looked brighter as these two boys behaved impeccably, playing superb shots, long rallies, with never a bad-tempered word. Full marks to these two boys for showing some of the senior players how to behave on a table tennis court. Not that anyone really misbehaved in the Sussex Closed, but one fact is becoming increasingly clear to me—players who concentrate on the game and their opponents, who are not distracted and have their concentration broken by glancing at supporters when they lose points. We have two such players in Sussex, Chandler and Pugh, totally devoted to what is happening inside the court and concentrating on their tactics. There is one other player whose cool approach and total concentration has, in my view, taken him to a position where he could (at least) become the next European Champion, and that man is, of course, Desmond Douglas.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

CHAMPION UMPIRE

There seems to be a popular belief that most qualified umpires don't play competitive table tennis and that they obtain their enjoyment of the game by imposing the full rigors of the laws on the poor defenceless players. This was shown to be completely unfounded on the afternoon of Sunday, February 27, at Moor Grange School, Leeds, when 15 Yorkshire umpires assembled to play for a new cup donated to commemorate the name of the late Cliff Darley. Organised by C.U. Secretary Geoff Scruton, the tournament was played on a group basis. The first winner was left-hander David Hope, a member of Sedbergh 'C' team in Div. 2 of the Bradford League. In the final he defeated York's Richard Scruton 12, -9, 23. Other placings were: 3, A. Gardner (Sheffield); 4, A. Ross (Hull); 5, R. Hinnitt (Sheffield); 6, G. Turton (Castleford/Pontefract); 7, G. Quirk (Leeds); 8, Mrs. H. Masters (Wharfedale & A.); 9, A. Head (Sheffield); 10, C. Warley (York); 11, F. Briggs (Bradford); 12, M. Sykes (Halifax); 13, G. Scruton (Harrogate); 14, K. Sutton (Leeds); 15, J. Masters (Wharfedale & A.). The presentations were made by Mr. H. B. Robinson, President, and Mr. G. Simpson, Chairman of the Castleford & Pontefract League, the league of which Cliff was a former secretary and treasurer.

The results of the quarter-finals of the Montague Burton Challenge Cup (men's club teams) were:—

Hull Y.P.I. 5, Sedbergh (Bradford) 2
Brooks T.T.C. (Huddersfield) 3, Wadsley Bridge (Sheffield) 5
Hermits (Bradford) 4, Leeds Y.M.C.A. 5
Wellesley Park (Halifax) 4, York R.I. 5

In each tie, one player on the winning side recorded a treble success—Dave Bartlett for Hull Y.P.I., County junior Steve Mills, for Wadsley Bridge, County second team man Andrew Metcalfe, for Leeds Y.M.C.A., and John Owens, for York R.I.

The semi-final draw is:—

Wadsley Bridge v York R.I.
Hull Y.P.I. v Leeds Y.M.C.A.

The Yorkshire League Div. 1 Doncaster v Halifax fixture mentioned in last month's notes, turned out to be a comfortable 7-3 win for the home side, the visitors lacking the services of Kevin Beadley. For the home team, Notts No. 1, Alan Croome, won all three. On February 9, Leeds I beat Bradford I 8-2, with both Andrew Metcalfe and Steve Hazelwood registering trebles. Bradford's Bob Shutt and Mick Stephenson both defeated Robert Hazelwood. There was an upset in the Junior Div. 1 match between Sheffield I and Bradford I, the South Yorkshire team winning 5-4. David Ryan, Mark Heppenstall and H. Whippey took 5 singles sets from Neil Harris, Adrian Hill and Paul Makinson.

Despite his Yorkshire League losses, Robert Hazelwood helped to win a point for the County second team in the vital match against Cleveland II by beating both Tony Martin and Andrew Kilburn, and the team's Second Division North title hopes look good. Without Melody Ludi, playing in the Czech Open, the first team beat Leicestershire but narrowly lost to Cheshire. The junior first team had a successful southern tour with wins over Berkshire and Kent, but in a division where every set is going to count towards the title, it was unfortunate from our point of view, that Ian Kenyon chose Yorkshire's match to turn on his considerable talents to win two singles and a doubles. The junior second team recorded their second 10-0 win in the Junior Second Division North, this time against Cleveland II.

Clem Lo retained his men's singles title in the Bradford Closed, defeating 1973-75 champion, Bob Shutt in the final. Deprived of the girls' singles—cancelled along with the women's singles because of the low number of entries—Linda Hryszko and Sally Midgley were deposited among the boys for the "junior" singles and both won through to meet in the final. Linda accounted for the Bradford boys' first team in turn—Adrian Hill (-19, 14, 18), Paul Makinson (-19, 16, 17) and Neil Harris (19, 12). Shame on you, lads!

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

C. Lo (University) bt I. D. Gomersall (Clayton Heights) 13, 20.
R. Shutt (Clayton Heights) bt J. A. Yeats (Nemesis) -17, 18, 17.

Final

LO bt Shutt -18, 20, 15.

"Open" Doubles—Final

LO/R. PRIESTLEY (Hermits) bt Yeats/G. Hill (Clayton Heights) 18, 13.

Mixed Doubles—Final

PRIESTLEY/H. SHIELDS (Unity) bt M. Stephenson (Hermits)/L. Hryszko (Sedbergh) 19, -17, 11.

Junior Singles—Final

HRYSZKO bt S. Midgley 12, 17.

Veterans' Singles—Final

E. PAYNE (Harvesters) bt G. Kelly (Telephones) -18, 20, 19.

Bradford's 5-1 Round 3 Rose Bowl victory over Manchester included a win for Linda Hryszko over Susan Lisle. In the Carter Cup Hull reached the quarter-finals after turning out no less than 8 times and playing only twice (against Leeds and Bolton). Matches against Blackpool and Halifax were conceded. The six matchless occasions resulted from bad weather conditions transport problems, illness . . .

In Wakefield, 15-year-old Trevor Watson became the youngest player ever to represent the city in the Yorkshire League men's divisions when he recently made his debut for the men's third team, winning two of his three singles. An ever-present in Wakefield's junior team, Junior Div. 2 leaders, he has an unbeaten record in this division, together with Leeds' Neil Edgecock, who, however, has played in fewer matches. The two have yet to meet.

AVON NOTES

by M. J. Hawkins

PLAY GOES ON

Bristol beat Southampton 7-2 in the Wilmott Cup, their best players being Somerset "star" Brian Reeves and Yorkshireman Tony Clayton, who won three each. John Hartry contributed the other.

In the Midland League, Bristol went down 3-7 at home to Birmingham, Lloyd Stewart, Tony Brown and Ken Watts sharing Bristol's wins. Not much luck for Bristol either in their Western League fixture, being well beaten by visitors Newport 8-1, Brown saving the "whitewash".

On the schools scene St. Bernadette School, Bristol, represented Avon in the national tournament, thanks to the local press "Junior Green Un". Patrick Cunningham, Paul Hooper, Gerrard Boyle and Mike Norton read about the birth of a Bristol Schools' League.

They contacted secretary Robin Dawkins, but were too late to enter this season. However, he tipped them off about the national competition and the boys took full advantage, winning the U-13 event at Lockleaze School and a place as Avon champions in the S.W. finals at Exmouth, but they were eliminated by Callington School, Cornwall.

It was a brave effort by four lads who can be found most dinner times working at their game on the school stage, that the only place the school have room for their two tables, and play goes on surrounded by pupils eating their lunch.

Bath closed championships were held at Homestead Hall, Combe Park, from February 12-19. Results:—

M.S.: A. Clayton bt K. Satchell 12, 15.
W.S.: A. Seager bt L. Porter -13, 15, 12.
J.S.: Satchell bt D. Cleveland 21, -19, 17.
V.S.: D. Morris bt M. Baker 13, 22 (Exp.).
M.D.: M. Baker/Clayton bt J. Chandler/Satchell 9, 8.
W.D.: Porter/Seager w.o. P. Smith/Y. Strungell.

Over 100 people attended the finals and the presentation of trophies was made by Reg. Williams, a vice-president of the E.T.T.A. The Bath & District K-O Cup has now reached the quarter-final stage, the draw being:—

Fry's 'A' v Mayfield 'B'
Stotherts v Mayfield 'A'
Swainswick 'A' v Newbridge 'A'
Tiverton St. Michael's v Mayfield 'F'

Chris Sewell retained his Bristol Closed title without dropping a game in the men's singles at Wills Recreation Hall. There was an upset in the women's singles when No. 1 seed, Pat Reeves, was ousted by Muriel Hooker in the quarters, but Muriel lost in the final to Avon County No. 1, Gillian Harris. Results:—

M.S.: C. Sewell bt B. Reeves 11, 15.
W.S.: G. Harris bt M. Hooker -15, 11, 17.
M.D.: C. Feltham/Reeves bt. J. Hartry/R. Philpott 15, 12.
W.D.: Hooker/J. Wyatt bt J. Achurch/Harris -17, 20, 16.
X.D.: B. & P. Reeves bt K. & J. Watts 19, 9.
V.S.: K. House bt A. Groves 19, 17.
B.S.: (U-11): B. Allen bt P. Lawrence 14, 19.
B.S.: (U-13): M. Archer bt C. Ross 18, -11, 14.
B.S. (U-14): M. Smith bt P. Riley 19, 19.
G.S. (U-13): C. Rowe bt J. Parker 2, 11.
G.S. (U-15): Rowe bt D. Mogg 6, 6.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

2-MAN TEAMS

The Yarmouth and Lowestoft Alliance League has not previously been mentioned in these notes. Founded only last season, its membership includes practically all the leading players of the two towns concerned, plus several Norwich stars. It has been announced that next season it will operate weekly on a new two-man team basis. Moreover the Premier Alliance will be expanded to include Norwich teams. Each league match will consist of four singles and one doubles, each tie the best of five games. The league secretary is Tony Archer, of Yarmouth.

There was a record entry for Wymondham League's Annual Knockout Tournament, held at Central Hall. Results:—

M.S.: Steve Barrett bt Les Rayment 9, 14.
W.S.: Margaret Hales bt Linda Kowalski 26, 19.

Open Doubles: Rayment/Jim Ryder bt Paul Ninham/David Smith 14, 11.

X.D.: S. Bassett/Janet Moore bt Rayment/Kowalski -17, 17, 19.

V.S.: Ryder bt Ron Annison 14, -14, 25.
J.S.: David Smith bt Ninham -21, 19, 19.

Great Yarmouth League have held a Junior Tournament, the winners being:—

U-11: B. Baron; U-12: R. Margetson; U-13 Doubles: Margetson/N. Weaver; U-15: A. Wilson; U-17: M. Archer and U-17 Doubles: Archer/M. Ecclestone.

In the Rose Bowl, Norwich Women went down 2-7 to Ipswich.

Norfolk have had two good wins in the County Championships. Firstly, their senior team sparked against Bedfordshire, winning by 7-3. Bob Thornton, Mick Musson and Chris Bensley won all their sets, but Wendy Hogg and Edna Fletcher were not so successful, and also lost their doubles. Secondly, our second team, in Div. 3 East, beat Herts II away. John Turner came in for Douglas Bennett, who was unfit, and won both his ties, and Trevor Bunn also won both his, with one excellent victory over Simon Proffitt. Wendy Hogg did very well at senior level by defeating Barbara Peters.

The East Anglian League tables show positions as follows:—Div 1: Ipswich, Wymondham, Norwich, Dereham Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft and Yarmouth.

CLWYD REPORT

By Roy Williams

NEW TITLEHOLDERS

In the Flintshire and Rhyl closed championships—both tournaments being held at the Coventry Co-op Camp, Kinmel Bay—new men's singles champions emerged.

In the Flintshire, veteran Eddie Griffiths did well to beat former Welsh Junior international, John Hook, in the final, having defeated the North Wales No. 1, Charlie Potts, in the quarters, and young Mark Thomas in the semis. Eddie also won the veterans' singles.

Junior Alan Williams took the men's singles title in the Rhyl event, beating an even younger finalist in Mark Thomas. After these results one is left wondering as to where the senior players are.

Rhyl's Gary Jones, now at Worcester College, Oxford, has been selected for the University match against Cambridge, at Crystal Palace, on March 5. Gary is a former Welsh Junior international.

Three Clwyd umpires are off to Guernsey for the 4th Commonwealth Championships. They are Harry Maddison, Malcolm Buckle and myself. It is pleasing to have this opportunity to officiate in such an important event.

3rd EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Suffolk	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Norfolk II	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Hertfordshire II ..	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Huntingdon	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Cambridge II	3	0	1	2	8	22	1

3rd WEST

Dorset	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Worcester II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Cornwall	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Avon II	4	1	1	3	20	20	3
Gloucester	4	0	1	3	16	24	1
Hereford	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

JUNIOR PREMIER

Middlesex	6	5	0	1	42	18	10
Yorkshire	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Essex	5	3	1	1	33	17	7
Cleveland	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Berkshire	6	3	0	3	23	37	6
Surrey	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Kent	6	1	1	4	24	36	3
Hertfordshire	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Devon	6	6	0	0	49	11	12
Sussex	6	5	0	1	44	16	10
Middlesex II	6	4	0	2	34	26	8
Hampshire	6	3	0	3	24	36	6
Surrey II	6	2	0	4	27	33	4
Berkshire II	6	2	0	4	23	37	4
Dorset	6	1	0	5	22	38	2
Kent II	6	1	0	5	17	43	2

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Yorkshire II	6	5	0	1	52	8	10
Lancashire	6	4	2	0	46	14	10
Cumbria	6	4	1	1	42	18	9
Derbyshire	6	4	1	1	37	23	9
Cleveland II	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Clwyd	5	2	0	3	18	32	4
Durham	6	0	0	6	8	52	0
North'berl'd	6	0	0	6	7	53	0

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Northampton	6	5	0	1	40	20	10
Warwickshire	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Essex II	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
Staffordshire	5	3	1	1	33	17	7
Norfolk	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Leicestershire	6	2	0	4	27	33	4
Cambridge	6	1	0	5	15	45	2
Suffolk	5	0	0	5	6	44	0

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Essex III	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Hampshire II	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Sussex II	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Hertford II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Buckingham II	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Cheshire	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Lincolnshire	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Nottingham	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Cumbria II	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Cleveland III	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Clwyd II	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Staffordshire II	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Salop	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Gloucester	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Worcester	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Hertfordshire	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Oxfordshire	5	1	0	4	15	35	2

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Buckingham	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Bedfordshire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Huntingdon	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Lincolnshire	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Cambridge II	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Glamorgan	4	3	1	0	34	6	7
Wiltshire	4	3	1	0	33	7	7
Gwent	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Avon	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Cornwall	4	0	2	2	11	29	2
Somerset	4	0	0	4	0	40	0

VETERAN EAST

Middlesex	4	4	0	0	24	12	8
Essex	4	3	0	1	28	8	6
Kent	4	3	0	1	24	12	6
Essex II	4	1	0	3	13	23	2
Hertfordshire	4	1	0	3	11	25	2
Huntingdon	4	0	0	4	8	28	0

On the County scene the Senior 2nd had their first win of the season in Div. 3 (West) when they were 8-2 winners over Herefordshire. The County Closed will be held at Worle Comprehensive School, Weston-super-Mare, on April 16. Totterdown Y.M.C.A. have reached Round 4 of the National Team Competition.

Tony Clayton lost his first set in the West Country when beaten by Somerset County player, Brian Reeves, in the Avon Team Competition.

Now for the Worlds, with a large number of spectators from Avon making the trek to "Brum", with a trio of umpires in Pat Archdale, Dennis Pope and Mike Hawkins. Wishing everyone an enjoyable Worlds, which can only be a great boost for the sport of table tennis in Avon County, with the introduction of new members.

COUNTY T.T. CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Tables up to February 20th)

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cleveland	6	6	0	0	45	9	12
Middlesex	7	4	0	3	34	30	8
Warwickshire	6	3	0	3	29	25	6
Yorkshire	5	3	0	2	23	22	6
Essex	4	3	0	1	16	20	6
Surrey	6	2	0	4	24	30	4
Cheshire	6	2	0	4	20	34	4
Leicestershire	6	0	0	6	16	38	0

2nd SOUTH

Kent	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Sussex	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Essex II	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Middlesex II	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Hampshire	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Surrey II	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

2nd NORTH

Yorkshire II	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Lancashire	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Cleveland II	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Northumb'l'd	4	2	0	2	14	26	4
Durham	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Lincolnshire	4	0	0	4	11	29	0

2nd MIDLAND

Glamorgan	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Cheshire II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Warwick II	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Staffordshire	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Derbyshire	4	1	1	2	21	19	3
Clwyd	4	0	0	4	2	38	0

2nd EAST

Northampton	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Norfolk	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Buckingham	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Cambridge	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Hertfordshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Bedfordshire	4	1	1	2	17	23	3

2nd WEST

Berkshire	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Wiltshire	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Somerset	5	3	1	1	26	24	7
Worcester	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Devon	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Gwent	6	1	1	4	17	43	3
Avon	5	0	0	5	19	31	0

3rd SOUTH

Essex III	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Sussex II	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Kent II	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Hertford III	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Buckingham II	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Bedford II	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

3rd NORTH

Lancashire II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Derbyshire II	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Nottingham	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Northu'							

On the County Championships front our Junior 1st team beat Durham away, to record our only win in February. Alan Williams, Mark Thomas, Mark Byles, Sandra Bennett and Janet Parry comprised the team. The North Wales Closed will be held at Deeside Leisure Centre, Queensferry, on Sunday, April 17, when a record entry can be expected.

Flintshire Closed

M.S.: E. Griffiths bt J. Hook 2-1.
W.S.: J. Ralphs bt N. Holden 2-0.
J.S.: M. Thomas bt A. Williams 2-1.
V.S.: Griffiths bt M. J. Hook 2-0.

Rhyl Closed

M.S.: A. Williams bt M. Thomas 2-0.
W.S.: B. Williams bt P. Halsall 2-1.
J.S.: M. Thomas bt A. Williams.
V.S.: R. Williams bt E. Kane 2-0.
C.D.: A. Williams bt M. Thomas 2-0.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE AFFAIRS

by Geo. R. Yates

STOCKPORT FAVOURITES

Manchester look to have lost their grip on the Women's Div. 1 title of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, going down 4-6 to undefeated Stockport, at Bramhall, on February 2.

Susan Lisle won her three singles for Manchester but only Janice Stanford (nee Green) could add to her treble. Di Johnson and Janet Carr both scored twice for Stockport with Mrs. Schofield obtaining her sole victory against Mary Leigh. Stockport won the doubles.

In the men's first division both Manchester and Farnworth boast unblemished records and their meeting on March 18 could see the sparks flying. Farnworth, whose team comprises Clive Heap, Brian Clements and Bryn Farnworth, have, to date, beaten Liverpool (7-3), Blackpool (6-4), Hyde (last season's champions) (6-4), Stockport (7-3) and Bury (7-3).

Manchester's wins have been obtained against Blackpool (8-2), Liverpool (7-3), Stockport (8-2), Preston (7-3), Hyde (7-3) and Bury (6-4). In the latter engagement, at Radcliffe on January 28, the Mancunians only had two players, but a treble from Kevin Forshaw and two from Peter D'Arcy, who lost to Graham Hoy, and the doubles got them home.

Hyde, minus Nigel Eckersley this season, and Blackpool, are the favourites for demotion. Bolton, in Div. 2 (North) lost a golden opportunity for reinstatement in the top flight when they were held to a 5-all draw by Nelson, whose former Bolton player, Stephen Kaufman, did the damage with a treble. Blackburn and Salford are the other contenders and they are due to meet, in Blackburn, on March 25. St. Helens are the favourites for elevation from Div. 2 (South).

In Junior Div. 1, Barrow, the defending title-holders, are unbeaten, their main rivals, Preston, having been seen off 10-0. Mid-Cheshire, conceding 2 points start per game to Sale, had a 6-3 win to lift the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy at Warrington Y.M.C.A., on February 23.

Both Brian and Ian Johns had two singles successes and the doubles with Del Stalberg getting the other at the expense of Graham Moore. The A.G.M. of the L. & C. T.T.L. is to take place at the Derby Rooms, Leigh Library, on May 10 (7-30 p.m.).

Surprise winner of the men's singles title in the Manchester Closed Championships, played at Stretford Leisure Centre, on January 9, was Paul Collins, from Dukinfield, who plays for G.E.C. Janice Stanford should have won the women's singles, winning the first game 16 and leading 18-6 in the second against Janet Carr. Some of the league's "leading lights" were absent contesting the World Championships qualifying competition in Cleveland. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
P. Collins bt J. Inger 18, -15, 18.
K. Forshaw bt N. Hallows 18, -18, 18.

Final
COLLINS bt Forshaw 15, 19.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals
J. Carr bt M. Leigh 17, -13, 13.
J. Stanford bt J. Nield 17, 18.

Final
CARR bt Stanford -16, 19, 16.

Men's Doubles—Final
M. HANKEY R. McFARLANE bt Forshaw/
P. Hamlett 17, -18, 15.

Women's Doubles—Final
CARR/STANFORD bt Leigh/Nield 16, -15, 19.

Mixed Doubles—Final
HAMLETT/CARR bt D. Hulme/J. Fielding
12, -9, 16.

Boys' Singles—Final
McFARLANE bt Hankey 19, 19.

Veterans Singles—Final
P. D'ARCY bt A. Oldfield 13, 10.

Thursday, April 7, is a date that should be entered into your diaries when a Chinese team will be transported, ex-Birmingham, to engage in a match against a N.W. England team, at Grange Park Sports Hall, St. Helens (7-30 p.m.). Alan Mercer, the St. Helens secretary, is the organiser, and he can be contacted at 2 Tennis Street, St. Helens (Phone: St. Helens 52354).

LANCASHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

TOP SEEDS PREVAIL

by Geo. R. Yates

Cheshire players dominated the men's singles event in the Lancashire 2-Star Open played at Hawker Siddeley Dynamics, Lostock, near Bolton, on February 5, with victory going to the top seed, John Hilton, his final victim being Nigel Eckersley, who had taken out the No. 2 seed, Donald Parker, in the quarters.

Similarly, in the counterpart women's event, Leicestershire had it all to themselves in the final with top seed Karen Rogers beating Anita Stevenson, the latter having ousted No. 2 seed, Susan Lisle, in the semis.

The women's singles title was undefended by Ireland's Karen Senior, but Tony Clayton, in defence of the men's crown, let go his hold when beaten by the new champion, Hilton. Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
J. Hilton (Ch) bt L. A. Clayton (Y) 12, 15.
D. Johnson (Wa) bt P. Bowen (La) 12, 18.
D. Constance (Ch) bt R. Hampson (Ch) -19,
19, 17.

Semi-finals
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt D. Parker (La) 17, 16

Final
HILTON bt Johnson 11, 7.
Eckersley bt Constance -18, 18, 10.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
K. Rogers (Le) bt J. Carr (St) 16, 20.

D. Johnson (Ch) bt S. Midgley (Y) 17, 19.
A. Stevenson (Le) bt G. Simm (La) 11, 14.
S. Lisle (Ch) bt W. Shaw (La) 17, 8.

Semi-finals
Rogers bt Johnson 14, 17.
Stevenson bt Lisle -17, 16, 16.

Final
ROGERS bt Stevenson 18, 20.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
Parker/C. Rogers (Le) bt Bowen/Hilton -11,
15, 19.
Clayton/L. Landry (Mi) bt Constance/
Eckersley 17, 11.

Final
PARKER/ROGERS bt Clayton/Landry 15,
16.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
Lisle/Stevenson bt L. Hryszko (Y)/Midgley
17, 19.

C. Ford (La)/Johnson bt S. Jenkins (Du)/
Rogers 14, 16.

Final
LISLE/STEVENSON bt Ford/Johnson 8, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
Hilton/Rogers bt Bowen/Johnson 14, 12.
Parker/Stevenson bt Hampson/Lisle 7, 18.

Final
HILTON/ROGERS bt Parker/Stevenson -9,
16, 17.

Veteran Singles—Semi-finals
D. Schofield (Ch) bt M. Tew (Ch) 14, 12.
G. Brook (Y) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) -17, 20, 13.

Final
SCHOFIELD bt Brook 18, 24.

North Bournemouth Club 1-Star Open

DORSET AND HANTS DOMINATE

by C. B. Cashell

A maximum number of entries was received for this popular event, which was dominated by Dorset and Hampshire players in all seven events, the winners all coming from the Bournemouth area.

Steve Wilson took the men's singles title by beating Trevor Smith and Janet New accounted for last season's winner, Joyce Coop, in the final of the women's singles after winning the girls' title.

Janet, partnered by Julie Hudson, took the women's doubles. John Robinson, partnered by Martin Abbott, played well to win the men's doubles, and last year's runners-up, Trevor Smith and Joyce Coop, captured the mixed title.

Colin Wilson won the boys' singles title for the second successive time, there being a record entry for this event. Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
S. Wilson (Ha) bt R. Bergemann (Ha) 16,
-17, 20.

T. Smith (Ha) bt J. Tibbles (Wi) 18, 17.

Final
WILSON bt Smith 18, 15.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals
J. New (Do) bt J. Seabrook (Mi) 8, 10.
J. Coop (Do) bt H. Williams (Mi) 15, 14.

Final
NEW bt Coop 18, -11, 18.

Men's Doubles—Final
M. ABBOTT/J. ROBINSON (Do) bt W.
Moulding (Wi)/Tibbles -17, 13, 19.

Women's Doubles—Final
J. HUDSON (Ha)/NEW bt J. Applin (Do)/
Coop 4, 11.

Mixed Doubles—Final
SMITH/COOP bt C. Wilson (Ha)/Williams
22, 11.

Boys' Singles—Final
C. WILSON bt K. Satchell (Wi) 18, 19.

Girls' Singles—Final
NEW bt E. Sayer (E) 16, 14.

HERTFORDSHIRE CLOSED

By SUPERLOOP

Honours at this season's Hertfordshire Closed Championships were widely distributed with the winners of the major singles events—Geoff Giles and Daphne Baines—successful in those events only.

Simon Proffitt was successful in Men's Doubles (with brother Jonathan) and in the Mixed with Linda Towler, who was the only other player successful in two events, adding the Women's Doubles title with the help of Jane Hartwell.

Results:—
Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
J. Proffitt (St. Albans) bt T. Pleasance (N. Herts) 12, 20.

S. Proffitt (St. Albans) bt J. Baxter (Hemel) 14, 14.
 J. Bender (Cheshunt) bt C. Jackson (Cheshunt) -17, 11, 12.
 G. Giles (St. Albans) bt D. Seaholme (Watford) 15, 22.
Semi-finals
 J. Proffitt bt S. Proffitt 11, 14.
 Giles bt Bender -18, 19, 18.
Final
 GILES bt J. Proffitt 17, 18.
Women's Singles—Semi-finals
 Daphne Baines (N. Herts) bt Janet Rogers (Bishops Stortford) 9, 15.
 Susan Felstead (N. Herts) bt Gill Calver (N. Herts) 15, 18.
Final
 Mrs. Baines bt Mrs. Felstead 7, 18.
Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
 Proffitt/Proffitt bt Bender/Seaholme 16, 9.
 Giles/Jackson bt G. Bax (St. Albans)/Baxter 19, 17.
Final
 PROFFITT/PROFFITT bt Giles/Jackson 11, 14.
Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
 Barbara Peters (Watford)/Rodgers bt Baines/Felstead 18, -17, 17.
 Jane Hartwell (Cheshunt)/Linda Towler (St. Albans) bt Lindsey Booth (N. Herts)/Calver 9, 13.
Final
 HARTWELL/TOWLER bt Peters/Rodgers 22, 17.
Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
 Bax/Baines bt J. Proffitt/Hartwell 13, -17, 18.
 S. Proffitt/Towler bt Giles/Peters 21, 15.
Final
 PROFFITT/TOWLER bt Bax/Baines 19, -18, 19.
Men's Veteran Singles—Final
 BAX bt Baxter 18, 18.
Women's Veteran Singles—Final
 JOYCE PINE (Hertford) bt Linda Hodge (W.G.C./Hatfield) -15, 17, 14.

BRISTOL CLOSED

FIVE TITLES FOR CARA
 by Dennis Pope

Thirteen-year-old Cara Rowe won five Junior titles at the Bristol Closed Championships. Cara won three singles events, U-13, U-15 and U-17, and Girls' doubles in the U-15 and U-17 events. Her best performance was in the semi-final of the U-17 singles when she beat the Avon County Junior No. 1 and top-ranked Wendy Simmons 20, 13.

Paul Lewis, who has always been under the shadow of Chris Sewell in the Boys' singles, took full advantage of the fact that Sewell has now graduated to Senior level, by winning the title without dropping a game. A good performance in this event from 14-year-old Phil Riley, of Fromeside, who beat clubmate and No. 2 seed Robert Wolfe, in convincing style 10, 9 in the semi-final, but Riley lacked the experience to beat Lewis in the final.

In the final of the Men's singles, Sewell beat Brian Reeves, this being a repeat of last year. Reeves gained consolation by winning the Men's doubles partnered by his Failand clubmate, Colin Feltham. He also won the Mixed with his wife, Pat.

One of the best performances of the day came from Muriel Hooker in the Women's singles when she beat top seed Pat Reeves in the quarters. The title, however, went to Avon County No. 1, Gillian Harris, who beat Muriel Hooker in an exciting final. There was also some consolation for the losing finalist in this event when Muriel, partnered with Cleeve clubmate Joan Wyatt, won the Women's doubles.

The tournament was once again efficiently run by referee Mrs. Pat Archdale, and ended with welcomed news that Mike

Lewis, one of the most popular "guys" in local table tennis, had qualified as a County Umpire.

Results of finals:—
 M.S.: C. Sewell bt B. Reeves 11, 15.
 M.D.: Reeves/C. Feltham bt Ray Philpott/John Hartry 15, 12.
 W.S.: G. Harris bt M. Hooker -17, 11, 17.
 W.D.: Hooker/J. Wyatt bt Harris/Janet Achurch -17, 20, 16.
 X.D.: Pat & Brian Reeves bt June & Ken Watts 19, 9.
 V.S.: Keith House bt Alan Groves 19, 17.
 B.S. (U-11): Benjamin Allen bt Paul Lawrence 14, 9.
 B.S. (U-13): Mark Archer bt Chris Ross 18, -11, 14.
 B.S. (U-15): Martyn Smith bt Phil Riley 19, 19.
 B.S. (U-17): Paul Lewis bt Riley 19, 14.
 G.S. (U-13): Cara Rowe bt Janice Parker 2, 11.
 G.S. (U-15): Rowe bt Diana Mogg 6, 6.
 G.S. (U-17): Rowe bt Donna Vowles 11, 17.
 B.D. (U-13): Stephen Cox/Robert Hepburn bt Ross/Matthew Torrible 7, 4.
 B.D. (U-15): Steve Wilkins/Riley bt Smith/Nick Baldwin -17, 17, 16.
 G.D.: Rowe/Tina Shortman bt Sandra Candy/Sally Brain 18, 13.
 J.D.: Lewis/Smith bt Robert Wolfe/Mark Newland 16, 16.

Ascot-Millom School 1-Star Junior

FIRST EVER OPEN TITLES
 by John Taylor

Now in its second year the Ascot/Millom School Junior 1-Star Open attracted an entry of 148 players, which was considerably up on last year; and although the number of top class juniors in attendance was rather disappointing, there were sufficient good players to ensure good competition from the quarter-final stages onwards.

There were few surprises in the early rounds with the majority of seeded players reaching the quarters, but Ian Reed, currently in the middle of a good spell, played exceptionally well to dispose of Stephen Cowley in straight games in the U-17 boys' singles. This event was won by elder brother Chris, who had survived an onslaught by Nell Smith in the semis before winning 20 in the third.

The final was tame by comparison, with Ian Plummer flattering to deceive in the second, before capitulating game-5 in the decider. Plummer, however, did not return to Cleveland empty-handed, taking a share of the U-17 boys' doubles with Michael Laird when beating the more fancied Reed/Smith pair in the final.

Seeded No. 4, Elaine Mathie and Gail Smith won their first-ever open title when scraping home by a couple of 19's against the Lancs. No. 1 pair, Carol Bladen and Angela Cornwell in the U-17 girls' doubles, whilst Paul Rainford also had the first of what could well be several open successes in overwhelming a below par Steven Sharp in the U-14 boys' singles.

Helen Robinson retained the U-14 girls' singles and added the U-17 for good measure, in both instances against a rapidly improving Janet Deakin, who had held useful leads in both, only to see them eroded by Helen's cool and unemotional play which many more experienced players could do well to copy. Results:—

U-17 Events
 B.S.: C. Reed (Cu) bt I. Plummer (Cv) 10, -19, 5.
 G.S.: H. Robinson (Cv) bt J. Deakin (Ch) 19, 10.
 B.D.: M. Laird (Cv)/Plummer bt C. Reed/N. Smith (Cu) -22, 15, 17.
 G.D.: E. Mathie/G. Smith (Cu) bt C. Bladen

/A. Cornwell (La) 19, 19.
 X.D.: Smith/Smith bt I. Reed (Cu)/Deakin 18, 18.
U-14 Events
 B.S.: P. Rainford (La) bt S. Sharp (Cu) 9, 8.
 G.S.: Robinson bt Deakin 18, -19, 15.
 B.D.: Rainford/Sharp bt R. Palfreeman/G. Wilson (Y) 18, 8.
 G.D.: Deakin/L. Fennah (Ch) bt S. Hadley/J. Harris (St) 16, 4.

COTSWOLD 2-STAR JUNIOR

by Dave Foulser

GREEN TAKES TITLE

Shropshire's Malcolm Green swept all before him in the Boys' U-17 Singles at the Cotswold Junior Open, beating Colin Wilson in the final. What seemed to distinguish him from all others over the two days of the tournament was his outstanding ability to play all the strokes but at the same time making very few enforced errors. John Souter was also very successful, winning the Boys' U-15 Singles and Doubles, with Paul Rainford. On the feminine side, Mandy Reeves defeated Helen Williams in an all-Middlesex U-15 Girls' Singles final, and then in partnership with Gillian Galloway, took the Girls' U-15 Doubles. However, Mandy did not make it a hat-trick when she went down narrowly in the final of the Junior Mixed with Costas Papanioniou against Wilson and Williams. The tournament was once again an outstanding success and thanks must be given to the Referee Les Smith, assistants Maurice Chalk and Peter Cruwys and the many other people who helped during the weekend.

Results:—
U-17 Events
 B.S.: M. Green (Sp) bt C. Wilson (Ha) 12, 19.
 G.S.: B. Keeble (Wl) bt E. Hughes (Ox) 15, -15, 12.
 B.D.: S. Harmer/C. Leslie (Bu) bt M. Dexter/D. Ward (Wa) 19, -17, 9.
 G.D.: Keeble/C. Maisey (W) bt S. James (Co)/Hughes 15, 9.
 X.D.: Wilson/H. Williams (Ml) bt C. Papanioniou/M. Reeves (Ml) 12, -19, 18.
U-15 Events
 B.S.: J. Souter (Ml) bt A. Bellingham (St) 15, 19.
 G.S.: Reeves bt Williams 19, 11.
 B.D.: Souter/P. Rainford (La) bt K. Nicholl (Nt)/A. Coulthard (Glam) 21, 6.
 G.D.: Reeves/G. Galloway (Li) bt James/Williams (-15, 15, 20).
Under-13 Events
 B.S.: Souter bt B. Johnson (Bk) -21, 15, 10.
 G.S.: Williams bt P. Townsend (Wl) 16, 23.
 B.D.: A. Dixon (West Mid)/J. Duffield (Wo) bt S. Palmer (Su)/Rainford -14, 22, 14.
 G.D.: Galloway/L. Fennah (Ch) bt James/Williams -15, 15, 20.
Under-11 Events
 B.S.: G. Lambert (Dv) bt A. Devitt (St) 13, -19, 16.
 G.S.: J. Parker (La) bt A. Sparks (Lo) 13, 11.

NEW SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION

By IAN R. A. COSSOR

At an inaugural meeting held at Oaken-gates, on February 20, a Midland Schools' Table Tennis Association was formed to promote and encourage the playing of table tennis in schools in the Midland area. A constitution was adopted, copies of which will be sent to all County Schools' Secretaries concerned, and the following officers elected: President—Maurice Goldstein, if he is willing to accept the position; Chair-

man—John Blackband (West Midlands); Vice-Chairman—John Wilde (Notts); Secretary—Ian Cossor (Shropshire); Assistant Secretary—Adrian Evans (W. Midlands); Treasurer—Hugh Cherry (W. Midlands). The Executive Committee is to consist of the above plus one nominated delegate from each affiliated County Schools' Association.

The first object of the Association is to organise twice yearly competitions between County teams and annual individual championships. The inaugural meeting coincided with the first of these team championships and the results were as follows:—

U-19 Boys: Shropshire 5 (Les Baker, Ian Baker, Paul Drage, Neil Mortimer), West Midlands 3 (Lee, Loh, Tanner, Patel).

Only the two counties entered and the cup and plaques were presented by Mr. Roberts-Powis, the manager of the Oaken-gates Leisure Centre.

U-16 Boys: Winners—Shropshire (M. Green, N. Thomas, M. Pugh, H. Dalton); Runners-up—West Midlands (A. Rich, A. Bellingham, L. Bertie, P. Dawes).

Presentation of cup and plaques by Adrian Evans.

U-13 Boys: Winners—West Midlands (M. Devitt, S. Beer, I. Wepke, R. Holmes). Runners-up—Staffordshire (S. Rogers, P. Barrett, J. Bradbury, M. Degg).

Presentation of cup and plaques by Ian Cossor.

In addition a "best performer" cup was presented and shared between Malcolm Green (Shropshire) U-16, and Mark Devitt (W. Midlands) U-13.

The next event is an individual championship, to be held in Birmingham, on April 23-24. The age groups concerned are: Boys—U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-19. Girls—U-14, U-16, U-19.

The competition will be run on a group basis with 8 groups of 5 players per competition. Counties will be initially restricted to four entries per competition but will be asked to nominate extra players who will be included if other counties fail to fill their quota.

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

JANUARY 22-23, 1977

By DEREK OLDMAN

JUSTLY PROUD

The University of Bath provided the setting for the annual British University Championships, held in the very impressive sports hall, which is indeed, the envy of sport lovers for miles around. Bath University, who have recently introduced "sports scholarships", is justly proud of its facilities and provided all the back-up help necessary to make once again a highly successful tournament. Combined sponsorship from Lillywhite Mansfield, Midland Bank, Stiga and Ascot Sports, meant that for the first time "prizes" were available for the winner and equipment was amongst the finest available.

The organisers will, rather embarrassingly, remember these Championships as the occasion when many unfancied players decided to take positive action against their not being seeded in the best possible way, by ousting their more illustrious colleagues. Fortunately, results became more predictable as the tournament progressed and upsets were far more infrequent in the doubles events and women's singles.

Unfortunately, important studies prevented top seed Donald Parker from competing, but Clement Lo, the No. 2, was a victim of ex-ranked junior, Andrew Well-

man, of Sussex University. Other seeded players to make early exits included John Fuller, beaten by Ivan Chan (more about him later), and G. Musselwhite and R. Oldfield, both Avon County players, and defeated by P. Lucena, a Portuguese nationally-ranked player who is studying at Essex, and Ian Wallace, from St. Andrews respectively. Chan, Lucena, Peter Edon, the No. 5 seed, from Birmingham, and Wellman, eventually reached the semis, Edon being the only remaining seeded player, one of his victims being Jonathan Proffitt. Chan beat Lucena and Edon was most impressive, giving Wellman few opportunities to shine in an excellent semi-final.

In the final, both players were evenly matched and a deciding game was necessary. However, Edon was the first to crack and in the end "bowed out" quietly to the London University student who, although being around for a number of years, has never really seriously bothered the top players before.

The Women's Singles was far more predictable, top seeds, Mandy Mellor, Janet Carr, Linda Clemett and Barbara Devine all making the semis without bother. Mandy, representing Loughborough, was drawn against Barbara, a first year at Hull and ex-North Middlesex junior, whilst Janet, from Manchester, came up against Linda, of Leeds, who had already one victory over Miss Carr (in the recent W.I.V.A.B. Championships) under her belt. However, the Manchester University girl was in no mood to allow a repeat performance and had a comparatively comfortable passage to the final. This was also the case in the other semi, Mandy Mellor giving Barbara Devine very few chances to shine, winning two-straight in no time at all. The final was an excellent match and could have gone either way. The Derbyshire girl had to contain Janet in the early stages when the Staffordshire player's forehand was almost "lethal". In the deciding game Mandy gained the upper hand when it really mattered, right at the end, and managed to scrape home with little to spare.

Top seeds in the Men's Doubles, Wellman and Proffitt, reached the semis, but strangely came unstuck against a scratch pair, Colin Williams and Y. S. Tan, of Leeds, who had taken full advantage of Parker's non-attendance. Fuller and Mo Shaban, a well-seasoned pair, from Warwick, went out very early to Rainford and Hanson, of Lancaster, who, in turn, disappeared quickly. Just to prove his success in the singles wasn't a "fluke", Chan and his able partner, Simon Ball, reached the semis, meeting and beating another Sussex pair, M. Williams and P. Schwitzer. The final produced some good table tennis but it quickly became apparent that the London pair would win, which they eventually did 2-straight, once again highlighting the fact that many good players are always lurking in the wings.

The top seeds in the Women's Doubles all reached their expected stage. In the first semis Janet Carr and her new partner, Jane Clemence, of Manchester University, beat W.I.V.A.B. champions, Saywell and Glover, from Birmingham, whilst Sarah Jackson and Sheila Sutherland ousted Dunbar and Massie, from the granite city of Aberdeen. Jackson and Sutherland eventually won a very close final which made up for their defeat at the same stage in the W.I.V.A.B. Championship and also gave considerable pleasure to the organiser.

Once again the results proved the organiser right in the Mixed Doubles, where in the semis Fuller and Christine Daybell, of Warwick, met Chung-Hai-Ng and Janet Carr, of Manchester, the other match being between Williams and Clemett, of Leeds, and Edon and Saywell, from Birmingham. With U.A.U./W.I.V.A.B. champions Parker and Mandy Mellor having scratched, the field became wide open. The finalists were Hai-Ng and Carr and Williams and Clemett. The Manchester pair were always in com-

mand and even Colin Williams' attempt to break up their game with a wooden bat failed to have any effect, although the spectators were somewhat amused. The result was never in doubt and for Janet Carr it meant a winner's medal at the third time of asking.

With entries expanding every year, it is becoming more and more difficult to find adequate venues without staying in the same area year after year, which would be unfair to the Scottish and Northern Universities. The introduction of group play in the Singles events has made it even more necessary to find a hall which will house at least 12 tables. This appears to me to be of paramount importance if the high standard achieved in recent years is to be maintained.

Results:—

M.S.: I. Chan (London) bt P. Edon (Birmingham) 20, -16, 12.

W.S.: M. Mellor (Loughborough) bt J. Carr (Manchester) 17, -19, 18.

M.D.: Chan/S. Ball (London) bt C. Williams /Y. S. Tan (Leeds) 14, 19.

W.D.: S. Jackson/S. Sutherland bt Carr/J. Clemence (Manchester) 19, 22.

XD.: C. Hai-Ng/Carr (Manchester) bt Williams/L. Clemett (Leeds) 15, 10.

NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Keith Ponting

FIRST APPEARANCE

WILMOTT CUP

Denis Neale made his first appearance of the season for Ormesby against Sunderland and, along with Robert Wiley and Jimmy Walker, had no problems. The Chesterfield trio of Maurice Billington, Derek and Niel Marples also won easily without any reply from Potteries. Kevin Caldon was in great form for Dagenham against Chelmsford and his maximum was well deserved. St. Albans did well to beat Willesden, thanks to Firoz Nilam, Geoff Giles and Les Wooding. The Brighton combination of Sam Ogundipe, Roger Chandler and Robin Stace again won comfortably at the expense of East Grinstead, as did Bristol at Southampton with Brian Reeves and Tony Clayton unbeaten.

Fourth Round Results

Ormesby 6, Sunderland 0
Halfax 2, Manchester 5
Potteries 0, Chesterfield 6
North Herts 2, Birmingham 7
Dagenham 5, Chelmsford 2
St. Albans 5, Willesden 2
Brighton 5, East Grinstead 1
Southampton 2, Bristol 7

Wilmott Cup—Quarter-finals

Manchester v Ormesby
Chesterfield v Birmingham
St. Albans v Dagenham
Bristol v Brighton

ROSE BOWL

Anita Stevenson, Jose and Karen Rogers, of Leicester, made the long journey to Liverpool but came home happy, conceding only one set. A fine maximum from Janet Robertson, plus two from Elaine Foulds, saw Dagenham through at Birmingham. Linda Woodcock and Debbie Wooton were the stars as Ipswich crushed neighbours Norwich, as were Angela Mitchell and Helen Williams for North Middlesex against North Acton.

Fourth Round Results

Hull 1, Ormesby 5
Manchester 1, Bradford 5
Leicester 9, Liverpool 0
Dagenham 5, Birmingham 2
Ipswich 7, Norwich 2
N. Middlesex 5, North Acton 2
Eastbourne 7, Chelmsford 2
Bournemouth 5, Reading 4

Quarter-finals

Ormesby v Bradford
 Dagenham v Leicester
 Ipswich v North Middlesex
 Eastbourne v Bournemouth

CARTER CUP

Dave Gammon and Chris Rogers led Leicester to a good win at Derby. Stratford's good run came to an end against Wolverhampton with Andrew Bellingham taking three and Andrew Rich two. Leatherhead will take some beating but much depends on Martin Shuttle and Stephen Boxall. They showed their worth at the expense of North Middlesex. Vastly improved Hastings boys nearly pulled off a great win. Young Steve Moore nearly surprised Paul O'Connor but was "experienced" out of a 17-13 lead. Ian Kenyon was caught by Steve who "pinched" a two-straight win. This left it all for Graham Gillett and Paul O'Connor to fight for. Gillett was a game and 12-5 up before O'Connor found a way to win 21-16 and getting away at 15-5 to win 18 in the third. A very exciting climax to the match. The West Wilts team of Kevin Edwards, Duncan Cleveland and Keith Satchell have done very well to reach the Quarter-finals and against Reading they played really well, particularly Edwards and Cleveland, who won two each. Satchell won the other to counter the three wins for Reading's David Reeves.

Fourth Round Results

Barrow 5, Ormesby 1
 Hull —, Halifax —
 Leicester 7, Derby 2
 Stratford 3, Wolverhampton 6
 Norwich 2, North Herts 7
 Hastings 4, Bromley 5
 North Middlesex 2, Leatherhead 5
 Reading 3, West Wilts 5

Quarter-finals

Barrow v Hull or Halifax
 Wolverhampton v Leicester
 Leatherhead v North Herts
 West Wilts v Bromley

BROMFIELD TROPHY

The impressive Wolverhampton trio of Susanne Watton, Stephanie Jones and Shirley Cain notched up another great win at Lincoln whose only resistance came from Gillian Galloway. The powerful Reading team go marching on to perhaps another final, and Alison Gordon, Jo Douglas and Jill Purslow gave Norwich little chance to shine. Another good show by Guildford's Kerry Merritt, Sue Roebuck and Sarah Cresswell against Swindon.

Quarter-final Results

Bradford 4, Ormesby 5
 Wolverhampton 5, Lincoln 2
 Norwich 1, Reading 5
 Guildford 6, Swindon 3

Semi-finals

Ormesby v Wolverhampton
 Reading v Guildford

CHESHIRE NOTES

by John Woodward

DATE AND VENUE FIXED

At last we have a date and a venue for the 1976-77 Cheshire Closed. I.C.I. Hyde have kindly given permission to use their canteen on April 16-17. The Junior and Youth events will be held on the Saturday and the Seniors' day will be Sunday.

All Cheshire affiliated leagues should have received entry forms but if not, they should contact me at 31 Norwich Road, Stretford, Manchester ('Phone: 061-747725).

While on the subject of tournaments, it is with great interest that we look forward to Sunday, April 24th, when the Cheshire Junior 1-Star Open will be held in the Wirral. Entry forms for this revived tournament can be had from Norman Berry, at 58 Bickerton Avenue, Higher Bebington, Merseyside ('Phone: 051-645 4954).

Congratulations to John Hilton, his

recent No. 4 England ranking makes him Cheshire's highest ever ranked player and is a just reward for his dedication and more mature game this season.

A great win for Nigel Eckersley in the Middlesex 3-Star Open, when he took the men's singles crown by conquering Ian Horsham in the final.

On the Junior front Ross McFarlane and Mark Hankey proved to be the surprise pair in the Manchester Closed by winning the doubles title. Ross also won the junior event, defeating Mark in the final. Well done lads.

Like Dr. Foster, Lynne Fennah went to Gloucester for the Cotswold Junior 2-Star and she returned home with a big smile on her face and the U-13 doubles title shared with Gillian Galloway, of Lincoln. Unlike the Doctor, she didn't experience his disastrous results and I am sure she will go there again.

Janet Deakin has done very well attaining No. 9 position in the Cadet (U-14) national rankings. At the recent Millom Junior Open, Janet reached four finals, winning the U-14 doubles title with Lynne (yet again wearing a big smile). Keep it up girls.

It is with regret that we received the news that Len Elias, who has "run" the Junior County side this season, is to leave us after the last match. Once more he answers the call of the Welsh dragon and travels across the border to take over the reins of Clwyd next season. We all thank him for a job well done and wish him every success in his new venture.

Midland Counties 2-Star Open

TREBLE FOR DES

Desmond Douglas brought off a triple success in the Midland Counties 2-Star Open when, with victory over John Hilton, he won the men's singles and, in partnership with Ian Horsham and Melody Lüdi, took the men's and mixed doubles.

Karen Rogers won the women's singles title and, keeping matters in the family, Chris took the boys' singles with a final win over Michael Harrison.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

D. Douglas (Wa) bt A. Clayton (Y) 12, 13.
 D. Munt (Wa) bt M. Mitchell (MI) 9, 7.
 P. Bowen (La) bt L. Landry (MI) 16, -12, 11.
 J. Hilton (Ch) bt D. Newman (E) 11, 15.

Semi-finals

Douglas bt Munt, 2, 10.
 Hilton bt Bowen 14, 6.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Hilton 19, 12.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

S. Lisle (Ch) bt A. Tierney (Cv) -19, 11, 17.
 M. Lüdi (Y) bt A. Stevenson (Le) 13, -15, 19.
 K. Rogers (Le) bt S. Jones (St) 10, 9.
 J. Williams (Cv) bt L. Holmes (Dy) 8, 11.

Semi-finals

Lüdi bt Lisle 10, 14.
 Rogers bt Williams 19, 17.

Final

ROGERS bt Lüdi -16, 21, 18.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/I. Horsham (E) bt Bowen/Hilton 16, 24.

A. Fletcher (Y)/R. Hampson (Ch) bt Clayton/L. Landry (MI) 18, 10.

Final

DOUGLAS/HORSHAM bt Fletcher/Hampson -16, 23, 15.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Lisle/Stevenson bt Jones/Rogers 11, 17.
 J. Chubb (St)/Lüdi bt Tierney/Williams, -13, 18, 17.

Final

LISLE/STEVENSON bt Chubb/Lüdi 17, 15.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Lüdi bt D. Iszatt (E)/Williams 14, 12.

Hilton/Rogers bt Clayton/Tierney -17, 14, 18.

Final

DOUGLAS/LUDI bt Hilton/Rogers 15, 18.

Veteran Singles—Semi-finals

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt B. Sandley (MI) 8, 7.
 G. Evans (Wal) bt T. Donlon (Ch) 6, 13.

Final

EVANS bt D'Arcy 17, 14.

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

K. Beadsley (Y) bt K. Paxton (Du) 16, 21.
 M. Harrison (Y) bt P. Draisey (St) 22, 21.
 C. Rogers (Le) bt C. Reed (Cu) 11, 19.
 Newman bt N. Smith (Cu) 8, 11.

Semi-finals

Harrison bt Beadsley 18, 15.

Rogers bt Newman 16, 15.

Final

ROGERS bt Harrison 12, 8.

Girls Singles—Semi-finals

Williams bt P. Cameron (Ng) 7, 12.
 Tierney bt S. Midgley (Y) 13, 6.

Final

TIERNEY bt Williams 18, 12.

Junior Boys' Doubles—Final

BEADSLEY/HARRISON bt Newman/G. Sandley (MI) 16, 16.

Junior Girls' Doubles—Final

TIERNEY/WILLIAMS bt B. Keeble/W. Parker (Wl) 16, -19, 16.

In the Coaching Field

by JOHN O'SULLIVAN

There must be many opinions on how we should extract maximum benefit from the 34th World Championships. It can be added that I must have heard about 500 of them, some of which, though most interesting, are completely impracticable, mainly due to finance.

Now that the great event is almost upon us, decisions have to be made and plans finalised by the various E.T.T.A. committees. Each committee has to apply to the Hon. Treasurer for a budget, outside of which they must not go.

The National Coaching and Schools' Committee have decided that the very high quality play that will be witnessed, must not only be analysed live, but will be put on to Video tape to be studied at a later date.

A panel of four, selected by the Coaching Committee for their various talents, will be present for the full period of the Championships under the leadership of Peter Hirst. Apart from studying the players live, they will have at their disposal 2 Video cameras plus experienced operators, who will co-operate with the panel to record the more interesting points of the play.

To obtain the widest possible view of the Championships a further observer group of some 50 coaches have been invited to attend on three selected days, probably during the team events, from March 27-29, when most of the top players will be in action.

Gordon Steggall, Chairman of the N.C. and S. Committee, will be the administrator for both these groups and will also control a further team answering queries on coaching matters posed by the general public. To complete this programme on the World Championships, a seminar will be held to collate the information gathered by the observers, and assess the benefits that will be gained from them. It is hoped to hold the seminar in early July at a venue yet to be confirmed.

Judging by the number of countries now involved in table tennis at world level, it could be another 50 years before they

return to these shores. It is therefore vital that as much information as possible is gleaned from this gathering of the world's best players while we have the opportunity.

Following the successful launching of the Schools' Proficiency Award Scheme, in the two pilot areas, the scheme is now available nationwide. Many schools were introduced to the award at the E.S.T.T.A. National Team Finals at Lea Green, on February 12. For those people who have never experienced tension at its highest, I would suggest that they attend these schoolteam finals next year, or the individual finals later this year.

You will usually locate the venue by the number of parents and teachers who are walking up and down outside the hall smoking innumerable cigarettes. They will tell you that they cannot bear to watch as their pulse-rate has risen to around 200!

On entering the building you will see concentration and endeavour on the faces of the competitors from as young as the Under-11's that is difficult to find in many other tournaments. If you want to see what team spirit and involvement is really like, this is where you will witness not just one competitor on the table, but the rest of the team around the arena playing every ball, experiencing the agonies of the lost point and cheering the "winners". If only some County teams could be half as enthusiastic!

Still, these players are the County teams of the future, let us hope they don't change.

Cleveland 3-Star Open

DOUGLAS TAKES THE "BREAD"



by Alan Ransome

The Cleveland 3-Star, the highest Open prize money tournament within the U.K., was successfully staged at Thornaby Pavilion over the weekend of February 12-13, sponsored by Cleveland County Council Leisure and Amenities Department and Mileta Sports Limited, the main Butterfly agents in the U.K.

The Men's Singles, predictably on current form, was won by Desmond Douglas. Throughout the tournament he never looked in trouble. In fact, the highest score recorded against him was Andrew Barden's 15 points in the final. To reach the final Douglas dismissed Max Crimmins, Australian tourist Stephen Knapp, and Paul Day, whilst Barden enjoyed his best tournament of the season which included a victory over Denis Neale (12 and 9) and a win over Jimmy Walker in the semi-final.

The Women's Singles was won by Carole Knight, on her home territory. She was in excellent form, first dismissing Angela

Mitchell then Linda Howard in the semi-final. Her victory over Jill Hammersley in the final had to be seen to be believed. Carole, with some amazing loops, won the first game 21-5! Jill fought back well in the second, gaining an early lead and going on to win at 16, but in the decider the Ormesby girl turned on the pressure again, led 10-0 at the change and went on to win 21-7!

The lion's share of the prize money was taken by Douglas, for in addition to winning the Men's Singles he won the Doubles, partnered by Neale, beating Day and Barden in the final and then combined with Linda Howard to win the Mixed, beating Nigel Eckersley and Karen Witt. Eckersley and Miss Witt had a surprise first round victory over Neale and Jill Hammersley with Barden and Carole Knight going out to Donald Parker and Anita Stevenson, whilst Day and Melody Lüdi also made a first round exit to Australians Bob Tuckett and Helen Morrow.

The Women's Doubles was retained by Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard meeting only token resistance in the final from Carole Knight and Melody Lüdi.

The biggest surprise of the tournament came in the intermediate Men's Singles when Maxwell Crimmins turned in some brilliant table tennis to take the title. Crimmins started with a straight-games victory over Keith Paxton, had little difficulty with Robert Wiley then handed out similar treatment to the second seed, Barden, winning 9 and 18. The final against Day was a cracker. The first two games were shared then Crimmins clinching the decider at "deuce".

A deserved winner of the intermediate Women's Singles was Karen Witt. She beat local girls Angela Tierney and June Williams in straight games and was even more impressive in the final against Melody Lüdi, winning 15 and 12. The Veterans' Singles was retained by Peter D'Arcy.

The Championships themselves were well staged with the finals being attended by a good crowd on Sunday afternoon. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Keenan, Chairman of Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department, and Councillor Peter Fulton, Chairman of the County Education Department.

Conspicuous by their absence were members of the National Selection Committee. One would have imagined that as this season there are only three 3-Star tournaments, a special effort could have been made by the members to attend these three all-important events. The first sign of interest came when Alan Hydes arrived just before the finals on Sunday afternoon.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

D. Douglas (Wa) bt S. Knapp (Aul) 14, 10.
P. Day (Ca) bt R. Potton (E) 12, 12.
J. Walker (Cv) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 12, 10.
A. Barden (Mi) bt D. Neale (Cv) 12, 9.

Semi-finals

Douglas bt Day 14, 13.
Barden bt Walker -17, 16, 14.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Barden 15, 15.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

J. Hammersley (Bu) bt M. Lüdi (Y) 15, 6.
K. Witt (Bk) bt A. Tierney (Cv) 20, 18.
L. Howard (Sy) bt A. Stevenson (Le) 18, 10.
C. Knight (Cv) bt A. Mitchell (Mi) 11, 15.

Semi-finals

Hammersley bt Witt 5, 14.
Knight bt Howard 21, 12.

Final

KNIGHT bt Hammersley 5, -16, 7.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Neale bt R. Javor (Aul)/Knapp 9, 12.
Barden/Day bt Potton/C. Rogers (Le) 12, 19.

Final

DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Barden/Day 14, 14.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt S. Hunt (Li)/

Stevenson 17, 12.

Knight/Lüdi bt H. Morrow/K. Thompson (Aul) 13, 14.

Final

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Knight/Lüdi 10, 19.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Howard bt Parker/Stevenson 14, 15.
Eckersley/Witt bt R. Tuckett (Aul)/Morrow 11, 17.

Final

DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Eckersley/Witt 14, 8.

Intermediate Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

Day bt A. Metcalfe (Y) 17, 16.
Potton bt Javor 15, -22, 17.
M. Crimmins (Sy) bt R. Wiley (Cv) 10, 6.
Barden bt K. Beadsley (Y) 16, 14.

Semi-finals

Day bt Potton -14, 7, 19.
Crimmins bt Barden 9, 18.

Final

CRIMMINS bt Day 13, -13, 20.

Intermed. Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

Witt bt Williams 21, 15.
J. Williams (Cv) bt H. Robinson (Cv) 6, 10.
Mitchell bt J. Skipp (Cv) 6, 15.
Lüdi bt C. Buttery (Li) 22, 14.

Semi-finals

Witt bt Williams 21-15.
Lüdi bt Mitchell 13, 18.

Final

WITT bt Lüdi 15, 12.

Veterans' Singles—Semi-finals

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt D. Holden (Cv) 9, 8.
K. Skipp (Cv) bt J. Garvin (La) 10, 12.

Final

D'ARCY bt Skipp 13, 16.

Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open

TITLE RETENTION FOR BEADSLEY

by Geo. R. Yates

Players from Yorkshire made a clean sweep of the U-17 titles in the Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open played at Bolton Institute of Technology on March 6, with Kevin Beadsley retaining his boys' singles title with a final win over his Halifax teammate, Tony Bottomley.

This was the only title of eight to be kept, the girls' singles passing to Sally Dickerson who, with Sally Midgley, also won the girls' doubles, Beadsley picking up a second title in the boys' doubles with Mike Harrison.

Gillian Galloway, the losing girls' singles finalist in the U-17 category, won the U-14 title and the doubles, with Lynne Fennah. The young Welsh lad, Mark Thomas, triumphed over Yorkshire's Neil Barley in the U-14 boys' singles, the doubles title in this category being won by Andrew Dixon and Jeremy Duffield.

An over-ambitious acceptance of entries meant for a late finish after 13 hours of continuous play on 16 tables. 190-plus entries for the boys' U-17 singles for a 1-day tournament is simply not on and the lesson is there for a curtailment of entries in the future. A pity some could not have been passed over to Yorkshire, whose 2-Star Senior Open had to be cancelled the previous day due to a lack of entries!

UNDER-17 EVENTS

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

K. Beadsley (Y) bt M. Hankey (Ch) 18, 9.
S. Turner (La) bt S. Mills (Y) 15, 16.
S. Yallop (Dy) bt D. Gray (Cu) -20, 18, 11.
A. Bottomley (Y) bt A. O'Connor (La) 17, -15, 14.

Semi-finals

Beadsley bt Turner -18, 15, 10.
Bottomley bt Yallop 11, -14, 20.

Final

BEADSLEY bt Bottomley 9, -12, 15.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals

S. Midgeley (Y) bt J. Harris (St) 15, 7.
 G. Galloway (Li) bt J. Deakin (Ch) 16, 18.
 S. Dickerson (Y) bt R. Ashton (La) 12, 12.
 S. Cain (St) bt E. Mathie (Cu) 6, 8.

Semi-finals

Galloway bt Midgeley 13, 18.
 Dickerson bt Cain 10, 13.

Final

DICKERSON bt Galloway 10, 18.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals

Beadsley/M. Harrison (Y) bt Mills/A. Summerscales (Y) 11, -18, 20.
 J. Hibbert (Dy)/Yallop bt S. Cowley (La)/Hankey -11, 17, 17.

Final

BEADSLEY/HARRISON bt Hibbert/Yallop 11, 17.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals

Dickerson/Midgeley bt L. Fennah (Ch)/Galloway 16, 15.
 Cain/S. Watton (St) bt Deakin/Harris 11, -19, 16.

Final

DICKERSON/MIDGELEY bt Cain/Watton 13, 20.

UNDER-14 EVENTS

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

M. Thomas (Wal) bt J. Weatherby (Ch) 18, 14.
 K. Grundy (Wa) bt C. Freely (La) 11, -17, 13.
 N. Barley (Y) bt S. Sharp (Cu) -17, 12, 18.
 P. Rainford (La) bt M. Heppenstall (Y) 15, 13.

Semi-finals

Thomas bt Grundy 18, 15.
 Barley bt Rainford 19, 20.

Final

THOMAS bt Barley 18, 15.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals

T. Wenn (Y) bt S. Hadley (St) 7, 10.
 Deakin bt J. Woodcock (Cv) 14, 13.
 Cain bt J. Forbes (Y) 5, 7.
 Galloway bt J. Parker (La) 16, 15.

Semi-finals

Deakin bt Wenn 20, 16.
 Galloway bt Cain -16, 15, 21.

Final

GALLOWAY bt Deakin 17, 16.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals

A. Dixon (St)/J. Duffield (Wo) bt M. Gibbons/S. Mercer (La) 17, 17.
 Grundy/P. Samuda (Wa) bt L. Hewitt/S. Madden (Y) 22, -17, 15.

Final

DIXON/DUFFIELD bt Grundy/Samuda 14, -20, 22.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals

P. Bickerdike/B. Gray (Cu) bt M. Hunter/S. Hunter (La) 16, -19, 14.
 Fennah/Galloway bt Deakin/Harris 23, -18, 18.

Final

FENNAH/GALLOWAY bt Bickerdike/Gray 10, 12.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

GREAT MONTH

February could well go down as one of the most successful months in the County's short history with both national singles champions being Cleveland players and the County Championship being retained.

Credit must go to Denis Neale. He has been playing international senior table tennis now for almost 15 years and he can still compete in the national championships and beat all the up-and-coming youngsters, including Desmond Douglas, the holder and present England No. 1.

Carole Knight, too, did the County proud with her third successive victory over Jill Hammersley. Carole's record of play in domestic events this season is immaculate, having won the Humberside 3-Star, the Cleveland 3-Star, Norwich Union International and now the Norwich Union English Championships. As these tournaments are the ones considered by the Selection Committee for ranking purposes, one can only

assume Carole is in line for the No. 1 position when the next ranking is produced after the World Championships.

By beating Middlesex on February 16, at Staines, Cleveland have retained the Premier Division County Championships title without the loss of a match.

Last season a weakened Cleveland team fell to Middlesex, but this season no mistake was made to the tune of 8-1.

More good news for Cleveland enthusiasts came with the announcement from Nicky Jarvis that, having seen a top specialist, his back was not as bad as was originally feared. Nicky is hoping to have his operation before the World Championships so that he will be out of his cast in July and hopefully ready to commence serious training at the beginning of next season.

STIGA WELSH OPEN



PROTEST LODGED

by H. Roy Evans

From many points of view, this was an even more successful event than last year's. It's true we did not have the Chinese, and that meant a considerable reduction in the size of the crowd. But even so, we had a pretty full house, and certainly the excitement of the Finals could not have been greater whoever had been there!

From an organisational point of view, the high standard we set last time came nearer to attainment, and that was because everyone knew his or her job better, and settled



Wilfried Lieck, of Federal Germany, winner of the Mens Singles title at Cardiff.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.

down to get on with it without fuss or falter.

Of course, there were hiccoughs, and the greatest of these was caused by the Czechoslovak withdrawal one week before the tournament. Although there were frantic cables and telephone calls in those last few days, their default was certain, for the reason that they had been so frightened by their heavy defeat by England in the European League that their players were com-



Hungary's Beatrix Kishazi and Wiebke Hendriksen, of Federal Germany, beaten in the final of the Women's Doubles by England's Carole Knight and Linda Howard.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.

manded to devote all available time to training. Personally, I would have thought that continued competitive play against the players coming to the Welsh would have been more to their advantage. Certainly the Welsh Association has protested very strongly to the E.T.T.U. and to the Czechs.

The withdrawal of so many seeded players in all events meant wholesale changes to the draw, with all the dislocation that that entailed. But the enforced changes were agreed by all captains, and the subsequent programme went through smoothly.

Although there was understandably not a lot of interest in the European League Third Division matches which were played on Wednesday and Thursday between Finland, Guernsey, Norway and Turkey, these were played in excellent spirit, resulting in a win for Finland with the challenge from Norway not developing with the absence of Heggelund, and from Turkey, who were without their best player, Alexandridis. So Finland will play in Division Two next season, and good luck to them.

The International Team matches were played all day on Friday, with some splendid Finals in the evening after the colourful Opening Ceremony.

The English women—Carole Knight and Linda Howard—had had a good semi-final win over Germany I, but they were beaten 3-0 in the Final by Hungary, whose semi-final victims had been England's second string of Melody Lüdi and Karen Witt.

HOUSE DOWN

It was the men's final that brought the house down. England I—Desmond Douglas and Denis Neale had a good semi-final win over Germany I—Jochem Leiss and Peter Engel, and would have expected to face Hungary in the Final. But Germany II thought otherwise, and Wilfried Lieck and Peter Stellwag beat Hungary 3-1, thus earning a crack against England. And a real nail-biter it turned out to be. Desmond beating Stellwag easily, Neale losing at 20—all in the third against Lieck, and the English pair narrowly losing two-straight in the doubles. Desmond went on his winning way against Lieck, and so it was Neale v Stellwag in the deciding game. The atmosphere was electric, Denis losing the first -18, taking the second at 20, and then both players played brilliantly in turn to reach 20-all. The Welsh cheers could almost have been English cheers as Denis just got home 23-21!

The shocks came early in the singles—Gergely lost in the first round to the Finn, Ikonen, whom Neale disposed of very summarily two rounds later. But Denis was equally easily crushed by his team-mate Douglas in the semi-final. Desmond had accounted for Andy Barden, Nicky Jarvis and Leiss, and so was pretty wound up for the Final. In the other half, Jonyer had beaten Pal Guttormsen and Stellwag, but went out dispiritedly in the semi against Lieck. The latter had dropped a game to the ever-improving Maxwell Crimmins, and got home 3-2 against Paul Day. The latter, having narrowly survived a five-game onslaught by Chris Sewell, then proceeded to a three match point lead in the fourth against Lieck, only to see that and the fifth slip away. How he must have kicked himself!

SHEER MAGIC

The Final was sheer magic, and in all my experience I have rarely seen a more exciting game, a scintillating battle between the quicksilver hitting of the new English hope, Douglas, and the uncanny blocking of Lieck. It's true that Desmond was not playing with his own bat, which he had broken, but there was little sign of this affecting him, and the exchanges were at lightning speed. Those who saw the live TV of the game say it was the best table tennis they had seen on the small screen, and although Desmond just failed to press the advantage in the end, the general consensus was that it was a pity either had to lose!

Desmond collected two-fold consolation, however, combining with Denis in a doubles success that culminated in a three-straight win over Lieck and Stellwag, and confirming his excellent partnership with Linda Howard by taking the Mixed in a final five-game battle with Gergely and Magos.

Linda, too, collected another "gold" when in partnership with Carole Knight, Kishazi and Hendriksen were beaten in four games.

The Women's Final, between the penholder attack of Judit Magos and the anti-top spin defence of Beatrix Kishazi, was an easy win for the tall blonde hitter.

Even if there is, regrettably, nothing pleasant to report about Welsh performances, the very enthusiastic Welsh crowd seemed to find a lot of satisfaction in "rooting" for England!

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Round 3

I. Jonyer (Hun) bt P. Guttormsen (Nor) 17, 10, 18.
P. Stellwag (GFR) bt F. Anderson (Wal) 13, 6, 9.
P. Day (Eng) bt C. Sewell (Av) -14, 19, 17, -20, 17.
W. Lieck (GFR) bt M. Crimmins (Sy) 13, -19, 16, 16.
J. Leiss (GFR) bt J. Molnar (Hun) 17, 22, 11.
D. Douglas (Eng) bt N. Jarvis (Cv) 19, 17, 15.
D. Neale (Eng) bt J. Fellu (Spa) 9, 13, 10.
J. Ikonen (Fin) bt G. Evans (Wal) 11, 6, 11.
Quarter-finals
Jonyer bt Stellwag 14, 18, -15, -20, 18.
Lieck bt Day 19, -18, -18, 20, 17.
Douglas bt Leiss 15, 10, -20, 11.
Neale bt Ikonen 6, 9, 11.
Semi-finals
Lieck bt Jonyer 18, 18, 17.
Douglas beat Neale 11, 11, 8.
Final
LIECK bt Douglas 16, -13, 16, -14, 18.

Women's Singles—Round 2

J. Magos (Hun) bt A. Brackenridge (NZ) 7, 17, 9.
K. Kruger (GFR) bt K. Wheatley (Wal) 5, 11, 7.
J. Williams (Cv) bt M. Sanahuja (Spa) 18, -17, 15, 10.
L. Howard (Eng) bt K. Witt (Eng) 12, -18, 15, 12.
W. Hendriksen (GFR) bt A. Leonard (Ire) 11, 13, 5.
M. Ludi (Eng) bt P. Lupon (Spa) 11, -12, 11, 13.
C. Knight (Eng) bt G. McKay (Sco) 12, 12, 7.
B. Kishazi (Hun) bt R. Schmitz (GFR) 9, 16, 11.
Quarter-finals
Magos bt Kruger 9, 18, 12.
Howard bt Williams 17, 11, 7.
Hendriksen bt Ludi 10, 13, -15, 16.
Kishazi bt Knight 19, -18, 12, 14.
Semi-finals
Magos bt Howard 18, 18, 8.
Kishazi bt Hendriksen 19, 12, -17, 12.
Final
MAGOS bt Kishazi 15, 16, 12.
Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals
G. Gergely (Hun)/Jonyer bt Fellu/D. Sanchez (Spa) 11, 14, 9.
Lieck/Stellwag bt R. Javor/S. Knapp (Aus) 18, 4, 19.
P. Engel (GFR)/Leiss bt A. Fletcher (Y/I). Warner (St) 8, 20, 14.
Douglas/Neale bt Jarvis/Molnar 18, 15, 21.
Semi-finals
Lieck/Stellwag bt Gergely/Jonyer 19, -18, -15, 16, 10.
Douglas/Neale bt Engel/Leiss 12, 26, 16.
Final
DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Lieck/Stellwag 18, 19, 14.
Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals
Howard/Knight bt D. Coulthard/S. Coulson (Wal) 12, 13, 10.
Kruger/Schmitz bt A. Tierney (Cv)/Williams 12, 18, 13.
C. D'Hondt/C. Verachtert (Bel) bt V. Gerliat/M.-F. Petre (Bel) 19, 14, 18.
Hendriksen/Kishazi bt Ludi/Witt 18, 12, 9.
Semi-finals
Howard/Knight bt Kruger/Schmidt 16, -15, 19, 14.
Hendriksen/Kishazi bt D'Hondt/Verachtert 11, 13, 15.
Final
HOWARD/KNIGHT bt Hendriksen/Kishazi 9, -20, 13, 19.
Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals
Gergely/Magos bt M. Autio/S. Grefberg (Fin) 14, 16, 15.
Lieck/Hendriksen bt R. Tuckett/H. Morrow (Aus) 9, 13, 19.
Douglas/Howard bt Day/Ludi 12, 12, 8.
Jonyer/Kishazi bt Neale/Witt -15, 16, 11, 9.
Semi-finals
Gergely/Magos bt Lieck/Hendriksen 12, 19, 14.
Douglas/Howard bt Jonyer/Kishazi -18, -13, 18, 11, 17.
Final
DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Gergely/Magos -21, -14, 15, 19, 18.
Men's Consolation Singles
D. TAN (Mi) bt T. Caffrey (Ire) -16, 11, 17.
Women's Consolation Singles
V. GERMIAT bt M.-F. Petre 12, 16.

TEAM EVENTS

Men

Preliminary Round

England II 3, Guernsey II 0
Spain II 3, Wales II 0
Norway 3, Ireland 0
Guernsey I 3, Wales III 1

Round 1

Hungary 3, England II 2
I. Jonyer bt A. Barden 12, 17.
J. Molnar lost to P. Day -16, -19.
Jonyer/Molnar lost to Barden/Day -11, -15.
Jonyer bt Day 13, -12.
Molnar bt Barden -19, 12, 13.

Scotland 3, Finland 2

R. Yule bt J. Ikonen 19, -20, 5.
J. McNeen lost to M. Autio 13, -16, -20.
Yule/McNeen lost to Autio/Ikonen -15, -16.
Yule bt Autio 12, 21.
McNeen bt Ikonen 16, -17, 17.

Federal Germany II 3, Turkey 0

Australia I 3, Spain II 1
England I 3, Australia II 1
D. Neale lost to R. Javor -18, 17, -17.
D. Douglas bt L. Skeate 6, 9; bt Javor 15, 14.
Douglas/Neale bt Javor/Skeate 9, 12.

Spain I 3, Finland II 1

Norway 3, Wales I 0
J. Grahl-Madsen bt F. Anderson 12, 21.
P. Guttormsen bt R. Bishop 12, 13.
Grahl-Madsen/Guttormsen bt Anderson/Bishop 16, -16, 18.
Federal Germany I 3, Guernsey I 0

Quarter-finals

Hungary 3, Scotland 0
Jonyer bt McNeen -17, 15, 18.
Molnar bt Yule 13, 20.
Jonyer/Molnar bt Yule/McNeen 15, -20, 17.
Federal Germany II 3, Australia I 1

England I 3, Spain I 0

Neale bt D. Sanchez 7, 8.
Douglas bt J. Fellu 7, 14.
Douglas/Neale bt Fellu/Sanchez 11, 16.
Federal Germany I 3, Norway 0

Semi-finals

Federal Germany II 3, Hungary 0
W. Lieck bt Molnar 14, 4.
P. Stellwag bt Jonyer 14, 23.
Lieck/Stellwag bt Jonyer/Molnar -20, 20, 20.

England I 3, Federal Germany I 1

Neale lost to J. Leiss 18, -19, -17.
Douglas bt P. Engel 11, 17; bt Leiss 15, 13.
Douglas/Neale bt Engel/Leiss 11, 15.

Final

ENGLAND I 3, Federal Germany I 2
Douglas bt Stellwag 8, 18.
Neale lost to Lieck -12, 17, -20.
Douglas/Neale lost to Lieck/Stellwag -19, -18.
Douglas bt Lieck 18, 15.
Neale bt Stellwag -18, 20, 21.

Women

Round 1

Hungary 3, Wales III 0
Spain 3, Wales I 0
Belgium I 3, Scotland 1
England II 3, Turkey 0

Federal Germany 3, Finland 1
Belgium II 3, Australia 0
Ireland 3, Guernsey 0
England I 3, Wales II 0

Quarter-finals

Hungary 3, Spain 0
England II 3, Belgium I 0
M. Ludi bt V. Gerliat -19, 14, 12.
K. Witt bt M.-F. Petre -19, 11, 17.
Ludi/Witt bt Gerliat/Petre 12, 14.

Federal Germany 3, Belgium II 1

England I 3, Ireland 0
L. Howard bt A. Leonard 11, 2.
C. Knight bt L. Cash 17, 14.
Howard/Knight bt Cash/Leonard 16, -18, 19.

Semi-finals

Hungary 3, England II 0
Magos bt Ludi 13, 10.
Kishazi bt Witt 7, 10.
Kishazi/Magos bt Ludi/Witt 16, 14.
England I 3, Federal Germany 0
Knight bt W. Hendriksen 23, 16.
Howard bt K. Kruger 18, 20.
Howard/Knight bt Kruger/R. Schmitz 16, -18, 14.

Final

HUNGARY 3, England I 0
Magos bt Knight -17, 15, 17.
Kishazi bt Howard 12, 15.
Kishazi/Magos bt Howard/Knight 15, -18, 12.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

DOMINATION

The Leicestershire Closed Championships were virtually dominated by three players—Paul Randell, Chris Rogers and Karen Rogers.

Paul won the Men's Singles without being taken to three, although Chris Rogers put up a great display in the final. Paul also won the Men's Doubles, with John Iliffe, but Maurice Newman and Alan Philpott nearly put paid to their hopes. The holder of the Women's Singles, Glenys Odams, went out at the first time of asking to Loughborough's Rosemary North, but nobody could extend Karen Rogers.

Chris Rogers won both the Junior and Intermediate Singles without too much trouble. Shock in the Intermediates was the defeat of Karen Rogers by Grahame Hall, playing with his new "tacky" bat. It meant his already excellent "loop" was made positively lethal. Chris Rogers partnered Simon Hall in the Junior Doubles and they proved too strong for anyone, including the strongly-fancied Steve Day/David Gannon pairing. Loughborough, without their star players Anita Stevenson, Donald Parker and Brian Mayfield were not too prominent but they did provide both finalists in the Under-14 Singles, won by Paul Brindley over Trevor Kerslake. Julie Revill looked well ahead of all opposition in the Girls' Singles where only Yvonne Hall could manage double figures against her. Phil Overend, who still seems to improve as the years go by, retained his Veterans' Singles title by beating Fred Day in the final. Eileen Shaler and Sue Edwards brought off one of the shocks of the tourney when they beat Karen and Jose Rogers in the final of the Women's Doubles. Three of the Rogers family figured in the final of the Mixed, won by Day and Karen Rogers with a victory over Chris and Jose Rogers.

The Championships—held again at Loughborough Sports Centre—ran well to time but there may have been a reason for this. I was in Ashford, preparing the World Championships Programme, and was unavailable and without this handicap Messrs. Billson, Johnson and Hand did a first-rate job!

Leicester are to hold a Closed Championships for the first time after being in existence as a league for approaching 30 years! This was really the brain-child of Dick Johnson (a Loughborough player) and the idea was eagerly seized on to by the live-wire Leicester League secretary, Ian McKelvey. The date is unfortunate in that it is the weekend of the start of the "Worlds" but it was the only date Ian could secure and hopes are that everything will go well.



34th World Table Tennis Championships

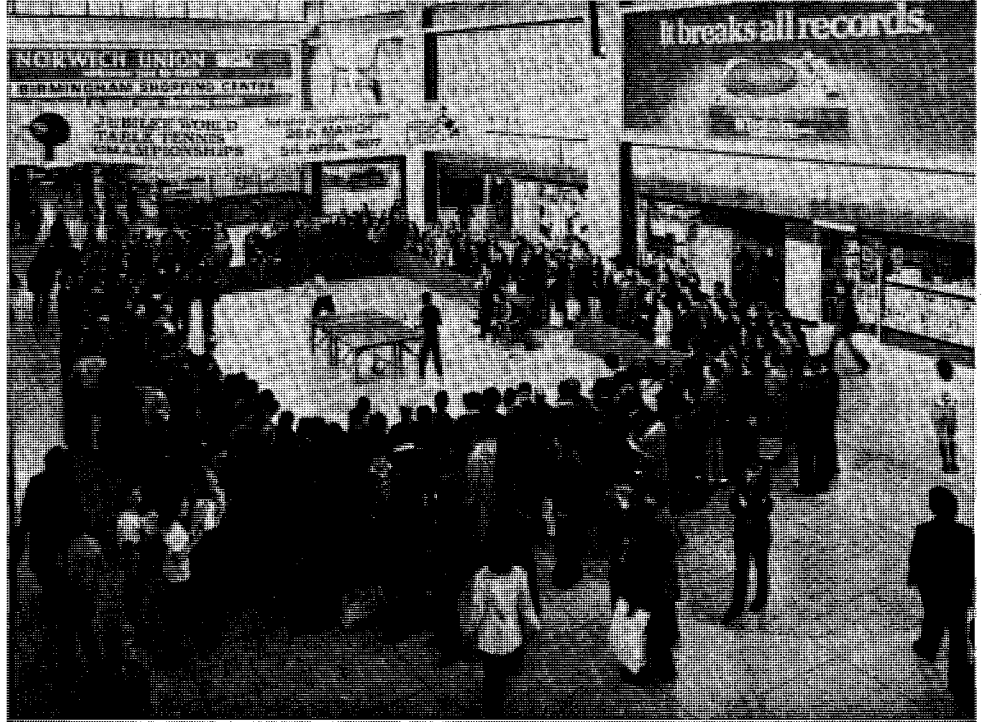
Sales Promotion

By JOHN PIKE

The week long promotion at the Birmingham Shopping Centre at the end of January really caught the imagination of the public. Exhibition matches were played each lunch time with England's No. 1, Desmond Douglas, leading the way on the opening day. Other Warwickshire and Birmingham players also did their bit to promote this great sporting event.

Something in the region of £3,000 was taken in ticket sales at the special kiosk, but I am sure the interest shown, generated more sales after the event. At the entrance to the Shopping Centre, above New Street Station, a massive display unit advertising the Worlds, is seen by thousands of commuters every day. This is a prime position in the city, the Norwich Union, our major sponsors, are certainly doing a fine job in selling the championships to the people of Birmingham.

The following week a meeting was held at the N.E.C., when local delegates were given an up to date situation on the Worlds by Jose Tomkins. For the past month Jose has had her own office in Birmingham, and there is little doubt her experience with the Canadian Association over the years has been invaluable in fitting the mammoth jigsaw together. Both Jose and the E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles Wyles, were welcome visitors to A.T.V. when they



Interested spectators watch one of the lunchtime exhibition matches at the Birmingham Shopping Centre.

came to discuss Sportacus '77 with the General Manager, Len Mathews.

When I returned to the N.E.C. for the Spring Trade Fair, one was impressed by the security arrangements at the centre. Arriving by road or rail, the strictest security was shown, and if we can rely on that for the championships, then the greatest sporting showpiece this country has ever known, will long be remembered for all the right reasons.

Operation Vendetta— Complete Success!

In November a mailing was sent to 8,000 clubs in England, an operation that has turned out to be a complete success. In his accompanying letter, Michael Lawless, the Director of the 34th World Table Tennis Championships, wrote:—

"This letter is the beginning of OPERATION VENDETTA, for it is the first blow struck back at the greatest enemy of our Association—lack of communication.

I implore all of you to take up arms for the cause and turn it into a nationwide operation vend-ETTA, for with the World Championships less than five months away, there can be no better time to "sell" the sport and our Association.

Your initial supply of ammunition to begin battle is enclosed in this envelope. Like all ammunition, it is really expensive if it is not doing its job, so please don't leave it in the barrel—aim and fire! When your stocks run low, you have but to contact me here at the arsenal to get further supply".

Applications for tickets as a result of this mailing have contributed towards a sell-out on three days with tickets going fast, especially on weekends. Thank you, table tennis friends, for your response!

Please note that we still have ample supplies of the newspaper "World Table Tennis Special", and posters which we would like to get into circulation. A telephone call to the World Championships Office in Hastings—0424-431582—is all that is needed to secure a supply.

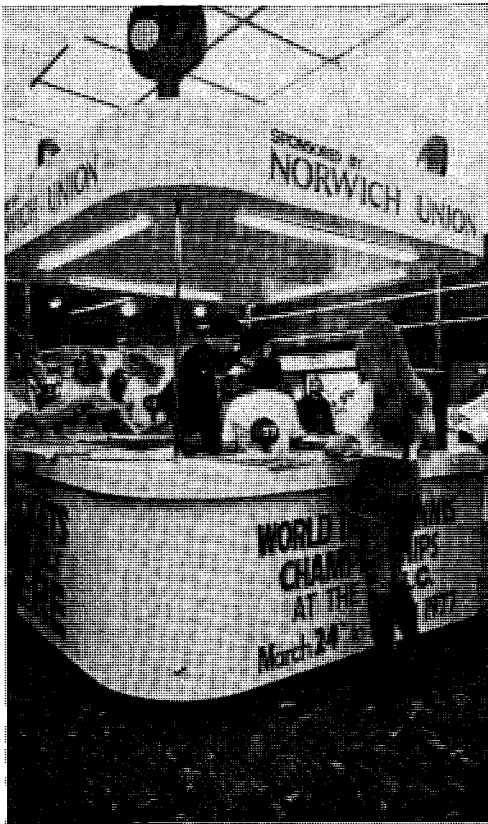
Seizing on the opportunity of being able to make direct communication to clubs, a second mailing was planned for mid-February to provide last-minute details of available seats, souvenir items that are available and invitations to "Sportacus '77", an exciting new sports and leisure exhibition that will be run in conjunction with the World Championships in Hall 5 at the National Exhibition Centre.

Sportswell Tracksuits

80% Terylene polyester, 20% cotton. Easy wash—quick dry. Exceptional value and price. Colours: Royal/White trim. Navy/Light Blue trim. Black/Red trim. Let us have your chest and inside leg measurements. Chest sizes: 24"—30" £6.60. 32"—38" £7.95. 40"—46" £8.40. Money refunded if not satisfied and goods returned within 7 days. Send cheque or postal order to:

WELBECK SPORTS,
Department T.T.N. 1/77,
Florence Street, HUCKNALL,
Notts, NG15 6EB.

We also stock Shirts, Shorts, Hooded Training Tops, Judo and Karate Suits. Brochure now available. Club orders welcome. Good discount offered on club orders.



The ticket kiosk at the Birmingham Shopping Centre.

The Draws

HEADS DOWN FOR THE DRAW.

Sixty-four countries have been placed into three categories for the men's team championships (Swaythling Cup) and 54 in the women's Corbillon Cup competition.

SWAYTHLING CUP

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| GROUP A | 1st CATEGORY | GROUP B |
| China (1) | GROUP B | Yugoslavia (2) |
| Czechoslovakia (4) | Sweden (3) | Japan (6) |
| Hungary (5) | U.S.S.R. (7) | Rumania (11) |
| Federal Germany (8) | Korea R. (10) | Denmark (14) |
| France (9) | Poland (17) | |
| England (12) | | |
| Indonesia (13) | 2nd CATEGORY | GROUP B |
| Australia (18) | GROUP B | Austria (16) |
| | India (15) | U.S.A. (19) |
| | Netherlands (20) | Hong Kong (22) |
| | Italy (21) | Malaysia (23) |
| | Singapore (24) | Nigeria (26) |
| | Iran (25) | Greece (27) |
| | Canada (28) | Luxembourg (32) |
| | Switzerland (29) | Egypt (33) |
| | Bulgaria | Scotland |
| | Israel | GROUP B |
| | | Wales (31) |
| GROUP A | | Kenya (44) |
| Belgium (30) | | Norway |
| Palestine (Gaza) (45) | | Cyprus |
| Ireland | | Trinidad & Tobago |
| Ecuador | | Iceland |
| Jersey | | Tunisia |
| Togo | | GROUP D |
| El Salvador | | Brazil (39) |
| GROUP C | | Turkey (42) |
| New Zealand (34) | | Finland |
| Mexico | | Ghana |
| Spain | | Guernsey |
| Chile | | Uganda |
| Jamaica | | Barbados |
| Bangladesh | | |
| Saudi Arabia | | |



Photo by Don Morley, Morden.

CORBILLON CUP

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| GROUP A | 1st CATEGORY | GROUP B |
| China (1) | GROUP B | Korea R. (2) |
| Hungary (4) | Japan (3) | U.S.S.R. (6) |
| England (5) | U.S.S.R. (7) | Yugoslavia (10) |
| Czechoslovakia (8) | Federal Germany (10) | France (11) |
| Rumania (9) | Poland (14) | Hong Kong (17) |
| Sweden (12) | Indonesia (18) | |
| Bulgaria (13) | | |
| Belgium (18) | | |
| Korea DPR | | |

2nd CATEGORY

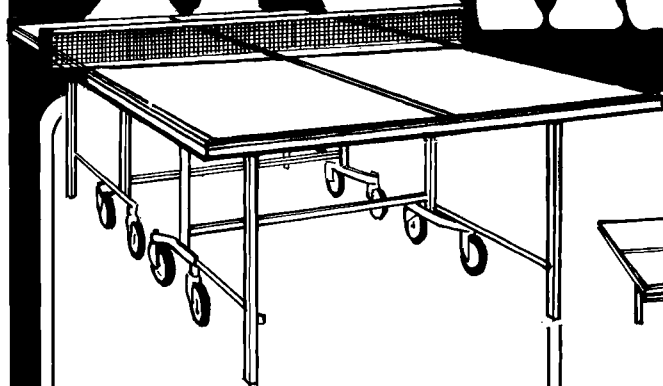
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| GROUP A | GROUP B |
| India (16) | Malaysia (19) |
| Canada (21) | Luxembourg (20) |
| Netherlands (22) | Switzerland (23) |
| U.S.A. (25) | Singapore (24) |
| Australia (26) | New Zealand (27) |
| Greece (29) | Brazil (28) |
| Nigeria (30) | Kenya (35) |
| Scotland | Austria |

3rd CATEGORY

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| GROUP A | GROUP B |
| Denmark | Ireland |
| Turkey | Italy |
| Chile | Egypt |
| Guernsey | Trinidad & Tobago |
| Togo | Palestine (Gaza) |
| GROUP C | GROUP D |
| Spain | Norway |
| Ghana | Iran |
| Finland | Jamaica |
| Ecuador | Wales |
| Iceland | Uganda |

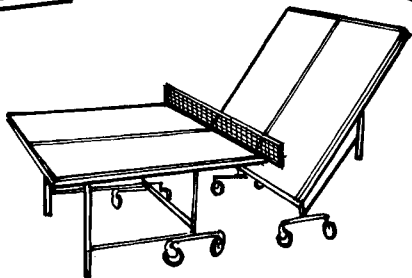
N.B.—Figures in brackets denote finishing position in Calcutta.

JOOLA Transport



Unique glide away system with easy storage;

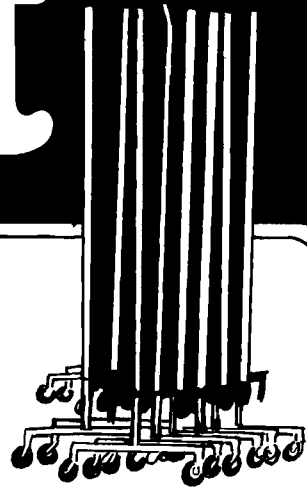
Each half of the table has 4 strong wheels which make the Transport the easiest table on the market today to move and erect. Where more than one table is stored, a minimum of space is required, with the tables designed to push together.



Self Trainer; One half of the table can be angled so that the ball is returned for practice when no partner is available.

19mm Top;

The playing surface is 19mm thick and is suitable for league and competition play. It is warp proof and attractively coloured.



Adjustable Height; The playing surface can be altered to suit the height of the players so that small children can learn to play the correct strokes.

JOOLA

table tennis

299 competitors are listed in the men's singles event and 194 in the women's singles. Seeds (in draw order) are:—

Men

1. I. Jonyer (Hun) (1)
8. P. Birocheau (Fra) (=17)
9. **D. Neale (Eng) (=17)**
16. M. Kohno (Jap) (=9)
17. S. Bengtsson (Swe) (=9)
24. K. Abe (Jap) (=17)
25. W. Lieck (GFR) (=17)
32. Li Chen-shih (Chn) (=5)
33. D. Surbek (Yug) (=5)
40. C. Martin (Fra) (=17)
41. Lu Yuan-sheng (Chn) (=17)
48. U. Thorsell (Swe) (=9)
49. M. Orłowski (Cze) (=9)
56. S. Gomozkov (USS) (=17)
57. M. Maehara (Jap) (=17)
64. Liang Ko-liang (Chn) (=3)
65. J. Secretin (Fra) (=3)
72. **D. Douglas (Eng) (=17)**
73. T. Inoue (Jap) (=17)
80. Huang Liang (Chn) (=9)
81. G. Gergely (Hun) (=9)
88. S. Sarkhojan (USS) (=17)
89. M. Karakasevic (Yug) (=17)
96. K. Johansson (Swe) (=5)
97. T. Klampar (Hun) (=5)
104. J. Kunz (Cze) (=17)
105. A. Grönlund (Swe) (=17)
112. A. Stipancic (Yug) (=9)
113. N. Takashima (Jap) (=9)
120. A. Stokratov (USS) (=17)
121. J. Leiss (GFR) (=17)
128. Kuo Yao-hua (Chn) (2)

Women

1. Pak Yung Sun (KPD) (1)
8. M. Alexandru (Rum) (=9)
9. B. Kishazi (Hun) (=9)
16. Chu Hsiang-yun (Chn) (=5)
17. Hyun Sook Chung (KRR) (=5)
24. Huang Hsi-ping (Chn) (=9)
25. W. Hendriksen (GFR) (=9)
32. Ke Hsin-ai (Chn) (=3)
33. Chang Te-yin (Chn) (=3)
40. Z. Rudnova (USS) (=9)
41. I. Uhlikova (Cze) (=9)
48. J. Magos (Hun) (=5)
49. **J. Hammersley (Eng) (=5)**
56. A.-C. Hellman (Swe) (=9)
57. Ailesa Lee (KRR) (=9)
64. Chang Li (Chn) (2)

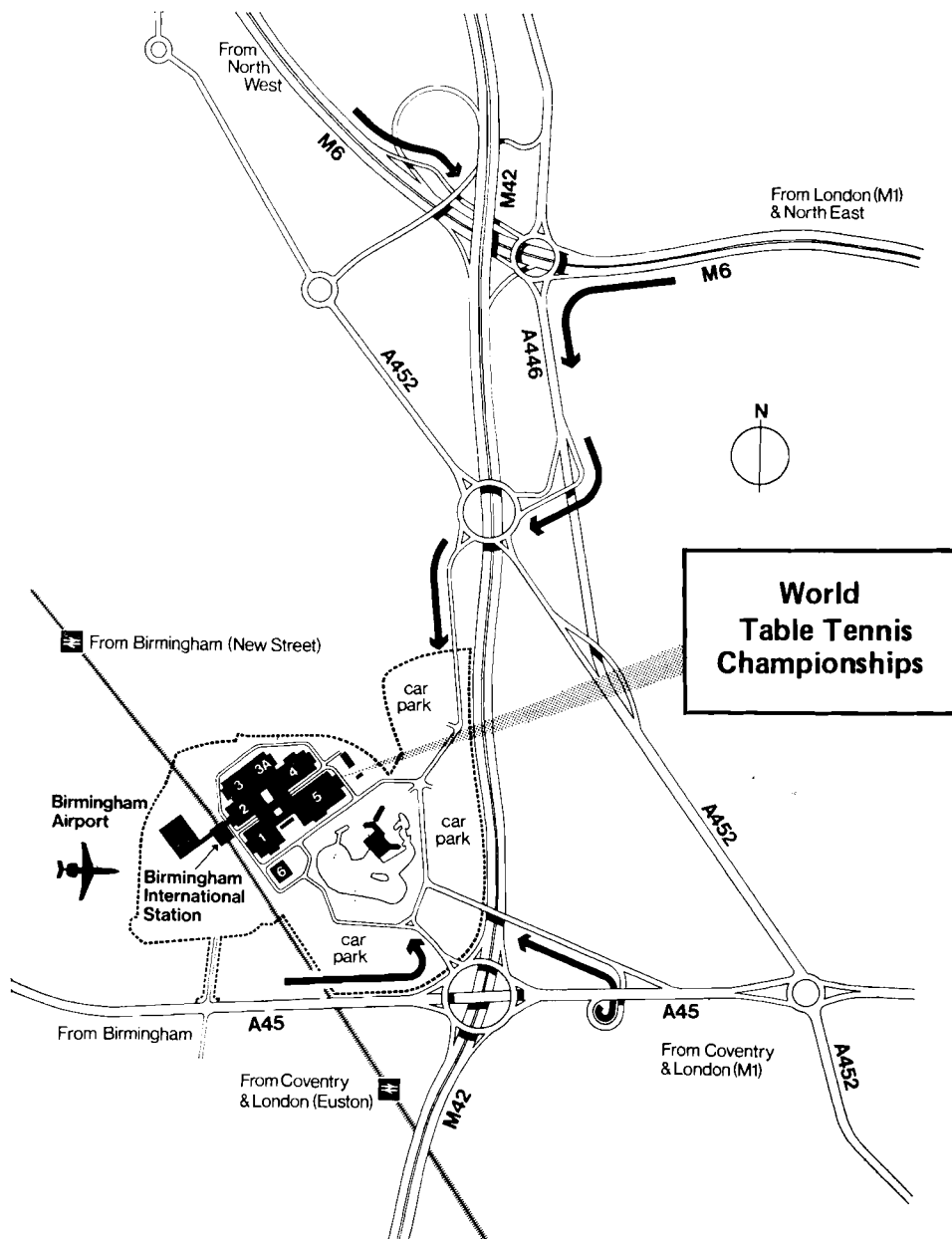


TABLE TENNIS

Harold Myers

With a Foreword by Denis Neale

Harold Myers, widely known for his successful television series, is a Senior Coach of the E.T.T.A., and his vast experience and knowledge of table tennis training is covered in detail throughout this book, making it an invaluable guide to players of all classes, from the beginner to the potential champion.

The book is divided into two main sections, the first dealing with stroke production and the latter with training exercises. Each stroke is clearly described using split-action photographs, and over a hundred line drawings are used to show the various exercises, with easy to follow 'step-by-step' narrative.

Faber £1.50

The People in the Background

by Jose Tomkins

The 34th World Championships will be a huge success. English table tennis fans will have occasion to feel proud of their people at the helm—names of whom are so familiar that I will not repeat them.

But who are the people who have been doing and will be doing the backroom work, the people who have foregone the opportunity of watching the world's best to ensure that the administration machinery works properly so that in every compartment we achieve complete SUCCESS.

Some of these are:—

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Name	Area of Responsibility
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L. C. PILDITCH	Referees
L. A. CHATWIN	Referees
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P. R. BRENNAN	Equipment
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Mrs. D. STANNARD	Umpires
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F. J. GROOM	Umpires

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E. T. INGE	I.T.T.F. Sub-Committee
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Mrs. J. HAYWARD	Liaison & Administration
J. HAYWARD	Liaison & Administration
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J. JUDD	Box Office & Ticket Sales

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J. A. LEACH	Sponsorship
R. MOSELEY	Press Officer
B. SPICER	Deputy Press Officer (Press)
M. JOHNS	Deputy Press Officer (T.V. & Radio)

Continued on Page 40

CZECHOSLOVAK OPEN

KJELL BACK ON TARGET

by The Editor

Fifteen countries participated in the Czech Open Championships, played in Bratislava over the period January 28-30, and five of them provided winners in the seven events, including England's **Desmond Douglas** and **Linda Howard**, who won the mixed doubles title.

But undoubtedly the star of the show was **Kjell Johansson**, of Sweden, who, in making his international comeback after injury, won the men's singles and, in partnership with **Stellan Bengtsson**, the men's team title.

In this latter event the Swedish 'A' team dropped but one set—the doubles against Czechs 'B'—Johansson beating both **Miroslav Cich** and **Josef Dvoracek** in this match, also accounting for Federal Germany's **Peter Engel**, **Tibor Klampar**, of Hungary, and, in the final, the host nation's **Jaroslav Kunz**.

Scalps collected in the men's singles were those of **Patrick Birocheau** (France), **Romanescu** (Rumania), **Gomozkov** (USSR), **Orlowski** (Czecho) and his compatriots **Roger Lagerfeldt**, in the semis, and **Bengtsson** in the final.

World champion **Istvan Jonyer**, suffered the indignity of being ousted in the first round by **Ake Gronlund**, of Sweden, who lost to the Soviet Union's **Burnazian** who, in turn, fell to **Lagerfeldt**.

Both **Paul Day**, beaten by **Klampar** (13, 10, 17) and **Andy Barden**, seen off by the 10th-ranked Czech, **Kavka** (19, -11, 19, 16) fell in the first round. And after an initial success over **Zbigniew Fraczyk**, of Poland (8, 18, 14), **Douglas** joined them on the bench when beaten by **Gabor Gergely** (16, 20, -17, -17, 8), the latter going on to beat **Jacques Secretin**, the European champion.

Ilena Uhlíkova was the lone Czech to claim a title when, in the final of the women's singles, she beat **Elmira Antonian**, of the Soviet Union.

England's three representatives disappointed in being first round losers—**Carole Knight** to **Navarova**, the Czech No. 8 (-18, -14, -14), **Linda Howard** to **Eva Stromvall**, of Sweden (12, -15, -11, -15), and **Melody Lüdi** to **Hrachova**, the host nation's No. 14 (17, -19, -19, 18, -14).

But one must commiserate with the English team who had a most dreadful outward journey when, because of the closure of Bratislava Airport by reason of fog and snow, the journey from Prague had to be undertaken by train.

That particular leg of the trip did not commence until 9-20 p.m. resulting in arrival in the Slovak capital some seven hours later. A tram ride through the darkened city to the wrong hotel was eventually righted by another resulting in the very minimum of shuteye before the team events began at 9 a.m. sharp.

That the men should account for Austria and the women for Austria in first round ties testifies to their fitness and tempers their subsequent defeats at the hands of the Soviet Union and Rumania respectively.

All credit then to **Des** and **Linda** in winning the mixed title at the final expense of **Sarkis Sarkhojan** and **Elmira Antonian**, having previously beaten such formidable pairings as **Thorsell/Stromvall** (3-2), **Klampar/Szabo** (3-0), **Fraczyk/Szatko** (3-1),

Orlowski/Uhlíkova (3-2), in the quarters, and **Dvoracek/Silhanova** (3-0) in the semis. How about that for stamina?

In the women's doubles, **Melody**, partnered by **Ferencz**, of Rumania, did well to reach the quarters, losing to **Maria Alexandru** and **Liana Mihut** after a good win over **Ann-Christin Hellman** and **Stromvall**. **Linda** and **Carol** went out to the eventual winners, **Judit Magos/Gabriella Szabo**, but only at 16 in the fifth.

Douglas and **Barden**, in the counterpart men's event, lost to Yugoslavia's **Milivoj**

Karakasevic and **Zoran Kosanovic** in Round 2. Day, paired with the host nation's **Bosy**, who went a.w.l., conceded a walkover to the ultimate winners **Birocheau** and **Secretin**.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

G. Gergely (Hun) bt J. Secretin (Fra) -14, 19, -18, 19, 17.

S. Bengtsson (Swe) bt Raue (GDR) 11, 11, 9.

S. Johansson (Swe) bt M. Orlowski (Cze) 12, 16, 12.

R. Lagerfeldt (Swe) bt B. Burnazian (USSR) -16, 22, -19, 15, 16.

Semi-finals

Bengtsson bt Gergely 15, 18, -17, 12.

Johansson bt Lagerfeldt -17, 19, 20, 19.

Final

JOHANSSON bt Bengtsson 19, 17, -14, 17.



Mixed Doubles winners in Bratislava, England's **Desmond Douglas** and **Linda Howard**, with the victims, **Sarkis Sarkhojan** and **Elmira Antonian**, of the Soviet Union.



Back with a bang, **Kjell Johansson** (foreground) and **Stellan Bengtsson**, winners of the men's team title and opponents in the men's singles final won 3-1 by **Kjell**.

Photos by courtesy of Peter Fückert, Tamasu Butterfly Europa GmbH. Taken by Milan Richter, Bratislava.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
A.-C. Hellman (Swe) bt B. Kishazi (Hun) -14, 14, -14, 19, 14.
E. Antonian (USS) bt G. Szabo (Hun) 18, 19, -16, 18.
J. Magos (Hun) bt M. Alexandru (Rum) 22, -13, 17, 18.
I. Uhlíkova (Cze) bt A. Rangelova (Bul) 12, 17, 11.

Semi-finals
Antonian bt Hellman 9, 18, -19, 24.
Uhlíkova bt Magos -20, 19, 23, -12, 21.

Final
UHLIKOVA bt Antonian 11, 14, 17.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
M. Karakasevic/Z. Kosanovic (Yug) bt Bengtsson/Johansson -20, 19, 19, 14.
P. Birocheau (Fra)/Secretin bt Lagerfeldt/U. Thorsell (Swe) 13, 9, 16.

Final
BIROCHEAU/SECRETIN bt Karakasevic/Kosanovic -23, -19, 10, 14, 16.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
Magos/Szabo bt A. Cikova (Cze)/Uhlíkova 9, 13, -19, 10.
Alexandru/L. Mihit (Rum) bt Antonian/Z. Rudnova (USS) 17, -13, 9, -15, 18.

Final
MAGOS/SZABO bt Alexandru/Mihit -15, 10, 20, 9.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
S. Sarkhojan (USS)/Antonian bt Secretin/C. Bergeret (Fra) 12, -17, -19, 8, 18.
D. Douglas/L. Howard (Eng) bt J. Dvoracek/B. Silhanova (Cze) 15, 15, 18.

Final
DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Sarkhojan/Antonian 12, -14, 17, 19.

TEAM EVENTS

Men

Round 1
France 3, Austria 'B' 0
England 3, Australia 1
D. Douglas bt R. Tuckett -16, 16, 16.
A. Barden lost to S. Knapp -18, 11, -14.
Day/Douglas bt R. Javor/Knapp -19, 17, 9.
Douglas bt Knapp 14, 8.
Sweden 'B' 3, Netherlands 1
Yugoslavia 'B' 3, Austria 'A' 1
Czechoslovakia 'B' 3, Poland 0

Round 2
France 3, Yugoslavia 'A' 2
Federal Germany 'B' 3, Rumania 1
U.S.S.R. 3, England 1
S. Sarkhojan lost to Douglas -20, -16.
A. Strokotov lost to Day 13, 15.
S. Gomozkov/Strokotov bt Day/Douglas -19, 18, 19.
Strokotov bt Douglas 15, -13, 18.
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3, Sweden 'B' 0
Hungary 3, Yugoslavia 'B' 0
Czechoslovakia 'C' 3, Bulgaria 1
Federal Germany 'A' 3, East Germany 2
Sweden 'A' 3, Czechoslovakia 'B' 1

Quarter-finals
France 3, Federal Germany 'B' 0
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3, USSR 0
Hungary 3, Czechoslovakia 'C' 1
Sweden 'A' 3, Federal Germany 'A' 1

Semi-finals
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3, France 1
Sweden 'A' 3, Hungary 0

Final
SWEDEN 'A' 3, Czechoslovakia 'A' 0
S. Bengtsson bt M. Orlovski 16, 20.
K. Johansson bt J. Kunz 18, 9.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Kunz/Orlovski -17, 12, 13.

Women

Round 1
Hungary 3, Poland 0
Sweden 'B' 3, Czechoslovakia 'B' 2
Czechoslovakia 'C' 3, East Germany 1
USSR 3, Bulgaria 0
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3, Yugoslavia 1
Sweden 'A' 3, Australia 0
Rumania 3, Federal Germany 1
England 3, Austria 0

Round 2
C. Knight bt Gropper -13, 11, 16.
M. Ludi bt Fetter -19, 18, 11.
L. Howard/Knight bt Fetter/Gropper 11, 12.

Quarter-finals
Hungary 3, Sweden 'B' 0
USSR 3, Czechoslovakia 'C' 1
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3, Sweden 'A' 0
Rumania 3, England 0

Semi-finals
L. Mihut bt Howard 16, -15, 11.
M. Alexandru bt Knight 6, 10.
Alexandru/Mihit bt Howard/Knight -16, 14, 13.

Final
HUNGARY 3, Rumania 2
B. Kishazi bt Mihut 10, 12.
J. Magos lost to Alexandru -17, 19, -19.
Magos/Szabo lost to Alexandru/Mihut 16, -15, -18.
Kishazi bt Alexandru 16, -24, 20.
Magos bt Mihut 13, 11.

It is always made clear to intending visitors that the cost of all transport and accommodation must be covered by themselves.

There are a number of requests already in the pipeline so I would appreciate hearing from clubs (or Leagues) as soon as possible.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Inter-Zone Finals—Men (Completion date March 20).

Draw:
Ormesby (Ormesby) v Savoy (Blackpool)
Wadsley Bridge (Sheffield) v Liverpool Y.M.C.A. (Liverpool)

Penmaen (Wyberton) v Barwell Liberal (Leicester)

South Birmingham (Birmingham) v C.E.Y.M.S. (Norwich)
Omega (Bracknell) v Mid-Essex T.W. (Chelmsford)

Ellenborough (N. Middlesex) v Milestone (East London)
St. Mark's (Ilford) v Demark (Beckenham)
Totterdown Y.M.C.A. (Bristol) v Merton (Bournemouth)

Semi-finals—Women (Completion date April 24).

Draw:
Ormesby (Ormesby) v Badlax (Basildon)
Merton (Bournemouth) v Fellows Cranleigh (East London)

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REQUEST TIME

by Albert W. Shipley,
General Secretary, E.T.T.A.

Now that the summer months are approaching, we are beginning to receive requests from Clubs on the Continent who wish to visit this country for a few days and to play some friendly matches against English clubs.

Whilst the majority of these requests come from clubs who wish to visit London, I would be pleased to hear from any club who would like to be given the opportunity of entertaining foreign visitors.

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An Interview with **JUPP SCHLAF**

BY MIHALY KOSAK



Jupp Schlaf, President of the European Table Tennis Union and a Vice-President of the International Table Tennis Federation, gave an interview recently, in Frankfurt, to Mihaly Kozak, Hungarian correspondent, about the situation of European table tennis and its current problems.

"Our continent has no reason to be sore, the 33 member-countries of the Union have nearly 5 million players. At least 8-10 European nations can boast of excellent results. Here I have in mind those countries which participate in the Super Division of the European League. They characterise ping-pong in Europe", he said. "However," he went on to add, "there are some countries which are lagging behind. For instance, in the past Austria, Ireland, Malta, Finland, Switzerland, Norway and Denmark figured much better in the game. There are signs of some momentum in Italy, and though Luxembourg and the Netherlands have still to produce classic players, the sport is being organised well in both countries."

"The Union is making great efforts to help the countries that are lagging behind and we plan to increase this assistance in the future. We shall go on holding the coaches' conference—held in 1974 for the first time—every two years. This summer we plan to organise in Sweden, a course, with the co-operation of one coach, male and female players each from 18 countries".

Diverting from the European League, Jupp Schlaf highly evaluated other international table tennis contests, too. He made special mention of the Junior table tennis championship initiated by Hungary. "It would be good if other countries also followed Hungary's example. It would be nice if Easter and Whitsun tournaments were made regular annual events for the youth", said Schlaf in the context of providing fresh blood to the game.

"It is well known that a frequent charge against international championships is that the draws are 'favourable' to the host country".

In this context Schlaf mentioned: "We suggest that in the draw for international championships a neutral expert should also be present. We even plan that at the contests even the second judge should be a 'foreigner'. We have in mind to include more invited umpires. For instance, in the 1978 Duisburg European Championship, 50% of the umpires will be invited from abroad.

We are planning to invite outside umpires also for the Super League from next autumn. These will be invited at the cost of the Union".

Speaking about professional questions, Schlaf lauded European players, many of whom are equal ranking partners of Asia's best—the Chinese. He blamed the decline in the standard of women's play on coaches who are more willing to train men than members of the fair sex.

"It is a great pity that our women players can hardly compete with their Asian counterparts", he underlined. "Perhaps only Hungary and Yugoslavia are in a position to field some talented women players but this is far from sufficient for taking up competition successfully with Chinese, Korean and Japanese girls. Every country must pay much more care to bringing up replacements, including those for men's teams".

Commenting on leading players concluding agreements with sports-goods factories, the E.T.T.U. President said the following: "I am not against the contracts made with the factories, but they should be concluded strictly through the federations of the players' countries or else the player would feel obliged to the factory and not to his federation. Most probably this topic will be taken up at the Birmingham Congress of the International Table Tennis Federation. I should like, as the President of the E.T.T.U., that a comforting decision is taken on the subject. I suggest greater check of the rubber on bats. Though its thickness has been fixed, we must also know the chemical composition of the material. I am not opposed to novelty, but firmly reject that the bat should win and not the player", said Schlaf.

The E.T.T.U. President is personally against the inclusion of table tennis in Olympic Games, because, he said, ping-pong, which is one of the most respected games of the world, is capable of commanding respect in World and European meets . . . propaganda is very important for us, and perhaps you will appreciate it if I say that the results of World and European Championships organised by spring, will get greater publicity than a few gold-medalists in table tennis at the Olympic Games where 200 gold medals are awarded".

Finally, Jupp Schlaf spoke appreciatively about the game in Hungary, without whom one "cannot imagine" international table tennis meets.

"At the 34th World Championships, Hungary's men's team, for instance, has the greatest prospect of victory against the Chinese. Jonyer, Gergely and Klampar are great players by world standards. If in form, they constitute a powerful trio. It won't be surprising to find Hungarian girls defending not only their superiority in Europe, but also giving a tough fight to their Asian rivals", mentioned Jupp Schlaf.

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DATE CHANGE

SALFORD & ECCLES 2-STAR OPEN

Elevated from a 1 to a 2-Star Open, the Salford and Eccles Open Championships has been put back from its original date of March 20 to Sunday, April 10, starting at 9-30 a.m. at Stretford Sports Centre, Great Stone Road, Stretford, Manchester.

Cash prizes amounting to £293 will be at stake with the top prize of £60 going to the winner of the Men's Singles and the £30 being the handout for the counterpart Women's event.

Entries close on March 25 to Mr. Harry Shaw, 1a Balliol Street, Swinton, Manchester (Phone: 061-793 0416).

Stop Press

Ormesby lost their stranglehold on the Wilmott Cup when, at Middleton on Mar 1, they were beaten 5-3 by Manchester. Both John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley beat Nicky Jarvis and Robert Wiley, the latter also losing to Phil Bowen. Jimmy Walker won Ormesby's three sets the Cleveland team being without the services of Denis Neale a 'flu victim which kept him out of the European League match against Federal Germany two nights later.

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Staff at the World Championship Office completed the mailing in a record time of four days. Left to right: Ray McCurdy (Administrator), Christine Wilkes (Secretary), Mrs. McCurdy and Mrs. Lock, who came in to help.

Continued from Page 34

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Name	Area of Responsibility
K. WATTS	Chairman

And behind these people will be hundreds more volunteers, all working to ensure success! For instance, one hundred Umpires, these with the highest qualifications available, many of whom will take their annual holidays to work two out of three playing sessions per day for 10 days, and consider it the highest honour to be involved.

Maurice Goldstein has recruited many local volunteers who will work as stewards, programme sellers, typists, team liaison officers, all for their meals and the love of the game, their only reward likely to be a "thank you" letter and the knowledge that they contributed.

"The Director" might sound like a grand title, but in fact it involves almost non-stop activity in negotiations regarding financial sponsorship, television coverage, facilities and equipment, hospitality and security as well as the co-ordination of the Committee and the work of the staff members.

Supporting Michael Lawless in the Hastings Office we have myself, Personal Assistant to the Director, and formerly Executive Director for the Canadian Table Tennis Association; Christine Wilkes, Mike's secretary for the past three years, herself a keen table tennis player, previously in the Gravesend League and now active in the Hastings and Bexhill area; and Ray McCurdy, the Administrator, recently retired from his position in the Royal Air Force as Squadron Leader-Operations Officer Military Air Traffic Control at Uxbridge.

This article concerning help would not be complete without a tribute to the staff members of our main sponsors, the City of Birmingham, Norwich Union Insurance, National Westminster Bank, Stiga, Halex, all of whom are contributing their time and expertise towards our cause.

"Help" and "success" seem to be the keywords. We'd like to take this opportunity of saying "Thank you" in advance to all those who are being helpful. The "success" will surely come when we put it all together and go into action on March 26th.

And you—table tennis fan—are you going to do your part even if it is just BEING THERE to support your English team? Of course you are; who's going to miss this once in a lifetime opportunity of seeing the Worlds on home ground!

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

by Don Kenny

Seeds fell on stony ground at Pickett's Lock on February 26-27 with some, alas, having fallen by the wayside before hand.

Desmond Douglas, Paul Day and Carole Knight came into the latter category, and thus, with the unavoidable absence of Jill Hammersley, robbed the tournament of some sparkle.

Those that fell on stony ground included Nicky Jarvis, Andy Barden, Jimmy Walker, Donald Parker, Denis Neale and, one is tempted to add, Uncle Tom Cobley and all. Neale went out -20 in the third after a gritty fight-back to level at 20-all against Chris Sewell who, alas, playing very shortly afterwards, lost to Ian Horsham. Nigel Eckersley pursued his energetic way through the rounds to gain a tight first game win over Bob Potton and another close one to reach the semis. Mark Mitchell, meanwhile, had a fair old struggle to beat James Morris, one of the New Zealanders present, to get to the same level. Doug Johnson made the fourth member of the party when he overcame Simon Heaps. Eckersley again upset the form book in the semi-final when, in two speedily-played games he beat Johnson. Horsham had to work much harder against Mitchell, although getting through in two.

Eckersley, now scenting the £100 top prize, again ignored his 18th place in the England rankings to Horsham's 10th, and went sailing into the attack, and, in a fine first game, scraped home 26-24. Now full of confidence he was unstoppable in the second, which he took at 15.

The Men's Doubles also had unusual finalists. The New Zealand pair Richard Lee and Morris had beaten the Middlesex duo of Bob Aldrich and Paul Guttormsen, who had in the previous round, put out Jarvis and Horsham. Sewell, with Martin Shuttle, again "did the dirty" on Neale who, paired with Barden, looked very tired. Their success meant nothing when they met Ian Robertson and Potton. The New Zealanders combined well to take the first leg of the final, but with the opposition getting surely on top, could do little to prevent them taking the next two.

Linda Howard, predictably ensured her place in the Women's final, beating Jan

Morris (N.Z.) in the semis. Lesley Radford, accompanied by her two young supporters, rather unexpectedly, again ignoring all ranking lists, became the opposition with a win over Suzanne Hunt in her semi. It was by no means a one-sided final although Linda won in two straight.

Linda figured again in the doubles where with Marjorie Walker she had come through a semi-final against Suzanne Hunt and Anita Stevenson. Angela Mitchell paired with Karen Witt, had, meantime beaten Shelagh Hession and Mandy Reeves to get through. The younger pair won the first fairly comfortably but lost the second, only to take charge again in the third to take the title.

Linda was involved in her third final when, with Jarvis, she gained a win over Lee and Ann Stonestreet, of New Zealand. Lesley Radford also made a welcome second appearance, having, with Horsham, beaten Alan Fletcher and Anita Stevenson. The Essex pair did well to take the first game but lost narrowly in the second and with "Mum" Radford tiring at the end of a long though very successful day, lost the third.

The Veterans' final provided an exciting spectacle with Derek Schofield meeting Terry Kirby. Kirby did well to take the first but could do little in the succeeding two as Schofield hit top form.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

N. Eckersley (Ch) bt R. Potton (E) 22, 19.
D. Johnson (Wa) bt S. Heaps (Bk) -18, 12, 18.

I. Horsham (E) bt C. Sewell (Av) 16, 18.
M. Mitchell (Mi) bt J. Morris (NZ) 13, 21.

Semi-finals

Eckersley bt Johnson 9, 14.
Horsham bt Mitchell 17, 18.

Final

ECKERSLEY bt Horsham 24, 15.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

L. Howard (Sy) bt J. Morris (NZ) 16, 12.
L. Radford (E) bt S. Hunt (Li) 11, 17.

Final

HOWARD bt Radford 17, 14.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

R. Lee (NZ)/Morris bt R. Aldrich/P. Guttormsen (Mi) 18, 17.

Potton/I. Robertson (E) bt Sewell/M. Shuttle (Sy) 19, 16.

Final

POTTON/ROBERTSON bt Lee/Morris -12, 14, 12.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Howard/M. Walker (Mi) bt Hunt/A. Stevenson (Le) -16, 18, 18.

A. Mitchell (Mi)/K. Witt (Bk) bt S. Hession E./M. Reeves (Mi) -13, 10, 15.

Final

MITCHELL/WITT bt Howard/Walker 10, -16, 12.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

N. Jarvis (Cv)/Howard bt Lee/A. Stonestreet (NZ) 14, 14.

Horsham/Radford bt A. Fletcher (Y)/Stevenson (Le) 15, 15.

Final

JARVIS/HOWARD bt Horsham/Radford -12, 19, 12.

Veteran's Singles—Semi-finals

D. Schofield (Ch) bt J. Brandez (E) 16, 15.
T. Kirby (Mi) bt L. Fountain (E) 14, 17.

Final

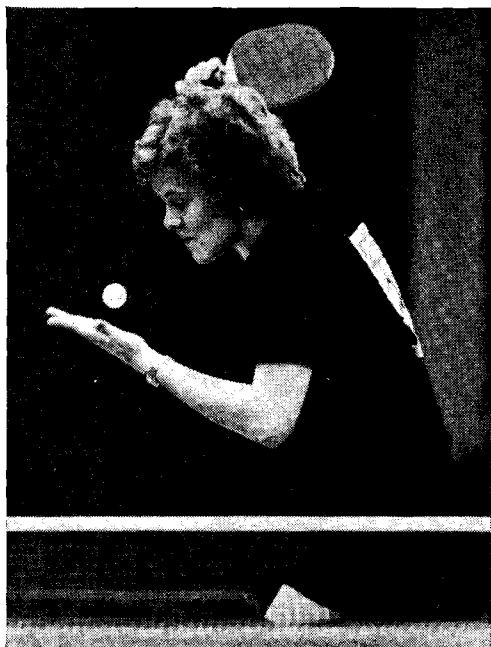
SCHOFIELD bt Kirby -17, 9, 13.

DUTCH NATIONAL CHAMPS.

Bert van der Helm, for a record 10th time, won the men's singles title in the Dutch National Championships, played in Utrecht (February 26-27), thus breaking the tie with Cor du Buy, which stood at 9 titles each.

Bettine Vriesekoop was the winner of the women's singles, beating Sonja van Weelderden (Heltzel) winner in 1971, 1973, 1975 and 1976.

PROFILE



With the World Championships now only days away, we come to the last in our series of Profile guests. The last word comes from the current English champion, Carole Knight, the Cleveland teenager, who knows there will be no easy games at Birmingham. Birthplace: Middlesbrough.

Birthdate: June 9th, 1957.

Which school did you attend?—Langbaugh Comprehensive.

Hobbies: Hairdressing and Painting.

Favourite T.V. Programme: Starsky and Hutch.

Favourite Food: Chicken Curry.

Favourite Drink: Orange Juice.

Favourite Colour: Blue.

Favourite Singer: Elton John.

Favourite sport outside table tennis: Tennis.

What is your pet like?—Dancing.

What is your pet dislike?—Losing.

Biggest influence on your career: Alan Ransome.

Ambition: To play well in the World Championships.

Which person in the world would you most like to meet?—Nobody in particular.

Greatest moment in table tennis: Winning the English Open.

Representative honours: Playing for England.

Favourite car: Jaguar XJ6.

What are your thoughts on the World Championships?—I think the England team could do quite well in the Worlds, but at present most of the leading players who are full time have to scrape a living, while their counterparts abroad are earning a lot more money. When the players in this country can receive a good income from the game, the standard of play is certain to improve.

I am sorry it was not possible to feature all the England squad, writes **JOHN PIKE**, but my thanks to those players who did take part, and from us all, our best wishes to all the England players at Birmingham.

Continued from Page 43

Malcolm Green put home side back in game at 3-4 after trailing 1-4, but Staffordshire finished it off their way.

3rd EAST

Suffolk 9, Cambridgeshire II 1

Suffolk's strength at this level giving them their first really convincing win of the season and a good chance of the second division next year.

3rd WEST

Dorset 9, Cornwall 1

Promotion for Dorset looks a mere formality after this crushing defeat of nearest rivals. Home side had it all and didn't give visitors the solitary consolation until the ninth set.

Herefordshire 2, Avon II 8

Avon II 5, Gloucestershire 5

JUNIOR PREMIER

Berkshire 1, Yorkshire 9

D. Barr lost to K. Beadsley -19, -17; lost to M. Harrison -19, 17, -14.

R. Johnson lost to Beadsley -11, -20; lost to S. Mills -19, 10, -13.

R. Halliday lost to M. Harrison -14, -15; lost to Mills -18, -19.

Barr/Halliday lost to Beadsley/Harrison -16, -16.

Mandy Smith bt Linda Hryszko 18, -21, 18. Alison Gordon lost to Sally Midgley 19, -19, 12.

Miss Gordon/Miss Smith lost to Miss Hryszko/Miss Midgley -17, 13, -10.

Kent 3, Middlesex 7

I. Kenyon lost to D. Wells 14, -19, -22; lost to G. Sandley 14, -18, -13.

J. Kennedy bt Wells -13, 17, 19; bt B. Tyler 14, 16.

P. Ptak lost to Sandley -21, -15; lost to Tyler -14, -23.

Kennedy/Kenyon bt Sandley/Wells 19, 21. Carole Colegate lost to Angela Mitchell -18, -17.

Elaine Bolton lost to Mandy Reeves -8, -19. Miss Bolton/Miss Colegate lost to Miss Mitchell/Miss Reeves -14, -9.

Surrey 6, Hertfordshire 4

S. Boxall lost to R. Jermyn 13, -17, -16; bt G. Booth 9, 11.

D. Hannah lost to Jermyn -14, -14; bt T. Pleasance 15, 17.

S. Woodgate lost to Booth -20, 20, -13; lost to Pleasance -17, -19.

Boxall/Hannah bt Booth/Jermyn 15, -20, 20. Lorraine Garbet bt Janice Glazebrook 15, -28, 17.

Nicola Hayward bt Carol Webster 13, 16. Miss Garbet/Miss Hayward bt Miss Glazebrook/Miss Webster 10, -21, 17.

The highlight of this match was a girl's singles when the defensive tendencies of Lorraine Garbet were put to the test by Janice Glazebrook, with Lorraine coming out in the decider from 17-all after Janice had amazingly pulled back from 17-12 down with some real crisp hitting.

Kent 3, Yorkshire 7

I. Kenyon bt K. Beadsley -19, 15, 11; bt M. Harrison 18, -21, 21.

J. Kennedy lost to Beadsley 19, -15, -12; lost to S. Mills -19, 12, -21.

T. Spain lost to Harrison -14, 18, -7; lost to Mills -10, 20, -17.

Kennedy/Kenyon bt Beadsley/Harrison 19, 21.

Carole Colegate lost to Linda Hryszko -13, 10, -18.

Elaine Bolton lost to Sally Midgley -7, -20. Miss Bolton/Miss Colegate lost to Miss Hryszko/Miss Midgley 10, -13, -12.

Cleveland 5, Essex 5

I. Plummer bt D. Newman 14, 12; lost to K. Jackson -18, -11.

M. Murphy lost to Newman -17, -19; lost to L. Smith -18, -15.

M. Laird lost to Jackson -15, -11; bt Smith 11, 16.

Laird/Plummer lost to Newman/Smith -19, -14.

Angela Tierney bt Helen Gore 16, 16. Jane Skipp bt Elaine Sayer 14, 21.

Miss Skipp/Miss Tierney bt Miss Gore/Miss Sayer 20, 13.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Berkshire II 1, Devon 9

Dorset 1, Sussex 9

This match was aptly summed up by Sussex captain, Keith Younger, when he said: "Last season's score of 6-4 would have been more appropriate than 9-1" . . . but despite all their efforts, Dorset could do nothing to stop Sussex from notching up every game from the third onwards.

Middlesex II 7, Kent II 3

Surrey II 4, Hampshire 6

Kent II 3, Hampshire 7

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Cleveland II 0, Yorkshire II 10

Clwyd 1, Cumbria 9

Derbyshire 9, Durham 1

Lancashire 10, Northumberland 0

All two-straight.

Durham 1, Clwyd 9

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Essex II 7, Norfolk 3

Staffordshire 3, Warwickshire 7

Northamptonshire 6, Leicestershire 4

Leicestershire's unbeaten (and under-rated?) David Gannon gave Northants all sorts of unexpected problems, and with the match heading for a draw, Keith Nicoll showed he is a player of great potential to beat Steve Day and give Northants the points.

Cambridgeshire 7, Suffolk 3

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Essex III 8, Sussex II 2

Hampshire II 7, Hertfordshire II 3

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Cumbria II 9, Clwyd II 1

Clwyd's girls played out of order and forfeited one set.

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Worcestershire 8, Oxfordshire 2

A brave Oxfordshire fight from 5-0 down petered out in the eighth set and Worcestershire resumed their winning ways.

Herefordshire 5, Gloucestershire 5

A predictable result with Mark Owen and Michael Owens taking five sets for Herefordshire, but Gloucestershire too good for the rest of the home team.

Salop 5, Staffordshire II 5

Closely fought match with Staffs. taking the lead only at 5-4, but Salop held on.

Oxfordshire 6, Herefordshire 4

The Owen/Owens combination winning the four, A. Hammett denying visitors a draw with the close 22-20 third game win over Michael Owens.

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Buckinghamshire 10, Cambridgeshire II 0

Huntingdonshire 8, Lincolnshire II 2

VETERAN EAST

Essex II 3, Kent 6

Hertfordshire 1, Essex 8

Middlesex 9, Huntingdonshire 0

Essex 4, Middlesex 5

A nail-biting match with the result hinging on the third game of the final set with Terry Kirby eventually overcoming Fred Lockwood to inflict on Essex their first defeat in nearly five years in this division.

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County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

CLEVELAND CLINCH IT (AGAIN)

Cleveland County have again won the Premier Division of the County Championships, their second in as many attempts since their formation in 1974; now the battle for runners-up spot—will it be Essex or Yorkshire, the outcome of which will be known late next month when the two Counties play each other on April 23rd, at Loughton.

After matches on March 12 it will be known who will accompany Leicestershire into the Second Division next season, but at the moment Cheshire and Surrey are the main contenders, with Surrey the marginally better chance of maintaining their present Premier status.

The final hurdle in the Second Division promotion race will not be completed until April 30/May 1, at St. Neots, when one County from each of the five sections will be contesting the two vacancies made available by Leicestershire and one other.

My tip is that Lancashire and Glamorgan will fill those places although Berkshire might be lucky at their third attempt. Those Counties are assured of Challenging and will be joined by Northants, Norfolk or Cambs. from 2nd East and Sussex or Kent from 2nd South.

With John Dabin back in the reckoning for Kent, a good win over Essex might be good enough, but Sussex have the relatively easier task of Surrey II, having already accounted for Essex II.

Two points separate the six teams in 2nd East and while Northamptonshire have the easiest match (against the bottom County) no result is predictable in this division, as demonstrated when Bucks (then at the foot of the table) crushed Cambs. (then at the top) 8-2!

In the Junior Premier, Essex had put themselves into contention with an earlier victory over Middlesex but dropped a valuable point to Cleveland. Meanwhile, Middlesex head the table with Yorkshire looming up behind.

PREMIER DIVISION

Leicestershire 3, Yorkshire 6

P. Randell lost to A. Hydes -9, -18; lost to A. Clayton -9, -14.

C. Rogers lost to Hydes -9, -9; bt A. Fletcher 14, 17.

M. Newman lost to Clayton -14, -17; lost to Fletcher -18, -18.

G. Hall/Rogers lost to Clayton/Fletcher -17, 19, -15.

Karen Rogers bt Julie McLean 15, 14.
Randell/Miss Rogers bt Hydes/Miss McLean 15, -19, 9.

Alan Hydes was magnificent and didn't make a mistake but only Chris and Karen played well for Leicestershire.

Warwickshire 5, Surrey 4

D. Johnson bt M. Shuttle 18, 18; lost to M. Crimmins 17, -18, -17.

D. Munt bt Shuttle -17, 14, 12; bt D. Welsman 14, -9, 15.

P. Judd lost to Crimmins 16, -15, -13; bt Welsman 15, 10.

Johnson/Munt lost to Crimmins/Shuttle -18, -16.

Karen Groves lost to Jayne Mitchell 10, -19, -9.

Judd/Miss Groves bt S. Lyons/Miss Mitchell 16, -18, 17.

At last Warwickshire destroy the myth that they can't win without Des Douglas. An intense and bitter struggle, with Derek Munt the star for the victors and Max Crimmins good value for his two wins.

Cheshire 5, Yorkshire 4

J. Hilton bt A. Hydes 15, 14; bt A. Clayton 24, 13.

N. Eckersley lost to Hydes -17, -12; bt A. Fletcher 12, 16.

J. McNee lost to Clayton -14, -14; lost to Fletcher -11, -21.

Eckersley/McNee lost to Clayton/Fletcher -21, -13.

Sue Lisle bt Julie McLean 15, 14.

Hilton/Miss Lisle bt Hydes/Miss McLean 13, 9.

Never more than one set in it all the way through with Nigel Eckersley giving Cheshire victory with his win over Alan Fletcher in the final set of the match. Excellent conditions at the Electricity Research Station, at Capenhurst, but, ironically, electric heaters weren't working and like so many other venues in winter—it was a bit cold!!

Middlesex 1, Cleveland 8

A Barden lost to D. Neale 14, -15, -22; lost to Walker -17, -14.

M. Mitchell lost to Neale -21, 11, -9; lost to R. Wiley 11, -15, -12.

P. Guttormsen lost to Walker -18, -18; bt Wiley 19, -15, 8.

Guttormsen/Mitchell lost to Neale/Walker -13, -16.

Angela Mitchell lost to Carol Knight 20, -14, -18.

Barden/Miss Mitchell lost to Wiley/Miss Knight -15, -17.

2nd SOUTH

Hampshire 7, Surrey II 3

Counties shared the 10 sets played, but Gerry Walsh and Ian Girdler played out of order and two sets forfeited to Hampshire.

Kent 7, Middlesex II 3

Visitors scored once only in M.S. (David Wells over Ian Kenyon) and might have had another from Jemmett over Kenyon, but the Kent Junior recovered well from 2-11 down in the third to win 16, -15, 22.

Sussex 6, Essex II 4

It's a suck-it-and-see situation for Sussex who now await Kent's result against Essex for the outcome of this division. Not Essex's day with five of the six requiring decider going to Sussex.

2nd NORTH

Lancashire 8, Durham 2

Lancashire too strong for a Durham team whose best performance was from late selection P. Masters. Despite losing both singles, the Lancashire girls showed better form.

Northumberland 6, Lincolnshire 4

Home side deserved their victory in this hard-fought match which was closely contested.

Yorkshire II 5, Cleveland II 5

One of the best matches seen in Leeds for a long time. Both sides had chances to win but a fighting come-back from 3-5 down prevented a Cleveland win. Local boys Metcalf and Hazelwood the stars along with Robert Wiley, and Helen Shields giving her best display to date (going down to Angela Tierney -19, -18).

2nd MIDLAND

Derbyshire 3, Glamorgan 7

Staffordshire 4, Cheshire II 6

Warwickshire II 10, Clwyd 0

Cheshire II 3, Glamorgan 7

Glamorgan raced into a 6-1 lead before allowing Cheshire two of the last three.

2nd EAST

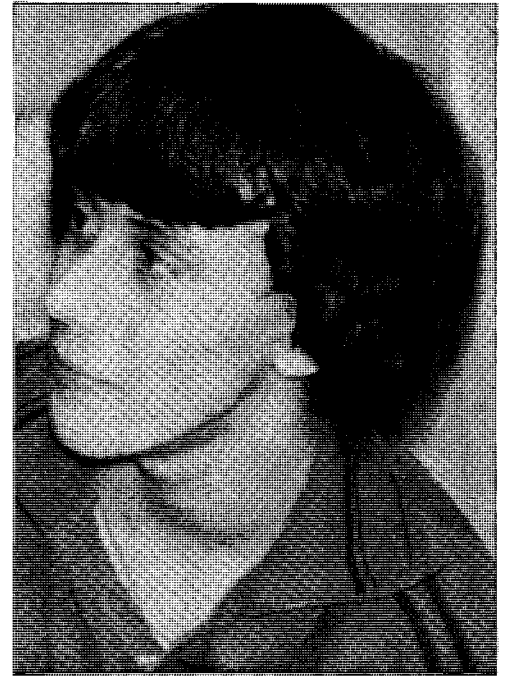
Buckinghamshire 8, Cambridgeshire 2

One cannot refrain from comment on the result of this match which is really a turn-up and Buckinghamshire's best win for a

long time—their last win was in 1974 (against Surrey in the Premier Division).

Norfolk 7, Bedfordshire 3

Norfolk's men (who were particularly impressive in M.D.) won 7-0. Bedfordshire's women won 3-0.



Northamptonshire 7, Hertfordshire 3

Two wins from Jonathan Proffitt (pictured above) failed to save Herts. Northants, with the Wallis sisters unbeaten, now head the division on games average, with everything to play for on March 13th.

2nd WEST

Gwent 6, Avon 4

Somerset 6, Devon 4

Excellent staged Yeovil League at Westlands with a good crowd and the players giving fine entertainment and an exciting match in which Devon never really had a chance of winning.

Worcestershire 2, Berkshire 8

3rd SOUTH

Essex III 7, Sussex II 3

Horton and Emecz gave visitors good start and Sussex led 2-0, but Essex recovered, giving opponents one more taste of success at 6-2.

Hertfordshire III 7, Bedfordshire II 3

Martin Harlow's three visits to the table provided Bedfordshire's three successes, with the home junior girls (Janice Glazebrook and Carol Webster) too strong in their senior debut (a far cry from their blank scores in the Junior Premier!).

Kent II 7, Buckinghamshire II 3

8-2 on the table, revised to 7-3, with Kent forfeiting O'Connor's win as he wasn't registered.

3rd NORTH

Nottinghamshire 8, Cleveland III 2

Cleveland were still in with a chance at the half-way stage when the score read 3-2, but Notts rallied well and reeled the last five off two-straight.

Northumberland II 1, Derbyshire II 9

Derbyshire II 7, Cumbria 3

3rd MIDLAND

Clwyd II 3, Northamptonshire II 7

Glamorgan II 8, Leicestershire II 2

Some close finishes, but Glamorgan outstanding in all departments and must win division.

Salop 3, Staffordshire II 7

Two of Salop's three successes from

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