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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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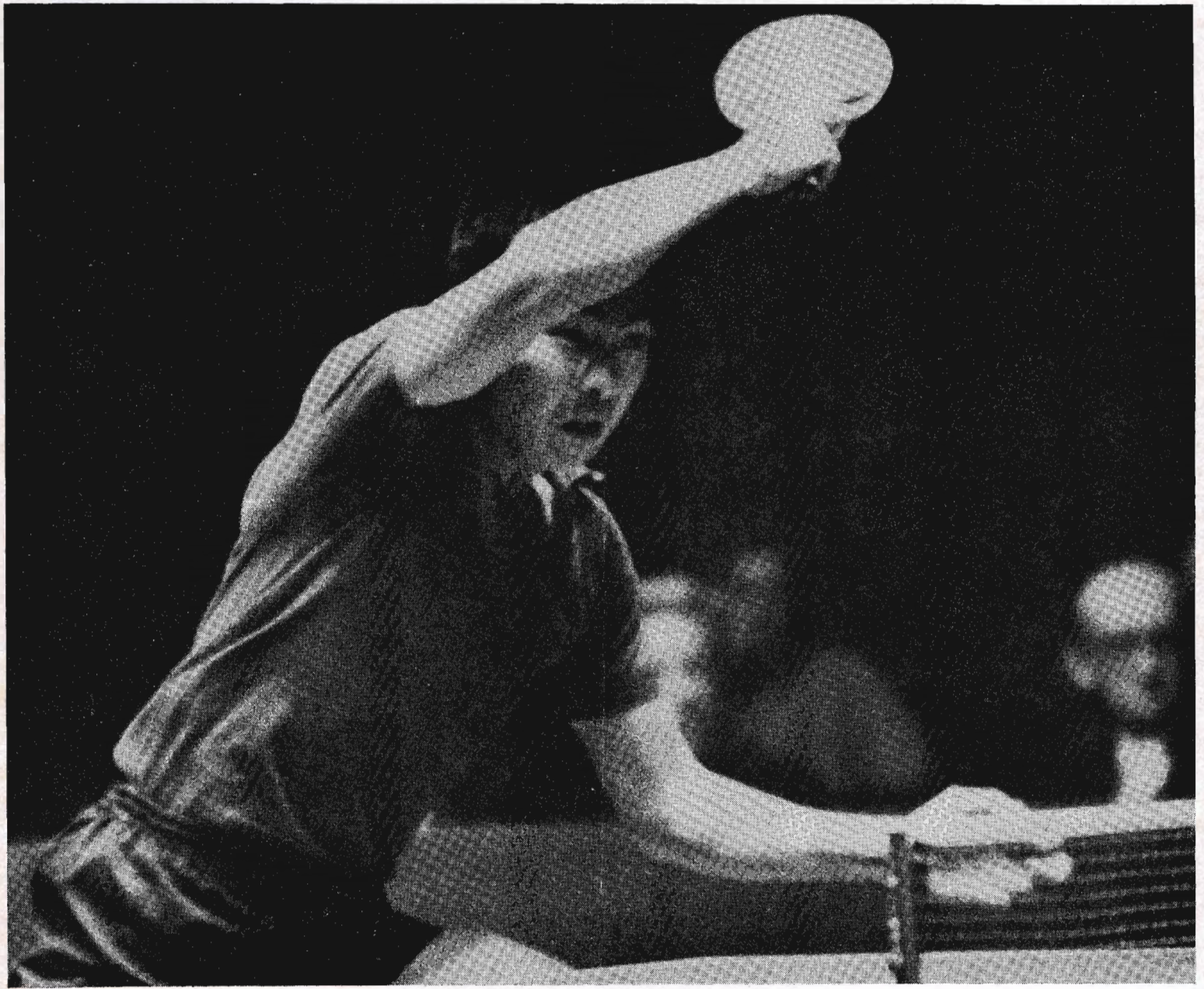


Photo by Tony Duffy, Sutton, Surrey

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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COUNTING THE COST

As to be expected of the media, the English Table Tennis Association's adoption of Stiga AB equipment for the forthcoming 34th World Championships in Birmingham, was given prominence following criticisms levelled by Keith Buckle, the Hon. Press Officer of the Players' Association of Table Tennis and of the North Middlesex Table Tennis League.

Whether or not this was a one man crusade for tables of British manufacture, the fact remains that the Swedish firm's offer exceeded that of any other, and with the interests of the membership at large, purely from a financial aspect, the offer was accepted.

There was nothing more sinister to the affair than that. After all, the membership would not thank the Association if at the end of the day their guarantee funds were used to offset a deficit which might otherwise have been averted.

Month by month the budget estimates have to be revised as inflation bites ever deeper, making it imperative to seek income from whatever source provides the greater yield in hard cash—always accepted that the equipment has the approval of the International Table Tennis Federation.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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NEW WORLD RANKINGS

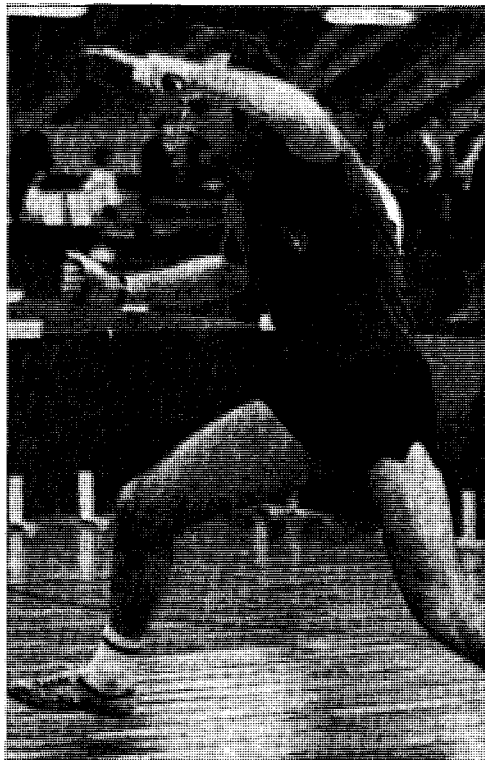
Owing to insufficient evidence, Istvan Jonyer, of Hungary, the reigning world champion, has not been included in the revised Individual Classification List issued by the International Table Tennis Federation on September 21, 1976.

His former No. 1 spot has gone to the People's Republic of China's **Liang Ko-liang**, winner over the period April 26-May 7, of the men's singles title in the 3rd Asian Championships in Pyongyang, Korea DPR, and victor, last season, of the Stiga Welsh Open title in Cardiff.

Appropriately, Jacques Secretin, of France, winner of the European title in Prague, is brought in at No. 2, a leap of twelve positions from his previous placing. Anatoli Strokotov, of the Soviet Union, the defeated finalist in Prague, is advanced thirteen positions, from No. 24 to No. 11, while China's Kua Yao-hua, the losing finalist in Pyongyang, comes in at No. 8, from nowhere, ahead of his compatriot Li Cheng-shih.

Both England's **Denis Neale** and **Nicky Jarvis** have been uplifted, the former from No. 25 to joint 19th, and Nicky from No. 34 to No. 22. Trevor Taylor, the former English international, now well established in Holland, is omitted, having previously been listed at No. 20.

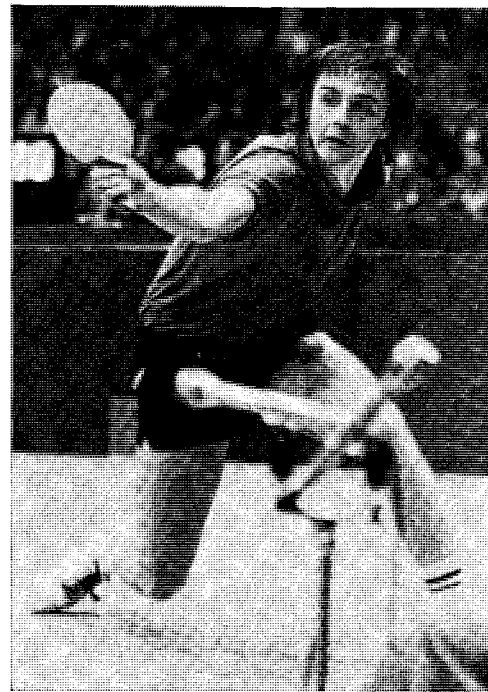
On the distaff side, **Pak Yung Sun** (Korea DPR) retains her No. 1 position, afforded her after her women's singles victory in



European champion, Jacques Secretin, of France.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR



Anatoli Strokotov (USSR).

Photo by Petr Barta, Ostrava, Czechoslovakia.

the last world championships in Calcutta, despite her defeat by China's Chang Te-ying in the semi-finals of the Asian Championships won by Chang Li (China), who still appears at No. 2. The previously unknown Chang Te-ying now finds herself at No. 5.

England's **Jill Hammersley**, due to her success in Prague, is moved up eleven positions, from No. 17 to No. 6, and included for the first time is **Linda Howard**, at No. 24, jointly with Yang Kui-li, of China.

Other players not included owing to insufficient evidence are:—Men: Hsu Shao-fa (China), Hsi En-ting (China), Gabor Gergely (Hungary) and Toshiaki Furukawa (Japan); Women: Judit Magos (Hungary) and Hana Riedlova (Czechoslovakia).

The new rankings (previous placings in brackets) are:—

Men

1. Liang Ko-liang (Ch) (8)
2. Jacques Secretin (Fr) (14)
3. Dragutin Surbek (Yu) (3)
4. Kjell Johansson (Sw) (5)
5. Stellan Bengtsson (Sw) (10)
6. Milan Orlovski (Cz) (15)
7. Anton Stipanovic (Yu) (2)
8. Kua Yao-hua (Ch) (—)
9. Li Cheng-shih (Ch) (11)
10. Norio Takashima (Ja) (6)
11. Anatoli Strokotov (Su) (24)
12. Mitsuru Kohno (Ja) (4)
13. Li Peng (Ch) (16)
14. Sarkis Sarkhojan (Su) (13)
15. Jaroslav Kunz (Cz) (21)
16. Jochen Leiss (Gr) (17)
17. Katsuyuki Abe (Ja) (18)

Photo by courtesy of Jean Mercier, FFTF.

18. Huang Liang (Ch) (—)
19. Milivoj Karakasevic (Yu) (26)
- = Christian Martin (Fr) (—)
- = Denis Neale (En) (25)
22. Nicky Jarvis (En) (34)
23. Stanislav Gomozkov (Su) (22)
24. Wilfried Lieck (Gr) (—)
25. Ulf Thorsell (Sw) (37)
26. Peter Stellwag (Gr) (36)
27. Patrick Birocheau (Fr) (—)
28. Kong Jae-Gyu (Kd) (—)
29. Danny Seemiller (Us) (—)
30. Lu Yuan-sheng (Ch) (19)
31. Mehara (Ja) (—)
32. Chul Yun (Kd) (30)
33. Liao Fu-min (Ch) (—)
34. Choi Sung Kuk (Kr) (41)
35. Sudhir Phadke (In) (—)
36. Janos Börzsei (Hn) (27)
- = Le Sang Kuk (Kr) (—)
- = Soong Poh Wan (Ml) (—)
39. Errol Caetano (Ca) (—)
40. Jiri Turai (Cz) (42)

Women

1. Pak Yung Sun (Kd) (1)
2. Chang Li (Ch) (2)
3. Ke Hsian-ai (Ch) (3)
4. Chung Hyan Sook (Kr) (4)
5. Chang Te-ying (Ch) (—)
6. Jill Hammersley (En) (17)
7. Ann-Christin Hellman (Sw) (10)
8. Maria Alexandru (Ru) (6)
9. Iлона Uhlíkova (Cz) (—)
10. Lee Ailesa (Kr) (18)
11. Chu Hsiang-yun (Ch) (7)
- = Erzebet Palatinus (Yu) (13)
13. Elmira Antonian (Su) (9)
14. Wiebke Hendriksen (Gr) (20)
- = Zoya Rudnova (Su) (24)
16. Kim Chang Ae (Kd) (—)
17. Pak Yong Ok (Kd) (31)
18. Beatrix Kishazi (Hu) (22)
19. Branka Batinic (Yu) (—)
20. Claude Bergeret (Fr) (29)
21. Tomie Edano (Ja) (25)
22. Yukie Ohzeki (Ja) (8)
23. Chang Kang-mei (Ch) (—)
24. Linda Howard (En) (—)
- = Yang Kui-li (Ch) (28)
26. Sachiko Yokota (Ja) (12)
27. Le Shien-yen (Ch) (—)
28. Sha Min (Ch) (—)
29. Hong Gil Soon (Kd) (—)
30. Blanka Silhanova (Cz) (35)
31. Sun Min (Ch) (—)
32. Tatjana Ferdman (Su) (5)
33. Gabrielle Szabo (Hu) (—)
34. Kim Soon Ok (Kr) (—)
35. Dubravka Fabri (Yu) (—)
36. Huang Hsi-ping (Ch) (11)
37. Brigitte Thiriet (Fr) (33)
38. Henriette Lotaller (Hu) (23)
39. Cheng Huai-ying (Chi) (15)
40. Lina Mihut (Ru) (—)

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Two successive 6-1 thrashings, by France and Yugoslavia, in the freshly-titled **Super Division of the European League** has left England in a somewhat precarious position with a great deal of leeway to make up if they are to maintain their newly-acquired status among the elite.

In their first match, away to France, in Tours, on **September 30**, the result was particularly disappointing with both Desmond Douglas and Nicky Jarvis playing badly in their opening singles.

The French team, having just returned from a trip to China, were internationally match tight, unlike the English players, whose competitive preparations had been limited to a couple of domestic open tournaments and a County match involving the Cleveland representatives.

In the absence of Jill Hammersley, recovering from an appendix operation, Linda Howard played well and fought hard but to no avail against Brigitte Thiriet.

Douglas played exceptionally well against Jacques Secretin, the European champion, in the final set—the score reached 17-all in the decider—after Jarvis had recorded our only win of the evening in the penultimate set against Christian Martin. Scores:—

C. Martin bt D. Douglas 18, 18.
 J. Secretin bt N. Jarvis 5, 10,
 B. Thiriet bt L. Howard -22, 18, 17.
 P. Birocheau/Secretin bt Douglas/D. Neale 19, -13, 11.
 Secretin/C. Bergeret bt Douglas/Howard 18, 14.
 Martin lost to Jarvis -15, -17.
 Secretin bt Douglas -17, 16, 17.

On the same night, in Erlangen, Federal Germany brought off a shock 5-2 win over Yugoslavia, albeit the champions were without Anton Stipanovic, whose services had been commandeered by the military.

Milivoj Karakasevic was the stand-in but he, like Dragutin Surbek, fell to both Jochen Leiss and Wilfried Lieck. Indeed, it was only in the sets involving Erzebet Palatinus that the visitors scored their wins. Scores:—

J. Leiss bt M. Karakasevic 14, 10.
 W. Lieck bt. D. Surbek 14, -19, 22.
 W. Hendriksen lost to E. Palatinus -13, -6.
 P. Engel/Leiss bt Karakasevic/Surbek 16, 19.
 Engel/U. Hirschmüller lost to Surbek/Palatinus 21, -14, -14.
 Leiss bt Surbek 18, 18.
 Lieck bt Karakasevic -12, 13, 11.

Having languished throughout last season at the foot of the table with but one win—over demoted Poland—Hungary rejoiced in the return of their top players to account for Sweden in Karlshamn.

At one stage the Hungarians led 3-1 only for the Swedes to level at 3-all before Gabor Gergely finished as he had begun with a win, adding the scalp of Stellan Bengtsson to that of Ulf Thorsell. Scores:—

U. Thorsell lost to G. Gergely -22, 15, -20.
 S. Bengtsson bt T. Klampar 11, 17.
 A.-C. Hellman lost to B. Kishazi 10, -17, -17.
 T. Andersson/Bengtsson lost to I. Jonyer/Klampar -18, -18.
 Bengtsson/Hellman bt Gergely/J. Magos-Havas -16, 15, 14.
 Thorsell bt Klampar 17, -15, 16.
 Bengtsson lost to Gergely -16, -18.

In the fourth match of the night, at Havirov, Czechoslovakia were beaten 4-3 by the Soviet Union, who left it to the final set before securing the victory when Sarkis

Sarkhojan beat Jaroslav Kunz. Scores:—
 M. Orlowski bt S. Sarkhojan 18, 15.
 J. Kunz lost to A. Strokotov -10, -11.
 I. Uhlíkova bt E. Antonian 12, -15, 15.
 Orlowski/M. Schenk lost to Sarkhojan/Strokotov -9, -17.
 Orlowski/Uhlíkova lost to Sarkhojan/Antonian -14, -20.
 Orlowski bt Strokotov 12, -15, 12.
 Kunz lost to Sarkhojan 15, -19, -14.

The next set of matches took place on **October 14** when England travelled to Ljubljana to take on Yugoslavia. Denis Neale was brought in for singles play to the exclusion of Douglas, whose activities were confined to two doubles sets.

Linda Howard again deputised for Jill Hammersley but proved no match for Miss Palatinus, who again shone in the mixed with Stipanovic, who was granted leave for the occasion.

It was left for Neale to save the "white-wash" when, in the final set, he had a 2-straight win over Zoran Kosanovic. Scores: D. Surbek bt D. Neale 16, -16, 11.

Z. Kosanovic bt N. Jarvis 8, -17, 15.
 E. Palatinus bt L. Howard 11, 12.
 A. Stipanovic/Surbek bt D. Douglas/Neale -19, 14, 10.
 Stipanovic/Palatinus bt Douglas/Howard 16, 16.
 Surbek bt Jarvis 13, 9.
 Kosanovic lost to Neale -13, -14.

France, in Nancy, brought off another 6-1 triumph, this time at the expense of Federal Germany, whose one success was gained by Leiss in the opening set against Martin. Scores:—

C. Martin lost to J. Leiss -15, -15.
 J. Secretin bt W. Lieck 19, 8.
 C. Bergeret bt U. Hirschmüller 21, 19.

COVER PICTURE

Liang Ko-liang, of China, winner of the men's singles title in the Asian Championships and uplifted from No. 8 to No. 1 in the New I.T.T.F. rankings, which will be operative in the 34th World Championships at the National Exhibition Centre, in Birmingham.

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P. Birocheau/Secretin bt P. Engel/Leiss 16, 19.
 Secretin/Bergeret bt Engel/Hirschmüller -15, 18, 13.
 Martin bt Lieck 24, -20, 19.
 Secretin bt Leiss 23, 16.

Sweden, again without the services of the injured Kjell Johansson, got back to winning ways in Jakobsborg, beating Czechoslovakia 5-2 with Thorsell accounting for both Kunz and Milan Orlovski, the former beating Bengtsson in the final set. Scores:—
 U. Thorsell bt J. Kunz 8, -13, 16.
 S. Bengtsson bt M. Orlovski -6, 19, 11.
 A.-C. Hellman bt I. Uhlíkova -16, 14, 12.
 Bengtsson/Thorsell bt Kunz/Orlovski 19, 18.
 Bengtsson/Hellman lost to Orlovski/Uhlíkova 19, -12, -15.
 Thorsell bt Orlovski 18, 19.
 Bengtsson lost to Kunz -16, -15.

Hungary travelled to Moscow to inflict a 4-3 defeat on the Soviet Union, whose Stanislav Gomozkov had wins over both Gergely and Klampar and further combined with Strokotov for success in the men's doubles.

For Hungary, Judit Magos-Havas, brought in for Beatrix Kishazi, had a win over Zoya Rudnova and, in the mixed, when partnered by Istvan Jonyer, over Sarkis Sarkhojan and Elmira Antonian. Scores:—
 A. Strokotov lost to T. Klampar -14, -20.
 S. Gomozkov bt G. Gergely -17, 11, 13.
 Z. Rudnova lost to J. Magos-Havas -15, -18.
 Gomozkov/Strokotov bt I. Jonyer-Klampar 18, -17, 17.
 Sarkhojan/E. Antonian lost to Jonyer/Magos-Havas -20, -12.
 Strokotov lost to Gergely -17, -20.
 Gomozkov bt Klampar 14, 15.

SUPER DIVISION

| | P | W | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| France | 2 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 2 |
| Hungary | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Sweden | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| Yugoslavia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| Soviet Union | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 1 |
| Fed. Germany | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| Czechoslovakia | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 0 |
| England | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 0 |

Demotees, Poland and Belgium, are running neck-and-neck in Division 1 with Ireland and Italy thus far, without success.

Represented by Jim Langan, Allister Cairns and Karen Senior, Ireland were beaten 4-3 by Greece in Athens on September 30, and by a similar score in Bangor on October 15, by Bulgaria.

Scores:—

September 30

Poland 5, Austria 2 (Stupsk)
 M. Skibinski lost to E. Amplatz 18, -16, -20.
 A. Grubba bt G. Müller 16, 16.
 E. Olek bt D. Fetter 18, 11.
 Dryszel/Kucharski bt Amplatz/Müller 17, 13.
 Czochanski/Olek bt Müller/Fetter 19, 15.
 Skibinski lost to Müller -21, 18, -17.
 Grubba bt Amplatz -17, 18, 18.

Italy 3, Belgium 4 (Bergamo)

S. Bosi bt D. Nassaux 7, 13.
 M. Costantini lost to N. v.d. Walle -14, -15.
 S. Milic lost to M. F. Germinat -11, -16.
 Bosi/Malesci bt Nassaux/v.d. Walle -10, 18, 14.
 Malesci/Milic lost to v.d. Walle/Germinat -16, -20.
 Bosi lost to v.d. Walle -20, -21.
 Costantini bt Nassaux 16, 24.

Greece 4, Ireland 3 (Athens)

C. Priftis bt J. Langan 18, 21.
 D. Zikos bt A. Cairns 14, 18.
 H. Marinou lost to K. Senior -12, -11.
 Diakakis/Priftis bt Cairns/Langan -13, 26, 17.
 Priftis/Marinou lost to Langan/Senior -11, -15.
 Priftis bt Cairns 11, 12.
 Zikos lost to Langan -17, -19.

Bulgaria 1, Netherlands 6 (Sofia)

D. Hasanov lost to B. v.d. Helm 17, -16, -13.
 I. Stolanov lost to N. v. Slobbe -17, 10, -15.

E. Neikova lost to B. Vrisekop -11, 18, -11.
 Hasanov/Stolanov lost to v.d. Helm/v Slobbe -19, -17.
 Stolanov/Neikova bt v.d. Helm/Vrisekop -24, 21, 15.
 Hasanov lost to v. Slobbe -16, 13, -22.
 Stolanov lost to v.d. Helm 9, -14, -13.

October 14

Austria 4, Italy 3 (Judenburg)

H. Schlüter bt S. Malesci 15, -19, 18.
 E. Amplatz bt S. Bosi 14, 18.
 D. Fetter bt S. Milic 13, 16.
 Amplatz/Schlüter lost to Malesci/Bosi -17, 17, -17.
 Schlüter/Fetter bt Malesci/Milac 12, 15.
 Schlüter lost to Bosi -20, -16.
 Amplatz lost to Malesci -19, 17, -15.

Belgium 5, Greece 2 (Corenne)

N. v.d. Walle bt D. Zikos 15, 15.
 D. Nassaux lost to C. Priftis -11, -15.
 M.-F. Germinat bt E. Marinou 13, 9.
 Nassaux/v.d. Walle lost to Diakakis/Priftis -12, 11, -14.
 v.d. Walle/Germinat bt Priftis/Marinou 11, 5.
 v.d. Walle bt Priftis 11, 5.
 Nassaux bt Zikos 15, -18, 20.

Netherlands 3, Poland 4 (Delft)

N. v. Slobbe bt R. Czochanski 17, 27.
 B. v.d. Helm bt S. Fraczyk -15, 15, 20.
 B. Vrisekoop bt J. Szatko 12, 17.
 v.d. Helm/v. Slobbe lost to Czochanski/Grubba 15, -13, -14.
 v.d. Helm/Vrisekoop lost to Grubba/Szatko -15, 20, -20.
 v. Slobbe lost to Fraczyk -12, -7.
 v.d. Helm lost to Czochanski -18, -14.

October 15

Ireland 3, Bulgaria 4 (Bangor)

J. Langan bt G. Damianov 15, 15.
 A. Cairns lost to D. Hasanov -15, -9.
 K. Senior lost to E. Neikova 18, -14, -19.
 T. Caffrey/Langan lost to Damianov/Hasanov 16, -18, -18.
 Langan/Senior bt Hasanov/Neikova 16, -19, 19.
 Cairns lost to Damianov -17, -13.

DIVISION 1

| | P | W | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Belgium | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| Poland | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| Netherlands | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 1 |
| Austria | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| Greece | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| Ireland | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 0 |
| Italy | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 0 |

In Division 2 Scotland began their campaign away to Spain in Granada on October 12 winning 5-2. Two days later in Bartringen, Luxembourg accounted for Switzerland 7-0 to take the lead. Scores:—

Spain 2, Scotland 5 (Granada)

D. Sanchez bt J. McNee 14, 13.
 J. Feliu bt R. Yule 22, 17.
 P. Lupon lost to P. Fleming -26, 14, -19.
 J. Lupon/Sanchez lost to McNee/Yule -15, 21, -9.
 Feliu/M. Sanahuja lost to Yule/Fleming 13, -7, -10.
 Sanchez lost to Yule -18, -11.
 Feliu lost to McNee 17, -19, -19.

Luxembourg 7, Switzerland 0

A. Hartmann bt B. Chatton 11, 23.
 C. Putz bt M. Frutschi 16, 17.
 J. Dom bt V. Lehmann 9, 20.
 Hartmann/J. Krier bt Chatton/Frutschi 11, 13.
 Hartmann/Kisch bt Frutschi/Lehmann 10, 12.
 Hartmann bt Frutschi 12, 21.
 Putz bt Chatton 13, 19.

DIVISION 2

| | P | W | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Luxembourg | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 1 |
| Scotland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Spain | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Wales | - | - | - | - | - | - |

FAIRS CITIES CUP

I.C.I. Hyde, after travelling to Hamburg, beating the Oberalster Club 5-1, faced up

to the challenge of another Federal German side 1 FC Saarbrücken, at Hyde, on October 27. After establishing a lead of 4-1 the visitors pulled back the next two sets only to lose out when Phil Bowen completed a magnificent treble with a final victory over Ditmar Kelkel 22-20 in the third, with expedite coming in when the Lancashire No. 2 led 16-14. Scores:—
 P. Bowen bt K. H. Russy 14, -19, 14.
 D. Schofield lost to H. Gross -17, 17, -15.
 J. Hilton bt D. Kelkel 17, -16, 16.
 Bowen bt Gross -16, 15, 20.
 Hilton bt Russy 15, 13.
 Schofield lost to Kelkel -17, -12.
 Hilton lost to Gross -18, 8, -16.
 Bowen bt Kelkel -10, 17, 20.

EUROPE CLUB CUP

By a 6-3 margin Ormesby beat the Danish champions, Zero Copenhagen, in Round 2 of the Europe Club Cup of Champions at Ormesby on Sunday, October 17.

The home victory can be attributed to a good all-round team performance with all Ormesby's girls, Carole Knight, Angela Tierney and June Williams each winning two. But the "star of the match" award must go to Susanne Poulson, Denmark's No. 1, who won 3 narrow victories for her team.

The best set was the battle of the big loopers, between Susanne Poulson and Carole Knight. The Danish girl was a worthy winner 21-17 in the decider.

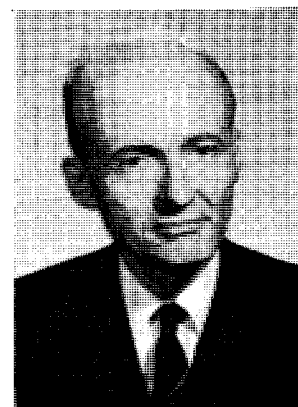
Individual scores:—

A. Tierney bt B. Jensen 5, 9.
 C. Knight bt B. Crone 11, 14.
 J. Williams lost to S. Poulson 17, -20, -19.
 Knight bt Jensen 4, 4.
 Tierney lost to Poulson -17, -20.
 Williams bt Crone -21, 10, 7.
 Knight lost to Poulson -15, 15, -19.
 Williams bt Jensen 15, 14.
 Tierney bt Crone 15, 15.

NEW HONOURS

In Barcelona, H. Roy Evans, President of the International Table Tennis Federation, was appointed to the Council of the World Assembly of International Federations.

Roy Evans is the only one of a strong seven-man council not attached to any Olympic Sport. He has also been appointed Chairman of the group of Non-Olympic Sports, of whom there are now over 30 in the Assembly.



PRESIDENT LAKATOS

Dr. György Lakatos, a doctor of science and philosophy, has been appointed President of the Hungarian Table Tennis Association.

Born in Budapest in 1918, Dr. Lakatos began his playing career in 1936 and was the non-playing captain of the Hungarian Swaythling Cup team from 1946 to 1950. He was elected General Secretary of the Hungarian Association in 1945, serving for a period of six years.

From 1951 to 1957 Dr. Lakatos served as a member of the Executive Committee before being elected Vice-President in 1957. He has been a member of the I.T.T.F. Council since 1948 and of the E.T.T.U. Management Committee since 1957.

NORTHERN TOURNEMENTS

by Geo. R. Yates

SENSATIONAL DEFEAT AT MANCHESTER

Shocks abounded in the men's singles event of the Wilson's Brewery-sponsored North of England 2-Star Open at Manchester, on September 25, none more so than the 4th round dismissal of Desmond Douglas, the reigning English champion and defending title-holder, seeded No. 2, who was summarily despatched 11 and 15 by Stephen Cowley, the 16-year-old junior champion of the Bolton League.

Young Cowley eventually fell to Nigel Eckersley in the quarters, at which stage Jimmy Walker, seeded No. 3, took his departure when beaten by Donald Parker. Prior to this, in Round 5, Denis Neale, seeded No. 1 because of his world and European ranking, was ousted by Chris Sewell, a player in his first season out of the junior ranks having, in July, been a member of England's team in the European Youth Championships in Mödling, Austria.

Thus was the way opened for Paul Day, the beaten finalist in Mödling, and the 4th seed at Manchester, to snap up the title with a final win over Parker after eliminating John Hilton in the penultimate round.

Top seed Carole Knight was a comfortable winner of the women's singles title beating the holder, Susan Lisle, in a one-sided final encounter which reversed the result of last season and of the previous evening when, at Hyde, Cheshire played Cleveland in a Premier Division County match, which the North-Easterners won 8-1.

England's No. 2, Nicky Jarvis—a non-starter at Manchester—won the men's singles title in the Cumbria 2-Star Open, at Carlisle, on October 2, his final victim being the defending title-holder, Jimmy Walker.

There were no giant-killing feats from Cowley on this occasion nor from anyone else. Again in the boys' singles the young

Lancastrian failed to make any substantial progress, being humbled 11 and 8 by Paul Hindle, of Cleveland, in Round 3. Eventual winner of this event was Chris Reed, who performed most creditably in beating both Kevin Beadsley and Tony O'Connor, the latter a late stand-in for the absent Keith Paxton.

In a turbulent women's singles final, Carole Knight again got the better of Susan Lisle, the only real shock of the day being at the starting time when not a table was to be seen. But when they did arrive, some 15 minutes overdue, they were put up in record time by so many willing hands, it was untrue. Results:—

NORTH OF ENGLAND 2-STAR

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
 J. Hilton (Ch) bt C. Sewell (Av) 9, 15.
 P. Day (Ca) bt A. Clayton (Y) 9, 21, 5.
 D. Parker (La) bt J. Walker (Cv) -17, 15, 19.
 N. Eckersley (Ch) bt S. Cowley (La) 14, 17.
Semi-finals
 Day bt Hilton 19, -19, 18.
 Parker bt Eckersley 8, -16, 20.
Final
 Day bt Parker 15, 17.
Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
 C. Knight (Cv) bt S. Dickerson (Y) 13, 9.
 D. Johnson (Ch) bt S. Hunt (Li) 17, 13.
 A. Stevenson (Le) bt A. Tierney (Cv) 11, -16, 17.
 S. Lisle (Ch) bt S. Jones (St) 14, 15.
Semi-finals
 Knight bt Johnson 21, 6.
 Lisle bt Stevenson 18, -18, 19.
Final
 Knight bt Lisle 16, 7.
Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
 D. Douglas (Wa)/D. Neale (Cv) bt P. Bowen (La)/Hilton -11, 15, 18.
 Day/Parker bt A. Barden (Mx)/Walker 12, -12, 20.
Final
 DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Day/Parker -18, 14, 17.
Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
 Lisle/Stevenson bt Hunt/K. Rogers (Le) -20, 14, 17.
 M. Ludi/J. McLean (Y) bt Knight/M. Leigh (Ch) 19, 15.
Final
 LISLE/STEVENSON bt Ludi/McLean 17, 16.
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
 K. Paxton (Du) bt K. McLean (Sc) 16, 18.
 C. Reed (Cu) bt M. Thomas (Wa) 10, 10.
 K. Beadsley (Y) bt M. Henkey (Ch) 9, 16.
 C. Rogers (Le) bt N. Smith (Cu) 7, 14.
Semi-finals
 Paxton bt Reed 13, 13.
 Beadsley bt Rogers 16, 16.
Final
 PAXTON bt Beadsley 20 19.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
 Tierney bt L. Holmes (Dy) 9, -18, 15.
 Jones bt Dickerson 14, -11, 15.
 Hunt bt A. Cornwell (La) 18, 17.
 L. Hryszko (Y) bt C. Buttery (Li) 17, 13.

Semi-finals

Tierney bt Jones 16, 6.
 Hunt bt Hryszko 13, -19, 11.
Final
 TIERNEY bt Hunt 11, 8.
Veteran Singles—Quarter-finals
 D. Schofield (Ch) bt R. Williams (Wa) -24 9, 16.
 G. Brook (Y) bt A. Hartshorn (La) -14, 19, 19.
 D. Marples (Dy) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) 20, 16.
 G. Evans (Wa) bt E. Brown (Ch) 10, 5.
Semi-finals
 Schofield bt Brook 18, 13.
 Evans bt Marples 6, 16.
Final
 SCHOFIELD bt Evans 14, -16, 16.
CUMBRIA 2-STAR
Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
 N. Jarvis (Cv) bt P. Bowen (La) 16, 12.
 A. Griffiths (Wa) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) 11, 11.
 J. Hilton (Ch) bt J. McNeer (Sc) 16, 17.
 J. Walker (Cv) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 14, -16, 14.
Semi-finals
 Jarvis bt Griffiths 19, 13.
 Walker bt Hilton 20, 11.
Final
 JARVIS bt Walker -15, 18, 14.
Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
 C. Knight (Cv) bt D. McQuire (Ch) 10, 3.
 J. Williams (Cv) bt I. Ferguson (Sc) 9, 16.
 A. Tierney (Cv) bt J. Inch (Du) 12, 11.
 S. Lisle (Ch) bt J. Deakin (Ch) 15, 7.
Semi-finals
 Knight bt Williams 13, 12.
 Lisle bt Tierney 21, -13, 16.
Final
 KNIGHT bt Lisle 19, 23.
Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
 Jarvis/Walker bt R. Hampson/D. Schofield (Ch) 13, 13.
 Eckersley/B. Johns (Ch) bt Bowen/Hilton 18, 18.
Final
 JARVIS/WALKER bt Eckersley/Johns 12, 12.
Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
 Knight/Lisle bt L. Bainbridge/J. Charlesworth (Du) 13, 13.
 Tierney/Williams bt McQuire/M. Logue (Sc) 11, 6.
Final
 KNIGHT/LISLE bt Tierney/Williams 17, 14.
Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
 Walker/Knight bt N. Smith/G. Smith (Cu) 8, 8.
 S. Souter (Cv)/Tierney bt Hampson/Lisle 18, 16.
Final
 WALKER/KNIGHT bt Souter/Tierney 9, 11.
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
 A. O'Connor (La) bt P. Hindle (Cv) 16, 16.
 M. Laird (Cv) bt M. Wallace (Sc) -17, 16, 11.
 C. Reed (Cu) bt P. Bannister (Cv) 14, 17.
 K. Beadsley (Y) bt M. Hankey (Ch) 4, 11.
Semi-finals
 O'Connor bt Laird 20, 15.
 Reed bt Beadsley 20, 17.
Final
 REED bt O'Connor 13, 15.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
 Tierney bt A. Cornwell (La) 12, 12.
 Deakin bt J. Sephton (Cu) 12, 10.
 Smith bt McQuire -16, 17, 18.
 Williams bt L. Fennah (Ch) 6, 7.
Semi-finals
 Tierney bt Deakin 7, 8.
 Williams bt Smith 13, 18.
Final
 TIERNEY bt Williams 7, 15.
Veteran Singles—Quarter-finals
 Schofield bt D. Holden (Cv) 11, 13.
 G. Smith (La) bt G. Lapping (Cu) -13, 9, 15.
 E. Bruce (Sc) bt P. Jenkins (Cu) 18, 16.
 D'Arcy bt J. Clewett (La) 9, 15.
Semi-finals
 Schofield bt Smith 20, 15.
 D'Arcy bt Bruce 18, 17.
Final
 SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 8, 15.



Mr. Bruce Cunningham, of Wilson's Brewery, makes the award of the women's singles trophy to Cleveland's Carole Knight at the North of England 2-Star Open in Manchester.

Photo by Bob Williams, Manchester.

In the Coaching Field

by JOHN O'SULLIVAN

After giving many reports on its progress and stating the amount of work required to put it all together, the E.T.T.A. Coaching Manual is now complete.

As from October 1 last, this Manual became the official reference book for the training of student coaches in the E.T.T.A.'s National Coaching Scheme.

All new students to register from that date will receive a copy of the Manual, together with Log Book, at an enrolment fee of £3.50.

Students who enrolled before October 1 and paid an enrolment fee of £2.25 may now obtain the Manual at a cost of £1.25 on request to Jack Carrington, at 71 Maplin Way, Thorpe Bay, Essex. Similarly, any coach who qualified before October 1 and whose name is included in the current Register of Coaches, can obtain the Manual at the same cost of £1.25.

Other affiliated members of the E.T.T.A. who wish to purchase a copy may do so

at a cost of £3.25 on application to Jack Carrington.

One would wish to record due thanks on behalf of the National Coaching and Schools' Committee to the firm of John Jaques & Son Limited, for their generous contribution towards the production costs of the publication.

It must be stressed, however, that the main function of the Manual is as a reference to the training of coaches. It is not intended to be used as a training programme for use with pupils on table tennis courses.

As from October 1, all student coaches' assessments and qualifications will be in agreement with the coaching Manual. This standardisation is carried further with a revised paper on coaching awards procedure for all grades of coaching which again will be in line with the Manual.

CO-OPERATION

Coaches who administer coaching on the various Panels require the co-operation of the Counties within their panels. It is difficult to plan programmes and run courses, only to find that a County has arranged a squad-training session for the same date.

It was suggested at a recent meeting of the National Coaching and Schools' Committee that efforts should be made for greater liaison between County and Panels and that Counties should have a representative on Panel Committees. It is not unusual to find that some County officials know little of Panel programmes, or what Panel their County actually belongs to!

Coaching, be it at County or Panel level, benefits all and should be a joint operation rather than isolated groups. Many coaches who help to staff courses, both at Panel and County level, may find that the information in the coaching Manual differs from

their way of thinking.

This is most likely if the coach qualified a number of years ago. It could be a good reason to book on to the next available refresher course, for the methods and content are continually being updated, and the present format is the result of many hours discussion and research by the National Coaches in consultation with senior coaches throughout the country.

Congratulations are due to Bob Wiley, of Cleveland, on his upgrading to 3-Star Coach. Bob is well known in the coaching field, not only for his instruction but also for his expertise in physical training, for which there is a great need in most parts of the country.

When the National Coaching and Schools' Committee meet, the agenda is such that the meetings may go on into the small hours. At the last meeting Ron Crayden, chairman of the National Selection Committee, was in attendance, and the members took the opportunity to question him on many aspects concerning the workings of his committee.

The discussion that followed on selection matters, even allowing for a full agenda, was extensive and searching, especially in regard to the assessment of potential national juniors.

Ron explained the current policy of the selection committee, and took note of the feelings expressed to put forward to his own committee at a future meeting.

NEW METHOD FOR YORKSHIRE "CADET" ASSESSMENTS

by Eric Hill

(Yorkshire Coaching Secretary)

This year it was decided that for the Under-14's, instead of just having a trial,

we would have assessments and then a selected Under-14 trial.

Nominations were requested through coaching secretaries and coaches from all parts of Yorkshire. The result was that we received applications from 49 boys and 23 girls. On the actual day 38 boys and 15 girls turned up to be assessed.

The first step was for each player to be documented—we now have name, address, date of birth, name of coach, past experience, including how many matches they play and how often they practice each week.

The next step was for teams of three coaches to assess each player on rating, uniformity and consistency of stroke, accuracy, co-ordination, dexterity and anticipation. The individual marks of the coaches were then transferred to a "master copy" so that an average assessment for each player was obtained.

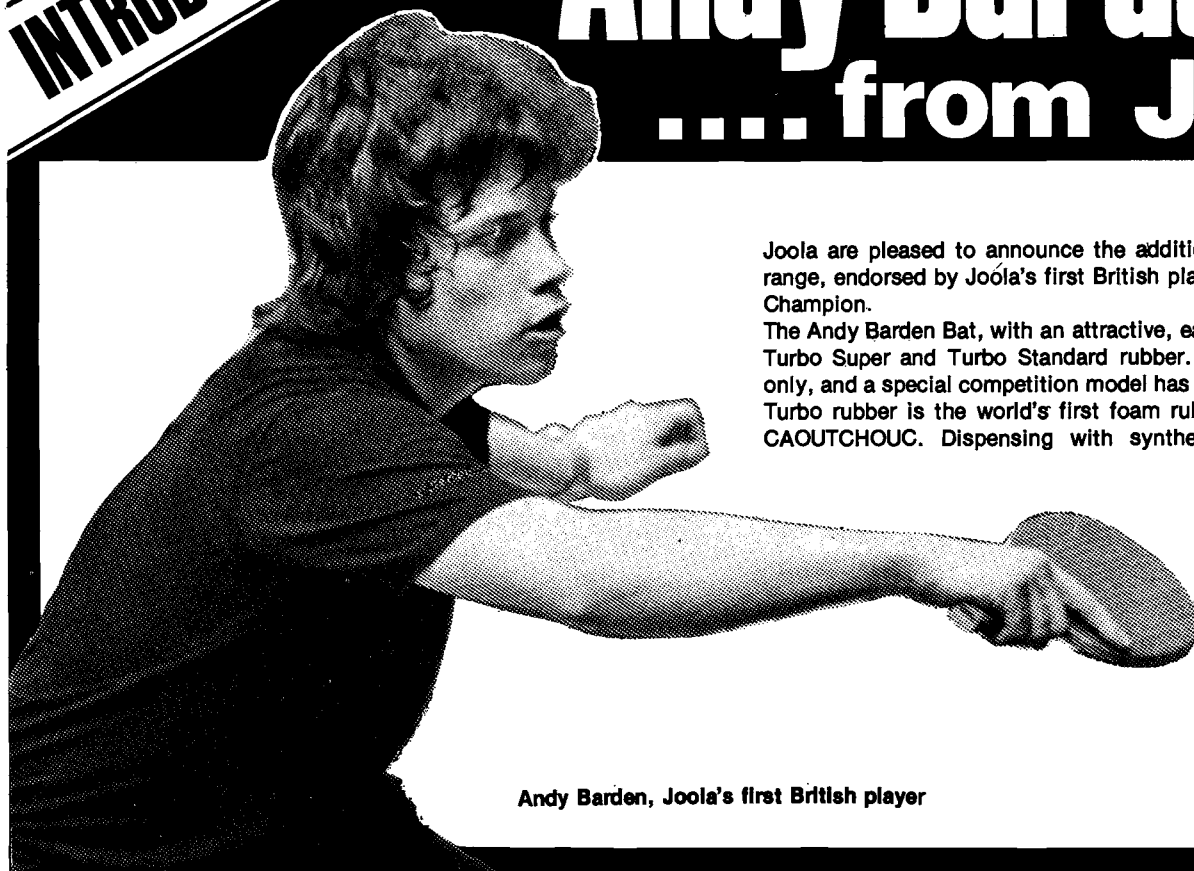
Copies of the "master copy" were then returned to coaches so that they could see in the opinion of other coaches, the strengths and weaknesses of their pupils. Selections were made from these forms, along with advice from senior coaches, for our Under-14 trials. We believe that these assessments will be of great help in the future and that we are getting table tennis on to a sounder basis. We now have a file on 53 players, which means we do not have to rely on memory alone, or on the odd over-zealous coach being too ambitious for his particular pupil.

It did entail a lot of hard work and I should like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Simpson, whose idea it was, for showing me the way, and all the coaches for their most generous help on our first assessment day, held at Moor Grange School, Leeds, on September 5th, 1976.

INTRODUCING

THE

Andy Barden Bat from JOOLA!



Joola are pleased to announce the addition of a new bat to their extensive range, endorsed by Joola's first British player, Andy Barden, European Youth Champion.

The Andy Barden Bat, with an attractive, easy to grip handle, is supplied with Turbo Super and Turbo Standard rubber. It is available also in blade form only, and a special competition model has been produced for younger players. Turbo rubber is the world's first foam rubber surface with a layer of 100% CAOUTCHOUC. Dispensing with synthetic rubber, this surface has an unexcelled gripping quality, elasticity and durability. The extremely compressed foam rubber layer makes the surface super-fast. Super Turbo is available in 1.5, 2.0, and 2.5 mm thicknesses, whilst the Turbo Standard rubber comes in 1.0, 1.5 or 2 mm.

Andy Barden, Joola's first British player

JOOLA
table tennis

1976 CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION OPEN

by Malcolm R. Anderson
(U.S.T.T.A. Recording Secretary)

Danny Seemiller, of Pittsburgh, Pa., won the C.N.E. Open for the fourth straight year, beating Zlatko Cordas in the finals 16, 10, -17, 16. Danny's closest match was in the semis, where he edged Errol Caetano -22, 15, 14, -17, 18. Cordas had an easier semi, beating D. J. Lee 15, 13, 18.

In Sook Bhushan won the Women's Singles for the third straight year, beating Rupa Banerjee 15, 9, -20, 13. In the semis, In Sook beat Angelita Rosal 15, 13, 14 and Rupa beat Alice Sonne 6, 12, -12, 11. The Quarters were interesting—In Sook beat Irena Cordas 13, 13, 15; Angelita beat Mariann Domonkos 18, -22, 15, 22; Rupa beat Heja Lee (D. J's wife—just emigrated from Korea and starting to play again) 19, 20, -12, -16, 19; Alice beat Violetta Nesukaitis 17, 10, 13.

In Men's Doubles, Caetano and Cordas beat Dan and Rick Seemiller in four tough games—down 0-2, Dan and Rick won the third at deuce, but Zlatko and Errol won the fourth at 24-22! In the Women's Doubles, In Sook Bhushan and Heja Lee beat Irena Cordas and Vi Nesukaitis in four games. In Sook then completed the hat-trick, teaming with Dan Seemiller to beat Errol Caetano/Irena Cordas in five tough games.

In the International Matches, the U.S. won three out of four. In the Men's match we won 5-2; Errol Caetano won the two for Canada, beating Dean Galardi and Ray Guillen (19 in the third on a net ball!), Guillen beat Alex Polisois, Galardi beat Peter Joe and Dan Seemiller won his three.

The U.S. won the Women's match 3-0, without losing a game! In Sook beat Rupa, Angelita beat Violetta for the first time ever, 22 and 20, and In Sook and Alice Sonne beat Domonkos/Banerjee. Violetta seems to be playing below her usual standard, but she has a good reason—she is getting married next year, so doesn't have much time to practice!

The U.S. won the Junior Men's match 5-1, Normandin beating Collins for Canada's

only win. Except for this, Perry Schwartzberg, Greg Collins and Faan Hoan Liu had little trouble with Pierre Normandin, Juggy Padda and David Williams. Canada won the Junior Women's match after trailing 0-2. Kasia Dawidowicz beat Gloria Nesukaitis, then Faan Yeen Liu beat Christine Forgo. Christine and Nimi Athwall then beat Amy Hopping and Denise Horn in the doubles, Christine beat Kasia and Gloria beat Faan Yeen.

The Junior Men's Singles was won by Peter Joe over Pierre Normandin, and Gloria Nesukaitis beat Faan Yeen Liu in five games in the Junior Women's Singles. The 17 to 21 event, new this year, was won by Dean Galardi over Mike Bush in four games. Bush upset Rick Seemiller in the semis.

Newbury Junior 2 Star

By BILL HEATH

Played over the weekend of October 2-3, the Newbury Junior 2-Star attracted a much larger entry than normal with 260 boys and 130 girls.

Seventy-odd entries on the day before the close meant we could not accept them all and run the full programme of events. Rather than eliminate 40 entries where rejection solely depended on which of a large stack of envelopes were opened first we decided to cancel the mixed doubles. While we were reluctant to drop what is largely a "fun event", it seemed to be the best way of providing games for the largest number of players.

We would like to thank the band of over-worked umpires and the players for their co-operation, which enabled us to get through a very tight schedule, to plan on Saturday and only 20 minutes late on Sunday.

There was a lot of entertaining play and as usual, in the junior game, a number of surprises. Joe Kennedy (Kent) confirmed his recent improvement by winning the boys' singles from another left-hander, Stuart Kimm. Kimm came back from 12-18 down in the first to level at 20-all but eventually lost -22, -10.

Unranked players P. Ptak and S. Yallop reached the last 8, while Kennedy had an early fright when D. Hannah held him to 21-19 in the third. In the girls' singles

Elaine Lamb (Devon) beat No. 1 seed Mandy Smith 16 in the third.

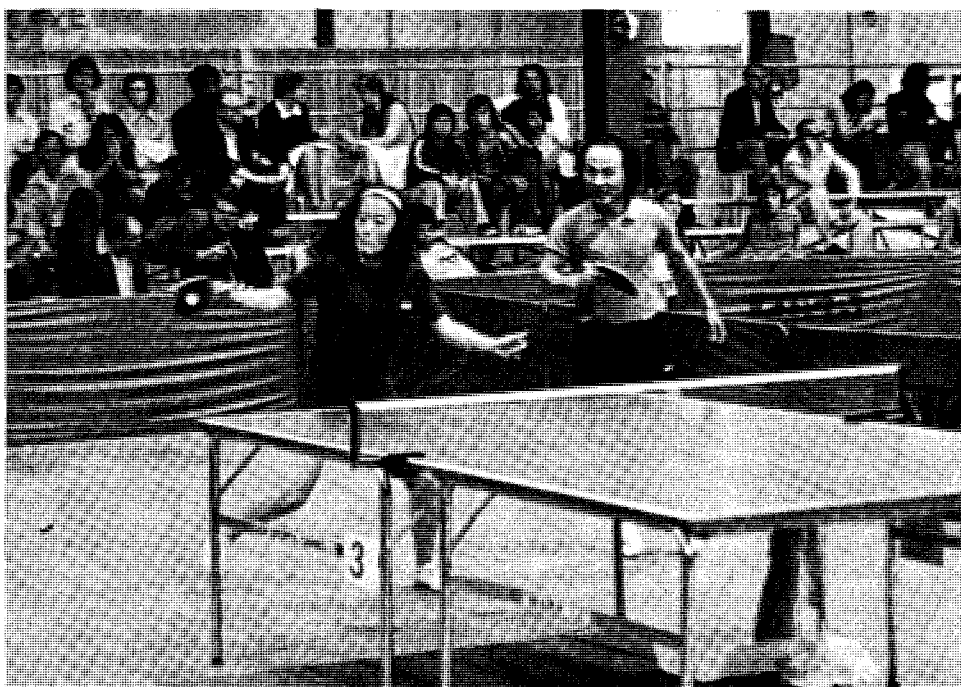
As expected, David Reeves (Berks) and Kevin Edwards (Wilts) won the boys' doubles from Colin Wilson and Bryn Tyler, but Helen Williams and Mandy Reeves (Middlesex) did the doubles double by repeating their Cadet doubles success in the U-17 event beating Wendy Parker and Mandy Smith.

Keith Nicholl gave Colin Wilson (Hants) excellent support to enable them to beat John Souter and Richard Bergemann in the Cadet boys' doubles. Kevin Satchell had a hard-fought 22-20 in the third win over No. 2 seed, Mark Oakley, but succumbed to Souter in the other semi-final of the Cadet singles. Wilson beat Souter in the final though it went to three with the extra weight of plaster on John's arm probably getting him down at last!

Mandy Reeves beat her doubles partner Helen Williams, in the Cadet girls' singles final. Unseeded Cheryl Creasey made her mark here by reaching the semi-final with some very sound play. She later reached the U-12 semi from an unseeded position and looks a good prospect. Sarah Cresswell (Surrey) repeated her Essex win over Yvonne Hall and Andrew Dixon (Staffs) beat Adrian Moore 17 in the third in a good boys' U-12 final—56 entries here which augurs well for the future.

RESULTS

- Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals (158 entries)**
D. Reeves bt M. Green 18, 4.
S. Kimm bt P. Ptak 19, -21, 15.
K. Edwards bt R. Johnson 12, 10.
J. Kennedy bt S. Yallop 9, 22.
- Semi-finals**
Kimm bt Reeves 23, 15.
Kennedy bt Edwards 15, -20, 14.
- Final**
KENNEDY bt Kimm 22, 10.
- Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals (75 entries)**
M. Smith bt S. James 10, 12.
W. Parker bt L. Garbet -17, 16, 15.
J. Purslow bt D. Coulthard 20, 11.
E. Lamb bt E. Sayer 19, 14.
- Semi-finals**
Smith bt Parker 16, 12.
Lamb bt Purslow 14, 18.
- Final**
LAMB bt Smith -17, 13, 16.
- Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals (75 pairs)**
Edwards/Reeves bt M. Shearman/P. Whiting 12, -15, 9.
E. Tyler/C. Wilson bt Kennedy/T. Spain 17, 21.
- Final**
EDWARDS/REEVES bt Tyler/Wilson 10, 16.
- Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals (37 pairs)**
Parker/Smith bt G. Heath/Lamb 14, 16.
H. Williams/M. Reeves bt Sayer/K. Vincent -18, 12, 20.
- Final**
REEVES/WILLIAMS bt Parker/Smith 11, 18.
- Cadet Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals (126 entries)**
Wilson bt B. Johnson -12, 10, 11.
M. Owens bt R. Bergemann 15, 13.
J. Souter bt S. Moore 19, 19.
K. Satchell bt M. Oakley 19, -12, 20.
- Semi-finals**
Wilson bt Owens 18, 12.
Souter bt Satchell 21, 16.
- Final**
WILSON bt Souter -16, 18, 14.
- Cadet Girls' Singles—Semi-finals (65 entries)**
Reeves bt C. Creasey 14, 19.
Williams bt P. Townsend 20, -19, 11.
- Final**
REEVES bt Williams 16, 5.
- Cadet Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals (59 pairs)**
K. Nicol/Wilson bt P. Stratton/P. Whiting 12, 17.
Bergemann/Souter bt G. Baker/T. Vine -21, 7, 12.
- Final**
NICOLL/WILSON bt Bergemann/Souter 17, 13.
- Cadet Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals (27 pairs)**
Reeves/Williams bt Y. Hall/L. Taylor 16, 16.
Garbet/Townsend bt M. Bland/S. Cresswell -16, 18, 18.
- Final**
REEVES/WILLIAMS bt Garbet/Townsend.
- U-12 Boys' Singles—Semi-finals (56 entries)**
A. Moore bt N. Harris 10, 9.
A. Dixon bt G. Russell 19, 16.
- Final**
DIXON bt Moore -19, 15, 17.
- U-12 Girls' Singles—Semi-finals (26 entries)**
Cresswell bt J. Bellinger 11, 8.
Hall bt Creasey -12, 22, 15.
- Final**
CRESSWELL bt Hall 14, 14.



Heja and Dal Joon Lee, of the U.S.A.

Photo by Mal. Anderson.

**EXHIBITIONS
OF WORLD CLASS TABLE TENNIS
STAGED BY
THE ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL
SQUAD
DETAILS FROM SQUAD MANAGER
KEN MATHEWS, c/o E.T.T.A. OFFICE**

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

WELL JUSTIFIED

Belinda Chamberlain, our leading junior girl, deservedly heads this column this month having obtained a No. 19 national junior ranking. The St. Neots girl had previously been in the 'A' Group for the past two seasons. The new rating is well justified and before the end of the season a higher ranking still may well be merited.

Hunts will again turn out three teams in the County Championships. Few, if any, changes can be expected at senior level after our best ever return last season. Under the leadership of Alan Lamprell similar performances will be the order of the day.

The juniors had some slightly disappointing showings last season but here also hopes are high. Belinda Chamberlain and Melanie Ringrose are certain to fill the distaff roles while the Fisher twins, Mark and Steven, look set to again fill the leading two boys' positions. Stuart Smith, the promising Peterborough youngster should complete the quintet for the opening encounter against Bedfordshire. In view of tough opposition the vets seem to average one win per season but now with a larger pool of players a more optimistic position can be sought.

The County's three member leagues, Hunts, Central, St. Neots and Peterborough, have entered the largest-ever number of representative teams in the inter-league competition of the S.E. Midland League. An early warning has been given by the St. Neots men who have obtained 1st Division wins over Bedford and Wisbech, 6-4 on each occasion, after gaining promotion.

Hunts Central's second men's team went under to an experienced Cambridge side 1-9. The 'white-wash' was prevented by Mark Fisher beating Ken Green. Central's vets had their usual close tussle with Wellingborough, a 5-5 draw being the outcome. The same league's reserve team got off on the right note beating Kettering 8-2.

St. Neots vets, always a force to be reckoned with, toppled Bedford 6-4. Hunts Central held a successful pre-season tournament at St. Ivo Rec. Centre. St. Ives county men's singles winner Tim Speller added to his trophy cabinet by overhauling N.C.I. Cambridge player David Tiplady in straight games. Speller had looked set to make an exit a round earlier when at 17-19 down in the decider against clubmate Martin Murden he reeled off 4 consecutive points. Tiplady was also taken to three by Sid Burgess.

Peterborough held a tournament as part of the 'Sport for All' week. A good sized entry provided keen competition with Peter Berna confirming his leading rating by winning the final. Opposing Peter in the final was the county's leading lady Jean Allinson.

The St. Ives club lifted the Cambridge Summer League trophy at the first attempt thanks to a final win by Speller, Jim Sizer and Mark Fisher. In the final they defeated Telephones II 6-3 with each of the trio having two wins.

All three leagues within our Association report healthy increases in their numbers with Peterborough still leading in numbers. They now have 7 divisions with 11 teams in each. Central provide 6 divisions for their 59 teams while St. Neots continue with 3 divisions but with a higher ratio of teams per division.

At the Essex and Newbury Junior Opens Melanie Ringrose and Julie Cundell reached the last 8 on both occasions whilst some encouraging results have been forthcoming by 10-years-old newcomer Richard Ballard of St. Ives in both the Cadet and U-12 events.

Hunts named Grahame Dale, David Thorogood, Richard Wells, Melanie Ringrose and Julie Cundell for their opening match against Beds in late October. Ken Chamberlain adds the Cadet and Junior team captaincy to his already full administrative programme. But special thanks are due to Cliff Olver who has filled the role of Junior Captain since our initial entry in the County Championships.

Cliff has now stepped down but I know the 23 youngsters who have played for the junior team over the period have a lot to thank him for. Finally a welcome back to our County Chairman, Mappin Webb, back in circulation after spending most of last season Down Under.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley



Stephanie Hadley (aged 10), Adrian Dixon (7) and Vicky Bellingham (10) play in the Walsall League Division 6 for the Cambridge Extras team.

HIGH HOPES

Our junior coaches are speaking confidently about the future and the strength we have in the lower age groups. The under-14's have been ranked with a view to playing some friendly matches in anticipation of a County Championship next year. Andrew Dixon continues to make good progress with a win in the Newbury Junior Open Under 12's — not bad, considering he's still only 11!

Junior Rankings:—

BOYS:

1. Paul Draisey, 2. Andrew Rich, 3. Andrew Dixon, 4. Edward Wilkes, 5. Robert Cartwright, 6. Mark Evans.

GIRLS:

1. Stephanie Jones, 2. Sue Watton, 3. Shirley Cain, 4. Jill Harris, 5. Joanne Chubb.

CADET UNDER-14 BOYS:

1. Andrew Dixon, 2. Peter Dawes, 3. Mark Devitt, 4. Simon Bentley, 5. John Lamb, 6. Anthony Devitt.

CADET UNDER-14 GIRLS:

1. Shirley Cain, 2. Jill Harris, 3. Stephanie Hadley, 4. Kathleen Hayhurst.

In their first match of the season, the County Junior 'A' side (we are running two junior sides this year) overwhelmed Cambridgeshire 10-0, and if the side of Draisey, Rich, Dixon, Jones and Watton stay together, they should have high hopes of reaching the play-off for the Premier Division.

Still on the subject of juniors, a claim was made in the pages of this magazine a little while ago for the youngest team playing regularly in league table tennis. I think Walsall have a team playing in their 6th Division which will take some beating. The combined ages of Stephanie Hadley (10), Vicky Bellingham (10) and Adrian Dixon (7 — yes, younger brother of Andrew!) add up to a mere 27 years, and to cap it all, they won their first match of the

season 9-1. I wasn't given the name of the losing side, but I doubt if they will be the only side in Division 6 with red faces this year! (See Photo).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE GALLERY

by Dave Foulser

SAD START TO THE SEASON

The start to the season has not been a particularly happy one, the worst news being the death of our President, Frank Newell, on Sept. 9. Frank, who was also President of the Cheltenham Association, died of cancer and his death was not entirely unexpected. The Secretary of the CTTA has written a fuller obituary elsewhere in this issue and I do not propose to write further on the subject other than to state that I am certain he will be very sorely missed in the table tennis world.

No competitive matches have been played by town teams at the time of writing other than that played by Gloucester City juniors in the Midland League, at home to Wolverhampton. This match was something of a disaster, as having been relegated last season, it came as a shock when we crashed 2-8 against a younger and less experienced side who were without their best player.

Turning to the leagues I am glad to report that Stroud has a record 48 teams in four divisions whilst Gloucester have 96 teams in eight divisions and Cheltenham 71 teams in six divisions. Three new clubs have entered the Gloucester league, the Rising Star Youth Club, Hucclecote MYC, and two teams from Churchdown Club and there are still a few teams waiting to fill places if anyone drops out. There are two new clubs in the Cheltenham league, Up Hatherley and Sun Alliance (from Gloucester) whilst Hospitals have returned after several seasons' absence.

Stroud men's team for their opening match against Bromsgrove in the Midland League consists of Alan Giles, Roger Webb and Martin Armstrong whilst 12-years-old Andrew Golding receives recognition at senior level for the first time, being named as reserve.

Cheltenham's Dave Harvey has attained early success in open tournaments this season getting to the final of the men's singles in the Four T's 1-Star only to lose 18 in the third to England-ranked junior Graham Sandley. Dave followed this up by winning the Men's Doubles with Steve Moreman at the Merton 1-Star. The writer is personally organising a minibus to several open tournaments this season and would welcome enquiries from players in the County who might be interested in joining. If so they should write to me at 17 Moored Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham or ring me during office hours on Cheltenham 21391 Ext. 219.

On the coaching side plans are afoot for courses to cater for players of all standards in Cheltenham. In a determined effort to improve the standard of women's play, a squad of women and junior girls has been formed and letters sent to no less than fifteen other associations requesting friendly matches. In addition regular practice and coaching sessions are being arranged for the squad.

Having been relegated to the lowest possible division the County team may show a few changes this season following the selection committee's recent meeting. Three squads were envisaged although there may be additions or dismissals as the season progresses. Those invited were:

Men:— D. Harvey, W. Dawe, S. Moreman, R. Pepperd, G. Greening, A. Vale, P. Webb, M. Lane.

Women:— S. Matthews, C. Iacopi, J. Golding, V. Cruwys, C. Robb, J. Bearcroft, J. Foulser, S. Smith.

Boys:— Greening, Lane, A. Berry, M. Turner, D. Morgan, C. Buckles, P. Smith, J. Turner, D. Bennett, A. Golding, G. Slack, R. Colbeck, P. Milchener.

Girls:— Cruwys, Robb, N. Hawkins, J. Phillips, J. Cox, K. Pegler.

These names are not in any kind of ranking order ALTHOUGH IT IS HOPED lists will be issued.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Christopher Hillan

DETERMINATION

On the playing side, Bucks finished last season on a very low ebb with our senior team finishing rock bottom in Div. 3 South.

But far from driving the county's management council to the depths of despair, and along with the realisation that our playing standards can hardly get worse, a sense of determination is rapidly developing within the county to put us firmly back on the map.

The county's A.G.M. approved the running of second senior and junior teams, and luck was on our side when, due to some geographical manipulation, our senior first team somehow managed to hold its ground in Div. 2 East. Having our junior first and second teams both in Div. 3 was not to the apparent satisfaction of everyone in Bucks but we should really count our blessings that all our teams are not in this division!

Many innovations have been introduced by county administrators this season with the future very much in mind. Surprisingly, the squad system has never seriously been used by Bucks before, but it is now being developed on senior, junior and cadet levels. The senior and junior selection committees are now meeting and working together under the very able chairmanship of Mick Willett to ensure that the same basic policies are carried out harmoniously at all levels.

The Cadet Trials were held in Milton Keynes in early September, and bearing in mind they were the first such trials to be held by Bucks the entry of 23 youngsters was a pleasing sight. An initial squad was immediately set up, and following the Junior Trials was amended on the basis of the extra information subsequently gleaned by yours truly as Coaching Secretary.

The Cadet Squad is: Boys:— Alex Pratt, Phil Bradbury, Stuart Lines, Simon Skeet, David Gatiss, Mark Purcell. Girls:— Nicola Hamilton, Karen Purcell, Sarah Walters, Sandra Thomas, Sarah Gunthorpe, Susan Keech.

Many members of this squad will be given county match experience through the junior second team, which is basically being used as a nursery team, and the formation of this squad is creating so much interest within the county that the need for a third junior team next season is already becoming apparent.

This puts the onus on the junior first team to gain promotion, and although the abolition of mixed doubles in the County Championships is probably to our immediate disadvantage at all levels, I would certainly not put it past them to succeed in this task.

The Junior Trials were held in Aylesbury in mid-September and were notable for a large number of juniors failing to turn up, thus wrecking the balance of the carefully-prepared initial groups, and also for the performance of Sam Harmer, who amazingly failed to make the final group of 8 boys. Chris Leslie was left to dominate the boys event, while Ian Haines, who continues to make rapid strides forward, was a clear second. In the absence of Christine Bahryj, Dawn Risby topped the girls' event, having earlier done likewise in the Cadet Trials, with Jo Catchpole finishing second in what was largely a trouble-free event.

Sadly to report, petty arguments immediately began to rage over the Boys' trial, but both the Management Council and Joint Selection Committees backed up its organisation and common sense eventually prevailed when the Junior Ranking Lists were issued. They are:

Boys:— 1. Chris Leslie, 2. Sam Harmer, 3. Ian Haines, 4. Steve Brown, 5. David Owen, 6. Chris Duffin, 7. Chris Noakes, 8. Stephen Haines, 9. Adrian Slater, 10. Alex Pratt, 11. Phil Bradbury, 12. Stuart Lines, 13. Simon Skeet.

Girls:— 1. Christine Bahryj, 2. Dawn Risby, 3. Jo Catchpole, 4. Susan Harvey, 5. Angela Long, 6. Susan Tick, 7. Nicola Hamilton.

Training Sessions for both Cadet and Junior Squads are already being held on a regular basis under the guidance of Reg Leslie, no doubt considerably hindered by myself!

The Senior Trials were also beset by problems through non-appearing players, but in contrast to the Junior Trials it was the Women's Trial which caused the headaches while the Men's event ran very smoothly.

Les Wooding has returned to the fold this season and he dominated from start to finish, being unbeaten throughout. He knocked Alec Watson off his top spot in a set played almost entirely on expedite, but this was the only setback suffered by Alec who will once again be a tower of strength to the first team this season. Tony Clark remained in the first team picture by taking third place, while the excellent form showed by John Leith indicated that he will make a more than useful playing captain for the second team. The fact that Robert Harman, who showed great promise in the first team games last season, will be starting off in the second team this time demonstrates the greater all round strength of our men, whilst at the same time I cannot resist mentioning the likely revival of the Wat-Wood doubles combination, the thought of which can only send shivers down the spines of prospective opponents.

The Men's Ranking List has recently been decided upon, but as it is at present in Mick Willett's hot little hands I will reveal it next month, by which time we will have hopefully decided upon our Women's list. Well organised, aren't we?

A further Women's Trial will have been held by then, in which the main successes of the original trial, Stephanie Lines, Sue James, Ivy Cooper and Christine Darcey, will be pitted against a selection of the absentees who, the selectors feel, must be given a chance of proving their worth for the benefit of the county.

On the local league front, Slough staged an exhibition of local players who have "made good" at Montem Sports Centre as part of "Sport for All" week. It goes without saying that the big attraction was Jill Hammersley, who, along with other Bucks stalwarts from Slough, drew a massive audience to make the venture a considerable success.

After many years of invaluable active service, Don Norton has retired as High Wycombe General Secretary, needless to say much to the regret of the league's committee who, I know, would like to express their thanks through this column for the tremendous job he has done over the years.

Entries to our leagues are particularly healthy this season, with Buckingham in particular showing a welcome upsurge of interest. Milton Keynes are intending to hold a restricted open tournament this season under the sponsorship of Connells, a local firm of estate agents.

Finally, our Closed Championships will once again be held at Montem Sports Centre, Slough, this season on the week-end of Feb. 12/13.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

BACK IN STYLE

Bristol, returning after just one season's lapse, were away to Swindon and did exceptionally well to win 6-3. Gordon Mildred was in fine form for the visitors paving Bristol's way to an ultimate victory in beating Frank Bailey, Ken Oung and Karl Bushell.

Tony Brown had two wins, over Bushell and Oung, but had to give second best to the experienced Bailey at 10 in the third. Bristol's other player, Nigel Stopher, made it six when in a very close set with Oung he managed it at 19 in the decider.

Swindon's wins came from Bailey who beat Stopher and Brown, the former also losing to Bushell. Newport, at home to Bournemouth, fielded three Gwent county players but were easily beaten 8-1 by a far superior side who fought for every point. Newport gave in far too easily, lacking the tenacity to extract themselves from tight corners.

Newport's only winner was Michael Nocivelli who beat Steve Wilson 19 in the third. Apprec-

iating the fact that six sets went to three Bournemouth proved worthy winners. The match could have been a closer result without taking any of the credit away from Bournemouth, but the fighting will of the Newport team was sadly lacking.

Gwent County No. 1, John Bloomer, lost Graham Hill —14 in the third, lost —18, — to Wilson and again in straight games to Trevor Smith. Nocivelli lost—15 in the third to Smith and —19 in the third to Hill.

Tony Watkins went down —9 in the third Wilson, lost easily —11, —12 to Smith and in three games with Hill went down again —14, the decider. In four of the sets Newport took the first game but failed to maintain the ascendancy allowing their opponents to take full initiative and win.

I am keenly looking forward for the first of our Youth Section matches and to clear any doubt in any of the leagues who have entered this season, is it permissible to play a mixed side providing they are within the age limit stipulated.

Grove points out that he is in his 32nd year with his native Newport League, as Hon. Sec. and has held a similar office with the Western League for 28 years. Ed.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

INCONCLUSIVE

As is often the case, "trials" create more problems than they solve. With the senior trials delayed by the late finishing of the juniors, the results were completely inconclusive as most of the players had only played a few of their rivals by the end of the evening. Past records both at county and city level, therefore, had to be taken into account by the selectors before the following rankings were published:

Men:— 1. K. Summerfield (S), 2. T. Smith (Bo.), 3. S. Wilson (Bo), 4. S. Kitcher (F), 5. C. Wilshere (S), 6. C. Payne (Ba).

Women:— 1. J. Smith (Bo), 2. J. Hudson (Bo), 3. M. Tighe (Bo), 4. J. Witcher (S), 5. L. Winnill (G), 6. S. Sinanin (P).

Boys:— 1. C. Wilson (Bo), 2. R. Bergemann (Bo), 3. T. Boyle (Ba), 4. S. White (S), 5. I. Batt (G), 6. G. Summerbell (S).

Girls:— 1. J. Witcher (S), 2. S. Sinanin (P), 3. D. James (P), 4. A. Drinkwater (A), 5. A. Hayter (A), 6. J. Bush (Bo).

Key:— A—Aldershot, Ba—Basingstoke, Bo—Bournemouth, G—Gosport, P—Portsmouth, S—Southampton.

The county's main problems this season look certain to be centred around the places to be occupied by the females. In the seniors Joyce Coop has returned her allegiance to Dorset; Julie Reading is studying in Eastbourne for three years and is hoping to align with Sussex, while Chris Davies has again retired. Jean Smith and Julie Hudson return to county play.

In the junior ranks the males again provide the strength with Colin Wilson and Richard Bergemann predictably leading. Jane White takes over the No. 1 spot, previously held by Julie Reading, although challenged by the fast improving Serina Sinanin.

A return to the old single match inter-town fixture list unfortunately coincided with a drop in entries resulting in the first and second divisions of the mixed being combined. With nine teams entered this means eight matches spread over the season, possibly as a result making the fixture list a bit too congested.

HOLDERS Bournemouth must start firm favourites for this division especially as their women's strength gives them the top three in the women's rankings plus Joyce Coop, Janet New and Sarah Gilson to call on. Similarly Bournemouth's strength in the junior division makes them a safe bet for the honours.

The Hampshire Closed championships are to be staged by the Basingstoke Association at Park Prewett Hospital on Sunday, Nov. 28.

CLEVELAND JUNIOR SELECT

SWEDES DOMINATE by Alan Ransome

Sweden dominated the Cleveland Junior "Select", played at Thornaby Pavilion from September 18-19. Ulf Bengtsson won the Boys' Singles, beating his Swedish teammate, Bjorn Andersson, in an entertaining final, while on the distaff side the Swedes again had both finalists with Anneli HERNVALL saving four title points before defeating Marie Lindblad.

All four seeds reached the semi-final of the Boys' Singles with Keith Paxton losing to Andersson and Martin Shuttle to Bengtsson.

Two surprise results came from David Wells who beat David Reeves and Graham Sandley who beat Joe Kennedy.

In the Girls' Singles, other than the Swedish domination, the best performance was that of Suzanne Hunt, who reached the semi-finals by beating Karen Witt and June Williams.

The Swedes continued their domination by winning the Mixed, Bengtsson and HERNVALL beating Shuttle and Witt easily in the final.

The two events which remained for the English teams to win were the Boys' and Girls' Doubles. The former was taken by Reeves and David Newman, who beat Kennedy and Chris Reed in the final. Reed and Kennedy provided the biggest upset by beating the Swedes 12 in the third in the semi-final.

The Girls' Doubles was won by Karen Witt and Angela Mitchell, who beat Stephanie Jones and Linda Hryszko in the final. The surprise in this event was the 2nd Round defeat of the Swedish pair by Berkshire's Alison Gordon and Jill Purslow, who in turn, lost to Jones and Hryszko.

The biggest surprise of the whole weekend came in the Boys' Team event when the

Yorkshire pair, Kevin Beadsley and Michael Harrison, beat both England and Sweden to win the title. Beadsley played particularly well in the opening round to beat both Swedes and win the doubles with Harrison, whilst in the final against the English pair Shuttle and Paxton, Shuttle won both of England's games leaving Harrison and Beadsley to beat Paxton and win the doubles to clinch the title.

The Girls' Team event was won by the Swedes who beat Karen Witt and Angela Mitchell 3-1 in the final.

The Cadet Boys' Singles saw the top seeds, Colin Wilson and Sandley, battle out the final, this time Wilson getting home, whilst the Girls' Cadet Singles was won by Alison Gordon, who defeated Mandy Reeves.

The Under-14 Boys' Doubles, as one would expect, was won by Sandley and Wilson, whilst the Girls' Doubles winners were a scratch combination, Shirley Caine and Carole Butler, who beat the top seeds, Alison Gordon and Linsey Taylor, and Helen Robinson and Elaine Bolton.

The under-11 Boys' Singles was won by A. Devitt, of Staffordshire, who beat Northumberland's A. Kelly comfortably in the final. Results:—

CLEVELAND JUNIOR SELECT

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
B. Andersson (Sv) bt D. Newman (Ex) 12, 15.
K. Paxton (Du) bt A. O'Connor (La) 15, 20.
U. Bengtsson (Sv) bt G. Sandley (Mx) 14, 13.
M. Shuttle (Sy) bt D. Wells (Mx) -12, 11, 16.

Semi-finals
Andersson bt Paxton 16, 19.
Bengtsson bt Shuttle 18, -14, 16.

Final
BENGTSSON bt Andersson 17, -12, 15.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
S. Hunt (Li) bt K. Witt (Bk) -18, 20, 15.
M. Lindblad (Sv) bt A. Tierney (Cv) -15, 15, 14.
A. Mitchell (Mx) bt J. Skipp (Cv) 19, 9.
A. HERNVALL (Sv) bt L. Hryszko (Y) 10, 16.

Semi-finals
Lindblad bt Hunt 18, 17.
HERNVALL bt Mitchell 16, 19.

Final
HERNVALL bt Lindblad 12, -21, 19.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals
J. Kennedy (K)/C. Reed (Cu) bt Andersson/Bengtsson -13, 9, 12.
Newman/D. Reeves (Bk) bt J. Naser (Y)/Wells 14, 19.

Final
KENNEDY/REED bt Newman/Reeves 11, 13.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals
Mitchell/Witt bt Tierney/J. Williams (Cv) 19, -17, 18.
Hryszko/S. Jones (St) bt A. Gordon/J. Purslow (Bk) 14, 16.

Final
MITCHELL/WITT bt Hryszko/Jones 12, 9.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
Bengtsson/HERNVALL bt Paxton/Mitchell 14, -18, 16.
Shuttle/Witt bt Andersson/Lindblad 16, 20.

Final
BENGTSSON/HERNVALL bt Shuttle/Witt 12, 10.

Cadet Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
C. Wilson (Ha) bt P. Whiting (Dv) 17, 17.
M. Oakley (Sy) bt S. Young (Y) -18, 11, 12.
J. Souter (Mx) bt B. Johnson (Bk) 8, -24 16.
Sandley bt P. Rainford (La) 18, 19.

Semi-finals
Wilson bt Oakley 13, 7.
Sandley bt Souter 11, 19.

Final
WILSON bt Sandley 20, 19.

Cadet Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
Gordon bt J. Dowsett (Ex) 20, 12.
E. Bolton (K) bt P. Townsend (Wi) 15, 5.
H. Robinson (Cv) bt C. Butler (Dv) 18, 12.
M. Reeves (Mx) bt C. Dalrymple (Sc) 20, 19.

Semi-finals
Gordon bt Bolton 17, 8.
Reeves bt Robinson 18, 15.

Final
GORDON bt Reeves 19, 15.

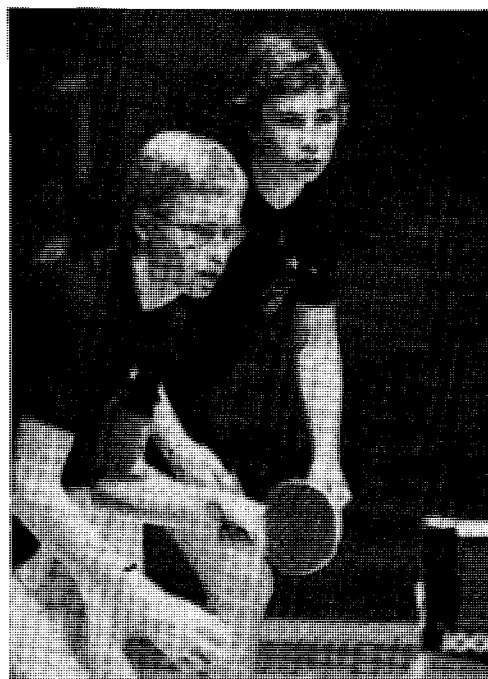
Cadet Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals
Sandley/Wilson bt P. Stratton (Dv)/Whiting 12, 19.
Johnson/M. Owens (Hr) bt D. Pilling/S. Sharp (Cu) -16, 17, 16.

Final
SANDLEY/WILSON bt Johnson/Owens 15, 9.

Cadet Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals
Gordon/L. Taylor (Bk) bt Dowsett/L. Tyler (Mx) 16, 10.
Butler/S. Cain (St) bt Bolton/Robinson 12, 18.

Final
BUTLER/CAIN bt Gordon/Taylor -16, 14, 18.

U-11 Boys' Singles—Final
A. DEVITT (St) bt A. Kelly (Nd) 10, 8.



Bespectacled Ulf Bengtsson and Bjorn Andersson, of Sweden, in play at Thornaby. Photo by Geoff Newman.

TEAM EVENTS

Boys:
Yorkshire 3, England 2
K. Beadsley lost to M. Shuttle -15, 11, -12.
M. Harrison bt K. Paxton 16, -16, 17.
Beadsley/Harrison bt Paxton/Shuttle -18, 19, 20.
Harrison lost to Shuttle -17, -12.
Beadsley bt Paxton 15, 18.

Girls:
Sweden 3, England 1
M. Lindblad lost to K. Witt -16, -20.
A. HERNVALL bt A. Mitchell 17, -17, 17.
HERNVALL/Lindblad bt Mitchell/Witt 18, 17.
HERNVALL bt Witt -13, 14, 17.

JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS

England and Sweden shared the spoils at the Junior International matches played at Stockton Sports Centre on Friday, September 17, with England winning the girls' match 3-2 and Sweden the boys' 4-1.

The Swedes dominated the singles in the boys' match taking all four with only one Paxton against Bengtsson, going to a deciding game. England's only consolation came in the Boys' Doubles in which they beat the Swedes 14 in the third.

Keith Paxton, on debut, put up a good display, but found the Swedish class a little too much.

The star of the Girls' match was Sweden's Anneli HERNVALL, who won both her singles. Karen Witt and Angela Mitchell both fought well for England, beating Marie Lindblad and taking the doubles to clinch the victory.

RESULTS

Boys
Ulf Bengtsson bt Keith Paxton -19, 16, 13.
Bjorn Andersson bt Martin Shuttle 14, 20.
Bengtsson/Andersson lost to Paxton/Shuttle -20, 18, -14.
Ulf Bengtsson bt Martin Shuttle 12, 18.
Bjorn Andersson bt Keith Paxton 14, 18.

Sweden 4, England 1

Girls
Marie Lindblad lost to Karen Witt -9, -15.
Anneli HERNVALL bt Angela Mitchell 16, 17.
Lindblad/HERNVALL lost to Witt/Mitchell -20 -18.
Marie Lindblad lost to Angela Mitchell -14, -16.
Anneli HERNVALL bt Karen Witt -16, 14, 11.
Sweden 2, England 3

National Leagues Championships

By KEITH PONTING

By the time these notes are read another season of League Competition will be under way. We are still carrying on without sponsorship and the entry has kept quite stable, the relevant figures being:—

| | 1976-77 | 1975-76 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Wilmott Cup | 100 | 103 |
| Rose Bowl | 62 | 69 |
| Carter Cup | 92 | 86 |
| Bromfield Trophy ... | 43 | 41 |

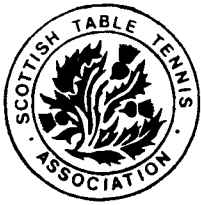
I am always pleased to receive entries from old friends and most of the familiar faces will be in action again, including all the winners from last season. I am, however, very sorry to lose the East London League. This league has been a real force in the competition for many years and has appeared in many finals, and I hope circumstances will enable them to take part again as soon as possible.

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SCOTTISH NEWS

By DENIS GEORGE

7th Spanish Open—Seville—October 8-10

Scotland opened their International season with a very successful journey into the most romantic part of Spain—Andalusia, to the Moorish cities of Seville and Granada. Our team consisted of Richard Yule, John McNee and Patrice Fleming, under the captaincy of John Braithwaite. The Spanish Open Team Event was in two groups with all the matches being played European League style. In Group A Scotland lost the group decider to France 'A' 1-6, Spain 'A' won Group B but lost to France 'A' in the final.

In the Individual events which followed, John McNee achieved his greatest success to date by winning the Men's Singles title, beating Michel Hoffstetter (France) in the final; Richard Yule had fallen to Hoffstetter in the semi-finals. Richard and John also reached the Men's Doubles semi-finals.

European League, Division II—Spain v Scotland

Scotland commenced their renewed challenge for Division II honours against Spain on October 13 in Granada, that fabled city of Moorish splendour below the high Sierra Nevada. The match started badly with Yule losing to Jose Feliu and McNee to David Sanchez, but Patrice Fleming came to the rescue with a first-ever win over Pilar Lupon to start the revival. From then on it was all Scotland, the final scoreline being—Spain 2, Scotland 5.

Cleveland Junior Select—Thornaby—September 18-19

A round dozen of our best Junior and Cadet players made the annual pilgrimage to Thornaby for this major event in the Junior calendar. David McIlroy, Colin Harkins, Kenny McLean and Fraser Stewart all won their groups in the Boys' Singles but did not advance beyond the 2nd Round Proper. Tom Devers—who had been excused the groups—beat Richard Bergemann 2-0 and A. Proffitt 2-0 before losing -19 and -17 to A. O'Connor in the quarter-finals. Carole Dalrymple beat J. Purslow 2-1 in the Cadet Girls' Singles and then lost 0-2 to J. Skipp.

North of England Open—Manchester—September 25

Kenny McLean was our only entry but he had a good run before losing to Keith Paxton in the last 8 in the Boys' Singles.

Meadowbank Open—Edinburgh—September 26

With Yule now domiciled in Paris and Elaine Smith and Terry Forker not yet back in the game following injuries at the end of last season, the first Scottish tournament of the season was wide open. However, in spite of a large contingent from Tyne & Wear, and other places South of the Border, all the titles remained in Scotland. McNee was in fine form and showing a sureness of stroke coupled with determined aggression, he went through the field to win the Open Singles without dropping a game, his last three victims being David Fraser, Phil Bowen and Tony Gelder. John also won the Men's Doubles with David Fraser.

Thirteen-year-old Carole Dalrymple, of Falkirk, had a marvellous day, winning the Open Cadet Singles, Girls' Singles and the Mixed with Alan Matthew; she also reached the Final of the Women's Singles, losing -18, and -15 to Grace McKay.

RESULTS

Open Singles—Semi-finals

J. McNee bt P. Bowen 15, 20.
A. Gelder bt J. Wilson 14, 15.

Final

McNEE bt Gelder 15, 17.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

C. Dalrymple bt L. Bainbridge 7, 16.
G. McKay bt C. Walker -9, 18, 18.

Final

McKAY bt Dalrymple 18, 15.

Men's Doubles—Final

D. FRASER/McNEE bt G. Keys/J. O'Neil 15, 22.

Mixed Doubles—Final

A. MATTHEW/DALRYMPLE bt D. Svenson/Bainbridge 16, -17, 15.

Women's Doubles—Final

McKAY/P. FLEMING bt Walker/Bainbridge 16, 11.

Boys' Singles—Final

T. DEVERS bt K. Rodger 15, -15, 13.

Girls' Singles—Final

DALRYMPLE bt E. Hardy 10, 14.

Open Cadet Singles—Final

DALRYMPLE bt N. Polkighorn 14, 13.

Veterans' Singles—Final

R. KERR bt P. D'Arcy 27, -13, 20.

LANARK YOUTH AND JUNIOR OPEN—

Bellshill — 3rd October, 1976

Youth Singles (U-21)—Semi-finals

K. McLean bt R. Brown 21, -19, 19.

O'Neil bt Keys 18, 16.

Final

O'NEIL bt McLean -20, ?.

Girls' Singles (U-21)—Semi-finals

Fleming bt Hardy 12, 14.

Dalrymple bt McKay 16, -19, 16.

Final

FLEMING bt Dalrymple 18, 15.

Open Doubles—Final

DEVERS/W. LOCHHEAD bt Keys/O'Neil 16, -13, 19.

Boys' Singles (U-17)—Final

DEVERS bt Rodger 13, 15.

Open Doubles (U-17)—Final

D. McILROY/F. STEWART bt McLean/C. Harkins 17, 14.

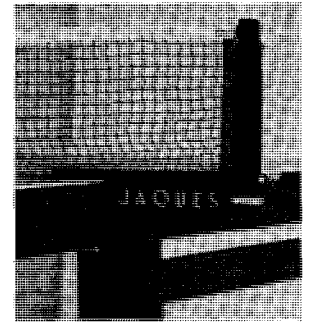
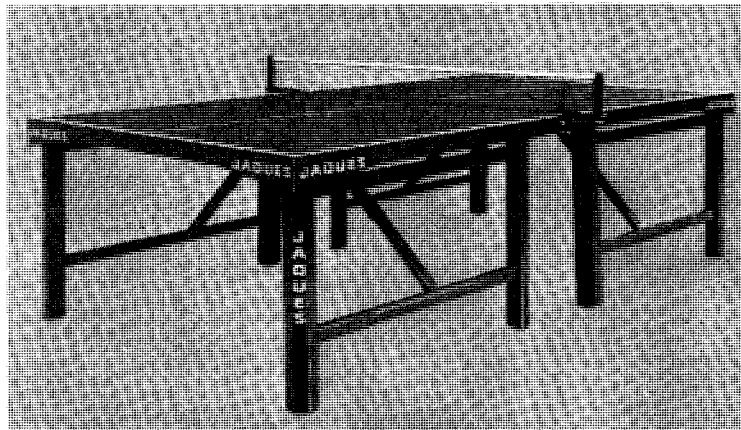
Boys' Singles (U-15)—Final

McILROY bt J. Weatherby -17, 20, 20.

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This month JOHN PIKE talks to the women's European champion from Surrey, Jill Hammersley. A short spell in hospital in September put her pre-season training back a little, but one wishes her a speedy recovery back to full fitness, as there is little doubt Jill will be our main hope for honours when she leads the England challenge at Birmingham next March.

Birthplace: Carshalton, Surrey.

Birthdate: December 6th, 1951.

Which school did you attend?—Langley Secondary Modern.

Hobbies: Most sports, dressmaking, but mostly looking after my three goats and baby calf.

Favourite T.V. Programme: Survival.

Favourite Food: Steak.

Favourite Drink: Coke.

Favourite Colour: Blue.

Favourite Singer: Elton John.

Favourite sport outside table tennis: Badminton.

What is your pet like?: Peaceful countryside.

What is your pet dislike in life?: Violence.

Biggest influence on your career: Mr. A. Robinson, now deceased.

Ambition: To be world champion.

Which person in the world would you most like to meet?: No one in particular.

Greatest moment in table tennis: Winning European Singles.

Most difficult opponent: Chinese players.

Representative Honours: Have played many times for England.

Favourite holiday resort: Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Favourite Car: Lotus Seven, Series 3.

Your thoughts on the World Championships and future of English table tennis:

"I am looking forward to the Birmingham World Championships in '77. I think it will bring Table Tennis more into the limelight because of the television coverage. With the added interest and publicity, I hope that more clubs and institutes will adopt this sport on a professional basis and encourage more youngsters to play. Also I think the standard of play can only improve by watching and studying world class players".

Next month "Profile" takes a look at Denis Neale.



Letters to the Editor



TO THE PRIME MINISTER . . .

I am writing to you because I feel that you should be informed direct about a situation which has occurred in the Table Tennis world in this country.

Next March, in Birmingham, the English Table Tennis Association are staging the World Championships. This is obviously the greatest tournament any country can hold.

Almost certainly the best tables in the world are made by a British company named John Jaques & Son Ltd., of Thornton Heath, who introduced the game at the turn of the century and whose tables have been used at most major events throughout the world ever since.

Regrettably the E.T.T.A. have decided to use a foreign table tennis table despite the fact that Jaques had agreed to meet the required sponsorship costs in full for the use of their tables.

I feel so strongly about this that I think the whole situation should be investigated, especially as the tournament is very heavily sponsored by the Sports Council and, of course, involves a large expenditure of Tax-payers' money.

I await your favourable reply and trust that there will be some constructive action taken either by yourself or the Sports Council.

KEITH BUCKLE,

**Press Officer of the Players'
Association of Table Tennis;
Press Officer of North Middlesex
Table Tennis League.**

**11 Fairfield Road,
London N8.**

E.T.T.A. REPLY

You will have received a letter dated 9th October, 1976, from a Mr. Keith Buckle, who is the Press Officer of the Players' Association of Table Tennis and of the North Middlesex Table Tennis League. It is not clear from that letter whether he was writing it in his private capacity or in his capacity as Press Officer of both these bodies. I make this observation because the letter was not written on headed notepaper.

Mr. Buckle voices his protest that the English Table Tennis Association should have chosen a foreign table for the World Championships, to be held next March, in Birmingham. He says that this is so "despite the fact that" John Jaques & Son Ltd., the well-known British company, "had agreed to meet the required sponsorship costs in full for the use of their tables".

Mr. Buckle's letter is correct insofar as it

goes, but the officers of the English Table Tennis Association have directed me to write to you to correct any wrong impression which you may have gained from Mr. Buckle's letter. It is considered that his letter could give the impression that the E.T.T.A. were bound by some form of agreement to John Jaques & Son Ltd. for them to be the sponsors of the World Championships. This was not so and although they had agreed, in the sense of "offered", to sponsor the World Championships, their offer had not been accepted by the E.T.T.A. The E.T.T.A. considered John Jaques & Son Ltd's offer most carefully and they also considered that the offer made by Stiga AB was more advantageous to the E.T.T.A. and all its members than that made by John Jaques & Son Ltd., although their offer was a good one. I do not intend in this letter to go into the details and reasoning why this decision was reached, but I am instructed to say that the E.T.T.A. are only too willing to defend their decision openly and in detail if so required. ,

MICHAEL LAWLESS,

**Director, World Table Tennis
Championships and Exhibition.**

**21 Claremont,
Hastings, East Sussex,
TN34 1HA.**

OUT OF REACH

Having just received another copy of a certain retailer's table tennis catalogue, the fourth from the same company, I was prompted to look more closely at the current prices of table tennis equipment. At first I thought there might have been some printing errors!

A year ago the Bishops High started to save up for a Stiga Robot, as it seemed an ideal piece of equipment to aid Alan Lampe with his coaching groups at the club. At that time the Robot was listed at £340, by the New Year it had risen to over £500 and now it is on offer at nearly £1,000. In the space of a few months it has passed out of the reach of all clubs, no matter how affluent they might be.

I am also concerned about the steep rise in bat prices. Why should a small piece of shaped plywood cost around £8 even before the rubber has been added? Compared with tennis and badminton rackets, which require a great deal more machining and craftsmanship in manufacture, the table tennis bat is very poor value for money. As the Bishops High T.T.C. is a school club I am involved a lot of the time with beginners who are introduced to the sport when they are 11-12 year olds. Buying their first bats presents no problems, as there are many reasonably priced ones on the market. After a few months, when they need to progress to a faster rubber, they are faced with an outlay of upwards of £8.

If the trend continues, reasonably priced goods will be a thing of the past, and the sport will become one for well-off players only. Sportacus '77 would be an ideal time for a British company to introduce a sensibly priced range of bats using British materials and maybe a company will come up with a training machine that clubs could afford.

PETER A. WEBB,

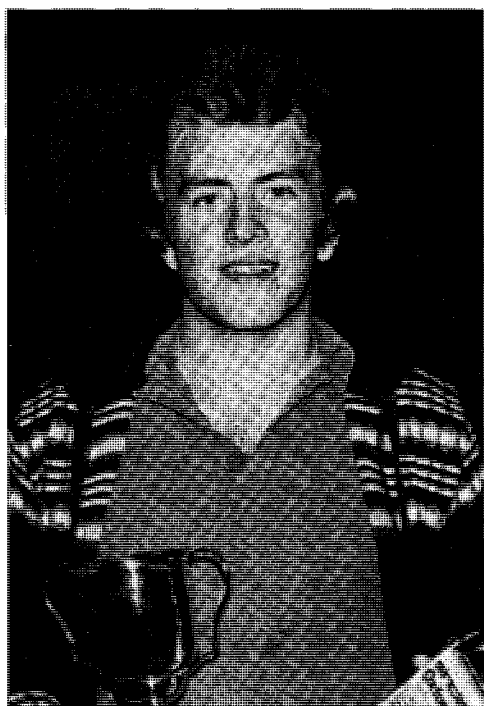
**Hon. Sec., Bishops High T.T.C.
Bishops Stortford, Herts.**

Bombay Bound . . .

Dicky Rutnagur, table tennis correspondent for the "Daily Telegraph", left England on November 2 for India, assigned to cover the winter Test Matches. He is not expected to touchdown at Heathrow until February 26. Until that date John Woodford will be covering all major events and international matches for the "Telegraph".

Four T's Club 'One Star' Open

By DAVID COSWAY



Ian James, of Cornwall, winner of the boys' singles title at Southampton.

Once again record entries for this popular tournament with, for the first time, restriction necessary and over thirty entries returned. Peter Thorne, taking over as referee from the late Kay Waters, did well to get through well over 300 sets in the day. The sponsors again came up trumps, enabling prizes valued over £100 to be provided. Snow's Office Supplies, Elkins Engineering, Anthony Forfar & Co., and John Jaques are the firms to whom the club are indebted.

The men's singles, with a maximum entry of 128, provided early shocks with only half the eight seeds reaching the quarter-finals. No. 1 seed, Mark Mitchell, reached the semi with a win over R. Oldfield, while Roger Chandler accounted for Simon Heaps at this stage. Unseeded Max Crimmins beat Graham Pugh and Mats Weilbass, a Swedish player, now living in Reading, followed his win over Roy Morley with the defeat of D. Harvey in the other half. In the semis, Chandler beat Mitchell while Crimmins beat Weilbass in a set that probably provided some of the best rallies of the day, although the score was convincingly in Crimmins's favour. The see-saw final again provided a nail-biting finish to the tournament. Crimmins trailed 7-13, levelled at 15-all, then lost three set points before clinching the title.

Considering the overall entry the women's singles was disappointing, with only 29 entries. This time the seeding went more to form with the top four reaching the semis. Janet New, No. 1 seed, was hard pushed to beat Four T's Jane Whitcher at 19 in the third. No. 2 seed, Julie Reading, could not repeat her recent form over Joyce Coop and went down rather easily in one semi. The other resulted in the exit of Janet New, beaten in three by Carol Randall. After Joyce Coop had levelled in the final the odds looked in her favour with a chance of becoming the first player to win a Four T's title twice. Carol Randall, however, was

once again at her best in the third and was so in control she changed ends without dropping a point, and ran out an easy winner.

The men's doubles proved a triumph for Bournemouth's Trevor Smith and Steve Wilson, beating the No. 1 seeds, John Clarke and Graham Pugh in the semi, and No. 2 seeds, Mark Mitchell and Mike Douglas in the final.

Bournemouth were again successful in the women's doubles with all four finalists. Joyce Coop and Julie Reading coming back after losing the first game to beat Sarah Gilson and Janet New.

The home club came close to causing an upset in the mixed when Steve Kitcher and Jane Whitcher beat top seeds John Robinson and Janet New to reach the final. Sussex County players Clarke and Carol Randall justified their No. 2 ranking with a two-straight win in the final.

The boys' singles went completely against both rankings and seedings. Neither of the top seeds, David Cammiade or Kevin Edwards reached the semi-final stage. Cammiade went out to Ian James in the quarters while Edwards went out even earlier to S. Moore. Ian James, from the far west, appears to be out of sight of the England ranking committee. He went on to beat Keith Satchell in the final. Janet New had a two-straight win over Wendy Parker in the girls' singles.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

M. Crimmins (Sy) bt M. Weilbass (Sv) 10, 14.

R. Chandler (Sx) bt M. Mitchell (Mx) -9, 23, 17.

Final

CRIMMINS bt Chandler -17, 14, 22.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

C. Randell (Sx) bt J. New (Do) -15, 17, 17.

J. Coop (Do) bt J. Reading (Ha) 15, -16, 8.

Final

RANDALL bt Coop 15, -16, 8.

Men's Doubles—Final

T. SMITH/S. WILSON (Ha) bt M. Douglas (Sx)/Mitchell 15, 20.

Women's Doubles—Final

COOP/READING bt S. Gilson (Do)/New 13, 14.

Mixed Doubles—Final

J. CLARKE (Sx)/RANDALL bt S. Kitcher/J. Whitcher (Ha) 15, 8.

Boys' Singles—Final

I. JAMES (Co) bt K. Stachell (Wi) -19, 15, 19.

Girls' Singles: Final

NEW bt W. Parker (Wi) 17, 13.



Dorset's Janet New, winner of the girls' singles.

MERTON RESTRICTED OPEN

by C. G. Fugatt

The Merton 1-Star, held on Sunday, October 10, came to its conclusion by 8-45 p.m., which impressed Tournament observer Mr. G. Owens. The big disappointment for the organisers was the scratching of No. 1 seed, David Tan. This left the tournament wide open and produced some exciting matches. Congratulations to John Clarke, the Surrey No. 2, who lifted the Men's Singles title, and then, partnered by Carol Randall, won the Mixed. Carol also completed a double by winning the Women's event. Gloucester's D. Harvey and S. Moreman won the Men's Doubles by defeating Merton Club pairing of the Wilson brothers, Steve and Colin. The Women's Doubles went to Mrs. J. Coop and Mrs. P. Oung (Swindon).

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

M. Douglas (Sx) bt M. Waldman (Guernsey) 16, -12, 20.

J. Clarke (Sx) bt S. Brice (Do) 21, 16.

Final

Clarke bt Douglas 15, 8.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

Mrs. J. Coop (Do) bt J. Whitcher (Ha) -14, 15, 16.

Randall (Sx) bt J. New (Do) 17, -13, 18.

Final

Randall bt Coop 15, 9.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

C. Wilson/S. Wilson (Ha) bt Clarke/D. Pugh (Sx) -16, 18, 16.

D. Harvey/S. Morgan (Gs) bt J. Bloomer/Wilcocks (Gw) 9, 17.

Final

Harvey/Moreman bt Wilson/Wilson 11, -17, 18.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

J. Coop/P. Oung (Wi) bt Randall/D. Windmill (Sx) 9, 18.

M. Tighe/S. Gilson (Do) bt New/J. Hudson (Ha) 21, 7.

Final

Coop/Oung bt Tighe/Gilson -11, 12, 11.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

T. Smith (Ha)/Coop bt S. Wilson/Hudson 18, -13, 14.

Clarke/Randall bt J. Robinson/New 17, 11.

Final

Clarke/Randall bt Smith/Coop 18, 13.

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ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman



Leon Smith from Silvertown who has been making an impact in the Essex junior sphere this season. Photo by Geoff Newman.

DEPRESSING RESULTS

Our first County Championships weekend brought some very depressing results. The Senior 1st team entertained Warwickshire before a very good crowd at Ilford's Ltd., Basildon and found themselves humiliated to the tune of 8-1.

Only Lesley Radford managed to break the stranglehold that the visitors put on the match. The result was not a very auspicious start for new senior match secretary Ron McKenzie but all the other arrangements were first class and it augers well for the Senior squad this season.

The Junior Premier team travelled to Newbury to meet Berkshire and were pipped 6-4 despite quite a deal of effort. Dave Newman won both his singles convincingly and shared a doubles success with Leon Smith. Stuart Kimm was our other winner. Our Junior 2nd team were also engaged away from home against Northants and here we were successful 6-4. Kenny Jackson and Gary Lewsey each won twice with Stephen Low and Janet Boulter taking one each.

The Southend League staged our League's Tournament of Champions and this very popular event went off without a hitch at the Park Sports Centre, Rayleigh. Major honours went to a very determined Linda Barrow in the women's singles with Kevin Caldon retaining his men's singles crown. Results:

- Men's Singles—Semi-finals:**
 D. Iszatt (Har) bt D. Randall (Dag) 8, 12;
 K. Caldon (Rom) bt F. Lockwood (Bil) 10, 12.
Final: Caldon bt Iszatt -12, 14, 9.
- Women's Singles—Semi-finals:**
 L. Barrow (Che) bt M. Nash (Bas) 17, 14;
 L. Budd (Sou) bt A. Adams (Bil) 15, 12.
Final: Barrow bt Budd 19, 12.
- Men's Doubles—Final:**
 D. & J. Iszatt (Har) bt J. Cleeves (Rom)/Randall 17, 17.
- Women's Doubles—Final:**
 Budd/Nash bt M. Baillie/M. Smith (Col) 16, 12.
- Mixed Doubles—Final:**
 M. Watts (Sou)/Budd bt D. Newman (Che)/Barrow 19, 13.
- Boys' Singles—Semi-finals:**
 Caldon bt L. Smith (Sil) 15, 15;
 Newman bt B. Taylor (Sou) 17, 10.
Final: Newman bt Caldon -16, 10, 19.
- Girls' Singles—Semi-finals:**
 S. Clark (Cla) bt A. Moss (Col) 12, 15;

E. Sayer (Bar) bt K. Tillyer (Sil) 9, 17.
Final: Sayer bt Clark 14, 14.
Veterans' Singles—Semi-finals:
 Lockwood bt K. Veale (Rom) 17, 19;
 S. Battrick (Bec) bt D. Fuller (Har) 7, 16.
Final: Lockwood bt Battrick 19, 14.

New Competitions Secretary George Meakin has our Essex Inter-Leagues programme under way and with an entry of 110 teams spread over 19 divisions George appears to have his hands full for the months ahead.

A party of players and officials from the Romford League were invited to their West German twin town Ludwieshaven and from all accounts had a 'wunderfool' time. Romford's men lost 7-11 with the women winning 9-1.

Congratulations are in order to two of our young lady county players who have taken the plunge into domestic bliss. Elaine Tarten married Richard Foulds and Janet Hellaby married Ian Robertson. Richard plays for the Dagenham League while Ian "Benny" has represented our Senior Premier side before returning to his native Northumberland. To both couples may we wish you every happiness for the future.

After a series of Assessment Trials and the early season events our selectors have announced their first ranking lists of the season. They are:—

- MEN:**
 1. Ian Horsham, 2. David Brown, 3. Robert Potton, 4. David Newman, 5. Kevin Caldon, 6. David Iszatt, 7. Stuart Gibbs, 8. Ian Robertson, 10. Steve Whiteley, 11. Kenny Jackson, 12. Brian Mailey, 13. Brian Parish, 14. Jeff Drew, 15. Graham Blomfield, 16. David Bowles, 17. Ken Beamish, 18. Leon Smith, Stuart Kimm, 20. Peter Hunt, Neil Brierley.

- WOMEN:**
 1. Lesley Radford, 2. Shelagh Hession, 3. Elaine Foulds (nee Tarten), 4. Linda Budd, 5. Linda Barrow, 6. Helen Gore, 7. Elaine Sayer, 8. Tina Pickard, 9. Marilyn Nash, 10. Gillian Donaldson, 11. Jane Livesey, 12. Janet Boulter, 13. Marie Know, 14. Frances Birbeck.

- BOYS:**
 1. David Newman, 2. Leon Smith, Stuart Kimm, Kenny Jackson, 5. Stephen Low, 6. Garry Lewsey, 7. Tony Penny, 8. Richard Veale, 9. Desmond Charley, 10. Gary Turner, 11. Sky-let Andrew, 12. Martin Solder, 13. Terry Dowsett, 14. Peter Iszatt, 15. Kevin Howard, 16. Martin Porter, 17. Mark Stones, 18. George Reeves, 19. Kevin Gard, 20. Gary Williams, 21. Tony Stonell, 22. Ronnie Turner, 23. George Webb, 24. Stephen Edwards, 25. Martin Reynolds.

- GIRLS:**
 1. Helen Gore, 2. Elaine Sayer, 3. Janet Boulter, 4. Yvette Brown, 5. Kay Tillyer, Julie Dowsett, 7. Lynne Chamberlain, 8. Julie Reynolds, 9. Susan Adeane, 10. Maxine Abbott, 11. Gillian Travers, 12. Julia Casey, 13. Janice Clark, 14. Karen Buckledee, 15. Debbie Taylor, 16. Ruther Adleman, 17. Carol English.



Lesley Radford, Essex's lone victor against Warwickshire. Lesley has also been spending a great deal of time coaching some of the Essex Junior Squad. Photo by Geoff Newman.

- CADET BOYS:**
 1. Gary Turner, 2. Kevin Gard, 3. Stephen Edwards, 4. Keith Solder, 5. Ian Attridge, 6. Chris Avis, 7. Terry Pascal, 8. Harminder Attalil, 9. Chris Knight, 10. Stephen Eaton, 11. Paul Chaplin, 12. David Lewsey, 13. Sultan Zuberi, 14. Raymond East, 15. Paul Hobbs, 16. Paul Sayer.
- CADET GIRLS:**
 1. Julie Dowsett, 2. Maxine Abbott, 3. Gillian Travers, 4. Janice Clark, 5. Karen Buckledee, 6. Debbie Taylor, 7. Debbie Colkett, 8. Julie Askem, 9. Jayne Gore, 10. Julie Geraghty.

WORCESTERSHIRE NEWS

by Doug Moss

SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

At the AGM of the Association the financial affairs were reported to be in quite a healthy state; in fact the best situation since the Association was formed. This is rather gratifying especially in the Silver Jubilee year. The event will be celebrated at the end of the season.

Something not so pleasing is the fact that the Association was unable to appoint an Honorary Secretary. "Yours truly" is acting at the present time. One change on the administrative side has been the appointment of Clive Stott (Kidderminster) as Junior Team Captain. Joe Cukierman did not wish to be re-elected to the Selection Committee. He will be missed as he has such a good knowledge of all players in the County Championships and rarely missed a representative match. Mervyn Wood (Halesowen) and Frank Claxton (Worcester) join Doug Young (Worcester), Terry Round (Kidderminster) and Chairman (Derek Baddeley) on the Senior teams Selection Committee.

Worcestershire is very disappointed to see the Mixed Doubles event eliminated from County Championships matches. This has always been regarded as—

- (1) the link between the men and women in the team;
- (2) an excellent opportunity for women to improve their play, and
- (3) an unpredictable event which added to the interest of a match.

It is now like two separate matches and, in the process, one of the men loses the opportunity of a doubles set. Is it the thin edge of the wedge for separate men's and women's teams?

A new player to join Worcestershire is Cliff Benson (formerly of Cheshire). He put up a very good performance in the County Trials and earned a place in the 1st team for the match versus Gwent. Cliff was rather nervous in his first event but fought well to win the other at deuce in the 3rd. He will obviously be an asset to the County teams.

County Match Results: The County senior teams have made an excellent start with the 1st team beating Gwent 9-1 and the 2nd team defeating Avon II 7-3. The Juniors made a draw with Hereford; the Worcester girls winning all their events.

At one time it looked to be a problem to fill the Hon. Secretary post for the Worcester League. However George Brett (formerly of Norfolk) volunteered. He is obviously most keen on all aspects of table tennis and has certainly made his presence felt in the short time he has been in Worcester. Prospects for Div. I of the League did not look too hopeful when it was known that strong teams from Manor Park (Malvern) and Worcester Tennis Club "A" would not be entering. The Manor Park situation was influenced by the decision of Derek Baddeley and Nick Bottomley to play in the Birmingham League, in order to keep up their standard of play. However teams from Redditch and Bewdley applied and, with promotions, the number of teams in Div. 1 has increased. There was in fact an overall increase in the numbers of teams in the Worcester League.

It is always disappointing to lose a League but this has happened with the demise of the

Redditch League. It did not comprise many teams and most of these, or at least the players, are now in the Bromsgrove League. The Malvern League, which is most popular with players, has a new Hon. Secretary (Mr. S. Watkins, 54 Westminster Road, Malvern Wells). Halesowen is the third league with a new Secretary, namely, Mr. R. Shearman, 12 Carters Lane, Halesowen.

Arrangements are in hand for the County Closed Championships. The Junior events will again be played at Lea & Perrins Factory, Worcester, on Sunday, 9th January, 1977. The Senior events will be transferred to the Abbey Stadium, Redditch, which has excellent canteen and bar facilities. The overall lighting is also better than at the previous venue. The proposed date is Sunday, 20th February, 1977.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

MIXED FORTUNES

Yorkshire's first County Championship matches on Oct. 9 held mixed fortunes for our junior and senior first teams. The junior team went down 4-6 to Middlesex in our first defence of the Junior Premier Division title, the loss of the boys' doubles and all of the girls' events being the vital factors. But the senior team more than made up for this disappointment by beating the Middlesex first team 6-3 in the evening, and this with Mike Harrison standing in for the injured Alan Fletcher.

Having lost the doubles in the afternoon, teenagers Beadsley and Harrison came good in the evening to take the men's doubles, and then Harrison clinched the match for Yorkshire with some crisp hitting to beat Mark Mitchell in a tense 3-game eighth set. There were competent performances from Tony Clayton, Kevin Beadsley and Melody Ludi in a match which was marred towards the end by behaviour not calculated to improve the public image of the game.

Following earlier trials at Moor Grange School, Leeds, the following ranking lists were issued. In the men's list, Alan Hydes returns at No. 1 but is unlikely to be regularly available because of business commitments. British Universities champion Clem Lo, from Hong Kong, currently at Bradford University, comes straight in at No. 5. As will be seen by comparison with the current England rankings, there is a difference of opinion between the Yorkshire and England selectors regarding the order of merit of the leading Yorkshire boys.

MEN: 1—Alan Hydes; 2—Tony Clayton; 3—Alan Fletcher; 4—Kevin Beadsley (Halifax); 5—Clem Lo (Bradford); 6—Michael Harrison (Hull); 7—Stephen Hazelwood (Leeds); 8—Andrew Metcalfe (Leeds); 9—Michael Stephenson (Bradford); 10—Robert Shutt (Bradford); 11—Robert Hazelwood (Leeds); 12—Steven Mills (Sheffield); 13—Joe Naser (Hull).

WOMEN: 1—Melody Ludi (Bradford); 2—Julie McLean (Hull); 3—Linda Hryszko (Bradford); 4—Helen Shields (Bradford); 5—Sylvia Broadbent (Bradford); 6—Carole Grayson (Hull); 7—Andrea Kennedy (Hull); 8—Sally Dickerson (Bradford); 9—Sally Midgley (Bradford); 10—Cathryn Howarth (Leeds).

BOYS: 1—Beadsley; 2—Harrison; 3—Mills; 4—Naser; 5—Alan Summerscales (Doncaster); 6—Tony Bottomley (Halifax); 7—Neil Harris (Bradford); 8—Adrian Hill (Bradford); 9—Chris Pindar (Hull); 10—Paul Sanderson (Leeds); 11—Trevor Fletcher (Leeds); 12—Paul Makinson (Bradford).

GIRLS: 1—Hryszko; 2—Dickerson; 3—Midgley; 4—Haworth; 5—Jane Guanaria (Leeds); 6—Margaret Sargent (Sheffield); 7—Gillian Womack (Barnsley); 8—Dawn Ledger (Hull); 9—Angela Hudson (Hull); 10—Angela Lutkin (Hull).

Tony Bottomley, Neil Harris and Sally Midgley all made their county debuts in the junior second team match against Clywd.

The Yorkshire Closed Championships will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5, 1976, at Parkside Sports Centre, Bradford, on Butterfly tables

(sponsored by Mileta Sports of Heckmondwike) with T.S.P. balls. Entry forms are available from Frank Briggs, 10 Merton Gardens, Farsley, Pudsey, West Yorkshire, and should be returned by Nov. 22. Entry forms are also now available for the Yorkshire Junior "2-Star" Select Open from Rea Balmford, 30 Glebe Road, Wawne, Hull. These Championships will also be played on Butterfly tables provided by Mileta Sports, with T.S.P. balls, at the Y.P.I. Ferens Sports Centre, Hull, on 18/19 Dec., 1976. We are hoping to have a Dutch junior team competing in the Junior Open.

County coaching activities have been fixed as follows, all at Moor Grange School, Leeds:

Junior 'A' Squad—Nov. 13, Jan. 30, Feb. 20, Mar. 27.

Junior 'B' Squad—Nov. 28, Feb. 5.

County junior Alan Summerscales, who lives in the South Yorkshire mining village of South Elmsall and represents local club St. Mary's in the Doncaster League, has decided to further his table tennis career by travelling nearly 30 miles each week to represent also the Unity club in Div. 1 of the Bradford League, his teammates being Kevin Beadsley (also of Wellesley Park, Halifax) and Steve Worsman.

Unity met Leeds Y.M.C.A. in Round 1 of both senior and junior Yorkshire Club Championships in Leeds on Oct. 8. Unity beat holders Y.M.C.A. 5-2 in the junior match (but for Y.M.C.A. Paul Sanderson beat both Summerscales and Neil Harris). Also the holders in the senior competition, Y.M.C.A. were the victors 5-3 in the senior match, with Steve Hazelwood recording a treble, including a -22, 18, 17 win over Beadsley.

In the Yorkshire League Women's Division, last season's winners, Bradford, defeated last season's runners-up, Hull, 8-2; both Melody Ludi and Helen Shields recorded trebles for Bradford, the visitors' two sets being gained by Julie McLean and Carole Grayson at the expense of Linda Hryszko. In Div. 1, Hull, fielding juniors Joe Naser and Chris Pindar with Essex player Dave Boulter, went down 2-8 to Halifax, who also had two juniors, Beadsley and Bottomley, in the side to partner anti-loop defender David Lamb. Hull first-teamer Harrison was indisposed. Also in Div. 1, Leeds I blasted Bradford II 10-0, and Steve Mills took three for Sheffield I in his team's 6-4 away win over Leeds II, where former Sheffield county player David Rayner also won two for the visitors.

CESHIRE NOTES

by Derek Schofield

INEVITABLE CHANGES

Following the very sad loss of President Wally Sharples, and Chairman Frank Thomas, who passed away during the course of last season, the post of President has been taken by Mr J. H. Palin of Macclesfield, and the new Chairman is Mr L. Moran of Crewe. Big Bill Stanway of Hyde steps into the Deputy Chairmanship, whilst John Wilkinson of Macclesfield carries on as General Secretary. Keeping a tight rein on the finances is Treasurer Alan Summerfield, whilst from Crewe comes the energetic Dick Turner to assist the General Secretary. In the County Team Department ace organiser Tony Parker (Hyde) looks after first team matters, Fred Hepple (Wirral) the second string, and newcomer Mike Tew was press-ganged into running the Phyllosan Squad. Reunited with the County after a few years with Clywd, comes Lenny Elias (Wirral) to take over the Junior team.

To John Woodward has fallen the unenviable task of re-shaping the future of Junior T.T. in the County. He took over mid-way through last season, with the team losing every match and finally being relegated to the third division. Clearly John has a lot of hard work ahead. However, with the assistance of Lenny Elias, Norman Deakin and others, a brand new coaching policy is taking shape. During the summer John scoured the county looking for new talent, and is only too pleased to go and visit any Cheshire League with coaching problems. In this

particular matter, please contact John at 31 Norwich Road, Stretford, Manchester. Tel. No. 061-747 8725.

With the Meadowbank Open already under his belt, Wirral's John McNee crowned all his previous achievements by winning the Spanish Open Singles title. John has played in every department of Cheshire T.T., establishing himself as the County No. 3 player. Unfortunately he has been unable to play for the first team, due to clashes with his Scottish commitments.

Cheshire players have been in prominence at all the local tournament finals to date. At Fylde, Di Johnson reached the final losing to Anita Stevenson, and John Hilton lost in the semi to Desmond Douglas. At the North of England, Susan Lisle lost to Carole Knight in the final, and John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley both lost in the semis to Paul Day and Donald Parker respectively. Finally, at Carlisle, Hilton reached his third semi, losing to Jimmy Walker, and once again Susan lost to Carole Knight in the final. Yours truly managed to win all three Veterans' events at the above tournaments, beating Mike Tew, George Evans (Wales) and Peter D'Arcy respectively.

The Cheshire first team had mixed fortunes in their first three matches, all of which were at home. On the night before the North of England, the might and majesty of Cleveland descended upon us in the form of Neale, Jarvis, Walker and Carole Knight. The Cheshire men, Hilton, Eckersley and Roger Hampson were completely outplayed by their more famous opponents. It was left to Susan Lisle to save a complete white-wash by defeating Carole Knight, a feat she carried out in the same match last season. On Saturday, October 9th, we entertained Leicestershire at Woodchurch, Wirral, recording a 7-2 victory. Two wins each from Hilton and Brian Johns (who came in instead of Hampson), one win each from Eckersley and Susan, and a men's doubles completed the scoreline.

The following night at Rolls Royce, Crewe, it was the turn of Middlesex to inflict on us our second defeat of the season. In this encounter only Hilton managed to win his singles, and this he accomplished in a magnificent manner. With quite a number of close games, we eventually lost the match 2-7. It would appear that we have a long way to go if we are to keep the tag of being the 'second best county in the Championships'.

Congratulations to the Cheshire Junior Team of Mark Hankey (son of Vince), John Weatherby, Ross McFarlane, Janet Deakin, and Lynn Fenner, on winning their first match of the season against Clywd 10-0!

AVON NOTES

by M. J. Hawkins

NEW RANKINGS

Issued in September the Avon County rankings read:—

MEN: 1—C. Sewell (Br); 2—J. Musselwhite (Ba); 3—G. Mildred (Br); 4—R. Oldfield (Ba); 5—L. Stewart (Br); 6—R. Murray (Ba); 7—M. Baker (M/MN); 8—B. Brady (Br); 9—A. Marsh (Br); 10—B. Sturgess (Br); 11—P. Lewis (Br); 12—G. Douglas (Br).

WOMEN: 1—J. Harris (Br); 2—L. Porter (Ba); 3—J. Collier (Br); 4—A. Seager (Ba); 5—W. Simmons (Br); 6—J. Watts (Br); 7—P. Rowe (Br); 8—J. Achurch (Br).

BOYS: 1—Lewis; 2—Matthew Smith (Ba); 3—D. Gerrish (M/MN); 4—R. Woolf (Br); 5—K. Morris (Ba/Br); 6—Martin Smith (Br).

GIRLS: 1—Simmons; 2—D. Vowles (Br); 3—C. Rowe (Br); 4—A. Laidler (Me).

Key: Ba—Bath; Br—Bristol; M/MN—Mendip/Midsomer Norton; Me—Mendip.

Newly-promoted Avon senior first team went down 3-7 at Devonport Guildhall in their first Div. 2 West match against a strong home side including Mike Rattue and Paul Stone. It was Avon's 'star' player Chris Sewell who won both his singles but not until after a tussle with Stone, coming back to win after trailing 15-18

in the decider, Avon's other win came from a men's doubles success by Sewell and Jeremy Musselwhite in straight games.

The new Avon II went down by the same scoreline away to Worcestershire II in their opening fixture. In the encounter it was Bob Oldfield and Bob Murray who stole the headlines with one singles win each and further combining to win the doubles.

To complete a dismal start the juniors at Mayfield TT Club, Bath were defeated 4-6 by Gwent in Junior West Division. In this match the girls played exceptionally well. One Gwent player, Brenda Annand, was thrown in at the deep end playing her first ever competitive match.

Draw for the new Avon County Team Competition, played on a straight k.o. basis attracted an entry of 16, the first round draw being:—

Prattens (Me) v Frys Club (Br)
3 Firms (Me) v Bristol Polytechnic (Br)
Oldfield Park Baptists (Ba) v Twerton St. Michael's "A" (Ba)
Failand (Br) v Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts. (Ba)
Twerton St. Michael's "B" (Ba) v Bristol Deaf (Br)
R.N.S.T.S. (Ba) v Dunkerton (Me)
Longwell Green (Ba) v N.W.I.S. (Br)
Norton Sports (Me) v Bath Civil Service (Ba)

The round is to be completed by Dec. 18, 1976.

"Livewire" Pat Archdale is working very hard recruiting County Umpires whilst Mike Lewis is very active on the coaching scene as usual. During the summer months the Bath Summer League was a resounding success with Frys Club winning the double of League and K.O. Cup. Watch out for the Avon supporters' flag at the Worlds, we'll be there . . . in force!

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Richard Habgood

IT'S BEEN A GOOD START

After the threat of relegation last season and faced with a really difficult opening programme this season in the County Championships, our first team did themselves proud with the results they achieved against Essex and Cleveland. To beat Essex 8-1 and actually lead Cleveland 3-1 is a fair indication of just how well Des Douglas, Derek Munt, Dougie Johnson and Karen Groves actually played.

In my book no praise is too high for their performance and it was only with a fight that we gave in against the obviously stronger Cleveland team.

On a more sombre note is the performance of Des Douglas in that match against Cleveland. Desmond showed completely his loyalty to his County — with everything to lose having to play firstly Nicky Jarvis and then Denis Neale, Desmond could well have pulled out of the match following the tragic death of his cousin Jeff Douglas of Kung-Fu Karate fame the night before in a contest at Belle Vue, Manchester. He didn't and our sincere condolences go to Desmond and his family over their untimely loss.

Warwickshire Juniors were not so fortunate in their opening match against Norfolk failing to press home a one time 4-2 advantage.

A new venture taking place this season are regular U-14 "get-togethers" and tournaments. The first was held last month at Nuneaton on Sunday, October 24th with the project being administered by Stan Parr.

League secretaries please note: the selection Committee feel that these events are vital for the well being and progress of our Juniors. On the committee's behalf Stan has spent a considerable amount of time already on this project and will continue to do so with the co-operation of every member League. Without representatives from your League attending these sessions, policy for the future could well be that bit more difficult.

On a bright note is the Tamworth League and their entry into Division Four of the Midland League. Tamworth could well surprise more

than a few teams this season as their record from last season's Inter-league competition has shown.

The big question with regard to this season's Warwickshire League is whether the South Birmingham League will hold on to the title they won so narrowly last season. For certain Leamington will be breathing down their necks as will the East Birmingham League. The complete entry is:—

1. Birmingham Business Houses, 2. East Birmingham, 3. Leamington, 4. North Birmingham, 5. Nuneaton, 6. South Birmingham, 7. Stratford, 8. Tamworth, 9. West Birmingham.

The event will be run on an all-play-all system.

With entries now closed for the "B. Mackie" Cup details of the first round will be available for next month's copy.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

TWO OUTSTANDING

Norfolk are competing in the County Championships in the same divisions as last season. Last year we finished 4th out of 6 in Div. 2 East, our second team 5th out of 6 in 3 East, and our Juniors 4th out of 7 in Junior 2nd Midland. Not a particularly brilliant record, perhaps, but one which we hope to better this time round.

Norfolk Juniors travelled to Warwick and started their programme with a 5-5 draw, whereas last season they lost 3-7 at home. Our two outstanding players were Douglas Bennett whose two singles wins included one over England "A" group ranked player, David Ward, and the other Wendy Hogg, who last season was unbeaten in this competition. She kept up her record, and did well to take the doubles with Heather Pearce after a big deficit. David Smith also had a win over Warwick's No. 3. Paul Ninham lost both his sets but should not be discouraged.

The Norfolk Senior ranking list for November has been issued and is as follows:

Men:— 1. John Fuller, 2. John Turner, 3. Bob Thornton, 4. Douglas Bennett, 5. Chris Bensley, 6. Mick Musson, 7. Neville Graver, 8. Trevor Bunn, 9. Bob Mitcham, 10. Mick Broughton.

Women:— 1. Betty Cassell, 2. Jeanne Brown, 3. Edna Fletcher, 4. Wendy Hogg, 5. Paula Ribbans, 6. Ruth Hogg, 7. Valerie Graver.

Mick Musson has been appointed Captain for the season, although, I am told, he will not be playing in the opening senior match of the programme, versus Herts (away) on Nov. 6. John Fuller's experience of visiting Israel during the summer with the Great Britain Universities' team which took part in the 2nd World Universities Championships should benefit his game.

The dramatic news that Cambridge will not be competing in the East Anglian League this season — after winning the title last term — throws this competition wide open.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

By Alan Cavell

ADVISORY COUNCILS

The report recently prepared by the West Midland Standing Conference of Sports Organisations shows that there are 59 sports working with the various Sports Advisory Councils (SACs) in the West Midlands. Association football has the most representations (28) and other well represented sports are cricket (26), badminton, bowls and swimming (24 each), angling and lawn tennis (23 each), athletics, hockey and rugby football (21 each). Table tennis follows with 20. Table tennis has a voice on 4 SACs in Shropshire.

In Shropshire the other indoor sports now provide serious competition to table tennis for the leisure time of the limited number of sportsmen: excellent facilities are now being provided for them. The luxurious privately owned Shifnal Sports Centre has recently boosted its number of

squash courts to nine and has opened a new badminton hall. This hall will be the venue of a table tennis county match during the current season.

SACs provide information on local facilities for sport and assist with the formation and growth of clubs. Very little of the financial assistance that is available to clubs directly assists table tennis in Shropshire. I believe that the club at Albrighton is the only single sport table tennis club eligible for financial aid.

The modern Oakengates Leisure Centre was the venue for the finals of the judo and table tennis sections of the Shropshire Mini-Olympics organised by the Shropshire SACs. 24 different sports participated in this event throughout the county, leading up to finals in the "Sport for All" week. The Oakengates Centre is typical of those now being provided in Shropshire by local authorities. The latest, opened in July at Bridgnorth, is already very well supported. The finals of the table tennis events took the form of a tournament between teams representing the Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury and Wrekin SACs. Each team, composed of players living within the area of the SAC they represented, consisted of 1 man, 1 woman, 1 veteran, 1 junior girl, 1 junior boy, 1 cadet girl and 1 cadet boy. Each player played the other 2 members in his class. The teams were:

Bridgnorth SAC:— D. Gray, Mrs. S. Shield, R. Smith, R. Reid, Miss R. Bellinger, D. Lloyd, and Miss T. Fowell.

Shrewsbury SAC:— C. Neal, Mrs. G. Gee, M. F. C. Jones, M. Green, Miss C. Jones, P. Morgan and Miss L. Degg.

Wrekin SAC:— A. Horobin, Mrs. P. Willcocks, P. Gosnell, N. Charnley, Miss J. Siddle, A. Burton and Miss A. Lowe.

Shrewsbury SAC finished first with Bridgnorth second and the Wrekin third. The President of the county table tennis association presented medals to the three players with the best performances. The Gold went to Malcolm Green, who lost only 14 points, the Silver to Tracey Powell, who lost 45, and the Bronze to Chris Neal, who lost 48.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

SENIOR RANKINGS

After studying results in the recent trials in Ipswich and the past playing records of all Suffolk players, the selection committee have issued the following Senior Ranking List:—

MEN: 1—John Kitchener; 2—Robert Hellaby; 3—Mick Palmer; 4—Andy Schooler; 5—Russell King; 6—Rob Milne; 7—David Henderson; 8—Kevin Savage; 9—Robert Welch; 10—Stuart Palmer; 11—Eric Bradshaw; 12—Stuart Sharman.

WOMEN: 1—Christine Ting; 2—Janet Faiers; 3—Debbie Wootton; 4—Sue Welham; 5—Louise Harris; 6—Jane Newton.

Robert Hellaby has recently moved into the Suffolk area and the county committee, placing him No. 2 behind Kitchener, are delighted to add such a talented and experienced player to their county squad. The women's No. 1, Christine Ting, also adds considerable strength and the Suffolk County team can now look forward to the new season with optimism. Mick Palmer will again captain the team.

A 1-9 defeat by Leicestershire was very disappointing for Suffolk Juniors in the County Championships. Stuart Palmer performed well, however, and in beating Leicester's No. 1, Andy Smith, he gained his side's lone success. Julie Duncombe and Joanne Rivett were thrust into this match when four of the first six girls were unavailable. They should not be discouraged; their turn will come again quite soon. Steve Hender and Garry Douglas also fought hard against very stiff opposition.

Congratulations to the Ipswich and District League on being selected to stage the England v. Russia International on Nov. 3. Mrs Joyce Love and her committee have worked like Trojans to make the event a success.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

PROMISING NEWCOMER

The Junior County Trials were held at Byker Community Centre on Sept. 26, and these resulted in the following ranking lists:

BOYS

1. E. Thomas; 2. B. Clark; 3. R. Bambrough; 4. M. Kimberley; 5. J. Anderson; 6. B. McCardle; 7. A. Moon; 8. M. Johnson

GIRLS

1. J. Hobson; 2. D. Glenn; 3. S. Norris; 4. V. Eldson; 5. K. Hall; 6. S. Laver.

Eddie Thomas, Bernard Clark, Roger Bambrough, Julie Hobson and Deborah Glenn were duly selected for the opening match of the season against Cumbria at the same venue on Oct. 9. Unfortunately, they went down 0-10, failing to win even a game, although they went close on one or two occasions. It should be remembered, however, that Cumbria were able to field last season's strong team in its entirety, while Northumberland had to make three enforced changes due to last season's players being over age.

However, the new-look team can only improve with practice and experience, and the promising performance of 12-years-old Bernard Clark on his debut must surely indicate a fine future for the young player. Bernard is the younger brother of former England-ranked junior Andrew (who also made his junior debut at the age of 12), and is the third son of Matty and Phil Clark to represent Northumberland Juniors. He is appearing regularly for the Electrics "C" team in Div. 2B of the Northumberland League, and to date has lost only two sets out of 12 played during the first four weeks of the league season.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

CLARKE STRIKES TWICE IN SEVEN DAYS!

Sussex table tennis is indebted to the former county player Charlie Seaman, an all-out attacker from the old school who once played for England, for donating and originating the Seaman Cup.

This is an annual affair and used often as a county trial unofficially of course. The top eight men are invited to compete in a straight knock-out, best of five. For the first time for several years this curtain-raising event saw all eight of the top Sussex men on parade—Chandler, Clarke, Ogundipe, Pugh, Horton, Douglas, Emezc and Stace.

One of the surprises was that Sam Ogundipe is still getting them back as well as ever. Sam reached the final via the bottom half pair of Stace and young Douglas who took the Nigerian international to expedite. In the top half Gerald Pugh was taken out 3-0 by Chandler whilst Clarke progressed at the expense of Keith Horton.

John Clarke, 28, and playing probably better now than he did for Lancashire some time back, saw the conditions at the Bexhill Youth Centre would suit a fast approach and overcame Chandler at 24-22 in the fourth, clearly the best win of the afternoon. Clarke then proved he could deal with any type of player by stopping Ogundipe in the final in straight games.

Seven days after winning the Seaman Cup, Clarke struck again when he captured the Merton (Bournemouth) Open title, his first ever open victory. In the final he beat Mike Douglas (Crawley) 21-14, 21-8! Clarke benefitted from the failure of David Tan to appear, but even so, a fine victory.

The Nicholls Cup is the counterpart women's trophy, but only six instead of eight contenders could be found following the exit from the county scene of both Linda Wales and Beverley Godfrey. Derbyshire supporters will be pleased to hear that Carol Randall is playing a lot of inspired table tennis as proved by her winning the Four T's tournament at Southampton.

With a start like an open title within the first fortnight of the new campaign, there were clearly

thoughts that she might be after Diane Gard's county crown. Indeed she was and still is, but on this occasion Diane scented the danger and elevated her performance to a level that saw Miss Randall going down 21-15, 21-15 in the final. Future battles between these two girls this season promise to be enthralling.

So the season begins with Roger Chandler and John Clarke fighting for county supremacy and fierce rivalry between Diane Gard and Carol Randall. Both pairs seem to be ahead of their rivals, but the Crawley contingent will have other ideas and a *stop press* item: Julie Reading is seeking a transfer from Hampshire to Sussex — at least that makes up for Linda Wales!

Bexhill's group of budding young stars are facing a long itinerary of tournaments this season. First two successes, a Group "A" ranking for Graham Gillett and an Under-12 final victory for Adrian Moore at the Essex Junior Open. There are several other youngsters strong enough to make their mark at tournaments, Nicky Standen and Stephen Moore are just two of them. The new Sussex No. 1 is Graham Gillett, watch out also for the new No. 2 Malcolm Francis from Uckfield — the newest recruit in the lions' den — in the Crawley league, first division.

FRANK NEWELL

OBITUARY. Friends and followers of table tennis were distressed to hear of the death of Frank Newell after a year long illness in September at the age of 59.

As with so many men of his age, the war took away the best years of his playing life. After captaining London Boys at both football and cricket and playing junior county table tennis, the war saw Frank moving to Cheltenham with his business before seeing active service.

On his return from the war, he gave all his spare time to helping the youth of Cheltenham and Gloucestershire, mostly in the table tennis world. He was Chairman of Gloucestershire for 19 years and President for 3 years up to the time of his death, being also Chairman of the Cheltenham Association for many years and only at the last Cheltenham Finals Night in May received a silver salver in appreciation of his 18 years as their President.

Frank was also one of our first National Umpires and was also the organizer of nearly all the International Matches that have been staged in Cheltenham Town Hall over many years, as well as being a respected member of the E.T.T.A. Appeals Board where his experience as a J.P. served the Association well.

Frank greatly appreciated the honour the E.T.T.A. A.G.M. in July bestowed upon him in electing him a Vice-President for all the work he had done for our sport.

It was typical of Frank that one of his last wishes was that instead of flowers at his funeral, a Fund should be formed to help the development of table tennis. Donations should be forwarded to Mr. J. Boyd, 376 Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.

His friends in both business and sport will greatly miss him.

Leslie J. Smith,

SURREY NOTES

By Ted Simpkin

IN LIKE A LAMB

Not with a bang, but a whimper, was an objective verdict on the curtain raiser to the game in Surrey this season — the County Closed Championships at Surrey University. The entries were low in number, 54 in the Men's, 14 in the Women's and 8 in the Veterans' and it would be little exaggeration to state that there was not one really entertaining game of table tennis in the whole tournament. This must have been a great disappointment to the Sponsors, S. R. Jeffrey and Sons, the Guildford Sports Shop, and to the Guildford League which organised and ran

the tournament with very little help from the County Committee. For the record, noteworthy performances were by Jean Head in winning the Women's from Jayne Mitchell in the final, and the disposal of No. 1 seed, David Wellsman, by 18-years-old Allan Watson, who attributed his success to stopping smoking and to running training every night. Winners were Martin Shuttle in the Mens', Gordon Chapman beating Ted Woodgate in the Veterans', Steve Lyons and Derrick Holman in the Men's Doubles, Sue Roebuck and Jayne Mitchell in the Women's Doubles, and Jayne with Lyons in the Mixed.

Leatherhead Leisure Centre was the setting for a Halex Table Tennis Spectacular in September where displays by Linda Howard Angela Mitchell, Ian Horsham, and Martin Shuttle were eagerly appreciated by the hundred plus youngsters (with fond Mums and Dads in attendance), who afterwards flocked to the seven tables for coaching sessions. Local League Secretary, Gail McCullough was impressed by the standards displayed, and commented, as a lot of us do, that if local clubs could only find places for these beginners Surrey would soon be the leading table tennis county.

The Leatherhead and Epsom League deserves to prosper not only for its new found spirit of interest but also for its Press consciousness. In this field Bob Pearson keeps the news of the local game well to the fore, and apart from Guildford's John Oakley, is the only regular supplier of news to the undersigned.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

FURTHER STRIDES

The County League, revived last season by new County Chairman Peter Edwards, has made further strides this year, with Wellingborough entering for the first time under Brian Dangerfield, and Northampton's Cliff Bull quickly giving the impression that Northampton intend to treat it seriously. Under these pressures Kettering will be hard pressed to retain the title they won so convincingly last year.

One issue remaining in doubt when last season's final edition went to press was the destination of the South East Midlands Women's League. With a sweeping 9-1 victory over Peterborough, Wellingborough carried off the title for the first time, to round off an outstanding season, particularly for Anne and Mandy Wallis, who consistently stole the headlines throughout the year. With Daventry's success in the Reserve Division, Northamptonshire teams took two titles for the first time since 1962-63, when Northampton took the Men's League, while the Women's Section went to Kettering.

Individually Wellingborough's Gary Alden is also in the limelight for in the latest National Junior Rankings he occupies No. 19, the highest a local player has yet reached. His club mates Keith and Kenneth Nicoll, joined by their 11-years-old sister Jane, have also made progress during the close season, with the latest addition to this table tennis family reaching the final of the Under-12 Girls' Singles in the Essex Open, her first venture into Open Tournament play.

At club level, Rothborough Juniors competed in a Knock-Out Tournament at St. Ives with the Nicoll trio being joined by Valerie Feakin. After successes against Milton Keynes and St. Ives, Rothborough failed to negotiate the playoffs, despite a sterling performance from Keith Nicoll, who was unbeaten throughout.

Juniors have also been prominent at Kettering, where Summer Coaching was more successful than ever before. Here the perpetually youthful Dick Cole has worked hard to get new premises at the Electricity Board's Social Club, and even harder to get a regular supply of coaches, including Ken Marchant, and Len Saywell, accompanied by his Stiga Robot. Already the Kettering League is beginning to reap appropriate rewards, with a big increase in the number of Juniors participating in regular league play.

CONTROVERSY

JOHN WOODFORD

DEPUTY TABLE TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
'DAILY TELEGRAPH'

THIN ICE, MR. BUCKLE . . .

Keith Buckle is skating on thin ice as he stirs up this hornet's nest over which tables will be used at the World Championships.

There is no sentiment in business—the World's IS Big Business. £500,000 cannot be spent without hard bargains. Especially in these terrible financial times every business battle cannot be won. Similar situations happen daily in every town hall and in thousands of businesses throughout the world.

Party A has a large and juicy carrot to dangle. The proper democratic process is that parties X, Y and Z are invited to bid. The vendor is not obliged to accept the highest or the lowest or any tender. The most vital principle is that the vendor should not under any circumstances reveal to the bidders the details of the other tenders. That would be "horse-trading" as Mike Lawless so rightly says.

Mr. Buckle is apparently suggesting that regardless of the amounts of money offered by the three companies, the tender should have been given to one specified British company.

I am sure that had the E.T.T.A. officers taken that course they would have been in trouble with the National Council, the body that represents 250,000 English players as opposed to the Players' Association of Table Tennis, which has yet to prove it represents more than a handful of players!

Not that I am opposed to the existence of P.A.T.T. Collective bargaining is a "must" in 1976; lone voices are seldom heard.

On October 16, the E.T.T.A. National Council moved on firm ground when they almost unanimously ratified the decisions taken by the World Championships Executive Committee. Make no mistake about this, had the vote gone the other way—it was in effect a vote of confidence—high-level resignations might well have followed.

Roy Moor, table tennis correspondent of the "Daily Mail", gave the hornet's nest a justifiable second kick on October 13 with a story that is at least valuable publicity for the World Championships. But, the implication in the opening paragraph that many England players were furious because Stiga tables have been chosen, I have found very difficult to confirm.

No doubt at all that Mr. Buckle is "furious" otherwise he would not have written to the Prime Minister. No doubt that Chris Jaques was "flabbergasted" but I still have to find these furious England players.

I believe the vast majority of foreign players coming to Birmingham will happily accept Stiga tables. There is also no doubt in my mind and everyone seems to agree on this one—Jill Hammersley, England's greatest hope for honours, is more likely to do well on a Stiga table!

PAJT STATEMENT

We understand that there has been some controversy over a recent communication from our Press Secretary, Mr. K. Buckle, concerning the choice of tables for the forthcoming World Table Tennis Championships.

On behalf of the Players' Association, may we make it clear that the views expressed in Mr. Buckle's letter would appear to be

his own, and not necessarily those of the Players' Association of Table Tennis.

L. A. CLAYTON (Secretary),
D. NEALE (Chairman),

Players' Association of Table Tennis.

62 Gregor's Tynning,
Paulton, Bristol.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

By "SUPER LOOP"

CHANGE OF COLOURS

A number of changes have occurred during the close season and Hertfordshire looks different in most sections.

In County matches, out has gone the familiar Bottle Green and Grey, and in comes Royal Blue and Navy (should be interesting when Middlesex and Herts clash, Middlesex being the team playing in the more "faded" Royal and Navy).

Martin Smithies is now looking after any money the County has after Jack Thompson had taken care of what we had last season, and one other new Secretary is the return of John Jermyn in the capacity this time of Senior Championships Organiser; John has been absent from the County scene after giving up the Umpire's job some three years ago.

Late September saw the completion of Junior Trials at Watford, which included, for the first time, an effort to recognise officially the Under-14's; quite a large job undertaken by Cecily Booth, Roy Harper and Len Howick. Junior (Under-17) rankings are:—

Boys

1. Richard Jermyn (North Herts)
2. Gavin Booth (North Herts)
3. Terry Pleasance (Bishops Stortford)
4. Paul Mason (North Herts)
5. Andrew Smith (North Herts)
6. Rhys Williams (North Herts)
7. Chris Ogle (Watford)
8. Peter Brownlow (Cheshunt)

Girls

1. Janice Glazebrook (North Herts)
2. Carol Webster (Cheshunt)

3. Gillian Webb (North Herts)
4. Janice Harding (North Herts)
5. Ann Westland (Watford)
6. Gillian Smith (North Herts)

Senior Trials were held at Barnet on October 10, and whilst reports doing the rounds afterwards said that Jonathan Proffitt was favourite to retain his No. 1 spot, there are some doubts as to his availability, since he'll be spending most of next season at a well-known university on the South coast.

OBITUARY

ALAN TOWE

Leicestershire lost one of its best-known personalities when Alan Towe collapsed and died whilst playing for his Belvoir Y.M.C.A. Club at Jones & Shipman, on October 14.

Alan had stepped in for a team-mate at the last moment and had just finished a game when he collapsed and died.

Alan was not one of the best players in the Leicester League but he was one of the keenest and most popular. He loved playing table tennis and was a player who really was not much worried whether he won or not. He had been secretary of the Belvoir Y.M.C.A. Club for ten years and successful years they were, with the club running six teams for the whole of this period. He also did a lot of coaching at the club and many youngsters have reason to be grateful for Alan's patience and advice during their early days.

A pen-holder grip player, Alan would never miss the chance to play and loved to talk about the game.

Hardly known outside Leicester (he was a Freeman of the City), Alan was a man of sincerity, a man with a warm personality, a man who would help anyone.

Many people in Leicester have lost a real friend with his passing.

PHILIP REID.

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TTN

DUNLOP HUMBERSIDE 3-STAR OPEN

NEALE IN DETERMINED MOOD

by Rea Balmford

Although this season's Humberside 3-Star Open, generously sponsored by the Humberside County Leisure Services Committee, represented by Chairman Terry Geraghty, and the Dunlop Sports Company, equally well represented by former international star Alan Hydes, was probably most noteworthy for the mediocrity of its finals, there was nevertheless much of interest for the table tennis enthusiast.

Top of the list in this World Championship season, was the obvious determination of Denis Neale to regain the No. 1 spot from which he has been missing for some two years, and his semi-final clash with current No. 1 and top seed Desmond Douglas, must be regarded as the set of the tournament.

The chunky Neale, showing much of the fast reaction and the ability to play sharply angled balls that was a hallmark of the days when he was the undisputed champion, sailed away with the first game, but when he trailed in the second one wondered whether he had shot his bolt and the younger Douglas was going to cash in with the next two.

Back came Neale, however, with all the old grit, only to go down at 21-23 and, when he again fell behind in the final game, he had it all to do again. Yet back he came again to square matters off and leap high with delight as he finally edged home at 19.

Having held off the challenge of arch rival Douglas, there was no stopping the Teessider now and, although he dropped the middle game at 19, he smashed aside the challenge of the rising Paul Day with single figure scores in the other two.

Day, who crushed an out-of-touch Nicky Jarvis in the other semi-final, figured in one of the other great moments of the tournament when he put an end to the capers of Duggie Johnson in the last eight.

Johnson, whose magnificent defensive capabilities must soon bring him to the selectors' notice, struggled through in three against David Constance (Cheshire) before going on to prise out fourth seed Jimmy Walker in his second outing to the table, and then despatched local boy and former international, Tony Clayton, in Round 4 before lining up against Day.

Here we had yet another set of cut and thrust, with every point disputed fiercely, before Day's superbly controlled top spin finally brought him victory at 22 in the third in a set which neither player deserved to lose.

Elsewhere, with the exception of Ian Horsham, who went out to the always dangerous John Hilton, the seeds came through as predicted, and it remains only to note good wins by Joe Kennedy over the higher ranked Keith Paxton—his second of the tournament—by Clayton over former Hull colleague, Jean Krier, from Luxembourg, and the prospect of an upset when Donald Parker took the first set off Neale in a Round 2 match.

Moving over to the distaff side, there were surprises a-plenty after the event had been thrown open by the withdrawal of the unfit Jill Hammersley, and here, too, we had a heroine who "did a Johnson".

June Williams, still in the junior ranks and not considered among the seniors, opened her programme with a win over Ormesby colleague, Angela Tierney, went on

to dismiss Karen Rogers in three long games to earn a semi-final crack at Linda Howard, who had taken over the top seeded position from Mrs. Hammersley.

This task would have daunted most, but the flame-haired Teessider tore into her illustrious rival to take the first at 14 and, although Linda recovered her composure somewhat in the second, it was too late and the final lay between June and Carole Knight, top of the pack at Ormesby.

Once again, however, the final failed to live up to expectations, the younger girl, who had looked so good in the earlier rounds, suddenly seizing up with Carole picking up the points at her leisure.

There was consolation for Miss Williams in the Women's Doubles where, partnering Linda Howard, she was on the winning side against Anita Stevenson/Susan Lisle, who had put out Carole Knight/Karen Rogers in the semi.

The Men's Doubles saw the singles winner team with semi-final victim Douglas to take the title in two single-figure games against Parker/Alan Hydes, who brought to an end the capers of Hilton/Phil Bowen, who had themselves shot out second-seeded Jarvis/Walker.

Other good results in this event were the victory of Ian Horsham/Bob Potton over the scratch pairing of Day/Nigel Eckersley and the defeat of Derbyshire youngsters David Yallop/Mike Vickers in three by Neale/Douglas.

Both Douglas and Linda Howard added a second title as they won the Mixed at the expense of Day/Angela Mitchell, who had made the last hurdle over the backs of the second seeds, Neale/Miss Knight.

With the juniors, Kennedy had the first of his wins over Paxton to clinch a final place which brought him up against No. 1 seed, Martin Shuttle, but, although he took the first game in the final, the England No. 1 came through comfortably enough in the end.

Karen Witt won the Girls', again in three, with Angela Mitchell, as expected, the runner-up, while in the Veteran event Derek Schofield, long a favourite on Humberside, was the winner over County colleague Peter D'Arcy.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

D. Douglas (Wa) bt J. Hilton (Ch) 10, 21.
D. Neale (Cv) bt M. Wielbass (Bk) 8, 18.
P. Day (Ca) bt D. Johnson (Wa) 15, -19, 22.
N. Jarvis (Cv) bt A. Hydes (Y) 12, 12.

Semi-finals

Neale bt Douglas 14, -21, 19.
Day bt Jarvis 13, 16.

Final

NEALE bt Day 6, -19, 7.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals

C. Knight (Cv) bt S. Hunt (Li) 8, 11.
M. Lüdi (Y) bt L. Hryszko (Y) 15, 19.
J. Williams (Cv) bt K. Rogers (Le) -13, 19, 19.
L. Howard (Sy) bt K. Witt (Bk) 13, 13.

Semi-finals

Knight bt Lüdi 14, 21.
Williams bt Howard 14, 22.

Final

KNIGHT bt Williams 10, 9.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Neale bt I. Horsham/R. Potton (E) 8, 5.
Hydes/D. Parker (La) bt P. Bowen (La)/Hilton 13, 18.

Final

DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Hydes/Parker 9, 9.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Howard/Williams bt Lüdi/A. Mitchell (Mi) 20, 11.
S. Lisle (Ch)/A. Stevenson (Le) bt C. Knight/K. Rogers -17, 24, 29.

Final

HOWARD/WILLIAMS bt Lisle/Stevenson -17, 11, 17.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Douglas/Howard bt J. Walker (Cv)/Witt 14, 16.

Day/Mitchell bt Neale/Knight 12, -15, 16.
Final

DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Day/Mitchell 11, 23.

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals

M. Shuttle (Sy) bt C. Rogers (Le) 14, 16.
D. Newman (E) bt D. Reeves (Bk) -20, 16, 18.
J. Kennedy (K) bt G. Sandley (Mi) 18, -11, 13.

K. Paxton (Du) bt I. Reed (Cu) 8, 14.

Semi-finals

Shuttle bt Newman 18, 9.
Kennedy bt Paxton 15, -14, 17.

Final

SHUTTLE bt Kennedy -14, 11, 11.

Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals

Witt bt Williams 19, -21, 15.
A. Tierney (Cv) bt C. Haworth (Y) 12, 16.
G. Smith (Cu) w.o. J. Skipp (Cv) scr.
Mitchell bt S. Jones (St) 15, -21, 12.

Semi-finals

Witt bt Tierney -12, 11, 14.
Mitchell bt Smith 13, 18.

Final

WITT bt Mitchell 18, -14, 15.

Veteran Singles—Semi-finals

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt T. Donlon (Ch) 13, 8.
D. Schofield (Ch) bt D. Marples (Dy) 13, 13.

Final

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 11, 11.

Stiga Equipment for 1977

World Championships

Stiga AB, of Tranas, Sweden, announced on August 6, that their table tennis equipment has been selected by the English Table Tennis Association for use at next year's World Table Tennis Championships being held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

This will be the second World Championship running for which Stiga AB have been the major equipment supplier. They provided the equipment for the last Championships which were held in Calcutta, India, in 1975.

For the Birmingham event, Stiga AB will be providing 40 of the "Expert VM" tables, four for use in the Centre Court Arena, 16 for the General Arena and 20 for the practice and training area. The company will also be supplying 40 "Clipper VM" net and posts sets and over 500 playing area surrounds.

Stiga AB now joins the Norwich Union Insurance, the main sponsors, in supporting this major project of the English Table Tennis Association in its Golden Jubilee year.

The 1976-77 season will also see major Stiga sponsorship at the Commonwealth Championship in Guernsey and the Stiga Welsh Open in Cardiff. Other International events, which will receive equipment support from Stiga include the Scandinavian Open and the European Table Tennis Union's "Super League" Championships.

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34TH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Press Conference Statements

**From: J. M. McDonnell Public Relations
Manager, Norwich Union Insurance.**

Four years ago we came into table tennis and have since financially helped the English Table Tennis Association to stage the two premier competitions in the Association's year, the Norwich Union English Championships and Norwich Union International Championships. Our contract with the English Table Tennis Association finished with the Norwich Union English Championships in April, 1976.

We have asked you here today to tell you of our continuing involvement in table tennis. We have agreed to three years further sponsorship in a package which will include all the major table tennis championships in England for the next three years, including the 34th World Table Tennis Championships, which will take place from 26th March to 5th April, 1977, at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. The Norwich Union involvement in the English and International Championships continues, therefore, until 1979.

In 1926 the first World Championships were held in London, with seven countries taking part, when, believe it or not, sponsorship was around, but of a different kind. The Championships were sponsored personally, at a cost of £300, by the Hon. Ivor Montagu. Seven countries in 1926—we hope to have more than 70 in 1977, where finances for the English Table Tennis Association in the region of £½ million will be involved.

We have enjoyed our four years in table tennis. We have come to know a lot of wonderful people. The very dedicated permanent officials all round the country who help to keep 9,000 clubs, a quarter of a million players, leagues and championships all thriving.

I am delighted that our new agreement extends to 1979 and that we can play our part in helping the development of table tennis after the World Championships.

NORWICH UNION INSURANCE

Founded in 1797, Norwich Union is one of the top half-dozen British insurance groups, with a world-wide staff of 10,000 and operations in over 60 countries. Thirty-six per cent of their premiums were earned abroad last year.

The parent company is the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, which is a "mutual" company—meaning that there are no shareholders, so that all profits revert to the policyholders.

The main subsidiary, Norwich Union Fire, specialises in fire, accident and marine insurance, and the group also includes Anglo-Portuguese Bank and Norwich General Trust, which provide banking services to industry and commerce. Total assets of the group are now over £1,250 million.

Norwich Union's first venture into sponsorship came in 1969, with their involve-

ment in show jumping events at the Royal International Horse Show and the Horse of the Year Show. These events (including the Puissance at the Horse of the Year Show), are still under Norwich Union sponsorship.

English table tennis has been sponsored by Norwich Union since 1973, when the English Closed and Open Championships became known as the Norwich Union English and the Norwich Union International Table Tennis Championships.

In 1974 and 1975 the Norwich Union sponsored a world open snooker championship in London.

IN REPLY . . .

**From: C. M. Wyles, O.B.E., Chairman of the
English Table Tennis Association.**

That financial support by commerce and industry is vital to the development of so many sports is so often quoted does not deter me from again referring to it. However, we of the English Table Tennis Association have never regarded sponsors as benefactors and have always looked on our agreements as "partnerships", in which mutual satisfaction is as important as the overall success of the sponsored event.

That our approach to sponsorship is correct is emphasised by the fact that a company of such prestige as Norwich Union Insurance—and one no doubt inundated with sponsorship proposals—should be pleased to enter into a second agreement with the English Table Tennis Association, which when it expires will show that company's continuous involvement with table

tennis for seven years. I am confident that we will at that stage overcome any "seven year itch" and go on to further the association between the two parties.

I would like to record our thanks to Mr. McDonnell for his company's continued support and thus their show of faith in our management abilities.

One of your esteemed colleagues, Frank Butler, referring to the 1977 World Championships which we will be staging, wrote:

"The Birmingham venture—which will take place from March 26th to April 5th, 1977—will be the biggest thing that has happened to table tennis."

I will go further. These championships will be the largest single-sport event held in this country and will attract the participation of far more countries than any other sporting occasion ever before held in England.

John McDonnell has referred to the first-ever World Championships held at the Memorial Hall in 1926 when the Hon. Ivor Montagu met the cost—some £300—from a legacy. Ivor is today the Life Vice-President of the English Table Tennis Association but, after careful thought, we decided that it would be wrong for him to have the opportunity of again sponsoring a World Championships and we turned to our friends from Norwich to help us meet the estimated cost of the ½ million pounds!

Although I see that the assets of Norwich Union Insurance now total over £1,250 million, we agreed on a smaller but nevertheless very substantial sum of over £50,000 for the three years sponsorship package.

Background notes on the arrangements of the World Championships are in the folder you have been given, but I would like to mention, with pleasure, two further points. We have been informed by the Sports Council that in the special year of 1977 we can incorporate the word "Jubilee" in the title of the events; 1977 will also see the 50th Anniversary of the English Table Tennis Association and of the International Table Tennis Federation. The second point is that table tennis will be featured in a set of stamps to be issued by the Post Office early in 1977.

These two points really do stress the importance of these Championships and the



John McDonnell, Public Relations Manager of the Norwich Union Insurance Group, hands over the sponsorship cheque to Michael Lawless, Director of the 34th World Table Tennis Championships. Looking on in the Norwich Union offices is Colin Page, Publicity Manager.

34TH WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by



Presented by the ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
at the
NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE
BICKENHILL, Near BIRMINGHAM

SATURDAY, MARCH 26th to TUESDAY, APRIL 5th, 1977

TEAM EVENTS—26th-30th March—Starting Time 9-00 a.m.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Saturday, March 26th—Opening Ceremony & Team Events | £2/£3 |
| Sunday, March 27th—Team Events - - - - - | £2/£3 |
| Monday, March 28th—Team Events - - - - - | £2/£3 |
| Tuesday, March 29th—Team Events Closing Stages - - | £4/£5 |
| Wed, March 30th—Team Events Closing Stages & Finals - | £4/£5 |
| Thursday, March 31st | NO PLAY |

Tickets

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS—1st-5th April

| | |
|---|-------|
| Friday, April 1st—Individual Events - - - - - | £2/£3 |
| Saturday, April 2nd—Individual Events - - - - - | £2/£3 |
| Sunday, April 3rd—Individual Events - - - - - | £2/£3 |
| Monday, April 4th—Individual Events, Closing Stages - - | £4/£5 |
| Tuesday, April 5th—Individual Events, Closing Stages & Finals | £4/£5 |

Each Ticket is a Day Ticket and covers all sessions on that particular day

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tive First Day Cover on January 12th, 1977, when table tennis will be one of the four racket sports to be featured on the first issue of postage stamps in the New Year.

At the time of writing it is not known which of the four denominations will be that to depict table tennis; as soon as this is announced full details of the cover services will be available from the Association's Honorary Treasurer, Mr. I. R. Crickmer, "Cypress Villa", 12 Cypress Street, Barbourne, Worcester, WR3 8AU.

European Superstars

by David Deller

The British heat of the European Superstars competition, presented by Trans World International, was staged at St. Ivo Recreation Centre, Cambridge, on June 3-4. The Superstars competition will be shown in several European countries and later this month on B.B.C.

Table tennis was included as one of the nine sports together with swimming, canoeing, weightlifting, gymnastics, pistol shooting, soccer, cycling and athletics. Our sport was featured on the first afternoon in the main sports hall with an audience of around 300.

A late lunch brought about by several hitches at the canoeing gave the competitors little time for practice and the first reaction being that most of the stars looked more at home in the other sports than T.T. Two new tables were used for the quarter-finals, each of just one game.

John Conteh, the World light-heavy-weight champion, and undoubtedly the crowd's choice, started proceedings with a 21-8 win over World speed skating champion, Pat Kleine, of Holland. Late replacement, skier Christian Neuretter, was then matched with Henry Dwilliard (World professional ski champion).

Both players arrived at the table with similar coloured shirts and the latter had to go through a workmanlike few minutes as he changed no fewer than five times before one was found suitable for the box. Neuretter won 21-12.

Following two skiers the third quarter matched Belgium football captain, Maurice Martens with Peter Shilton (Stoke and England), Shilton finding the net more times than he usually hopes his opponents would do and went out 13-21. Thomas Magnusson, Sweden's leading cross-country skier, then encountered Bernard Roussi, an Olympic Gold Medalist and the last of the eight stars.

The tall Swede proved too strong, gaining a 21-15 advantage. Conteh lost his bat somewhere during the quarters and semis and found no more success on the table with a replacement, bailing out on a 21-11 result. Magnusson then outplayed Martens, who had placed table tennis as his favourite pastime in the programme. One hopes that a 21-7 drubbing does not alter the mind.

Commentators David Vine and Ron Pickering were by now interviewing almost everybody, as were the commentators of the other televising countries. After some delay one table was positioned in the centre of the hall and Magnusson faced Neuretter, not, I might add, on skis. The former looked throughout the competition as the best of the players and with an array of various spin services, very few of which came back on his side of the table, he was able to collect the maximum points for the table tennis section. Certainly an unusual assortment of players but good entertainment.

Skills scheme and the Physical Education Association's campaign entitled "Tomorrow's People", which has just been launched in secondary schools throughout the country.

National Westminster has a personal interest in the World Table Tennis Championships for Linda Howard, No. 2 on the English women's team and co-holder of the European doubles title with Jill Hammersley, is employed at a branch in Guildford and her progress will be watched with keen interest.

TICKET SALES

The distribution of tickets ordered through Maurice Goldstein at 31 Blenheim Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13, will be undertaken at the end of November. The hold-up has been occasioned by adjustments to the seating plan and the consequent delayed submission of requirements to the Printers.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by David Lomas

The English Schools' Table Tennis Association is planning to issue a commemora-

World Championships Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association is confident that the presentation of the event will be worthy of the reputation that England has throughout the world for staging sporting occasions.

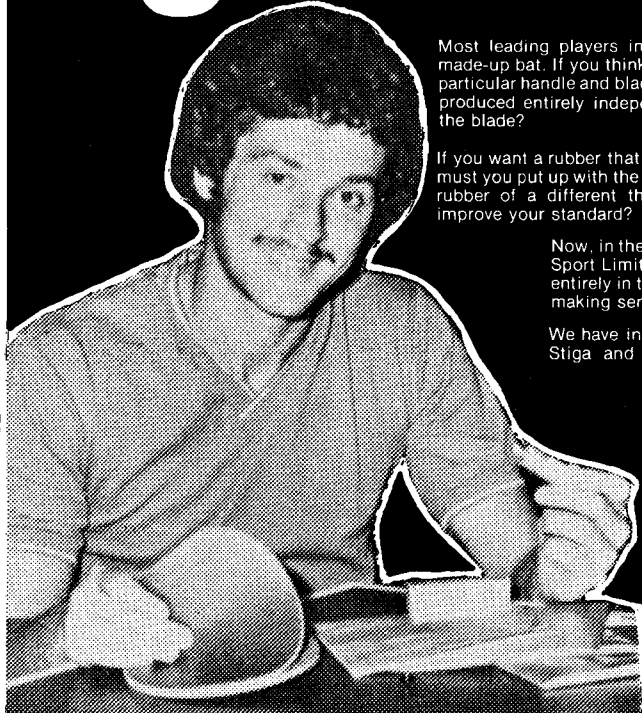
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK SUPPORT WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. Michael Lawless, Director of the 34th World Table Tennis Championships today announced finalisation of an agreement between the English Table Tennis Association and National Westminster Bank, for support of this major sporting event which will be held at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham from 26th March to 5th April next year.

Over 70 of the 120 associations affiliated to the International Table Tennis Federation are expected to compete in the championships.

For National Westminster Bank, the involvement in table tennis adds yet another dimension to their interest in active people. Apart from support of the arts, National Westminster Bank has sponsored a number of activities in the sports area; in 1973 it sponsored the publication of a Sports Coaches series of booklets covering 21 sports and more recently has sponsored golf, cricket, the Royal Life Saving Rescue

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If you need advice on your particular requirements, give us a ring and ask to speak to our experts, top coach Alan Ransome or World-ranked player Nicky Jarvis, who will give you the benefit of their extensive experience.

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CADET RANKINGS

NO CHANGE AT THE TOP

Both Colin Wilson (Hants) and Alison Gordon (Berks) retain their previous No. 1 position in the new Cadet ranking lists which read:—

Boys

- 1 C. Wilson (Ha) (1)
- 2 Graham Sandley (Mi) (2)
- 3 John Souter (Mi) (6)
- 4 Mark Oakley (Sy) (5)
- 5 Steven Young (Dy) (—)
- 6 Richard Bergemann (Ha) (7)
- 7 Bryon Johnson (Bk) (—)
- 8 Paul Rainford (La) (—)
- 9 Paul Whiting (Dv) (—)
- 10 Michael Owens (He) (—)
- 11 Kevin Satchell (Wo) (—)
- 12 Stephen Moore (Sx) (—)

Girls

- 1 A. Gordon (Bk) (1)
- 2 Mandy Reeves (Mi) (3)
- 3 Helen Robinson (Cv) (4)
- 4 Elaine Bolton (K) (6)
- 5 Helen Williams (Mi) (—)
- 6 Julie Dowsett (E) (—)
- 7 Pauline Townsend (Wi) (—)
- 8 Carol Butler (Dv) (—)
- 9 Lorraine Garbet (Sy) (10)
- 10 Shirley Cain (St) (—)

What's On this month & next

1976

- Nov. 12—Nissen Invitation Tournament (Sale, Cheshire)
13-14—Southend 2-Star Open (Rayleigh)
13-14—Woodfield Restricted Open (Wolverhampton)
20—County Championships (3)
21—Midland Counties 2-Star (Walsall)
21—Hastings Tiger 1-Star Open (Bexhill)
21—East of Scotland Open (Edinburgh)
27-28—Kent Junior Open (Folkestone)
28—Glasgow Open 2-Star
Dec 4—County Championships (4)
5—Middlesex U-15 (Edmonton, London)
11-12—Wayfarers English Junior Closed (Reading)
15—Sweden v England (European League)
18—Norwich Union International Invitation Tournament (Wigan)
19—Norwich Union Trophy (Wigan)
18-19—Yorkshire Junior 'Select' (Hull)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1976-77

Wayfarers English Junior Championships
Sat.-Sun., December 11-12, Meadway Sports Centre, The Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading. Closing date for entries November 15, 1976. Note: These championships include Cadet (U-14) singles events.

Norwich Union Internat. Championships
Thurs.-Sat., January 6-8, 1977, Thornaby Pavilion, Thornaby, Cleveland. Closing date for entries November 30, 1976.

Norwich Union English Championships
Thurs.-Sat., February 17-19, Woking Leisure Centre, Woking, Surrey. Closing date for entries January 10, 1977.

Worthing Junior Internat. Championships
Sat.-Sun., May 14-15, 1977, Worthing Sports Centre, Worthing, Sussex. Closing date for entries April 18, 1977.

World Championships
It is planned to stage a pre-qualifying competition open to all affiliated players for the four places (both men and women) to which England are entitled as host nation over and above the official team. This will be held on Sunday, January 9, 1977, at Thornaby, Cleveland, and entry forms will shortly be available from the E.T.T.A. office in Hastings.

CLWYD REPORT

By Roy Williams

TRIALS SHOCKS

The senior trials produced more than a few shocks and one or two regular county first choices have lost their places for the opening County Championship matches.

Of the ten players to participate Greg Powell, just out of the junior ranks, left one or two of the established players in his wake and at the end of the day came third in the overall ranking to take a first team place. All the players had thirteen sets in a matter of ten hours and one or two found the pace a little too hot. Perhaps a fitter squad will produce better results for the County.

Charlie Potts won twelve losing his last encounter to John Hook who despite a topsy-turvy performance finished second. Keith Fitzsimmons did well to come in fourth.

Alun Williams, Mark Thomas and Mark Byles came out top for the boys in an earlier trial whilst Sandra Bennett claimed top spot for the girls.

Welsh international Julie Ralphs heads the women, closely followed by Sheila Rogers and Nalda Holden.

The veterans did not hold a trial, the ranking being similar to last season.

Dave Murray has the squad training in full swing and we hope that results will follow in the not too distant future. Dave also has his beginners class every weekend and this should provide an influx of new talent. In the league coaching programme K. Fitzsimmons and Cyril Conway (East Flint), Jim Bowden and Stan Davies (Wrexham), Graham Gibbins and Max Shone (Llandudno) and Don Hobbs (Anglesey) with Dave Murray in charge of the Rhyl league scheme means that at long last North Wales have a full programme going on at the same time.

The County Supporters' Club has had a successful start but, of course, many people who will benefit from the club have yet to join. A new venture has been to sell bags with the name of the county printed on them and this should provide a small profit towards the funds. Noel Ralphs holds a jumble sale in aid of funds at Caergwle in November, so take along your jumble and buy something to make your visit complete.

We in the North have been promised an international match in the new year. No venue has yet been fixed but it is expected that a central point, for example Rhyl, would be ideal.

All the leagues are in full swing but the only real news on this front is that, at last, Rhyl have forsaken the four-a-side and now play three-a-side with every other league in North Wales.

Hopes that the North Wales Open would be restarted again this season are now slim. Perhaps next year?

The county rankings are as follows:

- MEN:**
1. C. Potts (EF)
 2. J. Hook (R)
 3. G. Powell (R)
 4. K. Fitzsimmons (EF)
 5. G. Wilson (EF)
 6. R. Lloyd (EF)
 7. G. Jones (R)
 8. M. Bolshaw (R)
 9. S. Strange (R)
 10. A. Roberts (LI)

- WOMEN:**
1. J. Ralphs (EF)
 2. S. Rogers (W)
 3. B. Williams (R)
 4. N. Holden (EF)
 5. M. Cartwright (W)
 6. D. Jones (EF)
 7. S. Bennett (EF)
 8. J. Parry (EF)
 9. J. Jones (W)

10. P. Oakes (R)
- BOYS:**
1. A. Williams (R)
 2. M. Thomas (R)
 3. M. Byles (EF)
 4. G. Gibbons (LI)
 5. C. Powell (EF)
 6. P. Stanley (EF)
 7. M. Kane (R)
 8. R. Gittens (EF)
 9. S. Conway (EF)
 10. D. Butterworth (LI)

- GIRLS:**
1. S. Bennett (EF)
 2. J. Parry (EF)
 3. C. Williams (R)
 4. S. Powell (R)
 5. D. Hewitt (EF)
 6. S. Ralphs (EF)

- VETERAN MEN:**
1. D. Hobbs (A)
 2. R. Williams (R)
 3. J. Bishton (W)
 4. V. Ralls (W)
 5. H. Brannick (W)
 6. W. Nield (EF)
 7. N. Tyson (EF)
 8. L. Stanley (EF)
 9. D. N. Hughes (EF)
 10. M. J. Hook (R)

- VETERAN WOMEN:**
1. S. Rogers (W)
 2. B. Williams (R)
 3. C. Simpson (EF)
 4. P. Halsall (R)

Key: A—Anglesey; EF—East Flint; LI—Llandudno; R—Rhyl; W—Wrexham.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

SOUND START

Lincolnshire I made a sound start to the season in their 3rd Division North Junior match, winning 6-4 against Cumbria II. For Lincolnshire the girls maintained last year's good form by sweeping the board, through Suzanne Hunt (Grant-ham) and Cheryl Buttery (Lincoln). Cheryl, playing her first singles set for the County beat M. McPortland 10, 12. The boys had some close games with Stuart Barr (Grimsby) beating M. Wallace 20, -16, 19 and Martin Norman (Louth) winning 19, 21 against Andrew Pauchul. The Boys' Doubles was also extremely close with Lincs again successful through Barr and Stephen Barnes (Scunthorpe).

Following the County Junior Trials held during September the first Junior Ranking List of the season was issued as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| BOYS: | GIRLS: |
| S. Barr (Grimsby) | S. Hunt (Grantham) |
| S. Barnes (Scunthorpe) | C. Buttery (Lincoln) |
| M. Norman (Louth) | G. Galloway (Lincoln) |
| M. Bradford (Stamford) | S. Radley (Lincoln) |
| D. Johnson (Lincoln) | C. Exton (Grantham) |
| K. Worth (Grimsby) | D. Brown (Louth) |
| D. Skerratt (Scunthorpe) | |
| J. Chesworth (Lincoln) | |
| R. Duke (Lincoln) | |

Entry forms for the Lincolnshire Junior Open to be held at the North Kesteven Sports Centre, North Hykeham, Lincoln on Sunday, 2nd January, 1977, are now available from the Organising Secretary, Mrs. Joan Robinson, 13 Croppers Way, Freiston, Boston, Lincs. Tel. Butterwick 267.

In the first of the local County League matches, in the Haigh Cup, Louth (M. Sheader, M. Green, P. Geeson) making a welcome return after two years' absence, made a 5-5 draw with Gainsborough (F. Otter, N. Slater, B. Edlington). Matt Sheader after many years as a Grimsby stalwart has changed his allegiance to Louth and celebrated with a maximum, including a close win over Brian Edlington—19, 19, 18. Grimsby (P. Taylor, S. Morley, M. Newbould) opened their account with an easy 10-0 win against Stamford (Spittlehouse, Bradford, Lawson), with only one set needing a decider.

In the Butcher Cup, Louth (M. Norman, M. Emmerson, P. Emmerson) and Gainsborough (N. Parr, N. Lambert, R. Elsham) emulated their senior teams with a 5-5 score. Louth gave a first outing to Paul and Marcus Emmerson, Paul won two sets and although Marcus did not win any, at 13 he showed a lot of promise and could be one for the future. Boston (S. Hill, G. Lacey, K. Popple) entertained Skegness (C. Gardner, T. Matthews, P. Parr) and won 8-2, with Lacey and Popple winning 3 each and Hill 2. Fielding a lot younger team than usual Boston were fully justified with this fine win.

It has just been learned that Lincolnshire will be without Beryl Voss for the season, as she will be making an addition to the Voss household, we all wish her well.

Congratulations to Cheryl Buttery who has forced her way into the National Junior Ranking for the first time.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by Leslie Constable

DISASTROUS START

After being relegated from the Premier Division, Cambs Juniors made a disastrous start to the new season in Div. 2 (Midland) by losing 0-10 to Staffordshire. The Cambridgeshire team of Andrew Hubble, Stuart Calbert, (both Wisbech), Andy Withers (Haverhill), Joanne Palmer (Ely), and Rachel Norris (Haverhill) found the opposition too strong but hopefully will improve as the season goes on. The squad who lifted this team from the obscurity of the Eastern Regional Division to the Premier are now all over age and these fresh juniors must try and establish themselves.

After only two weeks play in the *Cambridge League*, we had the rare situation in Div. 3a of no team having gained two wins. Such is the equality that of the ten matches played there were four draws and five results of 6-4. It is interesting to note that five teams all had three points and identical sets averages of 11-9. The remaining divisions ran true to form with no real shock results. Div. 1 champions, Soham, had wins over New Chesterton Institute II (6-4) and Soham II (8-2). Guildhall also notched their second win with a narrow 6-4 verdict over Telephones II, with three wins from Albert Jackson.

On his return to the game after a lapse of two years, former County champion Tony Littlechild had to be satisfied with only one win in the drawn game between University Press and Telephones I. He lost to both Bob Pettit and Martin Murden, the latter gaining a narrow win 21, -26, 20! Relegated Y.M.C.A. II beat Melbourn I 10-0 to take an early lead in Div. II, but all thoughts of an early return to Div. I must be put aside until they meet sterner opposition. If they do so, it will be their fifth consecutive championship.

Wisbech started their challenge for the *East Anglian League* Div. 2 title when they visited Bury St. Edmunds and beat them 6-4. Cyril Halstead, Arthur Rudd and Joyce Hunter all scored maximums, with excellent support from Stuart Calvert.

Their Juniors met with less favourable results, both the "A" and "B" teams losing to Norwich "A" and "B" teams by 8-2 margins. Young James Frost scored both Wisbech wins for the "B" team.

In the *Wisbech League*, Wisbech Institute are hot favourites to regain the title, although the early leaders are newly-elected Bury Cars, with two wins and a draw in their first three matches. The quartet of Malcolm Garford, Dave Hodgson, Steve Catterby and Bert Quick look like ensuring Smedleys H.P. make a speedy return to Div. I.

In their first match in the *South East Midlands League*, Cambridge (last season's champions) were held to a draw by North Herts at Cambridge Y.M.C.A. For Cambridge, Albert Jackson had three wins, with Ron Nunn and Ken Green scoring the other two victories.

Six years ago Ivor Newman crashed his motor

cycle and was paralysed from the waist down. Eight months later he was released from hospital, confined to a wheelchair, and faced with the prospect of a life without table tennis, a sport he loved. Last year, however, he won his firm's table tennis cup, a unique distinction, and now he regularly plays for them in the Cambridge League. In his first match this season he won all his three sets for L.P.A. (Saffron Walden), against Wesley IV, and so enabled his team to win the match 6-4. I witnessed some of the play and was amazed at the adaptability of this player, especially with his forehand smashes.

In the not too distant future players in the Cams League — and maybe other Leagues — will be seeing ten-year-old Mandy Judd in action. At the moment she is making many people sit up and take notice at Impington Village College, where her father, Brian Judd, is a member of the Impington team, and who predicts a great future for his daughter.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

GREAT TRIUMPH

Chris Reed scored a great triumph for himself and his home county by winning the boys' singles title at the Cumbria 2-Star Open with a well deserved final success over Liverpool's Tony O'Connor.

Favourite Keith Paxton was unable to play on the day and O'Connor stepped in to take over the place of the No. 1 seed, Chris, seeded No. 3, had the tougher road to the final and had to overcome No. 2 seed Kevin Beadley in the semis, this he did with scores of 20 and 17. The final proved to be a rather one-sided affair with O'Connor struggling to find his form and Chris emerged a comfortable winner.

Other Cumbrians to shine at the tournament were Chris's Millom School colleagues Gail and Neil Smith. Gail, the county's top girl, reached the semis of the girls' singles, where she went out to June Williams, and teamed up with her brother Neil to reach the semis of the mixed where they lost to the eventual winners Carol Knight and Jimmy Walker.

The overall success of the tournament could not have been envisaged by anyone who arrived on time at 9.30 a.m., for there was nothing to greet the players but the vast open space of Carlisle's Market Hall. Thankfully the tables, nets, surrounds etc., arrived at about 9.45 a.m. and it was a case of many hands making light work to enable play to begin at 10 a.m.

Representatives of our generous sponsors: Wm. Coulthard & Co. Ltd., of Carlisle, Carlisle United Supporters Club, and John Roper Ltd., and Joseph Pirt & Co. of Workington presented the prize money after each final. Sponsorship of this kind certainly eases many of the costs of staging such a tournament and on behalf of the Cumbria TTA I send my wholehearted thanks to those concerned.

Congratulations are also due to Chris Reed on his No. 12 England Junior ranking and also to Neil Smith on his inclusion in the 'A' Group. Chris already has two 'scalps' to his credit following that success in the 'Open', not to mention those gained at the actual England trials.

The county's two junior teams began their CTC programmes with mixed fortunes and while the first team got off to a good start with a 10-0 win over Northumberland at Newcastle, the second team went down 4-6 to Lincolnshire in Div. 3 North.

The first team of Chris and Ian Reed, Neil and Gail Smith and Mirande Gray were never really extended, no set going to a deciding game. Diccon Gray was outstanding in his singles for the 2nd team and his two wins plus one each for Matthew Wallace and Andrew Pachul made up their complement of wins.

They could count themselves unlucky not to have gained at least a point from the match after the three closest sets all went to the visitors. The sets in question were the opening one in which Matthew, on his debut, lost —20, 16, —19

to the Lincs No. 1, Stewart Barr; the third when Andrew lost —19, —23 to No. 3 Martin Norman; and the boys doubles when Diccon and Matthew lost 14, —18, —19.

Our girls, Elaine Mathie and Mary McPortland put up a great show against the England-ranked opposition Suzanne Hunt (8) and Cheryl Buttery (18), Elaine only going down —17, 19, —16 to Miss Hunt.

A notable performance from Barrow's Mike Jackson in their Lancs and Ches League Div. 2 North match away to Bolton saw Mike gain his side's only two successes with wins over Nigel Hallows and Stephen Cowley — earlier conqueror of Des Douglas in the North of England Open.

His form did not hold out for their next match against Manchester 'A' and in a 5-5 draw Mike was without a win, but had the chance to make it 6 for a strengthened Barrow team after leading Mark Hankey by a game and 20-14 in the second only to lose that one 20-22 and the decider as well.

Chris Reed was outstanding for the Barrow team with three singles and the doubles with Neil Smith who took the other set for the home side. Peter D'Arcy and Hankey won two each and Ross McFarlane the other for Manchester.

Barrow's junior team of the Reed brothers and Neil Smith have their best ever chance in this season's Carter Cup and the team should go a long way in the competition with every chance of actually winning it. Their first match will be against the Carlisle league which should be something of a formality.

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

NEW CHAIRMAN

At the AGM of the Association, Don Rattue, of Exeter was elected Chairman in succession to Tony Hill. Don, already a Vice-President, has been an enthusiastic supporter of Devon table tennis for many years and the honour of Chairman is one he richly deserves. I am sure we will all benefit by his wise counsel and that our Association will flourish under his guidance.

More new faces taking their share of the administrative burdens are Roy Gritton, from Plymouth who has relieved me as Match Secretary and Frank Hatton, also of Plymouth, who is the new Coaching Officer. I am pleased that the powerful Plymouth league are taking a bigger part in Association affairs and we shall certainly benefit by it. The enthusiasm of Roy and Frank is already evident which augurs well for the future. Frank has also been appointed Chairman of Area Panel 5 and we wish him well in this very responsible position. We are very lucky to obtain the services of Stan Ford, of Ilfracombe who is a highly qualified Tournament Referee and I am sure he will be a worthy successor to the late and much respected Bill Spry.

Old friends continuing in office are popular President, Mrs. Frances Jarvis; Treasurer, Wilf Gorman and Minutes Secretary, Valerie Addicott. Paddy Shephard is doing yeoman work as the organiser of the '50' Club which brings in much needed funds. Paddy's arm stretches far and wide and we can claim members from other neighbouring counties.

The best news to come from Devon in many years is that former England International Pam Mortimer is playing again. Pam, who was given only a short time to live less than two years ago has made a remarkable recovery. Pam's fighting spirit and determination, so often evident when playing table tennis, was a great asset to her during her illness and we are delighted for her and her family that she is now much better. Her enthusiasm for table tennis has never wavered and she is playing again in her local league, and, if I know Pam, will soon be fighting for a place in the County team.

Sad news is that Barry Davis, of Plymouth, has decided to call it a day wearing a County shirt. Barry has been a superb team member for many years and has always given his best. His sportsmanship has been outstanding and I

am sure he will be missed by all opponents he met in 2nd West. I understand Barry will continue to play for his club in the Plymouth league, but most of his spare time now will be devoted to youth work, a very noble occupation. My own view is that he has retired too early but I take this opportunity of thanking him for his services to Devon and wish him well for the future.

Good to see Elaine Lamb back in the No. 10 spot in the Junior ranking lists. She has made a good start to the season with successes at Bournemouth and Newbury and as this is her last season as a junior I am sure she will do all she can to keep her place in the rankings. Congratulations also to Paul Whiting for his selection for the England Schools' team against Scotland. Paul is just one of the many youngsters being brought on by the excellent Plymouth coaches and we have high hopes for his future in the game.

Our County teams started well. The Seniors beat Avon 7-3 with Mike Rattue, Keith James, Paul Stone, Kathy Rowe and Susan Tilley all playing well. This was the first senior game for Susan in contrast to Mike Rattue's 50th appearance for Devon. Our Juniors had a long weekend away against Sussex and Kent and were happy to come home with two great wins, 6-4 against Sussex and 8-2 at Kent. This was a good start for the youngsters after gaining promotion last season.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

NO CELEBRATION

Leicestershire's first-ever Premier Division match gave the hunting shire little cause for celebration, losing 2-7 to Cheshire at Birkenhead. Paul Randell had a win over Nigel Eckersley in the opening set and later combined with Anita Stevenson to win the Mixed. Perhaps the best set of all was that between Susan Lisle and Anita Stevenson which the Cheshire girl won by the closest of margins. Quite clearly Leicestershire will need to fight all the way if they are to retain their hard-earned Premier Division status, but fight they will.

The Junior side had a convincing 9-1 victory over Suffolk against a sporting but not very strong Suffolk side. The East Anglian team lack experience but could become a force to reckon with.

Leicester recorded a good win over Nottingham in the Midland League 1st Division and should not really have much trouble in staying up this season. The 2nd and 3rd teams, though, have both got off to a disappointing start.

Calamity in the Leicester League first division! Last season's undefeated champions, Loughborough came unstuck in their third match when they were beaten by Barwell Liberals by eight sets to two. Recent rains had effected the floor and conditions deteriorated as the match went on. The last three sets in fact were not played but the League Committee decided that play had gone on far too long for there to be any possibility of a replay.

Those Leicestershire players not able to travel to the Birmingham Exhibition need have no worries. Apart from the TV coverage, Mike Holt will be covering the Championships for Radio Leicester. Mike, besides being an energetic secretary of the very strong Hinckley League, is also announcer at Leicester Speedway.

The Town and Country Building Society have again sponsored both the County Premier Division team and the County Closed Championships. This sponsorship, negotiated by Ian McKelvey, has certainly eased the pressure on the county's finances.

The Leicestershire Towns League matches were all played on one day before the start of the season and proved a huge success. Hinckley retained the Inter-Towns Trophy but the hero was the undefeated Chris Rogers who beat the whole of the Hinckley team consisting Paul Randell, Maurice Newman and John Illife. Not many people in the Midlands do that these days!

EGYPTIAN SEMINAR

by Alan Hydes

The first seminar for Table Tennis Coaches from African and Middle Eastern countries took place in Alexandria during late summer.

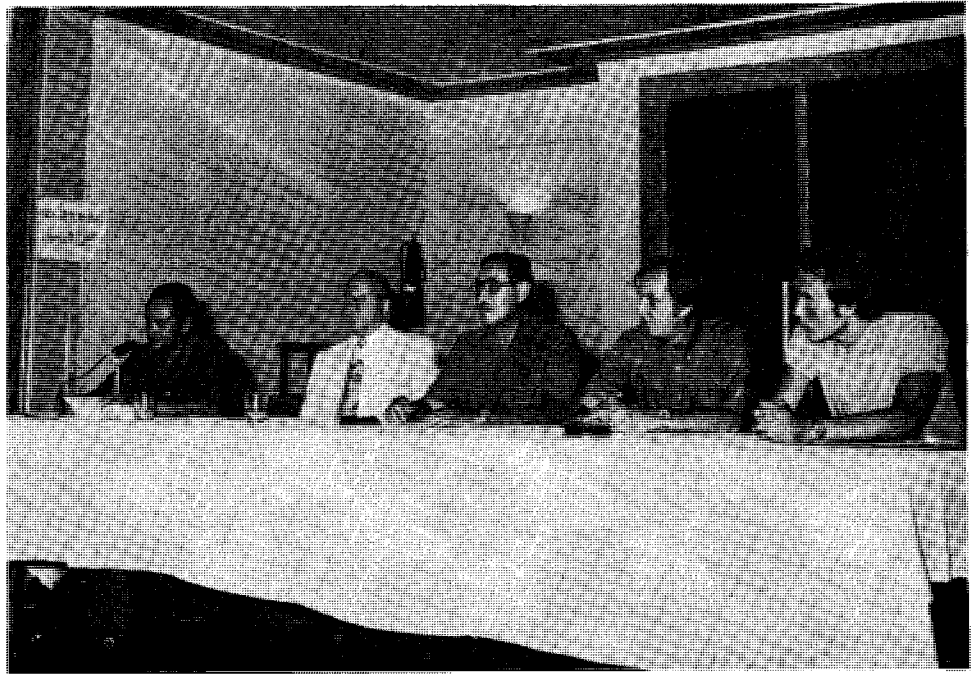
The International Table Tennis Federation were the organisers and I was charged with the responsibility to create a programme suitable for the 30 delegates in attendance.

Mr. Roy Evans, President I.T.T.F., Hans Giesecke, I.T.T.F. Rules Committee—he ran an umpire seminar concurrently with my own for coaches—and I were met in Egypt by Mr. Abou Heif, the Egyptian Table Tennis President.

In the course of the seminar detailed discussion took place on the development of a pupil from three stages—beginner, intermediate, through to advance stroke play. I lectured on strategy combined with the development of a pupil's natural characteristics.

Due to many of the coaching delegates being unable to understand the English language, I used an interpreter, who proved a valuable asset. I must say that my coaches impressed me with their open and genuine sincerity with which they approached the seminar. They were prepared to work and craved for knowledge of the game in Asia and Europe.

The coaching films I showed were popular, as in this part of the world there are no films on Table Tennis coaching. The course was, I believe, a success in propagating Table Tennis to coaches in this part of the world. Mr. Roy Evans and I had many discussions during the seminar. I think it



A white-jacketed Roy Evans sits to the right of Amin Abou Heif to whose left is Hans Giesecke, of Federal Germany, and Alan Hydes.

worth mentioning to those in any doubt that the President has a total commitment to the I.T.T.F. and sets a pace of life difficult to follow. I must say it was a pleasure to be invited to take on this task and would like to thank my Company, Dunlop Sports Company, in particular David Sealey, for the consideration in allowing me time off from my business commitments.

ALAN HYDES

English table tennis star, Alan Hydes, is product manager for the game with Dunlop Sports Company. Having studied for ten

months in China and Japan as a result of winning the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Award, and gained practical experience in New Zealand as National Coach, his expertise proved invaluable to those attending the conference.

Alan Hyde's competitive career spans 12 years from the time he played in the local boys' club league in his home town, Barnsley. Since then he has played for Yorkshire and England and has competed all round the world in over 100 international matches. He was the English Men's Doubles Champion four times and, on another occasion, the Mixed Doubles Champion.

After the Table Tennis Conference in Egypt Alan toured several Dunlop Sports Company export markets in the Middle East.

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EUROPEAN LEAGUE

England lose to Russia

England crashed to their third successive defeat in the European League Super Division when they lost 7-0 to Russia at The Corn Exchange, Ipswich, on Wednesday, November 3rd, 1976.

England's four players, Denis Neale, Nicky Jarvis, Paul Day and Jill Hammersley, fought hard but the Russians were always in command.

This defeat makes England's chances of avoiding relegation slim indeed, especially as the next match is away to Sweden on December 15th. Scores:—

D. Neale lost to A. Strokotov 17-21, 18-21.

N. Jarvis lost to S. Sarkhojan 19-21, 19-21.

Mrs. J. Hammersley lost to Miss Z. Rudnova 21-19, 10-21, 19-21.

Jarvis/P. Day lost to Strokotov/Sarkhojan 19-21, 14-21.

Neale/Mrs. Hammersley lost to Sarkhojan/Miss E. Antonian 18-21, 13-21.

Neale lost to Sarkhojan 18-21, 15-21.

Jarvis lost to Strokotov 12-21, 16-21.

CLARIFICATION

I wonder if you would be kind enough to clarify a point for me. Several people have noticed that quite a wide range of T.T. bats are now being advertised with 2.5 mm thickness. Is this the combined sponge and rubber measurement? For if it refers to just sponge or just rubber, surely it contravenes the bat regulations unless, of course, these have been altered since 2 mm was the maximum thickness as far as I was aware.

Another point of recent contention has concerned the Expedite rule. In a recent game in which one end took 33 minutes! the general opinion amongst the players seemed to be that Expedite Rule could only be applied if both players had been notified by the Umpire prior to the start of the set that Expedite would be applied if necessary. I understood that the "Expedite" was just like any other rule, e.g., volley, service, etc., and would be applied as and when necessary. Could you please resolve this for me.

LESLIE P. M. SLEIGHT.

**Brockhurst,
Fridaybridge Road,
Elm, Wisbech,
Cams.**

Colin Clemett, Secretary of the National Umpires' and Referees' Committee, replies:

I am fairly sure that the advertisements to which Mr. Sleight refers are for bats covered with sandwich rubber of one type or another, as most are nowadays. If so, the permitted thickness is up to 4 mm and these bats are well within the limit. The 2mm limit applies only to what used to be known as "ordinary, plain, pimped rubber", which now seems to be the exception rather than the rule for bat coverings.

Mr. Sleight is perfectly correct in his

understanding of the Expedite Rule. It is an I.T.T.F. law and, as the E.T.T.A. plays under these laws, it is to be applied to any match. I think the confusion arises from the fact that, originally, this Rule was compulsory only for certain international events and, at other events, the organisers could decide whether or not it would be applied. However, this situation changed in 1967 and the Expedite Rule became part of the laws.

New Rankings

NEALE TAKES TOP SPOT

Denis Neale, the most experienced English player with nearly 250 caps, again takes over the No. 1 position in the revised ranking lists issued by the National Selection Committee on October 29. Neale (32) replaces Desmond Douglas.

For Douglas this was a disappointment coming on top of his non-selection for the European League match against Russia on November 4. The move from No. 5 to No. 3 by Paul Day underlines this youngster's determination to be among the leading contenders for the English team in the World Championships at Birmingham, while another of England's hopes for the future, Dougie Johnson, continues to show improvement by coming into the list at No. 10.

European, Commonwealth and English champion, Jill Hammersley, continues to reign supreme in the women's section, while battle for the No. 2 spot between Linda Howard and Carole Knight continues. For the moment Carole takes precedence.

The surprise name in the list is June Williams, a 17-year-old red-head from Cleveland, in for the first time at No. 6. The selectors, in placing this No. 5 junior in the senior list, were obviously influenced by her performance in the Dunlop Humber-

side tournament when she beat Linda Howard (No. 3), Karen Rogers (No. 9), Angela Mitchell (No. 11) and Angela Tierney (No. 12).

Full lists, with previous positions in brackets reads:—

Men

- 1 Denis Neale (Cv) (3)
- 2 Desmond Douglas (Wa) (1)
- 3 Paul Day (Ca) (5)
- 4 Nicky Jarvis (Cv) (2)
- 5 Jimmy Walker (Cv) (4)
- 6 Donald Parker (La) (10)
- 7 Andrew Barden (Mi) (6)
- 8 John Hilton (Ch) (9)
- 9 Ian Horsham (E) (8)
- 10 Douglas Johnson (Wa) (—)
- 11 Tony Clayton (Y) (11)
- 12 Nigel Eckersley (Ch) (14)
- 13 Chris Sewell (Av) (20)
- 14 Robert Potton (E) (12)
- 15 John Kitchener (Sk) (16)
- 16 Mark Mitchell (Mi) (13)
- 17 Martin Shuttle (Sy) (18)
- 18 David Brown (E) (15)

Women

- 1 Jill Hammersley (Bu) (1)
- 2 Carole Knight (Cv) (3)
- 3 Linda Howard (Sy) (2)
- 4 Susan Lisle (Ch) (4)
- 5 Shelagh Hession (E) (5)
- 6 June Williams (Cv) (—)
- 7 Melody Lüdi (Y) (9)
- 8 Karen Witt (Bk) (8)
- 9 Karen Rogers (Le) (6)
- 10 Anita Stevenson (Le) (7)
- 11 Angela Mitchell (Mi) (11)
- 12 Angela Tierney (Cv) (12)
- 13 Suzanne Hunt (Li) (—)
- 14 Diane Johnson (Ch) (—)

In the men's list Alan Hydes (Y) was not considered for ranking.

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HIGH STANDARDS IN THE 'NEWS OF THE WORLD' COACHING SCHEME

John Souter, of Neasden, North West London, and Helen Williams, of Enfield—both 12-year-olds—are the "News of the World" "Boy and Girl of the Year".

They were selected as the best of 16 finalists, and so best of the many thousands of Under-18's who took part in the 22nd annual scheme at Butlin's holiday camps

throughout the summer. They received their prizes from Charles Wyles, Chairman of the E.T.T.A., at Butlin's Minehead Camp on September 25.

John and Helen are the youngest ever champions of the Scheme, and, according to Johnny Leach, the director of coaching, and European champion Jill Hammersley,

the chief judge, they rank alongside the most exciting of the discoveries—one of which was Jill herself (back in 1966).

"Like Jill, I shall be most surprised if they don't reach the top world class", says Johnny Leach.

John Souter's success was the more remarkable since he was obliged to compete in the finals with a broken arm, the result of a football injury suffered only four days beforehand. "My arm hurt a bit, but I was determined to take part and win", said John.

Despite his handicap, John was the unanimous choice of all four judges—Jill Hammersley, Alan Hydes, Suzanne Kavelerliou and Paul Beck. Runners-up to him were 14-years-old David McIlroy, of Glasgow, and 15-years-old Malcolm Green, of Shrewsbury, who were within two points of each other.

Helen Williams had a much closer battle in the girls' section, with 15-years-old Mandy Wallis, of Wellingborough, Northants, narrowly missing out for the second year in succession. Thirteen-years-old Janet Deakin, of Warrington, Cheshire, was third.

The system of judging is unique in that no matches are played throughout the competition. Competitors are awarded marks at coaching sessions for ball control, stroke production and general promise. And results over 22 years prove that this is the most effective method of discovering future champions.

Winners of the Pupil Partners' Challenge Cup were Butlin's Minehead Camp represented by Malcolm Green and Helen Williams. In the final Malcolm and Helen defeated David Clegg and Joanne Palmer (Butlin's Filey Camp) by 21-18, 21-13. This popular event was very strongly contested, and the standard of doubles play has seldom been higher. David Green (14) is a member of the Stanley Square Club, Stalybridge, and Joanne Palmer (15), is a member of the Soham Club, near Newmarket.



"News of the World" "Boy and Girl of the Year", John Souter (12) of Brentfield Road, Neasden, and Helen Williams (12) of Padstow Road, Enfield, with Charles Wyles, Chairman of the E.T.T.A., Jill Hammersley and Johnny Leach.



The boy with the golden arm, John Souter, and Helen Williams.

Photos by courtesy of "Butlin News".

SELECT TOURNAMENTS

by ALAN RANSOME

The "Select" system has been criticised in recent months due to its apparent lack of success. There is nothing wrong with the select system. It is ideal for our requirements, just as the 3-Star system is right for the Senior tournaments.

The problems in recent months that have led to the criticism of "select" tournaments, have been caused not by a bad system, but by unco-operative players and poor organisation.

The Cleveland Select in September proved the value of the system in providing Junior international experience, not just for the players chosen to represent England, but for many other youngsters who entered as well. Virtually all the top juniors in England entered, plus the Scots. The tournament ran exactly to time throughout the weekend and playing conditions and auxiliary facilities at Thornaby Pavilion were good.

There is nothing difficult about running a successful "select". The key is to obtain a venue with good facilities and not try to do too much in the way of events or too many entries. The time schedule operated on 20 minute sets gives the organiser the breathing space he requires. The "select" tournament run on a 15-minute schedule with four players in a preliminary group is paramount to suicide. We now have the co-operation of the players, all that is required to make a select system work is to get the organisation right.

3rd Asian Championships

HIGH AND LOW AT PYONGYANG

by BOMI AMALSADVALA, of India

The conduct of important global championships are now very systematic and well-organised affairs. They are especially so in countries where sporting events are fully backed by Government. So it was at Pyongyang, North Korea, the city of many rivers, where the 3rd Asian T.T. Union Championships, held biennially, got under way at the hands of their Vice-President, Mr. Kang Ryang, with usual fanfare.

The 31 Asian teams, including the World Champions, China, followed by their formidable opponents, Japan, host N. Korea and India, in their new track suits, smartly marched past the rostrum at the Morang-bong Stadium, where 16 tables were lined up on well-polished, wooden flooring. It was a very picturesque sight to watch the 450 participants being greeted warmly by the 5,000 cheering and clapping spectators seated around the well-decorated walls of the huge stadium fluttering with multi-coloured posters and women escorts holding bunches of flowers, dancing to the strains of the "A.T.T.U." song played by an impressive band.

Indeed, the loudest applause was reserved for their current world women's champion, Pak Yung Sun, when the entire stadium rose to give her a standing ovation. Equally significant was the continuous cheering to the Syrian Arab Republic team when they entered the stadium carrying a huge portrait of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the leader of their country.

The best item of the opening ceremony was a classic display of gymnastics performed by the schoolchildren of Pyongyang whose physical fitness had to be seen to be believed and whose great enthusiasm for the game could be vividly seen around the city, which was fully decorated with welcome arches and floats symbolic of the championships.

Opening sessions of the championships featured the men's and women's team events where eight groups of four teams fought out the preliminary matches, leading to a final group of eight. In the final play-off matches China and Japan's men exerted their superiority when they defeated their other six opponents with ease.

China then proved beyond doubt their world superiority when they outclassed Japan 5-1 with only Takashima, the classic defensive player, putting up a notable show of resistance against the all-conquering Chinese team comprising Liang Ko-liang, Li Chen-shih and their national champion, Kuo Yao-hua. The latter's meeting with Takashima was the best of the team events.

The hosts, North Korea, had to content themselves with a bronze medal as they lost to China 3-5 although leading 3-0 at one stage, and to Japan 1-5. Indonesia stood fourth, N. Vietnam fifth, Malaysia sixth, India seventh and Hong Kong eighth in the final placings.

In the women's event, in a three-cornered fight, China and N. Korea entered the finals beating Japan 3-0 and 3-2 respectively. Although the Japanese women's team lost to N. Korea, they played superbly in this encounter which was the best women's match of the competition. Then the host nation put all their resources together and backed by loudly cheering spectators, defeated China, the World Champions, 3-1 to claim the gold medal and the honour of being the best Asian women's team for the next two years.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Shifting the spotlight to the individual events, the placing of the top 16 men left much to be desired. How could four world-class players meet each other in the last 16 is difficult to comprehend when no other such ranked players were in the draw.

The draw for women's singles was equally puzzling as four top Chinese clashed against four Japanese in the last 16 stage. And, perhaps for the first time Japan did not have a single representative in the quarter-finals of an international event.

North Korea and China each had four players in the quarters. The final was an "all-China" affair, as an unknown, Chang Te-ying, counter-attacked fearlessly and beat the current World Champion, Pak Yung Sun in the semis. The other Chinese girl, Chang Li, who had lost tamely to the same North Korean in the Calcutta final, thus won the Asian crown, beating her compatriot over four games.

The men's final was also "an all-China" affair. It was therefore more of an exhibition match than a real test of superiority, with Liang Ko-liang the winner over Kuo Yao-hua.

In medals tally, China claimed three gold (M.S., W.S. and Men's Team). Japan cornered two gold in paired events (M.D. and X.D.) while North Korea had to be content with two gold (W.D. and Women's Team).

From an Indian viewpoint, where does one go from here? The World Championships in India have come and gone. The Asian Championships are now over, the next in line being the Afro-Asian Latin-American Championships in Mexico. And then it will be the World Championships again in the U.K. Will Indian standards never improve?

Results at Pyongyang:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

Kuo Yao-hua (Ch) bt N. Takashima (Ja) 18, 11, 18.

Liang Ko-Liang (Ch) bt Li Peng (Ch) 16, 12, 17.

Final

LIANG KO-LIANG bt Kuo Yao-hua 20, 17, 17.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

Chang Te-ying (Ch) bt Pak Yung Sun (Korea DPR) 13, 7, 17.

Chang Li (Ch) bt Ke Hsian-ai (Ch) 13, 16, 13.

Final

CHANG LI bt Chang Te-ying 17, -19, 10, 12.

Men's Doubles—Final

T. INOUE/M. KOHNO (Ja) bt Liang Ko-liang/Li Chen-shih -8, 9, 15, 20.

Women's Doubles—Final

KIM CHANG AE/PAK YUNG SUN (KD) bt Chang Li/Chang Te-ying 21, -15, 16, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Final

INOUE/SHIMAMOTO (Ja) bt Liang Ko-liang/Ke Hsian-ai 18, 18, -10, -13, 8.

Boys' Singles—Final

CHANG WON-HYONG (Ch) bt Wei Ching-sheng (Ch) 14, -15, 19, -8, 13.

Girls' Singles—Final

CHANG YA-NAN (Ch) bt Kuo Kang-ju (Ch) -15, 15, -20, 15, 15.

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DAVIES IN COMMAND

Graham Davies took his first title of the season when he won the Glamorgan Closed Championship at the National Sports Centre, Cardiff, on October 10.

Graham's final victim was George Evans, and the score was 21-14 in the first game, but much closer in the second which Graham won 21-19. Graham had had a convincing two-straight win over Robert Bishop in his semi-final whilst George had beaten Fraser Anderson.

The women's event proved a comeback for Margaret Phillips, who beat No. 1 seed Sandra Pickering 16, 17. Margaret was certainly playing better and beat Cheryl Jewels with ease in her semi-final. Penarth's Glenys Thomas was Sandra's semi-final victim.

Once again the old firm of George Evans and Ken Bull took the men's doubles, beating Davies and his Bridgend team-mate, Walter Hussey, 17, 13. Graham was, of course, without his usual doubles partner, Alan Griffiths, who could not come from Teesside for this tournament.

There were some upsets in the women's doubles in which the almost permanent winners, Sandra Pickering and Margaret Phillips, were beaten by the young duo Debbie Coulthard and Sandra Coulson. But Glenys Thomas and Kim Johnson came through in the other half and beat Debbie and Sandra 18, 10 in the final.

Graham took his second title when he partnered Cheryl Jewels to a mixed success. But it was close, for Evans and Margaret Phillips were also looking for their second titles, and they took the first game 19, only for Graham and Cheryl to fight back and eventually take the next two 18 and 18.

No. 1 Junior, Jeff Morgan (Merthyr) had a runaway win in the boys' final, Alan Coulthard (Barry), who is usually difficult to beat, having no answer to Jeff's game. Paul Davies (Swansea) gave Jeff much more trouble in the semi-final, whilst Alan accounted for Swansea's Anthony Crook in good semi-final style.

There was an upset in the girls' event when Cathryn Jones (Swansea), after eliminating Susan Jones (Penarth), did the unbelievable in beating Debbie Coulthard (Barry) -17, 14, 19 in the final.

We open our International programme at the end of October when Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies journey to the Belgian Open at Charleroi. Even if the boys don't win any medals in Belgium, we hope that the tournament will put them in good form for the very important encounter during the following week—the European League match against Scotland in Glasgow.

Alan and Graham are joined by Julie Ralphs, from North Wales, for that very important encounter. Scotland have already had a good win over Spain which takes the pressure off them a bit, but this will be our first match in this division, and we must do well to inspire confidence for later matches against Switzerland (Home), Luxembourg (Away) and Spain (Home).

Continued from page 35

this became a classic. It was the visitors' strength in depth which swung things their way after Northants had led 4-2.

**Staffordshire 10, Cambridgeshire 0
Warwickshire 5, Norfolk 5**

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Clwyd II 0, Cheshire 10

Cumbria II 4, Lincolnshire 6

Visitors fortunate to return home with both points after winning the three sets that went the distance; Cumbria might have had a point, but it wasn't their day.

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Avon 4, Gwent 6

Wiltshire 10, Somerset 0

County Championships

Fixtures

PREMIER DIVISION

Nov. 20—Surrey v Middlesex.
28—Cheshire v Yorkshire.
Leicestershire v Essex—John Cleveland College, Hinckley, 7-15 p.m.
Dec. 4—Essex v Surrey—Maldon Youth & Adult Centre, Chequers Lane, Maldon, 7-00 p.m.
Middlesex v Leicestershire.
Yorkshire v Warwickshire—Abbeydale T.T.C., Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, 7-00 p.m.

2nd SOUTH

Nov. 20—Kent v Sussex.
Middlesex II v Surrey II.
Dec. 4—Kent v Hampshire.
Surrey II v Essex II.
Sussex v Middlesex II.

2nd NORTH

Nov. 20—Cleveland II v Lincolnshire.
Durham v Yorkshire II.
Northumberland v Lancashire.
Dec. 4—Lancashire v Yorkshire II.
Lincolnshire v Durham.
Northumberland v Cleveland II.

2nd MIDLAND

Nov. 20—Clwyd v Cheshire II.
Derbyshire v Warwickshire II.
Nov. 28—Glamorgan v Staffordshire.
Dec. 4—Cheshire II v Glamorgan.
Clwyd v Derbyshire.
Warwickshire II v Staffordshire.

2nd EAST

Nov. 20—Buckinghamshire v Hertfordshire.
Norfolk v Northamptonshire.
21—Bedfordshire v Cambridgeshire.
Dec. 4—Cambridgeshire v Norfolk.
5—Hertfordshire v Bedfordshire—Barnet Centre, Barnet Lane, Barnet, 7-00 p.m.
Northamptonshire v Buckinghamshire.

2nd WEST

Nov. 20—Berkshire v Gwent.
Wiltshire v Devon.
Dec. 4—Devon v Berkshire.
Somerset v Worcestershire—Westland Helicopters Ltd., Weston-super-Mare, 7-00 p.m.
Wiltshire v Gwent.
Dec. 18—Avon v Worcestershire.

3rd SOUTH

Nov. 20—Essex III v Bedfordshire II—Dunmow Youth Centre, Gt. Dunmow, 2-30 p.m.
Hertfordshire III v Buckinghamshire II.
Sussex II v Kent II.
Dec. 4—Buckinghamshire II v Sussex II.
Essex III v Hertfordshire III—Maldon Youth & Adult Centre, Chequers Lane, Maldon, 2-30 p.m.
Dec. 5—Bedfordshire II v Kent II.

3rd NORTH

Nov. 20—Derbyshire II v Nottinghamshire.
Lancashire II v Cleveland III.
Northumberland II v Cumbria.
Dec. 4—Cleveland III v Northumberland II.
Derbyshire II v Cumbria.
Nottinghamshire v Lancashire II.

3rd MIDLAND

Nov. 20—Leicestershire II v Clwyd II—Knighton Park T.T.C., Avenue Road Extension, Leicester, 2-30 p.m.
21—Shropshire v Northamptonshire.
28—Staffordshire II v Glamorgan II.
Dec. 4—Clwyd II v Shropshire.
Leicestershire II v Staffordshire—Loughborough Sports Centre, Granby Street, Loughborough, 7-15 p.m.
Dec. 5—Northamptonshire II v Glamorgan II—Village Hall, Weedon, 2-30 p.m.

3rd EAST

Nov. 20—Cambridgeshire II v Hertfordshire II.
Huntingdonshire v Suffolk.
Dec. 4—Huntingdonshire v Norfolk II.
Suffolk v Hertfordshire II.

3rd WEST

Nov. 20—Cornwall v Herefordshire.
Dorset v Gloucestershire.
Dec. 4—Gloucestershire v Cornwall—C.E.G.B. Sports Club, Barnwood, Gloucester, 7-00 p.m.
Herefordshire v Avon II.
Worcestershire II v Dorset.

JUNIOR PREMIER

Nov. 19—Hertfordshire v Essex—Goffs Oak T.T.C., St. James' Church Hall, St. James' Lane, Goffs Oak T.T.C., Cheshunt, 7-30 p.m.
Nov. 20—Cleveland v Berkshire.
Surrey v Middlesex.
Dec. 4—Berkshire v Surrey.
Cleveland v Kent.
Middlesex v Essex.
Yorkshire v Hertfordshire—Abbeydale T.T.C., Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, 2-15 p.m.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Nov. 20—Berkshire II v Dorset.
Devon v Hampshire.
Middlesex II v Surrey II.
Sussex v Kent II.
Dec. 4—Dorset v Devon.
Kent II v Hampshire.
Surrey II v Berkshire II.
Sussex v Middlesex II.

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Nov. 20—Cleveland II v Derbyshire.
Clwyd v Lancashire.
Cumbria v Durham.
Cleveland II v Cumbria.
Derbyshire v Yorkshire II.
Durham v Lancashire.
Northumberland v Clwyd.
Dec. 4—Cumbria v Derbyshire—Millom School, Millom, 2-00 p.m.
Durham v Clwyd.
Lancashire v Yorkshire II.
Northumberland v Cleveland II.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Nov. 20—Essex II v Leicestershire.
Norfolk v Northamptonshire.
Dec. 4—Cambridgeshire v Norfolk.
Leicestershire v Staffordshire—Knighton Park T.T.C., Avenue Road Extension, Leicester, 7-15 p.m.
Suffolk v Northamptonshire.
Warwickshire v Essex II.

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Nov. 20—Buckinghamshire II v Hertfordshire II.
Essex III v Hampshire II.
Dec. 4—Hampshire II v Buckinghamshire II.
5—Hertfordshire II v Sussex II—Barnet Centre, Barnet Lane, Barnet, 2-00 p.m.

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Dec. 4—Cheshire v Nottinghamshire.
Cumbria II v Clwyd—Millom School, Millom, 2-00 p.m.
Lincolnshire v Cleveland III.

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Nov. 20—Shropshire v Gloucestershire.
27—Staffordshire II v Oxfordshire.
Dec. 4—Gloucestershire v Oxfordshire, C.E.G.B. Sports Club, Barnwood Gloucester, 3 p.m.
Staffordshire II v Worcestershire.

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Nov. 20—Cambridgeshire II v Bedfordshire.
Lincolnshire II v Buckinghamshire.
Dec. 4—Bedfordshire v Lincolnshire II.
Huntingdonshire v Buckinghamshire.

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Nov. 27—Avon v Cornwall.
Dec. 4—Glamorgan v Somerset.
5—Wiltshire v Gwent.

VETERAN MIDLAND

Nov. 20—Cheshire v Clwyd II.
Clwyd v Warwickshire.
Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire.
Dec. 4—Clwyd v Clwyd II.
Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire.
Leicestershire v Cheshire—Knighton Park T.T.C., Avenue Road Extension, Leicester, 7-15 p.m.

VETERAN EAST

Nov. 20—Essex II v Middlesex.
Hertfordshire v Kent—Barnet Centre, Barnet Lane, Barnet.
Huntingdonshire v Essex.
Dec. 4—Essex v Essex II.
Huntingdonshire v Hertfordshire.
Kent v Middlesex.

VETERAN WEST

Nov. 20—Hampshire v Dorset.
Oxfordshire v Wiltshire.
Dec. 4—Dorset v Worcestershire.
Oxfordshire v Hampshire.

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County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

INTENT SHOWN

With the season barely three weeks old, the three matches played by Cleveland show that their intention is to retain the Premier Division title; to date they have played last season's runners-up, Cheshire, beat them 8-1, followed by wins over Surrey (8-1) and Warwickshire (6-3) in one week-end.

Whilst there seems to be no doubt at the top, the rest of the division is falling into the usual pattern and the continuing fight to avoid relegation will become the biggest battle.

Of the matches played over the weekend of October 9-10, the Junior section provided the largest programme and four very close matches in the Junior Premier Division.

Cleveland, relegated last season, but back this season, confirmed Alan Ransome's forecast that they'd be good enough to hold their own in this season's Premier with a fine 6-4 win over Surrey at Carshalton.

Junior teams promoted from Third Division level to Second Division status generally had a good month. The exception was Clwyd, who fell 0-10 to Yorkshire II in Junior 2 Midland, but that might have been expected; Devon had the best results and on their two-match trip to the South-East, went home with successes over Kent II (8-2) and Sussex (6-4). Staffordshire sent Cambridge (relegated from Premier) home with a 10-0 thrashing.

DETAILS

PREMIER DIVISION

Cleveland 8, Cheshire 1

As a prelude to the North of England Open on September 25, Cheshire hosted to Cleveland in front of a sizeable crowd, but the visitors (Cleveland) went home worthy winners with Sue Lisle managing the consolation win for the losers over Carole Knight (result reversed the following evening in the final of the North of England W.S.).

J. Hilton lost to D. Neale -10, -14; lost to N. Jarvis 19, -17, -18.

N. Eckersley lost to Neale -18, -20; lost to J. Walker -8, -14.

R. Hampson lost to Jarvis -15, -18; lost to Walker -7, -14.

Eckersley/Hampson lost to Jarvis/Walker -9, -16.

Miss S. Lisle bt Miss C. Knight -12, 21, 20.
Hilton/Miss Lisle lost to Neale/Miss Knight -18, -9.

Surrey 1, Cleveland 8

Only consolation for Surrey was the absence of Denis Neale and they won the Mixed Doubles over the weakened Cleveland pair; Surrey also without Martin Shuttle.

S. Lyons lost to N. Jarvis -17, -14; lost to J. Walker -18, 18, -15.

M. Crimmins lost to Jarvis -14, -19; lost to R. Wiley 21, -12, -18.

D. Welsman lost to Walker -12, 18, -16; lost to Wiley -14, -18.

Crimmins/Welsman lost to Jarvis/Walker -20, -17.

Miss L. Howard lost to Miss C. Knight -19, -12.

Lyons/Miss Howard bt Wiley/Miss Knight 14, 14.

Cheshire 7, Leicestershire 2

A "flattering" win for Cheshire who won four sets in the third after losing the first. J. Hilton bt P. Randell -16, 10, 14; bt C. Rogers 12, 18.

N. Eckersley lost to Randell 18, -19, -15; bt M. Newman 15, 18.

B. Johns bt Rogers -20, 14, 14; bt M. Newman 21, 22.

Eckersley/Johns bt Newman/Rogers -17, 14, 9.

Miss S. Lisle bt Miss A. Stevenson -14, 16, 21.
Hilton/Miss Lisle lost to Randell/Miss Stevenson -14, -19.

Essex 1, Warwickshire 8

A disappointing start by Essex who (obviously?) lacked match practice but Warwickshire played well and deserved their win.

I. Horsham lost to D. Douglas 18, -14, -17; lost to D. Munt -12, -17.

R. Potton lost to Munt -19, -8; lost to Johnson -17, 21, -12.

D. Brown lost to Douglas -9, 22, -7; lost to D. Johnson -7, 18, -13.

Brown/Horsham lost to Johnson/Munt -16, -11.

Mrs. L. Radford bt Miss K. Groves 14, 13.
Potton/Mrs. Radford lost to Douglas/Miss Groves -12, 19, -16.

Yorkshire 6, Middlesex 3

"Relegated" last season, Yorkshire made a good start with this win over Middlesex, despite late withdrawal of Alan Fletcher due to injury. Harrison very capable stand-in.

A. Clayton bt M. Mitchell 13, 14; lost to A. Barden -16, -18.

K. Beadsley lost to Barden -11, -14; bt D. Tan 8, -13, 15.

M. Harrison bt Mitchell -20, 25, 11; lost to Tan -20, -19.

Beadsley/Harrison bt Mitchell/Tan -19, 19, 16.

Miss M. Ludi bt Miss A. Mitchell 17, -19, 17.
Clayton/Miss Ludi bt Barden/Miss Mitchell 15, 20.

Cheshire 2, Middlesex 7

John Hilton's convincing victory over Andy Barden was clearly the highlight of the match both in the excellence of play and in the enjoyment for the Cheshire crowd.

J. Hilton bt A. Barden 20, 13; bt M. Mitchell 12, 19.

N. Eckersley lost to Barden -13, -2; lost to D. Tan -13, -9.

B. Johns lost to Mitchell -14, 16, -12; lost to Tan -21, -19.

Eckersley/Johns lost to Mitchell/Tan -20, -14.

Miss S. Lisle lost to Miss A. Mitchell -15, -18.

Hilton/Miss Lisle lost to Barden/Miss Mitchell 10, -17, -20.

Warwickshire 3, Cleveland 6

An excellent match watched by more than 200 spectators with a useful home debut for Karen Groves. Douglas v Neale was the highlight where neither player deserved to lose (Neale won 20, -20, 19!). Home side's 3-1 lead dwindled to 3-6 reverse.

D. Douglas lost to Neale -20, 20, -19; bt Jarvis 19, 11.

D. Munt lost to Neale -10, -12; lost to J. Walker -18, -18.

D. Johnson lost to Jarvis -15, -16; bt Walker 7, -17, 16.

Johnson/Munt lost to Jarvis/Walker -11, 14, -11.

Miss K. Groves lost to Miss C. Knight -17, -6.

Douglas/Miss Groves bt Neale/Miss Knight 19, 16.

2nd DIVISION WEST

Devon 7, Avon 3

Avon's three victories earned by Chris Sewell's three visits to the table.

Somerset 3, Wiltshire 7

Worcestershire 9, Gwent 1

JUNIOR PREMIER

Berkshire 6, Essex 4

D. Reeves lost to D. Newman -14, -15; bt L. Smith 15, 19.

D. Gloster lost to D. Newman -7, -4; lost to

S. Kimm -16, -16.

R. Johnson bt L. Smith 14, 18; bt Kimm 15, 16.

Johnson/Reeves lost to Newman/Smith -20, -20.

Miss K. Witt bt Miss H. Gore 17, 15.

Miss M. Smith bt Miss E. Sayer 14, 17.

Miss Smith/Miss Witt bt Miss Gore/Miss Sayer 15, 7.

Kent 6, Hertfordshire 4

J. Kennedy bt R. Jermyn -15, 18, 16; bt G. Booth 13, 10.

P. Ptak lost to R. Jermyn -19, -17; bt T. Pleasance 7, -16, 18.

T. Spain lost to Booth -15, -21; lost to Pleasance 18, -21, -10.

Kennedy/Spain lost to Booth/Jermyn 19, -18, -19.

Miss C. Colegate bt Miss J. Glazebrook 9, 15.

Miss E. Bolton bt Miss C. Webster 11, 6.

Miss Bolton/Miss Colegate bt Miss Glazebrook/Miss Webster 16, 16.

Surrey 4, Cleveland 6

M. Shuttle lost to I. Plummer 12, -19, -20; bt M. Murphy 11, 13.

S. Boxall lost to Plummer -18, 13, -18; bt M. Laird 14, -16, 20.

D. Hannah bt M. Murphy 12, 9; lost to Laird -12, -19.

Boxall/Shuttle bt Murphy/Plummer 12, 20.

Miss S. Roebuck lost to Miss A. Tierney -5, -14.

Miss S. Walker lost to Miss J. Williams -5, -11.

Miss Roebuck/Miss Walker lost to Miss Tierney/Miss Williams -13, -10.

Yorkshire 4, Middlesex 6

K. Beadsley bt D. Wells -18, 14, 22; bt G. Sandley -13, 14, 12.

M. Harrison lost to Wells 13, -18, -15; bt A. Proffitt -18, 19, 10.

S. Mills lost to Sandley -14, -15; bt Proffitt 18, -20, 19.

Beadsley/Harrison lost to Sandley/Wells -19, 16, -15.

Miss L. Hryzsko lost to Miss A. Mitchell 8, -19, -16.

Miss S. Dickerson lost to Miss M. Reeves -13, -15.

Miss Dickerson/Miss Hryzsko lost to Miss Mitchell/Miss Reeves -13, -15.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Hampshire 4 Berkshire II 6

Kent II 2, Surrey II 8

A 3½-hour struggle in which the young, but experienced Surrey team won 6 out of the 8 very close sets.

Middlesex II 6, Dorset 4

An unfortunate clash of dates with the Middlesex Schools' Tournament almost counted out the Middlesex girls, but Dorset were very accommodating and the match started at 4-30 p.m.

Sussex 4, Devon 6

Kent II 2, Devon 8

Paul Whiting, of Devon, and Ray Haynes, of Kent, outstanding for their teams on the day, in a match which reached a high standard.

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Durham 3, Cleveland II 7

Durham couldn't maintain their early momentum and let a 3-0 lead result in a 3-7 reverse.

Lancashire 5, Derbyshire 5

Derbyshire pulled back from 0-3 down, the Boys' Doubles victory giving them the one they needed for a draw. 12-year-old Paul Rainford good on debut for Lancs.

Northumberland 0, Cumbria 10

All two-straight.

Yorkshire II 10, Clwyd 0

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Leicestershire 9, Suffolk 1

Northamptonshire 4, Essex II 6

With five nationally-ranked players on view this match had quality in abundance, and with all players raising their game,

Continued on page 34