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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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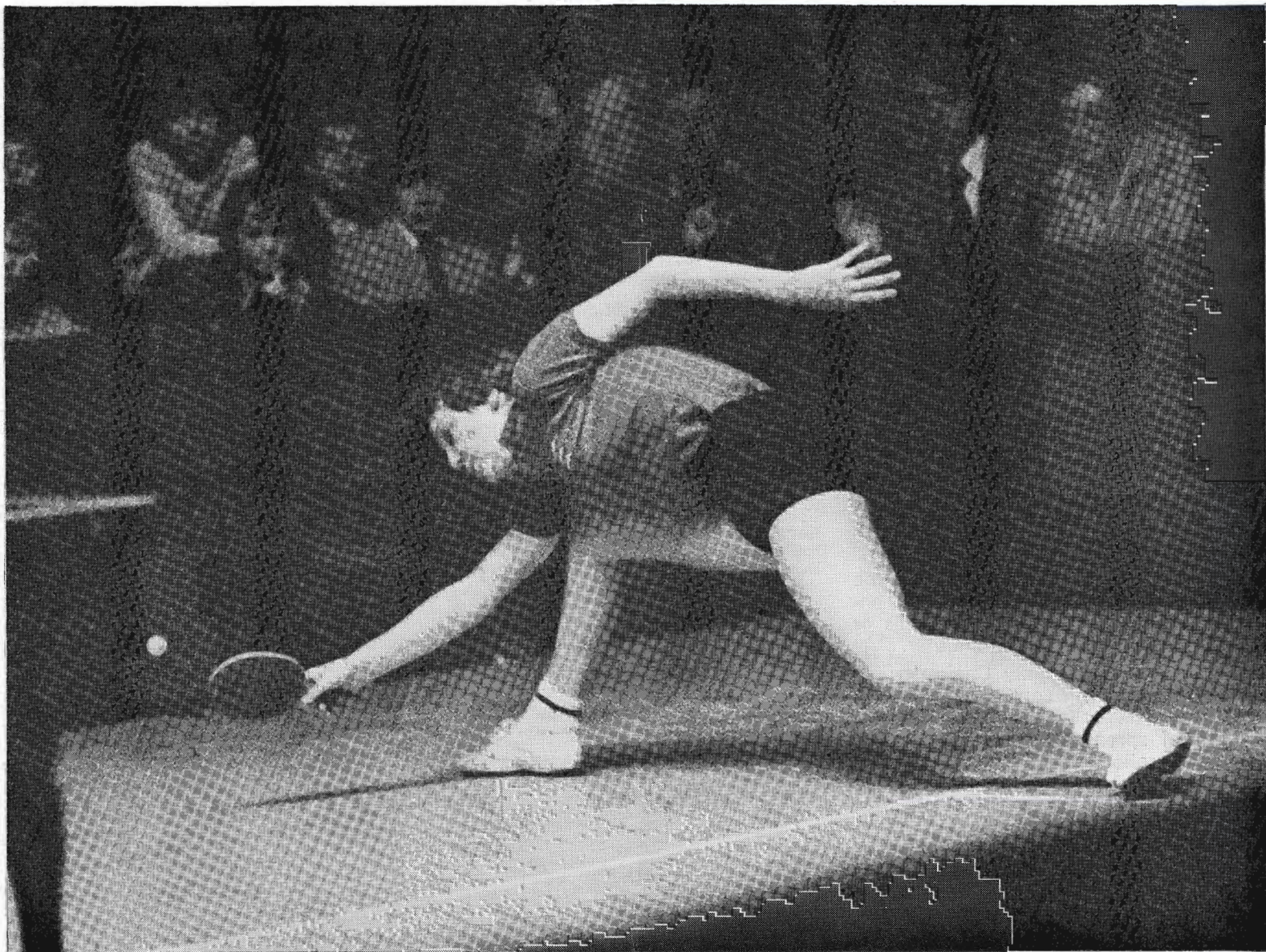


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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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WIND OF CHANGE

Far reaching changes in the structure of the ETTA's Management Committee will become effective next season should the proposals, as agreed by the National Council, also meet with the approval of the country as a whole at a Special General Meeting to be convened next March.

Brought forward by the Development Committee, the proposals embody the nomination, by the Chairman Elect in consultation with his co-officers, of six department heads each being responsible for a specified area of activity and each having the title Vice-Chairman.

Such nominations would be circulated to all members of the National Council, now in being, for their approval at a meeting which would take place in May. Non-Councillors would be eligible for appointment and, if approved, would become ex-officio members of the National Council with right to vote.

A National Councillor appointed to the Management Committee would be entitled, but not obliged, to resign his or her county seat in favour of another.

The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Hon. Treasurer will continue to be elected by postal ballot nationally but the object of spreading the workload and providing relief for the Officers, particularly the Chairman, would be achieved should the envisaged restructuring become reality.

Should the Deputy Chairman additionally become a head of department, proviso has been made for one extra member of the Management Committee to be appointed.

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M. Goldstein, L. F. Landry, A. E. Ransome and A. E. Upton.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR



DOUGLAS BEATEN

Desmond Douglas lost his unbeaten record in the Super Division of the European League on November 2 when, against the Soviet Union in the Baltic port of Riga, he fell to Anatoliy Strokotov having initially disposed of Sarkis Sarkhojan over three fiercely contested games.

England's only other success in a 5-2 defeat was that of Jill Hammersley who put down the challenge of the European Cadet Girl champion Narine Antonian. It was a crisp all round performance by the Russians who came direct to the match from a training camp brimming with a confidence that showed. Individual scores were:— A. Strokotov bt P. Day 15, 20; S. Sarkhojan lost to D. Douglas -20, 20, -16; N. Antonian lost to J. Hammersley -19, -16; Strokotov/Sarkhojan bt Douglas/Day 18, 14; Strokotov/V. Popova bt Douglas/L. Howard 18, 14; Strokotov bt Douglas 15, 16; Sarkhojan bt Day 8, 14.

Sweden brought off their third successive win by beating the Netherlands 6-1 in Akarp, the one to escape them being the men's doubles won by Nico v Slobbe and Bert v.d. Helm over Ulf Thorsell and Stellan Bengtsson.

Bengtsson for the third time running kept a clean sheet in the singles but Bettine Vriesekoop had her copybook blotched by Ann-Christin Hellman. Scores:— U. Thorsell bt N. Slobbe -22, 16, 11; S. Bengtsson bt B. v.d. Helm 13, 8, A-C. Hellman bt B. Vriesekoop -13, 10, 18; Bengtsson/Thorsell lost to v.d. Helm/v.

Slobbe -16, 15, -16; Bengtsson/Hellman bt v. Slobbe/Vriesekoop 19, 20; Thorsell bt v.d. Helm 13, 12; Bengtsson bt n. Slobbe 11, 19.

Czechoslovakia picked up their first point of the season with a 6-1 win away to Yugoslavia in Leskovac where Zoran Kalinic saved the "whitewash" with a second set victory over Jaroslav Kunz. Strangely, Anton Stipancic was only used in the mixed doubles. Scores:— Z. Kosanovic lost to M. Orlovski 20, -11, -13; Z. Kalinic bt J. Kunz 16, 12; E. Palatinus lost to I. Uhlíkova -20, 19, -15; Kosanovic/M. Karakasevic lost to Orlovski/Kunz -17, -15; A. Stipancic/Palatinus lost to Orlovski/Uhlíkova -21, -11; Kosanovic lost to Kunz 30, -22, -17; Kalinic lost to Orlovski 17, -14, -10.

France, like England, tasted defeat for the second time when beaten 4-3 by Hungary in Clermond Ferrand. Istvan Jonyer figured in three of the Hungarian successes accounting for both Jacques Secretin and Patrick Birocheau and combining with Tibor Klampar for a men's doubles win. Scores:— P. Birocheau lost to G. Gergely -13, 17, -14; J. Secretin lost to I. Jonyer -20, -18; C. Bergeret bt B. Kishazi -14, 18, 15; Secretin/Birocheau lost to Jonyer/T. Klampar -20, -12; Secretin/Bergeret bt Klampar/G. Szabo 18, 20; Birocheau lost to Jonyer -19, 11, -18; Secretin bt Gergely -18, 17, 8.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	3	0	16	5	3
U.S.S.R.	3	2	1	12	9	2
Yugoslavia ...	3	2	1	10	11	2



Sweden's former world champion Stellan Bengtsson who, after three Super Division matches in the European League is still unbeaten.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	3	2	1	9	12	2
Czechoslovakia	3	1	2	12	9	1
France	3	1	2	11	10	1
England	3	1	2	9	12	1
Netherlands	3	0	3	5	16	0

Federal Germany dropped their first set in Division 1 when, away to Luxembourg in the capital, Andre Hartmann had a shock opening win over Hans Joachim Nolten, a clubmate of Douglas for PSV Borussia Dusseldorf.

But nothing more was captured by the home team except a single game, again by Hartmann, in his penultimate set against Peter Stellwag. Scores:—

A. Hartmann bt H. J. Nolten 20, 16; C. Putz lost to P. Stellwag -9, -10; J. Dom lost to U. Hirschmuller -16, -14; Hartmann/Putz lost to Nolten/R. Wosik -17, -18; Hartmann/Dom lost to Wosik/Hirschmuller -14, -17; Hartmann lost to Stellwag 15, -15, -9; Putz lost to Nolten -19, -12.

Poland maintained their challenge in beating Ireland 5-2 at the Oblate Hall, Inchicore, Dublin where an Irish team lacking both Jimmy Langan and Tommy Caffrey were beaten but by no means disgraced.

Kevin Keane had a notable success over Leszek Kurcharski and combined with Karen Senior to take the mixed. Colum Slevin, a 13-years-old Dublin schoolboy filled the No. 2 men's position. It was the youngest team ever to play in a European League match. Results—

C. Slevin lost to A. Grubba -15, -10; K. Keane bt L. Kurcharski 18, 15; K. Senior lost to J. Szatko -22, -15; Keane/Slevin lost to Grubba/S. Dryszel -18, -21; Keane/Senior bt Dryszel/Szatko 15, 18; Slevin lost to Kurcharski -20, -12; Keane lost to Grubba 20, -14, -17.

Belgium inflicted a shock 4-3 defeat on Bulgaria in Ciney where the home team's Norbert van der Walle recorded a couple of wins to show that "there is still life in the old dog yet!" Scores:—

N. v.d. Walle bt G. Damianov 15, 18; D. Nassaux lost to I. Stoianov -13, -13; M-F. Germaet bt E. Neikova -18, 21, 17; v.d. Walle/Nassaux lost to Stoianov/Mitev -12, -16; v.d. Walle/Germaet lost to Stoianov/Neikova -17, 19, -9; v.d. Walle bt Stoianov -19, 20, 14; Nassaux bt Damianov -17, 16, 16.

Austria at home to Greece in Kapfenberg, tasted success for the first time by a 5-2 margin with Erich Amplatz winning two. Scores:—

E. Amplatz bt N. Kostopoulos -19, 19, 10; F. Waldhausl lost to K. Priftis -16, -15; D. Fetter bt L. Scrivanou 17, 17; Amplatz/G. Muller lost to Priftis/Kostopoulos -15, 20, -19; Muller/Fetter bt Priftis/Scrivanou 10, -18, 16; Amplatz bt Priftis 21, -9, 16; Walkhausl bt Kostopoulos -9, 11, 11.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Federal Germany	3	3	0	20	1	3
Poland	3	3	0	18	3	3
Bulgaria	3	2	1	14	4	2
Greece	3	2	1	11	10	2
Belgium	3	1	2	6	15	1
Austria	3	1	2	6	15	1
Ireland	3	0	3	5	13	0
Luxembourg	3	0	3	1	20	0

Scores are now to hand for the two Division 2 matches involving Italy who, away to Finland in Helsinki on Oct. 22, won 5-2 and, at home to Spain in Cagliari on Nov. 2, won 6-1. No. 1 Stefano Bosi was unbeaten in both matches for a team that constitutes the major threat to the hopes of Scotland whose next match is away to Finland on Dec. 15. Scores:—

v Finland
J. Ikonen bt R. Giontella 14, -15, 15; M.

Autio lost to S. Bosi -16, -15; M. Gregberg lost to S. Milic -18, 13, -12; Ikonen/J. Jokinen lost to Bosi/Giontella -12, -20; Jokinen/Grefberg bt Giontella/Milic -16, 9, 15; Ikonen lost to Bosi -15, -14; Autio lost to Giontella -16, 7, -17.

v Spain

Bosi bt J. Pales 17, -19, 7; M. Costantini bt R. Junyent 19, 22; S. Milic lost to P. Lupon -21, -20; Bosi/G. Bisi bt Pales/Junyent -18, 14, 17; Bisi/Milic bt Junyent/M. Sanahuja 13, -19, 17; Bosi bt Junyent 19, 17; Costantini bt Pales 15, -22, 16.

Switzerland, at home to Finland in Blonay, suffered a 0-7 reverse on Oct. 29 when only two sets were taken to a deciding game. Scores:—

T. Busin lost to J. Ikonen -13, -9; J. Barcikowski lost to M. Autio -19, -21; B. Luterbacher lost to M. Gregberg -18, -19; Busin/Barcikowski lost to Ikonen/J. Jokinen -13, -14; Busin/Wyder lost to Jokinen/Grefberg 22, -16, -19; Busin lost to Autio -14, 16, -17; Barcikowski lost to Ikonen -14, -10.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	2	2	0	11	3	2
Finland	2	1	1	9	5	1
Scotland	1	1	0	5	2	1
Spain	1	0	1	1	6	0
Switzerland	2	0	2	2	12	0

FEDERATION FRANCAISE

CSA Kremlin-Bicetre are the pace setters in the Men's Division 1 of the Championnat de France par equipes. Their most recent win was by 12-8 over AS Messine, Paris whose John-Denis Constant had a notable win over Jaques Secretin. Currently placed second VGA Saint Maur had a win 15-5 over TT La Tronche but, with 18 points, are three in arrears of Kremlin-Bicetre. AS Cabourg lead the Women's first division but only on games average from ASPTT Anney and AC Boulogne-Billancourt, all three having 19 points.

The French postal authorities are bringing out a stamp depicting the victory of Secretin and Claude Bergeret in the Birmingham World Championships valued at Fr. 1.10 and commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the French Association. The stamp, and first day covers will be on sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on December 17 and 18 — Hotel de Ville de Paris.

EUROPEAN TOP 12

This season's ETTU Top 12 tournament is to be held in Prague, Czechoslovakia from Jan. 27-29 in the new Sports Hall Slavia IPS, Prague 10. The tournament will be played on Butterfly tables with Joola Nets and Schildkrot balls. The floor in the new sports hall will be of plastic Pulastic ZS a product of the Dutch firm Descol of Deventer. Play will begin in the afternoon of Friday, Jan. 27 immediately after the opening ceremony. Proceedings will be brought to an end on the afternoon of Sunday, Jan. 29 with the 11th round of both the men's and women's competitions.

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Canada who were to have staged the next Commonwealth Championships have written to Keith Bowler of Australia, the Hon. Sec. asking that their option to conduct the 1979 championships be withdrawn owing to their inability to obtain Government funding.

35th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The dates of the 1979 World Championships, to be held in Pyongyang in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will be — April 25 to May 6 inclusive.

11th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 11th European Championships to be organised by the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund will take place in Rhine-Ruhr-Hall, Duisburg from March 10 - 19, 1978. The flooring in the hall is Noralastik, a multiple-layered compound cover 5.4mm

with cellular caoutchouc, cork and an effective layer of especially highly qualified synthetic caoutchouc, high elasticity, acoustic silencer of steps (19dB), rigid to cigarettes, resistant to chemicals and good electric conduct.

Would-be spectators desiring accommodation should make their requests to Stadttormformation Duisburg, Hochhaus am Hauptbahnhof, Friedrich-Wilhelm Strasse 96, D-4100 Duisburg 1. Phone 0203/28 13 21 89 and 28 13 29 04 Telex: 0855689. Early application is advisable.

The Rhine-Ruhr-Hall has only a capacity for 3,500 spectators and season tickets are priced at DM. 125. Other prices are:— Forenoon - DM. 3, afternoon/evening DM. 15 and Finals Day DM. 20. TV coverage will be undertaken by Euro- and Intervention who should be contacted by other national television companies. Best seating is in the middle-block of the Rhine-Ruhr-Hall, which is situated in the north of Duisburg, in the district of Hamborn. The city highway (Stadt-autobahn) will bring you directly to the hall if you take the highway-exit "Marxloh". B and B prices can be expected at around DM. 40 per day.

EUROPEAN CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS

Ormesby Men beat Virum Copenhagen the Danish Champions 5-0 at Eston on Nov. 4 to reach the quarter-final of the E.T.T.U.'s Europe Club Cup of Champions.

Although Ormesby were well in command, the final score does not give a true reflection of the play. Niels Ramberg, the visiting No. 1 had two set points against both the Welsh No. 1 Alan Griffiths, who is studying at Teesside Polytechnic and playing for Ormesby, and Nicky Jarvis.

The match started well for Ormesby with Jarvis beating Peter Smidt convincingly, then in one of the best sets of the night



Holland's Bettine Vriesekoop who lost her unbeaten record to Ann-Christin Hellman in the Sweden-Netherlands match.

Photo by courtesy of Bas den Breejen, Bussum, Holland.

Griffiths beat Ramberg who won the first game comfortably, but with aggressive play the Welshman came back to win at the post.

Denis Neale put Ormesby further ahead with an easy win over Jannik G. Larsen, and then came Ramberg's second classic. He won the first game at 17, lost the second at 15 and led 20-18 in the decider, only for Jarvis to come back with some brilliant attacking play to win 23-21.

Neale had little difficulty again against Smidt, his greater experience being too much for the younger Dane.

Team Manager, Alan Ransome, was pleased with the team's display. He commented afterwards, "Alan Griffiths is a very useful addition to our side. In a few weeks time when Nicky is fully back to form and Denis gets some practice in, I believe our team will be very difficult to beat. I think we can go a long way in Europe this season". The quarter final, to be played by Dec. 7, is against Havirov TTC of Czechoslovakia.

Despite a brilliant display by Carole Knight, Ormesby Women were beaten 5-4 by Pochtenetz of Sofia, the Bulgarian Champions, again at Eston Sports Centre on Nov. 9.

The match itself was a cliff-hanger and a marathon all mixed in one. The match, which began at 7.30 p.m., still had the crowd firmly fixed on the edge of their seats at 11.30 p.m. as the encounter swayed first one way then the other. Play began with a victory for the Bulgarians as Albertina Rangelova, Bulgarian Champion in 1972, 1973 and 1977 and a member of the Bulgarian Team at the World Championships in Birmingham, beat a plucky June Williams in three games. Carole Knight wasted no time in bringing the Clevelanders back into the match with a comfortable win over J. Doitchinova, the Bulgarian Champion of 1971.

The Bulgarians went ahead for the second time when Emilia Neykova, Bulgarian Champion in 1969, 1970, 1975

and 1976 and also a member of their National team in Birmingham, beat Angela Tierney two-straight. But Carole levelled at 2-all after an interesting three-game set with Rangelova. At this stage June Williams produced the highlight of the evening with an unexpected win over Sofia's best player, Neykova, but then the visitors wasted no time in pulling back this deficit as Doitchinova got the better of Angela Tierney.

With the score poised at 3-all, Carole won her third singles with an impressive display against Neykova. And then, needing only one set to win the match, Angela played Rangelova. The Bulgarian started well to take the first game, but Angela fought back to win the second at "deuce". The decider was close all the way with Rangelova having two match points at 20-18. Angela pulled back and then herself had five match points on deuce before going down 28-30!

All then depended on the last set between the two No. 3's, June Williams and Doitchinova. The experience of the Bulgarian showed through in the first game, but the plucky young Cleveland girl fought back to take the second at 7, before the experience of Doitchinova again told in the decider.

Overall it was a match that might have gone the other way, but one consolation for Ormesby was that the average age of their team was five years younger than their opponents, which at least is a good sign for the future.

Before the match ended, Carole Knight, the only unbeaten player, had to leave to catch the night sleeper to London to meet the England team leaving from Heathrow at 10 a.m. for the Hungarian Open.

Results:—

Men

Ormesby 5 Virum Copenhagen 0
N. Jarvis bt P. Smidt 13, 10.
A. Griffiths bt N. Ramberg -14, 7, 21.
D. Neale bt J. Larsen 14, 5.
Jarvis bt Ramberg -17, 15, 21.
Neale bt Smidt 20, 12.

Women

Ormesby 4 Pochtenetz Sofia 5
J. Williams lost to A. Rangelova -16, 18, -14.
C. Knight bt J. Doitchinova 11, 13.
A. Tierney lost to E. Neykova -16, -14.
Knight bt Rangelova 18, -16, 11.
Williams bt Neykova 13, -19, 17.
Tierney lost to Doitchinova 20, 12.
Knight bt Neykova 18, 16.
Tierney lost to Rangelova -14, 21, 28.
Williams lost to Miss Doitchinova -12, 7, -8.

Other results:—

Men

Round 1

T.T. Senigallia (It) 5 Olympiacos (Gr) 3
Tempo Team, Amsterdam (Ne) 5 Pioneer Club, Dublin (Ire) 0
Wloknigrz Lodz (Po) w.o. DT Schiffflange (Lux) scr.
Sax Langenlois (Au) 5 Pochtenetz, Sofia (Bu) 2
Virum Copenhagen (Dk) 5 Knattspyrnufelag (Ice) 0
Young Stars, Zurich (Ch) 5 Balmeiras TTC (Por) 1
CSM Cluj-Napoca (Ru) 5 Club de 7 a 9 (Sp) 0

Women

Round 1

Tempo Team Amsterdam (Ne) 5 Capip Domeldange (Lux) 2
CS Arad (Ru) 5 Zero Copenhagen (Dk) 0
Spojnia Warsaw (Pol) 5 TTC Elite Bern (Ch) 1
Round 2
Spartak BS Vlasim (Cz) 5 A.S. Cabourg (Fr) 1

HALEX TAKE INITIATIVE

In future, any British born table tennis player purchasing a Halex table tennis bat automatically qualifies for a Halex sponsorship agreement worth up to £1,000 in cash.

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Halex, one of the world's largest manufacturers of table tennis equipment, are fully committed to the encouragement of British table tennis players in their quest to achieve international standards, and this is a further example of the desire of Halex to provide the back-up to allow them to gain wider experience to compete on equal terms with the best in the world. The encouragement they intend is not just for a select band but for all British players with a future.

This is yet another example of this company's initiative. Halex co-sponsored the 1977 World Table Tennis Championships and they are already helping County and League organisations with their events.

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CHESTER BARNES MIDAS SILVER SPOTS	£6
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and advertisers a very
happy Christmas and a
prosperous New Year.*

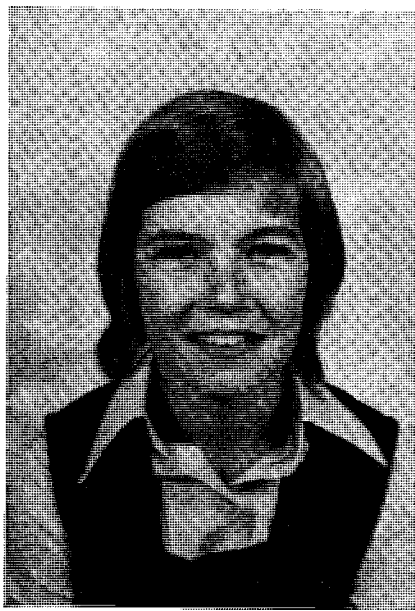
CURRYS' MIDDLESEX U-15 and U-13 OPEN

JACKIE MAKES HER NAME

by John Wright

Played at the new Queensmead Sports Centre on Sunday 6th November, the Middlesex Under 15 and Under 13 Championships, again sponsored by Currys with Gift Vouchers to the value of £70, produced its usual large entry. So good, indeed, was the response that entries had to be closed 9 days prior to the advertised date, a move which led to the refusal of about £70 worth of entries but despite which the play in the last of the eight events did not finish until 11.15 p.m. Chief prizewinner was Bedfordshire's extremely promising **JACKIE BELLINGER**, who was involved in all four girls finals, and who doubtless slept soundly on her journey home as she had little rest in the last few hours of the tournament. Jackie was successful in both the Under-15 and Under-13 Singles, and was runner up with sister **LISA** in both Doubles events: without taking credit away from the winners of those doubles titles it must be recorded that even Jackie was slowing down towards the end!

Middlesex provided both finalists in the Boys' Under-15 Singles, where **JOHN SOUTER** won a closely contested set with **COLIN WILSON**, a last ditch effort by Colin just failing. These two boys found themselves on opposite sides of the net in the Doubles final, Colin with scratch partner **KEITH NICOLL**, John (as so often) paired with **MARK OAKLEY**. This too was a close fought battle with Colin having some revenge for the singles defeat. Staffordshire's **ADRIAN DIXON** dropped but one game (to Chris Bryan in round 3) in winning the Under -13 Singles where he had final victory over Jeremy Duffield (Worcs) these two pairing to carry all before them in the doubles. As usual, consolation events



Jackie Bellinger of Bedfordshire.

were held for all four singles events and it is interesting to note that two of the Consolation winners were beaten by the winners of the main events.

Play throughout was of a high standard despite the lack of ranked players (a number of whom had been refused entry by the early closure) and competition, although keen, was most sporting throughout. Adult umpires were few but players responded excellently and there were no calls necessary for volunteers — well done, everybody as this helps the organisers more than you realise.

Results:—

Boys Under-15 Singles:

Quarter-finals:

J. Souter (MI) bt A. Dixon (St) 20, 19.
S. Palmer (SK) bt P. Pudduck (Sx) 17, 15.

S. Smith (Wa) bt J. Hall (SK) 12, 19.
C. Wilson (MI) bt M. Les (MI) 12, 13.

Semi-finals:

Souter bt Palmer 16, -9, 13;
Wilton bt Smith 11, 10.

Final:

SOUTER bt Wilson 15, -13, 19.

Consolation Final:

P. Roberts (K) bt K. Chamberlain (K)
9, -18, 26. (!)

Boys Under-15 Doubles:

Semi-finals:

K. Nicoll (Np)/Wilton bt A. Dixon (St)/
J. Duffield (Wo) 18, 16;
M. Oakley (Sy)/Souter bt R. Spiegelhalter
(MI)/Les 11, 19.

Final:

NICOLL/WILSON bt Oakley/Souter
-16, 19, 21.

Boys Under-13 Singles:

Semi-finals:

Dixon bt D. Sharpe (Bd) 11, 18;
Duffield bt G. Russell (Sy) 23, 14.

Final:

DIXON bt Duffield 17, 14.

Consolation Final:

R. Denbow (Ox) bt S. Dettmar (E)
19, -13, 18.

Boys Under-13 Doubles: Semi-finals:

Dixon/Duffield bt A. Longhurst/M. Read
(K) 5, 5;

N. Harris/R. Namdjou (K) bt N. Sutton
(Sy)/Russell 13, -12, 15.

Final:

DIXON/DUFFIELD bt Harris and Namdjou
17, 16.

Girls Under-15 Singles: Semi-finals:

J. Bellinger (Bd) bt S. Cain (St) 13, -14, 14;
S. Deal (E) bt C. Belcher (Ox) 18, 16.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Deal 15, -21, 18.

Consolation final: Y. Hall (Le) bt J. Smith
(He) 18, 16.

Girls Under-15 Doubles: Semi-finals:

L. Tyler (MI)/Cain bt R. Aldeman/
K. Buckledee (E) -19, 14, 23.

Bellinger/L. Bellinger (Bd) bt C. Creasey
(Do)/Hall 17, -14, 12.

Final:

CAIN/TYLER bt Bellinger/Bellinger
-19, 19, 18.

Girls Under-13 Singles: Semi-finals:

J. Bellinger bt Hall, 13, 16;
Creasey bt L. Bellinger 12, 10.

Final:

J. BELLINGER bt Creasey -15, 11, 16.

Consolation Final:

L. Crawford (E) bt J. Nicoll (Np)
14, -20, 19.

Girls Under-13 Doubles: Semi-finals:

Creasey/Hall bt M. Judd (Ca)/Nicoll
10, 15;

Bellinger/Bellinger bt C. Hastings (Wa)/
Smith 16, 11.

Final:

CREASEY/HALL bt Bellinger/Bellinger
-18, 22, 17.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Special Commemorative Medal

This much acclaimed medallion is exactly the same as the Winners' medals with the exception of the coloured ribbon attachment.

The allocation reserved for foreign visitors was not entirely taken up and we can now offer the remainder. Why not present these for your Club Championships?

Any special wording can be engraved. Complete in a presentation box. £10.95 each inc. P&P and V.A.T.

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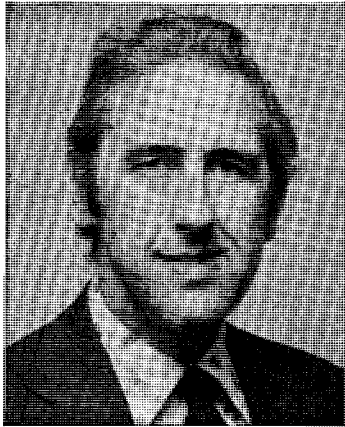
HARD RUBBER BAT OPEN

by LAURIE LANDRY

The 7th Annual Hard Rubber Bat Open Tournament will again take place at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre. It is hoped that there will be a good entry as the date is Sunday, Jan. 15, 1978 (the day after the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton).

Entry forms are available from me at 29 Ravenshaw Street, London NW6 and the closing date is Jan. 4 so get your entry in nice and early. The events will be men's singles and women's singles (70p each including consolation events for first round losers), men's, women's and mixed doubles (30p each). There is also an ETTA fee of 10p. Entries can be accepted on plain paper but must include correct money and address of entrant.

MEMORIES OF MEXICO



by ALBERT SHIPLEY,
ETTA General Secretary

It all began with being woken up by a telephone call at 1.30 a.m. from Dr. Helios Farrell speaking from Mexico City, inviting me to lecture at a seminar on the subject of umpiring. In my half-awake state, I believed that my pupils would be aspiring umpires and after making a few hurried arrangements, I was able to offer my services for the last two weeks of October. This was accepted and so it was that an air ticket to Mexico arrived soon afterwards.

After a journey of thirteen hours flying

time plus two hours on the tarmac at Heathrow and two hours in Bermuda for engine trouble, I was relieved to be met at Mexico Airport by two Presidents, my host Dr. Farrell — President of the Mexican Table Tennis Federation — and fellow visitor Roy Evans, President of the I.T.T.F. As it was past midnight by Mexico time, there was no question of first impressions as my one thought was sleep, and the opulence of the hotel provided ensured a comfortable night.

For my first two days in Mexico, I was not required to perform any duties and so spent a very pleasant weekend in the company of Roy and Nancy Evans, visiting the popular tourist spots in the company of an English-speaking guide in a chauffeur driven car provided by our generous hosts. I did wonder at the time if this generosity was a direct result of the presence of the I.T.T.F. President, but to my relief the car, guide and driver remained at my disposal for the whole two weeks. As my lecture periods were from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day, I had plenty of time and opportunity to explore Mexico City and it is my impressions as a tourist that form the subject of this article.

Having been conquered by the Spaniards for centuries, the strongest impression of Mexico is its similarity to Spain, but with two other main influences, the native Indian culture and America. One of the major sources of amazement was the traffic, with three out of every four cars being large American makes and the fourth one being a Volkswagen. All are driven at breakneck speed in close proximity to one another with little regard for lane discipline, and only begrudgingly taking notice of the shrill whistles of armed policemen at every road junction. Apart from the bumpers, the most used part of any car is the horn and anticipating when a traffic light is going to turn green is almost a national sport. The ensuing chaos at crossroads can be heard long before it can be seen.

Although only 20 degrees from the equator, Mexico City is nearly 8,000 feet

above sea level which made the weather at the time of my visit just like an English summer's day and so long as one is not an athlete or you do not attempt to run up flights of stairs, the altitude has little effect.

Napoleon called England a nation of shopkeepers, but if he had seen Mexico, he would undoubtedly agree to describing it, in modern idiom, as a "nation of hustlers". Everybody has something to sell and from shops, stalls and cardboard boxes you are invited to buy. It is difficult to get an idea of price, for except in the larger shops and department stores, no price tags are shown and one is expected to haggle, not to pay the amount first quoted.

Unemployment is obviously a national problem and government policy seems to encourage there to be three people to do a job that one could manage and to do it by hand rather than by machine, thus making the available work stretch further. The effect on the tourist of this situation is personal service to an embarrassing but very enjoyable degree.

The staging of the Olympics in Mexico in 1968 has given them a taste for sport and from those basic facilities they have increased the provisions for sport to an enviable degree, with one indoor stadium capable of staging baseball and the Aztec football stadium has to be seen to be believed! In spite of this, my major sports memory is the four areas within the city known (literally translated) as Cities of Sport. Each one seems to be the size of Hyde Park containing football pitches as far as the eye can see, baseball grounds, volleyball/basketball courts, tennis courts, etc., etc., and all can be used by the people free of charge.

One of my trips out of the city was to a place some 40 miles distant and 2,000 feet lower, called OAXTAPEC, where I visited what can only be described as a sporting Butlinland de luxe. Set on a hillside with extensive grounds at two levels, it contained hotels and self-catering cabanas (bungalows) with several swimming pools and facilities for many sports, particularly volleyball and basketball courts out in the open amidst tropical flowering trees. My main reason for visiting this place was to watch some of the competition in an interstate event covering six sports including athletics. They held an opening ceremony on Olympic lines, complete with torch and flame, and this was attended by the President of Mexico which is akin to the Queen attending our County Championships!

These are just a few of my impressions from a memorable fortnight in Mexico where, in return for the generous hospitality, I was able to explain the laws and regulations of table tennis to a class of 56 enthusiasts from thirteen different Latin-American countries.

It also gave me a better understanding of the international problems in our sport, and an interesting insight into the difficulties of expressing some of the phrases contained in laws in a language which does not have the fine shades of meaning available to English.

Mexico is very much a land of contrasts and one can see much poverty alongside modern affluence, but when the sun shines all the time, who cares? I did see a peasant wearing a sombrero over his eyes enjoying forty winks whilst jogging along on the back of a donkey, but I did not see any bandits, fiestas or Acapulco. Next time, maybe? Hasta la vista.

HOME MADE PAIR

Coach Reg Hart of 1 Skilton Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, has a home made girls' doubles pair. His wife Judy, gave birth in October to twin daughters, Melanie and Louise. Congratulations Ed.

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County Notes

Supplement

CLWYD REPORT

by ROY WILLIAMS

GUERNSEY VISIT NORTH WALES

The Guernsey Lions club led by Rosemary and Peter Powell brought a party of ten juniors to play a series of matches against North Wales Wanderers T.T.C. who had visited the island in 1974. The Lions played sixteen matches and won four. A tournament to celebrate the Jubilee was also held over two days with fourteen events in which seventy four competitors participated.

The main event of the visit was the North Wales v Guernsey junior representative match held at Rhyl Town Hall on Oct. 27. Almost two hundred and fifty people came along to witness some good table tennis. The final event was the North Wales v Guernsey Cadets match at Kinmel Bay.

On the Saturday evening a farewell party was held at the Nant Hall Hotel, Prestatyn to complete a full week of table tennis.

All the leagues are now well into their programmes with the exception of Anglesey who seem to have many problems these days. We hope they will be able to sort things out as we need their help with county affairs.

Nice to see Julie Ralphs back on the scene after her knee operation. I am told she is coming back to form very quickly. The county selectors this season are giving youth its chance in the senior team in a bid to improve the standard of the county over a period of time. Last season the results were very poor.

Guernsey Results:—

Junior — North Wales 7, Guernsey 3.
Cadet — North Wales 6, Guernsey 3.

Wanderers Jubilee Championships

Int. Sin.:

Winner: M. Thomas (N.W.)
Runner-up: A. Williams (N.W.)

B.S.:

Winner: M. Thomas (N.W.)
Runner-up: M. Byles (N.W.)

G.S.:

Winner: S. Bennett (N.W.)
Runner-up: L. Powell (Gue)

C.B.S.:

Winner: M. Thomas (N.W.)
Runner-up: B. Butterworth (N.W.)

C.G.S.:

Winner: L. Powell (Gue)
Runner-up: D. Hewitt (N.W.)

G.G.S.:

Winner: L. Powell (Gue)
Runner-up: T. Powell (Gue)

G.J.S.:

Winner: S. Torode (Gue)
Runner-up: I Le Page (Gue)

G.C.S.:

Winner: S. Torode (Gue)
Runner-up: A. Hitchon (Gue)

Esq M.S.:

Winner: D. Murphy (N.W.)
Runner-up: R. Williams (N.W.)

Esq W.S.:

Winner: B. Williams (N.W.)
Runner-up: R. Powell (Gue)

Int. Doubles:

Winners: A. Williams/M. Byles (N.W.)
Runners-up: C. Powell/M. Kane (N.W.)

Jun. Doubles:

Winners: A. Williams/M. Thomas (N.W.)
Runners-up: C. Powell/M. Byles (N.W.)

Cadet Doubles:

Winners: M. Thomas/S. Powell (N.W.)
Runners-up: S. Torode/P. Hunkin (Gue)

FROM PAGE ONE

"Congratulations to Harry Maddison, Ron Bishop, and a Leslie Jones who with myself were successful in their international umpire examination last summer".

LEINSTER VISIT

Leinster making their first visit to North Wales had a very rough journey on the ferry but after a night's rest they were fit to play nine matches on the Saturday and then to compete in the Round Robin Celtic Tournament on the Sunday.

Tommy Rowsome as manager of the 27-strong party assisted the organisers and all the matches and the tournament were completed for this flying visit. The Irish teams won six of the matches and half of the events at the tournament to conclude a successful visit.

Results:—

Senior —

North Wales 7 Leinster 2

Senior II —

North Wales 2 Leinster 7

Intermediate —

North Wales 7 Leinster 2

Junior —

North Wales 1 Leinster 8

Cadet —

North Wales 6 Leinster 3

Senior Girls —

North Wales 2 Leinster 7

Inter Girls —

North Wales 1 Leinster 8

Junior Girls —

North Wales 1 Leinster 8

Cadet Girls —

North Wales 2 Leinster 7

Celtic Round Robin (Leading Positions):—

Senior 1. Roy Williams (N.W.), 2. Peter McCabe (L), 3. Finbarr Corrigan (L), 4. John Manning (L).

Cadet 1. Mark Pearson (N.W.), 2. Tony Greene (L), 3. Derek Butterworth, 4. Brian Hegerty (L).

Senior Girls 1. Bernie Carton (L), 2. Norma Rungay (L), 3. G. Leonard (L), 4. P. Power (L).

Cadet Girls 1. Tracy Power (L), 2. Elaine Tuohoy (L), 3. Sharon Fortune, 4. Karen Ring (L).

AVON NOTES

by MARY WETMORE

ANGLO FRIENDSHIP

Avon and Bristol seem to be going very "Continental" this year. Following the Hanover report last month, Congressbury and Falland entertained a French team from Alencon, all members of the French party were accommodated by members and friends of the host club. After lunch on Saturday, 29th October, Falland, including Brian Reeves, Colin Feltham, and Vernon Adams won a match easily, score being 12-0, the match consisting of 8 singles and 2 doubles. On the Sunday evening the Congressbury team, with guest players played at Cleve Village Hall and drew 10-10, 16 singles and 4 doubles were played. A reception was held at Congressbury Cricket Club where a dinner was prepared by the players wives. The Alencon President thanked the host club and Mark Gostlin for a wonderful weekend, inviting Congressbury to visit them in 1978.

The Avon County senior second team visited Dofset on Nov. 5, and after a tightly fought contest, the match ended in a draw. Tony Brown and Lloyd Stewart taking one set each, with Robert Oldfield scoring a possible for Avon.

Avon would like to thank Park Furnishers for sponsoring the Bristol men's team by supplying them with track suits and shirts.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by JOHN TAYLOR

GOOD START

The senior county side got off to a good start with a 6-4 win over Northumberland II in their opening County Championships match, and not for the first time Chris Reed played a major part in a Cumbria win in gaining two invaluable singles successes. All the other members of the team contributed to the win however with Bill Robinson, David Kirkpatrick and Bella Gray gaining a singles win each and Bella and Jennifer Pachul winning the women's doubles.

County debutant Robinson clinched the match for Cumbria in the final set when a 17, 16 win over the visitors' No. 3 W. Dial, gave him his first win for the side: a win in total contrast to the opening set of the match when Robinson wasn't given a look in by the visitors' No. 1 P. Whiteman who later had to give way to a fine performance from Chris Reed.

Neither of the Junior sides could do as well as the seniors however and it seems that the injury which forced Ian Reed to miss the Junior 1 v Derbyshire game was one of the main reasons behind the defeats of both Junior sides. The first team lost 3-7 at Derby and Diccon Gray was the outstanding player for Cumbria with two singles wins and the doubles with Andrew Pachul to his credit. Andrew went down close in both his singles losing 17-21 and 22-24 in the decider in each case, but Diccon apart, the performance of the team was disappointing.

The Junior 2nd team entertained Northumberland 1st at Millom and with Steven Sharp on first team duty the boys' half of the side came a definite second to the girls' half of Miranda Gray and Janet Sephton who were both unbeaten. The girls' three wins could only be complemented by the one win for Michael Cairns who had a good win over the visitors' No. 1 John Burke in the opening set.

Millom entertained reigning champions Carlisle in their opening inter-league fixture and after taking an early 3-2 lead with wins for Neil Smith over John Willis and Roger Stewart and one for Andrew Pachul over Stewart, the Millom side of Smith, Pachul, Peter Turner and Bella Gray found success increasingly difficult to find and the Carlisle team of Stewart O'Neil, Willis, Stewart and Jennifer Pachul took the remaining seven sets and ran out 9-3 victors.

The Millom side were relying very much on their top two Smith and Pachul and a doubles defeat for the pair by Willis and Stewart, when the score stood at 3-3 seemed to be the turning point of the match O'Neil's 17, -10, 18 final set win over Smith made him the man of the match.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by ANNE FEARNEHOUGH

COMFORTABLE VICTORY

In the first County match of the season, Derbyshire 1st had a comfortable 7-3 victory over Bedfordshire. Ivor Warner and the ladies all had maximum wins whilst F. Nilam played magnificently for Beds to win his two singles and to help take the men's doubles.

The senior 2nd team also had an impressive 9-1 victory over Nottinghamshire 1st. Martin Kinsella played very well to beat his old team-mate Alan Croome who in turn beat Deryk Marples. P. Vickers, M. Deakin and A. Marples all won their singles.

For the Juniors, the girls maintained their impressive form by winning respective sets. John Barton, on his debut played

extremely well to win his two in confident style. Diccon Gray for Cumbria was unbeaten in his singles and Cumbria also took the boys' doubles.

In the Midland League Derby Men's 1st played Coventry away with D. Yallop and S. Sidhu contributing maximums and combining to win the doubles with Doug Foulds losing the one.

In the Bromfield Trophy, Derby girls didn't have much success against old rivals Lincoln. The match was very close as usual and although Karen Smart won two, Derby still lost the match 4-5.

In the Junior Division, Derby "A" played Nottingham "A" away. S. Yallop was the only player to win a maximum and he paired with S. McCarthy to win the doubles. Linda Holmes played for Nottingham but only won one.

In the other match, Derby "C" had a comfortable 9-1 win over West Bromwich with the solitary set being lost by Alan Jankinson.

After the recent Derby Junior tournament, our sincere thanks go to the Carlisle Brothers and especially to Terry Carlisle, for without their help the tournament couldn't have been staged. Our thanks must go to Keith Smart (Organizer), Tony Chatwin (Referee), and Arthur Morgan who all worked extremely hard. Last but not least thanks must also go to the ladies in the canteen, to table stewards and to all other helpers who gave up their free time to help stage the event.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. PENNY

JUNIORS EXCEL

NORFOLK'S County Championships programme commenced in earnest on the first weekend in November, when all three teams were in action.

In Div. 2 East, our first team (Bob Thornton, Chris Bensley, Douglas Bennett, Miss Wendy Hogg and Mrs. Ruth Hogg) had a hard away match against Essex II. Bob Thornton beat Kevin Caldon and Bennett defeated Les Eadie, but two out of ten was all we could manage. However, our second team (Neville Graver, John Turner, Trevor Bunn, Edna Fletcher and Paula Ribbans) had a 7-3 home win over Northants II in Div. 3 East, Neville (in his 50th appearance for Norfolk) and John scoring possibly, and Paula notching a straight games victory over Margaret Maltby. Best of all, perhaps, was the performance of our Juniors in Div. 2 Midland, who, without Bennett and Paul Ninham, defeated Leicestershire away 6-4. David Unwin did particularly well to beat D. Gannon, and both Andrew Buckingham and David Smith played well. Wendy Hogg being now a senior, Ruth Harrowven and Sue Browne are our leading girls, but this time Leicester girls were too strong for them.

County Ranking Lists have now been issued and read:—

Men: 1. R. Thornton, 2. C. Bensley, 3. D. Bennett, 4. M. Musson, 5. N. Graver, 6. J. Turner, 7. T. Bunn, 8. M. Broughton, 9. S. Howlett and 10. P. Tye.

Women: 1. E. Cassell, 2. J. Brown, 3. W. Hogg, 4. R. Hogg, 5. E. Fletcher, 6. P. Ribbans, 7. H. Pearce, 8. G. Houseago, 9. P. Betts and 10. M. Hales.

Junior Boys: Bennett, P. Ninham, D. Unwin, A. Buckingham, D. Smith, M. Cook, A. Wilson, S. Baxter, R. Rudling and J. Triggs.

Junior Girls: R. Harrowven, S. Browne, A. Bower, Z. Nicholls and F. Chipperfield.

In the Yarmouth and Lowestoft Alliance league the new system of two players per team playing the best of five games has met with the approval of the players.

Power cuts during the recent go-slow by electricity workers have caused Norwich committee to take action regarding matches abandoned. No doubt other leagues all over the country have been similarly affected.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by ALAN CAVELL

JUNIORS RISE

The effects of the coaching programme that has been in operation throughout the county during the last few years is now being shown in the high position held by juniors in the senior rankings and the results obtained by the county teams. Current top rankings are: **Men** — 1. M. Green (J), 2. C. Roberts, 3. N. Thomas (J), 4. C. Neal, 5. M. Pugh (J). **Women** — 1. H. Flint, 2. T. Powell (J).

The county team had its best ever senior county victory when it beat Hereford 9-1. C. Roberts lost to the Hereford junior Mark Owen. The junior "A" team was well satisfied with an 8-2 victory over Norfolk and the junior "B" team did well to draw with the Hereford junior side.

Malcolm Green is now the outstanding player in the county and he retained his junior singles title at the Aberdare Open. It was unfortunate for the other county juniors that on his way to the final he met Mark Pugh in the quarters and Nigel Thomas in the semis.

Thomas has benefitted from his visit to the 20th European Youth Championships with the Welsh party. If he improves his game against the defensive type of player he should move higher in the senior ranking list. The top 10 in the junior rankings are **Boys** — 1. M. Green, 2. N. Thomas, 3. M. Pugh, 4. H. Dalton, 5. S. Sonsino, 6. N. Roberts, 7. A. Cheetham, 8. G. Edwards, 9. I. Johnston, and 10. G. Lupton. **Girls** — 1. T. Powell, 2. L. Degg, 3. J. Cheetham, 4. L. Williams, 5. J. Siddle, 6. J. Felton, 7. A. Lowe, 8. R. Bellinger, 9. S. Dixon, and 10. K. Harris.

SURREY NOTES

by TED SIMPKIN

FAVOURITES OUT

The Dorking League's Handicap Cup competition had an early start this season with the first round out of the way before the first half of November had gone by. Favourites, S.E.E.B. went out at once when they found 314 points start too much to recover from Soudes Place schoolboys. This league has had its organising troubles, with one official resigning, apparently in protest at the number of postponements of the first week's fixtures.

After a couple of years of comparative standstill the Guildford League has made another surge in membership and the season is well under way with 152 clubs divided into twelve divisions from a pool of forty four clubs. Perhaps the Executive has offered a hostage to fortune, in its anxiety to provide every team with a full programme, by leaving four divisions at 12 teams each and increasing the size of the other eight to 13 teams. For this season it will suffice, although Cup Competition Secretaries will be anxiously watching for fixture congestion as the year proceeds. Incidentally, and confident that it is not a record claim, Guildford's long established Pegasus Club has sixteen teams in the League, thus pipping Eastbourne's Southbourne Club (see October's issue).

The Guildford League is now awash with infant prodigies, thanks to its splendid coaching scheme led by John Diggins, and it is far from uncommon for some of the elder statemen of the league to give thirty

eight years experience, with its attendant lack of snap, to opponents whose head just appears above the table at the other end, and to be thrashed out of sight in the bargain. Guildford was bitterly disappointed this year in having to yield the chance of staging its fourth International match because of the absence of local sponsorship. Nevertheless, with its 22 week league programme, its handicap pairs and singles tournaments, the annual Individual Tournaments (back this time to Surrey University, and to be organised by Trevor Seymour), its seven Knock-Out Competitions, plus a new one for veterans, and its hosting of what used to be called the English Closed, at Woking Leisure Centre, its dedicated Committee will have enough work to do to keep them off the streets until next June.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by JACK CHALKLEY

FEMALES TO THE RESCUE

It is hoped to stage the County Closed Tournament at the Northwood Stadium on April 9 next year. Final arrangements are being made regarding the venue and entry forms will be available in due course.

Staffs. "A" side started this season's programme with a draw against Warwick's II. Tony Isaac had two good wins, clearly indicating that he intends to hold onto the No. 1 position this season, but the real stars of the evening were our girls, Janet Carr and Stephanie Jones. They each won their singles in convincing style, and in the doubles combined to overwhelm the opposition. Unfortunately, both Keith Fellows and Brian Keates were a little out of touch and failed to record the extra win which would have secured both points.

Results: A. Isaac bt R. Gunnion 15, 16; bt P. Judd 22, 16; K. Fellows lost to B. Hayward 17, -17, -9; lost to R. Gunnion 19, -9, -13; B. Keates lost to P. Judd -18, -12; lost to B. Hayward -12, -6; Miss S. Jones bt Mrs. D. Hazzard 10, 19; Miss J. Carr bt Mrs. A. Lloyd 15, 7; Miss Carr and Miss Jones bt Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Hazzard 12, 11; Isaac and Fellows lost to Judd and Gunnion -12, 22, -16.

Current County rankings are as follows:

Men — 1. A. Isaac, 2. B. Keates, 3. K. Fellows, 4. P. Anderson, 5. E. Wilkes, 6. A. Bellingham, 7. J. Riley, 8. S. Dunning, 9. C. Davies, 10. R. Dixon.

Women — 1. J. Carr, 2. S. Jones, 3. S. Watton, 4. J. Harris, 5. S. Cain, 6. J. Chubb, 7. S. Hunt, 8. K. Wass, 9. C. Underwood, 10. P. Brookes.

Following their win against Yorkshire, our junior "A" side beat Clwyd and now have good reason to hope that they will again top their division. Andrew Rich came in for Eddie Wilkes who was not available and did well to win both his sets but Andrew Bellingham is not playing up to his real form and failed to secure a win. As with the seniors, they had to rely on the girls to see them through to a 6-4 win, Shirley Gain and Jill Harris taking the honours.

Results: A. Bellingham lost to A. Williams -10, 16, -10; lost to M. Thomas 19, -11, -17; A. Dixon lost to M. Thomas -14, -14; bt M. Byles 18, 19; A. Rich bt M. Byles 12, 19; bt A. Williams 15, 16; Miss S. Cain bt S. Powell 13, 10; Miss J. Harris bt S. Bennett 17, 16; Miss Cain & Miss Harris bt Miss Powell & Miss Bennett 16, -19, 16; Bellingham & Dixon lost to Thomas & Williams -13, -20.

Andrew Dixon is continuing his winning ways at the tournaments, taking the U-13 title at the Middlesex Junior Open. He beat Jeremy Duffield in the final 17 & 13, and then in partnership with Duffield he also won the U-13 Doubles title. The third of

(continued on page 19)

CARLISLE BROTHERS DERBY JUNIOR 1-STAR

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE

by J. D. THOMPSON,
Publicity Officer

This was the first open tournament held in Derbyshire and also the first time that a sponsor was found for table tennis in Derby. There was an overwhelming response to the competition and regretfully many entries could not be accepted, for the event held on Oct. 15.

On the day of the event the weather was very foggy and so the organisers allowed longer than was originally intended for competitors to arrive, but a worse problem was condensation making the playing area slippery. Eventually the hall had to be cleared so that the condensation could be mopped up and the room aired. But at least half an hour's play and 3 tables were lost so that the doubles events had to be scratched.

Local players did well, with Linda Holmes winning the Girls' singles and Stephen Yallop runner-up to Kevin Beadley of Yorkshire in the boys' event. However, Beadley showed his skill in the final and had no problem in winning.

The U-12 Boys' singles proved better than expected and the final was a real thriller with S. Worrall of Lincolnshire winning against A. J. Henry of Derbyshire in a match that was very good for the age group.

There was also a surprise in the U-12 Girls' singles with a shock winner in M. Denbow of Oxfordshire, who beat the No. 1 seed S. Hadley of Staffordshire in the final and then burst into tears.

The organisers would like to apologise to everyone who was inconvenienced because of condensation in the hall and the limiting of entries due, to the large response.

BS: K. Beadley (Y) bt S. Yallop (Dy) 14, 16.

GS: L. Holmes (Dy) bt L. Hryszko (Y) 15, 20.

BS (U-14): J. Souter (M1) bt Oakley (Sy) 13, -17, 10.

GS (U-14): G. Galloway (L1) bt Y. Hall (Dy) 14, 11.



Local U-17 finalists Linda Holmes and Stephen Yallop.

Photos by courtesy of Mike Stafford and John Thomas of Derby.

BS (U-12): S. Worrall (Li) bt A. J. Henry (Dy) 20, 19.

GS (U-12): M. Denbow (Ox) bt S. Hadley (St) -14, 13, 18.

Fortunately the power cuts did not affect the first round very much and the results were:—

WILMOTT CUP

Blackpool 5, Stockport 4
Harrogate 2, Bury 5
Burnley 4, Preston 5
Liverpool 6, Huddersfield 0
Liverpool Bus. H. 1, Leeds 8
Bradford walkover against York
Manchester 5, Halifax 4
Grimsby 5, Hull 4
West Bromwich walkover against Macclesfield
Wyberton 6, Potteries 3
Luton 1, Cambridge 5
March 4, Northampton 5
Bedford 0, Birmingham 6
Dereham 4, North Herts 5
E.y 8, Wisbech 1
Dover walkover against Ashford (Kent)
Leatherhead 3, Crawley 5
Brighton 9, Eastbourne 0
East Grinstead 4, Tunbridge Wells 5
Poole 6, Southampton 3
Swindon 3, Cheltenham 6
Exeter 5, West Cornwall 0
Beccles 2, Thetford 7
St. Neots 2, Leamington 7
Dunstable 0, Kidderminster 9
Dagenham 5, Chelmsford 2
Lowestoft 7, Bury St. Edmunds 2
London Banks 3, Central London 6
Braintree 6, Bishops Stortford 3
Ipswich walkover against Basildon
Harlow 2, Cheshunt 5
North Middlesex 5, Norwich 2
Newbury, Willesden
Acton 8, Bracknell 1
Wembley 3, High Wycombe 6
Reading 6, Walford 1
Insurance Offices 3, Staines 6
Oxford 5, Slough 2
Southend 9, Dorking 0
Hastings 5, Byfleet 1
London C.S. 2, Beckenham 5
Basingstoke 2, Bristol 5

ROSE BOWL

Luton 4, Cambridge 5
March 1, Bedford 8
Northampton 3, Kettering 6
Ipswich 7, Bury St. Edmunds 2
Lowestoft walkover against Basildon
North Middlesex 5, London C.S. 1
Oxford 0, Wembley 9
Bracknell 6, Acton 0
Beckenham 2, Hastings 7
Crawley 5, Leatherhead 4
Central London 5, Maidenhead 4

CARTER CUP

Blackpool 5, Preston 3
Liverpool 4, Manchester 5
Harrogate, Hull
Leeds 9, Burnley 0
Bury 9, Huddersfield 0
Bury St. Edmunds 6, North Herts 3
Cheshunt 3, Bedford 6
Lowestoft 2, Basildon 7
Thetford 2, Bishops Stortford 7
St. Neots 0, March 9
Guildford 0, North Middlesex 6
Leatherhead 5, Staines 1
Acton 5, Barking 4
High Wycombe 0, Silvertown 6
Romford 9, Aldershot 0
Ilford 0, Willesden 7
Wembley 7, Watford 2

NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by KEITH PONTING

Once again it is pleasing to record that the entry is slightly up on the previous season, the only drop being in the Junior girls event.

The relative figures are as follows:—

Wilmott Cup — 104 plus 4
Rose Bowl — 69 plus 7
Carter Cup 91 the same
Bromfield Trophy — 40 minus 3



Tournament sponsor Terry Carlisle with U-17 girls' singles finalists, winner Linda Holmes (r) and runner-up Linda Hryszko.

Reigate, Redhill 4, Oxford 5
 North West Kent 8, Eastbourne 1
 Bromley 9, Harlow 0
 East Grinstead 0, Littlehampton 5
 Worthing 1, Chelmsford 8
 Hastings 7, Crawley 2
 Tunbridge Wells walkover against Ashford (Kent)
 Brighton 2, Gravesend 7
 Bracknell 1, Newbury 5
 Plymouth walkover against Didcot
 West Wilts walkover against Reading
 Southampton 7, Swindon 2

BROMFIELD TROPHY

1st Round Results:
 Leicester 7, Grantham 2
 Derby 4, Lincoln 5
 Birmingham walkover against Luton
 Wolverhampton 6, Leamington 3
 Northampton 3, Dunstable 6
 Bishops Stortford 6, Basildon 3
 Norwich 4, Lowestoft 5
 Oxford 1, North Middlesex 5
 Bracknell 1, Maidenhead 8
 Barking 5, Reading 1
 Gravesend walkover against Chelmsford
 Guildford 6, Crawley 0

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Although the entry in the Men's event is down by 11, last year's entry was exceptional and this year's entry compares well with the past. Nice to see the Women's entry increased by 2.

Men's Competition (Ormesby Cup)
 86 — 11

Women's Competition (Gainsford Cup)
 16 plus 2.

11th HUNGARIAN OPEN

MAGYAR HAT-TRICK FOR JILL

by The Editor

There must be something about the Hungarian air that agrees with England's Jill Hammersley for in winning the women's singles title in the 11th Hungarian Open in Miskolc—the second biggest town and centre of the northern Hungarian industrial region — she did so for the third successive time, a rare feat indeed.

Jill's was the only one of seven titles that did not change hands, the men's crown passing from Jacques Secretin to his compatriot Christian Martin who fought back from a 0-2 deficit to beat Gabor Gergely in the final.

Czechoslovakia took both team titles, taking them over from Sweden (men) and the Soviet Union (women), but Gergely, partnered by Milan Orlovski came up trumps in the men's doubles, which was a partial retention for the Czech whose partner in 1975 was Jaroslav Kunz.

Yugoslavia's Erzebet Palatinus and Gordana Perkucin took over the women's doubles title from Claude Bergeret and Brigitte Thiriet of France and, in the mixed, Miss Palatinus and Anton Stipanec annexed the mixed title last held by the world champions Secretin and Miss Bergeret.

But England, Jill's title apart, had other successes particularly in reaching the final of the men's team event in which Desmond Douglas and Paul Day had victories over Sweden "B" (Lars Franklin and Ake Liljegren), Hungary "A" (Istvan Jonyer and Gergely) and, in the semis, Federal Germany "A" (Jochen Leiss and Peter Stellweg).

Day had a particularly good tournament for, apart from beating Liljegren, Jonyer and Stellweg in the team matches, he also reached the quarter-finals of the men's singles beating Jonyer a second time before falling to Tibor Kreisz of Hungary.

Douglas had his nails trimmed in this latter event when after winning the first game of his third round match against Secretin, the Frenchman took the next three in majestic style. Martin, the winner,



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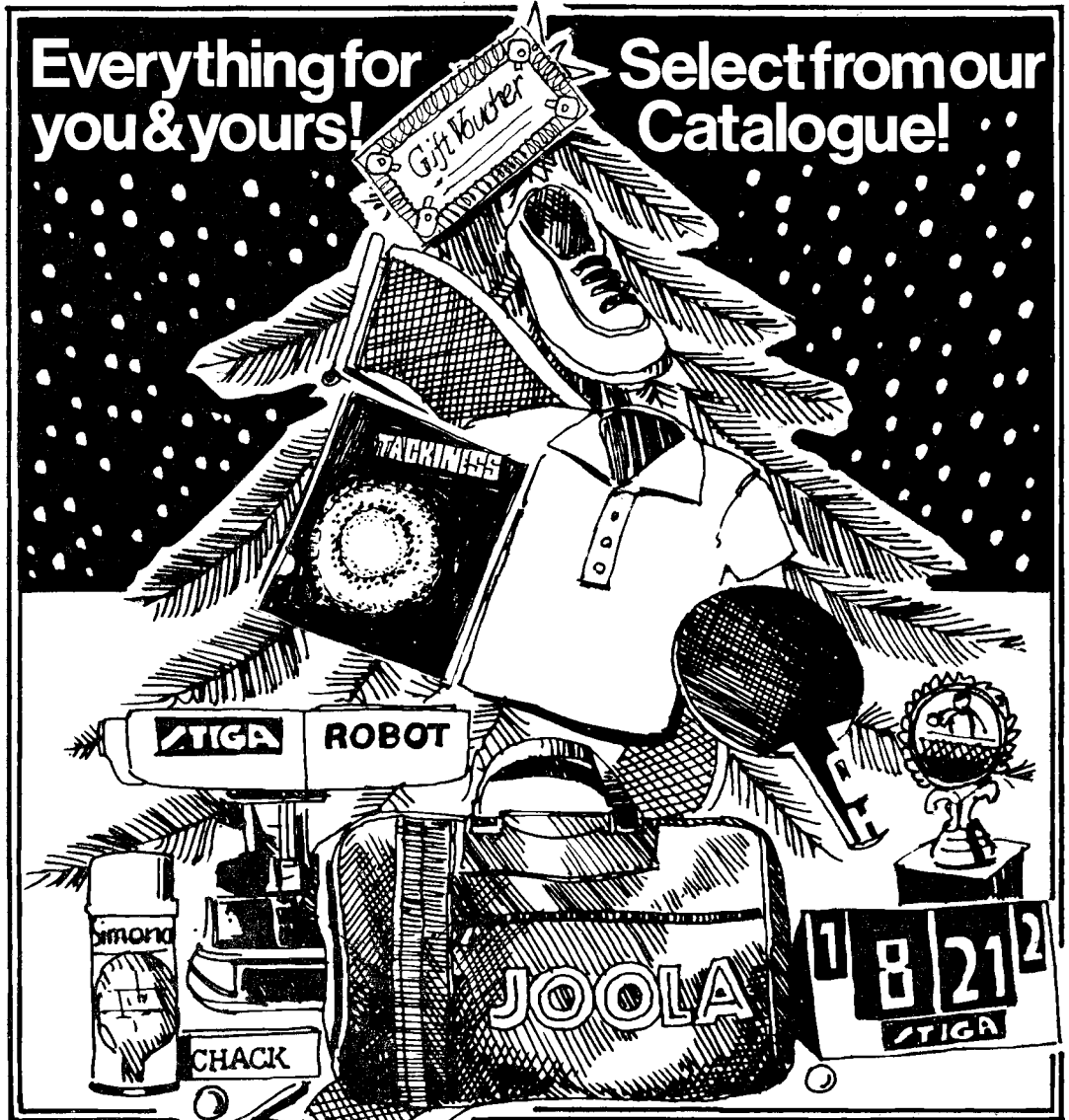
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came through from the fourth quarter in the absence of the second seed Stellan Bengtsson of Sweden.

Yugoslavia's Josef Juhas who, like Kreis, played in the European Youth Championships in Zagreb (1975), knocked out some redoubtable opponents in the persons of Orlowski, Ulf Thorsell and Milivoje Karakasevic before succumbing to Gergely. Other seeds to fall by the wayside were Tibor Klampar, to Karakasevic, Leiss to Patrick Birocheau and Stipanovic to Heinrich Lammers of Federal Germany.

Gordana Perkucin, the European Cadet girls' champion of 1975, in Zagreb, took out the top seed Beatrix Kishazi of Hungary in the third round, the second seed — based on world rankings — Ursula Hirschmuller falling to the beaten finalist Ann-Christin Hellman of Sweden.

Results:—

Team Events

Men
Preliminary Round
 Federal Germany "B" 3 Austria 0
 East Germany 3 Australia 1
 Hungary "B" 3 Bulgaria 0
 Hungary Juniors 3 Turkey 1
 Yugoslavia "B" 3 Czechoslovakia "B" 0
 Sweden "B" 3 France "B" 0
 Poland 3 Egypt 0
Round 1
 Sweden "A" 3 Federal Germany "B" 2
 France 3 East Germany 0
 Yugoslavia "A" 3 Hungary "B" 2
 Czechoslovakia "A" 3 Hungary Juniors 0
 Federal Germany "A" 3 Rumania 0
 Yugoslavia "B" 3 Soviet Union 1
England 3 Sweden "B" 2
 P. Day lost to L. Franklin -16, 14, -10;
 D. Douglas bt A. Liljegren 12, 19;
 Douglas/Day lost to Franklin/Liljegren -14, 10, -20;
 Douglas bt Franklin -18, 12, 14;
 Day bt Liljegren 20, 19.
 Hungary "A" 3 Poland 1

Quarter-finals:
 France 3 Sweden "A" 1
 Czechoslovakia "A" 3 Yugoslavia "A" 1
 Federal Germany "A" 3 Yugoslavia "B" 0
England 3 Hungary "A" 1
 Day bt I. Jonyer 20, -10, 18;
 Douglas bt G. Gergely 22, -19, 19;
 Douglas/Day lost to Jonyer/T. Klampar -13, -17;
 Douglas bt Jonyer 14, 14.

Semi-finals:
 Czechoslovakia "A" 3 France 2
 M. Orlovski bt P. Birocheau 17, 15;
 J. Kunz lost to J. Secretin -10, -10;
 Orlovski/Kunz bt Secretin/Birocheau 13, 18;
 Orlovski bt Secretin 12, 7;
 Kunz bt Birocheau 14, 16.

England 3 Federal Germany "A" 1
 Douglas bt J. Leiss 9, 18;
 Day bt P. Stellwag 19, -13, 19;
 Douglas/Day lost to Leiss/Stellwag 18, -19, -13;
 Douglas bt Stellwag -16, 16, 14.

Final:
CZECHOSLOVAKIA "A" 3 England 0
 Kunz bt Douglas 20, 28; Orlovski bt Day 16, 15;
 Orlovski/Kunz bt Douglas/Day 12, 17.

Women
Preliminary Round
 Sweden "B" 3 Hungary Juniors 1

Round 1
 Hungary "A" 3 Austria 0
 Rumania 3 Poland 1
 Sweden "B" 3 France 2
 Yugoslavia "B" 3 England 2
 B. Batinic lost to J. Hammersley -19, -11;
 D. Fabri bt C. Knight 11, 18;
 Batinic/Fabri bt Hammersley/Knight 20, 17;
 Fabri lost to Hammersley -12, -18;
 Batinic bt Knight 17, 18.

Sweden "A" 3 East Germany 0
 Czechoslovakia 3 Hungary "B" 2
 Yugoslavia "A" 3 Federal Germany 1
 Soviet Union w.o. Bulgaria scr.

Quarter-finals:
 Hungary "A" 3 Rumania 0
 Yugoslavia "B" 3 Sweden "B" 1
 Czechoslovakia 3 Sweden "A" 0
 Yugoslavia "A" 3 Soviet Union 0

Semi-finals:
 Yugoslavia "B" 3 Hungary "A" 1
 Czechoslovakia 3 Yugoslavia "A" 2

Final:
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3 Yugoslavia "B" 1
 B. Silhanova lost to Batinic -16, -18;
 D. Dubinova bt Fabri 16, 14;
 Silhanova/Dubinova bt Batinic/Fabri -15, 19, 16;
 Silhanova bt Fabri -11, 14, 15.

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
 G. Gergely (Hu) bt J. Secretin (Fr) -10, 13, 19, 21;
 J. Juhas (Yu) bt M. Karakasevic (Yu) 19, 13, 20;
 T. Kreis (Hu) bt P. Day (En) 14, 19, 12;
 C. Martin (Fr) bt Takacs II (Hu) 16, 12, -15, 17.

Semi-finals:
 Gergely bt Juhas 22, 17, -19, 19;
 Martin bt Kreis -23, 17, 17, 10.

Final:
MARTIN bt Gergely -10, -15, 19, 16, 16.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
 B. Silhanova (Cz) bt G. Perkucin (Yu) 17, -15, 12, -16, 16;
 J. Hammersley (En) bt M. Csik (Hu) 12, 19, -16, 20;
 A. C. Hellman (Sw) bt G. Szabo (Hu) 15, 12, 19;
 U. Hirschmuller (FG) bt J. Magos (Hu) 10, 12, 17.
Semi-finals:
 Hammersley bt Silhanova 9, 19, 6;
 Hellman bt Hirschmuller 9, 14, -20, 17.

Final:
HAMMERSLEY bt Hellman -14, 16, 13, 15.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
 Gergely/M. Orlovski (Sz) bt J. Borzsei (Hu)/ Kreis 11, -17, 13, 10;
 I. Jonyer/T. Klampar (Hu) bt P. Birocheau (Fr)/ Secretin -19, 18, -14, 11, 20.

Final:
GERGELY/ORLOWSKI bt Jonyer/Klampar 14, -14, 12, 18.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
 E. Palatinus (Yu)/Perkucin bt W. Hendriksen (FG)/ B. Kishazi (Hu) -20, -19, 15, 14, 17.
 Hirschmuller/R. Schmitz (FG) bt A. Hernvall/ E. Stromvall (Sw) -16, 16, 14, -18, 14.

Final:
PALATINUS/PERKUCIN bt Hirschmuller/Schmitz 16, 18, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
 P. Engel (FG)/Hirschmuller bt Z. Kosanovic (Yu)/ Perkucin 16, -20, 19, 17;
 A. Stipanovic (Yu)/Palatinus bt Gergely/Magos 17, 21, 18.

Final:
STIPANIC/PALATINUS bt Engel/Hirschmuller 16, -13, 15, 19.

Other English Results

MS:
 D. Douglas bt Kurtis (Yu) 15, 20, -18, -17, 17;
 bt S. Fraczyk (Po) 11, 14, -12, -19, 19;
 lost to Secretin 20, -11, -11, -12.

P. Day bt M. Piranesu (Ru) 11, 13, 20;
 bt T. Tuckett (Aul) -13, 19, 19, 18;
 bt Jonyer 25, 19, 12.

WS:
 J. Hammersley bt Paun (Ru) 11, 14, 12;
 bt E. Korpa (Yu) 18, 17, 19;
 C. Knight bt C. Fargo (Can) -22, 14, 14, 12;
 lost to Balogh (Hu) -15, 17, -22, 20, -22.

MD:
 Douglas/Day bt T. Gheorge/Firanesu (Ru) 17, 16, 19;
 lost to Gergely/Orlovsky -10, -14, -16.

WD:
 Hammersley/Knight bt Csik/Ivasko (Hu) 15, -14, -18, 9, 14;
 lost to Hirschmuller/Schmitz 17, -15, -14, -17.

XD:
 Douglas/Hammersley lost to Kunz/Dubinova (Sz) 16, -14, -12, 9, -14.
 Day/Knight lost to S. Gomozkov/Konokova (USSR) 16, -8, -18, -16.

DUNLOP HUMBERSIDE 3-STAR OPEN

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK
 by Rea Balmford

Surprises were at a premium in the Humberside Open championships at Hull, all the titles going the way of the top seeds with the exception of the Boys' Singles, and here the result cannot be regarded as anything other than expected, for, had Kevin Beadsley, the winner, attended the early season trials, he would surely have taken his place at the top of the list.

The Men's Singles provided a final between two young men who have moved over into the highly competitive Federal German Bundesliga to seek improvement in

(continued on page 15)



EUROPE'S NO. 1 WOMAN SIGNS WITH DUNLOP

Jill Hammersley, three times Commonwealth singles champion, has signed a contract with Dunlop Sports Company to play the new Dunlop Prexy rubber table tennis bat, and to wear Blue Flash shoes with items from the Company's recently introduced range of sports clothing.

Exclusive to Dunlop, the new 'Prexy' rubber, through its high frictional quality and speed, provides a substantially increased spin factor while maintaining an excellent degree of control.

Since signing her contract, Jill has retained her number one European singles ranking and has also won the Hungarian singles title, defeating Europe's No. 4, Ann-Christin Hellman of Sweden. She remains unbeaten in the UK having won the Sussex, North Middlesex, Humberside and Midland Counties Open Championships.

Picture shows Jill Hammersley handing her signed contract to David Sealey, marketing director, Dunlop Sports Company with Julian Cox (left), marketing manager, and Alan Hydes, Dunlop table tennis manager, looking on.

their standards, and Desmond Douglas, winner over Ian Horsham (quarters) and Nicky Jarvis (semi), who came through the event without the loss of a set, had a comfortable win over Jimmy Walker. But Walker it was who dismissed holder and second seed Denis Neale, making his first appearance of the season in a major tournament, and the younger man has certainly added a further dimension to his game, particularly in the matter of consistency, since his move across the North sea.

The withdrawal of Andy Barden let Donald Parker into a last eight spot, and the fact that the Lancastrian was the only unseeded player to reach this stage gives some measure of the predictability of the event.

In the quarters Parker was beaten by Jarvis, bidding for full fitness after a long period on the sidelines with a back injury.

There was, too, little worthy of comment in the earlier rounds, with the only facts of note probably being the success of young Paul Rainford over the established David Newman and the achievement of his conqueror, David Constance, in taking the first from Jarvis before going down 19, -12, -12.

Even more predictable was the Women's Singles, where Jill Hammersley was never in trouble on her way to a final meeting with Sue Lisle, who had some equally comfortably through the bottom half of the draw.

Miss Lisle needed the first game to come to terms with Jill's defensively-based game punctuated with a penetrative backhand kill, and this was too big a start to give a player of the calibre of the England No. 2, who held off a brave fight back by her opponent to take the title 2-straight.

Earlier Susan Hunt put out the seeded Anita Stevenson in Round 2 and was then herself beaten by Angela Mitchell before the latter fell to Miss Lisle.

It was not, however, the two major singles events which were the focus of attention, for the eyes of the table tennis world were on the new innovation in the English game, the Class 2 Mixed Singles from which the top fifty men and the top ten women were excluded.

There was a massive entry of 153 — nine more than the Men's Singles — and making their way through this keenly contested event were two ranked juniors, Kenny Jackson and Graham Sandley, and two men from the host county of Yorkshire who have only recently moved out of the junior ranks — Andrew Metcalfe of Leeds and local Humberside hero Mike Harrison.

The honours finished with the youngsters, Jackson taking the title in its inaugural season with a very convincing win over his younger opponent.

It was in the two junior events that the turn-ups occurred for, although both finals were fought out between the top seeds, the third seed in each event was taken out early on.

Executioner in the Boys' was Diccon Gray, from the Millom stable, who wrote 'finis' to the hopes of Jackson in Round 3 and then despatched another seed in Robert Johnson before bowing out to top seed David Barr in the semi, while on the Girls' side Sally Midgley accounted for Angela Tierney in the latter's first outing, and was then pushed out by 14-year-old Helen Williams, who extended eventual winner Alison Gordon to a third game in the semi-final.

Finally, in many years of association with tournaments, particularly in the 'Broad Acres', I have rarely known one run as smoothly as this season's Humberside — a tribute on the one hand to the work of the two Tonys — Chatwin and Ross — and their dedicated team of umpires, and the prior preparation by the quietly efficient

Brenda Hudson and husband Richard, and, on the other, to first class co-operation in keeping play on schedule by the competitors.

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Douglas (Wa) bt I. Horsham (E) 14, 19;
N. Jarvis (Cv) bt D. Parker (La) -13, 12, 6;
P. Day (Ca) bt A. Griffiths (Gn) 17, 10;
J. Walker, (Cv) bt D. Neale (Cv) 18, -16, 19.

Semi-finals:
Douglas bt Jarvis 12, 18;
Walker bt Day 19, -18, 15.

Final:
DOUGLAS bt Walker 12, 15.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Hammersley (Bu) bt M. Smith (Bk) 11, 10;
K. Rogers (Le) bt L. Hryszko (Y) 19, 15;
A. Mitchell (Mi) bt S. Hunt (Li) 19, -16, 19;
S. Lisle (Ch) bt H. Williams (Mi) 12, 11.

Semi-finals:
Hammersley bt Rogers 13, 13;
Lisle bt Mitchell 18, 16.

Final:
HAMMERSLEY bt Lisle 11, 21.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Douglas/Neale bt D. Constance (Ch)/Griffiths 11, 5;
Day/Jarvis bt A. Fletcher (Y)/Parker -11, 18, 16.

Final:
DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Day/Jarvis 18, 8.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Lisle/A. Stevenson (Le) bt Hunt/Rogers 14, -18, 20;
Hammersley/A. Tierney (Cv) bt J. Skipp/J. Williams (Cv) 10, 16.

Final:
LISLE/STEVENSON bt Hammersley/Tierney 15, 19.

Class II Mixed Singles: Quarter-finals:
G. Sandley (Mi) bt A. Clark (Nd) 12, 12;
A. Metcalfe (Y) bt I. Warner (Dy) 22, 15;
K. Jackson (E) bt C. Reed (Cu) 11, 24;
M. Harrison (Y) bt M. Kinsella (Ng) -12, 17, 18.

Semi-finals:
Sandley bt Metcalfe 14, -17, 18;
Jackson bt Harrison 22, 15.

Final:
JACKSON bt Sandley 9, 14.

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Barr (Bk) bt J. Naser (Y) 12, 12;
D. Gray (Cu) bt R. Johnson (Bk) -18, 16, 20;
Sandley bt M. Green (Sp) 8, -12, 5;
K. Beadsley (Y) bt C. Wilson (Mi) 15, -13, 10.

Semi-finals:
Barr bt Gray 10, 13;
Beadsley bt Sandley 13, 6.

Final:
BEADSLEY bt Barr 8, 16.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
A. Gordon (Bk) bt J. Purslow (Bk) 16, 15;
H. Williams bt S. Midgley (Y) -19, 17, 17.
Hryszko bt G. Pritchard (Dv) 15, 9;
Smith bt J. Deakin (Ch) 9, 15.

Semi-finals:
Gordon bt Williams -14, 12, 15;
Smith bt Hryszko 19, 18.

Final:
GORDON bt Smith 13, 19.

Veteran Singles: Quarter-finals:
C. Excell (Ch) bt D. Schofield (Ch) -17, 22, 15;
A. Hunt (Dy) bt G. Brook (Y) 16, 21;
T. Donlon (Ch) bt B. Sandley (Mi) 14, 19;
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt D. Marples (Dy) 13, 10.

Semi-finals:
Hunt bt Excell 14, 16; D'Arcy bt Donlon 10, 11.

Final:
D'ARCY bt Hunt 18, 15.

CRUSADERS ICL DATASKIL INVITATION TOURNAMENT

by Derek Basden

An Invitation tournament staged at Reading Y.M.C.A. on Saturday, Sept. 17 was a great success and provided superb entertainment. The tournament was staged by the Crusaders T.T.C. which, with 20 teams, is Reading's and one of England's largest clubs. It is also part of the IMPACT coaching and development organisation. The sponsors were I.C.L. Dataskil whose support included £100 prize money and pens.

In Group 1 Tony Isaac from Staffordshire took full advantage of Max Crimmins' absence and won through to the semis with some convincing play.

The toughest Group proved to be No. 2 where ex-England and Cheshire player Mike Johns finally won through winning the deciding game against local star Simon Heaps -17, 16, 16 after a thrilling battle.

Derek Munt (Warwickshire) started his day in Group 3 and his second match against fellow County player Barry Hayward developed into a long tense affair. Expedite was applied from 8-4 in the first game and eventually Munt came out on top 12, -11, 18 after 80 minutes play.

The fourth Group brought Berkshire No. 1 and current England Junior Champion David Reeves against Warwickshire's Ralph Gunnion. Ralph appeared to have the match won when he led 11-2 in the second game, having taken the first 21-11. Reeves, however, fought back splendidly and took the second game 21-19 and then went on to win the match 21-11 in the third.

In the first semi-final, Reeves produced his best form to record an excellent win over Johns 15, -18, 14. The second semi had its drama. Munt won the first game against Isaac 21-14 but at 9-8 in the second Munt collapsed with severe cramp. He continued, however, but went down -20. All seemed lost for him when again, in the third at 7-all, he appeared to suffer another attack. With superb positional play, however, Munt somehow produced a late effort to win 21-17.



Derek Munt receives the winner's cheque from Rod King (Operations Services Manager).
Photo by Rivermead Studios, Reading.

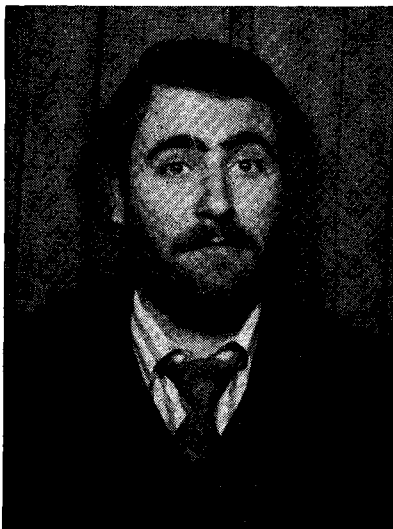
The final itself was a little of an anti-climax in that Reeves could not produce the form he had shown earlier in the day and Munt ran out a worthy winner 19, 11 to take the first prize of £50. On this form Derek can be considered the best defender in England at present.

In the play off for third and fourth places Johns beat Isaac 19 -15, 15.

The tournament proved very popular with players and spectators and organisers Derek Basden and Nick Heaps hope to stage a similar event on an annual basis.

The Crusaders T.T.C. are running a competition for the best caption to the photo of the presentation to the winner. £5.00 will go to the best caption that the Editor will print. Judges for the competition will be Christine Basden and Judy Heaps who put in a lot of hard work to ensure the success of the tournament. Captions should be sent to: Alan Dines at the IMPACT office, 14A Cross Street, Reading. Captions not suitable for printing or judging should be clearly endorsed — the writer of the best (or worst) of these will be treated to a drink at the next suitable social occasion.

THE NEWCOMER



Mr. Dick Tammadge has been appointed Development Officer for the English Table Tennis Association, and took up office on the 24th November. Dick is a newcomer to organised sport, although he has played Rugby, Cricket and Table Tennis at a club level for several years. He admits to being excited at the prospects, saying "I think this job will be challenging and demanding. I see myself as something of an ideas man, and I hope that anyone with suggestions for developing our sport will get in touch with me at Hastings."

Previously Dick has worked in the electronics and building plastics industries, mainly in sales and marketing, but has recently been working as a motoring journalist. Dick hopes that his marketing experience will be of great value in presenting and publicising Table Tennis.

Aside from his sports, Dick has a wide range of interests including gardening, angling, motor cars and collecting American comics — of which he has several thousand.

We wish Dick every success in his new position.

CHESHIRE CLOSED

This season's Cheshire Closed championships will be held at I.C.I. (Hyde) Ltd. Recreation Club, Talbot Road, Newton, Hyde over the weekend of Jan. 14/15, 1978. Entries, which close on Monday, Jan. 9, to Mrs. B. Ware, 9 John St., Marple, Ches. Phone: 061-427 6903.



Photo by Tommy Andersson.

SWEDEN'S NEW CAPTAIN

The new national captain in Swedish table tennis from this season is Thomas Ek, 27 years old. Thomas who plays table tennis at a good regional level is a certified physical training instructor. His native town is Ystad which is one of the very southernmost places in Sweden.

SCOTTISH RANKINGS

Men: R. Yule (Ab), E. Sutherland (Ed), J. Moir (Ab), R. Bhalla (WS), K. Rodger (Ed), J. Graham (Lk), R. Kerr (Ed), A. McCulloch (WS), P. Forker (Ed) and J. Wilson (WS).

Women: Grace McKay (Ed), Patrice Fleming (WS), Carole Dalrymple (St), Mabel Neish (Du), Margaret Cuthbertson (St) and Isobel Ferguson (WS).

NISSEN WINNERS

Desmond Douglas and Carole Knight were the respective winners in the men's and women's singles in the Nissen invitation tournament played at Hemel Hempstead on Friday, December 9th, 1977. Report and results will appear in January issue of 'T.T. News'.

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by DENNIS MILLMAN

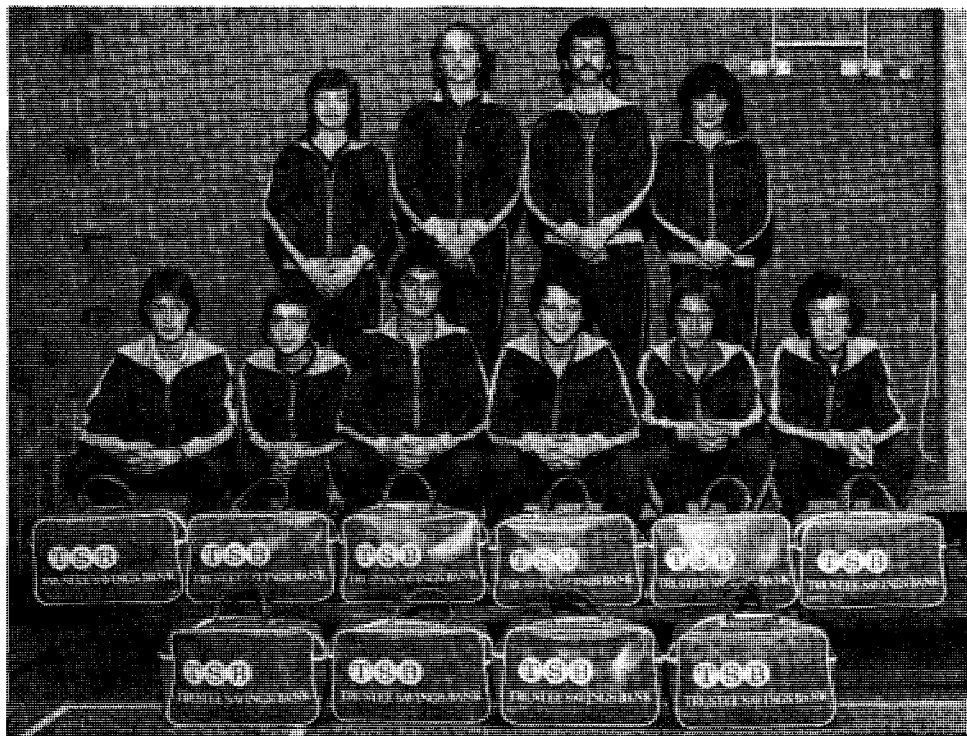
COMPLETELY OUTCLASSED

The first complete programme of County Championship matches held on Bonfire Night ended in three defeats, with all the fireworks coming from the opposition. A new venue, at Burton Latimer, and several new faces did not produce the desired effect for the County Firsts, who were completely outclassed by a strong Leicestershire side, with Paul Randell in scintillating form. Only Steve Lyon, who gained the solitary win, and Gary Alden showed glimpses of the form necessary to win matches at this level.

The Senior Seconds travelled to Norfolk and produced a spirited performance, somewhat unluckily going down 3-7, with John Palmer, Valerie Feakin and a Miss Feakin — Margaret Maltby doubles earning the points. However Phil Snelling and Romano Gallo were unfortunate to lose in close finishes, and with Margaret Maltby also doing well on her debut, success for this side could be just round the corner.

The TSB Juniors continue to improve although defeated by Warwickshire. Helen Cottier produced her best performance to date to beat the Warwicks No. 1, and Keith Nicoll and David Gallo also won, while Ian Morris came near to his first County success.

The County League has on this occasion made an early if erratic start, with Northampton already assured of retaining their title, if steering clear of the problems apparently afflicting Wellingborough who have made yet another dismal start to their campaign. In their first match Wellingborough were perhaps unlucky to lose heavily to Northampton, ending with just two Alden successes to show for some strenuous efforts which saw them lose all six sets requiring a decider. However strenuous efforts were not in evidence for their clash with Daventry, who were quick



NORTHANTS TRUSTEES

Northamptonshire's Trustee Savings Bank-sponsored Junior Squad. Back Row (1 to r) Julie Robinson, Helen Cottier, Rod Marchant (Squad Coach) and Joanne Cutler. Front Row (1 to r) Tim Forster, Ken Nicoll, David Gallo, Ian Morris, Neil Knott and Keith Nicoll. Photo by John Cherry, Wellingborough.

to claim the match and all eleven points, when a Wellingborough League comprising eight divisions of almost a hundred clubs, was unable to raise a side.

Kettering, capable of fielding the best balanced side in the County, failed to do this in their first fixture with Northampton, with John Palmer, Allun Thomas, Anne and Mandy Wallis unavailable, and paid

the penalty, gaining just two successes from Anne Lenton and Keith Nicoll. Despite Daventry's narrow win over Towcester they too went down to Northampton, whose approach this season must be commended. Only a mathematical miracle can now prevent Northampton's Ray Kingston, Phil Snelling, Keith Jones, Romano Gallo, Tim Chamberlain, Margaret Maltby and Joyce Porter from retaining the title, they won so narrowly last season.

However in the Rose Bowl, Kettering gained some compensation, when a side led by Anne and Mandy Wallis, who were both unbeaten, accounted for Northampton, 6-3.

The South East Midlands League has made another slow start with some teams yet to see any action. Daventry Veterans, with John Aspinall, and Peter Edwards undefeated have lost to Bedford and beaten R.A.F. in close matches, but Northampton without Chris Arnall, who I understand has had to retire from the game, have not made such an impact on the Veteran scene as in previous seasons. However the Veterans of Kettering and Wellingborough could well hold the key to Division 2, while at the other end of the scale Kettering Juniors are still unbeaten.

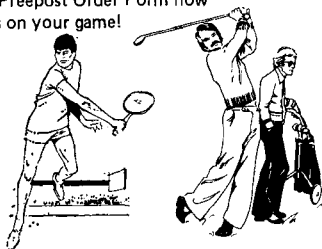
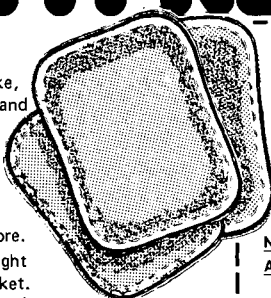
The County Jubilee Closed Tournament will be a thing of the past when these notes are being read, but for the first time for many years entries are on the increase, despite the absence of many well known players. One likely, if unusual occurrence is the probability that all the Singles title holders will lose their crowns, and this strange happening could also apply to the doubles events as well. A full report will appear in the next edition.

China take honours

China took the honours on the final day of the Hong Kong international tournament. Their national champion Kuo Yao-hua beat Liao Fu-min, a compatriot, to clinch the men's singles title in straight games. China won the team title beating Japan 5-2 in the final.

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a trio of Staffs. victories was achieved when Shirley Cain, together with Lesley Tyler, took the U-15 Doubles title.

News from north of the County is that Isaac was unable to extend his reign over the Bloor Cup from four to five years due to a prior engagement which coincided with the early rounds of the cup. One of the more interesting results in the early rounds was the defeat of Peter Machin, the County Junior Champion of two years ago, by his father, Roy, who obviously is demonstrating that he is still one of the top veterans in the County. Joining Brian Tatton and Ray Booth in the final rounds are Stan Deakin and Phil Anderson, both of whom have been selected to represent the Potteries in the Midland League.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. MORAN

SHATTERING DEFEAT

"A disappointment to say the least" was the very subdued comment of the captain, Richard Habgood, following the shattering 7-2 defeat of the County 1st team by newly-promoted Berkshire on Nov. 5. Simon Claxton and Derek Munt were the only winners on a night when our team showed a distinct lack of fireworks. (Well you knew I'd get that in somewhere!).

The "B" team sparkled sufficiently to draw with arch-rivals Staffordshire but where, oh where, have all the young players gone? Paul Judd at 27 was the youngest player in the team by 7 years. I am sure the "B" team will agree that this does not augur well for the future.

Hopefully Juniors David Ward and Hon Kin NG will be among those making a real push for Senior places in the next few seasons. They each won two singles and combined well, to take the doubles, in the 7-3 win over Northants.

At schools level the West Midlands U-16's came out on top of the Midland League with wins of 5-3 and 8-0 over Shropshire and Herefordshire.

Entry forms are now available for the first Coventry 1-Star tournament to be held at Ernsford Grange Community College on Sunday, Feb. 19. Details from Jack Elliott, 53 Watercall Avenue, Styrechale, Coventry.

I have been positively underwhelmed with news and views from the Regions and I ask myself "Do they want their items to appear in T.T.N.?" "I don't know Kerry, do they?" "Well it doesn't appear so" etc. etc. Come on, all you League Secretaries talk to me!

WESTERN LEAGUE NEWS

by GROVE MOTLOW

CHAMPIONS DEFEATED

Poole, the defending men's division champions, had a hard encounter at home to West Wilts and with defeat in the final set went down 4-5. Victory to West Wilts was paved for them by the brilliant performance of Kevin Satchell in beating Martin Abbott, John Robinson and Howard Davies. For Poole, Abbott did well to beat Duncan Cleveland and John Higgs, as did Robinson, but Davies drew a blank.

West Wilts, in their home match against Bristol, were somewhat "shaken" by their visitors who won 6-3 with G. Mildred unbeaten although taken to three by Satchell who won two for the home side beating R. Oldfield and M. Smith, the latter also losing to Cleveland. J. Chandler had a blank night.

Plymouth "A", on their visit to Weston, had a surprisingly easy victory in winning 8-1. Joe Garland saved the "whitewash"

when he beat Mike Short. Michael Shearman and Paul Whiting did well to secure maximums against Garland, J. Crabtree and R. Thornton.

When Plymouth "A" entertained Bournemouth at Devonport Guild Hall, an exciting match ensued. For Bournemouth it was Trevor Smith who 'starred' using his anti-loop/reversed pimples sponge bat very cleverly, foxing his opponents with a wide range of strokes. The set that clinched the match for Plymouth was probably the very first of the afternoon between Mike "Basher" Short and the experienced Cyril Bush.

Mike, who has recently been ranked No. 1 in Devon, was unlucky to lose the first game but looked sure to win the set when he took the second 21-9. This did not seem to upset Cyril who defended brilliantly in the decider and, leading 20-18, had 2 match points. However, Mike showed spectators just why he is nicknamed "Basher" when he literally bashed his way out of trouble, winning the third 23-21.

Encountering more trouble with his remaining eye, having lost the use of the other, one can only hope that Grove will have better news to impart after his visit to the Consultant Surgeon at Newport Eye Hospital. Ed.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

FIRST TREBLE

Cambs. Juniors won their opening match in the County Championships beating Herts II 7-3 at March. Andy Withers, Joanne Palmer and Robert Swift were all unbeaten but Swift had a nerve racking wait for his first treble in County colours. With the score at 6-3 and Swift leading by one game and 17-18 down in the second of the final set, the match suffered a power cut! Fortunately it was only of half an hour duration and Swift went on to win in three. Withers was particularly impressive in his singles and won both 2-straight. Although David Brammer and Jane Hunter did not win they gave a good account of themselves.

Cambs. second team put up a good performance at Leicester when they held the home team to a 5-5 draw in a III East match. Geoff. Davies was back to his old form of two seasons ago winning both his singles and doubles, with Brian Richardson, 2-straight. Richardson also won a singles over Graeme Hall while Valerie Parkes clinched a point by beating Julie Revill.

Andy Withers, Cambridge's 14-year-old top Junior from Haverhill is currently going through the best spell of his short career. Besides winning all his sets in the Junior match, he won three singles for Cambridge against Kettering in the South East Midlands League and is doing well for his club (Soham) in the Cambs. League. Great stuff Andy!

In the Cambs. League the champions (Soham I) are again in tremendous form and so far this season have not conceded a set in Div. I. It will be interesting to see who will be the first team to take a set from them. Soham II who have the services of Withers could not prevent New Chesterton Institute from beating them despite three victories by Withers — a good victory for N.C.I. Guildhall continue to keep tenaciously with the leaders and gave Y.M.C.A. a 9-1 thrashing. Albert Jackson is in very good form at the moment. Telephones II picked up their first points by beating Y.M.C.A. II 10-0 and I fear that Y.M.C.A. have already that relegation look. Soham IV go top of Div. II following their 7-3 win over previous leaders Press II but the latter picked up a good point in a match with University I. University II and Melbourn gained their first points in this

division when they beat Eastern Gas and drew with Swavesey respectively. St. George's scored their fourth consecutive win

In the Handicap Knock-Out Trophy last season's finalists were both beaten in the 1st round, namely Haverhill IV (Holders) and Howard Mallett I. Haverhill were beaten by Ely Fire Service for whom Crabtree won three and Denis Pluck (who has not lost a set in the league since 1975/76 season) won two. Howard Mallett were beaten by Impington V and Telephones V beat Impington I. Terry Cornwell won three for 'Phones. There was quite a remarkable turnabout in the Herbert Robinson v Saffron Walden I match. Robinson's were leading 4-1 but they were unable to take another set and went down 5-4.

In the SEM League Cambridge beat Northampton 6-4 but the Juniors went down to Northampton 1-9. Northampton beat Cambridge Veterans by 7-3. This is a bad start for Cambridge who did so well last season.

In the Wilmott Cup Cambridge beat Luton being also successful against Luton in the Rose Bowl. These two victories should give both teams great incentive for Round 2.

Arrangements have been finalised for the first ever Cadet Division organised by the Wisbech Association. Nine teams will be competing from six different schools including four Junior Schools. It is hoped that other schools in the area will follow suit for next season. With these boys and girls starting at this early age it is hoped that there will be another wave of County Junior talent.

Monday evening coaching sessions given by Geoff. Ward, Mick Forth and Bob West have attracted up to 50 beginners a night — a fabulous start!

Wisbech teams have been in action in their various Leagues with the following results:—

South East Midlands League —
Men beat Hunts Central 7-3
Juniors beat Hunts Central 6-4
(2nd Div.) Juniors beat Hunt Central 9-1
East Anglian League —
Division II beat Bury 6-4
Division II beat Thetford 8-2
Junior Div. beat Norwich 6-4
Junior Div. lost to Bury 0-10
Junior Div. 2 lost to Norwich 3-7
Junior Div. 2 beat March 9-1
North Norfolk League —
lost to March 4-6
beat Wymondham 6-4
drew with King's Lynn 5-5

In the Wilmott Cup Wisbech lost to Ely 1-8 which was rather expected considering the strength of the Ely contingent.

Congratulations to Clive Harrod for passing his practical test in the recent Cambs. v Suffolk match. Let's have more like him as Umpires are desperately needed for all County matches.

Cambridge Juniors lost 0-10 to Peterborough in a SEM League match. This continuing bad form by Cambridge gives cause for alarm as they have only just been elevated to the first division. Let's have a victory Juniors just for old times sake! Pat O'Byrne is doing a good job in coaching the Juniors as he has about 50 every Saturday afternoon at the Cambridge Sports Hall but we must get the required results.

SOMERSET & AVON LEAGUE

by DENNIS POPE

CONVINCING START

Last season's champions, Bath "A", started out to retain their title with a convincing 9-1 home victory over Page Club in the Premier Division of the Somerset and

Avon League. The Bath team of Shirley O'Brien, Linda Porter, Tony Clayton and Kevin Satchell were much too strong for the young Page team who's only success was by Lorraine Banks over Shirley O'Brien 17, -16, 18.

Robert Thornton was undefeated for Bridgewater "B" in their 4-6 away defeat to Falland "A". Thornton had a good win over Somerset No. 1 Brian Reeves -15, 19, 23. Pat Reeves and Muriel Lewis won all their sets for Falland. Promoted Portishead had a narrow 4-6 away defeat in the hands of Bridgewater "A". Betty Norman won both her singles and doubles with Wendy Pryce for the latter. With the score at 4-4 the match between Bristol Club and Bath "B" was suspended, due to the lateness of the hour, in the marathon battle Ken Watts won two singles for Bristol Club as did Judith Quarry for Bath.

Weston "A" who were relegated from the Premier Division last season, made a good start in Division One with an easy 9-1 home win over Falland "B", whose only success was a singles victory by evergreen 70-year-old-plus Nellie Mason who beat Sally Difazio 19, 20. The Weston "B" team in the same division lost 3-7 to Bedminster for whom Malcolm Dodd, Mike James and David Brown were all unbeaten, the three Weston sets being singles victories from Sue Jones and Julie Jenkins and they joined each other to take the women's doubles.

Newcomers to the league, Ashton Court, won their first match in Division 2, they beat Twerton St. Michaels 6-4 mainly due to a fine performance by Ray Sewell. Taunton "A" beat Fromeside 7-3 after taking the last five sets. Mendip took the last two men's singles events to force a draw with Bath "D". Taunton "B" travelled to Bridgewater and beat the "C" team 7-3.

There were several close battles in the Junior Division. Weston drew 5-5 with Bridgewater "B". David Williams won all his sets for Bristol in their 6-4 victory over Taunton, Benjamin Fear won two singles for Taunton. Bath had a narrow 6-4 home win over Bristol "B". Matthew Smith won both his singles for Bath, as did Barry Hyder for Bristol "B". A comfortable victory for Bridgewater "A" over Mendip 8-2.

DEVON NOTES

by KEITH PONTING

SPONSORSHIP AT LAST

After many years of trying, a major breakthrough has been made, and for the first time in the history of the Association sponsorship has been obtained in the form of playing kit and tracksuits for the Junior Premier team. The County Association is most grateful to the Port of Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce for supplying the playing kit and to Broadway Sports for the track suits.

The sponsorship has been made possible through the efforts of new Fund Raising Officer Adrian Wright and County Coaching Officer, Frank Hatton. Adrian, in particular has spent hours of his spare time organising fund raising events and has raised a considerable sum. We are deeply grateful to him because, as a successful businessman, his spare time is very limited and what he has, he is devoting to the solvency of the County Association.

The County teams have had a mixed start to the season and my forecast that it was easier for the Junior Premier team to get to the top flight than stay there, is, unfortunately coming true, losing their first two matches 2-8, although I am sure the youngsters have enough skill and spirit to put things right. The second junior team have scored one draw and one win whilst the Seniors have had one defeat and a draw. It is good to see Adrian Wright and Barry Davis back in County action and

mention must be made of 11-year-old Carol Butler who made her senior debut against Somerset and had two wins.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by PAULINE JACKSON

FIREWORKS BACKFIRE

Saturday, Nov. 5 saw all three Northumberland County teams at away venues for their opening fixtures of the season — and all wearing their new emerald green shirts for the first time. The first team made the long journey to Capenhurst (near Chester) to take on the powerful Cheshire team, and started with a bang in the very first set of the evening when Andrew Clark beat England-ranked David Constance in two close games to put Northumberland one up. However, after this initial success, it was Cheshire's turn to provide the fireworks and the match eventually ended in a 1-9 defeat — in spite of some close games in one or two of the men's events.

Both the second and junior teams travelled to Millom to play Cumbria and Cumbria II juniors respectively. The second team unfortunately failed to repeat last season's 6-4 win, and this time the result was 6-4 in favour of Cumbria. Peter Whiteman and Fred Short each won a singles, while Short and Bill Dial (the latter on his County debut) were successful in the men's doubles. The other win was scored by Lily Aust in the top women's singles.

The junior side, however, with John Burke, Phillip Kolvin and Christine Tweddle all making their County debuts, won by 6-4 with victory in the last two sets of the match. Admittedly, Cumbria were without their top second team boy, but this was still a good performance considering the relative inexperience of our team. All the victories came in the boys' events, with Kolvin and John Anderson winning two singles each and Burke one. Burke and Anderson just squeezed home in the doubles 23-21 in the third to complete an eventful afternoon. It was certainly eventful for Susan Norris, who was attempting to play in the junior match and make her senior debut at the same time, as both matches were scheduled for a 2.30 p.m. start at the same venue, although in different buildings. The intentions by both teams were obviously good, but it must have been very unsettling for a junior player trying to impress on her senior debut and having to concentrate on her junior games at the same time.

With several home County fixtures coming up later in the season, it has been pointed out that more County umpires are needed in this area, and there is also a scheme coming into operation which will enable juniors to become fully qualified umpires. If sufficient youngsters are interested, it is intended to organise a short course. Anyone interested at either level should contact the League Secretary, Sid Holt (Tel. 877663).

The recent power dispute did not seem to affect as many Northumberland League matches as was at first feared, although it is not known at present how many have been affected by the firemen's strike. However, the leading positions after the first six weeks of the season are as follows: **Premier Division:** Briarside 'A' (max. points) and Revac. **Div. 1:** Woodlands Park 'A' and Electrics 'B'. **Div. 2A:** Northumberland Fire Brigade 'A' and Visionhire. **Div. 2B:** Byker C.C. 'D' (max. points) and North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'B'. **Div. 3A:** Robert Holmes (max. points) and Procter & Gamble 'C'. **Div. 3B:** Sterling Winthrop 'A' (max. points) and North Shields B.C. 'B'. **Div. 3C:** North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'C' (max. points) and Newcastle Nalgo 'B'. **Div. 4A:** H.M.S.O. Press and Delaval C.C. 'F'. **Div. 4B:** Newton 'C' and Simonside 'B'. **Div.**

4C: Thompson's 'C' (max. points) and St. George's 'D'.

The first round of the Knock-Out Cup, involving Div. 3 and 4 teams, is now under way, and results to date are as follows: Maccabi 'D' beat Whitehouse Lane; Byker C.C. 'B' beat 6th Newcastle B.B.; Telephones 'B' beat Bridon Fibres; Ouston 'A' beat West Allotment; Victoria Road beat Maccabi 'C'; North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'C' beat Newbiggin Hall. The other teams will appear from the second round onwards. For the first time in many years, the Women's Knock-Out Cup for teams of two makes a welcome re-appearance; six teams have so far entered, and it is proposed to start this competition in January. Any further entries can still be made to the competition organiser, Aubrey Drapkin (Tel. 853878).

It is hoped this season to provide a regular monthly "Information Bulletin", showing current League tables, County details and other items of interest. Any contributions should be sent to Mr. Drapkin at 6 Northfield Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 3UL.

Finally, belated congratulations to young Martin Schapira, who in his first ever Open championship appearance, won the Boys' U-11 singles event in the Cleveland 2-Star Open Tournament, such a good performance in this age group can only augur well for the future.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. LANGRIDGE

NEW SEASON UNDER WAY

Suffolk's Senior, Junior and Veteran teams have each completed their first match in the County Championships, with only the Rob Milne-inspired Veterans gaining success.

Suffolk were without John Kitchener for their match against Cambs at Wisbech. Nevertheless, the weakened side fought magnificently against a strong home team spearheaded by Paul Day.

Cambs swept to a 3-0 lead in the men's singles with replacement Russell King putting up a strong fight against Keith Richardson.

Linda Woodcock made a return to Suffolk's team after eight years and with Debbie Wootton gave her county their first success in a well-taken ladies' doubles. The home side redressed the balance in the men's when Day and Richardson were too strong for Hellaby and skipper Mike Palmer.

Suffolk hopes of a draw evaporated when Debbie lost to Joanne Palmer, for the first time ever, but what a superb recovery she made in the second game. She was soon 0-11 and 2-14 down, levelled at 17-all and hung on to take it by 19!

Cambs made the points safe when Day beat Hellaby but this was no walkover.

The score was now 1-6 but Linda Woodcock brushed Valerie Scripps aside to provide their second win. Then followed a great win by Palmer over Richardson and King rose to the occasion by outlasting an unsure Mick Harper to 19 in the third.

Scores: R. Hellaby lost to M. Harper -16, -18; lost to P. Day -18, -11; M. Palmer lost to Day -11, -15; bt K. Richardson 14, -14, 14; R. King lost to Richardson -18, -19; bt Harper -19, 15, 19; Miss L. Woodcock bt Miss V. Scripps 18, 11; Miss D. Wootton lost to Miss J. Palmer -16, 19, -17; Hellaby and Palmer lost to Day and Richardson -15, -11; Misses Woodcock and Wootton bt Misses Scripps and Palmer 20, -15, 16.

Under ideal conditions at the British Sugar Sports and Social Club, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk Juniors suffered defeat at the hands of Bedfordshire.

Stuart Palmer and Julian Hall (Suffolk) performed well, each winning two singles but Bedford, a better all-round team won the match 6-4.

Results (Suffolk names first): Julian Hall bt Gary White 20, 10; bt Stephen Barby -10, 14, 17; Stuart Palmer bt David Sharpe 17, -19, 9; bt White -15, 14, 13; Michael Shorten lost to Barby -11, -17; lost to Sharpe 18, -18, -19.

Palmer/Hall lost to White/Barby -11, -10; Louise Harris lost to Liza Bellinger -9, -14; Debra Hubble lost to Janice Bellinger 11, -12, -12; Hubble/Harris lost to Bellinger/Bellinger -12, -8.

There was a better result for the newly-formed Suffolk Veteran's team, however, who beat Hunts. at St. Neots.

Rob Milne and Terry Kirby both won their two singles and combined to take the men's doubles.

Maud List completed the scoring for Suffolk with a good win in the ladies' singles.

'77/'78 RANKINGS

Confusing results in the Senior Trials has caused the Selection Committee to deliberate further on this season's MEN'S Ranking List, and consideration will now also be given to the more recent match results.

Past form, the Trials results and other relevant factors were all taken into consideration when compiling the following lists:—

Women:

1. Linda Woodcock
2. Debbie Wootton
3. Janet Friers
4. Kathy Brierley
5. Sue Welham
6. Louise Harris
7. Jane Newton
8. Debra Hubble.

Boys:

1. S. Palmer
2. J. Hall
3. M. Shorten
4. S. Cavarlo
5. N. Hodder
6. I. Saunders
7. K. Andrews
8. R. Marler
9. A. Bentink
10. A. Booth.

Girls:

1. D. Hubble
2. L. Harris
3. J. Matthews
4. K. Francis
5. J. Richards
6. D. Harvey
7. J. Leonard
8. K. Edwards-Hay
9. M. Denney
10. A. Ginn
11. A. Horner

It is regretted that some junior players forfeited their places in the Ranking Lists by not replying to their invitations or by their non-attendance at the Trials.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by TONY ROSS

HULL CELEBRATIONS

The Hull Association celebrated their Golden Jubilee with a dinner dance at the Willerby Manor Hotel, Hull, on 3rd November, 50 years to the day after the founding of the Association at the Hull Y.P.I. on 3rd November, 1927. The Association was pleased to welcome to the occasion their Life President, Mr. J. L. Wilkinson, now 84 years of age, as the man who presided at the first historic meeting 50 years ago. Mr. Wilkinson startled the gathering by saying that he had first played table tennis 79 years ago, at the age of

five! There was a welcome also for Tony Clayton (a player of more recent times!) as the Association's only full international player in its history so far. Amongst the leading officials present were E.T.T.A. Chairman Charles Wyles, E.T.T.A. Treasurer and Hull Vice-President Tom Blunn, Y.T.T.A. President Maurice Shaffner, Y.T.T.A. Chairman and Hull President Harry Flinton, Y.T.T.A. Secretary Frank Briggs, Hull Life Vice-President Abe Abrahamson and Hull Chairman Harold Litchfield. The organisers are to be congratulated on a very successful occasion.

We hear that Chinese mosquitoes found Melody Ludi quite a dish! However, mosquito bites obviously had no effect on the Bradford girl's playing performance, with three singles wins and a doubles from six matches. China is the twelfth country to which table tennis has taken Melody, still only 18.

Our county teams had mixed fortunes in the second series of County Championships matches. Without Kevin Beadsley, who was unable to play, the senior and junior first teams lost to Middlesex in London. However, the senior and junior second teams both had decisive wins over Durham and Cleveland II at Hermits TTC, Bradford. Steven Mills (Sheffield) and Clem Lo (Bradford) both made their senior county debuts. The absence of Neil Harris through illness also brought debut boy Paul Makinson (15), of Bradford, into the junior second team.

Players who have represented three different counties have enabled Sheffield to set a hot pace in Division 1 of the Yorkshire League. The Sheffield trio are Steven Mills, David Rayner and Martin Kinsella. David Rayner is a former Yorkshire first team player who now elects to represent Derbyshire. Martin Kinsella has previously played for Nottinghamshire. In Sheffield's 9-1 defeat of Hull, Mills' county colleague Mike Harrison was the only player to score for the visitors, with a 3-game win over Kinsella.

This season Bradford have three teams in Division 1 and the result of the Derby match between the first and second teams overturned the form book, with the second team winning by the surprising margin of 9-1. For the second team, Richard Priestley and Steve Kosmowsky were unbeaten and Jim Yeats' victory over Bob Shutt was all that the first team could salvage from the wreckage, whilst Clem Lo and Mick Stephenson had nought to show for their efforts.

In the match between two teams promoted this season into Division 1, Bradford III (Greg Hill, Phil Halmshaw, Steve Worsman) triumphed at York 6-4, with York's Steve Tracy, a former Irish junior international, keeping the visitors at bay almost single-handed.

Former international and current England selector Alan Hydes turned out for Barnsley in the Yorkshire League for the first time for 7 years against Harrogate in Division 2, and conceded an average of only 7 points per game in his three sets, all won in straight games. Barnsley won 8-2.

In Junior Division 1, Bradford defeated one of their potential rivals for the championship of this division, overcoming Leeds away from home 7-2. Leeds had previously beaten last season's champions Hull 5-4 at Hull, the home team having to concede sets because a player was ill during the match. Sheffield are also showing up as possible title contenders.

In the first round of the Wilmott Cup, Halifax were narrowly beaten by cup-holders Manchester (who were without John Hilton), despite a fine 3-set maximum from Kevin Beadsley. The match went to the ninth and deciding set, where Brian Kean finally toppled Tony Bottomley after a marathon struggle. Details:—

Manchester 5 Halifax 4 — B. Kean lost to D. Lamb -17, -21; N. Eckersley bt A. Bottomley 9, 10; P. Bowen lost to K. Beadsley 17, -22, -10; Eckersley bt Lamb 15, 10; Kean lost to Eckersley -19, -13; Bowen bt Bottomley 15, 20; Eckersley lost to Beadsley -15, -10; Bowen bt Lamb 11, 15; Kean bt Bottomley 23, -19, 17.

SUSSEX NOTES

by JOHN WOODFORD

CLARKE AT NO. 1

THERE IS VERY LITTLE peace of mind for Sussex selectors so far this campaign, especially after the county trials. With Roger Chandler and Sam Ogundipe labelled as semi-retired, John Clarke the former Lancashire player came through unbeaten and is therefore the new Sussex No. 1 with Gerald Pugh as the under-study and Graham Gillett, England No. 10 junior at No. 3.

After Phil Smith had an unbeaten run in the powerful Crawley league that up-ended all the big names, he has so far failed to take any other event by storm. Pugh did well in the trials but seems to have lost his concentration in Crawley having lost to seven opponents in the first month — another reason why the selectors are wearing their worry-beads!

In the women's trials no player remained unbeaten — Diane Gard, Julie Reading, Linda Budd and Carole Hewett are still the top four but that is the only real conclusion. Sussex II commenced with a 9-1 win over Bucks II in Division 3, but it was not a true test of strength as Bucks must be one of the weakest teams in the division.

Boy-of-the-moment in Sussex is 12-year-old Adrian Moore, younger brother of Stephen. In a recent Hastings league match Adrian's victims included Graham Good a former Hastings men's champion and David Pickard, a former Eastbourne champion — tremendous wins for one so young. Sussex No. 3 Junior Malcolm Francis is also on the crest of a wave — his best win recently was in a league match against Gillett.

The debut of the Sussex veterans team away to Essex was not the happiest of occasions, at least not the scoreline for Sussex who finished 8-2 losers with Peter Shead drawing a surprise blank. Shock of the match was a win by Jim Barry of Hastings over Ken Beamish.

Two other Sussex players who are having a fine start to the season are Robin Stace and Malcolm Francis. Stace is leading the Sussex second senior team after much steadier performances, whilst young Malcolm has already included amongst his junior victims the two boys ranked above him Stephen Moore and Gillett.

Sussex county championships ranking list:—

Senior Men:

1. John Clarke (Brighton)
2. Gerald Pugh (Crawley)
3. Graham Gillett (Bexhill)
4. Robin Stace (Brighton)
5. Philip Smith (East Grinstead)
6. Emil Emezc (Crawley)
7. Andy Meads (Crawley)
8. Mike Douglas (Crawley)
9. Alan Reed (Brighton)
10. Stephen Moore (Bexhill)
11. Malcolm Francis' (Uckfield)

Senior Women:

1. Julie Reading (Eastbourne)
2. Diane Gard (Eastbourne)
3. Carole Hewett (Crawley)
4. Linda Budd (Essex)
5. Hazel O'Brien (Crawley)
6. Christine Randall (Uckfield)
7. Angela Mock (Eastbourne)
8. Sheila King (Hastings)
9. Jenny Puttock (S.W. Sussex)

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by DAVID DELLER

WOODING MAKES DEBUT

Hunts County teams started the season with mixed fortunes on the opening County Championships weekend. The senior team of Les Wooding, Alan Lamprell, Tim Speller, Barbara Pace and Belinda Chamberlain defeated Bedfordshire II 7-3. Wooding, on debut for the County having moved from Bucks during the close season, won both his singles. Lamprell also held a clean sheet on his outings to the table. Speller with a singles win plus both doubles coming our way saw Hunts off to a fine start.

No such joy for the junior team which saw Hunts playing without their leading four ranked boys against Lincolnshire II. Hunts were unable to pick up a solitary point. All credit however to the Hunts quintet of S. Smith, A. Roughton, R. Wells, M. Ringrose and T. Roberts who never lacked spirit.

By the time these notes are read the County will have held its annual tournament being held before Christmas for the first time.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by PHILIP REID

REASONABLE START

The County teams have, as a whole, got off to a pretty reasonable start and a new star appears to be in the making — if he can control his tendency to take things easy against opposition which he thinks he should beat without difficulty. The player is David Gannon, still only 16 years of age but against Norfolk he certainly cost the county a point when he failed to appreciate the talents of the visiting number one David Unwin, who beat Gannon after he had seemed out of the game. Leicestershire lost that match 4-6, with Julie Revill and Yvonne Hall both unbeaten and Gannon picking up his other singles.

The same evening Gannon redeemed himself with a great debut for the County seconds against Cambridgeshire II, winning both his sets in fine style and new skipper John Iliffe expressed himself well satisfied with Gannon's display. Iliffe is expected to make an impact on the team as non-playing captain and he is unlikely to tolerate less than 100% effort, which he himself always gave. Iliffe is the third in a line of Hinckley captains, following Johnny Burraston and Ernest McLeish. He could become just as big a force. The 2nd team, by the way drew with Cambridgeshire with Sue Edwards giving an impressive performance.

The County first team had a comfortable 9-1 win over Northamptonshire and there are high hopes that the county will yet again qualify for the play-offs, although of course it is early days yet.

The Veterans lost 0-9 to Nottinghamshire and followed up by losing 0-10 to Nottingham in a Midland League match. This team is struggling at the moment but if Brian Mayfield plays for them next season, things could be all together different. Mayfield, by the way gave a superb performance against Coventry for Leicester II in the Midland League. Leicester won 10-0 with Graham Hughes and Gannon completing the team. In a Midland League 1st Division local 'Derby' Leicester drew 5-5 with Hinckley, a superb maximum coming from Chris Rogers. At the end of the same week, however Paul Randell gained his revenge when he beat Chris in the final of the 'Woodfield' tournament. This is always a popular event with the Leicester players and once again they turned up in force and took most of the major titles.

The Leicestershire Dance will be held at Barwell on March 31st and is being organised by Mike Holt. Dances held at Barwell are always a success and we have no reason to suspect any change this time.

Leicestershire will be holding their Closed Championships on Sunday, January 8th, with the Leicester Closed being held at the same venue — The Boulevard Gymnasium — on the previous day. This is sure to cause some controversy but some things are inescapable. One is that the only good venue in Leicester is the Boulevard Gymnasium. To make it a viable proposition it is necessary to have the Gymnasium fully occupied both days and the only way this can be done is to run tournaments on consecutive days. With twelve tables and ample room, there should be no complaint about conditions — something which cannot be said of tournaments recently run in Leicester.

DORSET NOTES

by M. ABBOTT

WOMEN UNBEATEN

In the first matches of the new County Championships season Dorset's women won all their sets in all four matches, one being won, one drawn and two lost.

The Senior 1st team travelled to Kent in Div. 2 (South) and were beaten 7-3 with the men being outclassed losing all their sets 2-straight. The wins were recorded by Joyce Coop and Janet New.

The Senior 2nd team drew their home match with Avon II in Div. 3 (West). This encounter was very exciting with M. Doyle securing the draw at "deuce" in the third in the final set. Other wins were recorded by S. Gilson, J. Applin and Cyril Bush.

The Veterans 1st team went down to Hampshire 3-6 with J. Dale and D. Woodcock both below their best. The team relied on Bush and D. Robins to provide the wins.

The only success of the day was obtained by the Junior side which travelled to Brighton and won 7-3 in Div. 3 (S), with C. Creasey, S. New and J. Creasey going undefeated. R. Lee picked up a set and D. Goodman, making his debut, played well and should find the winning trail next time.

County rankings are:—

Men:

1. T. Smith (P)
2. J. Robinson (P)
3. M. Abbott (P)
4. J. Creasey (P)
5. R. Arney (S)
6. C. Bush (P)
7. M. Doyle (W)
8. S. Brice (W)
9. H. Davies (P)
10. R. Lee (P)
11. G. Hill (P)

Women:

1. J. Coop (P)
2. J. New (P)
3. J. Applin (P)
4. S. Gilson (P)
5. J. Haynes (P)
6. M. Tighe (P)
7. D. Robins (W)

Boys:

1. J. Creasey
2. R. Lee
3. D. Goodman (W)
4. S. Goodyear (W)
5. J. Warren (W)

Girls:

1. S. Gilson
2. C. Creasey (P)
3. S. New (P)
4. S. Cooper (P)

Veteran Men:

1. C. Bush
2. J. Dale (W)
3. D. Woodcock (P)
4. D. Joce (P)
5. N. Sugarhood (P)

6. J. Gilson (P)
 7. J. Curnow (W)
 8. H. Stamp (P)
 9. K. Pearce (W)
 10. A. Hislop (S)
 11. C. Plalster (W)
 12. T. McQuade (P)
 13. R. Terry (W)
- Veteran Women:**
1. J. Coop
 2. D. Robins
 3. I. Terry (W)
 4. P. New (P)

Key:

- P—Poole
W—Weymouth
Wi—Wimborne
S—Shaftesbury

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by GEORGE R. YATES

HILTON MOVES OVER

It would seem a ludicrous state of affairs that Lancashire have had to wait until Dec. 3 before engaging in their Division 2 (North) County Championships programme, away to Durham, and that their first home fixture of the season is not scheduled until Feb. 25 next year when they entertain Northumberland.

In the interim John Hilton has sought and been given his release by Cheshire — not without a deal of understandable dissent — and is now all set to team up with Donald Parker and Phil Bowen in the male section of the team which will otherwise comprise Wendy Shaw of Salford and Sue Alexander (nee Manning) of Liverpool. Christine Hancock has also made the move from Cheshire to the County Palatine.

The Senior second team began their programme away to Lincolnshire at Spalding on Nov. 5 but their efforts in going down 3-7 can be likened to a damp squib the wins coming from Steve Cowley (2) and Steve Turner (1). In the Junior Premier, Tony O'Connor and Paul Rainford have shown up well despite the two defeats inflicted thus far.

Congratulations to Parker in winning the men's singles title at Walsall, and the £125 that went with it, and also annexing the men's doubles title in partnership with Hilton, a repeat of their efforts in the Cumbria 2-Star.

Preston, without 'The Don', managed to force a 5-all draw with defending champions Manchester in Division 1 of the Lancashire and Cheshire League on Nov. 21 with Ian Smith beating both Brian Kean and Pete D'Arcy, the latter also losing to Turner and Alan Whittle. Smith and Turner also won the doubles against Bowen and Kean, Bowen registering a treble in single combat.

Prior to Manchester had defeated Liverpool (6-4) with O'Connor losing all three, Blackburn (8-2) and Stockport (9-1). Farnworth are now the only team left with a 100% record having beaten Liverpool (6-4) and Blackburn (6-4). They are represented by David Constance (ex Salford), Clive Heap and Bryn Farnworth. Against Liverpool both Constance and Heap had trebles, Constance being on the mark again against Blackburn when Farnworth beat both Alan Grimshaw and Cottrell, the latter also losing to Heap.

In Div. 2 (North) Bolton after opening with a 7-3 win away to Liverpool "A" brought off a surprise 6-4 win over Blackpool with Cowley claiming 3, Bob Jackson (2) and veteran Albert Smith a solo at the expense of a luckless county Junior Brian Carney. Much will be at stake on Dec. 16 when Bolton play hosts to Salford a team reinforced by the inclusion of Derek Schofield (ex Stockport), Brian Clements and Vince Mole.

CHINA DIARY

by GEOFFREY NICHOLSON
Sports Editor, The Observer

The sporting motto of the Chinese is 'Friendship First, Competition Second', and they take it literally. During our tour of China, Competition was very much the runner-up. In a fortnight there were only six training sessions and six tournaments, in all about 36 hours of table tennis.

The rest was Friendship, which took the form of nine-course banquets and six-course snacks, endless cups of tea with jasmine petals floating on the top, visits to ancient buildings and modern sports centres, to places of work — an embroidery factory and a fruit-growing commune — to monuments and museums. But beside all the official hospitality — what you might call the public Friendship — a good deal of private friendship, without the capital letter, also grew up. This was with some of the more outgoing opponents, but especially with the small posse of Chinese who were our particular hosts. I'm thinking of the treasurer of the Chinese table tennis federation, the three interpreters and the two men from Radio Peking who met us at the airport when we arrived and stayed with us until they saw us off at Canton station two weeks later.

A warm, courteous group of people, they were invariably helpful and cheerful, their company helping to take the curse off the more formal, ceremonial occasions.

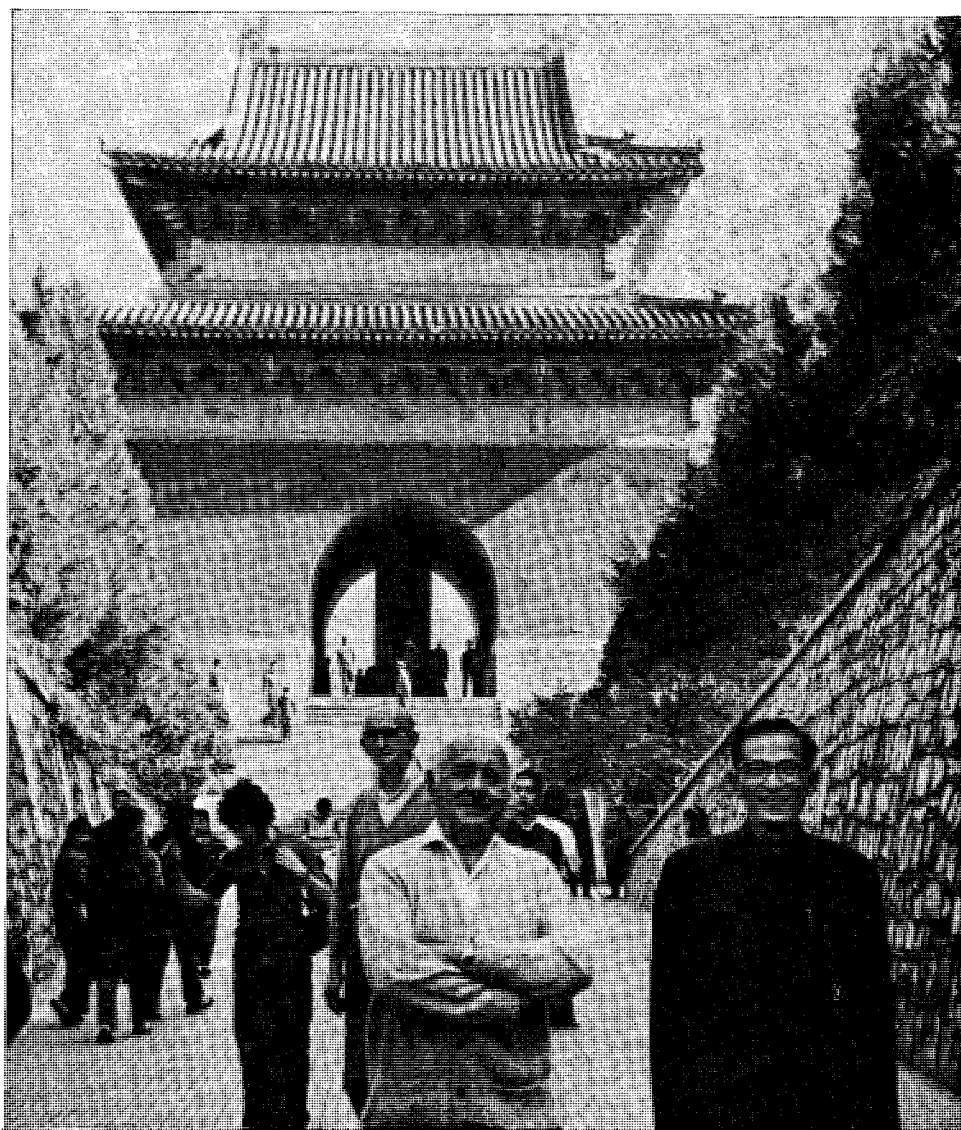
Clearly there were times when the English players itched to swop their chopsticks for a table tennis bat and just get on with the game. But my bet is that long after they have forgotten the details of the matches they played, they will still remember vividly the other remarkable experiences of their trip. These were so strange, so numerous, so closely packed into the space of fourteen days that they are probably best conveyed as notes from a diary.

SUNDAY, October 16 — Arrive in Peking after 16 hours in the air and an hour's stop at Tehran. Welcoming party from the table tennis federation, the national team and the British embassy. Then, in the airport lounge, as we waited for our luggage to be rounded up, the first of the long tea ceremonies which would punctuate our progress.

First impressions on the drive in to our hotel: the neat, unfenced plantations of apple-trees and grape vines using every inch of ground . . . the do-it-yourself brick huts built as temporary houses at the roadside after last year's earthquake . . . above all, the noise of the driver's horn. Peking must have fewer cars and more bicycles than any other capital city in the world, but by law a driver is obliged to hoot every time he overtakes anything on the road. The din is stupendous.

The Peking Hotel, our home for the next week, is vast, modern and well-appointed: constant hot water not only in the bathroom but also in giant thermos flasks on the bedroom cupboard so that we can make our own tea at any time. The first afternoon devoted to a kip — not only to recover from the exhaustion of the journey, but also to prepare for the equally exhausting banquet to come in the evening.

This is a nine-courser with constant toasts to Friendship in sweet red wine or a colourless white spirit with a vicious top-spin. Most of the food is delicious, some of it extremely exotic. A dish arrives on the



ETTA officials Charles Wyles (centre) and (behind) Tom Blunn at the Ming Tombs to whose right Duggie Johnson of Warwickshire appears set for the tango.

table containing pieces of chicken in what looks like a bed of sliced, stewed oranges. But the 'oranges' have an odd, savoury flavour. 'What are they?' asks Karen Witt, to which Radio Peking announces blandly, 'The stomachs of fishes.' Collapse of healthy appetite.

MONDAY — Regardless of jet-lag, the players have to wade straight in with a tournament against the Chinese national team. So at nine in the morning a coach to the Capital Stadium for training. A bright, sparkling place with a crowd capacity of 18,600; it's also used for basketball and volleyball and can be converted for ice hockey. What has England to offer in comparison? Certainly not the musty Empire Pool, Wembley.

That evening the hall is threequarters full, the audience attentive, restrained, fair-minded, though they burst into laughter whenever a Chinese player uses, and profits from, a particularly high lob service. This disconcerts our players. The crowd also thins out rapidly at 9.20 as though, as Bryan Merrett puts it, the last bus goes at half-past nine. It's a curious custom, which we notice at other tournaments here and in southern China. Presumably the Chinese, fanatical workers and early risers, feel they must get to bed each night at ten o'clock sharp.

TUESDAY — To the Summer Palace on the outskirts of the city. A magnificent group of buildings set on a man-made hill beside a man-made lake. Here the Emperors

came to escape the high-summer heat of Peking (although it's late in the year the temperature is still in the seventies). Now the people use it as a pleasure garden. They wander round the courtyards, through the pavilions, up across the hill, rubber-necking and taking photographs. So do we — then round off the visit after lunch by getting towed in a barge around the lake.

On the way back we call in at the Physical Culture Institute where a thousand students divide their time between manual labour and training in particular sports techniques. Our players join the specialist students on the table tennis tables; afterwards Bob Potton says his sparring partner was the hardest-hitting woman player he had ever come across. We see swimming, athletics, basketball, gymnastics being practised — not with particularly splendid facilities, but with a remarkable intensity and dedication.

That evening an hour back on British territory: drinks before dinner at the embassy.

WEDNESDAY — Another match day — this time at the Workers' Stadium, smaller (seats for 12,000) but hardly less well-appointed. Since it is not yet set up for training, a morning visit to the Forbidden City is arranged. Forbidden and forbidding with its high, deep-red walls. A city within a city of Peking where the Emperors, their concubines and their staff lived in the midst of almost depressing luxury.



Chairman Mao's birthplace provides the backdrop to this group photograph.

Like the Summer Palace, crowded with sight-seers; among them are a party of Tibetan schoolchildren with flags and drums. Most Chinese are camera-shy (at least when it's a European holding the camera), but two old men with wispy beards, who have come in from the country to see the sights, smile and pose happily for a photograph with Melody Ludi.

THURSDAY—Up early to drive out to the Great Wall. It's over 1,500 miles long, but near Peking only a small section has been put into sufficiently good repair to receive visitors. The wall is wide enough to drive a bus along, though it would never manage the gradients or get past the towers arranged at short intervals as strongpoints and lookout posts. We reach the highest point and see the wall snake away into the distance, a surprisingly beautiful addition to the landscape as it rises and falls and curves around the crest of the hills.

Just a frugal lunch today, which means chicken, cold meats, cucumber, hard-boiled eggs, cake, 'Dainty' milk chocolate, apples and pears. Well, suppose we'll stagger through until teatime.

On the return journey a visit to the Ming tombs, enormous vaults beneath the hills, but disappointingly empty. At last the luxury of a free evening, except for those who go to see a Chinese team beat a Yugoslav youth team at volleyball.

FRIDAY—First a privileged visit to the mausoleum where the body of Chairman Mao Tse-tung lies in state. Thousands of people in the square outside drawn up platoons. In strict order they form double lines and make their way slowly to the steps of the mausoleum. Yet for all their numbers there is not a sound outside, or as we file through past the more-than-lifesize statue of Mao and then into the room with the crystal-topped catafalque which holds the body. So, with equally slow silence, out again into the light.

The players go off to practise for their second match at the Workers Stadium, and the officials are taken for a ride on the Underground — which is just like, well, an underground railway, though more scrupulously clean than most.

SATURDAY—The Peking stage is over. This morning we are up at six to drive to the airport (all the recreation grounds we pass are already alive with basketball matches) where we breakfast. The plane that will take us south to Changsha is a Viscount with reassuring Rolls Royce engines. All very western (sweets and

chewing gum at take-off) except that after the stewardess has distributed the inevitable cups of tea, she comes down the aisle to top them up from a large kitchen kettle. Some three hours later we are in the Hunan Hotel, comfortable enough but older and drabber than the Peking.

The temperature is now in the upper seventies or lower eighties, and to remind us that we are nearing the tropics, there are mosquito nets over the beds.

The players aren't too impressed with Changsha, an industrial city where nothing much looks like happening. But the evening banquet is jolly with lots of toasts — and 'Bless this House' from Mrs. Blunn which Radio Peking records.

SUNDAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY. Only one match in three days, but a great deal of sight-seeing — most of the sights being connected with Chairman Mao who spent a great deal of his early life here. We travel out to Shaoshan to see his birthplace, a handsome but unpretentious house set in countryside where the soil is as red as in Devon . . . Orange Island where he swam . . . the teacher training college where he was both a student and a teacher . . . the house in which he lived . . . the pavilion in

the park where he held political discussions with his followers.

We also visit a museum where they display the only-too-well preserved remains of a woman who had lived 2,000 years before. And an embroidery factory where by hand and with machine the needlewomen work with incredible skill to produce traditional designs and modern embroidered pictures of political scenes.

On Tuesday evening we fly on to Canton, an hour to the south and several degrees hotter.

WEDNESDAY—Canton is more to the players' liking: livelier, noisier, more cosmopolitan — especially at the moment for the Tung Fang hotel, where we are staying, is directly opposite the Export Commodities Fair and many English and American buyers are about the place.

While the players go off to practise in a more cheerful frame of mind, the rest of us decline the chance to see a surgical operation by acupuncture and instead go on a gentle scenic tour out into the hills.

THURSDAY—Our main Canton outing (since it's a rest day for the players): a tour of the Luogang commune 25 miles away. You think of a commune as a village, but this is a network of small communities with a population of 27,000 and an area of 11,000 acres under cultivation. It specialises in fruit growing, has its own processing plant for preserved fruit and honey, its own irrigation scheme, reservoir and power station — all of them self-created. Were the people happy? How can you tell? All we could see was that they appeared well fed, well clothed, energetic and cheerful. They were self-sufficient and improving their lot, and who could deny their sense of achievement?

That evening a reception given by Mr. Jack Perry, the sponsor of this tour, with a table of food which didn't just groan but cried out for help. Afterwards a visit to the theatre to hear and watch Songs and Dances of China's Nationalities. Vocal Music with titles like 'Chairman Hua, the People of All Our Nationalities Love You' (never make number one, you'd imagine), but vividly performed and powerfully impressive.

FRIDAY—A match day, so just over the road in the afternoon to the Fair. A trade fair is always a trade fair. Displays of machine tools and fabrics and kitchen pots either grab you or they don't. But what made this fair different was the constant reminder to its capitalist visitors that the products they wanted to buy were the



Inspecting cooking utensils at the former home of Mao Tse-tung.

products of a communist system. In the entrance hall was displayed this quotation from Chairman Mao: 'The theoretical basis guiding our thinking is Marxism-Leninism.' Even to win customers, the Chinese don't mince words.

SATURDAY — Departure for Hong Kong where we would catch the plane for London. At Canton station many who had seen us arrive now saw us off. Except they weren't the same people, for we had got to know them and enjoy their company. Friendship first and last, in fact, with just a little competition in the middle.

POSTSCRIPT

It was in Changsa that the English team had their first success — the men beating Hunan 5-3, although the women went down 2-6 and met the player they would most have liked to bring home with them just to enjoy his impact on English table tennis. This was Wang Yen-kaio, a small 14-year-old with an urchin grin who in his short blue shorts and maroon sports shirt looked as if he had just wandered in from a day on the beach. In fact he was Hunan's No. 1 player.

Wang, who uses a pengrip on his bat and has no false modesty, was willing to show anyone who asked the top joint of the middle finger of his right hand which had developed hard skin to twice its normal thickness after hours at the table. Still, Wang's most distinctive feature was not his finger but his service. Although well under 5ft. tall he uses a loftier lob service than even the Chinese National players. He began by throwing the ball up 10 to 11 feet. Then cheered on by the crowd who liked his impertinence, threw higher and higher.

In their anxiety to force at least a draw Hunan played Wang and their No. 2 Huo, against the English Nos. 3 and 4 Bob Potton and Dougie Johnson. In the event Potton managed to beat the young master to take the winning set. Wang's service, though spectacular, lacked something in control and with help from his corner Potton learned to read its delivery.

Wang himself wasn't in the least put out. Potton got him to demonstrate in slow motion the final disguising swivel of his hand. "You crafty bugger" said Potton and Wang grinned once more. Later their friendship was sealed by Potton giving Wang some English coins and a copy of Table Tennis News and Wang giving Potton



"Try this" is what Li Fu-yung could be saying to ETTA Chairman Charles Wyles.

his little enamel badge which showed he was proficient in volume five of Mao's works.

The first match in Canton against Kwangtung Province left the men 2-6 down but gave the women their best result, defeat by only 3-5. This was achieved by Karen Witt who came back from 15-20 down to win 23-21 in the last set of the evening.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ARTIFICIAL DISTINCTION

I re-read Mal Anderson's article in the January 1976 issue, following his letter in last month's "Table Tennis News".

The U.S. classification system is not the only established, proven system available — we have also looked at Swedish, French and German grading systems.

The chief difference between these and the U.S. system is that the latter rates every player higher or lower than every other player (unless equal on points total), and therefore the ratings are constantly

changing. The results must also be fed into the system in chronological order, otherwise false ratings may result. These features must require considerable administrative effort. Lower down the scale of playing ability the system also creates, to my mind, a rather artificial distinction between players.

The European systems (particularly the Swedish system) put players into grades or classes, and promotion (or relegation) between the classes is based on overall performance, not an individual result.

Whatever scheme we eventually adopt (and I hope we do make the effort to institute some system in the immediate future), the main problem is finance. At present, players entering open tournaments and playing in senior events pay a 10p E.T.T.A. levy. This will have to be drastically increased, or alternatively, an individual affiliation system will have to be brought in. Nevertheless, I feel that the benefits gained would certainly be worth the increased costs.

TONY ROSS

70 Davenport Avenue,
Hessle, North Humberside.

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Men's Singles Champion David Tan (left), with Mr. Ken Oliver, director of co-sponsors Fairview Estates, and losing finalist Peter McQueen.

Photo by David Dalby, Charterhouse Square, London E.C.1.

NORTH MIDDLESEX 2-STAR OPEN

TRIPLE VICTORY FOR JILL

England's European champion Jill Hammersley carried all before her at Alexandra Palace over the weekend of Oct. 22/23.

Jill took the Women's Single title and, with her partners, the Women's and Mixed Doubles in the North Middlesex Open Championships, played in the Grand Hall of the palace.

In the singles Jill, the No. 1 seed, had a comfortable victory over Angela Mitchell, who plays for the Ellenborough club, Enfield.

Partnered with Anita Stevenson, this pair took the Doubles against Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith, and in the Mixed, Jill and her partner Alan Fletcher beat Ian Horsham and Lesley Radford.

The tournament, co-sponsored by Fairview Estates, the Enfield-based property investment and housing group, and Ascot Sports, attracted many leading players to compete for the honours and £500 prize money.

Desmond Douglas, the men's No. 1 seed and holder of the Singles title, failed to arrive in time to compete, through a delayed flight from Germany, where he had been playing.

Second seed Andrew Barden was beaten in the quarter finals by Mark Mitchell, of the Ellenborough club, brother of the losing Women's Singles finalist, who himself lost in the next round to East Finchley's David Tan. In the final, Tan met unseeded Peter McQueen, beating the Cleveland player in a close first game and a convincing second of what was a superb match.

Results:
MS: D. Tan (M) bt P. McQueen (Cv) 18, 9.
MD: P. Gutterman (M)/A. Fletcher (Y) bt D. Iszatt/D. Newman (E) -19, 15, 14.
WS: J. Hammersley (Bu) bt A. Mitchell (M) 12, 13.
WD: Hammersley/A. Stevenson (Le) bt A. Gordon/M. Smith (Bk) 9, 16.

XD: Fletcher/Hammersley bt I. Horsham/L. Radford (E) 7, 24.

BS: K. Jackson (E) bt D. Barr (Bk) 13, 18.

GS: Gordon bt Smith -15, 13, 20.

VS: G. Chapman (Sy) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) 18, 13.

REVISED SENIOR RANKINGS

JILL BACK TO NUMBER ONE

by The Editor

Following on her third time title winning success in the Hungarian Open, and at Hull in the Dunlop Humberside 3-Star Open, **Jill Hammersley** has been reinstated as England's leading lady in the first senior ranking list of the season issued by the ETTA's national selection committee who met at Birmingham coincident with the Halex Midland Counties 3-Star Open on Nov. 20.

As to be expected **Desmond Douglas** retains his No. 1 position in the men's list but Denis Neale, previously at No. 2, has been replaced by Paul Day who, in the Hungarian Open, twice defeated former world champion Istvan Jonyer, both in the team events and in the men's singles as well as accounting for Jochen Leiss of Federal Germany.

Andy Barden has been tumbled down to No. 7 having previously been at No. 4 whilst Nicky Jarvis, now fully fit again, is included at No. 5 behind his former Cleveland colleague Jimmy Walker now living in Federal Germany and playing for TTC GW Bad Hamm behind Denmark's Claus Pedersen.

Results obtained in the Walsall tournament were not taken into consideration when the following lists were compiled (previous placings in brackets):—

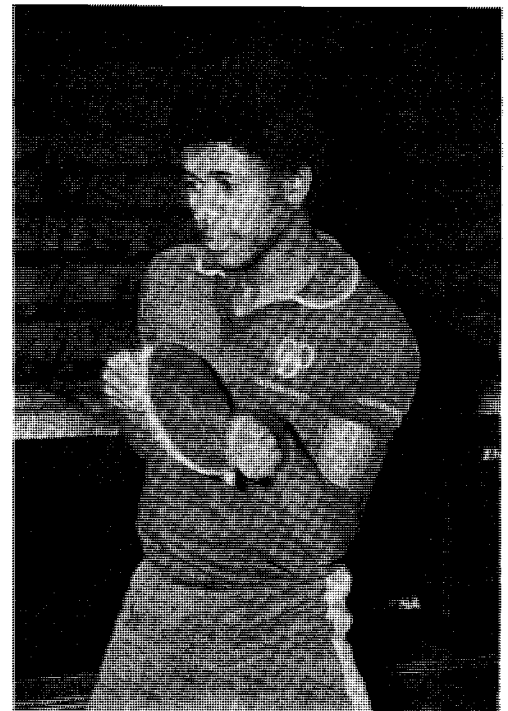
- Men:**
1. D. Douglas (Wa) (1)
 2. P. Day (Ca) (3)
 3. D. Neale (Cv) (2)
 4. J. Walker (Cv) (5)
 5. N. Jarvis (Cv) (4A)

6. J. Hilton (La) (6)
7. A. Barden (Mi) (4)
8. M. Crimmins (Sy) (9)
9. N. Eckersley (Ch) (7)
10. R. Potton (E) (8)
11. I. Horsham (E) (10)
12. D. Parker (La) (11)
13. J. Dabin (K) (16)
14. D. Tan (M) (17)
15. C. Sewell (Av) (15)
16. D. Johnson (Wa) (13)
17. M. Shuttle (Sy) (12)
18. M. Mitchell (Mi) (—)
19. D. Constance (Ch) (18)
20. R. Wiley (Cv) (14)

Women:

1. J. Hammersley (Bu) (2)
2. C. Knight (Cv) (1)
3. L. Howard (Sy) (3)
4. S. Lise (Ch) (6)
5. K. Rogers (Le) (7)
6. K. Witt (Bk) (5)
7. M. Ludi (Y) (4)
8. A. Stevenson (Le) (8)
9. A. Mitchell (Mi) (11)
10. A. Tierney (Cv) (13)
11. L. Radford (E) (9)
12. S. Hession (E) (10)
13. S. Hunt (Li) (12)
14. M. Smith (Bk) (—)
15. A. Gordon (Bk) (—)
16. J. Williams (Cv) (14)

John Kitchener (Sk) and D. Brown (E) previously listed at Nos. 19 and 20 are excluded the one newcomer to the men's list being Mark Mitchell whilst the young Berkshire pair Mandy Smith and Alison Gordon come into the women's list which has been extended by two positions.



Warwickshire's Desmond Douglas still the kingpin at the head of the men's list.

Photo by F. Davies (Bolton)

IRISH DECLAIMER

Norman Sloan, the Secretary of the Irish Table Tennis Association, disclaims the 'black mark' admonishment that appeared in the November issue (On the International Front — Page 3).

The Irish team did start out on the journey to Bulgaria and all the relevant facts will be published in the next issue.

Ed.

HALEX 49th MIDLAND COUNTIES 3-STAR OPEN

PARKER'S PIECE

by Geo. R. Yates

In the absence of Desmond Douglas who, because of his commitments for his Federal German club, PSV Borussia Dusseldorf, was unable to defend his men's singles title at the Alumwell Centre, Walsall over the weekend of Nov. 19/20 no less than three of the top four seeds failed to reach the semi-final stage.

Top seed Denis Neale was the first to depart beaten in the second round by Donald Parker (18, 11) the Lancastrian thence going from strength to strength to capture the title and the £125 that went with it.

Andy Barden, seeded No. 3 was ousted in the same round by John Dabin who subsequently fell to Maxwell Crimmins. Second-seeded Paul Day met his Waterloo in the quarters when seen off by the beaten finalist Nigel Eckersley.

In the semis, Parker beat Crimmins whilst Jarvis, the No. 4 seed was toppled by Eckersley who fought so valiantly in the final encounter yet could only stand and stare when with the score at 19-17 in his favour, Parker unleashed a whiplash forehand that spelt doom for the Cheshire man . . . and it was.

Lower order seedings in the persons of John Hilton, now of Lancashire, fell to Crimmins (-11, 22, 13); Bob Potton to Chris Sewell (18, -20, 11) and Martin Shuttle to Mark Mitchell.

In the women's singles event won by Jill Hammersley — her second 3-Star success — the main shock was the quarter-final defeat of top seed Carole Knight by Anita Stevenson not that it did the Leicestershire girl much good for she fell to Linda Howard in the semis. In the other Jill was hardly extended in beating Melody Ludi.

Malcolm Green did himself a power of

good in beating the No. 1 seed David Barr in the semis of the boys singles going on to account for Colin Wilson in the final. Second seed Kenny Jackson had his semi-final place taken by Andrew Rich as did Graham Sandley by Kevin Satchell who then succumbed to Stephen Yallop conqueror of Tony O'Connor. In the counter-part girls' event Karen Witt showed a clean pair of heels to all her opponents including her final one Mandy Smith.

Lancashire's new combination of Parker and Hilton succeeded in the men's doubles in which such notable pairs as Barden/Jarvis, Neale/Sandley and Potton/Shuttle fell by the wayside as did Clayton/Landry to Crimmins/Barr.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Parker (La) bt B. Hayward (Wa) 20, 17;
M. Crimmins (Sy) bt J. Dabin (K) 16, 17;
N. Jarvis (Cv) bt C. Sewell (Av) 10, -19, 16;
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt P. Day (Ca) -19, 18, 18.

Semi-finals:

Parker bt Crimmins 18, -12, 12;
Eckersley bt Jarvis 13, 12.

Final:

PARKER bt Eckersley -16, 10, 17.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

A. Stevenson (Le) bt C. Knight (Cv)
-18, 18, 11;

L. Howard (Sy) bt A. Mitchell (Mi) 19, 19;
M. Ludi (Y) bt K. Rogers (Le) 14, 12;
J Hammersley (Bu) bt K. Witt (Bk) 9, 15.

Semi-finals:

Howard bt Stevenson 11, 22;
Hammersley bt Ludi 11, 12.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 10, 10.

Mens' Doubles: Semi-finals:

D. Johnson/D. Munt (Wa) bt R. Potton
(E)/M. Shuttle (Sy) 16, 14;
J Hilton (La)/Parker bt Eckersley/A.
Fletcher (Y) 14, 10.

Final:

HILTON/PARKER bt Johnson/Munt 12, 11.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Hammersley/Howard bt Ludi/Witt 19, 15;
Knight/Stevenson bt S. Hunt (Li)/Rogers
-16, 14, 10.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Knight/
Stevenson 14, 19.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

Eckersley/Witt bt A. Barden (Mi)/

Hammersley -20, 18, 17.

Jarvis/Knight bt Hilton/Rogers -13, 10, 16.

Final:

JARVIS/KNIGHT bt Eckersley/Witt 14, 19.

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Barr (Bk) bt M. Owen (He) 14, -17, 19;
M. Green (Sp) bt A. Bellingham (St)
13, 20;

S. Yallop (Dy) bt K. Satchell (Wi)
17, -21, 19;

C. Wilson (Mi) bt A. Rich (St) 20, 16.

Semi-finals:

Green bt Barr 17, 18;
Wilson bt Yallop 11, 16

Final:

GREEN bt Wilson 12, -11, 13.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Witt bt S. Gilson (Do) 4, 12;
A. Tierney (Cv) bt G. Pritchard (Dv) 16, 7;
M. Smith (Bk) bt C. Butler (Dv) 8, 13;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt R. Mackriel (Wa) 15, 17.

Semi-finals:

Witt bt Tierney 15, 18;
Smith bt Gordon 4, 16.

Final:

WITT bt Smith 13, 14.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

D. Charley (E)/Wilson bt Barr/K. Jackson
(E) 17, 17;

A. O'Connor (La)/G. Sandley (Mi) bt
Owen/M. Owens (Hr) 12, 12.

Final:

O'CONNOR/SANDLEY bt Charley/Wilson
-17, 19, 21.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

Tierney/Witt bt Pritchard/L. Taylor (Bk)
8, 14;

Mackriel/H. Williams (Mi) bt Gordon/
Smith 16, 18.

Final:

TIERNEY/WITT bt Mackriel/Williams
-19, 14, 14.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt J. Peakman (Wa) 8, 12;
D. Marples (Dy) bt R. Morris (So) 12, 13.

Final:

D'ARCY bt Marples 15, 15.

ANGLO-SWEDISH ENCOUNTERS

For their home European League Super Division match against Sweden at Gloucester Leisure Centre, Station Road, Gloucester on Thursday, Dec. 15 (7.15 p.m.) England have chosen the following team:- D. Douglas, P. Day, N. Jarvis, Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard.

On the following night, against the same opposition at Sturchley Recreation Centre, Sturchley, Telford (7 p.m.) the team will be P. Day, N. Jarvis, J. Hilton and Carole Knight. This for a friendly international.

PLEASE NOTE:

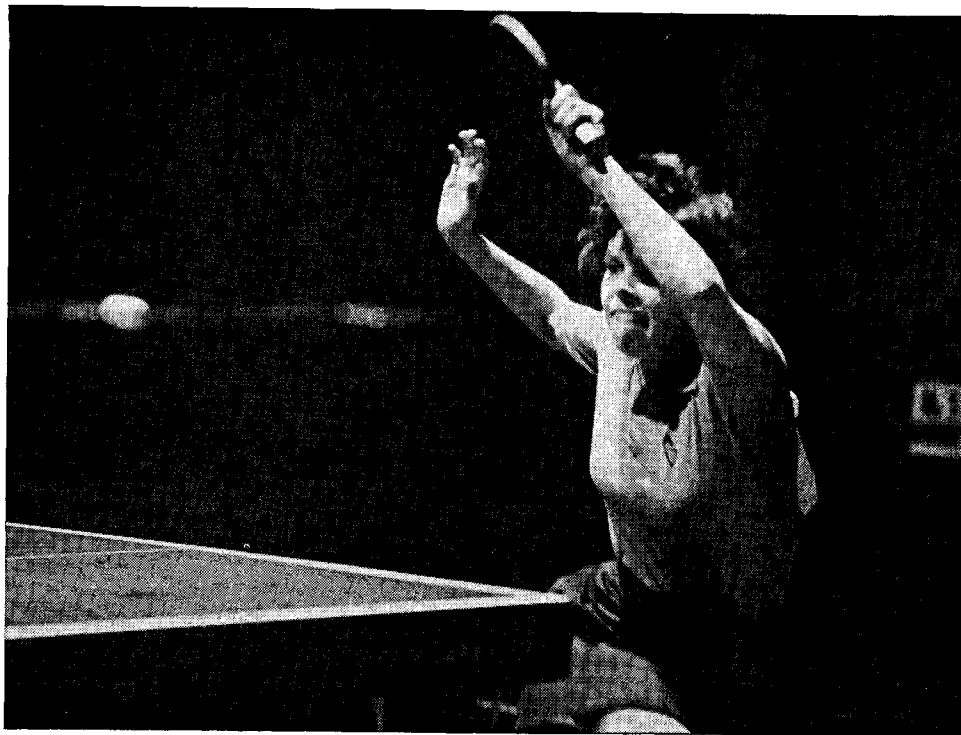
OWING TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS PRODUCTION OF THE JANUARY ISSUE OF "TABLE TENNIS NEWS" WILL BE SLIGHTLY DELAYED.

DUTCH OPPORTUNITY

The Dutch table tennis club St. Aloysius at Graauw in the southern part of the Netherlands which plays in the top ladies division is looking for an urgent replacement for their former third girl.

Accommodation and work available.

If you are interested, please write for further details to A. Mens, Gentsestraat 44, Hulst (Zeeland), Holland, telephone number: 01140 - 4236.



Leicestershire's Anita Stevenson victor over top seed Carole Knight at Walsall.
Photo by Tony Ross, Hessele.

SALFORD, ECCLES & DISTRICT 2-STAR OPEN

BLOOD SPORT AT STRETFORD
by Geo. R. Yates

Chris Rogers, unseeded and in his first season out of the junior ranks, was the deserved winner of the men's singles title in the Salford, Eccles and District 2-Star Open, sponsored by Euro Vent Leisure (UK) Ltd. at Stretford Sports and Leisure Centre on Nov. 27.

At the end of the proceedings such notable scalps as those of Nigel Eckersley, David Constance, Dougie Johnson and John Hilton dangled from the belt of the young Leicester star whose form throughout a long day never varied.

Defending title holder Donald Parker, fresh from his victory in the Midland Counties 3-Star, fell to Hilton in the semis but the main buzz was created by the eclipse of top seed Denis Neale by young Mark Hankey of Cheshire who triumphed 18, 19 against a player who seemed to have lost the will to win.

But Hankey failed to make much progression being ousted in the fourth round by Tony O'Connor who, in turn fell to Johnson. Two other young prospects in the persons of Graham Sandley and Steven Mills also fell by the wayside, the former to veteran Derek Schofield and the latter to Parker.

Susan Lisle, the defending title holder and top seed in the women's singles, suffered a second round defeat to Linda

Hryszko who lost in the semis to the eventual winner, Anita Stevenson whose final win over Karen Rogers was hard-fought.

Another title holder to have his grip undone was Peter D'Arcy, in the veterans' singles, when beaten by George Evans, the Barry player going on to defeat the arch-veteran Schofield in the final.

Results:-

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Johnson (Wa) bt A. O'Connor (La) 13, 13;
C. Rogers (Le) bt D. Constance (Ch) 13, 13;
D. Parker (La) bt K. Beadsley (Y)

19, -14, 18;
J. Hilton (La) bt D. Schofield (Ch) 7, 13.

Semi-finals:

Rogers bt Johnson 8, 11;
Hilton bt Parker 16, 14.

Final:

ROGERS bt Hilton -19, 20, 16.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

L. Hryszko (Y) bt S. Lisle (Ch) 21, -13, 14;
A. Stevenson (Le) bt S. Midgley (Y)

-17, 20, 16;
S. Hunt (Li) bt J. Harris (St) 15, 9;

K. Rogers (Le) bt L. Holmes (Dy) 8, 9.

Semi-finals:

Stevenson bt Hryszko 10, 14;
Rogers bt Hunt 25, 18.

Final:

STEVENSON bt Rogers -19, 19, 14.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

N. Eckersley (Ch)/A. Fletcher (Y) bt
D. Neale (Cv)/G. Sandley (Mi) 20, 15;
Hilton/Parker bt G. Evans/J. Bloomer
(Wales) 16, 9.

Final:

HILTON/PARKER bt Eckersley/Fletcher
18, -18, 16.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Lisle/Stevenson bt Hryszko/Midgley 10, 16;
Hunt/Rogers bt Holmes/A. Marples (Dy)
4, 15.

Final:
LISLE/STEVENSON bt Hunt/Rogers 16, 17.

Veteran Singles: Quarter-finals:

Evans bt D. Marples (Dy) 14, 9;
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt P. Hancock (St) 14, 9;
M. Tew (Ch) bt G. Excell (Ch) 12, 16;
D. Schofield bt T. Donlon (Ch) 16, 9.

Semi-finals:

Evans bt D'Arcy 15, 14;
Schofield bt Tew 21, 19.

Final:

EVANS bt Schofield 18, 12.

BRIGHTON BONANZA

A mini world championships is scheduled for the Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton next month (Jan. 12/14) when the Norwich Union International Championships hold sway.

No less than thirteen countries have signified their acceptance of the invitation to compete the foremost amongst them being the People's Republic of China and Japan.

From down under will be teams from Australia and New Zealand and, from Europe, Czechoslovakia, France, Holland, Poland and Yugoslavia. Also involved will be the home countries England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Admission prices are £1 for Thursday and Friday with children and pensioners at half price. No reductions however for the Saturday when admission for the morning session will be 60p and, for the finals in the afternoon, £2 and £1.

Tickets may be obtained from the ETTA Office at 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA or from the Box Office, at Brighton's Dome Theatre.

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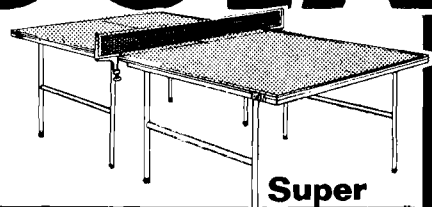
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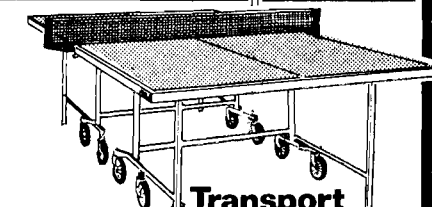
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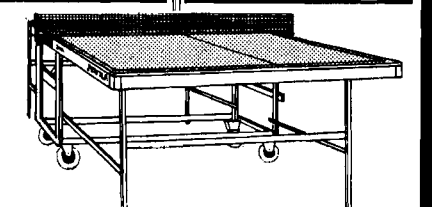
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CHINA'S 1977 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Li Pao-hua

China's 1977 national table tennis championships were held in Shanghai in September. 21-year-old Kuo Yao-hua of Fukien province won the men's singles title. On his way to the title, pen-holder Kuo won against many noted players by his heavy and variably-angled loop drives.

Commenting on Kuo's performance at the championships, Chinese coaches said that he had attained a "new level" in loop drive technique. In his style the looper, positioning himself close to the table, hits the ball at a high point on the upper part with quick movement, a limited sweep of the arm and a flexible placing.

Kuo's good footwork helped him defeat many top-notch players. He played continuous low and quick loops while he was moving fast close to the table.

Liang Ko-liang, a noted player from the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region, won second place in the event at the championships. Holding the bat with a tennis grip, Liang played a game combining attack and chop.

In the women's singles final, tennis grip player Huang Hsi-ping of Shanghai with her heavy loop drives and continuous smashes defeated Yang Ying of Szechwan province three straight. Yang Ying, a pen-holder, is also noted for her loop-drive play.

Winners of the men's and women's singles titles in the championships are both loop-drive players. It is recalled that close-to-the-table fast attackers who attacked with

both forehand and backhand carried off the men's and women's singles titles in the previous national championships.

Chinese table tennis experts said this was indicative of the technical development of Chinese table tennis during the last few years, a development marked by speed over powering spin and spin checking speed with the two promoting each other.

One hundred teams with a total of 446 players from 39 units in various parts of China were entered in the championships. Ninety per cent of the players were under 20.

The championships lasted 14 days. Many matches were held in factories, rural people's communes, army barracks and schools apart from Shanghai's gymnasiums. This was an effort to popularize table tennis among the masses. The working people and teenagers got the chance to watch the exciting games near their homes.

The players helped one another in training sessions before they met in competition. After competition they exchanged experience in a cordial atmosphere so as to make common progress.

Thirty-six matches were each extended to 8 or 9 sets in the first stage of the men's team event, while 25 matches to 5 sets in the first stage of the women's team event. This indicated that all the teams were matched in skill and improvement had been made by all.

The diversity of play in the championships exceeded that of any previous championships. Another significant feature is that many players displayed a style combining the Chinese, Japanese and European ways of playing, while progress has been made in the traditional Chinese close-table fast attack.

Spectators noticed a brilliant exchange of drives in an encounter of two pen-holders who played a fast attacking game close to the table. When one was drawn away from the table, he countered farther from the table with both forehand and backhand drives so as to free himself from a defensive position, which was usual

previously with a fast attacker being compelled to give up the close-table position.

The championships showed highly-skilled services unique to China, including the high toss and low toss, had been mastered by most players. The attack was very successful following the heavily-spinned placement service.

Following are the championships results:-

- Men's Team Event**
1. Peking "A" Team
 2. "August 1" "A"
 3. Liaoning "A"

- Women's Team Event**
1. Shanghai "A"
 2. Honan "A"
 3. Heilungkiang "A"

- Men's Singles**
1. Kuo Yao-hua
 2. Liang Ko-liang.
 3. Huang Tung-sheng

Kuo Yao-hua bt Liang Ko-liang 3-0 (17, 12, 15).

- Women's Singles**
1. Huang Hsi-ping
 2. Yang Ying
 3. Chang Teh-ying

Huang Hsi-ping bt Yang Ying 3-0 (17, 19, 14).

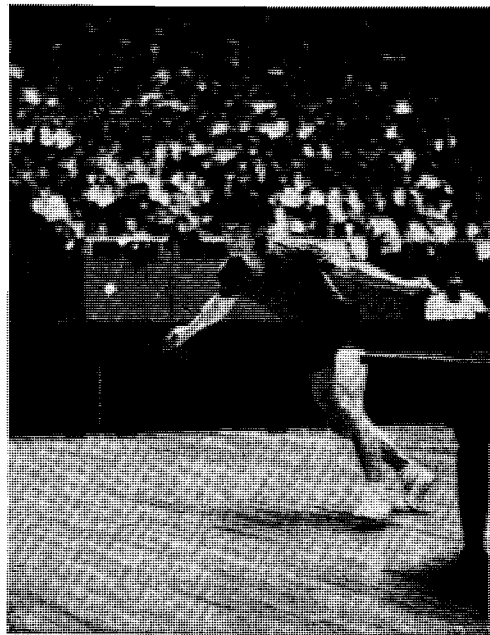
- Men's Doubles**
1. Li Yu-chiang, Wang Chien-chiang.
 2. Li Chen-shih, Liang Ko-liang.
 3. Kuo Yao-hua, Liao Fu-min.

Li Yu-chiang, Wang Chien-chiang bt Li Chen-shih, Liang Ko-liang 3-0 (11, 21, 23).

- Women's Doubles**
1. Huang Hsi-ping, Chou Chen-yen.
 2. Chang Li, Ko Hsin-ai.
 3. Chu Hsiang-yun, Wei Li-chieh.

Huang Hsi-ping, Chou Chen-yen bt Chang Li, Ko Hsin-ai 3-2 (-19, 13, -15, 25, 18).

- Mixed Doubles**
1. Kuo Yao-hua, Chang Li.
 2. Liang Ko-liang, Ko Hsin-ai.
 3. Liao Fu-min, Li Ming.
- Kuo Yao-hua, Chang Li bt Liang Ko-liang, Ko Hsin-ai 3-0 (18, 11, 7).



Kuo Yao-hua, winner of the men's singles title of China's 1977 national table tennis championships.

£1,100 PRIZE FUND

£200 out of a total prize fund of £1,100 will go to the winner of the men's singles event in this season's 4th County of Cleveland 3-Star Open being staged at Thornaby Pavilion over the weekend of January 7/8, 1978. Winner of the women's singles will qualify for £100, also in cash.

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David Iszatt unbeaten against Norfolk.

UNINSPIRED WIN

The second round of County matches saw our teams score a number of successes and everything points to quite a good campaign for the 1977-78 season.

The Senior Premier team had a non too inspiring win over Glamorgan at the Fellows Cranleigh Club and Lesley Radford and David Newman both had crucial wins at vital stages in the match when things could easily have gone against us. It was left to Ian Horsham to scramble the final win over Michael Owen to give us the 5-4 win.

Our second team also entertained Norfolk, this time at the Mid Essex Transport clubroom at Maldon. Here again we spluttered at the start before getting into top gear. David Iszatt was unbeaten as was Shelagh Hession and Linda Barrow. Kevin Caldon and Les Eadie both being slow starters in this one. In fact at one stage in this match we could easily have been four sets adrift instead of 2-all. The final six sets however went our way convincingly.

Essex Senior III travelled to meet Herts 2nd and found themselves on the receiving end to the tune of 7-3. Nearly all the sets in this match went to a third game and, unfortunately, we found ourselves losing the close ones. Leon Smith and Peter Hunt each picked up a useful singles win in this encounter.

The Junior Premier team made the long trek to Plymouth to meet Devon and Ron Gore's intrepid travellers returned home victorious by 8-2. The boys Kenny Jackson, Stuart Kimm and Des Charlery were all unbeaten while Helen Gore notched a success in the girls' singles.

Against Hampshire the Junior 2nd team had few problems and Tony Penney, Skylet Andrews, Stephen Low, Julie Dowsett and Maxine Abbott made short work of the opposition 10-0 all two-straight. The Juniors 3rds visited Hants II and they too had a comfortable 8-2 win with Terry Dowsett, Richard Veale and Kim Mudge all unbeaten.

Our Veterans 1st team won well over

Sussex 7-2 but our second team had to give second best to Middlesex 3-6 despite a spirited performance from Florence Birbeck.

The Senior Selection Committee have recently issued a revised ranking list which is:—

- Men**
1. R. Potton
 2. I. Horsham
 3. D Newman
 4. D. Iszatt
 5. K. Caldon
 6. I. Robertson
 7. L. Eadie
 8. K. Jackson
 9. S. Gibbs
 10. L. Smith
 11. B. Malley
 12. P. Hunt
 13. J. Drew
 14. S. Kimm
 15. T. Penney
 16. A. Bawden
 17. D. Charlery

- Women**
1. L. Radford
 2. S. Hession
 3. L. Barrow
 4. E. Foulds
 5. J. Livesey
 6. G. Locke
 7. E. Sayer
 8. Y. Brown
 9. H. Gore
 10. J. Dowsett
 11. J. Boulter
 12. M. Abbott

The Southend League have once again successfully staged their Open Tournament sponsored by the Midland Bank with excellent performances from a number of our Essex Squad members. Lesley Radford did very well to win the women's singles while Kenny Jackson notched another junior crown to add to his growing tally. The tournament was organised by Mike Watts and refereed by Gordon Lightfoot.

Next two major tournaments in the County are the Essex Closed at St. Chad's School, Tilbury on Mar. 4/5 followed by the Bairstow Eves Essex 3-Star Open at Wanstead Sports Centre on May 6/7.

A team representing the Borough of Havering faced a team from Ealing in the first round of the London Inter-Borough competition. This is a new competition competed for by all the London Boroughs and teams consist of three men and two women, with each player playing 2 sets of singles. In the Havering team Lesley

Radford, Jane Livesey, Kenny Jackson and Jeff Drew, who all play in the Romford League. The match was won by Havering 8-2. One of the women in the Ealing team was England International Shelagh Hession. In the next round, Havering meet either Harrow or Bromley.

Our own Essex Inter-League championships have just got under way with Dick Roffe at the helm and the full list of divisions is:—

- MENS DIVISIONS —**
- Div. 1 Chelmsford A; Dagenham; Romford A; Southend A; Harlow.
 - Div. 2 Basildon A; Billericay A; Walthamstow; Romford B; Southend B.
 - Div. 3 Ilford; Colchester A; Clacton A; Barking; Basildon B.
 - Div. 4 Billericay B; Braintree A; Becontree; Colchester B; Chelmsford B.
 - Div. 5 Burnham A; Clacton B; Braintree B; Southend C; Basildon C.

- MIXED DIVISIONS —**
- Div. 1 Chelmsford; Romford; Dagenham A; Walthamstow; Harlow.
 - Div. 2 Ilford; Thurrock A; Colchester A; Dagenham B; Basildon.
 - Div. 3 Thurrock B; Becontree A; Barking; Colchester B; Clacton.
 - Div. 4 Thurrock C; West Essex; Burnham; Becontree B; Braintree.

- LADIES DIVISIONS —**
- Div. 1 Ilford; Walthamstow; Basildon; Chelmsford; Colchester.
 - Div. 2 Braintree; Clacton; Burnham; Southend; Billericay.

- VETERANS DIVISION —**
- Div. 1 Billericay A; Romford A; Dagenham A; Southend A; Barking A; Colchester A.
 - Div. 2 Romford B; Harlow A; Ilford A; Southend B; Thurrock A; Chelmsford A.
 - Div. 3 Clacton A; Harlow B; Braintree A; Colchester B; asldon A; arking B.
 - Div. 4 Ilford B; Romford C; Basildon B; Chelmsford B; Walthamstow; Becontree A.
 - Div. 5 Dagenham B; Burnham A; West Essex; Billericay B; Colchester C; Clacton B.
 - Div. 6 Ilford C; Barking C; Chelmsford C; Harlow C; Thurrock B; Becontree B.
 - Div. 7 Colchester D; Becontree C; Braintree B; Ilford D; Burnham B; Thurrock C.

- JUNIOR DIVISIONS —**
- Div. 1 Romford A; Barking A; Chelmsford A; Dagenham A; Harlow A; Silvertown.
 - Div. 2 Billericay A; Dagenham B; Colchester; Ilford A; Basildon A; Clacton A.
 - Div. 3 Braintree; Romford B; Walthamstow A. Billericay B; Chelmsford B.
 - Div. 4 Clacton B; West Essex; Burnham A; Barking B; Walthamstow B.
 - Div. 5 Ilford B; Basildon B; Harlow B; Southend; Burnham B.

SOUTH-EAST ESSEX SUPER LEAGUE

This new venture, under the sponsorship of Clifford, Bonetti and Marks; a South-end firm of Insurance Brokers, held its inaugural meeting in Southend.

The intention of the League is to bring together twenty-four of the top table-tennis players from the Basildon, Billericay, Chelmsford and Southend leagues. The 24 players were ranked and the top six chosen as captains. The remaining players were drawn into the remaining team places. The



Essex Junior 3rd Team (l to r) Terry Dowsett, Kim Mudge, Richard Veale, Julie Askem and Kevin Gard.

fourth player in each team is the reserve. The teams are:—

Team A—Hawks: J. Wilson, C. Hughes, L. Barrow, M. Stones
Team B—Condors: D. Newman, F. Lockwood, C. Marco, R. Murray.
Team C—Eagles: A. Bawden, T. Condon, P. Saunders, L. Manning.
Team D—Kestrels: S. Gibbs, H. Molloy, P. Ballard, T. Dowsett.
Team E—Falcons: J. Poysden, C. Heath, A. Carroll, K. Owers.
Team F—Vultures: D. Bowles, M. Watts, R. Eldridge, R. Milne.

Each team plays all the others in a match for ten points, one for each game. One round of matches is played on one Sunday a month for five months.

The Prize money has been allocated as follows:—

1st team 40%
2nd team 25%
3rd team 15%
4th team 10%
5th team 7%
6th team 3%

The prize fund totals £200 and the first round of matches take place on Dec. 4, starting at 3 p.m. The venue will probably be Rayleigh Mill Sports Centre but this has yet to be finalised. All spectators are welcome. Other matches dates are Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar 19 and Apl. 9.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by DOUG AYRES

CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Twelve hours of table tennis on 10 tables at Luton Vauxhall produced some good finals in the Bedfordshire Association's Annual Closed Tournament.

Feros Nilam recovered his men's singles title from David Rawlinson, David held it for the last two years. Feros was in top form when he beat Major comfortably in the semis and started the final with a convincing win helped by his tremendous forehand smashes down both wings. David recovered in the second leg and was containing Feros's attack. The final game saw a somewhat subdued Feros take things a bit easier and with David counter-attacking, Feros just managed to make it.

The Women's singles produced what was probably the shock of the day when 13-year-old Jackie Bellinger beat Mrs. Barbara Hammond who has held the title for the past 7 years. Watching this youngster, it is difficult to imagine that she is only just in her teens, she matched the very experienced Barbara with tremendous ball control down both sides of the table, with some of the rallies containing 30 to 40 shots. When 18-19 down in the third, Jackie was awarded a disputed point by the umpire and Barbara did not take another point.

In the Men's Doubles, Nilam and Major proved too strong for Rawlinson and David Hyde. The Women's Doubles produced a surprise win for Mrs. Roberts and Miss Campbell over Barbara Hammond and Audrey Robinson and in the Mixed, Nilam and Barbara made short work of beating Rawlinson and Jackie Bellinger. The Veteran Singles was won by Peter Cutting in his first year as a veteran.

In the Junior events it was, as expected, Jackie Bellinger and her sister Lisa who took the singles titles in each age group and together they won the Girls' Doubles. The Boys' Singles resulted in a win for Stephen Barby over David Beddall, David having beaten Gary White in the semi.

Winners and Runners-up were presented with medals by the President of the Association. The medals were provided by Associated Tyre Specialists Ltd., to whom the County Association is most grateful. Vauxhall Motors kindly loaned the premises

and the tournament was refereed by Gerald Hammond and the Secretary was Keith Beddall. Some 500 sets were played during the day.

Results:—

MS: Nilam bt Rawlinson 14, -16, 19.
WS: J. Bellinger bt B. Hammond 11, -14, 19.
MD: Nilam/Major bt Rawlinson/Hyde 14, 18.
WD: Roberts/Campbell bt Hammond/Robins -13, 16, 16.
XD: Nilam/Hammond bt Rawlinson/Bellinger 9, 18.
VS: Cutting bt Frost 10, -19, 15.
BS: Barby bt Beddall 13, -18, 5.
GS: J. Bellinger bt Cutting 9, 9.
G U-14S: L. Bellinger bt J. Dommock 8, 14.
B U-14S: Sharpe bt Beard 19, 14.
BD: Barby/White bt Foster/Sharpe -18, 9, 13.
GD: J. and L. Bellinger bt Miles/Cheese 5, 2.
XD: White/Cutting bt Cartwright/Bellinger 14, -13, 16.
G U-14D: Phillips/Dimmock bt Miles/Cheese 12, -18, 16.
B U-14D: Beard/Fordham bt Sharpe/Newbury 18, 23.

ESSEX JUNIOR SELECT OPEN

TRIUMPH FOR KENNY JACKSON

by Ian Whiteside

Once again, a huge entry of 400 players took part in the first Junior tournament of the season, sponsored by Trulon, at Harlow and the Essex Association's reputation of running a first class event was enhanced by the smooth organisation.

A triumph for Essex's Kenny Jackson in the boys' singles proved a fitting climax to the tournament. Jackson had, in the semi-final, defeated the England No. 1 Junior Kevin Beadsley and although losing the first game of the final to Graham Sandley, pulled himself together to confirm that he is amongst the top juniors in the country.

A fine performance in the girls' singles by Julie Dowsett in the early rounds to oust seeded Helen Gore gave hope of further shocks but it was not to be and Angela Tierney put an end to Julie's hopes. Miss Tierney herself did not last long going out to Alison Gordon who looked like pulling off a surprise in the final against her county colleague Karen Witt but Karen just nosed ahead in the third to take the title.

Always one of the most attractive events the boys' doubles this year proved no exception and the final was a fine open affair, the Yorkshire pairing of Beadsley and Joe Naser coming out on top in a close contest. The last local interest in the girls' doubles went with Maxine Abbott and Julie Dowsett's defeat and the title was annexed in fine style by the England top-ranked players.

After struggling in both quarter and semi-finals, John Souter had a fairly comfortable win over the No. 3 seed Stuart Palmer who nevertheless did well to reach this stage of the Cadet Boys' singles. The final of the counterpart girls' event produced a pulsating affair, full of good rallies, with Gillian Galloway obtaining victory over No. 1 seed Helen Williams. It was really well earned in the second game where Helen pulled back a long lead only to net a service return to lose the match.

Results:—

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
K. Beadsley (Y) bt J. Naser (Y) 17, 14;
K. Jackson (E) bt J. Souter (MI) 14, 16;
B. Tyler (MI) bt P. Whiting (DV) 20, 13;
G. Sandley (MI) bt G. Gillett (Sx) 16, 19.
Semi-finals:
Jackson bt Beadsley -17, 12, 16;
Sandley bt Tyler 14, -17, 22.

Final:
JACKSON bt Sandley -9, 17, 15.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
K. Witt (Bk) bt M. Wallis (Np) 6, 16;
M. Smith (Bk) bt R. Mackriel (Wa) 12, 13;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt H. Williams (Mi) 10, 16;
A. Tierney (Cv) bt J. Dowsett (E) 18, 12.
Semi-finals:
Witt bt Smith 17, 18;
Gordon bt Tierney 17, 17.
Final:
WITT bt Gordon 18, -18, 16.
Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
Beadsley/Naser bt J. Morgan (K)/C. Wilson (MI) -11, 17, 19;
Sandley/Tyler bt Jackson/S. Kimm (E) 18, -15, 17.
Final:
BEADSLEY/NASER bt Sandley/Tyler 18, 16.
Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:
Tierney/Witt bt S. Creswell/L. Garbett (Sy) 18, 18;
Gordon/Smith bt N. Hayward (Sy)/Wallis 17, 13.
Final:
TIERNEY/WITT bt Gordon/Smith 16, 14.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Beadsley/Witt bt Jackson/H. Gore (E) 16, 19;
I. Plummer (Cv)/Tierney bt Tyler/Smith 11, 11.
Final:
BEADSLEY/WITT bt Plummer/Tierney 14, 17.
Cadet Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
S. Palmer (Sk) bt D. Pilling (MI) 16, -15, 10.
P. Rainford (La) bt P. Brownlow (MI) -17, 8, 20;
Souter bt M. Thomas (Cw) -15, 19, 11;
M. Oakley (Sy) bt A. Dixon (St) 17, 17.
Semi-finals:
Palmer bt Rainford -17, 20, 17;
Souter bt Oakley -19, 11, 23.
Final:
SOUTER bt Palmer 17, 12.
Cadet Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Williams bt C. Butler (Dv) -15, 15, 17;
Garbett bt D. Taylor (E) 12, 15;
L. Fennah (Ch) bt J. Bellinger (Bd) -19, 15, 13;
G. Galloway (Ll) bt Creswell 13, 16.
Semi-finals:
Williams bt Garbett 10, 12;
Galloway bt Fennah 9, 16.
Final:
GALLOWAY bt Williams 16, 20.
Cadet Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
Oakley/Souter bt I. Attridge/S. Edwards (E) 12, 11;
Rainford/Thomas bt P. Bradbury (Ll)/D. Sharpe (Bd) 19, 19.
Final:
OAKLEY/SOUTER bt Rainford/Thomas 7, 14.
Cadet Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:
S. James (Co)/M. Ringrose (Ca) bt L. Bellinger (Bd)/Bellinger 14, 20;
Creswell/Garbett bt Taylor/Williams 9, -15, 20.
Final:
CRESWELL/GARBETT bt James/Ringrose -16, 16, 10.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by ALAN RANSOME

£1,000 PRIZE FUND

The most attractive Cleveland Open for some years is on the cards. E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles Wyles, has invited the Chinese team to participate in the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton and to play in the Cleveland a few days prior. The convenience of the Cleveland weekend being linked to the "English Open" also gives the opportunity for other foreign teams to participate. It is hoped that the Datsun team from Japan who are also invited to the Norwich Union International will be able to attend.

Ormesby's European Cup exploits, provided that they can beat Havirov of Czechoslovakia on Dec. 6, is likely to bring the Budapest Spartacus team to Cleveland for the semi-final over that weekend and this would include two of Europe's leading players, Istvan Jonyer and Tibor Klampar.

Should sufficient of these invitations be accepted, then the tournament would run the Miletta Butterfly International Team Championship which would have entries hopefully from England, Scotland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand and possibly North America.

But in any case the sponsorship will be provided by Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department which provides with it the biggest prize fund for any tournament in the United Kingdom this season of £1,100.00!

Time Schedule permitting, a Class 2 singles will also be undertaken for players outside the top 50 men and 10 women in England but to make this event possible the Mixed Doubles has been dropped.

Entry forms are available from myself at 8 Baker Street, Middlesbrough.

WOODFIELD 1-STAR OPEN

LEICESTERSHIRE DOMINATE

by John Pike

This year's 37th Woodfield tournament at Wolverhampton was totally dominated by Leicestershire. The two-day event, under the watchful eye of Albert McIlreath and Doug Young, was again well supported, and as a result, a local school for handicapped children will benefit from the proceeds. Last year it was £200, and I know that all concerned will hope to top that figure this year.

In one of the best men's finals seen at the Woodfield for many years, Paul Randell beat Chris Rogers, after accounting for Gloucester's David Harvey in the semi-final. Sid Hodgetts of Wolverhampton did well to reach the other semi but at this stage he was outclassed by Rogers.

Anita Stevenson won the women's singles, taking the title from her Leicester team-mate Karen Rogers. She made sure of the double, when with Julie Revill, they took the women's doubles against Karen and Wolverhampton's Stephanie Jones. The men's doubles, yes that was an all-Leicester affair as well, saw Rogers and Graeme Hall beat Paul Randell and Maurice Newman.

In the veterans' final, Derek Schofield retained his title with a narrow win over Peter Hancock from the Potteries.

Yorkshire's Kevin Beadsley won the boys' singles, while Gillian Galloway took the girls' singles, and then with Lynn A.

Fennah, the girl's doubles. The boys doubles went to David Gannon and Wolverhampton's Andrew Bellingham.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

C. Rogers (Le) bt S. Hodgetts (St) 8, 14;
P. Randell (Le) bt D. Harvey (Gs)
12, -18, 17.

Final:

RANDELL bt Rogers 16, -19, 16.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

K. Rogers (Le) bt S. Watton (St) 11, 10;
A. Stevenson (Le) bt J. Carr (St) 3, -17, 8.

Final:

STEVENSON bt Rogers 18, -12, 14.

MD: G. Hall (Le)/Rogers bt M. Newman
(Le)/Randell -14, 20, 17.

WD: J. Revill (Le)/Stevenson bt S. Jones
(St)/Rogers 19, 17.

VS: D. Schofield (Ch) bt P. Hancock (St)
18, 18.

BS: K. Beadsley (Y) bt A. Bellingham (St)
10, 11.

GS: G. Galloway (Li) bt L. Holmes (Dy)
-5, 16, 16.

BD: Bellingham/D. Gannon (Le) bt
Beadsley/A. Hill (Y) 17, 19.

GD: L. Fennah (Ch)/Galloway bt
A. Fearnough (Dy)/Holmes 11, 14.

RECOVERING

After a prolonged stay in hospital Mrs. Jean Reay, an ETTA Vice-President, of 7 Forfar St., Fulwell, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, has recovered sufficiently to put pen to paper to say a sincere thank you to all who, at the Cumbria Open, signed the get well card. Jean has had flowers and gifts from all over the country which she has much appreciated. Get well soon, Ed.

THE GODDARD FINANCE INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT

H. R. Goddard (Finance) of Leeds are to sponsor an International Invitation Tournament at the Rothwell Sports Centre, Oulton, Leeds on Saturday, Dec. 17 commencing at 12 noon.

Participants will include Stellan Bengtsson and Ulf Thorsell of Sweden, Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia, Milan Orlovski of Czechoslovakia and two English players, probably Desmond Douglas and Paul Day. Seating will be provided for 500 spectators and tickets, obtainable from Rothwell Sports Centre or the ETTA, will be priced at 40p. The group bringing the largest number of spectators to the venue will win the Halex match table.

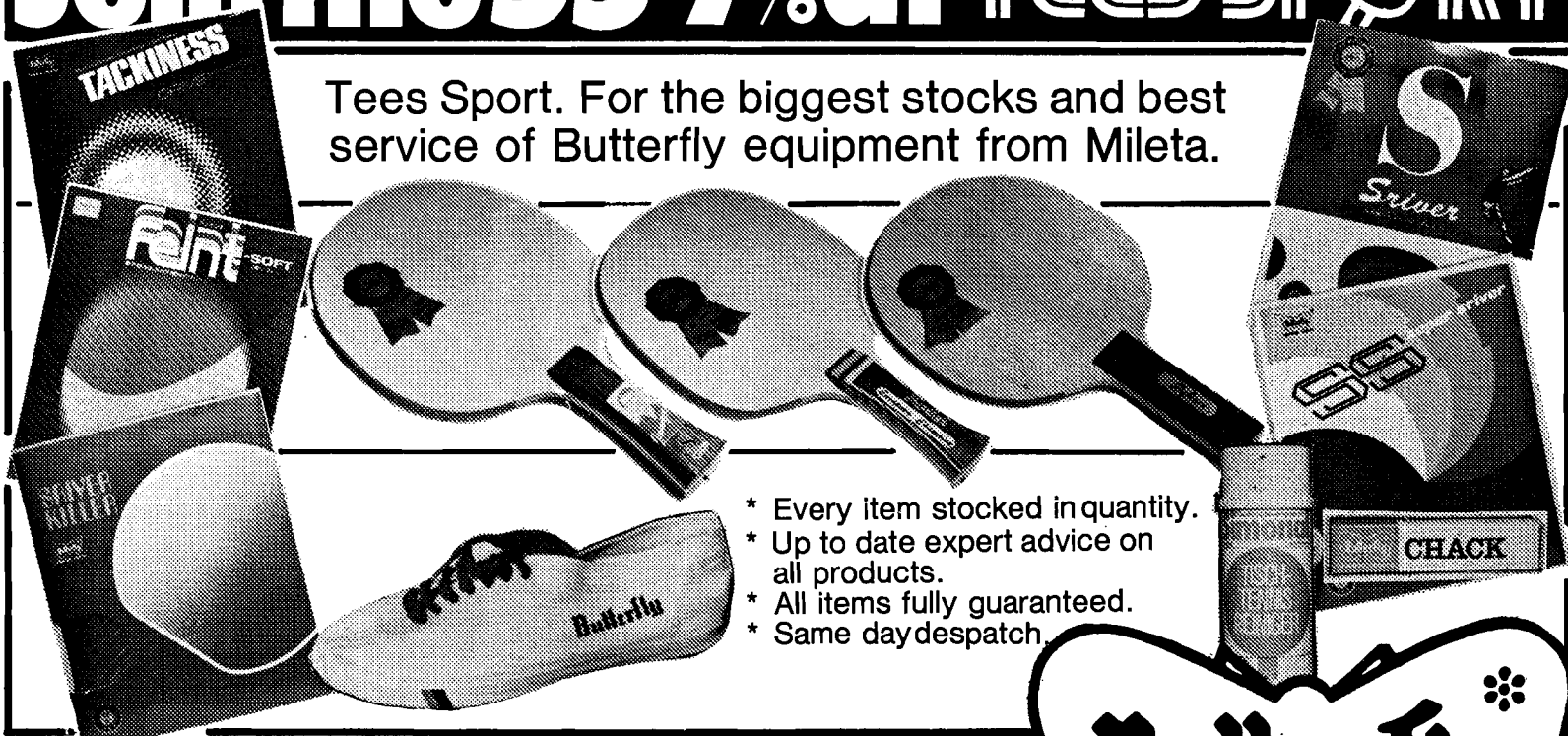
The six participants will be divided into two groups of three, the winner of one group playing the runner-up of the other to give two semi-finals and a final, a total of nine "best of three" sets. A women's challenge match may also be held between the second semi-final and the final. The tournament will be covered for "Grandstand" viewers by the BBC. But why miss out on any of the action — come to Rothwell, see the stars for yourselves. And what a lovely Christmas present the table would make!

CHINA INVITED TO BRIGHTON

China, the biggest spectator attraction in table tennis, have been invited to send a team to Brighton for the Norwich Union International Championships (Jan. 12-14, 1978).

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SPOTLIGHT ON OMEGA

by REG HART,
Club Secretary

1977 has been a very successful year for the Omega Club from Berkshire. It is a year when ideas and hard work have paid off.

A quick look at the English Junior ranking list will confirm the success. The Boys' list shows David Barr at No. 1 and Robert Johnson at No. 13. The Girls' list is even better with all Omega's junior girls having an English ranking. Karen Witt, Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith are not only Omega's top three girls but England's as well.

Jill Purslow follows closely with a ranking at No. 6 whilst the youngest of the girls, Lesley Taylor, has an England U-17 ranking whilst still only thirteen.

David Barr's progress was, to say the least, rapid. He played one season in Division 7 of the Newbury League, joined Omega the following summer, played his first open tournament in Cleveland during September 1977 and within one year is winning the Final English Junior Trial!

Karen Witt's performance at the trials in remaining unbeaten over 15 matches was meritorious if for no other reason than she did what was expected of her and that she was on 'a loser to nothing' every time she played. Alison and Mandy did extremely well to take second and third positions, Alison having three years to go as a Junior and Mandy two.

At the end of last season the Club could have been well satisfied with the position. Karen was English Junior Open champion and had had many successes in the senior and junior international front. David Reeves was English Junior champion and Alison Gordon No. 1 English Cadet. These three went to Vichy for the European Youth Championships. The 1977/78 season has started even better.

The Club was formed three years ago by Peter Charters and Reg Hart with the idea of giving the players, already being coached by the pair, the facilities to reach the top. This coaching took the form of individual attention, one coach being totally responsible for a small group of players but in the main working on a one-to-one; one-to-two basis at any one time.

Other members of the then County Squad run by the same pair of coaches joined the Club on its formation so that the Club consisted of a small band of Berkshire's top junior players. These other players still had their personal coach — Tony Reeves for David and Caroline, Wally Smith for Mandy.

This individual attention is perhaps the corner stone of the Club's success, but the acquisition of a clubhouse (members converted a leased prefab dwelling house) for possible use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, was crucial.

It had become apparent that weekly Sports Hall, large group sessions would produce a useful overall standard but were not going to reach their individual full potential, so although the clubhouse is a one table (two at the most) venue, it has the advantage of providing ambitious and hard working juniors in the Club full time facility to train.

The Club has teams in the top divisions of the Bracknell and Reading Leagues



KAREN WITT

Photo by T. EDENDEN, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

although only two days a week are taken up with match play, the rest being practice. The Club still only has a small number of players, a membership of 20 being regarded as the maximum. The players came from many parts of Berkshire and the Club now provides four-fifths of the County Senior first team and all the current County Junior first team.

The now familiar navy blue track suits with upper arm badges gave the Club some identity on the open tournament circuit. Omega Club is sponsored by Ascot Sports and the help provided by this Company has been of great assistance in the Club's success.

The problem for the Club now is to move still further forward and to make a real impression on the English Senior list. Karen has shown that this is possible but she and the others have a long way to go. The Club has young players with ability and the necessary determination, Omega must provide the opportunity.

In order to concentrate on his coaching, Peter Charters, the National Councillor for Berkshire, resigned from the National Selection Committee on which body he was elected as a statistician without vote. Ed.

Letter to the Editor

SAME CAST, DIFFERENT PLAY

If I understand John Woodford correctly, he is forecasting that the present County Championships set-up will in time be replaced by a National League of "Super-clubs", playing their matches in palatial premises, with drink flowing over the bar freely, a big crowd in attendance and a generous sponsor waiting beside the table to shell out "many thousands of pounds".

The fallacy in this reasoning is that the players who would be likely to take part in these matches are the same ones as now play for the Counties and therefore the sponsors only have to put their money into the County Championships, Premier Division and they will have a ready made

"National League". Incidentally I put this idea forward in Table Tennis News some years ago.

The main argument against this National League idea is that the "Super Clubs" would poach players from all over England to make up their teams and would be totally unrepresentative. You will never fill a hall when the match has no partisan angle, and that is why all previous attempts at the Super League format have always failed.

ALAN SHEPHERD

**10 Woodedge Close,
Forest Side,
Chingford,
London E.4.**

What's on and where

December

- 9—(Fri.) Nissen Invitation Tournament (Hemel Hempstead)
- 10—Leinster Junior Open (Dublin)
- 10/11—Middlesex 3-Star Open (Edmonton)
- 10/11—Cardiff Open Championships.
- 15—(Thurs.) European League — Super Division
ENGLAND v SWEDEN (Gloucester)
Div. 1 IRELAND v FEDERAL GERMANY (Craigavon)
- 16/17—Ulster Open (Newtownards)
- 17—(Sat.) ETTA INTERNATIONAL INVITATION
TOURNAMENT
(Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds) (BBC Grandstand)
- 17/18—WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED
(Loughborough)
- 28—Ulster Junior Open (Belfast)

January 1978

- 7/8—Cleveland 3-Star Open (Thornaby-on-Tees)
- 8—(Sun.) Winton 1-Star (Bournemouth)
- 8—(Sun.) Lincolnshire Junior 2-Star (Lincoln)
- 12/14—(Thurs./Sat.) NORWICH UNION
INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
(51st ENGLISH OPEN) (Dome and Corn Exchange,
Brighton)
- 15—International Club Hard Rubber Bat Open (Barnet)
Entries to Laurie Landry Esq., 29 Ravenshaw St.,
London NW6 INP by Wednesday, January 4/78.
- 19—(Thurs.) European League — Super Division
CZECHOSLOVAKIA v ENGLAND
Div. 1 LUXEMBOURG v IRELAND
- 20/21—IRISH OPEN (Galway)
- 21/22—Glamorgan Open
- 21/22—E.S.T.T.A. Area Team Finals
- 22—Meadowbank Open 2-Star (Edinburgh)



Welsh Corner

H. Roy Evans

The usual English "invasion" took place at both the Aberdare and Swansea Opens, but in both cases the men's singles cups stayed in the Principality.

Aberdare was the scene of a triumph for our No. 3 Mike Owen, this being his first big tournament win, and right well he deserved it. After George Evans had disposed of Graham Davies in one semi-final, and Mike had literally scraped home against Bob Brown, it looked all over bar the shouting for George. But Mike had other ideas, and although George took the second game with a clever change of tactics, Mike's game of varying length, direction and fast top spin smashes was not to be denied.

Bob Bishop must have been kicking himself because in eliminating Derek Munt he removed the biggest threat to Wales, he then lost quite astonishingly to Brown.

Other good performances came from John Hook whose run to the quarters included a win over Tony Isaacs and John Bloomer, and in the junior singles where our No. 1 Cadet, Mark Thomas gave another fine performance to reach the final against Malcolm Green (Shropshire), although the latter was well on top by the end.

The Men's Doubles went to the defensive partnership of Evans and Munt, but Johnson and Brown gave them some anxious moments in the final. Bishop and Jeff Bowden made the winners struggle in the quarters, whilst Greg Powell and Thomas had some good wins before wilting against Evans and Munt.

The Women's events provided a repeat of similar occasions at Aberdare when the Midlands opposition carried all before them. Players like Diane St. Ledger must find Welsh tournaments very happy hunting grounds!

Results:—

MS: SF: G. Evans bt G. Davies 9, 19.

M. Owen bt Rob Brown (Wo) 19, 20.

F: Owen bt Evans 13, -16, 11.

MD: F: Evans/Munt bt Brown/Johnson 17, 21.

WS: F: Janet Carr (St) bt D. St. Ledger (Wa) 17, 9.

WD: F: E. Lamb (Dv)/St. Ledger bt J. Carr/S. Cain (St) 15, -19, 18.

JBS: F: M. Green (Sp) bt M. Thomas (Cw) 13, 17.

JGS: F: C. Maisey (Wi) bt Cain -19, 13, 13.

Swansea Officials must have been disappointed at the entry at their Open Tournament. It's true the Southend Open was on at the same time, but this would hardly seem to account for so few entries from across the border. Maybe the idea of having the junior tournament on the Saturday and the senior one on the Sunday isn't such a good idea after all. Many of the strong juniors didn't stay for Sunday, and this is a situation Cardiff may also run into, they having decided to follow Swansea's example. There's an added complication with the Cardiff Tournament, too, because the strong 3-Star Middlesex Open is on the same week end!

In the event Swansea did provide some Welsh cheer in that Graham Davies beat off the English challenge, accounting for David Welsman in the third game. This was a good performance because Welsman had taken his toll of the Welsh players in the Glamorgan/Surrey County match.

Mark Thomas and Alun Williams dominated the cadet and junior events, and the North Wales boys certainly seem to have the upper hand at the moment.

MS: G. Davies bt D. Welsman (Sy) -15, 13, 17.

WS: D. St. Ledger (Wa) bt D. Coulthard -21, 15, 17.

MD: S. Heaps/D. Reeves (Bk) bt G. Evans/R. Bishop -9, 14, 18.

WD: S. Ledger/J. Wilson bt S. Coulson/Coulthard 16, -15, 16.

XD: Bishop/Wilson bt P. Judd (Wa)/Diane St. Ledger 14, 12.

Int. Senior: Reeves bt C. Rees 14, 13.

Boys U-12: A. Devitt bt T. Halliday 19, -13, 15.

Girls U-12: H. Sellick (Aberdare) bt S. Hadley (St) 17, 20.

Boys U-14: M. Thomas bt A. Jones 22, 12.

Girls U-14: T. Watkins (Wi) bt S. Jones 17, -19, 13.

Boys Singles: Thomas bt A. Williams 20, -19, 17.

Girls Singles: C. Jones bt Watkins 14, 12.

Boys' Doubles: Thomas/Williams bt

N. Thomas/J. Morgan 12, -19, 19.

Girls' Doubles: Cathryn Jones/Susan Jones bt Sue Powell/Sandra Bennett 6, -21, 16.

Glamorgan's first matches in the Premier Division have not brought much satisfaction. The first, against Surrey, with "veteran" Connie Warren deputising for the absent Martin Suttle, Glamorgan were surely in with a big chance. But alas Max Crimmins was too good for Alan and Graham, whilst David Welsman, with his long pimples, beat Alan and Mike Owen, and to make matters worse, Connie beat Mike! A very disappointing performance.

The next encounter, against Essex, proved better, but although the match provided some first class table tennis, much appreciated by the crowd, the result was still not a good one for Glamorgan. Alan and Graham took four events at the expense of Ian Horsham, Bob Potton and David Newman, but again Mike failed to win a set. The doubles was therefore vital, for Debbie Coulthard could not be expected to cope with Lesley Radford.

But the fact that it was a good match did not alter the fact that the Welsh pair, with so many better performances in their bag, should have won.

GRADED TOURNAMENTS AND RANKING

by RON CRAYDEN

Chairman, National Selection Committee

At the Dunlop Humberside 3-Star Open in late October the first graded tournament was held that excluded the top men and women players of the country. To aid the tournament organiser in this pioneer venture the Selection Committee was asked to produce a list of the top 50 men players and the top 25 women players. This was done and the chosen players were listed in alphabetical order on Page 14 of the October edition of Table Tennis News.

Unfortunately a similar list was published in the Humberside programme but **not** in alphabetical order. This has caused a certain amount of confusion and in some quarters it has been erroneously thought that the list in the programme was in order of merit.

To all those in doubt I am writing to clarify the matter once and for all. **THE CHOSEN LIST OF 'ELITE' PLAYERS, COMPRISING 50 MEN and 25 WOMEN, HAS NOT BEEN PUT IN ANY RANKING ORDER BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE AND IF PUBLISHED THE NAMES SHOULD BE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.** The official senior ranking lists of the country are published separately in this magazine and these lists will be reviewed in January, 1978.

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(continued from page 39)

mier to third division in a short time (since departure of Day and Richardson) but they should improve status next season.

**Lincolnshire II 10 Huntingdonshire 0
Suffolk 4 Bedfordshire 6**

Suffolk did not live up to their early promise — from a 2-0 lead Beds took next four and just maintained the momentum to win the match.

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

**Devon II 10 Somerset 0
Gwent 9 Wiltshire II 1
Cornwall 6 Avon 4**

VETERAN SOUTH

**Essex 7 Sussex 2
Hampshire II 1 Kent 8**

VETERAN MIDLAND

**Clwyd 3 Cheshire 6
Leicestershire 0 Nottinghamshire 9**

VETERAN EAST

**Huntingdonshire 3 Suffolk 6
Middlesex 6 Essex II 3**

VETERAN WEST

**Avon 6 Wiltshire 3
Dorset 3 Hampshire 6**

County Championship Tables

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	2	2	0	0	12	6	4
Berkshire	2	1	0	1	11	7	2
Surrey	2	1	0	1	11	7	2
Middlesex	2	1	0	1	10	8	2
Cleveland	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Warwickshire	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	7	11	2
Glamorgan	2	0	0	2	5	13	0

2nd West

Wiltshire	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Glamorgan II	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Somerset	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Devon	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Avon	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Worcestershire	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Gwent	2	0	0	2	7	13	0

Junior Premier

Essex	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Middlesex	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Surrey	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Berkshire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Cleveland	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Lancashire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Devon	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

Junior 2nd South

Sussex	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Surrey II	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Essex II	2	1	0	1	14	5	2
Middlesex II	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Wiltshire	2	0	0	2	8	12	0
Kent	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Hampshire	1	0	0	1	0	10	0

Junior 2nd North

Staffordshire	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Cheshire	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Yorkshire II	2	1	0	1	14	6	2
Clwyd	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Derbyshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Cumbria	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Cleveland II	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

Junior 2nd Midland

Warwickshire	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Hertfordshire	2	1	1	0	12	6	3
Shropshire	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Norfolk	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Buckinghamshire	2	0	1	1	8	10	1
Leicestershire	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Northamptonshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

Junior 3rd South

Essex III	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Dorset	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Kent II	2	1	0	1	10	7	2
Sussex II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Berkshire II	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Buckinghamshire II	2	0	0	2	4	13	0
Hampshire II	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

Junior 3rd West

Devon II	2	1	1	0	15	5	3
Cornwall	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Glamorgan	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Gwent	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Avon	2	1	0	1	14	6	2
Wiltshire II	2	0	0	2	2	18	0
Somerset	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS MATCHES

in January, 1978

Premier

Jan. 21—Berkshire v Cleveland — Bulmershe College, Woodlands Road, Woodley, Reading, 6-30 p.m.
Glamorgan v Middlesex — Abercynon Sports Centre, Aberdare, 6-00.
Surrey v Warwickshire.
Yorkshire v Essex — Batley Sports Centre, Howden Clough, Birstall, 7-00.

2nd South

Jan. 21—Middlesex II v Kent.
Sussex v Hampshire.

2nd Midland

Jan. 21—Bedfordshire v Staffordshire.
Derbyshire v Northamptonshire — Rolls Royce Sports Ground, Moor Lane, Derby, 6-30.
Leicestershire v Warwickshire II — Earl Shilton Institute, Earl Shilton, 7-15.

2nd East

Jan. 21—Essex II v Cambridgeshire — Selco (Ilford) Ltd., Woodman Road, Brentwood, 7-00.
Hertfordshire v Suffolk — Cheshunt Club, Albury Ride, Cheshunt, 7-30.
Norfolk v Buckinghamshire.

2nd West

Jan. 21—Glamorgan II v Devon.
Wiltshire v Avon.
Worcestershire v Somerset.

2nd North

Jan. 21—Cheshire v Lancashire — I.C.I. Newton Works, Talbot Road, Hyde, 7-30.
Durham v Cleveland II — Shinley Row CA, Hindon Crescent North, Shinley Row, 6-30.
Northumberland v Yorkshire II.

3rd South

Jan. 21—Essex III v Buckinghamshire II — Selco (Ilford) Ltd., Woodman Road, Brentwood, 2-30.
Hertfordshire II v Kent II — Goffs Oak TTC, St. James Road, Goffs Oak, Cheshunt, 2-30.

3rd North

Jan. 21—Cumbria v Lincolnshire — Millom School, Millom, 2-30.
Derbyshire II v Lancashire II — Rolls Royce Sports Ground, Moor Lane, Derby, 2-30.
Northumberland II v Nottinghamshire.

3rd Midland

Jan. 21—Clwyd v Staffordshire II.
Herefordshire v Cheshire II.

Jan. 22—Shropshire v Worcestershire II.

3rd East

Jan. 21—Cambridgeshire II v Norfolk II — Leicestershire II v Huntingdonshire — Earl Shilton Institute, Earl Shilton, 2-30.
Northamptonshire II v Bedfordshire II — H. W. Chapman Ltd., The Embankment, Wellesborough, 7-00.

3rd West

Jan. 21—Avon II v Cornwall.
Berkshire II v Gloucestershire — Woodlands TTC, Woodlands Avenue, Tilehurst, 7-00.
Dorset v Glamorgan III.

Junior Premier

Jan. 21—Berkshire v Cleveland — Bulmershe College, Woodlands Road, Woodley, Reading, 2-30.
Lancashire v Surrey.
Yorkshire v Essex.

Junior 2nd South

Jan. 21—Kent v Middlesex II.
Surrey II v Essex II.
Sussex v Hampshire.

Junior 2nd North

Jan. 21—Cheshire v Yorkshire II — ICI Newton Works, Talbot Road, Hyde, 3-00.
Cleveland II v Clwyd.
Staffordshire v Cumbria.

Junior 2nd Midland

Jan. 21—Buckinghamshire v Leicestershire.
Norfolk v Hertfordshire.
Warwickshire v Shropshire.

Junior 3rd South

Jan. 21—Buckinghamshire II v Sussex II.
Hampshire II v Berkshire II — Redbridge School, Cuckmore Lane, Southampton, 3-00.
Kent II v Dorset II.

Junior 3rd North

Jan. 21—Cleveland III v Durham.
Lincolnshire v Cumbria II.
Northumberland v Nottinghamshire.

Junior 3rd Midland

Jan. 21—Oxfordshire v Gloucestershire.
Staffordshire II v Herefordshire.

Jan. 22—Shropshire II v Worcestershire.

Junior 3rd East

Jan. 21—Cambridgeshire v Lincolnshire II — Trinity Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Wisbech, 2-30.
Huntingdonshire v Bedfordshire.

Junior 3rd West

Jan. 20—Glamorgan v Devon II — National Sports Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, 6-00.
Jan. 21—Avon v Wiltshire II.
Gwent v Cornwall.

Veteran South

Jan. 21—Essex v Hampshire II — Japan Road School, Chadwell Heath, 7-00.
Oxfordshire v Sussex.

Veteran Midland

Jan. 21—Nottinghamshire v Clwyd.
Jan. 22—Worcestershire v Cheshire.

Veteran East

Jan. 21—Huntingdonshire v Middlesex.
Suffolk v Hertfordshire.

Veteran West

Jan. 21—Wiltshire v Dorset.
Dorset II v Avon.

PING COMMENTARY

by JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER both singles titles at the imminent Norwich Union International Championships could and should be captured by English players — Desmond Douglas and holder Jill Hammersley.

Up to the recent Hungarian Open, Desmond had lost only twice this campaign to Surbek and Leiss playing in the West German Bundesliga. He must therefore, stand the biggest possible chance of succeeding when the tournament returns to Brighton in just over three weeks time.

No-one would dispute that Brighton is an immensely popular venue for these championships. On this occasion the E.T.A. and our sponsors Norwich Union will be hoping for a seating sell-out.

As Desmond climbs every mountain to the highest peak for an Englishman since Johnny Leach was world champion, how desperately we need some supporting players that can win singles matches in the European league. Paul Day and Andy Barden were the next two on the ranking lists. Clearly Paul's first interest must be his studies at Cambridge University, so we have no right to expect miracles from him.

What is needed right now is a junior player coming through to challenge Day and Barden. So far this season, I have watched a number of the top-ranked juniors. The new No. 1 David Barr arrived at the top in a meteoric fashion. He looks as though he means business but I was left puzzling how he managed an unusually high number of service aces.



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County Championships Round-up

by **BOB BRIDGES**

ESSEX GO TOP

Essex have moved to the top of the Premier Division with a clear lead over six teams sharing two points below them, while Glamorgan, promoted last season and defeated by Essex last month, are rooted at the foot of the table.

Berkshire, promoted with Glamorgan last season, are in second position after whipping Warwickshire 7-2 who were without Des Douglas; a large crowd saw Berkshire's success, but they would have preferred watching pre-match attraction Douglas, who had been nominated by Warwickshire.

PREMIER DIVISION

Berkshire 7 Warwickshire 2

Historic first ever Premier win for Berkshire moulded by Simon Heaps and the Girls.

S. Heaps bt D. Johnson 15, 19; bt D. Munt -19, 17, 13.

D. Reeves lost to Johnson -18, 14, -18; bt S Claxton 17, 17.

A. Wellman lost to Munt -18, -16; bt Claxton 17, -14, 20.

Heaps/Wellman bt Johnson/Munt 14, 19.

Karen Witt bt Rachel Mackriel 9, 14.

Reeves/Caroline Reeves bt Claxton/Miss Mackriel 21, 17.

Cleveland 6 Surrey 3

Max Crimmins scored over Denis Neale, but Cleveland already had winning lead.

D. Neale lost to M. Crimmins -26, 14, -26; bt M Shuttle 7, 22.

N. Jarvis bt Crimmins 17, -18, 12;

bt D Welsman 16, 17.

R. Wiley lost to Shuttle -19, -17; lost to Welsman -13, -26.

Jarvis/Wiley bt Crimmins/Welsman

16, -22, 18.

Carole Knight bt Linda Howard 19, 15.

Neale/Miss Knight bt Shuttle/Miss Howard 17, -18, 21.

Essex 5 Glamorgan 4

Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies recorded the four Glamorgan successes between them and narrowly missed victory in the doubles 19 in the decider over Potton/Newman pairing. Bob Potton suffering from rigours of China trip and jég-lag.

R. Potton lost to A. Griffiths 18, -13, -17; lost to G. Davies -15, -15.

I. Horsham lost to Griffiths -17, 16, -14; bt M Owen -15, 14, 16.

D Newman lost to Davies -19, -20; bt Owen 16, 10.

Potton/Newman bt Davies/Griffiths

17, -13, 19.

Leslie Radford bt Debbie Coulthard 8, 11.

Horsham/Mrs. Radford bt Owen/Miss Coulthard -20, 8, 10.

Middlesex 7 Yorkshire 2

D Tan bt A. Clayton 17, 18; bt A. Fletcher 17, 19.

M Mitchell bt Clayton 19, -15, 20; bt A. Metcalfe 17, 14.

P. Guttormsen bt Fletcher 13, 18;

bt Metcalfe -18, 19, 10.

Guttormsen/Mitchell lost to Clayton/Fletcher 13, -8, -11.

Angela Mitchell lost to Melody Ludi -17, 19, -11.

Tan/Miss Mitchell bt Metcalfe/Miss Ludi 19, -14, 11.

2nd SOUTH

Kent 7 Dorset 3

A very strong-looking Kent side should go places, but Dorset grabbed the three women's sets.

Surrey II 8 Hampshire 2

2nd NORTH

Cheshire 9 Northumberland 1

Yorkshire II 8 Durham 2

2nd MIDLAND

Derbyshire 7 Bedfordshire 3

Firoz Nilam scored visitors' three.

Northamptonshire 1 Leicestershire 9

Northants clearly outclassed, only a Steve Lyon win at 19 in the decider over Maurice Newman saving a "whitewash"; Leics. look good for return to Premier. Excellent venue provided by Kettering League at Burton Latimer

Staffordshire 5 Warwickshire II 5

2nd EAST

Essex II 8 Norfolk 2

Wins by Bob Thornton and Doug Bennett over Kevin Caldon and Les Eadie respectively gave visitors lead at 2-1, but Essex reeled off next seven.

Hertfordshire 9 Buckinghamshire 1

Bucks have lost Les Wooding (to Hunts) and Tony Clark (to Northants), their visit to Herts became the expected defeat with home side in fine spirits.

2nd WEST

Devon 5 Somerset 5

Gwent 3 Wiltshire 7

3rd SOUTH

Hertfordshire II 7 Essex III 3

Simon Proffitt unbeaten as Herts forged a 7-1 lead, the five needing decider going against Essex. Jack Bender and Leon Smith provided best set of the match (Bender winning 18, -21, 22) and Devonian Bob Parkins on Herts debut.

Kent II 9 Oxfordshire 1

Sussex II 9 Buckinghamshire II 1

3rd NORTH

Cumbria 6 Northumberland II 4

Lincolnshire 7 Lancashire II 3

Brian Hill's return to the County scene should ensure success for his County this season.

Nottinghamshire 1 Derbyshire II 9

3rd MIDLAND

Cheshire II 9 Staffordshire II 1

Shropshire 9 Herefordshire 1

Worcestershire II 5 Clwyd 5

3rd EAST

Leicestershire II 5 Cambridgeshire II 5

Geoff Davies main contributor to Cambs. draw as his three sets earned three wins.

Norfolk II 7 Northamptonshire II 3

Bedfordshire II 3 Huntingdonshire 7

Les Wooding's inclusion will make a big difference to Hunts' performance this season.

3rd WEST

Cornwall 3 Gloucestershire 7

Dorset II 5 Avon II 5

Dorset pulled back arrears of 1-4 to level things at 4-all; S. Brice beaten by R. Oldfield — Avon leading 4-5 with everything hanging on M. Doyle-L. Stewart final set which Doyle won 24-22 in decider.

Glamorgan III 4 Berkshire II 6

Two sets 'claimed' by home side not allowing un-nominated reserve to play.

JUNIOR PREMIER

Berkshire 7 Lancashire 3

Score 6-2 when power failed — captains agreed to share the unplayed sets.

D. Barr bt A O'Connor -16, 9, 15; bt

B. Carney 14, -14, 9.

R. Johnson lost to O'Connor -18, -12;

D. Gloster lost to P. Rainford -15, -13;

Barr/Johnson bt O'Connor/Rainford

-17, 19, 18.

Karen Witt bt Miss J. Grundy 17, 6.

Alison Gordon bt Miss C. Scowcroft 6, -14, 14.

Miss Gordon/Miss Witt bt Miss Grundy/Miss Scowcroft 10, 13.

Cleveland 5 Surrey 5

Mark Oakley's close win over Ian Plummer in final set denied Cleveland victory, but draw fair result where each side had taken lead then lost it.

P. Hindle lost to S. Holloway -19 -14; lost to S Woodgate -9, 19, -16.

I. Plummer bt Holloway 18, 17; lost to M Oakley -22, 14, -23.

D Hughes bt Woodgate -19, 17, 15; bt Oakley 18, -15, 13.

Hughes/Plummer lost to Holloway/Woodgate 17, -20, -15.

Angela Tierney bt Sarah Cresswell 10, 10.

Helen Robinson bt Lorraine Garbet -18, 13, 23.

Miss Robinson/Miss Tierney lost to Miss Cresswell/Miss Garbet -16, -15.

Devon 2 Essex 8

P. Whiting lost to K. Jackson -12, -11; lost to S. Kimm -20, 14, -13.

M. Shearman lost to Jackson 14, -18, -16; lost to D Charlery -9, -18.

S. Gwynne lost to Kimm -17, 16, -7; lost to Charlery -15, -15.

Shearman/Whiting lost to Charlery/Jackson -13, -16.

Gina Pritchard bt Yvonne Brown 20, 12.

Carol Butler lost to Helen Gore -14, -12.

Miss Butler/Miss Pritchard bt Miss Brown/Miss Gore -19, 15, 17.

Middlesex 6 Yorkshire 4

G. Sandley bt J. Naser 11, 17;

bt A Bottomley 19, 20.

C Wilson bt Naser 16, 18;

bt P. Sanderson 20, 12.

J. Souter lost to Bottomley -17, -17;

bt Sanderson 14, 21.

Sandley/Tyler bt Bottomley/Naser 16, 15.

Mandy Reeves lost to Linda Hryszko 22, -14, -19.

Helen Williams lost to Sally Midgley -19, -13.

Miss Reeves/Miss Williams lost to Miss Hryszko/ Miss Midgley -16, 15, -19.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Essex II 10 Hampshire 0

Kent 2 Sussex 8

Wiltshire 4 Surrey II 6

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Clwyd 4 Staffordshire 6

Derbyshire 7 Cumbria 3

Yorkshire II 10 Cleveland II 0

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Buckinghamshire 4 Hertfordshire 4

Power failure at 4-all — final result agreed by all concerned that score stands.

Leicestershire 4 Norfolk 6

Warwickshire 7 Northamptonshire 3

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Buckinghamshire 1 Kent II 6

Another match affected by power cut, but Kent were on the way to fine win.

Hampshire II 2 Essex III 8

Sussex II 3 Dorset 7

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Cumbria II 4 Northumberland 6

Cleveland III 3 Lincolnshire 7

Nottinghamshire 5 Durham 5

Fair result with visiting boys having the edge, but home girls outshone their opponents to force a draw.

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Herefordshire 5 Shropshire II 5

Oxfordshire 2 Staffordshire II 8

Worcestershire 3 Gloucestershire 7

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Cambridgeshire 7 Hertfordshire II 3

Cambs have made the drop from Pre-

(continued on page 38)