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EDITED BY **GEORGE YATES**

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HOPE ETERNAL

Tony Ross, in his letter to the Editor, could well have a significant point in chastising those who, for evangelistic reasons, look upon a nationally-sponsored league in this country as being England's salvation.

Following on his string of successes in the men's team event of the European Championships in Duisburg, witnessed by many existing sponsors of clubs in the Bundesliga of the Federal German Association, the asking price for the services of Desmond Douglas could be substantially higher than that appertaining currently.

Contrary to popular belief that club matches in Federal Germany draw huge attendances, this is not so. But what is for sure is that lucrative monies are paid out to players be they home based or otherwise.

Having due regard to sponsorship in this country, to date, one cannot hope to counter the vast sums involved on the continent in general and in Federal Germany particularly. But hope springs eternal, through clubs, through leagues, through counties and nationally in this country and who knows what the future has to offer?

Without doubt Top Table on BBC 2 has awakened a slumbering public to the excitement of competitive table tennis and the injection of money, as with cricket, could bring about more things than we have ever dreamt of.

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11th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

CROWNS FOR HUNGARY — THRONE FOR DESMOND

by George R. Yates

Although Hungary, in the persons of Gabor Gergely and Judit Magos were crowned as the singles champions, and the Magyars took both team titles, it was England's Desmond Douglas who was acclaimed the King of Duisburg when he set the Rhien-Ruhr-Halle alight by going through the men's team event without the loss of a single set.

In all the Warwickshire left-hander had nineteen wins to his credit in this event, which occupied the first six days of the championships, his scalps including such notables as Engelbert Hugging, Wilfried Lieck and Jochen Leiss of Federal Germany, Stellan Bengtsson and Ulf Thorsell of Sweden, Claus Pedersen of Denmark, Sarkis Sarkhojan and Anatoli Strokotov of the Soviet Union, Jacques Secretin, Christian Martin and Patrick Birocheau of France and, in the final, Gergely, Istvan Jonyer and Tibor Klampar of Hungary.

Playing as though with the ball on a piece of elastic Douglas drew more applause than did the German national side who apart from beating England in their opening match, to provide the best possible curtain raiser for the box office, subsequently faded to finish eighth overall whereas the Douglas-inspired English team, from finishing seventh in Prague, ended up in second place. Oh yes, unlike Prague, it was the men who basked in the limelight albeit they got off on the wrong foot.

MEN'S TEAM

It was on Friday, the opening day, that England's men first went into action with an

evening match against the representatives of the host country. Predictably Peter Simpson, the non-playing captain, chose Douglas, Paul Day and Nicky Jarvis whilst Federal Germany called on their current champion Hugging, Lieck and Leiss.

Day was first to the table but proved no match for Leiss but, in equating the match score Douglas only managed it with a 23-21 margin in the third game against Hugging. In the third set Jarvis fared, if anything, worse than Day in losing to Lieck but back came Douglas to set the ship on an even keel once more in beating Leiss with a much more comforting margin.

A more spirited Day won the first game against Lieck in the fifth set, narrowly lost the second, but wilted in the decider whilst Jarvis, in the set that followed, was never in it against the long-haired Hugging, a student from the T.T.C. Simex Julich club.

Douglas, in beating Lieck to record England's only other victory, was again hard-pressed before beating his 32-year-old opponent 19 in the third after winning the first game at 15. The crunch came in the 8th set when Jarvis went down to his third defeat -16, -20 to Leiss.

A 24-hour respite gave the Englishmen time to reflect, rest and prepare themselves for their second match against Sweden and, on reflection, Peter Simpson decided to include John Hilton, to the exclusion of Jarvis, remembering that the Lancashire man had accounted for Ulf Thorsell in the friendly international match at Telford last December.



Gabor Gergely of Hungary, winner of the men's singles crown in Duisburg.

Photo by Norbert Rzepka, Hanover.



Carole Knight, Jill Hammersley, and Ireland's Karen Senior, cheer on England's men in their final team engagement against Hungary.

Photo by Karola Kiesslich, Hamburg.

The move paid handsome dividends for not only did Douglas come up with another treble but Hilton weighed in with two wins, initially against Tommy Danielsson, but decisively against Thorsell which gave England their 5-3 win. Day, although taking Thorsell to a third game decider was shown the way home by Bengtsson as, indeed, was Hilton.

Still a win over Sweden, the runners-up in Prague, was no mean performance even if the opposition were without Kjell Johansson performing the duties of non-playing captain following his retirement from the big time as a player.

In the subsequent two matches, against Denmark and Bulgaria, and despite the loss of the first set in each, 5-1 victories were recorded Jarvis coming in against the Danes, beating Tommy Hansen after losing to Pedersen. Douglas and Hilton shared the other two wins.

TRUMPS

Reinstated against Bulgaria, Day lost his opening encounter against Ivan Nikolov but came up trumps against Bojidar Guentchev. As in the previous match Douglas and Hilton, the latter now really enjoying himself, won two each.

And so to the final match in the first stage against the Soviet Union, who with victories over Bulgaria (5-1), Denmark (5-1), Federal Germany (5-2) and Sweden (5-0) were not really bothered how they fared although it might well have been in their interests to have topped the group and so do battle with France rather than Hungary.

But, whether or not their lack of sparkle was intended there was no denying England's joy in speeding to a 5-2 victory in which Douglas supplied a treble, and Hilton added Strokotov and the young blond defender Igor Solopov to his impressive array of victims. This was much better fun than the insurance round at home for the smiling John.

Top of the heap then was England's reward and a second stage match against France, the runners-up to Hungary, in Group A. For this all-important engagement Day stood down to make way for Jarvis another 'horses for courses' selection on the part of Simpson whose decision proved the correct one as the Cleveland man came truly good in beating both Martin and Birocheau to supplement the treble obtained by Douglas whose carve-up of reigning singles champion, Secretin, sounded the death knell for the Frenchman.

In the other cross-over second stage match, Hungary put paid to the aspirations of the Soviet Union by a 5-1 margin and so, with Klampar, Gergely and Jonyer to call on, and Tibor Kreis

in reserve, it became England's turn to take on this formidable team in the final.

It was back to the original formation for this mountaineering job, England's Everest party comprising Douglas, Day and Jarvis with the latter first on against the Budapest postman, Klampar, who quickly stamped his authority over the Cleveland.

Next to face the hazards of this perilous ascent was Day who clawed his way out onto the ridge but lost his footing in the decider when Jonyer let go the rope to establish a 2-0 lead for the Hungarians.

But into the arena then strode Hilary himself, in the person of that Anglo/German Des Douglas who, to the delight of both English and German

spectators alike, hammered the daylight out of Gergely to the tune of 15 and 13! What a way to climb a mountain!

PRIDE OF BRUM

Jonyer soon restored the 2-set lead with an equally convincing win over Jarvis but back came the pride of Brum, Dusseldorf and all points other than Hungary to crush Klampar into his postman's bag to reduce the deficit for a second time.

Could Day make it against Gergely in the sixth set? Regrettably no for despite going down -20 in the first game the Hungarian applied the pressure from the outset in the second and it was back to the 2-set lead once more.

Douglas, for the third time, halted the inevitable with a hard-fought win over Jonyer but it was down the slippery slopes that England finally fell when Gergely planted the Hungarian flag on the summit with a victory over Jarvis whose comeback after an opening game -7 defeat, was quite remarkable, when he took the second at 19 and only went down -18 in the decider.

Still, to finish second was no mean achievement and it can truthfully be said that when England took their position on the rostrum they received the greater applause but it was really directed at Douglas who well deserved it.

WOMEN'S TEAM

Well capable of fending for themselves, under the astute eye of captain Bryan Merrett, England's women began in almost leisurely fashion by initially disposing of Luxembourg 3-0 with neither Jill Hammersley nor Carole Knight extended beyond first gear as was the case with Jill and Linda Howard in the doubles.

Sweden were next seen off 3-1 with Carole losing the opening set against Ann-Christin Hellman but Jill winning her two singles and, of course, the doubles with Linda.

Carole duly made amends for her loss by beating Claude Bergeret in the French encounter which was won 3-0 and all was going to plan with no cause for concern. That was up until the meeting with Czechoslovakia, and that certain character Iлона Uhlíkova.

The former Miss Vostova initially beat Carole with Jill redressing the balance with a tight victory over Dana Dubinova. A doubles success for Jill and Linda got us back on course but then came the hammer blow with Uhlíkova beating Jill 6 and 12! Even then the chance was there for Carole



England's Desmond Douglas, unbeaten in the men's team event with 19 victories to his credit.

Photo by Norbert Rzepka, Hanover.

HEROINE

Karen Senior, like Douglas now playing in the German Bundesliga, was the Irish heroine winning 13 of the 15 sets she contested and figuring in six out of 8 doubles wins when partnered by Anne Leonard. No wonder Joe Veselsky regained his voice!

In the men's team event Scotland had a strong man in Richard Yule who, in 23 sets, lost only 2, and John McNee rendered valuable support in winning 8 out of 23 for the Scots to finish in 22nd position, three higher than in Prague. Wales had the last laugh on them when, in the final match, playing for positions 21/22, Graham Davies and George Evans had two wins each and Bob Bishop administered the coup-de-grace in beating McNee for a 5-1 result in favour of the Welshmen. The biggest shock was when veteran Evans beat Yule -12, 18 and 11!

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

After a rest day during which the talk centred on Douglas and his chances of going through the whole of the championships without loss, the media, mostly foreign, gathered anew to continue their respective sagas on the mercurial Des.

In receipt of a first round bye, the English No. 1 began his run by dropping a game against Denmark's Flemming Weinrich but winning 3-1. This was followed up with a 3-straight success over Solopov of the Soviet Union and, in the fourth round, a second success over Secretin, the defending champion who, despite winning the first game, thereafter surrendered the initiative.

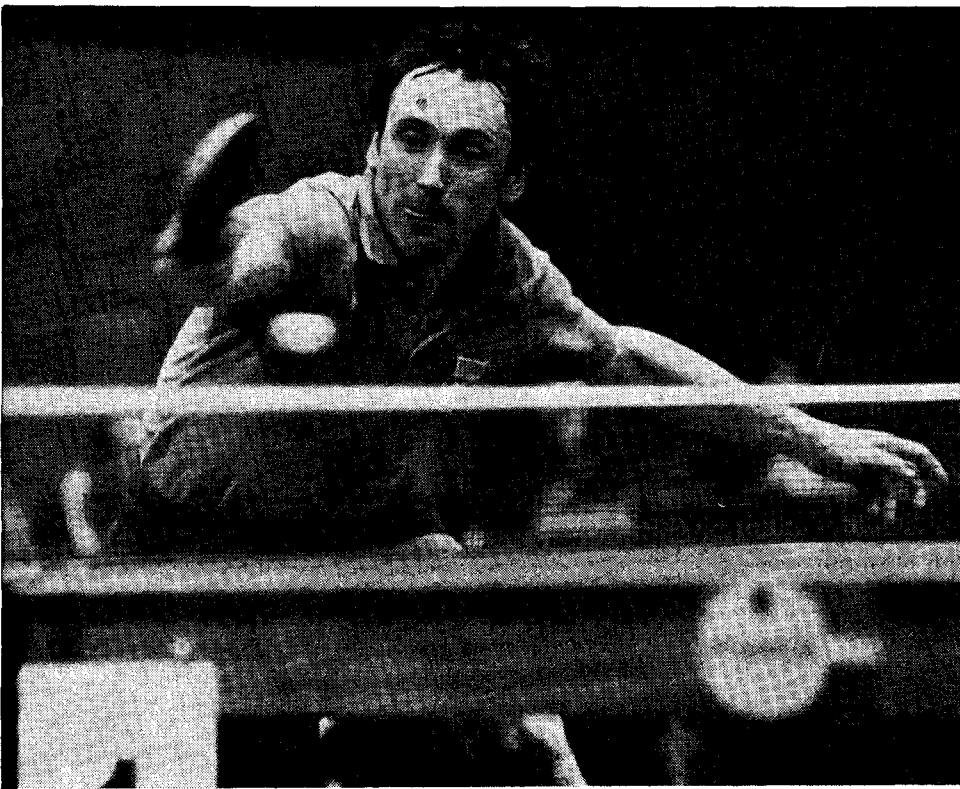
At his most rampant best Douglas devoured the pride of France 16, 13 and 7 to bring on yet another bout of rhythmic clapping from the packed audience who were loving every minute of it.

Now through to the quarters, Douglas next encountered Klampar and again swept home in the fourth, 21-11, after the Hungarian had equated the set score at 1 game all. Three other Hungarians were also concerned at this stage — Jonyer, Kreiszs and Gergely — and all won, Sarkhojan, Milan Orlovski and Lieck taking their leave.

Thus did Douglas carry the flag of St. George against Hungary's three-headed dragon into the penultimate stage of an event which had, by this time, captured the imagination of all Europe.

But there the dancing stopped, not for a spot prize, but to mourn the passing of one of the greats when Douglas, after winning the first game against Jonyer in the semis, subsequently ran out

(continued on page 6)



Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia, conqueror of England's Paul Day in the men's singles but subsequently ousted by Tibor Kreiszs of Hungary.

Photo by Karola Kiesslich, Hamburg.

to make a name for herself when she met Dubinova in the deciding set.

Winning the first game at 18 the Cleveland girl allowed her opponent back into the set to take the second at 19. Then throwing caution to the wind Carole, using heavy topspin, led 10-6 in the decider but in trying to maintain the pace created her own errors to lose the decider at 20.

This was a truly sickening result and seemed to have an adverse effect on the morale of the team much in evidence when beaten 3-0 by Hungary in the final Stage 1 match when Carole was beaten by Beatrix Kishazi, Jill by Judit Magos and the doubles went, again in straight games, to Magos and Gabrielle Szabo.

These two reverses meant a group finishing position of third and a cross-over match against Federal Germany who finished fourth in the other group, the final target being fifth or sixth.

The Anglo/German encounter provided a mixed bag of fortunes with the diminutive Ursula Hirschmuller opening the score for the host country by beating Carole after losing the first game. Worse was to follow when Jill inexplicably lost in straight games to Kristen Kruger to put the Germans 2-0 up.

DIRE SITUATION

But from this dire situation victory was eventually achieved when, firstly, Jill and Linda scraped home 20 and 21 in the doubles and Jill, having duly digested the impact of that Kruger defeat, came good again with scores of 10 and 6 against Hirschmuller. Thus was the stage again set for Carole to take a decisive role.

And this time, the Cleveland girl did it by beating Kruger 10 and 12 for a 3-2 victory which from seeming a mirage became a result of substance and, indeed, satisfaction.

As the top four positions were now out of reach a final fifth or sixth place was considered immaterial by Bryan Merrett who for the final match against Yugoslavia entrusted the singles play to Linda and Karen Witt.

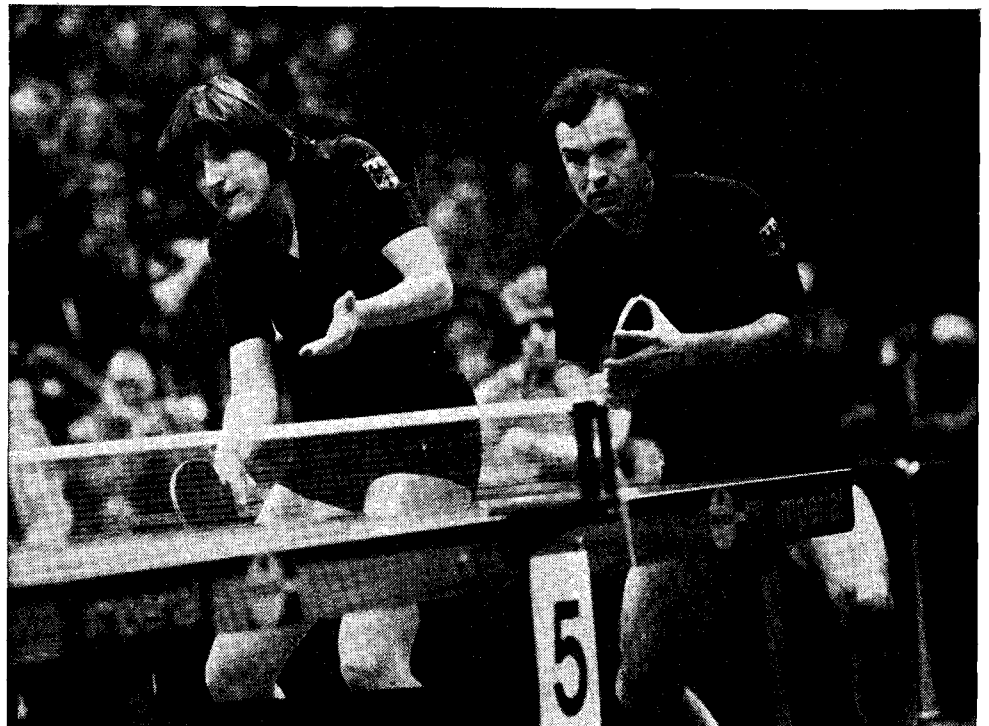
It was a decision that did not please everyone who gained fuel for their argument when Linda lost to Erzebet Palatinus in the opening set and Karen was ill at ease against Dubravka Fabri to give the Yugoslavs a 2-0 lead.

This was cut when Jill and Linda won the doubles and equated when Linda, totally at ease,

disposed of Fabri. But it was never on that Karen would beat Palatinus in the decider and so it proved although the Berks girl fought tremendously hard in the first game only to lose it at -22 but she wilted in the second -13.

At the head of affairs Hungary and Czechoslovakia fought out the final with Hungary victorious by 3 sets to nil to complete the double in the team events.

From finishing 21st in Prague the Irish lassies gave cause for satisfaction in the Emerald Isle by finishing 14th in Duisburg thus earning themselves promotion into the top category for the 1980 championships which are to be held in Berne, Switzerland.



Federal Germany's Wiebke Hendriksen and Wilfried Lieck, winners of the mixed doubles title.

Photo by Karola Kiesslich, Hamburg.

(continued from page 4)

of steam and lamentably took his final bow before a crowd that had willed him on, and on, and on.

Credit, however, must be afforded Jonyer whose form was a revelation and in keeping with that displayed in the Calcutta world championships. But, he too, fell foul of Gergely in the final, an affair which lost something of its sparkle when contested by two players from one country.

PREDICTABLY

What of England's other competitors in this event? Well Day began brightly enough with a win over Emiel van Krieken of Belgium predictably losing to Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia in the next round.

Jarvis had a notable success over Federal Germany's Ralf Wosik before taking his leave at the hands of Gergely whilst Hilton, after easily surmounting the first two hurdles provided by Eric Sutherland of Scotland and the aging Laszlo Foldy of Switzerland, crashed out to Jaroslav Kunz of Czechoslovakia.

Maxwell Crimmins, an onlooker and drinks fetcher throughout the team events, made his debut under the bright lights against Clive Hansford of Jersey and got himself into the action by winning 3-1 (16, 9, -18, 13).

Subsequently two up against Jorgen Gierloff of Norway in the second round the Surrey boy let matters slip when beaten 18, 19, -16, -12, -14.

Of the seeded giants, other than Secretin, Orlowski fell to Kreis and Bengtsson to Sarkhojan. Surbek was also a Kreis victim and Lieck went out to Gergely in the quarters.

Yule suffered a second round reverse at the hands of Bulgaria's Nikolov, McNee losing in the first round to Janos Molnar of Hungary. Graham Davies lost to Stanislaw Fraczyk of Poland, Evans to Leszak Kucharski, also of Poland, and Bishop to Luigi Manoni of Italy. Ireland's top man Jimmy Langan lost to Zoran Kalinic of Yugoslavia his youthful compatriot, Colm Slevin, to Ake Gronlund of Sweden.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

England's Jill Hammersley, as the defending women's singles champion and winner of the European Top 12, occupied the top position in the draw and well did she live up to it in reaching the final without the loss of a game.

A succession of defenders went under to Jill the one to die the hardest being the former English international Judy Williams of Sussex now wearing the orange coloured-shirt of the Netherlands.

It was Hungary's Judit Magos who finally sealed Jill's fate in not retaining her title, the big blonde penholder repeating her win in the team event although needing four games to do it.

Another title lost was the women's doubles in which event, without any preamble, Jill and Linda Howard came to grief in the very first round when beaten by the eventual winners Maria Alexandru and Liana Mihut of Rumania.

Holland's Bettine Vriesekoop was also a first round faller in the singles beaten 3-1 by Lindmilla Bakshutova of the Soviet Union, the other two seeds Valentina Popova and Ilona Uhlakova losing, respectively, to Weibke Hendriksen and Szabo.

England's Carole Knight, after a win over Sonia Milic of Italy was beaten by Magos, Linda Howard losing to Sandra de Kruiff of the Netherlands after initially beating Fotini Galanou of Greece. Karen Witt failed to make it from the qualifying competition beaten in straight games by Zsuzsa Olah of Hungary, the country to really rub England's noses into the dust.

Carole and Karen, in the women's doubles had a walk-over in the qualifying competition but failed to make any subsequent headway when beaten in the first round by Claude Bergeret and Nadine Daviaud of France.

In the men's doubles Douglas and Jarvis were stopped dead in their tracks when beaten by Federal Germany's Hans Deutz and Hans-Joachim Nolten in the first round.

Hilton, partnered by Tommy Caffrey of Ireland, also fell at the first time of asking, to Bengtsson and Lars Franklin of Sweden, but Day and



"Well done Des", says Jill Hammersley, after his nineteenth win in the men's team event.

Photo by Karola Kiesslich, Hamburg.

Crimmins survived to the third round, beating Jindrich Pansky and Antonin Stefko of Czechoslovakia, and Kalinic and Jozef Juhas of Yugoslavia, before falling to Leiss and Peter Stellweg of Federal Germany.

CLAIMED

Undefended by Bengtsson and Johansson of Sweden, the title was eventually claimed by the Czech/Hungarian combination of Orlowski and Gergely who came back from a 0-2 deficit to beat Leiss and Stellweg in the final.

Hopes of success for the Douglas/Linda Howard partnership in the mixed ended in the quarters when the Russian duo of Sarkhojan and Anita Zakharian triumphed 19 in the fifth, the title eventually going, to the delight of the onlookers, to Lieck and Weibke Hendriksen.

Anton Stipanec and Erzebet Palatinus, the defending title holders, were beaten in the quarters

by Klampar/Szabo, the defeated finalists.

Jarvis, partnered by Jill, fell to Martin and Brigitte Thiriet of France in the first round but the current world champions Secretin/Bergeret put paid to the forward progress of both Day and Karen and Crimmins and Carole. Hilton was without a partner in this event

It goes, practically without saying, that the championships ran like clockwork right from the opening ceremony, featuring both symphonic music and ballet, to the fanfares for the winners and a wonderful finals night party at the Mercator-Halle.

Herr Krings, Oberburgermeister of Duisburg, proved a wonderful host as indeed did the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund headed by Dr. Dieter Mauritz and Jupp Schlaf, as President of the European Union, did more than his fair share to ensure the success the championships achieved.



Hungary's victorious team in the women's team event (from 1 to r): Zsuzsa Olah, Judit Magos, Gabriella Szabo, Dr. Laszlo Ormai (npc) and Beatrix Kishazi.

Photo by Karola Kiesslich, Hamburg.

**TEAM EVENTS
HUNGARY CUP (MEN)
Category 1, Stage 1
GROUP A1**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Won	Pos.	Sets
1. Yugoslavia	—	4.5	5.4	2.5	5.0	5.0	3	3	21.14
2. France	5.4	—	5.2	0.5	5.2	5.2	4	2	20.15
3. Czechoslovakia	4.5	2.5	—	3.5	5.3	5.1	2	4	19.19
4. HUNGARY	5.2	5.0	5.3	—	5.1	5.0	5	1	25.06
5. Poland	0.5	2.5	3.5	1.5	—	5.0	1	5	11.20
6. Netherlands	0.5	2.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	—	0	6	3.25

GROUP B1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Won	Pos.	Sets
1. Sweden	—	0.5	5.0	3.5	5.1	5.0	3	3	18.11
2. U.S.S.R.	5.0	—	5.2	2.5	5.1	5.1	4	2	22.09
3. Federal Germany	0.5	2.5	—	5.3	5.1	5.1	3	4	17.15
4. ENGLAND	5.3	5.2	3.5	—	5.1	5.1	4	1	23.12
5. Bulgaria	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	—	5.3	1	5	9.23
6. Denmark	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	3.5	—	0	6	6.25

English Results

v Federal Germany (Lost 3-5)

P. Day lost to J. Leiss -15, -6;
D. Douglas bt E. Hugging 11, -15, 21;
N. Jarvis lost to W. Lieck -7, -11;
Douglas bt Leiss 10, 15;
Day lost to Lieck 19, -19, -11;
Jarvis lost to Hugging -13, -16;
Douglas bt Lieck 15, -18, 19;
Jarvis lost to Leiss -16, -20.

v Sweden (Won 5-3)

Day lost to U. Thorsell 19, -19, -14;
Douglas bt T. Danielsson 7, 11;
J. Hilton lost to S. Bengtsson -11, -11;
Douglas bt Thorsell 20, -18, 12;
Day lost to Bengtsson -16, -9;
Hilton bt Danielsson 19, 15;
Douglas bt Bengtsson 16, 16;
Hilton bt Thorsell 19, -9, 18.

v Denmark (Won 5-1)

Jarvis lost to C. Pedersen 10, -16, -16;
Douglas bt B. Grimstrup 10, 9;
Hilton bt J. Hansen 18, 12;
Douglas bt Pedersen 9, 14;
Jarvis bt Hansen 16, 17;
Hilton bt Grimstrup -15, 6, 9.

v Bulgaria (Won 5-1)

Day lost to I. Nikolov -19, -19;
Douglas bt P. Mitev 16, 4;
Hilton bt B. Guentchev 17, 12;
Douglas bt Nikolov 9, 9;
Day bt Guentchev 18, -18, 16;
Hilton bt Mitev 14, 20.

v U.S.S.R. (Won 5-2)

Jarvis lost to S. Sarkhojan -10, -15;
Douglas bt I. Solopov 7, 17;
Hilton bt A. Strokotov 18, 12;
Douglas bt Sarkhojan 6, 19;
Jarvis lost to Strokotov -18, -17;
Hilton bt Solopov 12, 11;
Douglas bt Strokotov 13, 17.

Stage 2

A6 Netherlands	4	B5 Bulgaria	5
A5 Poland	5	B6 Denmark	4
A4 Czechoslovakia	5	B3 Sweden	4
A3 Yugoslavia	5	B4 Fed. Germany	1
A2 France	4	B1 England	5
A1 Hungary	5	B2 U.S.S.R.	1

English Result

v France (Won 5-4)

Hilton lost to P. Birocheau -12, -18;
Jarvis lost to J. Secretin -15, -21;
Douglas bt C. Martin 3, 13;
Hilton lost to Secretin -14, -13;
Douglas bt Birocheau 15, 11;
Jarvis bt Martin 20, 13;
Douglas bt Secretin 18, 12;
Hilton lost to Martin -10, -14;
Jarvis bt Birocheau 21, 13.

Stage 3

For Positions

11-12

Denmark 5 Netherlands 4
Grimstrup bt J. van Spanje 20, 15;
F. Weinrich lost to N. van Slobbe -7, 21, -18;
Pedersen bt H. Gootzen 17, 15;
Grimstrup lost to v. Slobbe -12, -9;
Pedersen bt v. Spanje 10, 15;
Weinrich lost to Gootzen -20, 12, -13;
Pedersen lost to v. Slobbe -14, 17, -14;
Grimstrup lost to Gootzen -17, -12;
Weinrich bt v. Spanje -20, 20, 21.

9-10

Poland 5 Bulgaria 2
A. Grubba bt Guentchev 11, 12;
S. Fraczyk bt Nikolov -18, 7, 18;
S. Dryszel lost to Mitev -23, 18, -13;
Fraczyk lost to Guentchev -15, -16;
Grubba bt Mitev 12, 17;
Dryszel bt Nikolov -17, 6, 14;
Fraczyk bt Mitev -13, 15, 19.

7-8

Sweden 5 Federal Germany 2
Thorsell lost to Leiss 18, -15, -14;
L. Franklin lost to P. Stellwag 19, -14, -16;
Bengtsson bt Hugging 16, 18;
Thorsell bt Stellwag -15, 13, 12;
Bengtsson bt Leiss 11, 13;
Franklin bt Hugging -17, 17, 9;
Bengtsson bt Stellwag 11, -19, 22.

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5-6
Yugoslavia 5 Czechoslovakia 1
 Z. Kosanovic bt J. Pansky 18, 18;
 Z. Kalinic lost to M. Orlovski -19, -14;
 D. Surbek bt J. Kunz 16, 20;
 Kosanovic bt Orlovski -14, 22, 18;
 Surbek bt Pansky -18, 16, 11;
 Kalinic bt Kunz 18, -18, 15.

3-4
U.S.S.R. 5 France 3
 Sarkhojan bt Martin 14, 15;
 V. Shenchenko lost to Secretin 16, -20, -9;
 Strokotov bt Birocheau -19, 13, 10;
 Sarkhojan lost to Secretin -10, -17;

Category 2, Stage 1

GROUP A2

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Won	Pos.	Sets
1. AUSTRIA	—	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.5	5.0	5.3	5.0	6	1	34.11
2. Greece	2.5	—	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.0	6	3	32.15
3. Wales	1.5	1.5	—	1.5	2.5	5.3	4.5	5.0	2	5	19.28
4. Spain	0.5	3.5	5.1	—	3.5	5.3	5.4	5.0	4	4	26.23
5. Luxembourg	5.4	4.5	5.2	5.3	—	5.1	5.4	5.0	6	2	34.19
6. Norway	0.5	1.5	3.5	3.5	1.5	—	5.4	5.0	2	7	18.29
7. Scotland	3.5	1.5	5.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	—	5.0	2	6	26.29
8. Guernsey	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	—	0	8	0.35	

GROUP B2

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Won	Pos.	Sets
1. RUMANIA	—	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	8	1	40.06
2. Italy	3.5	—	5.4	5.0	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	7	2	38.13
3. Finland	1.5	4.5	—	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	6	3	35.13
4. Belgium	0.5	0.5	0.5	—	1.5	5.3	2.5	5.1	5.0	3	7	18.29
5. Turkey	0.5	3.5	3.5	5.1	—	5.0	5.4	5.2	5.0	5	4	31.22
6. Ireland	2.5	1.5	0.5	3.5	0.5	—	5.3	5.4	5.0	3	6	21.32
7. Switzerland	0.5	0.5	0.5	5.2	4.5	3.5	—	5.1	5.0	3	5	22.28
8. Portugal	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	2.5	4.5	1.5	—	5.0	1	8	13.35
9. Jersey	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	—	0	9	0.40	

Stage 2

A8 Guernsey	0	B7 Belgium	5
A7 Norway	5	B8 Portugal	1
A6 Scotland	5	B5 Switzerland	0
A5 Wales	5	B6 Ireland	2
A4 Spain	0	B3 Finland	5
A3 Greece	5	B4 Turkey	3
A2 Luxembourg	0	B1 Rumania	5
A1 Austria	1	B2 Italy	5

Stage 3

For Positions

27-28
 Portugal 5 **Guernsey** 0

Strokotov bt Martin 15, -19, 16;
 Shevchenko bt Birocheau -17, 13, 14; Strokotov
 lost to Secretin -15, -10;
 Sarkhojan bt Birocheau 20, 17.

1-2

HUNGARY 5 England 3

T. Klampar bt Jarvis 10, 16;
 I. Jonyer bt Day 20, -20, 18;
 G. Gergely lost to Douglas -15, -13;
 Jonyer bt Jarvis 14, 18;
 Klampar lost to Douglas -19, -9;
 Gergely bt Day 20, 10;
 Jonyer lost to Douglas -13, 11, -14;
 Gergely bt Jarvis 7, -19, 18.

English Results

v Luxembourg (Won 3-0)

J. Hammersley bt C. Risch 8, 14;
 C. Knight bt J. Dom 15, 12;
 Hammersley/L. Howard bt Dom/Risch 9, 11.

v Sweden (Won 3-1)

Knight lost to A-C. Hellman -14, -15;
 Hammersley bt E. Stromvall 15, 16;
 Hammersley/Howard bt A. Hernvall/Stromvall
 13, 11;
 Hammersley bt Hellman -16, 17, 8.

v France (Won 3-0)

Knight bt C. Bergeret -17, 19, 15;
 Hammersley bt B. Thiriet 13, 17;
 Hammersley/Howard bt Bergeret/N. Daviaud
 5, -19, 20.

v Czechoslovakia (Lost 2-3)

Knight lost to I. Uhlikova -13, -18;
 Hammersley bt D. Dubinova 19, 22;
 Hammersley/Howard bt B. Silhanova/Uhlikova
 20, -17, 9;
 Hammersley lost to Uhlikova -6, -12;
 Knight lost to Dubinova 18, -19, -20.

v Hungary (Lost 0-3)

Knight lost to B. Kishazi -10, -8;
 Hammersley lost to J. Magos -18, -19;
 Hammersley/Howard lost to Magos/G. Szabo
 -15, -20.

Stage 2

A6 Belgium	0	B5 France	3
A5 Netherlands	2	B6 Luxembourg	3
A4 Fed. Germany	2	B3 England	3
A3 Yugoslavia	3	B4 Sweden	2
A2 U.S.S.R.	1	B1 Hungary	3
A1 Rumania	2	B2 Czechoslovakia	3

English Result

v Federal Germany (Won 3-2)

Knight lost to U. Hirschmuller 19, -16, -15;
 Hammersley lost to K. Kruger -15, -14;
 Hammersley/Howard bt Hirschmuller/Kruger
 20, 21;
 Hammersley bt Hirschmuller 10, 6;
 Knight bt Kruger 10, 12.

Stage 3

For Positions

11-12
 Netherlands 3 **Belgium** 0
 B. Vriesekoop bt M-F. Germiot 11, 12;
 S. de Kruiff bt J. Detaille 16, 17;
 de Kruiff/Vriesekoop bt Detaille/Germiot
 12, -13, 16.

9-10

France 3 **Luxembourg** 1
 Bergeret bt Risch 18, 16;
 Thiriet bt Dom 12, -19, 15;
 Bergeret/Daviaud lost to Dom/Risch -19, -8;
 Bergeret bt Dom 19, 17.

7-8

Sweden 3 **Federal Germany** 0
 Hellman bt Kruger 11, -18, 14;
 Stromvall bt W. Hendriksen -7, 17, 19;
 Hellman/M.Lindblad bt M. Kneip-Stumpe/Kruger
 -16, 18, 14.

5-6

Yugoslavia 3 **England** 2
 E. Palatinus bt Howard 19, 11;
 D. Fabri bt K. Witt 11, 15;
 B. Batinic/Fabri lost to Hammersley/Howard
 -13, -15;
 Fabri lost to Howard -11, -19;
 Palatinus bt Witt 22, 13.

3-4

Rumania 3 **U.S.S.R.** 1
 M. Alexandru bt N. Antonian 11, 12;
 E. Ferenczi lost to V. Popova 14, -15, -10;
 Alexandru/L. Mihut bt Antonian/Popova
 12, -15, 18;
 Alexandru bt Popova 17, 16.

1-2

HUNGARY 3 **Czechoslovakia** 0
 Magos bt Uhlikova 18, -16, 15;
 Kishazi bt Dubinova 12, 18;
 Magos/Szabo bt Silhanova/Uhlikova -21, 15, 13.

(continued on page 12)



MAYFIELD TABLE TENNIS CLUB (BATH)

We would like to thank **CRAYFORD SPORTS**, for
 their help and service, in supplying the club's new
 tracksuits.

MAYFIELD - THE WEST'S MOST PROGRESSIVE CLUB

County Notes Supplement

AVON COUNTY T.T. ASSN.

by MIKE HAWKINS

Avon County Seniors have won their first 2nd Div. West National League point of the season when playing away to fellow strugglers and are now confident of saving the drop.

Avon's points came from Chris Sewell 2, Martin Smith 1, Lloyd Stewart 1 and a win by Sewell and Mildred in the Men's Doubles.

It was a successful return to the County Senior side by Lloyd Stewart of Bristol.

In the Bath Closed Championships, Tony Clayton the Yorkshire County and ex-England star took the honours when he won the Men's Singles over Wiltshire's up and coming star for the future, Kevin Satchell 21-13, 21-12.

In the Men's Doubles, Clayton partnered club-mate and Avon County Veteran, Mike Baker in a 21-17, 21-18 win over Avon County player Jeremy Musselwhite, now at Birmingham University, and Wiltshire Junior, John Chandler of Trowbridge.

Results of Bath Closed Championships
(at Homestead Hall, Combe Park, Bath) —

Ladies' Doubles:

Mrs. L. Baker/Mrs. S. O'Brien bt Miss J. Cruse/
Miss J. Pillinger 21-10, 21-17.

Junior Singles (Rossiter Cup):

K. Satchell bt J. Chandler 21-10, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles (Hillier Rose Bowl):

Tony Clayton/Mrs. L. Baker bt M. Sawyers/
Mrs. L. Porter 21-8, 21-8.

Men's Doubles (Russell Cup):

T. Clayton/M. Baker bt J. Musselwhite/
J. Chandler 21-17, 21-18.

Ladies' Singles (Anchor Cup):

Mrs. Lynn Porter bt Mrs. Shirley O'Brien
21-15, 22-20.

Chronicle Cup:

John Chandler bt John Higgs 25-23, 21-11.

Veterans

M. Baker bt John Cleveland 24-22, 21-17
(expedite in 2nd set).

Men's Singles (Williams Cup):

Tony Clayton bt Kevin Satchell 21-13, 21-12.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Bath, Cllr. Ray Roseworn and Mrs. Vera Roseworn were in attendance and the Mayor presented the awards.

The Bristol representative side received a good 6-0 win over seaisiders Bournemouth with Chris Sewell, Tony Clayton and Brian Reeves all winning two singles matches each.

After the Stiga Welsh Championships, Belgium were the visitors to Bristol and won 5-4 in a friendly match. Chris Sewell was the 'star player' for the Bristol team, winning three games. Bristol Association certainly seem to be branching out into another quarter with an 'international flair', we wish them well.

A report on the Bristol Closed will be given in next month's notes.

The Avon Closed will again be held at Worle Comprehensive School, Weston-Super-Mare on Sunday, April 23rd, 1978 with a 10.30 a.m. start with a composite entry fee of £1. Entry forms with fee to Mr. D. Harris, 2 Sunnyvale, Clevedon, Avon County.

News is coming in on the newly formed Weston-Super-Mare Table Tennis League. I feel sure this league will expand next season and will be a great success. At the moment there are plenty of youth players in the new league, with teams from Churchill to Weston-super-Mare in Avon taking part.

At a recent County Executive Meeting, many items were discussed and the meeting finished at a late hour, so things are really buzzing down

here, which is good news for the future.

As Press and Publicity Officer I wish to make an apology to the umpires at the 2nd Division (West) County Championships fixture played at Richard Jefferies School, Swindon, between Wiltshire and Avon Seniors and the remarks made in 'Table Tennis News' regarding "scored the wrong way". In the heat of the moment I included this remark which was not edited by the County Committee and was not even supposed to have been included in my notes. Many apologies to my friends and especially the umpires who were concerned.

In the recent County matches Avon firsts continued their improved form to win their first match of the season in Div. 2 (West) over fellow strugglers Gwent, now doomed for relegation.

Playing at Mayfield Methodists Church Hall, Oldfield Park, Bath, Avon won 8-2 thanks to our star player Chris Sewell being well supported by Martin Smith and Gordon "Ginger" Mildred. Our French import Helen Pogmore and Linda Porter notched one set each.

Avon 2nds playing at the same venue in the afternoon went down 4-6 to Div. 3 (West) leaders Berkshire 2nds. Martin Smith won two singles with Bob Oldfield and Tony Brown of Bristol winning one each.

Avon Veterans trounced Dorset 1sts 9-0 in a very entertaining and sporting match. Dorset's sportsmanship must surely be a credit to their county. Woodcock and Joyce certainly played some fine shots with their wooden pimped bats of the past. The House v Woodcock set was fascinating to watch with both players having wooden bats, 'what a noise they made'.

Avon Juniors travelled to Pontypool where it seems there is another ball game coming to the fore as Gwent won 8-2. These lads had as much stamina as fellow countrymen "J.J. and Gareth".

SURREY NOTES

by TED SIMPKIN

Norman Hooper staged yet another efficient and successful County tournament when the Juniors battled it out for their trophies at the Elmbridge Leisure Centre, Walton on Thames. Most welcome, and vital, sponsorship was provided by Stiga, Playrite Sports, Esher News and T.S. Marshall Ltd. A new boys' champion was due because of the 'aging' of Martin Shuttle, and this honour went to Stephen Holloway who, after an exciting semi-final with Mohammed Ranji, beat 13 year old Mark Oakley in two straight games. Oakley had taken out Guildford colleague, Stephen Woodgate in the other semi-final. Young Mark had a fair championship in that he beat Graham Russell for the under-14 title; with Graham won the same group doubles from Richard O'Connell and Paul Holloway; went on to take the under-17 doubles with Mohammed Ranji against Woodgate and Glenn Baker, and, paired with Lorraine Garbett, to frustrate Baker and Sarah Creswell for the mixed title.

Lorraine Garbett had almost as good a tournament in that she beat Sarah for the under-14, and Sue Walker for the under-17; paired with Sarah to win the under-14 doubles from the cheerful Sally Conway and Claire Gibbs combination, and, again with Sarah, went down to Sue Walker and Nicola Hayward in the under 17 event.

Names to remember in times to come are Andrew Sexton who narrowly beat David Dewsbury for the under-12 boys, and Michelle Hams who just pipped Lesley Popkiewicz for the under-12 girls.

Disputes and disagreements in the Dorking League have quietened down, and the old healthy but spirited competition now takes the headlines. With Sprites, Goblins, and Beechams as names of clubs concerned in epic battles perhaps the League chairman should be known as the Lord of the Rings.

Syd Morton, the County's Umpires' Secretary, tells me that, as expected, the number of qualified umpires needs strengthening, and that he would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in this aspect of the game. What an opportunity for a player to put back into the game a contribution

in return for the years of enjoyment he took out of it! At present Surrey have six County Umpires, three at national level and five at international standard.

Bob Pearson reports that the recent Annual Championships of the Leatherhead and Epsom League were the usual success. Held at Messrs Goblin works, and ably organised by Marion Rogers at her first attempt at this very onerous responsibility, the finals were graced by 130 spectators and some very fine table tennis. The men's title was taken by the Norwegian international Paul Guttormsen of the Graham Spicer club, whose hitting was too much for the much taller Keith Horton of the Thomas More club.

Other results were:-

Ladies' Singles:

Lorraine Garbett bt Sue Walker.

Men's Doubles:

David Hannah and Terry Haley, walk over.

Mixed:

Guttormsen and Nicola Hayward bt David Hannah and Gail McCullough.

Veterans:

Bill Holder bt Ron Stracey.

Ladies' Doubles:

Hayward and Jenny Webster beat Lorraine Garbett and Michelle Hams.

Restricted:

Gary Hall beat Jeff Osborn.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by ALAN CAVELL

The county's top three players at both Senior and Junior level, Malcolm Green, Nigel Thomas and Mark Pugh, justified their rankings at the Shrewsbury and District Table Tennis Association's Closed Championships.

Nigel Thomas won the Men's Singles title beating Mark Pugh in the final. Malcolm Green had lost to Mark Pugh in one semi-final but re-asserted himself in the Junior final to beat Nigel Thomas.

Green and Thomas retained the Men's Doubles title.

Sue Evans won the Ladies' Singles title for the first time: she beat Mrs. Grace Gee in one semi-final and Mrs. Carmen Garrett in the final.

Telford's Closed Championships were uneventful. Fifty-two year old Albert Hiscock retained the Men's Singles title, seemingly effortlessly. His opponent in the final was hard hitting penholder Tony Horobin.

Heather Flint and Tracey Powell reached the final of the Ladies' Singles and Heather retained the title. Horobin and Motto Jones retained the Men's Doubles title, beating Hiscock and Wally Harris in the final.

Albert Hiscock did not enter the veteran's event and left the way open for Pat Gosnell to beat Albrighton club mate Reg Smith in a close final.

The Albrighton T.T.C. also provided the junior winners when Tracey Powell beat Janet Siddle in the Junior Girls' event and when eleven year old Martin Tuft out hit Nicholas Charnley in the Junior Boys' final.

During the previous 10 days Martin had also won the Sheba World Travel Boys' under-14, the Telford Schools Boys' under-12 and the Shropshire Schools Boys' under-13 titles. He is one of several very promising young players who are now emerging at Telford.

SOMERSET NOTES

by GRAHAM GREEN

JUNIOR SUCCESS AT LAST

The Somerset Junior team registered their first victory in two years by beating Wiltshire II's by a margin of 7-3. Somerset's successes coming from Matt Lazenby (2), David Lee (1), David Wilson (1), Wendy Payne (1), Boys Doubles and Girls' Doubles.

The Senior team improved the possibility of gaining divisional honours by beating Worcester by 7-3; Somerset's victories being achieved by Brian Reeves (1), John Hartry (1), Roger Morris (1),

Men's Doubles, Jill Wilson, Pat Reeves and the Ladies' Doubles, Pat Reeves made a first class return to County table tennis by beating Janet Hunt.

The Bridgewater League Knockout was held at Chilton Trinity School on the 11/12th February. The under-14's and under-17's Boys' tournaments were won by 12 year old David Lee, who also won the Junior Doubles with David Wilson. Vanessa Frost had a fruitful weekend, picking up both Girls' under-14's and under-17's trophies on the Sunday after having won the Senior Mixed Doubles with Graham Green on Saturday.

No. 1 seed for the Open Singles, Geoff Porter was relegated to the Consolation Knockout, for first-round losers, by Frank Williams of Division 1.

Results:-

Open Singles Semi-finals:

G. Green bt J. Crabtree 16, 12;

C. New bt M. Andrews 16, 14.

Final (best of 5 games):

G. Green bt C. New 11, 8, 5.

Women's Singles Final:

B. Norman bt W. Pryce 15, 14.

Open Doubles Final:

J. Hartry/R. Thornton bt G. Green/J. Crabtree 12, -20, 17.

Mixed Doubles Final:

G. Green/V. Frost bt R. Knight/B. Norman 13, 18.

Restricted Singles Final:

M. Lazenby bt T. Preece -20, 14, 6.

Consolation Singles Final:

G. Porter bt M. Williams 17, 14.

Boys' U-17's Final:

D. Lee bt M. Lazenby 10, -18, 15.

Girls' U-17's Final:

V. Frost bt W. Payne 7, 18.

Boys' U-14's Final:

D. Lee bt S. Fletcher -19, 12, 16.

Girls' U-14's Final:

V. Frost bt W. Payne 10, 5.

Junior Doubles Final:

D. Lee/D. Wilson bt N. Banwell/S. Slater 18, 17.

The revised Somerset Senior ranking list as of 1st February is as follows:-

Men:

1. B. Reeves, 2. J. Hartry, 3. R. Morris,
4. C. Feltham, 5. G. Green, 6. J. Garland,
7. J. Crabtree, 8. R. Thornton, 9. J. Andrews,
10. V. Adams, 11. R. Neal, 12. R. Trim.

Women:

1. J. Wilson, 2. A. Taft-Heath, 3. P. Reeves,
4. B. Norman, 5. W. Pryce.

In the Carter Cup a maximum by Douglas Bennett could not save Norwich from a 4-5 defeat by Bury St. Edmund's.

The East Anglian League of Leagues will be holding their senior and junior championships at Thurlstone School, Ipswich, on Sunday, April 23rd. Their League Championship tables show Norwich, Ipswich, Bury, Dereham, Wymondham, Lowestoft and Yarmouth in that order in Division 1, but Ipswich have a match in hand. In Div. 2a Dereham have 9 points, Norwich 7, at the top, and Div. 2b sees Wisbech 14, Lynn 12 and Fakenham 10, followed by Ipswich, Stowmarket and Yarmouth. In Divisions Junior A and Junior B, Bury head Norwich.

It is with very great regret that I have to record that Mr. Bob Hazell, President of the East Anglian League and also of Great Yarmouth League, passed away last month.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by JACK CHALKLEY

DISASTROUS DEFEAT

The County "A" team match against the strong Leicestershire side was staged in Stafford in front of the Mayor and Mayoress of the town and well over 100 local enthusiasts, but despite this support the match ended in a disastrous 10-0 defeat for the home side. The visitors showed their clear determination to return to the Premier Division, but even so, Staffs, were a little unlucky not to win one or, perhaps, two consolation sets.

Unluckiest of all was surely Janet Carr, who is currently studying Maths at Manchester University. She led 13-7 in the third against No. 7 England ranked Karen Rogers, but with the thought of certain victory, Janet lost her concentration and allowed her lead to be gradually eroded away. All credit to Karen in maintaining a steady fight back, but with too many nervous hits and prods it was a set lost rather than a set won.

Paul Randell is surely one of the best unranked players in the country. He pleased the crowd with his fine sense of anticipation and at least it can be said that Tony Isaac and Keith Fellows did well in extending him to show his true class and sensitive touch.

County President Tom Finney congratulated the Leicestershire team and thanked the Stafford Association for staging the match at the Universal canteen in such excellent conditions.

Results:-

Tony Isaac lost to Chris Rogers -18, -18;

lost to Paul Randell -17, -17;

Brian Keates lost to Maurice Newman -3, 18, -17;

lost to Rogers -14, -4;

Keith Fellows lost to Randell -19, 19, -12;

lost to Newman 17, -11, -13;

Isaac and Keates lost to Randell and Rogers

-18, -18;

Stephanie Jones lost to Anita Stephenson -14, -11;

Janet Carr lost to Karen Rogers 20, -12, -20;

Miss Jones and Miss Carr lost to Miss Stephenson and Miss Rogers -12, -13.

Staffs, Junior "A" side gave a most impressive display in beating Cleveland, a side with two England-ranked players, 10-0. The Junior "B" team also gave a good all-round performance in gaining an 8-2 win over Worcestershire.

Congratulations to Meseley Park School for reaching the finals of the National School Team Championships in both the Boys under-16 and under-13 events and to Highfields School for reaching the Girls under-19 final.

In the Potteries league, Norton brought off a victory against the odds in beating James Birks 5-4 in the final of the Sentinel Cup. The Norton team of Stan Deakin, Phil Anderson and Mark Evans owed much to their No. 1 who fought back from 2-11 and 16-20 against Eddie Wilkes in the final game to take the set 23-21. The Norton team however found Malcolm Green too strong for them, but Malcolm's maximum of three wins was insufficient to give James Birks victory.

The County "A" team completed this season's County Championship programme with a win over Northamptonshire 6-4, and with two wins and a draw out of their five matches, their position halfway up the table at least ensures safety from relegation.

With Stephanie Jones (Wolverhampton) playing in the finals of the National Schools Championships, Staffs, took the opportunity of introducing top junior Jill Harris (Wolverhampton) to senior county play, and what a debut it turned out to be. She not only confounded the opposition in her singles match by 8, 9 but surprised her own colleagues with a sparkling display of attacking table tennis. With performances like this she must surely enter the national junior ranking list before the end of the season.

Brian Keates, team captain for several years now, has decided to retire from the county team. He feels that with the junior strength which now exists in the county younger players must be given the chance to develop at senior level. He is extremely optimistic about the future of the County teams and hopes to continue to be active in support at county level. Brian, who although from Walsall plays in the Potteries league also, has captained the County during a period of consolidation, and their position in the Midland section of the 2nd Division gives the younger players a clear chance of striking out for the Premier Division. With performances like that of Jill Harris we could be in for a surprise in the next year or two.

Results:-

Tony Isaac bt T. Clark 15, -17, 10;

bt G. Alden 16, 19.

Keith Fellows lost to G. Alden 18, -10, -16;

lost to S. Lyon 15, -20, -13.

Brian Keates lost to S. Lyon -17, -21;

bt T. Clark 19, 20.

Isaac/Keates lost to Clark/Lyon -18, -20.

Jill Harris bt Mrs. Price 8, 9.

Janet Carr bt Miss Wilson 10, 15.

Miss Carr/Miss Harris bt Miss Wilson/Mrs. Price -19, 17, 14.

CHESHIRE CHAT

by DICK TURNER

£500 OFFER WITHDRAWN

The senior team continued along their route to the Premier Division with a 10-0 defeat of Durham. As a weakened Lancashire side only managed a 5-5 draw with Yorkshire II, Cheshire are virtually assured of a place in the play-off for the Premier. This will take place at I.C.I. Recreation Centre, Newton, Hyde, during the weekend of April 29/30.

The County was offered £500 of free clothing and equipment for next season by a well-known supplier, but the offer was withdrawn when the supplier found that their budget restricted them. The County are now open to offers from other suppliers who may find it to their advantage to be linked with a strong table tennis county.

The senior second team completed the season with a 5-5 draw against Clwyd to remain undefeated, but the Veterans found the strong Nottinghamshire side a shade too good and suffered their first defeat of the season, 7-3. Nottinghamshire thus retained the title. The Juniors have had a good season to date in Division 2 North. They beat Derbyshire 8-2 to give them four wins out of five matches.

There was a good match at the Parish Church in Culcheth, Warrington on Saturday, March 18. While many Cheshire players were indoors contesting the Merseyside Open, the sun was shining for Cheshire's leading lady Sue Lisle on her wedding day, the lucky man being another well-known Cheshire County player, Roger Hampson.

Many leagues have now held their Closed Championships. Among the winners of more recent events have been the two veterans Terry Donlon and Derek Schofield. Both completed the double, Terry winning the Men's and Veterans' Singles in Hyde, and Derek doing likewise in Sale. Derek Abbott won the Men's Singles once again in Macclesfield and Del Stalburg was the winner in Mid-Cheshire. Ian Johns, runner-up to brother Brian in Mid-Cheshire last season, went for the bigger prize and won the Men's Singles in Chester.

Cheshire's Junior Squad have continued their regular coaching sessions. The next is at Stretford Sports Centre on Sunday, April 19 when other

(continued on page 19)

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. PENNY

All three Norfolk teams were in action on February 28. The 1st team at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. had a hard and fluctuating match with Herts., leading 2-1, 3-2, dropping to 3-5, then recovering to 5-all. For Herts. Richard Jermyn was unbeaten.

The 2nd team had an encouraging 8-2 victory over Bedfordshire away. Neville Graver, John Turner and Trevor Bunn all winning both their singles and Graver and Bunn the doubles. Mrs. Sue Allen also won her singles. The Juniors, however, had a very stiff match against Warwickshire at May and Baker's Canteen, Norwich, and were 'whitewashed' 0-10. It is interesting to record that the No. 1 Hong Kong Junior, Hon Kin NG, was in the opposition.

There were 87 entries for six events in the Great Yarmouth Junior Championships.

Results:-

U-11: R. Dexter bt N. Stevenson 17, 14.

U-13: I. Ecclestone bt B. Barron 5, 14.

U-13 Doubles: Barron/Ecclestone bt S. Malloy/Sarah Bignall 15, -16, 18.

U-15: D. Pundt bt M. Weavers 21, 6.

U-17: R. Margetson bt A. Jeal -9, 9, 17.

U-17 Doubles: A. Jeal/S. Baxter bt R. Margetson/C. Hutchinson 18, 17.

In the Rose Bowl Norwich (Jeanne Brown, Wendy Hogg and Janet Faiers) came up against Dagenham in the 4th round. They played well but the very strong opposition (E. Foulds, I. Radford and J. Boulter) allowed them but one tie. Hogg beating Boulter.

Category 2, Stage 1

GROUP A2

Table with 11 columns: Rank, Country, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Won, Pos., Sets. Rows include Bulgaria, Greece, Denmark, Austria, Ireland, Norway, Finland.

GROUP B2

Table with 11 columns: Rank, Country, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Won, Pos., Sets. Rows include Poland, Switzerland, Scotland, Spain, Italy, Wales.

Stage 2

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Country, Opponent. Rows include Greece vs Italy, Denmark vs Wales, Austria vs Switzerland, Finland vs Scotland, Ireland vs Poland, Bulgaria vs Spain.

21-22

Denmark 3 Italy 2

19-20

Switzerland 3 Scotland 0

17-18

Finland 3 Austria 1

15-16

Poland 3 Spain 1

13-14

Bulgaria 3 Ireland 1

Stage 3

For Positions

23-24

Greece 3 Wales 0

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS (MEN)

ENGLAND

Table with 7 columns: Douglas, Day, Hilton, Jarvis, F, A, Opponents. Rows include matches against Fed. Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, U.S.S.R., France, Hungary.

IRELAND

Table with 7 columns: Langan, Slevin, Keane, Heasley, F, A, Opponents. Rows include matches against Turkey, Belgium, Finland, Rumania, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Jersey, Wales, Switzerland.

SCOTLAND

Table with 7 columns: Yule, Sutherland, McNee, Moir, F, A, Opponents. Rows include matches against Greece, Austria, Spain, Wales, Norway, Luxembourg, Guernsey, Switzerland, Wales.

WALES

Table with 7 columns: Davies, Evans, Bishop, Morgan, F, A, Opponents. Rows include matches against Norway, Luxembourg, Guernsey, Scotland, Greece, Austria, Spain, Ireland, Scotland.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by GEORGE R. YATES

DOUBLE FOR BRIAN

Shock winner of the men's singles title in the Lancashire Closed Championships, played at Thornton/Cleveleys Sports Centre on Mar. 19, was Blackpool's Brian Carney who had a point to prove having been dropped earlier in the season from Lancashire's Junior Premier Division side in favour of Bob Freely of Bury.

Carney really hammered the point home when he also won the boy's singles title with a final win over Paul Rainford of Preston. In the men's final Graham Hoy of Bury was the victim but, in fairness, there were extenuating circumstances.

Having booked the hall for a specific period, time ran out on the organisers before certain finals could be played and the Carney/Hoy encounter was transferred to Carney's home club premises, the Savoy at Fleetwood, which favoured Hoy not at all, Carney winning 16 and 15. In the semi-finals played at Thornton Carney was good value in disposing of Ian Smith (Preston, -21, 21 and 16), Hoy accounting for Nigel Hallows (Bolton) 11 and 19.

In the boys' singles semis, Carney beat Philip Hoy (Bury) and Rainford ousted Bob Freely. Connie Ford (nee Moore) had an easy final win over Viv Lloyd in an all-Blackpool women's singles final the girls' title going to nearby Lytham/St. Annes when Joy Grundy beat Carolyn Scowcroft of Bolton (-17, 20, 17).

Other results:-

M.D.: B. Davey/K. Williams (Liverpool) bt B. Carney/R. Frankland (Blackpool) -15, 21, 14. W.D.: I. Farrar/V. Lloyd (Blackpool) bt J. Monteath/K. Wright (Lytham) -15, 11, 16. X.D.: Frankland/Ford bt J. Hardiker (Preston)/Grundy 10, 21. V.S.: J. Tennant (Burnley) bt D. A. Hill (Blackpool) 17, 8.

Results in the Granada Reports group semi-finals were:-

Group 1 - East Flint 1 Rhyl 8; Liverpool 9 Anglesey 0. Group 2 - Preston 5 Blackpool 1; Nelson 6 Burnley 1. Group 3 - Manchester 8 Widnes 1; Warrington 7 Crewe 2. Group 4 - Bury 6 Blackburn 3; Salford w.o. Farnworth scr.

Salford duly complied with the instructions in respect of their home tie against Farnworth offering three dates which coincided with Farnworth's No. 1 player, David Constance, being abroad.

In refusing all three dates the match was awarded to Salford which somewhat, in the words of Paul Doherty, Granada's Head of Sport, "demeans the tournament".

Group final matches, to be played on or before April 15 are:-

Group 1 - Liverpool v Rhyl
Group 2 - Nelson v Preston
Group 3 - Warrington v Manchester
Group 4 - Salford v Bury

Farnworth, in beating Preston 7-3, became the first division champions of the Lanes and Cheshire League for the first time in their history. But there are rumblings of discontent throughout the league re Farnworth's use of Denis Neale, both against Manchester and Preston, because of his alleged non-participation in the Farnworth League itself.

Stockport retained their women's Div. 1 title having gone throughout the season without the loss of a point but, in Junior Div. 1, defending champions Barrow brought Bury's unbeaten run to a halt in winning 7-3 with Diccon Gray unbeaten, supported by Ian Reed (2) and Andrew Pachul (1), plus the doubles. For Bury Philip Hoy had two wins and Bob Freely one.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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(continued from page 8)

Category 2, Stage 1

GROUP A2

Table with 11 columns: Rank, Country, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Won, Pos., Sets. Rows include Bulgaria, Greece, Denmark, Austria, Ireland, Norway, Finland.

GROUP B2

Table with 11 columns: Rank, Country, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Won, Pos., Sets. Rows include Poland, Switzerland, Scotland, Spain, Italy, Wales.

Stage 2

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Country, Opponent, Score. Rows include Greece vs Italy, Denmark vs Wales, Austria vs Switzerland, Finland vs Scotland, Ireland vs Poland, Bulgaria vs Spain.

Stage 3

For Positions

23-24 Greece 3 Wales 0

21-22

Denmark 3 Italy 2

19-20

Switzerland 3 Scotland 0

17-18

Finland 3 Austria 1

15-16

Poland 3 Spain 1

13-14

Bulgaria 3 Ireland 1

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS (MEN)

ENGLAND

Table with 7 columns: Douglas, Day, Hilton, Jarvis, F, A, Opponents. Rows show match results for England players.

IRELAND

Table with 7 columns: Langan, Slevin, Keane, Heasley, F, A, Opponents. Rows show match results for Ireland players.

SCOTLAND

Table with 7 columns: Yule, Sutherland, McNea, Moir, F, A, Opponents. Rows show match results for Scotland players.

WALES

Table with 7 columns: Davies, Evans, Bishop, Morgan, F, A, Opponents. Rows show match results for Wales players.

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by GEORGE R. YATES

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Other results:-

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B. Carney/R. Frankland (Blackpool) -15, 21, 14.
W.D.: I. Farrar/V. Lloyd (Blackpool) bt J. Monteath/K. Wright (Lytham) -15, 11, 16.
X.D.: Frankland/Ford bt J. Hardiker (Preston)/Grundy 10, 21.
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(continued on page 14)

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS (WOMEN)

ENGLAND

Table with columns: Hammersley, Knight, Howard, Witt, Ham./Howard, F, A, Opponents. Rows show match results and totals for England women.

IRELAND

Table with columns: Senior, Leonard, Kilpatrick, Senior/Leonard, F, A, Opponents. Rows show match results and totals for Ireland women.

SCOTLAND

Table with columns: McKay, Fleming, Dalrymple, Fl./Mc., Dal./Mc., Dal./Fl., F, A, Opponents. Rows show match results and totals for Scotland women.

WALES

Table with columns: Coulthard, Wheatley, Choulthard/Wheatley, F, A, Opponents. Rows show match results and totals for Wales women.

FINISHING POSITIONS

(Previous positions in brackets)

Table with columns: MEN, WOMEN. Lists finishing positions for men and women in the European Championships.

* Demoted to Category 2
† Promoted to Category 1

11th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles Round 3:
J. Secretin (FR) bt J. Molnar (H) 14, 13, 16;
D. Douglas (EN) bt I. Solopov (SU) 15, 20, 13;
J. Dvoracek (CS) bt J. Gierloff (NO) 14, 17, 20;
T. Klampar (H) bt A. Gronlund (S) 16, -21, 18, 17;
I. Jonyer (H) bt M. Autio (SF) 14, -11, 17, 18;
J. Kunz (CS) bt J. Hilton (EN) -17, 15, 8, 7;
S. Sarkhojan (SU) bt P. Engel (D) 15, 18, 10;
S. Bengtsson (S) bt S. Crisan (RU) 10, 10, 10;
M. Orlovski (CS) bt V. Shevchenko (SU) 14, 12, 9;
C. Martin (FR) bt M. Karakasevic (YU) 8, -21, 15, -23, 15;
T. Kreicz (H) bt T. Danielsson (S) -18, 17, 20, 12;
D. Surbek (YU) bt E. Huging (D) -23, 9, -16, 18, 10;
W. Lieck (D) bt I. Nikolov (BG) 12, 5, 19;
P. Birocheau (FR) bt A. Strokotov (SU) -17, 14, -13, 20, 10;
J. Takacs (H) bt Z. Kalinic (YU) 19, -16, 17, -19, 18;
G. Gergely (H) bt H. Meland (NO) 12, 13, 9.
Round 4
Douglas bt Secretin -19, 16, 13, 7;
Klampar bt Dvoracek 19, 18, 14;
Jonyer bt Kunz 17, 18, -20, 16;
Sarkhojan bt Bengtsson 18, 18, -15, 20;
Orlovski bt Martin 9, 9, 18;
Kreicz bt Surbek -14, 18, 14, -15, 11;
Lieck bt Birocheau 17, 12, -19, 11;
Gergely bt Takacs 17, 18, -15, 13.
Quarter-finals:
Douglas bt Klampar 16, -15, 19, 11;
Jonyer bt Sarkhojan 14, 10, -18, -18, 16;
Kreicz bt Orlovski 21, 11, 18;
Gergely bt Lieck 16, 20, 15.
Semi-finals:
JONYER bt Douglas -14, 13, 14, 15;
GERGELY bt Kreicz 10, 11, 15.
Final:
GERGELY bt Jonyer 16, 17, 9.
Women's Singles Round 2:
J. Hammersley (EN) bt J. Williams (NL) 18, 20, 18;
J. Dettaille (B) bt M. Grefberg (SF) 8, 13, 16;
B. Silhanova (CS) bt B. Batinic (YU) 19, -18, 13, 19;
C. Bergeret (FR) bt D. Fabri (YU) 11, 20, 11;
A-C. Hellman (S) bt K. Senior (IR) 7, 11, -13, 16;
G. Perkucin (YU) bt D. Fetter (AU) 11, 10, -19, 20;
D. Dubinova (CS) bt L. Mihut (RU) 15, -15, 14, -19, 17;
W. Hendriksen (D) bt V. Popova (SU) 5, 14, -12, 8;
I. Uhlíkova (CS) bt N. Daviaud (FR) 8, 8, 9;
L. Howard (EN) bt S. de Kruiff (NL) -19, 9, 13, -19, 14;
E. Palatinus (YU) bt B. Thiriet (FR) 14, 13, 21;
G. Szabo (H) bt E. Ferenczi (RU) 13, 11, 18;
M. Alexandru (RU) bt U. Hirschmuller (D) 17, 16, -21, 8;
J. Magos (H) bt C. Knight (EN) 16, -19, 16, 10;
M-F. Germinat (B) bt E. Pozniak (PL) -18, 22, 14, 10;
L. Bakshutova (SU) bt J. Dom (LUX) 7, 17, 11.
Round 3:
Hammersley bt Dettaille 12, 20, 12;
Silhanova bt Bergeret 9, 19, -19, 13;
Hellman bt Perkucin 18, 8, -15, 10;
Hendriksen bt Dubinova 16, 12, 13;
Uhlíkova bt Howard 7, 7, 12;
Szabo bt Palatinus 11, 19, -14, 18;
Magos bt Alexandru -14, 18, 15, 15;
Bakshutova bt Germinat 8, 15, 7.
Quarter-finals:
Hammersley bt Silhanova 15, 12, 17;
Hellman bt Hendriksen 9, 15, 11;
Szabo bt Uhlíkova 18, 16, 15;
Magos bt Bakshutova 9, 13, 17.
Semi-finals:
HAMMERSLEY bt Hellman 15, 15, 15;
MAGOS bt Szabo 19, -10, 20, 19.
Final:
MAGOS bt Hammersley 14, -19, 18, 13.



Colm Slevin, the broth of a boy from Dublin who, at 13-years-of-age, made his European Championships debut in Duisburg.

Photo by Karola Kiesslich, Hamburg.

(continued on page 16)

(continued from page 14)

Men's Doubles Round 3:

A. Stipanovic (YU)/Surbek bt H. Lammers/
K. Schmittinger (D) 13, -14, 12, 14;
Kreisz/Martin bt Sarkhojan/Strokatov 22, 18, 19;
Liecek/R. Wosik (D) bt S. Dobosi/T. Gheorghe (RU)
17, -11, 19, -19, 13;
Gergely/Orlowski bt B. Parietti/P. Renverse (FR)
12, 18, 14;
Jonjyer/Klampar bt Engel/Huging 13, 6, 14;
J. Leiss/P. Stellwag (D) bt M. Crimmins/P. Day (EN)
14, 10, 21;
Karakasevic/Z. Kosanovic (YU) bt Bengtsson/L. Franklin
(S) 19, -19, 12, 20;
Dvoracek/Kunz bt S. Dryszel/L. Kucharski (PL) 25, 15, 17.
Quarter-finals:
Stipanovic/Surbek bt Kreisz/Martin 10, 15, 16;
Gergely/Orlowski bt Liecek/Wosik -11, 12, 17, 19;
Leiss/Stellwag bt Jonjyer/Klampar 17, 14, 20;
Karakasevic/Kosanovic bt Dvoracek/Kunz 15, 12, 12.
Semi-finals:
GERGELY/ORLOWSKI bt Stipanovic/Surbek
16, -18, 17, 18;
LEISS/STELLWAG bt Karakasevic/Kosanovic
14, -21, 19, -19, 18.
Final:
GERGELY/ORLOWSKI bt Leiss/Stellwag
-11, -10, 11, 18, 10.

Women's Doubles Round 2:

Alexandru/Mihut bt P. Lupon (ES)/D. Kilpatrick (IR)
14, 10, 17;
Batinic/Fabri bt Hendriksen/B. Kishazi (H) 13, 15, 18;
N. Antonian (SU)/Popova bt W. Sikora/J. Szatko (PL)
16, 16, 14;
Palatinus/Perkucin bt D. Guerguelcheva/A. Rangelova
(BG) 19, 19, 22;
M. Sedlmair (D)/Senior bt Ferenczi/B. Vriesekoop (NL)
-14, 20, -14, 16, 19;
Magos/Szabo bt Fetter/B. Gropper (AU) 17, 11, 9;
Hellman/M. Lindblad (S) bt Bergeret/Davidian
17, 15, -21, 8;
Silhanova/Uhlikova bt Detaille/Germiat 13, -10, -17, 18, 19.
Quarter-finals:
Alexandru/Mihut bt Batinic/Fabri 7, -23, 16, 12;
Antonian/Popova bt Palatinus/Perkucin -25, 12, 9, 15;
Magos/Szabo bt Sedlmair/Senior -20, 13, 11, 20;
Silhanova/Uhlikova bt Hellman/Lindblad -10, 18, 14, 21.
Semi-finals:
ALEXANDRU/MIHUT bt Antonian/Popova 16, 19, 14;
MAGOS/SZABO bt Silhanova/Uhlikova -18, 19, 17, -20, 14.
Final:
ALEXANDRU/MIHUT bt Magos/Szabo 11, 18, -19, 14.

Mixed Doubles Round 3:

Secretin/Bergeret bt Crimmins/Knight 7, 11, 11;
Strokatov/Popova bt Jonjyer/Z. Olah (H) 16, 18, 6;
Liecek/Hendriksen bt Gergely/Magos 22, 15, 9;
S. Fraczyk (PL)/Pozniak bt Martin/Thiriet
-16, 10, -15, -12, 20;
Sarkhojan/A. Zakharian (SU) bt J. Pansky (CS)/
Dubinova 18, 17, -18, 17;
Douglas/Howard bt Danielsson/A. Hernvall (S) 20, 19, 11;
Klampar/Szabo bt Engel/Hirschmuller 7, 16, 18;
Stipanovic/Palatinus bt Dvoracek/M. Hrachova (CS)
11, 13, 14.
Quarter-finals:
Strokatov/Popova bt Secretin/Bergeret 9, 19, 15;
Liecek/Hendriksen bt Fraczyk/Pozniak 17, -18, 11, -13, 22;
Sarkhojan/Zakharian bt Douglas/Howard
-14, 13, 19, -13, 19;
Klampar/Szabo bt Stipanovic/Palatinus 11, 19, 15.
Semi-finals:
LIECK/HENDRIKSEN bt Strokatov/Popova 20, 7, 18;
KLAMPAR/SZABO bt Sarkhojan/Zakharian
18, -15, -16, 11, 12.
Final:
LIECK/HENDRIKSEN bt Klampar/Szabo
15, -18, -14, 18, 18.

Men's Consolation Singles Quarter-finals:

Schmittinger bt Z. Bohm (RU) 7, 14;
Gheorghe bt R. Rijsdorp (NL) 13, 18;
Wosik bt J. Juhas (YU) 9, 14;
V. Aleksandridis (TR) bt H. Gootzen (NL) 6, 14.

Semi-finals:

Gheorghe bt Schmittinger 4, -17, 17;
Aleksandridis bt Wosik -19, 17, 15.

Final:

Aleksandridis bt Gheorghe -18, 16, 15.

Women's Consolation Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Gourmelon (FR) bt Szatko 18, 21;
Hrachova bt C. Risch (LUX) 17, -20, 17;
Hernvall bt K. Witt (EN) 10, 13;
A. Simon (D) bt B. Lippens (B) 10, 11.

Semi-finals:

Hrachova bt Gourmelon 15, 17;
Simon bt Hernvall 18, 19.

Final:

Hrachova bt Simon 10, 19.

SENIOR SELECTIONS

The National Selection Committee chose the following teams for international events at senior level.

Scottish Open (Edinburgh) (March 31 - Apr 2)

Men: Nicky Jarvis (Cv), Donald Parker (La) and Kenny Jackson (E). Reserve: Malcolm Green (Sp).

Women: Carole Knight (Cv) and Anita Stevenson (Le). Reserve: Melody Ludi (Y).

England v The Netherlands (European League) — Mayflower Sports Centre, Plymouth Apl. 6 at 7 p.m.

Desmond Douglas (Wa), Paul Day (Ca), Nicky Jarvis (Cv), Jill Hammersley (Bu) and Linda Howard (Sy).

FENLAND 2-STAR OPEN

NOT ECKERSLEY'S HAPPY HUNTING GROUND

by Howard Lupton

For the second year running Nigel Eckersley fought his way through to the final of the Fenland only to find himself coming off second best in the men's singles. In 1977 Max Crimmins beat the Cheshire man and this year it was the turn of John Dabin to get the better of him.

In an action-packed final it was Dabin with some fine defensive play who came out on top against the all-action attacking style of Eckersley. All credit to the man from Kent.

The Wisbech and District T.T.A. organised the Fenland this year on Mar. 5 at the new venue of Hudson Sports Centre, Wisbech. It was the first time that Wisbech have run the Fenland since 1970 as the size of the tournament gradually outgrew the facilities in Wisbech.

The Kings Lynn Assn. took over and thanks must be passed on to the Lynn Association and especially John McGowan for their assistance before and on the day to enable a smooth change over to take place.

Play commenced at 9 a.m. prompt with our Tournament Referee, Stan Ford, at the head of the charge! He, with the assistance of table minders, kept play continuous throughout the day until 45 minutes before the scheduled start of the finals. This precious time enabled the organisers just sufficient time to set up extra lighting and the re-organisation of the surrounds for the finals which commenced on time at 7.30 p.m.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

F. Nilam (Bd) bt K. Richardson (Ca) 21, -21, 17;
J. Dabin (K) bt S. Hamer (Bu) 15, -21, 15;
M. Mitchell (Mi) bt C. Rogers (Le) -18, 10, 15;
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt R. Jermyn (He) 9, 14.

Semi-finals:

Dabin bt Nilam 16, 16;
Eckersley bt Mitchell 18, -16, 14.

Final:

DABIN bt Eckersley 19, 17.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

L. Holmes (Ng) bt M. Wallis (Np) -18, 18, 14;
K. Rogers (Le) bt G. Galloway (Li) 9, 15.

Final:

ROGERS bt Holmes 13, 14.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

A. Croome (Ng)/B. Hill (Li) bt A. Lamprell (Hu)/
Mitchell 12, 11;
Jermyn/Nilam bt Dabin/Rogers 16, 17.

Final:

JERMYN/NILAM bt Croome/Hill 11, -17, 20.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Holmes/Rogers bt A. Wallis (Np)/M. Wallis 9, 15;
Galloway/J. Hunter (Ca) bt G. Stocks (Y)/
J. White (Li) 13, 18.

Final:

HOLMES/ROGERS bt Galloway/Hunter 13, 19.

Mixed Doubles

Final:

ECKERSLEY/GALLOWAY bt Rogers/Rogers
11, -20, 14.

Boys' Singles

Final:

PLEASANCE bt Bennett 13, 9.

Girls' Singles

Final:

WALLIS bt Williams -11, 20, 19.

Each event in the finals programme was sponsored to the maximum amount under 2-Star regulations. All credit must go to Keith Rudland who set about the difficult task of obtaining sponsorship to the tune of £339 for the seven events. Each sponsor was asked to come along to the finals and present the cheque and many did so and will, hopefully, do again next season.

Most sporting moment of the evening came in the men's doubles final with the set score standing at one game each between Alan Croome/Brian Hill and Firoz Nilam and Richard Jermyn. Hill served a net which the umpire failed to see. Nilam played the point but Croome failed to respond thinking it was a net to which Jermyn sportingly confirmed only to lose the point when played to go 18-20 down. But like all good stories Jermyn

and Nilam pulled off the last four points to win at the death.

In conclusion I would like to thank the sponsors, Paul Jackson (Promoter) and all his assistants and the players for being helpful and co-operative on the day to make the Fenland a pleasure to help run and organise.

IRISH NOTES

by WILLIE WALSH

IRISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

The stars of the Irish Closed Championships held in Omagh last month were 16 year old Ann Leonard and 13 year old Colm Slevin.

Slevin won the Men's Singles, beating Roger Strong in the final 10, -19, 11. Strong caused a surprise earlier by beating the No. 3 seed and current international, Thomas Heasley.

In the Men's Doubles Final, the strongly fancied Slevin and Heasley were beaten by Alistair Cairns and Derek Weir 15, 19.

What a great championship it was for the Dublin girl Ann Leonard. She beat Liz Cash 18, 14 in the Ladies' Singles Final, teamed up with Miss Cash to beat Monica Davey and Margaret Furey in the Ladies' Doubles Final 16, 8 and partnered by her brother Kieran, won the Mixed Doubles.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Fraser bt P. Glynn (War.) 21-18, 18-21, 21-19.
R. Strong bt W. Gordon 20-22, 21-18, 22-20.
J. Hickey bt D. Weir 21-16, 18-21, 21-19.

C. Slevin bt J. Cash 17-21, 21-16, 21-16.

Semi-finals:

R. Strong bt A. Fraser 21-13, 24-22.
C. Slevin bt J. Hickey 21-14, 21-15.

Final:

Colm Slevin bt R. Strong 21-10, 19-21, 21-11.

Ladies' Singles Semi-finals:

A. Leonard bt V. Moore.
E. Cash bt M. Davey.

Final:

A. Leonard bt E. Cash 21-18, 21-14.

Boys' Singles:

C. Slevin bt K. Heasley 21-10, 21-12.

Girls' Singles:

A. Leonard bt M. Davey 21-12, 21-9.

Men's Doubles:

Weir/Cairns bt Slevin/Heasley 22-20, 24-22.

Ladies' Doubles:

Leonard/Cash bt Davey/Furey 21-14, 21-9.

Mixed Doubles:

Milligan/Leonard bt J. and E. Cash
19-21, 21-12, 21-13.

INTER PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Leinster retained the Inter-provincial Championships which were held in Sligo, when they beat Ulster in the Final match. Both Ulster and Leinster had facile victories over Munster and Connacht in the first series, and Munster beat Connacht, who ended up with the 'wooden spoon'.

This was a tremendous achievement by Leinster who were without Jim Langan, Colm Slevin, Kevin Keane, Ann Leonard and Deirdre Kilpatrick. Langan and Keane cried off and the others were representing Ireland at the Stiga Welsh Open — as was Alistair Cairns of Ulster.

The Leinster team of Tommie Caffrey, Brian Larrigan, Joe Hickey, Kathleen Murray and Dolores Keller however rose to the occasion, winning the championship comfortably.

IRISH RUBIES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the final of the Irish Rubies Club Championships, Newtownards beat Glenalbyn 7-5 in a tremendously exciting and entertaining match. The deciding factors were the victories of Derek Weir over Colm Slevin and Thomas Heasley over Kieran Leonard.

INTER LEAGUE

Honours were shared when the Belfast and District Leagues came to Dublin to meet the Leinster Leagues at Senior and Junior level in their annual inter-league match. Leinster won the Senior match 7-2, and Belfast won the Junior match by a similar score.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by DAVID COSWAY

OPPORTUNITY TO RE-BUILD

Relegation from the Second Division at the end of a disappointing season for the County could give them the opportunity of re-building in a lower division. In a season without a victory, Chris Shetler has clearly established himself as the County No. 1 and to cap a good season his two fine wins in the final match against Middlesex showed the gulf which now exists between him and the remaining men in the County.

Keith Summerfield, the former No. 1, has had a poor season by his standards, due, I consider, to a large extent to his lack of match play. At the time of writing he had not played for his Alpha Club in the Premier Division this season and has not played for the City. The absence of the edge to his game has been a major factor in losing many of his Singles for the County. His concentration on coaching is admirable for the youngsters but if he has ambitions to further his own career he must have regular match play.

Chris Pickard is a capable player but with his allegiance split with Dorset, his future for Hampshire must be in doubt. Derek Holman was recalled this season and although he has lived and played away from Hampshire for a number of years, his commitment to the County has never been in doubt. He always gives 100% effort in his own game and his involvement and encouragement, especially to the younger players, has been an example to his team members. Richard Bergemann is the player that the County must look to for the future: his singles play, despite his age, has been up to the standard of the best in the County and his two wins against Kent, in both coming from behind to win at 19 in the third, showed a maturity far beyond his years. Clearly, he must play regularly for the Senior Team next season.

In the past the County has relied heavily on its women players whereas they now find themselves in a position where their top women are just not strong enough to win at County level. At the start of the season, Jane Whitchee was No. 1 at both Senior and Junior levels. Her play has not come on as hoped during the season and her dedication must be in some doubt after dropping out of both the last matches. Serina Sinanin, promoted for the latter half of the season to Senior and Junior No. 1 has fared slightly better and her singles win against Middlesex was excellent. Diane Winmill stepped in as last minute reserve in each of the last two matches.

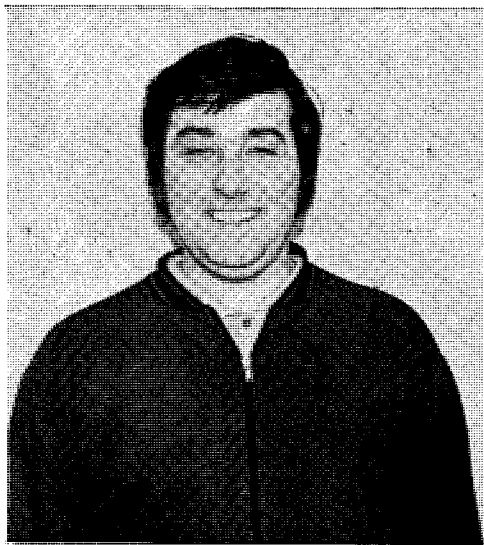
What makes the County situation even more gloomy is the fact that, apart from the Juniors who have been blooded in the Senior Team this season, there are few young players on the horizon who one can earmark as obvious Senior potential. In the past one has been able to look at the Junior County Team and see players who had clear prospects for the future. You have to be an optimist to do that at the moment.

I will now round up the local closed tournaments for which I have received results:-

In Portsmouth, Lush came back to form to win the Men's Title beating the holder for the past two years, Mike Douglas, at 19 in the third.

Serina Sinanin retained the Women's Title with a victory over Diane Winmill. Richard Fifield won the Juniors, Lush inevitably the Veterans', while Mike Douglas and Alan Bland won the Men's Doubles.

Kathy Conlon followed her good performances for the County Juniors by beating Belinda Kinge 7, 12 in the Women's Singles Final of the Basingstoke Closed. Clive Payne had a narrow 13, -19, 19, win over Barry Hill in the Men's Singles. Avril Waters and Allison Palazky won the Women's Doubles, Colin Sargeant and Clive Payne the Men's, while David Large and Kathy Conlon won the Mixed. In the Juniors, Tony Duffield won the Under-15 Boys' and Richard Waters the Under-17; Jackie Debnan the Under-15 Girls' and Kathy Conlon the Under-17. Lou Palazky won the Veterans.



PHIL BROWN,
Men's Singles winner at Southampton.

In the Isle of Wight, Jim Daley beat John Prean in the Men's Singles, while Rose Grimaldi beat Joy Batten in the Women's Singles. Daley and Steve Harris beat the father/son combination of John and Carl Prean in the Men's Doubles. Rose Grimaldi combined with Harris to win the Mixed and Joy Batten to win the Women's Doubles. Phil Attrill beat John Prean to win the Veterans' event. Carl Prean won both the U-16 and U-18 Junior Singles and combined with Kevin Attrill to win the Junior Doubles.

In Southampton, probably the most open tournament for many years in the Men's Singles with all 16 seeds in with some kind of chance. In the early rounds Pickard was convincingly beaten by Steve White, 10, 16, while top seed, Shetler, unfortunately suffering from an arm strain, went out in the quarters to Phil Brown. No. 3 seed, Martin Abbott, was also convincingly beaten at that stage by Mike Douglas. Bill Moulding beat White, Summerfield and John Robinson to reach the Semis. At that stage in probably the best match of the Finals night, Brown beat

Douglas -19, 19, 10. Summerfield had a comfortable 14, 17 over Moulding to reach the Final. The Final of this event was a very disappointing match with Summerfield completely out of touch to give Brown his third title at 12, 15, in a very one-sided set, with few rallies. Jane Whitchee showed some of her best table tennis of the season to win three events. In the Women's Singles she beat Ann Longland 13, 11. She then combined with Brown to win the Mixed and Ann Longland for the Women's Doubles. Summerbell, after easily winning the first game of the Junior Final against John Roberts, lost the next at 15 and only narrowly won the third at 19. Maurie Shave beat Dennis Shepherd 12, 16 in the Veterans' event.

I am interested to see that Southampton are starting a Summer Super League which will be run on an individual basis with each of the top ten Southampton players playing each other twice at a central venue. This innovation should give the top City players a good start to next season's campaign.

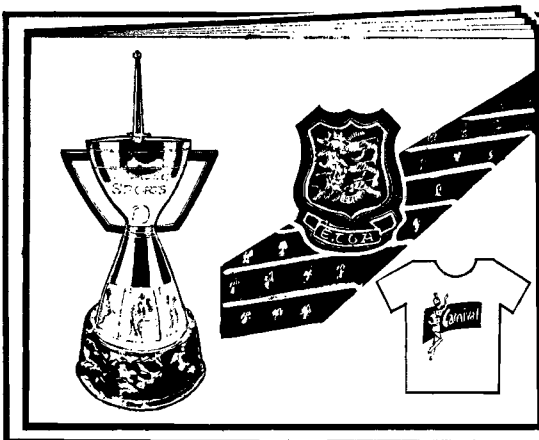
I will complete my Report with a plug for next season's 4T's One-Star Tournament. It is to be held again at Southampton University on Sunday September 17. Entry forms, which may be obtained from Mr. R. Bennett, at 54 Brookwood Road, Millbrook, Southampton, must be returned by Sept. 2. Last season this Tournament was heavily over committed with a large number of entries returned, so please send in your entries early!



JANE WHITCHEE,
winner of three titles in the Southampton Closed.

ANY OFFERS

Mr. Rune Hellman of Tunavagen 220, S-78100 Borlange is desirous of bringing a junior team over to England during July/August. Would be hosts are sought for this Swedish venture and Mr. Hellman would be delighted from them.



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COUNTY NOTES Continued

juniors outside of the squad will be invited to play along with the squad. With Ross McFarlane and Ron Weatherby joining the senior ranks next season, a number of juniors are competing for their places. Ian Weatherby, who hopes to join brother John in next year's side, and Tony Taylor, who had three good victories in Manchester Juniors 6-4 defeat of Barrow (Lancashire and Cheshire League), will be attending the Regional Ranking at Birmingham on April 29.

Terry Turner, winner of the Cheshire Schools Under-16 Championship, will be at Luton for the English Schools Championship on the same day. Peter Flint, Cheshire's leading cadet, and runner-up in the Under-16 Championship, still has to play Terry again in the Under-19 Final. Peter has the choice of going to Luton for the English Schools, or attending the Cadet Regional Ranking at Birmingham. Lyn Fennah and Janet Deakin are strong enough and young enough to retain their places for a few seasons yet. They continue to defeat each other. This time in the Cheshire Schools Championship, it was Lyn's turn to beat Janet. Mr. Jones, Malpas High School, the Tournament Organiser, worked very hard and achieved a successful tournament for the Cheshire Schools. But with 82 entries in the Under-16 Boys' Singles, the tournament again extended beyond midnight, even with two finals being deferred until a later date.

The Lancashire and Cheshire League's Norman Cook Handicap Cup remained in Cheshire when Sale defeated Lytham in the final. But in the League's First Division, Cheshire are to lose their sole representative Stockport, now relegated. On a happier note, a strong Macclesfield side led by Derek Abbott have swept through Division 2 North to replace Stockport in the First Division next season. Cheshire's women have fared better with Stockport being undefeated in Division 1, thanks to the efforts of Diane Johnson, Doreen Schofield and Janet Carr.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by JOAN ROBINSON

YOUNGEST EVER

Following the changes to the Junior Boys' Ranking List issued earlier in the year, the County Junior II team will go down on record as the youngest team ever to represent the County, the average age being only 13. Playing against Bedfordshire, Grantham Juniors Simon Pullen, Chris Bryan and Jane Wingad, together with Lincoln's sister and brother, Susan and 11-year-old Stuart Worrell soon had Lincolnshire off to a flying start being 6-0 up. Unfortunately the boys could not keep up the pressure and lost their remaining sets, whilst the girls took maximum points, to give Lincolnshire a victory of 7-3. Chris, Stuart and Susan all making County debuts.

Both the Senior and Junior I teams played at Newcastle against Northumberland winning 9-1 and 7-3 respectively. Carole Exton (Grantham) joining Jean White in the Senior Team, thus making her first Senior appearance. It would appear that many of the County top-ranked women would not make the journey to Newcastle, which leaves the question of whether they should be selected for the home matches.

Latest County Ranking Lists for County Matches (November Ranking in Brackets)

Men

1. Brian Hill (Wy) (1)
2. Peter Taylor (Gri) (2)
3. Brian Allison (Lo) (3)
4. Mark Newbould (Gri) (5)
5. Steve Morley (Gri) (4)
6. Mick East (Wy) (6)
7. Jimmy Brewster (Wy) (-)
8. David Skerratt (Sc) (8)
9. David Johnson (Li) (9)

Women

1. Suzanne Hunt (Gra) (1)
2. Jean White (Sp) (2)
3. Gillian Galloway (Li) (3)
4. Cheryl Buttery (Li) (4)
5. Connie Moran (Gri) (6)
6. Angela Gunthorpe (Li) (5)
7. Marie Green (Ma) (-)
8. Beryl Voss (Ma) (-)

Boys

1. David Skerratt (Sc) (1)
2. David Johnson (Li) (2)
3. Neil Parkin (Wy) (-)
4. Marcus Emmerson (Lo) (5)
5. Simon Pullen (Gra) (6)
6. Chris Bryan (Gra) (9)
7. Stuart Worrell (Li) (11)
8. John Chesworth (Li) (4)
9. Ralph Duke (Li) (8)
10. Peter Eyles (Lo) (-)
11. Stephen Read (Li) (-)

Girls (No change)

1. Gillian Galloway (Li)
2. Carole Exton (Gra)
3. Susan Radley (Li)
4. Gillian Sharpe (Gri)
5. Debra Brown (Gri)
6. Susan Worrell (Li)
7. Janet Barnett (Gri)
8. Jane Wingad (Gra)

Key:-

Gra—Grantham, Gri—Grimsby, Li—Lincoln, Lo—Louth, Sc—Scunthorpe, Sp—Spalding, Wy—Wyberton.

With only a few matches remaining in the Haigh, Butlin and Butcher Cup Competitions, the titles should go to Wyberton (Haigh), who beat near rivals Grimsby 6-4 in a tense match, Grantham (Butcher) who have only dropped one point and the Butlin Trophy should go to Lincoln who have only to win one rubber against last season's champions Spalding. Details of this match and the final League Tables will be in next month's magazine.

Unfortunately news from the Individual Leagues is hard to come by, but hot news from Gainsborough is that Men's Singles Champion for a number of years, Brian Edlington was beaten in this year's event by Junior Kevin Adlington, in the 3rd round.

Grimsby's Secretary Albert Hackford is retiring after 15 years service, and our best wishes go to him, although I am sure he will still be a welcome face at the County's Tournaments.

Finally a belated welcome to Market Rasen who have affiliated this season.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by DENNIS MILLMAN

CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Recent weeks local table tennis has centred round the annual closed tournaments, for Northampton, Daventry, Wellingborough and Kettering have all staged their yearly events.

At Daventry, the honours went in the main to the more established players, with the genuine veterans playing a strong hand. George Tsow, having beaten John Horne in the quarter-finals, and Alan Print in the semi-finals, went on to take his sixth singles title, when he went on to beat Cliff Bull in a closely contested final.

Bull, however, was not to be completely outdone, for partnered by Print they took the Men's Doubles, and then in the Veterans' Singles he gained a comfortable win over Alan's brother John.

As usual, the women's events were dominated by Sue Edwards, who without conceding an end, took the singles for the fifth consecutive time, the doubles for the fourth time in a row, and the mixed, partnered by husband Peter, for the fourth time in five years. It is not surprising therefore that as Daventry Reserves completed another successful S.E.M.L. season by beating Kettering and Hunts Central, Mrs. Edwards was again undefeated.

Meanwhile Daventry's men were losing to Bedford, but completing a double over North Herts in Men's and Veterans' matches, with Print and Peter Harris unbeaten for the former, and debutant Tsow, and Peter Edwards in top form for the over forties.

Daventry Results:-

- M.S.: G. Tsow bt C. Bull -14, 13, 18.
 W.S.: S. Edwards bt Belinda Clapp 9, 14.
 M.D.: Bull/A. Print bt B. d'Hooghe/D. Pell 12, 9.
 W.D.: Edwards/Clapp bt A. Hull/B. Johnson 14, 17.

X.D.: P. and S. Edwards bt J. Print/Clapp 12, 9.

V.S.: Bull bt J. Print 13, 12.

J.S.: Owen Bishop bt Belinda Clapp 7, 5.

H.S.: d'Hooghe bt J. Broomfield 21, 19.

Ketterings Tournament attracted more than 130 competitors for the 15 events, and with more than 400 matches to be completed on the one day at Kettering Recreation Centre, the record entry proved a mixed blessing for that capable organiser Jim Chatburn, and his equally hardworking assistant Ian Nicoll.

Although the entry had a marked bias towards youth, the final roll of honour bore a familiar look with Anne and Mandy Wallis dominating the women's events, while Keith Nicoll and John Palmer were also prominent.

It was Nicoll and Palmer who contested the Men's Singles final and for once it was an outstanding match, with both players refusing to concede defeat. Palmer took the first, Nicoll levelled in the second, but Palmer led 10-2 and 16-12 in the decider, before Nicoll taking his courage in both hands attacked fiercely to break through and so retain his title.

Anne Wallis was also at her best to again beat younger sister Mandy, and so retain her title for the fourth successive time, and then they joined together to take the doubles event for the fourth time in a row.

Palmer and Dennis Millman playing together in the Kettering Tournament for the first time, repeated their County success in the Men's Doubles, while Palmer and Anne Wallis gained a close win over Dick Cole and Mandy in the Mixed.

However Mandy was not to be denied and gained the best and most surprising win of the competition, when in the Junior Singles final she gained a comfortable win over Men's Singles Champion Nicoll, the perfect way to celebrate her No. 12 position in the National Rankings for Junior Girls, and some justification for her absence from the County scene this winter.

Kettering Results:-

M.S. Semi-finals: J. Palmer bt D. Millman 15, 8.
 K. Nicoll bt R. Cole 15, 12.

Final:

Nicoll bt Palmer -19, 18, 18.

W.S. Semi-finals:

M. Wallis bt Christine Price 14, 14.
 A. Wallis bt Anne Lenton 14, 12.

Final:

A. Wallis bt M. Wallis -19, 14, 15.
 M.D.: Palmer/Millman bt Michael and Alan Hawes -18, 16, 15.

W.D.: A. and M. Wallis bt Glennis Hooper/Mrs. Price 11, 11.

X.D.: Palmer/A. Wallis bt Cole/M. Wallis 15, -16, 18.

V.S.: Palmer bt Millman 12, 14.

J.S.: M. Wallis bt Keith Nicoll 12, 12.

U-15 J.S.: Graham Carter bt Terry Cardwell 21, -18, 17.

U-13 J.S.: Neil Ridge bt Jane Wallis -16, 16, 16.

J.D.: K. and K. Nicoll bt Alan Hawes/Russell Mills 15, 15.

M.C.S.: Ian Gilbert bt Stuart Rollings -21, 15, 19.

Premier Handicap: Richard Malfait bt Alan Woolston 19, 20.

First Division H'cap: Graham Ball bt Pete Lancaster 14, 21.

Lower Division H'cap: Jane Wallis bt Kathy Towler 16, 17.

Handicap Doubles: Keith Nicoll/Gary Taylor bt Malfait/Paul Watts.

In addition to the tournament, Kettering has had other successes of late, with the most praiseworthy the feat of the women in winning the regional final of the Rose Bowl against Spalding. On this occasion two wins each for Anne and Mandy Wallis, and one from Glennis Hooper, all in straight games, quickly gave Kettering the match 5-1.

One lost was the County League match against Wellingborough when two wins from Brian Dangerfield just gave his side a narrow victory.

County League Table

	P	W	L	P
Northampton	3	3	0	26
Daventry	3	2	1	20
Kettering	3	1	2	17
Wellingborough	4	2	2	16
Towcester	3	0	3	9

Although Kettering Town 'A' seem certain to win the Kettering Premier Division yet again, and Rothborough are likely to repeat their winning ways in Wellingborough's First Division, both were recently involved in the shocks of the season. Town 'A', unbeaten since March 1974, and winners of the last 64 matches, could field only two players against Wellingborough Town and narrowly lost on the final doubles to the Anne and Mandy Wallis combination, while Gary Alden lost his unbeaten record in the Wellingborough league, after a run of 183 wins, when Dave Marsh sporting a new bat of long pimped rubber, beat all three Rothborough players in a vain attempt at improving Chapman's league challenge.

Unfortunately for Dave, some of the magic had disappeared by the date of the Wellingborough Tournament, and the ever-improving Romano Gallo beat him en route to the Men's Singles final, in which he met the holder Alden, who after a slow start on a difficult table, came through to record a hat-trick of Men's Singles titles. Earlier, in a superb semi-final on an outside table, Gallo had performed brilliantly to beat his club colleague Phil Snelling, while Alden's semi-final opponent had been Dangerfield.

The Wellingborough and Kettering Leagues have for some time been competing unofficially for the honour of staging the largest tournament in the County, but this year their efforts had unfortunate repercussions, when the larger entries made it impossible to complete the events before the early hours of the following morning. This year Wellingborough had a record number of competitors, but it was Kettering with 386 entries to Wellingborough's 374 which had the dubious distinction of attracting the biggest entry.

As at Kettering, the women's events at Wellingborough were dominated throughout by Anne and Mandy Wallis, emphasising the County's loss during the current season. In the singles, Anne again beat Mandy, this time without conceding the usual end, and in the doubles they joined together to beat yet again the Glennis Hooper-Christine Price pairing, the fourth successive victory in this event. However in the Mixed, it was Christine partnered by Alden who took the honours and so keep the title they won, when it was competed for, for the first time last year.

Alden and Graham Feakin were also on form in the Men's Doubles taking it for the third time, with a comparatively easy win over Snelling and Gallo, who had earlier ousted County Champions Palmer and Millman. This latter pair later competed for the Veterans' Title, with Palmer again emerging as victor, to give him his third title of the season, his first as an over forty.

Wellingborough Results:-

M.S. Semi-finals:

R. Gallo bt P. Snelling 12, 13.
G. Alden bt B. Dangerfield 13, 13.

Final:

Alden bt Gallo -18, 7, 16.
W.S.: A. Wallis bt M. Wallis 14, 21.
M.D.: Alden/G. Feakin bt Gallo/Snelling 21, 7.
W.D.: A. and M. Wallis bt G. Hooper/Price 14, 10.
X.D.: Alden/Mrs. Price bt A. and M. Wallis 10, 17.
V.S.: J. Palmer bt D. Millman 16, 13.
J.D.: A. Hawes/M. Wallis bt I. Hawes/D. Gallo -18, 19, 14.
J.S.: D. Gallo bt M. Wallis 17, 10.

Although all those listed above were well worthy of the trophies they received, the real honours of the day go to Tournament Organiser David Byrom, and to League Chairman Arthur Palmer, who faced with an unenviable task, almost achieved the impossible.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE
by LESLIE CONSTABLE

ATTEMPTS THWARTED

After much "heart fluttering" in the County Championships, Cambs., despite displaying some fine table tennis, were thwarted in their attempts to win Div. II East and Div. III East although the Juniors, by the time these notes are in print, should have won their Division. In recent matches

Cambs. first team beat Buckinghamshire 7-3 and Norfolk 7-3. In the match against Bucks. Keith Richardson and Mick Harper were unbeaten in their singles, Harper beating Leslie and Harmer, and Richardson beating Harmer and Haines. Geoff, Davies also beat Haines but lost to Leslie. Valerie Scripps and Joanne Palmer lost their singles, to Miss Lines and Miss Stevens respectively, although Miss Palmer took the Bucks girl to three. Cambs. also won the Men's and Mixed Doubles and so cruised to a comfortable victory.

In their match against Norfolk, Cambs. were again without Paul Day but managed to pull off a creditable victory. Richardson won both his singles, against Thornton and Bensley, but Harper lost both although against Musson he went to three before losing 20-22 in the third. Davies beat Bensley but lost to Musson. Valerie Scripps and Valerie Parkes won their singles with the latter winning 21-18 in the last game against Miss Ribbans.

Cambs. second team had mixed fortunes against Huntingdonshire but in the end managed to salvage a point although losing their place to Leicestershire at the head of the Division. Cambs at one time trailed 1-4 but Joanne Palmer beat Melanie Ringrose to reduce the arrears and Davies hit superbly to beat Les Wooding. Valerie Parker made it a hat-trick of wins for the women when she beat Mrs. Upton and then Brian Richardson completed a wonderful recovery with a win over Tim Spiller. In their match against Bedfordshire II at Soham, Cambs II won 7-3 which, unfortunately, was only good enough to give them runners-up position to Leics II who beat Norfolk II 8-2. In the Beds match Davies beat Barby and Hyde, and Brian Richardson beat Hyde and McConnell. Joanne Palmer beat Miss Robinson, and Davies and Richardson beat Hyde and Barby in the Men's Doubles. Cambs were also successful in the Women's Doubles when Valerie Parkes and Joanne Palmer beat Miss Bellinger and Miss Robinson.

Cambs Juniors beat Hunts 9-1 in a Junior East match at St. Neots which has put them in a very good position needing only one point from their match against Suffolk to clinch the title. Without Robert Swift, who had an injured back, Cambs were much too good and Andy Withers, David Brammer and Andrew Hunter were all unbeaten. Jane Hunter was the only loser when she was beaten by Melanie Ringrose.

In the Cambs League, Hunts No. 1, Les Wooding, who plays for St. Ives, was beaten for the first time in Div. I when he lost to Gerald Coteman and Albert Jackson of Guildhall. Coteman went on to win his three sets and helped Guildhall to a 7-3 success. Another player, hitherto unbeaten, was Tony Rayner of Herbert Robinsons who was beaten by Ron Chapman of Police I in a Div. IIIB match. In the meantime, Keith Richardson of Soham I and John Sykes of Telephones IV hold on tenaciously to their 100% records. Rayner's defeat did not affect the match result as Robinsons notched their 15th consecutive win by beating Police 7-3 despite trailing 0-2 and 1-3. Percy Newman held the winners together by winning his three.

After 14 matches without defeat in Div. II, Fisons lost their second successive match, going down 3-7 to Torchbearers I. Only Brian Needham with wins over Janet Rodgers and Valerie Scripps could manage a singles win for Fisons who now concede second place to University I, 9-1 winners over bottom team Eastern Gas. In the Second Division, Soham IV beat their nearest rivals University I 8-2 and are now set for the title like their first team in Div. I. Impington II are well ahead in Div. IIIA with a six point lead over St. George's I and in Div. IIIB Herbert Robinsons have a useful lead over Wesley I although these teams have to meet a second time — Robinsons having won the first match 6-4 (Wesley's only defeat)!

In the Cambs League Handicap K.O. Trophy, Soham I defeated Guildhall with the help of Dav and so reached the semi-final of the competition. Coteman was the sole winner for Guildhall when he beat Mick Palmer. Impington IV had an exciting match against Fisons III in their quarter-final and only won 5-4 in the deciding game when Powell beat Moore 31-29 in the third! Torchbearers III easily beat Swavesey I and only Roger

Fensom who beat John Jaggs was able to score for Swavesey. Vic Tiplady and Mike Jackson won all their sets with an eight point advantage. Wesley IV won their tie against St. George's III 5-4 after a thrilling struggle with Rod Bryant, Mark Freeman and Sandra Grainger.

Draw for the semi-finals is:-
Soham I (scratch) v Impington IV (+20)
Torchbearers III (+18) v Wesley IV (+22)

In the S.E.M. League, Cambridge Veterans' team have finished their matches with a total of 45 points and have a good chance of winning the title. At present the Men's 1st team lie fourth in Div. I and the second half-way in Div. II. The Juniors are still bottom and will certainly be facing relegation at the end of the season.

The Cambridge League have again decided to run a Summer League and again it will be in the capable hands of Tony Brotchie.

The number of Juniors receiving coaching at the Cambridge Sports Hall has fallen off dramatically but it is hoped that it is only a temporary lapse as the need is very urgent and Pat O'Byrne has put such a lot of time in for these sessions which must have been of great benefit to all youngsters.

All players and fans will be saddened to hear of the recent illness of the Cambs President Bill Rogerson who is confined to Hospital. I am sure that everybody will wish Bill a speedy recovery to health and strength.

Cambridge Table Tennis League

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Soham I	12	12	0	0	113	7	24
N.C.I. I	15	11	1	3	102	48	23
Press	13	10	2	1	104	26	22
Guildhall	14	10	1	3	88	52	21

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Soham IV	15	12	2	1	109	41	26
Univ. I	16	11	2	3	93	67	24
Fisons	15	8	6	1	92	58	22
Press II	15	7	3	5	81	69	17

DERBYSHIRE NOTES
by ANNE FEARNEHOUGH
SORRY CHRIS!

This year in the Derby Closed, the finals of all events were the best that have been staged for a long time.

In the Junior events both the number two seeds failed to reach the finals when S. Yallop lost to B. Bennett in the boys and K. Smart lost to me, both in the semi-finals. Steven McCarthy and Linda Holmes won their singles quite comfortably.

In the U-12 and U-14 girls' singles, we had a newcomer on the scene from Loughborough. Louise Forster, aged 11, played some lovely table tennis to win both events easily and if she carries on playing she must be a great prospect for future years. In the Veterans' singles, we had a new champion when Mike Yallop beat Keith Holmes in a very entertaining final — especially when due to a low entry, both Keith and Mike were only asked to play that same morning.

In the Men's singles final (which was a repeat and a reversal of the Handicap singles final), both Philip Vickers and Doug Foulds had to fight for every point and they had everyone on the edge of their seats even to the last point of the set in which Phil finally came through the worthy victor. He also joined with Chris Francis to win the men's doubles.

As usual the tournament was run excellently throughout both days and so all credit must go to Arthur Morgan (referee) and to all the helpers who all helped to make the tournament a success.

The last two County matches didn't go too well for the Senior 1st team when they travelled to Warwickshire to play their second team but the journey was in vain for they lost 3-7. Later they travelled to Leicester where they did just as bad, losing to a strong Leicester side. Nevertheless the team finished third in the league (below Leicester and Warwickshire II).

In contrast, the Senior 2nd team won both their matches, beating Lincolnshire and Cumbria 6-4, to

finish a creditable first in the 3rd Division North.

The Juniors didn't quite do so well when they lost to Cheshire 2-3 with most of the sets over in two-straight. The second match was against Cleveland II, at home, where we managed to win 9-1 with the boys losing their doubles and Karen Smart maintaining her 100% record.

In the fourth round of the Rose Bowl Competition, Derby played Leicester at home. The only good thing about the match was that we all had some good practice after losing, (I'm not sure if that word is strong enough!!) to a very strong team of Karen Rogers, Anita Stevenson and Sue Hunt.

In the National Club Competition, St. Andrews (men) played Knighton Park at home but lost 2-7. D. Yallop won one, and Philip Vickers won the other.

In the Midland League, Derby men II lost to Potteries 2-8 with Dave Stills winning the two.

Derby Closed

U-12 Events:

B.S.: A. Hearn bt D. Slack -19, 17, 14.
G.S.: L. Forster bt C. Burns 7, 14.

U-14 Events:

B.S.: R. Joshi bt Hearn -15, 17, 18.
G.S.: Forster bt D. Stevenson 10, 10.
J.B.S.: S. McCarthy bt B. Bennett 15, 18.
J.G.S.: L. Holmes bt A. Fearnough 20, 9.
J.D.: McCarthy/S. Yallop bt L. Holmes/Bennett 8, 11.
M.S.: P. Vickers bt D. Foulds 15, -15, 19.
W.S.: Holmes bt M. Deakin 12, 14.
M.D.: Vickers/C. Francis bt Foulds/D. Stills -17, 10, 18.
X.D.: Deakin/F. O'Sullivan bt K. Smart/Vickers 20, -10, 19.
V.S.: M. Yallop bt K. Holmes -19, 9, 17.

CLWYD REPORT

by ROY WILLIAMS

RHYL CHAMPIONS

Rhyl's senior team clinched the Welsh League (North) championship in the final match of the season by beating East Flint 8-2. It was Flint's only defeat of the season. The following day Rhyl made progress in Group One of the Granada Reports tourney again at the expense of the Deesiders.

East Flint gained some consolation by winning the Women's division whilst Rhyl and East Flint shared the Junior title.

Llandudno, the last of the Northern leagues to start veteran events, in their first season surprised themselves and everyone else by winning the Veteran division remaining unbeaten to win the town's first title in more than twenty years.

The Granada Reports tournament has brought a new interest in North Wales to people who did not know the game existed and many new fans have been found in all areas. The Welsh teams to date have recorded some good wins and welcome meeting teams from over the border.

The tournament scene has produced a crop of young champions this season but no one player has dominated. Alun Williams won the North Wales men's singles, Mark Thomas the Flintshire and Liverpool men's singles, with Greg Powell (Rhyl), Mark Byles (East Flint), Trevor Manning (Wrexham) winning their league championship. Veteran Sheila Rogers won the women's singles at the North Wales, Wrexham and Chester Closed but youngsters Sandra Bennett won the East Flint, Sue Powell the Rhyl and Janet Parry the Flintshire.

The County teams, after a slow start, produced some good wins in the Veteran, Senior and Junior divisions and of the sixteen matches played we won seven and drew on three occasions. The vets lost two, the seniors one and three draws and the junior team had two losses. Thanks to Malcolm Hook for all the hard work in preparing the hall and to his wife Margaret for making sure the refreshments were prepared.

North Wales Wanderers visited Dublin for their 19th tour at the beginning of March and played seven matches as well as visiting the Wales v Ireland rugby match. Seven matches were played with the Wanderers winning five. Our thanks to

Larry Willmot and Tommy Rowsome for making sure our visit was a happy one.

With the domestic programmes coming to a close the new champions to date are Angelsey (Wylfa P.S.), Rhyl (Oriol House), Llandudno (Lansdowne), Denbigh (Hospital), Wrexham (Queen's Park), East Flint, Caergwle and Connahs Quay are still in contention.

May I thank all officials, umpires and the fund raisers who have assisted me during my term of office as county team secretary this season.

Tournament Results:-

North Wales

M.S.: A. Williams bt M. Thomas
W.S.: S. Rogers bt N. Holden
V.S.: E. Griffiths bt A. Barber
J.S.: Thomas bt Williams
C.S.: Thomas bt R. Isherwood
M.D.: Thomas/G. Powell bt R. Lloyd/G. Wilson
W.D.: Rogers/J. Jones bt Holden/C. Clutton
X.D.: Thomas/J. Parry bt L. Baker/Rogers
J.D.: Thomas/Williams bt M. Byles/C. Powell

Flintshire

M.S.: M. Thomas bt A. Williams
W.S.: J. Parry bt S. Bennett
V.S.: R. Williams bt B. Williams
J.S.: Thomas bt M. Byles
M.D.: J. Hook/A. Williams bt C. Potts/R. Lloyd
W.D.: N. Holden/C. Clutton bt B. Williams/P. Oakes
X.D.: Thomas/Parry bt G. Powell/S. Powell
J.D.: Thomas/Williams bt Byles/C. Powell

Rhyl

M.S.: G. Powell bt J. Hook
W.S.: S. Powell bt P. Oakes
V.S.: R. Williams bt J. Cartwright
J.S.: M. Thomas bt M. Pearson
C.S.: Thomas bt Pearson
M.D.: Thomas/G. Powell bt A. Williams/M. Williams
W.D.: B. Williams/Oakes bt Powell/S. Vickery
X.D.: Powell/Powell bt Hook/Oakes
J.D.: M. Thomas/A. Williams bt M. Pearson/D. Barnett

Wrexham

M.S.: T. Manning bt P. Jones
W.S.: S. Rogers bt J. Jones
V.S.: J. Bishton bt A. Barber
J.S.: N. James bt J. Evans
M.D.: K. McGuire/I. Wooley bt S. Williams/B. Ellis
W.D.: Rogers/Jones bt G. Emmanuel/W. Lewis
X.D.: Manning/Emmanuel bt V. Ralls/J. Price

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. LANGRIDGE

A HARD SEASON

The present season has brought little satisfaction for the Suffolk Senior team, with close matches but no victories to show against Cambs, Herts and Essex III. Their fourth match against Bucks (away) did, however, result in a 5-all draw, with Robert Hellaby, Mick Palmer and Linda Woodcock all giving good support to the ever-consistent John Kitchener.

Results:- (Bucks names first)

C. Leslie lost to J. Kitchener -14, -18;
S. Hamer bt R. Hellaby 13, 8;
D. Martin lost to M. Palmer -19, -26;
F. Lines/B. Stevens bt J. Faiers/L. Woodcock -14, 21, 19;
Harmer/Leslie bt Kitchener/Palmer -13, 18, 22;
Stevens bt Faiers -19, 9, 21;
Harmer lost to Kitchener -18, -8;
Lines lost to Woodcock -16, -9;
Martin lost to Hellaby -21, -16;
Leslie bt Palmer -22, 19, 20.

Now the Seniors' only chance of further points, to avoid relegation, is in the re-arranged home fixture against Norfolk.

VETERANS STRUGGLE

The season has also ended rather disappointingly for our newly-formed Veterans' team who have suffered three consecutive defeats after promising so much with victory in their first match against Hunts.

Against Herts at Ipswich Terry Kirby won both his singles and Rob Milne and John Keeble took

one each; but with both doubles and the women's singles going against them Suffolk went down 4-5. The final score, at Bury St. Edmunds, against Essex II was also 4-5 with Kirby again unbeaten, Maud List winning the W.S. and the Kirby/Milne combination taking a very close M.D.

WATCH THESE JUNIORS

The Juniors, however, gave the County a bright ray of hope for the future with a win in their Junior III (East) match against Herts II, at Ipswich. Having won 4 of the first 5 sets Suffolk appeared to be in a commanding position but Herts girls proved too strong for the Suffolk girls and won both their singles having already won the doubles.

Stuart Palmer was surprisingly beaten by the Herts No. 1 and with the score at 4-4 Herts were back in the match with 2 sets to play. In the first of these Michael Shorten, the Ipswich junior, had two very close games against the Herts No. 2 just scraping through but in the final and deciding set Julian Hall won comfortably to give Suffolk a 6-4 win.

Scores:- (Suffolk names first)

J. Hall bt A. Smith 11, -19, 19;
S. Palmer bt K. Bardwell 17, 6;
M. Shorten bt T. Cheek -19, 12, 13;
Louise Harris/Debra Hubble lost to Helen Bardwell/Jeanine Smith -10, 16, -9;
Hall/Palmer bt Bardwell/Smith 22, 13;
Harris lost to J. Smith -9, -15;
Palmer lost to A. Smith 18, -19, -17;
Hubble lost to Bardwell -19, -13;
Shorten bt K. Bardwell 23, 21;
Hall bt Cheek 10, 14.

CARTER CUP - QUARTER-FINAL

Three brilliant Bury St. Edmunds League Juniors, Stuart Palmer, Julian Hall and Anthony Booth have had a remarkably fine run in this season's Carter Cup. In the early rounds they disposed of N. Herts, Basildon and Bedford to qualify to meet Norwich in the Zone final.

The three players in the Norwich team had all played in the Norfolk County Junior team and with their leading player having recently won the Norfolk County men's singles championship, he was expected to win his three sets.

The Bury lads therefore realised they had a challenging task, as, to be successful, they had to win five of the remaining six. Bury won the first two against the Norwich No. 3 and No. 2 lads, but in the next Doug Bennett, the Norfolk senior champion, beat Hall, although with some difficulty, with the Bury junior winning the first leg and leading 18-16 in the third.

Bennett also won the fifth and seventh but in the latter Palmer fought hard. At this stage Bury were leading 4-3 with two to go but Hall comfortably won the eight to give Bury a winning lead. The ninth therefore became of academic interest only but the Norwich No. 2 won this to leave Bury victors by 5-4.

Results:-

A. Booth bt M. Cook 8, 16;
S. Palmer bt D. Smith 12, -14, 11;
J. Hall lost to D. Bennett 18, -9, -18;
Palmer bt Cook 12, 7;
Booth lost to Bennett -13, -10;
Hall bt Smith 11, -18, 15;
Palmer lost to Bennett -16, -21;
Hall bt Cook 6, 7;
Booth lost to Smith -20, -16.

Their opponents in the National quarter-finals, played at Bury St. Edmunds, were the North Middlesex League. Graham Sandley, Bryn Tyler and Colin Wilson, who represent that League, are all in the top E.T.T.A. Junior ranking list and must surely be favourites to win the competition. Although each set was keenly fought the actual result seemed to confirm that confidence. The match turned out to be a good sporting spectacle which was a credit to both sides and a fine evening's entertainment for a good crowd of local supporters.

Results:- (Bury St. Edmunds names first)

S. Palmer lost to G. Sandley 15, -15, -11;
lost to B. Tyler -20, -16;
lost to C. Wilson 15, -13, -15.
J. Hall lost to Wilson -18, -19;
lost to Tyler 18, -9, -16;
lost to Sandley -15, -16.

A. Booth lost to Sandley -7, -8;
lost to Wilson -17, -10.
Bury St. Edmunds 0 North Middlesex 8

Hall and Palmer have been the backbone of the Suffolk County Junior team this season, and with Booth have given Bury St. Edmunds Juniors a most successful run in the East Anglian League.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by JOHN TAYLOR

TWO MORE TITLES

Congratulations once again to Millom School Table Tennis Club who have added another two National School Team Championship titles to their already impressive and ever growing list of honours with successes for both the U-16 girls and boys teams at the National Finals at Lea Green.

Altogether Cumbria had five representatives at the finals (believed to be a record) with four Millom teams being joined by an U-13 boys team from Longlands Boys School, Kendal, who did well to finish second in their group.

The Boys U-16 team of Diccon Gray, Jan Reed, Andrew Pachul and Steven Sharp had comfortable 7-1 victories in both their matches with Reed losing the only one against Moseley Park, Wolverhampton and Pachul the one against Desborough, Maidenhead.

The Girls U-16 team of Gail Smith, Elaine Mathie, Bella Gray and Janet Sephton had equally comfortable wins in the defence of their title and also won both their matches 7-1, with Janet dropping the one against Bournemouth School and Elaine the one against Guildford C.E.

Both the Boys U-19 and Girls U-13 teams came second in their groups, a fine achievement in itself and especially for the Boys who lost two of its 1977 winning side (Gray and Ian Reed) to the U-16 side. Chris Reed and Neil Smith headed the present team, as last year, and led the side to a 6-2 win over Esher College and a narrow 3-5 defeat against the winners Kings Heath of Birmingham.

Chris Reed was unbeaten on the day with Smith losing just once against Bertie of Kings Heath. Michael Cairns and David Round were the two newcomers to the side and who had done so well to reach this stage of the competition, both took one win each in the Esher College match.

The Girls U-13 team of Louise Brockbank, Lindsay Rushton, Beverly Sharp and Linda Twiname beat Callington (Cornwall) but lost with a similar 6-2 scoreline against Mill Vale, Dunstable. The first three girls were undefeated against Callington and Beverly and Linda won one each against Dunstable.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two defeats for the County Senior team and one each for the Juniors 1st and 2nd teams in their latest matches leaves all three teams languishing dangerously close to the foot of their respective divisions.

The Seniors, minus Chris Reed through injury, went down 2-8 at Nottingham and apart from one win each for Smith and Stan Halesworth over the Notts No. 3 Trevor Kerry and Smith losing -22, -20 against the Notts No. 1 Alan Croome the team were well beaten. The match will however live long in the memory of team members Bill Robinson, Smith, Halesworth, Bella Gray and Carol Tyson thanks to the events following the match when Bill's car went off the road into a ditch. Thankfully no-one was injured but ensuing difficulties resulted in the team not arriving home until 7.30 the following morning.

In their next match against Derbyshire II the side was again weakened with Chris, Neil and Bella all playing in the National Schools Finals. Stewart O'Neil, recent winner of the Carlisle City Championships, returned to the side however and got the match off to a good start with an excellent 17, -8, 18 win over the Derby No. 1 Martin Kinsella. Robinson then followed suit and defeated the visitors' No. 2 Terry Moran 12 and 11. Halesworth then took on the Derby No. 3 S. Young and it looked as though the Barrow man was going to make it 3-0 for Cumbria after taking the first game at 11. Stan relaxed his grip however

and allowed his opponent to come back and take the next two 18 and 13 and put his side back in the match.

Derbyshire never looked back from that moment and they won five out of the next six sets to lead 6-3. Jeanette Bullock gained our only success in that period by winning her singles, a good win for Jeanette after a long absence from County table tennis. O'Neil won the final set for Cumbria with a 14, -15, 13 win over Young to crown a fine personal performance.

The Junior 1st team are definite possibilities for relegation from the Junior 2nd North division following their 2-8 defeat by Clwyd. For the first time this season none of our boys could register a win and in the main it was a case of an out-of-touch Cumbria side being overrun by an in-form and enthusiastic Clwyd side. Our No. 1 Diccon Gray, who has had an outstanding season to date, was even caught on a rare off day. Gail Smith and Miranda Gray registered wins for the first time this season with Gail winning her singles 19 and 17 against Sandra Bennett and the two combining to win the girls doubles.

The Junior 2nd team were completely overrun by table leaders Nottinghamshire who won 10-0. The team were without Sharp who had stepped up for first team duty and Paul Watson looked to be the only one capable of gaining any success and he went close in both of his singles against Inkle and Pearson.

INTER-LEAGUE COMPETITION

Whitehaven scored a narrow 7-5 win over Millom to give them their second win in the Inter-League competition and it was a real team effort from Whitehaven with Bernard Hand, Stephen Crosby and T. Stevenson gaining two wins each plus a mixed doubles win for Crosby and Carol Tyson. Another unbeaten performance from Neil Smith who won three singles and a doubles with Stuart Stamper was not enough to snatch a point for Millom for whom Bella Gray took the fifth win in the women's singles. John Taylor came close to earning Millom a point but was narrowly beaten 8, -16, -20 by Crosby at a crucial stage of the match.

Millom gained their third point in the competition in a 6-6 draw at Westmorland (Kendal) and with a two set start due to the unavailability of a woman player for Westmorland two wins each for Stamper and Round earned Millom their point. Both Millom players had good wins over the Westmorland No. 1 Ron Wilson but West No. 2 David Archer was the man-of-the-match with three singles wins and the doubles with Steven Dixon to his credit. Although each Millom player stretched him to three games the closest he came to defeat was his 19, -13 19 win over Round.

BARROW CLOSED

Neil Smith gained revenge for his defeat by Andrew Pachul in the men's singles final of the Millom Closed with a 3 game win over Andrew in the final of the Barrow event, Andrew took the first game quite easily but Neil came back well to retain the title which he won for the first time last season. Pachul was again runner-up in the Junior event but this time to Ian Reed.

Reed and Gray combined to win the doubles over Smith and Pachul and Miranda Gray won the women's event with a final win over Elaine Mathie who in turn won the handicap event with a win over Peter McDonald. Eddie O'Hara stopped a complete rout by Millom players in winning the veterans' title after yet another O'Hara v Ken Gilmour final. Barrow's new Grammar School venue proved to be quite successful even though most of the tables had to be borrowed from Millom School.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by PAULINE JACKSON

First of all, I apologise to readers for the lack of "Northumberland Notes" in the March issue; these were in fact prepared but arrived too late to be included as I had waited for the results of the February County matches.

Unfortunately, the gloom on the senior County front continued with the first team losing 1-9 and the second team 0-10 to the Lancashire first and

second team respectively. Andrew Clark, however, played exceptionally well to score a brilliant victory over Donald Parker, the England No. 5, and no praise can be too high for this outstanding performance.

March's fixtures proved to be no more profitable as the first team lost 1-9 to Cleveland II (Clark again winning the only set), the second team crashed to their second successive 0-10 defeat against Lincolnshire, and the juniors went down 3-7 to Lincolnshire in spite of John Burke winning both his singles and John Anderson one.

The final nail in Northumberland's coffin, however, came on March 19 at the hands of Durham. A large crowd was fully absorbed in this vital relegation battle at Byker Community Centre. Four times Durham went ahead (twice on sets at deuce in the third); four times Northumberland equalised, through Andrew Clark winning his opening singles and Phil Clark and Kit Cheung turning on a magnificent performance to remain unbeaten throughout the match. Durham then took the last two sets to win the match 6-4.

This result means, of course, that Northumberland will go down to Div. 3 North next season, and consequently the second team will disappear from that division. This is indeed a sad state of affairs, but it is hoped that it will not be too long before they are challenging again for a place in the higher spheres. Only one match now remains to be played — the junior fixture at home to Durham on April 1.

The Northumberland League season is now almost at an end, and the latest League tables show that Briarside (Andrew Clark, Frank Mitchinson, Steve Robinson), are virtually certain Premier Division champions; even at this stage of the season they have yet to drop a point. The other current leaders are Delaval C.C. 'A' (Div. 1); Visionhire 'A' (Div. 2A); Byker C.C. 'D' (Div. 2B); Procter and Gamble 'C' (Div. 3A); Eldon Square (Div. 3B); North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'C' (Div. 3C); Simonside 'A' (Div. 4A); Tyne Wear Fire 'A' (Div. 4B); and Sterling Winthrop 'C' (Div. 4C).

The men's and women's Knock-Out Cup competitions have also reached their final stages. The men's final will be contested between Byker C.C. 'A' and either New Collingwood 'A' or Briarside, while D.H.S.S. and Thompson's are the finalists in the women's event.

All League and Cup trophies will be presented to the winners at the Annual Dance, which this year takes the form of a Supper Dance with a 50/50 disco, and will be held at Parrish's "High-light Suite" on Friday, May 12. Tickets, price £2.50 each, are available from Bill McMaster (Tel. 665559).

The Northumberland Closed Tournament will be held at Eldon Square Recreation Centre on April 22, and the Tyneside Summer League will commence its season on May 1. It is hoped that there will again be a good entry for both the tournament and the League.

To end on a slightly happier note; congratulations go to Aubrey Drapkin and Ron Wilson on attaining the status of Tournament Referee. Representative honours also came Northumberland's way with the selection of Pauline Jackson for the Civil Service team against the U.A.U. in London on 8th April.

AVON & SOMERSET LEAGUE

by DENNIS POPE

FIRST POINT DROPPED

Bridgwater 'A' dropped their first point of the season in a 5-5 draw with Failand 'A' in the Premier Division of the Avon and Somerset League. Jill Wilson won both her singles for the victors and Graham Green had a good -16, 22, 19 win over Colin Feltham. For Failand Brian Reeves won both his singles and the vital tenth set doubles partnered with Colin Feltham 19, 17. Failand who have also dropped one point, kept their own championships hopes alive with a convincing 9-1 home victory over Page, after losing the first set of the match when Lorraine Banks beat Muriel Lewis 17, 13. Ken Watts -18, 14, 14 victory over John Hill was Bristol Club only success in their 1-9 defeat in the hands of

(continued on page 31)

EAST OF ENGLAND 2-STAR OPEN

ALL-YORKSHIRE FINAL

by Joan Robinson

Main shock in the East of England was the defeat of the No. 1 seed and holder Nigel Eckersley in the 3rd round of the Men's Singles, by the un-ranked W. Sichel (North Middx) 14, 20. Kevin Beadsley soon put paid to any more success by Sichel by beating him 18, 16 in the next round, before winning his way through to the final to take the title against fellow Yorkshireman Alan Fletcher. Alan won the first game easily, and when taking the lead at 21-20 in the second, after being 17-20 down, looked set for the title, but Kevin playing some good attacking shots came back to win in the final game. Fletcher had straight-game successes over seeded players Peter McQueen and John Dabin to reach the final.

Local player Gillian Galloway appeared in three finals, with success coming in the Girls' Singles over Linda Holmes, who had beaten top seed Sally Midgley in the semi-final. Gillian was out-classed by Yorkshire No. 1 Melody Ludi in the final of the Women's Singles, but her semi-final victory over higher ranked Junior Sally Midgley showed her ability at Junior level. Melody partnered with Sally won the Women's Doubles title, but playing with Eckersley could only muster runner-up in the Mixed against Fletcher/Midgley.

Beadsley had no difficulty in winning the Boys' Singles title over Tony Bottomley. The Veteran Singles was regained by Peter D'Arcy over Lincolnshire's No. 1 Veteran Matt Sheader of Louth.

The Organisers of the event were disappointed in the fact that over 20 scratched from the Tournament (either by telephoning at the last hour, or just not turning up) including many seeded players, especially with over 50 entries being returned. The event was sponsored by Scunthorpe Borough Council with the Prize Money being donated by A. J. Biggadike (President) and R. Butlin (Vice-President).

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y) bt W. Sichel (Mi) 18, 16;
S. Mills (Y) bt D. Yallop (Dy) 7, 8;
A. Fletcher (Y) bt P. McQueen (Cv) 18, 15;
J. Dabin (K) bt G. Stredder (Ng) 7, 18.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Mills 15, 19;
Fletcher bt Dabin 20, 11.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Fletcher -9, 21, 16.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

N. Eckersley (Ch)/Fletcher bt P. D'Arcy/
M. Hankey (Ch) 10, 19;
Dabin/Beadsley bt McQueen/S. Cowley (La)
13, 9.

Final:

ECKERSLEY/FLETCHER bt Dabin/Beadsley
19, 19.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

G. Galloway (Li) bt S. Midgley (Y) 21, -17, 9;
M. Ludi (Y) bt L. Holmes (Ng) 13, 19.

Final:

LUDI bt Galloway 14, 11.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Ludi/Midgley bt S. Hemming/J. Harper (Wa)
12, 18;
Galloway/Holmes bt K. Smart/A. Ferneough
(Dy) 18, 19.

Final:

LUDI/MIDGLEY bt Galloway/Holmes 15, 13.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Eckersley/Ludi bt P. Taylor/C. Buttery (Li)
9, -18, 17;

Fletcher/Midgley bt Hankey/Galloway 18, 18.

Final:

FLETCHER/MIDGLEY bt Eckersley/Ludi
-13, 20, 17.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt D. Skerratt (Li) 7, 13;
T. Bottomley (Y) bt K. Adlington (Li) 12, 17.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Bottomley 19, 10.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Galloway bt Harper 14, 19;
Holmes bt Midgley 14, -22, 10.

Final:

GALLOWAY bt Holmes 16, -12, 13.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

D'Arcy bt G. Summerscales (Y) 10, 15;
M. Sheader (Li) bt D. Marples (Dy) -20, 20, 20.

Final:

D'ARCY bt Sheader 20, 14.

Girls: Alison Gordon (Bk) and Mandy Smith (Bk).
NPC: Peter Simpson.

English Junior Open — Worthing Leisure Centre
(May 13/14)

Boys:

1. Kevin Beadsley (Y), Kenny Jackson.
2. Graham Sandley, Malcolm Green (Sp).
3. David Barr and John Souter (Mi).

Girls:

1. Karen Witt (Bk), Angela Tierney (Cv).
2. Alison Gordon, Mandy Smith.
3. Sally Midgley (Y), Helen Williams (Mi).

NPC's: Peter Simpson, Alan Ransome and Donald Parker.

A team from the Republic of Korea will be attending the Swedish Junior Open, whilst invitations to the English Junior Open have now been sent to most European Countries. The draw for this tournament will take place on Saturday, Apl. 22, at the Bonnington Hotel, London at 6 p.m.

JUNIOR SELECTIONS

The National Selection Committee have announced the following teams to represent England in International Events:-

Swedish Junior Open (May 5-7)

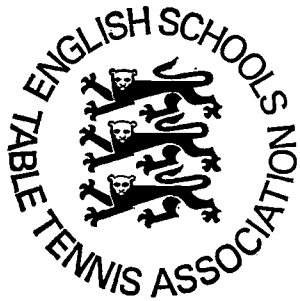
Boys: Kenny Jackson (E), Graham Sandley (Mi) and David Barr (Bk).

ON THE ATTACK

JOOLA
table tennis

Jochen Leiss & Peter Stellwag, as seen on B.B.C.2's TOP TABLE.

TURBO
JOOLA table tennis



by DAVID LOMAS

**NATIONAL SCHOOLS' TEAM
CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS 1978**

For the first time in the history of the National School Team Championship Finals teams from the Midlands Region took the top titles when they and other schools from all parts of the country competed at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Mar. 11.

Highfields School, Wolverhampton, won the Girls' U-19 event whilst Kings Heath School, Birmingham ousted holders Millom in the Boys' Under-19 category.

Millom, however, retained the Girls' U-16 trophy and added the Boys' U-16 title.

Another Wolverhampton school, Mosley Park, won the Boys' U-13 title thus ensuring that for the first time in the twelve years of the Finals a team from the London Borough of Newham were not on the winners' rostrum.

Mill Vale School, Dunstable, were convincing winners in the Girls' U-13 event but the closest verdict came in the U-11 event where all three teams recorded 4-4 draws and Bassett Green Middle School, Southampton emerged as top team on games ratio.

Once again there was very good support from local officials and amongst these who presented trophies were Councillor Norman Wilson, Chairman of Derbyshire County Council, Councillor Mrs. A. Noskwith (Chairman of the County Education Committee) and Tom Blunn, Treasurer of the E.T.T.A.

Mr. Brian Hearn, Export Marketing Manager of sponsors Stiga AB and Mr. Peter Townend, Principal of Lea Green Centre also made presentations.

Results:-

Boys' Under-19

1. **KINGS HEATH, Birmingham** (West Midlands)
(Lester Bertie, Richard Tanner, Michael Wootton, Andrew Ruston).
2. Millom (Cumbria)
(Chris Reed, Neil Smith, Michael Cairns, David Round).
3. Esher College (Surrey County)
(Steven Silver, Michael Silver, Gary Walker, Martin Davy).

Kings Heath 7 Esher 1
Esher 2 Millom 6
Millom 3 Kings Heath 5

Girls' Under-19

1. **HIGHFIELDS, Wolverhampton** (West Midlands)
(Stephanie Jones, Suzanne Watton, Shirley Cain, Joanne Chubb).
2. Guildford Church of England (Surrey County)
(Kerry Merritt, Kim Merritt, Ann Drinkwater, Allison Hayter).
3. Monkwearmouth, Sunderland (Tyne and Wear)
(Julie Smith, Amanda Smith, Linda Woolston, Alison McClatchie).

Monkwearmouth 1 Highfields 7
Guildford 6 Monkwearmouth 2
Highfields 6 Guildford 2

Boys' Under-16

1. **MILLOM** (Cumbria)
(Diccon Gray, Ian Reed, Andrew Pachul, Steven Sharp).

2. **Mosley Park, Wolverhampton** (West Midlands)
(Andrew Bellingham, Jeffrey Lamb, Paul Southall-Owen, Prakash Patel).
3. **Desborough, Maidenhead** (Berkshire)
(David Gloster, Martin Bartholomew, Ian Fullerton, Spencer Grimshaw).

Desborough 4 Mosley Park 4
Millom 7 Desborough 1
Mosley Park 1 Millom 7

Girls' Under-16

1. **MILLOM** (Cumbria)
(Gail Smith, Elaine Mathie, Bella Gray, Jan Sephton).
2. Guildford Church of England (Surrey County)
(Sarah Cresswell, Michael Bland, Clare Gibbs, Debra McVickers).
3. Bournemouth School for Girls (Dorset)
(Sally New, Judith Fairhall, Joanna Bush, Heather Williams).

Bournemouth 3 Guildford 5
Millom 7 Bournemouth 1
Guildford 1 Millom 7

Boys' Under-13

1. **MOSLEY PARK, Wolverhampton** (West Midlands)
(Andrew Dixon, Darrell Bowen, Kevin Ash, Alan Trubshaw).
2. Longlands Boys, Kendal (Cumbria)
(Stephen Dixon, Peter Moore, David Hilbeck, Andrew Gosling).
3. Trinity, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
(John Sparks, Andrew Barker, Gary Ducker, Paul Tilsed)

Trinity 3 Longlands 5
Mosley Park 6 Trinity 2
Longlands 3 Mosley Park 5

Girls' Under-13

1. **MILL VALE, Dunstable** (Bedfordshire)
(Jackie Bellinger, Lisa Bellinger, Julie Dimmock, Andrea Smallwood).
2. Millom (Cumbria)
(Louise Brockbank, Lindsey Rushton, Beverley Sharp, Linda Twiname).

(continued on page 26)



Mosley Park, Wolverhampton — winners of Boys' U-13 event with E.T.T.A. Treasurer, Tom Blunn.

Photo by John O'Sullivan.



Kings Heath, Birmingham — Boys' U-19 winners with E.S.T.T.A. Chairman, Tom Matthews.

Photo by John O'Sullivan.

(continued from page 24)

- 3. Callington (Cornwall)
(Tracy Mutton, Alison Hancock, Kay Barriball, Sarah Perry).

Millom 6 Callington 2
Callington 2 Mill Vale 6
Mill Vale 6 Millom 2

Under-11

- 1. **BASSETT GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL, Southampton** (Hampshire)
(Neil May, Christos Hannides, Simon Jackson, Timothy Gray).
- 2. Holmgate Primary, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
(Andrew Henry, Mark Harrison, Julian Rapkins, Tracey Golding).
- 3. Hill House International, London (Inner London)
(Donald Masters, Peter Safran, Ignacio Decerega, Luke Ward-Thomas, Santiago Pastur).

Holmgate 4 Hill House 4
Hill House 4 Bassett Green 4
Bassett Green 4 Holmgate 4

"Best Performance Awards"

The Stiga Trophy was presented to Jackie Bellinger of Mill Vale by Mr. Brian Hearn and the Gerald Gurney Trophy was presented by David Lomas to Andrew Henry of Holmgate Primary School. Both these young players were unbeaten.

NATIONAL UMPIRES

As a result of the two examinations held this season, one in London and the other in Leeds, the following have qualified as National Umpires:

- R. C. Glover (Hants)
- Mrs. J. Zeiske (Kent)
- B. G. Fretwell (Sussex)
- G. W. Payne (Glos)
- M. Vickers (Cleveland)
- R. Sleightholme (Cleveland)
- Mrs. H. Masters (Yorks)
- D. Hope (Yorks)
- E. A. Pentland (Cheshire)

This brings the total of qualifications since the scheme was started in 1958 to 134. Heather Masters' success enables her to join John as the first husband/wife team of National Umpires, a notable family achievement.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

April

- 15—Sedgefield 2-Star Open (Newton Aycliffe).
- 16—Bedford 1-Star Open.
- 23—Cheshire Junior 1-Star Open (Birkenhead).
- 29/30—County Championships Senior Challenge I.C.I. Ltd., Talbot Road, Hyde, Cheshire.

May

- 6/7—Bairstow Eves Essex 3-Star Open (Wanstead).
- 13/14—ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN (Worthing).
- 20—National Council Meeting (London).

Letter to the Editor

ONLY A SCRATCH

As a member of the E.T.T.A. Development Committee which has studied the possible formation of a National League, may I chide your March leader column, and indeed the words of other table tennis columnists, for representing a sponsored (by inference, nationally) national league as the panacea for the current top player drain to more lucrative regions of Europe. Current ideas are for a sponsored national league, with the winning team receiving a top cash prize and the lower teams receiving lesser sums. How does the mere possibility, let alone certainty, of earning a few hundred £s, even £1,000, as a member of a winning team, compare with the certainty of receiving a lucrative annual sum for representing a German club in the Bundesliga?

In England, we have a large number of small clubs, who band together to form local leagues, playing in clubrooms which are mostly church halls, works canteens, youth clubs, pubs, etc., which have minimal spectator accommodation, minimal changing facilities, no bars, no restaurants. Abroad, table tennis clubs are often large concerns, sometimes as part of even larger sports clubs, playing in sports halls with modern facilities. Local leagues are not part of the table tennis scene — the club plays in the national league, the lower divisions of which are usually regionalised, according to the club's means and playing strength. The large clubs attract local sponsorship and significant spectator support for the national league matches and are able to pay a player or players to represent them in matches and to act as club professional coaching younger players, etc.

Unless and until there is a substantial increase in the amount of money put into the game at local level, national sponsorship will only scratch the surface of the problem. For far too long we have been happy to play our table tennis on the cheap. Is it so surprising that there's so little money in the game with which to reward our top players?

TONY ROSS

70 Davenport Avenue,
HESSLE,
North Humberside.

MARK IS MAGIC!

by Ian Brown

Just two days before his 14th birthday, Mark Oakley achieved the virtually impossible feat of winning five events in the Aldershot League's individual championships at the Wand Tetley Gymnasium on Mar. 12.

Throughout the day, Oakley played some 23 sets, over four hours play, with the last 15 being played almost without a break. In the U-16's event he beat Jason Oh (9, 12) to take the title previously held by his elder brother, David, who he met in the semi-final of the U-18 competition.

In the final of the U-18's Oakley took on Steven Baggott and quickly clinched his second title 3 and 17. In the mixed doubles final, partnered by young Tamara Coupland, they came up against Dave Phelps and Andrea Seager who took the first game at 13 but, not to be outdone, Oakley and Coupland fought back to take the next two 14 and 18.

In the men's doubles, Oakley and Clive Stanbrook, were the No. 1 seeds and duly won the title with a final victory over Chris Bennett and Graham Outrim. The crowning glory for young Oakley came at half past eleven at night, after 14½ hours table tennis, when showing signs of tiredness, he got the better of Paul Shannon to lift the men's singles title.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting of the E.T.T.A. has voted to accept the constitutional amendments proposed by the National Council. Effectively this does away with the old Management Committee system and replaces it with 5 or 6 Vice-Chairmen each responsible for a certain area of the Association's operations.



Millom School — winners of Girls' U-16 event with Counc. Mrs. A. Noskwith, Chairman Derbyshire Education Committee.

Photo by John O'Sullivan.



Brian Hearn, Stiga Export Marketing Manager, presents the Stiga Trophy to Jackie Bellinger of Mill Vale School.

Photo by John O'Sullivan.

LEA GREEN COACHES COURSE - A DIFFERENT VIEW ?

by John Diggins, Diploma Coach

Peter Hirst, E.T.T.A. National Coach and Course Director, entitled the recent course, "A Different View" and that is exactly what it turned out to be.

In a weekend jammed full of interest and thought provoking ideas, many important philosophies and concepts came to light from Hirst, Alan Fisher, Tony Teff, and Bernard Rowley the guest speakers.

Hirst, in his opening address, stressed the need to teach the whole game, and not just a series of strokes in isolation, especially in the early stages of development, when bad habits start. Many of the practical sessions were in fact geared to devising ways of doing this.

The National Coach went on to say "That to produce world class players we must emulate them. This means starting with good basics, but concentrating on the short form of stroke, peak of ball timing, and up to the table positions".

This seems to make a lot of sense, as the world champion, as well as many of the best Chinese players perform in just this style. Of course this will require some thought, and a move away from the long loopy shots so in fashion in European table tennis today. The diehards will reject any sort of change out of hand.

My own view is that coaches, if we do not go forward, trying new ideas and concepts, we must go back, you cannot still stand still in this day and age. To show how a coaches thinking must be modified, in light of these new concepts, was exemplified by one question to Hirst, it was regarding peak timing and the chop. "Surely this is always done after the peak of bounce!!" The Hirst reply was "Who says so — why not peak of bounce for this shot?"

As an unbiased observer, but one who is willing to progress, I must agree. Skilled defenders have often chopped balls close to the table, at peak of bounce, for variation. Some Asians were doing just that, during the Worlds,

but they were attackers doing it as well as established defenders.

Other areas covered during the course by discussion, and exercise, were recovery, and target areas, service and receive of service, all to my mind sadly neglected areas in coaching. Teff did the service lesson with some very effective demonstrations, Hirst acting as the mug at the other end.

Alan Fisher had a very attentive audience for his general talk which varied from — the over emphasis on winning at too earlier an age, the importance of the all round game today, why Stellan Bengtsson will probably never win the World singles championship again, and why Jonyer's style should never be copied.

Bernard Rowley did an excellent session on fun games for beginners much enjoyed by the participating coaches. All in all a very useful weekend, backed by the excellent accommodation and facilities at the Lea Green Sports Centre.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FRAGMENTARY NATURE

I would like to express some of my own impressions (as a Club Coach working in the Salford /Manchester area) on reading Doreen Henderson's article in the March edition of Table Tennis News.

Having only comparatively recently come into contact with the organisational structure of the E.T.T.A., I have been struck by what appears to be its some what fragmentary nature.

Although living in one of the largest urban conurbations in the country my coaching colleagues and I seem to be working in the "wilderness", the only contact with the "important" events being through the News and senior players participating in tournaments.

Mrs. Henderson appeals for coaches and suggests setting up sessions necessary for them to achieve qualifications — all very good but what then? A player passes his exam, receives his badge and then sets off armed with the Manual to spread the "good news" and unless he can afford the time and in some cases considerable expense for weekend courses that is the last contact he will have with central authority of the E.T.T.A.

Thus there are very many groups already doing excellent work in introducing children to the game of Table Tennis but in "splendid isolation" — I should like to see all this activity co-ordinated, regional coaching advisers having a list of all activities in their area (including in schools) and being obliged to pay at least one visit per annum to each centre to view what is going on and to help the coaches with constructive advice. They could also be of considerable assistance in advising those who are frustrated for whatever reasons in their attempts to progress either in coaching or playing.

J. F. WALK

69 Lightoaks Road,
Salford 6,
Lancashire.

WEARY INDEED

Having helped for many years in the Snack Bar at the Lancashire Junior Open Championships and — with the rest of the helpers, male and female — arriving home very weary after a very long hard day, I would like to ask other organisers of Junior Championships whether they too, have the same problem of litter, filth, feet on tables and the general disgusting state of the fine facilities offered to our young players irrespective of the fact that there are litter bins around the sitting area of the room. If energy can be used and backs bent to throw chicken bones, old sandwiches, sausages etc. etc under the chairs then surely this energy could be used to wrap up the 'left-overs' and place them in the bins on the way out to the playing area! A reprimand, however tactful, merely brings a cheeky answer.

The small percentage of considerate boys and girls with a pleasant smile and even on the odd occasion returning their glasses or cups to the counter, I suppose makes voluntary effort worth while.

To the guilty ones who make our willing help an extremely hard task, I would ask one question — "Do you behave like this in your own home for your own mothers to clean up after you or is it because you are away from those homes, that you think you can do as you please?"

A sporting instinct does not only mean trying to play a good game of table tennis — it means fair play all round including fair play to the very many lady volunteers in the background of many championships who provide the food which needs careful planning and careful shopping, so as not to lose money. In addition they also spend much of the Championship Day continually clearing up this rubbish.

MARY MITCHELL (Mrs.)

3 Whinslee Court,
Bolton, Lancs.

Junior International

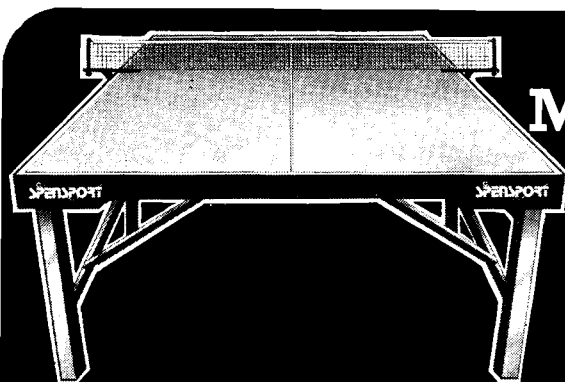
by The Editor

England's Graham Sandley, Malcolm Green and David Barr had matters very much to themselves when opposed to Holland's boys in the Junior International match at British Aerospace, Lostock, Bolton on Mar. 4. But, in contrast, Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith got themselves into all sorts of difficulties against their Dutch counterparts only Mandy achieving a win, against Serra Blankaert, in a final win for England by 7 sets to 3.

Neither Sandley nor Barr were extended beyond two games but Green needed a third bite in both his sets before beating Theo van Gasteren and Patrick Swier. Alison Gordon won the first game in both her sets but then faltered to eventual defeat but Mandy, after losing to Wilmie van Rijswijck in her opening set, seemed much more at ease in winning her second.

Individual Scores:-

M. Green bt T. van Gasteren 15, -22, 9;
G. Sandley bt W. de Bruin 15, 18;
D. Barr bt P. Swier 9, 8;
Mandy Smith lost to W. van Rijswijck 13, -21, -19;
Alison Gordon lost to S. Blankaert 7, -19, -11;
Sandley bt van Gasteren 19, 11;
Mandy Smith bt S. Blankaert 15, 18;
Barr bt de Bruin 10, 16;
Alison Gordon lost to W. van Rijswijck 18, -18, -17;
Green bt Swier 14, -19, 16.



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Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open

TRIUMPH FOR SANDLEY AT BOLTON

by George R. Yates

Not involved in the England v Netherlands Junior international match, on the eve of the Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open, at British Aerospace, Lostock on Mar. 4, Kevin Beadsley duly made the trip over the Pennines on the following day to defend his boys' singles title at Bolton's Institute of Technology.

In reaching the final without any trouble whatsoever the Halifax boy, and top-ranked England Junior, must have thought he was on an easy wicket until he met up with Graham Sandley who, equally at ease in reaching the final, knocked the stuffing out of the Tyke in no uncertain fashion.

Lancashire 2-Star Junior Open Results:-

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y) bt S. McCarthy (Dy) 14, 14;
D. Barr (Bk) bt A. Dixon (St) 11, 13;
M. Green (Sp) bt W. de Bruin (Neths) 13, -19, 18;
G. Sandley (Mi) bt D. Gray (Cu) 17, 13.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Barr 13, 16;
Sandley bt Green 16, 18.

Final:

SANDLEY bt Beadsley 19, 11.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Scowcroft (La) bt H. Frost (La) 19, 15;
M. Smith (Bk) bt J. Grundy (La) 7, 19;
S. Blankaert (Neths) bt H. Robinson (Cv) 13, 14;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt L. Fennah (Ch) -16, 20, 13.

Semi-finals:

Smith bt Scowcroft 12, 19;
Blankaert bt Gordon 19, 18.

Final:

SMITH bt Blankaert 9, 17.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Green/Sandley bt Barr/P. Swier (Neths) 11, 14;
Beadsley/A. Bottomley (Y) bt de Bruin/
T. van Gasteren (Neths) 15, 21.

Final:

GREEN/SANDLEY bt Beadsley/Bottomley
-14, 21, 21.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Gordon/Smith bt Blankaert/M. van Rijswijk
(Neths) -15, 17, 18;
Fennah/M. Reeves (Mi) bt V. Bellingham (St)/
Robinson 8, 14.

Final:

GORDON/SMITH bt Fennah/Reeves 18, 18.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

P. Rainford (La) bt S. Madden (Y) 17, 13;
R. Palfreeman (Y) bt P. Barnett (St) 17, 15;
Dixon bt M. Devitt (St) -14, 15, 14;
D. Pilling (Mi) bt T. Pachul (Ch) 18, 9.

Semi-finals:

Rainford bt Palfreeman 11, 15;
Pilling bt Dixon 19, -15, 18.

Final:

RAINFORD bt Pilling 10, 9.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Fennah bt J. Cheetham (Sp) 10, 15;
J. Todd (Y) bt L. Goldsmith (Mi) -17, 19, 16;
C. Peacock (La) bt A. Holden (Cv) 18, 14;
Grundy bt J. Parker (La) -18, 7, 19.

Semi-finals:

Todd bt Fennah 19, -15, 17;
Grundy bt Peacock 14, 3.

Final:

GRUNDY bt Todd 11, 10.

Cadet Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Dixon/Rainford bt B. Collingwood/E. Corniak
(Mi) 19, 6;
P. Brownlow (Mi)/Pilling bt Madden/Palfreeman
12, 11.

Final:

DIXON/RAINFORD bt Brownlow/Pilling 20, 9.

Cadet Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Fennah/Todd bt B. Hoyle (La)/Frost 12, 19;
Grundy/Peacock bt Holden/J. Woodcock (Cv)
17, 11.

Final:

FENNAH/TODD bt Grundy/Peacock 11, 6.

SUSSEX NOTES

by JOHN WOODFORD

ROBIN THAWS

ROBIN STACE, the Sussex county player who has "frozen" on a number of occasions in the past in a crisis overcame his problem in the quarter-finals of the Wilmott Cup for Brighton when they took out Bristol 5-4 at Withdean.

There was little to stop a fine maximum by Chris Sewell that included Roger Chandler. John Clarke was also in fine form to beat Tony Clayton and Brian Reeves. To be fair to Bristol, Clayton did have a physical problem due to colliding with a table some days earlier and was not 100 per cent fit. But, the Brighton men performed smartly as a team, leading to a 4-4 situation with Stace facing Reeves.

Stace's looping on fast tables is lethal. On a slower table it was still incredibly hard work from the back of the court for Reeves. Often Stace could not decide whether to carry on looping or try a drop-shot. However, attack won the day as Stace came through at 21-12 in the third and Brighton reach the semis for the first time in ten years and face the unenviable task of travelling to play North Middlesex.

Sussex seem to have triumphed for the third year in succession in Division 2 (South) after beating Kent 6-4, but I think that once again they will face a rough, tough ride at the Premier Division challenge matches.

On the junior front, Graham Gillett retained his Sussex junior title with a revenge win over Stephen Moore, whose chance of a grand slam of five Sussex titles has now been thwarted. They meet again in the final of the Eastbourne championships shortly!

REVISED CADET RANKINGS

The National Selection Committee on March 7 issued a revised ranking list for Cadet players (under-14) which takes into account the results of the Reading Junior 'Select' tournament. Rankings (previous placings in brackets):-

Boys

1. Ian Attridge (E) (12)
2. John Souter (Mi) (1)
3. Mark Oakley (Sy) (3)
4. Graham Russell (Sy) (10)
5. Philip Bradbury (Bu) (9)
6. Andrew Dixon (St) (6)
7. Stuart Palmer (Sk) (4)
8. Adrian Moore (Sx) (8)
9. David Pilling (Mi) (5)
10. Brian Johnson (Bk) (—)
11. Jeremy Duffield (Wo) (11)

Girls

1. Helen Williams (Mi) (2)
2. Gina Pritchard (Dv) (3)
3. Lorraine Gerbet (Sy) (6)
4. Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (10)
5. Gillian Galloway (Li) (1)
6. Lesley Taylor (Bk) (—)
7. Sarah Cresswell (Sy) (5)
8. Carol Butler (Dv) (8)
9. Pauline Townsend (Wi) (9)
10. Lynne Fennah (Ch) (4)
11. Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (11)
12. Cheryl Creasey (Do) (7)

The following players have not been ranked owing to their non-participation in the Reading tournament. For the assistance of tournament organisers, the placings given are for seeding purposes in Cadet events:
4A Paul Rainford (La) (2)
11A Roger Palfreeman (Y) (7)

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COUNTY NOTES Continued

Bath 'A'. The first point of the season for Bridgwater 'B' who won the final two sets to gain a 5-5 away draw with Bath 'B'. Rosemary Weekes was unbeaten for Portishead in their 7-3 home win over Bath 'B'.

In Division One, unbeaten Weston 'A' inflicted the first defeat on Southmead 6-4. Ray Philpott and Joe Garland were unbeaten for Weston, as were Jill Harris and Debbie Gardiner for Southmead.

Bedminster led Southmead 3-0 after the opening men's singles, but the latter recovered well and drew 5-5. Mike James and David Brown won both their singles for the winners.

Taunton 'A' maintained their 100% record with a 9-1 away victory over Bridgwater 'C', but Taunton 'B' suffered their first reverse of the season when beaten 3-7 by Bath 'D', in Division Two.

Bristol took a step nearer the Junior Division championship with a 7-3 win over Bath who were a player short. Nick Baldwin won all his sets for Bristol. Bridgwater 'A' still with a chance of the title, having dropped two points against Bristol's one but with a slightly superior set average had a convincing 10-0 home win over Weston. Nick Stevens won both his singles and doubles partnered with David Duance in Mendip 7-3 victory over Fromeside.

Avon and Somerset League Leading Positions:-

Premier Division

	Sets					
	P	W	D	F	A	P
Bridgwater 'A'	5	4	1	39	11	9
Bath 'A'	5	4	0	39	11	8
Failand 'A'	4	3	1	28	12	7
Portishead	4	3	0	23	17	6

Division One

Weston 'A'	5	5	0	38	12	10
Bedminster	5	3	1	28	22	7
Yeovil	4	2	1	24	16	5
Southmead	4	1	2	22	18	4

Division Two

Taunton 'A'	5	5	0	36	14	10
Bath 'D'	6	4	1	42	18	9
Taunton 'B'	5	4	0	32	18	8

Junior Division

Bristol	5	4	1	35	15	9
Bridgwater 'A'	5	4	0	36	14	8
Mendip	5	4	0	30	20	8
Bath	5	2	1	24	26	5

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. MORAN

NEW CHAMPIONS GALORE

The County Closed Championships duly took place at the Rover Works, Solihull on Feb. 26 and new champions galore emerged. Those stalwarts of the County "B" team Paul Judd and Barry Johnson contested the men's final with Judd coming out on top 19 and 19.

Jenny Cornock made a welcome return to form winning the women's final by the same margin from County No. 1 Rachel Mackriell. More shocks followed when the buoyant men's finalists combined to beat top seeds Dougie Johnson and Derek Munt 15, -15, 20 to take the men's doubles. Munt, a late arrival, had not defended his singles title.

Karen Groves and Di St. Ledger retained their women's doubles title by 10, 17 against Ann Lloyd and Doreen Griffiths, Karen then joined Dougie Johnson to win the mixed versus Jenny Cornock and Hon Kin Ng in a close final -22, 13, 18. Hon Kin Ng had further success when he beat Lester Bertie 15, 12 to win the boys' final after Bertie had overcome 2nd seed David Ward in his semi-final.

Rachel Mackriell retained her girls' singles title beating S. Peakman 13, 13 and then joined with Miss Bryson to take the girls' doubles title from the County Junior pair Sue Hemmings and Julie Harper. The new boys' U-14 champion is Adrian Pilgrim who confirmed his No. 1 County Cadet ranking beating S. Beer 16, -21, 10 in the final. Helen Rainbow beat Carol Hastings to win the girls' U-14 crown and at the other end of the scale

Jim Peakman retained his veterans' title beating John Earles in a repeat of last year's final. Consolation winners were Chris Martin (men) and Peter Friar (U-17).

Referee Geoff Taylor managed to keep all 12 table buzzing through the day ably assisted by George Halvorsen, John Devey, Brian Lloyd, "Brush" Hazzard and the rest of the orchestra was conducted by Maurice Goldstein's pipe!

The County "A" team continue to find the season very hard going in the absence of Des Douglas and I will bring you more news of this and Warwickshire League results next month.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by D. A. INKLEY

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Several noteworthy achievements for Notts fans to enthuse over this month but pride of place must go to the County Veterans who made sure of the Midland Division of the County Championships by beating Cheshire 6-3 at Hyde. It was expected that Cheshire would provide the stiffest opposition of the season but a splendid three game win by Alf Saunders over Derek Schofield set the seal on a fine victory. The men of the County team Ron Bolton, John Ellis and Alf also combined under Nottingham's colours to crush Birmingham veterans 10-0 in the Midland league to retain the title. This team have only lost 6 of the 80 rubbers played this season, indeed they have not been beaten as a team for three years.

As hinted in last month's notes the County Juniors duly triumphed in the Third Division North winning their remaining matches 10-0 and 9-1 against Cumbria II away and Cleveland III at home respectively. The juniors thus gaining promotion after being thwarted in the three previous seasons, a nice reward for Stephen Inkley and Pauline Cameron who have played in the team for the past four years though Pauline still has another year of juniors to display her talents. Team manager, Dave Fairholm introduced Shaun Green of Mansfield for the last match in place of Robert Watson and Shaun repaid the compliment, winning his two singles in excellent style.

The Nottingham girls prevailed over Birmingham in the Bromfield Trophy losing only one rubber in the process and the stage is now set for the Nottingham trio of Linda Holmes, Kathryn Lindley and Pauline to do battle against Ormesby on April 3. No one in Nottingham is foolish enough to underrate Ormesby but the Nottingham girls will have a good "gate" in support and will fight every inch of the way.

The County senior team have made considerable improvement to their position with successive wins against Northumberland II and Cumbria I. There's no doubt that if Notts could find a good No. 3 to go with Alan Croome and Glen Stredder, especially now that Linda Holmes has settled in, they will be a match for any team in their division.

In the Midland league, the Nottingham "A" team has a good chance of promotion to Div. 1 following a comfortable 8-2 victory over Coventry first team. Dennis Collins combines with Alan and Glenn to make up this team. Perhaps the kindest thing is not to mention the juniors except to say that they salvaged some pride by finally winning a match at the expense of Shrewsbury. I have no information to hand concerning the Nottingham women's team but hopefully this will be available eventually.

The tournament referred to in my last notes sponsored by the Mansfield Weekly Newspaper "Chad" was an invitation knock-out affair involving eight competitors from Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire played to a capacity audience at Moor Lane Sports Pavilion, Mansfield. The final was a three gamer between Sheffield team mates Steve Mills and Dave Rayner which the former won 17, -14, 14. In a draw doubles competition Martin Kinsella and Rayner quelled Mills and John Lenthal 15, -22, 16.

The same newspaper in conjunction with Marina Holidays subsequently promoted an exhibition by Chester Barnes at Mansfield Civic Theatre. Chester presented his skills against several local players

and was not unduly extended except by Kinsella who only succumbed 18 in the third. Chester even did his frying pan bit, ah well!

The Nottingham league title now seems destined to go to Green Lane Y.C. who beat Y.M.C.A. fairly comfortably in the crunch match. Green Lane have two fixtures to play at the time of writing but are unlikely to make any mistakes. This team of Collins, Nick Kirkland and Dave Bilton have played well under coach and mentor Dave Fairholm.

Entries for the Notts Closed Tournament had to be closed well before the closing date and we are looking forward to a fine tournament, news of this in the next issue.

I think the message is finally percolating through the shire, I hope to include news of happenings elsewhere in the County in future issues.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by DAVE FOULSER

PROMOTION ALL ROUND

Gloucestershire juniors gained their first championship success since the 1962/63 season when, by drawing 5-5 at home with Herefordshire, they clinched the Div. 3 Midland title in the County Championships — my congratulations to them, and also to my fellow selectors. Our junior policy over these past two seasons seems to be having its effect, for not only have our juniors achieved promotion, but our senior team will also win their division if they can beat Dorset by 10-0.

Going back to that junior match with Herefordshire, I should mention that with Hereford playing juniors Mark Owen and Michael Owens in their team for the first time this season (having played for their senior team on all other occasions) a tough match was anticipated, and so it proved. Although both Andrew Golding and Derrick Morgan gave Owen a close match the Owen/Owens boys were unbeaten, but we could rely on our girls, Cathy Robb and Vanessa Cruwys, to win their respective singles and the doubles. Our other two sets came when Golding and Darren Griffin both beat P. Bunclark.

The senior team beat Glamorgan 8-2 with Dave Harvey, Martin Lane, Cathy Robb and Vanessa Cruwys unbeaten but poor Bill Dawe was out of touch and lost both his sets.

Gloucester men travelled to Walsall for their final Midland League Div. 3 match knowing that a draw would give them the title. However, they in fact maintained their 100% record by winning 7-3 with Dawe and Lane each recording maximums. Mike Prosser lost two singles but the real surprise was when Dawe and Prosser lost the doubles to S. Cartwright and D. Taylor -21, 15, -17 which was the first doubles our pair have lost in the Midland League for two seasons. It was a remarkable set for in the first game they trailed 3-15, recovered to lead 20-19 and 21-20 only to lose, convincingly won the second, and then led 10-4 in the third before finally losing.

Gloucester Veterans also entertained Worcester in the Midland League knowing that they required a draw to give them promotion. After dropping the opening set they took the next five but that was all they got although still achieving the desired result. In this match Pete Wood won two, Brian Greaves and Les Allen one each and they also won the doubles.

Gloucester women's team beat Swindon 'B' 8-2 at home to become the first ever holders of the Div. 2 title in the newly formed Cotswold Ladies League. Lesley Hawkins and Shelley Creighton each won three whilst Irene Dollin lost her unbeaten record, having come to the match straight from a journey back from London. Gloucester were slightly fortunate in that Swindon 'B' were forced to field a weakened team against them. The following weekend Swindon 'B' visited Cheltenham with their full team and beat Cheltenham 'B' 9-1 with Rosemary Bayley and Linda Probert winning the doubles.

Any hopes Cheltenham 'A' team had of winning Div. 1 of the League were smashed when they also lost at home 1-9 to the incredibly strong Swindon 'A' team. Cathy Robb played well against them in patches, and particularly against England-ranked junior Claire Maisey going down 21-23 in the

third. Jan Foulser exceeded expectations in taking the first game against England-ranked cadet Pauline Townsend but the latter raised her game to win eventually. Vanessa Cruwys saved the "whitewash" by beating Pam Oung when no-one expected it.

Gloucestershire entered a senior and a junior team in the Western Counties team tournament and fared better than expected. Our seniors finished third and our juniors were runners-up. Harvey took the men's singles title including a fine win over Brian Reeves of Somerset in the final. In the senior section Derrick Morgan played well to win two out of three in his group, whilst Guy Greening and Golding each won one in their groups. Both Graham Slack and John Turner won their groups in the junior section but then unfortunately had to play each other in the semi-final. John won this in three but sadly lost in the final to a lad from Dorset. Cathy Robb also won two singles in her group but was out of touch when she lost 13 and 12 to Cherry Creasey.

In the Warner Shield Cheltenham men beat Stroud 9-1 but have still to play Gloucester. In division one of the Gloucester league Taynton 'A' beat Newent 6-4 which almost certainly gives them the title. Harvey played brilliantly to beat Owen, Owens and Simon Claxton all 2-straight. The previous week Newent had overwhelmed Gordon League 'A' 10-0 which may have been the first time ever Gordon League 'A' have ever been "whitewashed".

Stroud had a record entry in the junior events of their annual closed tournaments, and held a Veterans event for the first time. Gloucester had an entry of just over 100 competitors in the Open Singles in their annual closed tournament which is a fine achievement.

John Cooper has just qualified as a Referee whilst the writer has recently passed the written part of the County Umpires test in order that he too can take the Referee's test in the near future.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by PHILIP REID

VARIED FORTUNES

Leicestershire's fortunes this season have been varied, to say the least. First congratulations to the 1st team who topped the 2nd (Midland) in fine style, dropping only three of the fifty sets on the way. Will this team be good enough to regain Premier Division status? This same team has done it before and with Chris Rogers playing so well (100% this season) they must have a chance. If they do, then the County 2nd team will presumably take their place in the 2nd Midland. This team topped the 3rd Div. (East) at their first attempt and with only one member of the team over 21, this team obviously is being groomed for the future. The team dropped only one point (in their first match — with Cambridgeshire) and it is a considerable feather in the cap of John Iliffe, who captained them in fine style.

That is the good news. At the other end of the table both the Veterans and Juniors have finished bottom and there is little doubt there is some disappointment here. In the case of the Veterans it is difficult to figure out why. The team of Philip Overend, Charlie Jacques, Bryan Hall and Glenys Odams looks pretty useful on paper but they have failed to collect a win. With Bryan Mayfield hopefully available next season the team could obviously do much better. There is certainly no lack of enthusiasm in the team.

The Juniors is rather a different story. With David Gannon and Julie Revill committed to play for the Leics. 2nd team, the team was weakened to such an extent that it was clear the team would have a job to survive in the 2nd Division. Apart from some fine displays from Yvonne Hall, there have been few good results but there are several players who could well do well if they were regularly available. Clashes with schools events and other commitments have regularly meant changes of the selected teams and if, for example, people like Trevor Kerslake and Glenn Johnson were able to play on a regular basis the team could well benefit from a season in the Third Division. No-one would envy the problems non-playing captain Harry Ward has had to contend with this season.

In the Midland League, Leicester 2nd team edged nearer promotion with a good 8-2 win over Shrewsbury. The star of the match was Colin Truman who was called in to replace Mayfield who was unavailable. Colin gave his best display for several years in winning all three two straight with both Gannon and Graham Hughes winning two.

The 'Town and Country Building Society', whose sponsorship has proved invaluable to the county will be in attendance at our Annual Dance, kindly organised for the county by the Hinckley League.

EVENTFUL FINAL

BOB POTTON (Ellenborough) became the North Middlesex Closed Champion in March beating Paul Gutterson (East Finchley) in an eventful final 18, -9, 10. Angela Mitchell (Ellenborough) triumphed over Helen Williams (Edmonton) 13, 10 to take the women's crown.

The major upset of the tournament occurred when the Hornsey Y.M.C.A. pair, Trevor Campbell and Nat Richardson, beat Potton and Dave Tan -18, 11, 17 to take the Men's Doubles title. The following poem written by Keith Good is an excerpt from the tournament programme:

THE CLOSED

The venue is Crouch End Town Hall
Two hundred players, battlers all
Praying this will be the day
They play their best, in every way.
Straining sinews, stretching nerves
Pulling out those special serves
Performing feats of derring-do
Someone asks: "Did you get through?"
An umpire boldly calls the score
A player thinks: "I need one more!"
Then Jacqui's voice rings round the room
A pretty harbinger of doom?
A victim nets a simple service
No wonder, he's a little nervous
Stretched on the rack, forced through the hoop
Of biting chop and kicking loop.
Some battles take no time to wage
While others seem to last an age
When those with patience for the fight
Invoke the law of expedite.
Referee Len is on the spot
To smooth a disputatious knot
With soothing smile and winning ways
He's master of all he surveys.
One court is like a boxing ring
Contenders, giving everything
The ball's a face; the bats are fists
They're metaphoric pugilists.
On table six a doubles match
Sparks off the top seeds' purple patch
As booming shots of power and spin
Herald their most emphatic win.
The ding-dong ping-pong battle rages
Filling the reporter's pages
With songs of praise and tales of glory
The finals — that's another story.
As beads of sweat bedew the babel
Of celluloid on bat and table
You look around and know you've found
A miracle of sight and sound.
Remembering it is a game
We know each other, all by name
Let memories be, when battle's done
Of friendships strengthened — we've all won!

DEVON NOTES

by KEITH PONTING

CHESTER BARNES STILL DRAWS IN THE CROWDS

You either like or dislike him, but there can be no doubt that Chester Barnes is still a very big draw in English Table Tennis. This was amply demonstrated at the County Senior Championships at Plymouth on Sunday, 5th March, when Barnes, competing for the first time drew the largest crowd seen at the event for many a long year. Needless to say, he won the Men's Singles title without too much of a sweat, giving a superb exhibition of stroke play. His opponent in the final Michael Shearman also played some brilliant table tennis and did not seem overawed by the big

name at the other end of the table and both players received a tremendous ovation when they received their awards at the end of the match.

The best final was the Women's Singles between reigning champion, Elaine Lamb and 13-year-old Gina Pritchard. In a match of contrasting styles Gina's defence just won her the title 22-20 in the third to become the youngest ever winner of this event. Elaine, who also caused a few surprises at such a young age took her defeat well and it augurs well for the county that we have two such talented players to call on.

The Exeter pair, Paul Bathard and Kaiyoti Ogunmoyela, did well to reach the Men's Doubles final but found the power play of the James brothers, David and Keith too much for them. Keith was again a winner when, partnered by his wife Katherine retained the Mixed title with two-straight win over former winners, Mike Short and Elaine Lamb. Not to be outdone by her husband, Katherine won another title when, with Elaine Lamb she retained the Women's Doubles title by just getting the better of many times former champions Barbara Pearson and Nancy Hollywood. Two popular players fought out the Veterans final with Tommy Anson just holding off the challenge from Colin Mitchell.

The championships were, once again, superbly organised by the Plymouth League and the day was a great credit to all concerned. One familiar face was, however, missing from the control table, that of Harry Pitts, who has been a tower of strength in Plymouth for many years. Unfortunately, Harry has suffered a stroke and his many friends wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

The awards were presented by Mr. Graham Little, President of the Port of Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce, who have very kindly supported the county with cash and playing strip for our Junior Premier team.

History was also made by two of our juniors in their respective league championships. Paul Whiting became the youngest-ever winner of the Men's Singles at Plymouth whilst 12-year-old Gary Lambert caused a sensation by reaching the final of the Men's Singles at Exeter, and was just beaten by champion Paul Stone in a three game thriller. Some of the play of Gary was incredible for one so young and I am sure we are going to hear a lot more of these two outstanding lads in the years to come.

Plymouth, the County's last remaining team in the National Leagues Championships, were soundly beaten 5-1 by Newbury in the Rose Bowl.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by DAVID DELLER

TITLE AT FIRST ATTEMPT

Les Wooding and Len Saywell were the respective winners of the men's singles in the Hunts Central and St. Neots tournaments played over the past month. Melonie Ringrose and Barbara Pace took the corresponding women's solo titles.

In the Central tournament Wooding won the title at the first attempt not dropping a game in achieving this feat. In the final he overhauled Sid Burgess, also from the St. Ives club, in straight games. Melonie defeated Pam Norman in the women's event to retain her title. These two players teamed up to take the women's doubles title.

Two more trophies went to 14-year-old Melonie when partnered by Alan Smith they lifted the mixed, the other success coming in a one-sided girls' event. Wooding also partnered his opposing singles finalist to win the men's doubles. Mark Fisher easily overcame all opposition to take the boys' singles title.

At St. Neots a week later Saywell's final opponent was "Gus" Albon with the former winning 13 and 17. Barbara Pace won the women's singles at the expense of Doreen Underwood. Barbara, partnered by Diane Bushby, annexed the women's doubles. Albon and Stan Roberts took the corresponding men's title whilst for the second week running Smith and Melonie Ringrose were the mixed winners. Melonie also won the girls' singles title whilst Keith Willet was a good boys' victor.

by **TONY ROSS**

SURPRISE POSSIBILITY

By the time these notes are printed, the result of the clash between Premier Division title rivals Yorkshire and Surrey will be known. Whatever the result, even the possibility of the title was something of a surprise, and the team of Tony Clayton, Kevin Beadsley, Alan Fletcher and Melody Ludi, together with reserve Andy Metcalfe, deserves praise for their efforts in county colours. The performance of the second team, built on regulars Steve Mills, Mike Harrison and Helen Shields, has been equally good, and at the time of writing the team had an unexpected chance of retaining the Second Division North title if they could defeat Cheshire by a sufficiently high margin. Three Bradford players — Clem Lo, Steve Kosmowsky and Sally Midgley — have made their senior county debuts in this team this season.

Had Beadsley been available for all matches, there is little doubt (perhaps Middlesex might argue!) that our junior first team would have held on to their Junior Premier Division title. In addition, the team was weakened by a crop of injuries to the leading girls in recent matches. However, there must be cause for concern over the prospects for this team next season, when this season's top three boys will all be over-age, and of those boys still eligible next season, only Bradford's Adrian Hill has shown Junior Premier Division potential. In fact, the policy of playing in the junior second team mainly those players who will still be juniors next season was not rewarded by results, and, on the contrary, placed the team in theoretical danger of relegation. To try and avoid this possibility, these electors abandoned the policy for the last match, giving junior county debuts at the last possible moment to Sheffield's Andy Leather and David Ryan, a reward for excellent Yorkshire League junior division records.

A number of leagues have now held their closed championships. In Bradford, Clem Lo became champion for the third year in succession with a final 20, 20 victory over Kosmowsky, who led 20-19 in both games. Lo also won the men's doubles with Richard Priestley and the mixed with Sally Midgley, who was the youngest ever women's singles winner at 15. County junior Neil Harris removed top men's seed Mick Stephenson in the first round, but then crashed himself in the quarters to 14-year-old Graham Wilson, who became the youngest ever men's semi-finalist. Expense no object, Doncaster again hired the Racecourse Grandstand for their ten-event championships. Phil Spencer won the men's singles, after top seed Alan Summerscales was beaten in the quarters by David Grocock, who was removed in turn by veteran Pete Skerratt in the semis.

In the Halifax Closed, the absence of Beadsley and Bottomley (at the East of England Open) gave Tony's brother David the chance to step in and win the triple crown. In Hull, Mike Harrison held on to his men's title, beating Chris Pindar in the final in a repeat of last season's event. Joe Naser was absent injured, and the men's doubles went to the Hazelwood twins, now students at Hull University. Carole Grayson won all three senior titles, and the restricted Grade "A" mixed singles. Triple winners also dominated the Leeds Closed, where Andy Metcalfe won M.S., M.D. and X.D., and the York Closed, Maureen Gott taking W.S., W.D. and X.D. In the Wakefield Closed, Steve Brailsford (18), defeated top junior Trevor Watson in the men's final, after he had earlier removed David Lamb.

Results:-

BRADFORD:

M.S.: C. Lo bt S. Kosmowsky 20, 20;
W.S.: S. Midgley bt H. Shields 15, 8;
M.D.: Lo/R. Priestley bt Kosmowsky/M. Stephenson 17, -18, 15;
X.D.: Lo/Midgley bt S. Worsman/Shields 20, 15;
B.S.: A. Hill bt N. Harris 10, -21, 15;
G.S.: Midgley bt J. Todd 14, 13.

DONCASTER:

M.S.: P. Spencer bt P. Skerratt 13, 20;
W.S.: M. Seaton bt J. Speight 10, -12, 12;
M.D.: A. and G. Summerscales bt Spencer/

T. Moran 14, 20;
J.S.: D. Skerratt bt S. Wathey 19, 12.

HALIFAX:

M.S.: D. Bottomley bt M. McGorlick;
M.D.: D. Bottomley/B. Snowden;
X.D.: D. Bottomley/J. Bottomley.

HULL:

M.S.: M. Harrison bt C. Pindar 13, 21;
W.S.: C. Grayson bt J. McLean 14, 20;
M.D.: S. and R. Hazelwood bt S. Rossington/G. Birch 22, -19, 17;
W.D.: Grayson/J. Kinnersley bt McLean/K. Wilson 14, -18, 16;
X.D.: Harrison/Grayson bt Pindar/A. Kennedy 18, 11;
B.S.: T. Watts bt A. Caley -12, 16, 21;
G.S.: T. Wenn bt A. Hudson -13, 13, 14.

LEEDS:

M.S.: A. Metcalfe bt I. Walmsley;
M.D.: A. and B. Metcalfe bt N. Davies/L. Browning;
X.D.: A. Metcalfe/S. Stockwell bt D. Gee/L. Clemett;

B.S.: P. Sanderson bt D. Roseman.

WAKEFIELD:

M.S.: S. Brailsford bt T. Watson.

YORK:

M.S.: S. Tracey bt D. Bartle 19, -18, 20;
W.S.: M. Gott bt H. Standish 14, 13;
M.D.: K. Bojas/K. Dodd bt Tracey/R. Lowery -19, 17, 22;
W.D.: Gott/M. Broadbent bt Standish/S. Downs 11, 17;
X.D.: Bojas/Gott bt D. Bartle/Broadbent 16, -19, 22;
B.S.: D. Rawley bt P. Mills 16, -16, 12.

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by **GEOFF NEWMAN**

DESERVED CHAMPIONS

Our County teams are coming to the finale in the County Championships and our Senior Premier team's victory at Warwickshire should ensure their continued participation in the Premier Division next season. A Kevin Caldon inspired second team drew with Hertfordshire at Clacton to notch the 2nd Division South title. This team has performed consistently all season and are deserved champions. The third senior team had an excellent final win over Kent II with Jeff Drew scoring a good win over Paul Beck aided and abetted by Andy Dawden, Peter Hunt, Jane Livesey and Elaine Sayer.

The Junior Premier team kept their hopes alive by defeating Surrey 7-3. Kenny Jackson was back to his best while Julie Dowsett weighed in with a good girls' singles win. Essex Junior II were held to a draw by Wiltshire but Tony Penny gave another determined display with very high work rate. The Junior thirds were well beaten by Kent II but cheering note here was the excellent performances from the two young girls Pat Taylor and Julie Askem. Our veterans first team took a jolt in Kent and their hopes of getting to the Veterans Play-offs has been diminished.

Big event recently was the Barclays Bank-sponsored Essex Closed at Thurrock. Well organised by Vic Russell and his merry band the tournament, as popular as ever, saw many hectic struggles over the long weekend. Jackson took the eye with superb wins in both the Boys' and Men's singles a truly remarkable performance in a tournament that was graced by so many good players.

Julie Dowsett was another young player to take the eye in the Girls' singles while Ian Attridge added his own brand of class to the Cadet Boys' event. Ian, incidentally, deserves congratulations for his National Cadet ranking of No. 1 while Jackson continues in the England sides for the Junior Open at Worthing, the Swedish Junior Open and the Scottish International Open. Well done Kenny, keep up the good work.

In the Senior Closed Lesley Radford still reigns supreme amongst the women while Dave Newman notched the men's doubles with Dave Iszatt and

the mixed with Linda Barrow. On the veteran front the imperturbable Laurie Fountain added another notch with a good win over Fred Lockwood.

Results:-

M.S. Semi-finals:

S. Gibbs bt I. Horsham 18, -14, 19;
L. Eadie bt G. Newman -14, 15, 20;
K. Jackson bt L. Smith 12, 18;
D. Iszatt bt K. Caldon -16, 12, 17;

Semi-finals:

Eadie bt Gibbs 11, 17;
Jackson bt Iszatt 18, 17.

Final:

Jackson bt Eadie 24, -16, 12.

W.S. Semi-finals:

L. Barrow bt E. Foulds 18, 16;
L. Radford bt G. Locke 22, 10.

Final:

Radford bt Barrow 14, 19.

M.D. Semi-finals:

Iszatt/Newman bt B. Mailey/I. Robertson 15, 14;
Horsham/Jackson bt N. Brierley/D. Wright 11, 18.

Final:

Iszatt/Newman bt Horsham/Jackson 13, 19.

W.D. Semi-finals:

M. Abbott/J. Dowsett bt Barrow/Foulds 18, 14;
H. Gore/Radford bt Y. Brown/J. Livesey 12, 11.

Final:

Gore/Radford bt Abbott/Dowsett 15, 20.

X.D. Semi-finals:

Newman/Barrow bt Jackson/Gore -23, 16, 10;
Horsham/Radford bt Caldon/E. Sayer 10, 10.

Final:

Newman/Barrow bt Horsham/Radford 16, 13.

B.S. Semi-finals:

Jackson bt T. Penny 13, -18, 18;
S. Kimm bt D. Charlery 15, 19.

Final:

Jackson bt Kimm 13, 11.

G.S. Semi-finals:

Dowsett bt Brown 13, 13;
Gore bt Abbott 21, 17.

Final:

Dowsett bt Gore 19, 20.

B.D. Semi-finals:

S. Low/Penny bt Jackson/Kimm 18, 15;
S. Andrew/Charlery bt T. Dowsett/R. Veale

16, -18, 16.

Final:

Low/Penny bt Andrew/Charlery 18, 17.

G.D. Semi-finals:

Brown/Gore bt J. Askem/K. Mudge 18, 9;
Abbott/Dowsett bt D. Taylor/G. Travers 16, 10.

Final:

Abbott/Dowsett bt Brown/Gore 9, -17, 15.

J.X.D. Semi-finals:

Jackson/Gore bt Charlery/Abbott 7, 18;
Penny/Brown bt Dowsett/Dowsett 17, 16.

Final:

Jackson/Gore bt Penny/Brown 13, 10.

C.B.S. Semi-finals:

I. Attridge bt G. Clement 20, 12;
C. Avis bt P. Chaplin 17, 20.

Final:

Attridge bt Avis 13, 17.

C.G.S. Semi-finals:

Mudge bt P. Taylor -16, 15, 5;
Askem bt Taylor 13, -21, 10.

Final:

Askem bt Mudge -17, 12, 15.

V.S. Semi-finals:

F. Lockwood bt R. Murray 19, 12;
L. Fountain bt B. Cartwright 13, 18.

Final:

Fountain bt Lockwood 20, -15, 12.

The County Association were indebted to Barclays Bank for the generous help in staging these championships, without such tournaments of this scale would be difficult to fund.

The next big event will be the Bairstow Eves 3-Star Essex Open at Wanstead Sports Centre on May 6/7. Entry forms are available from Vic Russell, 231 Fencepiece Road, Chigwell, Essex IG7 5EB. Entries close on April 15.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The Geoffrey Harrower Trophy which is presented by the Club each year to a person considered by a special committee to have made a 'significant contribution' to Table Tennis in England, will this season be awarded to Charles M. Wyles, O.B.E. Previous recipients have been Laurie Landry, Tom Blunn, Jill Hammersley and Ron Crayden which is quite an assortment of people. The Trophy will be presented to Charles Wyles at the A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A. in London on July 8th, 1978.

FILMS

In addition to the marvellous 'Battle of the Bats' film about the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham, which is available for hire at £10 per week from Sorel Films Ltd., 120 Long Acre, London WC2, the E.T.T.A. will shortly be receiving at the office some copies of a film commissioned by the London Export Corporation on the Chinese tour which culminated in the World Championships last year. This film, whilst not primarily about table tennis, shows some of the things the Chinese party did and some of the places they saw during their visit and should be of great general interest.

WELSH JUNIOR OPEN

Scheduled for June 10th, the Welsh Junior Open has been postponed until September 2nd, 1978.

May Issue

Owing to pressure of space this month several tournament results have been held over until the May issue.

Among those so affected are:-

- Pontefract 1-Star Open
- Reading Junior Select
- Yorkshire Junior Select
- Middlesex Junior and Cadet Authorised Championships

plus a report on the 'Paraplegic International Match' Great Britain v Netherlands.

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PING COMMENTARY

by JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"

RARE BIRDS AT DUISBURG!

English journalists at Duisburg representing national newspapers were as rare as hot days in January in England. The only nationals with correspondents fully accredited were myself for the "Telegraph" and Richard Eaton for the "Sunday Times" who returned to England after the first two days. Another sad situation in our fight for coverage in the national Press.

However, as soon as Desmond Douglas began to create a pile of scalps that suggested he might be the next European champion, Alan Ransome, officially representing the B.B.C., did a first class job by sending copy to a number of the "popular" newspapers, proving once again that they (the popular) only want to know about winners.

The "Telegraph" as most people know, advertise that they "cover sport in depth". The best example was on the Monday following the finish in Duisburg when the "Telegraph" had six pages of sport including a huge splash over three columns, a picture and results.

I know for a fact that Sports Editors everywhere, receive a hundred letters of complaint to one of appreciation. It occurs to me that if there are any readers of this column who (hopefully) enjoyed reading my reports each day from Germany, a short letter to the Sports Editor of the "Telegraph" (Mr. Kingsley Wright) expressing their appreciation of the space he allocated to table tennis for the European championships, could help our cause for future events and show that the "Telegraph" is following the right policy on sport in general.

There was general agreement at Duisburg that the ten-day schedule was too drawn out and unbalanced. The main reason for this seems to be the continuing expansion of the E.T.T.U. amongst the smaller Category 2 countries.

This means that a full six days had to be devoted to the team events, followed by a rest day and then the individual events — the most important part of the programme — crushed into three days.

Ten days is too long for a continental championship. Players, officials get tired of travelling daily to and from hotels long distances from the venue, never the problem in Brighton. The whole thing needs streamlining, especially because watching the action for ten days makes it extremely expensive for the poor spectators. I believe the tournament could be worked into an 8-day schedule starting on a Saturday and ending eight days later on a Sunday.

With great respect to the rights of the smaller members of the E.T.T.U. they should be programmed to play two matches a day because some of the women's matches are over in 45 minutes! How absurd that a country with players of only club standard is there for a full day and appears only for less than an hour on court. It might even be necessary for all teams to play twice daily.

Four days should be ample for the team championship, cut the rest day (that's luxury reserved for the world championships) and spread the individual events over four days. Desmond Douglas with a bye in the first round of the men's singles didn't meet real opposition (Secretin) until 8 p.m. on Saturday night, sixteen hours before the finals!

I am not sure who was responsible for the England players tracksuits used at Duisburg. Perhaps they were put together in a last-minute panic — I believe they were rushed over at the eleventh hour. The chance was there over the ten days to compare them with the rest of the European players. They came out bottom of the poll. They were badly fitting, whilst the idea of

having yellow sleeves with navy blue for the rest regrettably made the wearers look like clowns.

Fortunately, the England players in general performed well overall, but the sooner those tracksuits are returned from whence they came the better for everyone.



Welsh Corner

H. Roy Evans

Although we dropped from 17th to 21st place in the ranking at the European Championships in Duisburg, it was a creditable performance without Alan Griffiths. We reversed a recent European League loss to Norway, and then went on to beat both Ireland and Scotland, and these in themselves were satisfying results.

George Evans, recalled after so many years in the wilderness, came through with some splendid wins, whilst Graham Davies, with the No. 1 mantle on him showed some of his best form,

We also beat Guernsey, which one would expect, but did less well than we hoped against Luxembourg 2-5, Austria 1-5, Spain 1-5 and Greece 1-5.

Graham's record was 15 wins and 7 losses, George's 10 wins and 6 losses, Bob Bishop's 3 wins and 11 losses, and Jeff Morgan's 1 win and 7 losses. Understandably Jeff did not get many matches, but played well up to a point. Bob is lost against the quick hitters, and can only succeed when he can dictate the speed.

Our women — Kim Wheatley and Debbie Coulthard lost all their matches, and failed to win a game in the singles. They did take an event against Scotland in the doubles.

It was a well organised tournament although few players liked the Imperial tables or the Schildkrot balls.

Our players returned to go almost at once into the Welsh Closed Championships, in which Alan Griffiths regained the title he lost to George Evans last season. George was beaten in the quarter-finals by Robert Bishop and then Robert lost to Graham Davies, whilst Alan beat David Welsman in his semi. The final went quite convincingly to Alan.

Debbie Coulthard did well to win the women's singles against Helen Gore. Some of the best play of the day came in the junior boys' event, finally narrowly won by Jeff Morgan from Nigel Thomas.

The finals of the Club Championship of Wales also produced some exciting table tennis in which the juniors again produced the best play, and the matches between Mark Thomas and Jeff Morgan showed off the great potential of both these lads, especially when one realises that Mark is only a cadet!

Results:- Welsh Closed Championships

M.S. Semi-finals:

A. Griffiths bt D. Welsman 19, -15, 13.

G. Davies bt R. Bishop 5, -20, 14.

Final:

Griffiths bt Davies 13, 18.

M.D. Final:

Griffiths/Davies bt Welsman/M. Thomas 12, 12.

W.S. Final:

Debbie Coulthard bt Helen Gore 13, 17.

W.D. Final:

Kim Wheatley/Debbie Symons bt Gore/Sue

Powell 22, -17, 17.

X.D. Final:

Bishop/J. Wilson bt Steve Jordan/Susan Jones 9, 8.

Boys' Singles:

Jeff Morgan bt Nigel Thomas 19, -13, 19.

Girls' Singles:

Gore bt Cathryn Jones -12, 14, 15.

Cadet Boys:

Mark Thomas bt Andrew Jones 10, 9.

Cadet Girls:

Susan Jones bt Sue Powell 23, 16.

Club Championship of Wales

Men Semi-finals:

Post Office Telephones "B" bt Newport HSOB 3-1.

Oriel House, Rhyl bt Post Office Telephones 3-1.

Final:

Post Office Telephones "B" bt Oriel House,

Rhyl 3-2.

Women Final:

Park Club Penarth "A" bt Park Club Penarth

"B" 3-0.

Junior Semi-finals:

Post Office Telephones bt RAFA Rhyl 3-0.

Courtauld's "A" walk-over Tredegar LCR

scratched.

Final:

Post Office Telephones bt Courtauld's 3-2.

1st COVENTRY 1-STAR OPEN

BRAND NEW EVENT

by K. J. Moran

This brand new event sponsored by two local firms The G.C. Phillips Group and Keene and Tompkins (Engineers) Ltd., attracted an entry of 167 men and 37 women for the five events. Staged in the sports hall of Ernesford Grange Community College facilities were excellent and umpires were provided for each of the 9 tables.

High class play throughout the day included several surprises, not least the early exit of top seeds Nigel Eckersley, convincingly blocked off by Martin Kinsella, and Dougie Johnson subdued by the steady Brian Johns. The non-appearance of Peter McQueen and David Tan coupled with the top seeds' early demise opened the door to eventual finalists, Leicester's "dreadnought" Paul Randell and England No. 3 Junior, Graham Sandley.

Randell accounted for Kinsella and Derek Munt, in an engrossing semi-final and Sandley registered a first-ever win over Mark Mitchell before comprehensively winning his battle of hit and counterhit with neither player slackening pace. Randell won in straight games but the sight of his sweat-drenched frame slumped with relief made one wonder what a third game might have done to him!

Sandley gained compensation in the men's doubles final when he and Mitchell beat Dougie and Barrie Johnson. A feature of this event was the Eckersley/Fletcher partnership who pleased the crowd all day with their "exhibition" shots and, what is sometimes lacking in the modern game, entertained while still competing.

Lincoln's Cheryl Buttery was a model of consistency winning her way to the women's title over 14-year-old Helen Williams the "stable-mate" (if that's a permissible term) of Sandley. Sue Alexander and Janet Le Page took the women's doubles against Helen Williams (again) and Julie Harris. At the end of a long day Kevin Caldon and Elaine Sayer beat Sandley and Williams for the right to meet Neil and Alison Marples in the mixed final which they duly won.

The tournament was well organised and ran on time which bodes well for the second Coventry 1-Star Open. Referee Geoff Taylor is already planning for that event and increased prize money has been promised by a delighted sponsor.

Results:-

M.S.: P. Randell (Le) bt G. Sandley (Mi) 17, 19.

W.S.: C. Buttery (Li) bt H. Williams (Mi) 20, 19.

M.D.: M. Mitchell (Mi)/Sandley bt B. Johnson/

D. Johnson (Wa) 13, -15, 19.

W.D.: S. Alexander/J. Le Page (Lq) bt J. Harris

(St)/Williams 19, 20.

X.D.: K. Caldon/E. Sayer (E) bt N. Marples/

A. Marples (Dy) 9, 19.

(continued from page 39)

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Essex III 4 Kent II 6
Buckinghamshire II 3 Hampshire II 7

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Northumberland 3 Lincolnshire 7

Last minute reserve, M. Emmerson for visitors, set Lincs on the path to victory with a first-rate win over Henderson Yeung and played out a thriller against John Anderson in the final set.

Nottinghamshire 9 Cleveland III 1

Fine home side performance, but disappointed that visitors could not provide opposition for their girls and they therefore received three walkovers.

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Oxfordshire 5 Worcestershire 5

Very close match with Oxford's strength in Joan Belcher and Eleanor Hughes while the visitors must be thankful to Jeremy Duffield and John Boyd for their total of five successes.

Staffordshire II 10 Shropshire II 0

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Suffolk 6 Hertfordshire II 4

Suffolk's boys generally too strong, but a fine win by Andrew Smith over Stuart Palmer made the result look close after visiting girls had little trouble

Lincolnshire II 7 Bedfordshire 3

A surprise defeat for high-flying Beds, but could be explained by absence of the Bellingers (Jackie and Lisa).

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Avon 7 Wiltshire II 3

Somerset 0 Glamorgan 10

Somerset's brief encounter with success ended in no uncertain terms by Glamorgan, all two-straight.

Wiltshire II 2 Cornwall 8

Gwent 8 Avon 2

VETERAN SOUTH

Kent 7 Oxfordshire 2

Only Alf Davies able to take anything away from the visit to Gravesend.

Sussex 7 Hampshire II 2

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire 3 Nottinghamshire 6

Derek Schofield brought into the Cheshire team for the crucial veteran match of the season, but visitors secured the required win, with A. Saunders taking Schofield -21, 19, 20!

VETERAN EAST

Suffolk 4 Essex II 5

VETERAN WEST

Avon 9 Dorset 0

Hampshire 8 Dorset 1

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

Table with columns: Premier Division, 2nd South, 2nd North, 2nd Midland (final table). Rows list counties like Yorkshire, Surrey, Middlesex, Essex, Berkshire, Cleveland, Warwickshire, Glamorgan, Sussex, Middlesex II, Kent, Dorset, Surrey II, Hampshire, Cheshire, Yorkshire II, Lancashire, Cleveland II, Durham, Northumberland, Leicestershire, Warwickshire II, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like 2nd East, Essex II, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Buckinghamshire, Suffolk, 2nd West, Wiltshire, Glamorgan II, Somerset, Devon, Avon, Gwent, Worcestershire.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like 3rd South, Sussex II, Kent II, Essex II, Hertfordshire II, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire II, 3rd North, Derbyshire II, Lincolnshire, Lancashire II, Nottinghamshire, Cumbria, Northumberland II.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like 3rd Midland (final table), Shropshire, Cheshire II, Clwyd, Staffordshire II, Worcestershire II, Herefordshire, 3rd East (final table), Leicestershire II, Cambridgeshire II, Norfolk II, Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire II, Bedfordshire II.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like 3rd West, Berkshire II, Gloucestershire, Dorset II, Avon II, Glamorgan III, Cornwall, Games: Bk 78-33, Gs 79-36, Junior Premier, Middlesex, Essex, Yorkshire, Surrey, Berkshire, Cleveland, Lancashire, Devon.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like Junior 2nd South, Sussex, Essex II, Middlesex II, Surrey II, Wiltshire, Kent, Hampshire, Junior 2nd North, Staffordshire, Cheshire, Clwyd, Yorkshire II, Derbyshire, Cumbria, Cleveland II.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like Junior 2nd Midland, Warwickshire, Hertfordshire, Shropshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Norfolk, Leicestershire, Junior 3rd South, Dorset, Berkshire II, Sussex II, Kent II, Essex III, Hampshire II, Buckinghamshire II.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like Junior 3rd North, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumbria II, Cleveland III, Junior 3rd Midland (final table), Gloucestershire, Staffordshire II, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Herefordshire, Shropshire II.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like Junior 3rd East, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Lincolnshire II, Hertfordshire II, Huntingdonshire, Junior 3rd West, Glamorgan, Gwent, Cornwall, Devon II, Avon, Somerset, Wiltshire II.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like Veteran South (final table), Kent, Essex, Sussex, Oxfordshire, Hampshire II, Veteran Midland, Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Clwyd, Worcestershire, Leicestershire.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like Veteran East, Middlesex, Essex II, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Veteran West (final table), Hampshire, Avon, Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset II.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like WHO'S IN CHARGE?, A referee at a recent junior match found it necessary to comment on the ability of some of the players who, it would appear, found it difficult to serve correctly and would have marked the players very low on technical ability and interpretation.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like Another referee has mentioned that the unfavourable reaction to being faulted by an umpire was somewhat rude, and the same County reckons to have lost at least two prospective umpires since they were not prepared to take the abuse they thought they would have to contend with.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, P. Rows list counties like A harder line should be taken, and the present blue card held by umpires for warning of service should be accompanied by a yellow card?

WESTERN LEAGUE NEWS by GROVE MOTLOW

IMPRESSIVE DEBUT
Michael Bennett, a junior making his debut for Newport, did well at Bath when, against West Wilt, he recorded wins over John Higgs and Tony Griffin, his only loss being to Jon Chandler.

But from leading 4-3, with Tony Watkins and Graham Sell also accounting for the luckless Griffin, Newport slumped to a 5-4 defeat with Chandler beating Sell 21, 11 in the penultimate set and Higgs crowning the recovery by beating Watkins 15, 22 in the final set.

Bristol, at home to Weston, kept themselves in the hunt for honours with a 7-2 win in which Martyn Smith and Lloyd Stewart kept clean sheets. Tony Brown lost both to Graham Green and Ray Philpott leaving John Crabtree the only player with nothing to show for his labours.

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

TYKES AHEAD

Two more postponements by Premier Division Counties on March 11th make the final run-in over the first two weekends in April quite interesting, although of the matches played, Warwickshire's plight was not made any easier with the 5-4 defeat by Championship contenders Yorkshire. The Midlands County's position does not look good but it is still mathematically possible for any of the three teams immediately above them to join Glamorgan in relegation given the right results, but more about that next month when the position will have resolved itself one way or another.

Sussex are well on the way to Challenge for Premier status, once again, after disposing of Kent and irrespective of their final result against Surrey II will be eligible to Challenge — Kent cannot catch them and relegation for Middlesex from the Premier would appear most unlikely.

Another Challenger for next season's Premier will be Leicestershire who went to town against Derbyshire winning 10-0, and Warwickshire II ended up surprisingly as runners-up in the section. Essex II wrapped up the 2nd Division East obtaining the required draw, but Herts confounded the experts by taking a point and putting themselves in line to Challenge should Essex first team avoid the drop. Still two important matches in 2nd West yet to come, Glamorgan's fixtures with Somerset and Wiltshire which will establish whether or not Glamorgan's first team can have a second bite for Premier status next season.

All five 3rd divisions have been resolved, but none closer than in 3rd West where Berkshire II won the division from Gloucestershire by 0.1 of a game after finishing level on sets average. Other divisions were won by Sussex II (3rd South), Derbyshire II (3rd North), Shropshire (3rd Midland) and Leicestershire II (3rd East), and while Shropshire should move up to the second division, Sussex and Leicestershire will only do so if their first teams gain promotion to the Premier.

Middlesex should now win the Junior Premier title after weathering one of the closest shaves of the season — trailing 2-4 to a weakened Berkshire side and only three 'bankers' left to play, but Graham Sandley beat David Barr and Mandy Reeves beat Alison Gordon to put Middlesex on the road to victory.

Sandley's performance was quite amazing, considering that Barr stayed on for the senior Premier encounter between the two Counties, and beat both established Andy Barden and David Tan!

Warwickshire have won the Junior 2nd Midland and will be challenging for promotion to the Premier, and although the other Junior 2nd Divisions are not yet finalised, they could be joined by Sussex, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Hertfordshire.

Nottinghamshire and Gloucestershire have won their respective Junior 3rd Divisions; Cambridgehire are well placed in theirs, while Dorset and Berkshire II are trying desperately hard to establish the Junior 3rd South, as are Glamorgan and Gwent in Junior 3rd West.

The overall Veteran Championship will be played out by Kent, Nottinghamshire, Middlesex and Hampshire — the largest Veteran Challenge which is almost the size of a single division but will be completed in one day (May 6th - hopefully at the Ellenborough Club, Enfield).

PREMIER DIVISION

Middlesex 5 Berkshire 4

Disappointing results from Andy Barden almost let in Berkshire who were without Simon Heaps. A. Barden lost to D. Wellman -19, 16, -13; lost to D. Barr -8, 7, -15. M. Mitchell bt Wellman 13, -18, 9; bt D. Basden 13, 15. D. Tan lost to Barr -18, -13; bt Basden 17, 14. Mitchell/G. Sandley bt Basden/Wellman 12, -12, 17.

Angela Mitchell lost to Caroline Reeves -18, -16. Barden/Miss Mitchell beat Barr/Miss Reeves 10, 16.

Warwickshire 4 Yorkshire 5

Visitors denied services of Tony Clayton at last minute, but substitute A. Metcalfe did his bit as Yorkshire surged to a 5-1 lead after Derek Munt had edged home against Kevin Beadsley in the opening set. D. Johnson bt K. Beadsley 19, 19; lost to A. Fletcher 18, -6, -11. D. Munt bt Beadsley -11, 15, 18; bt A. Metcalfe 10, 11. S. Claxton bt Fletcher 19, 16; lost to Metcalf -19, 17, -9. Johnson/Munt lost to Beadsley/Fletcher -17, 17, -21. Di St. Ledger lost to Melody Ludi -14, -15. Claxton/Miss St. Ledger lost to Metcalf/Miss Ludi -25, -17.

2nd SOUTH Dorset 7 Surrey II 3

Surrey made fair start and led 2-1, but home women's strength gave Dorset the impetus to take the next six sets before Dave Hannah beat John Robinson in the final set to remain unbeaten in the match.

Hampshire 4 Middlesex II 6

Three of Hampshire's total won by Chris Shetler, whose only support came from Serina Sinanan; fine County debut for Nat Richardson for Middlesex.

Sussex 6 Kent 4

John Dabin wrecked Roger Chandler's return for Sussex by winning their two encounters (singles and doubles), but Sussex women Julie Reading and Carole Hewitt gave home side victory. Dabin well beaten by Gerald Pugh.

2nd NORTH Cleveland II 9 Northumberland 1 Yorkshire II 5 Lancashire 5

Yorkshire saved by their women's successes.

Northumberland 4 Durham 6

Home women played exceptionally well, particularly Kit Cheung but Durham's men on the day proved their superiority and lifted their County from the foot of the division.

2nd MIDLAND Leicestershire 10 Derbyshire 0 Northamptonshire 4 Staffordshire 6

Steve Lyon's match which included wins over Keates and Fellows.

Bedfordshire 4 Warwickshire II 6

2nd EAST Buckinghamshire 5 Suffolk 5

Suffolk suffered with four sets going to the home side in the deciding game at deuce.

Essex II 5 Hertfordshire 5

Hertfordshire scored two surprise women's successes, Linda Towler over Linda Barrow and doubles, but Kevin Caldon denied their victory by beating Simon Proffitt -19, 18, 18 in final set.

Norfolk 3 Cambridgeshire 7

2nd WEST Avon 8 Gwent 2 Worcestershire 2 Devon 8 Wiltshire 6 Somerset 4

3rd SOUTH Kent II 6 Sussex II 4

Impressive victory by Kent over previously unbeaten Sussex who unexpectedly won both women's singles, but whose experienced Paul Beck, nor Keith Rudd, could not compete against Emil Emezc's 'funny' bat. Oxfordshire 0 Essex III 10

3rd NORTH Cumbria 4 Derbyshire II 6

Good start by Cumbria but surprise defeat in 3rd set by S. Young over Stan Halesworth turned the match Derby's way. Two good wins for Stewart O'Neil.

Northumberland II 1 Lincolnshire 9

A most disappointing match resulting in a 1-9

defeat for Northumberland, whose only success was given to them after M. Newbould injured an arm and conceded the final set.

3rd MIDLAND Worcestershire II 4 Herefordshire 6 Cheshire II 5 Clwyd 5 Staffordshire II 3 Shropshire 7

3rd EAST Huntingdonshire 8 Northamptonshire II 2

Fine return to form by Alan Lamprell for Hunts, in probably his last outing for them pending his move into Herts, where he has set up home.

Norfolk II 2 Leicestershire II 8 Cambridgeshire II 7 Bedfordshire II 3

3rd WEST Avon II 4 Berkshire II 6 Cornwall 3 Dorset II 7

Glamorgan III 2 Gloucestershire 8

JUNIOR PREMIER Berkshire 4 Middlesex 6

Some despondancy in the Middlesex camp around 4.30 p.m. as Berkshire held the whip hand leading 4-2 and in danger of taking the leaders 100 per cent record, but Graham Sandley beat David Barr and Mandy Reeves took Alison Gordon in a similar fashion to level the scores before Middlesex sailed home.

D. Barr lost to G. Sandley -22, -18; bt B. Tyler 9, 16.

B. Johnson lost to Sandley -7, -3; lost to C. Wilson -16, -6.

R. Metcalfe lost to Tyler -14, -10; lost to Wilson -10, -7.

Barr/Johnson bt Sandley/Tyler 11, -9, 21. Alison Gordon lost to Mandy Reeves -14, -18. Mandy Smith bt Helen Williams 17, 17. Miss Gordon/Miss Smith bt Miss Reeves/Miss Williams 17, -12, 17.

Surrey 3 Essex 7

S. Holloway lost to K. Jackson -12, -15; lost to S. Kimm -20, -15.

S. Woodgate lost to Jackson -7, -6; lost to D. Charlery 17, -17, -14.

M. Oakley bt Kimm 15, -7, 11; lost to Charlery -11, 17, -18.

Holloway/Woodgate lost to Jackson/Kimm -12, 10, -15.

Lorraine Garbet bt Helen Gore 8, 15.

Nicola Hayward lost to Julie Dowsett -7, 15, -8. Miss Garbett/Miss Hayward bt Miss Dowsett/Miss Gore 14, 10.

Yorkshire 6 Lancashire 4

Lancashire unfortunate to return home empty handed, but Tony O'Connor unable to contain home side single-handed.

A. Bottomley lost to A. O'Connor -18, -17; bt P. Rainford -15, 15, 16.

J. Naser lost to O'Connor -16, -13; bt R. Freely 18, 13.

A. Hill bt Rainford 15, 16; bt Freely 16, 14.

Bottomley/Naser lost to O'Connor/Rainford -15, -21.

Miss S. Midgeley bt Miss J. Grundy 14, 10.

Miss M. Sargent lost to Miss C. Scowcroft -10, -12.

Miss Midgeley/Miss Sargent bt Miss Grundy/Miss Scowcroft 13, 10.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Essex II 5 Wiltshire 5

Hampshire 2 Surrey II 8

Home side in tremendous trouble and could only muster one girl to complete their team.

Middlesex II 4 Sussex 6

Graham Gillett and Malcolm Francis performed well to beat this Middlesex side for the first time this season.

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Clwyd 8 Yorkshire II 2

Clwyd boys too good for visitors.

Derbyshire 9 Cleveland II 1

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Hertfordshire 3 Warwickshire 7

Some fine play including a very good G.S. Carol Webster - Jackie Harper as Warwickshire end the season in fine form on top of the division.

Northamptonshire 6 Buckinghamshire 4

Shropshire 8 Leicestershire 2

(continued on page 38)