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Table Tennis News

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EDITED BY **GEORGE YATES**

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MILAN SETTLES FOR SILVER

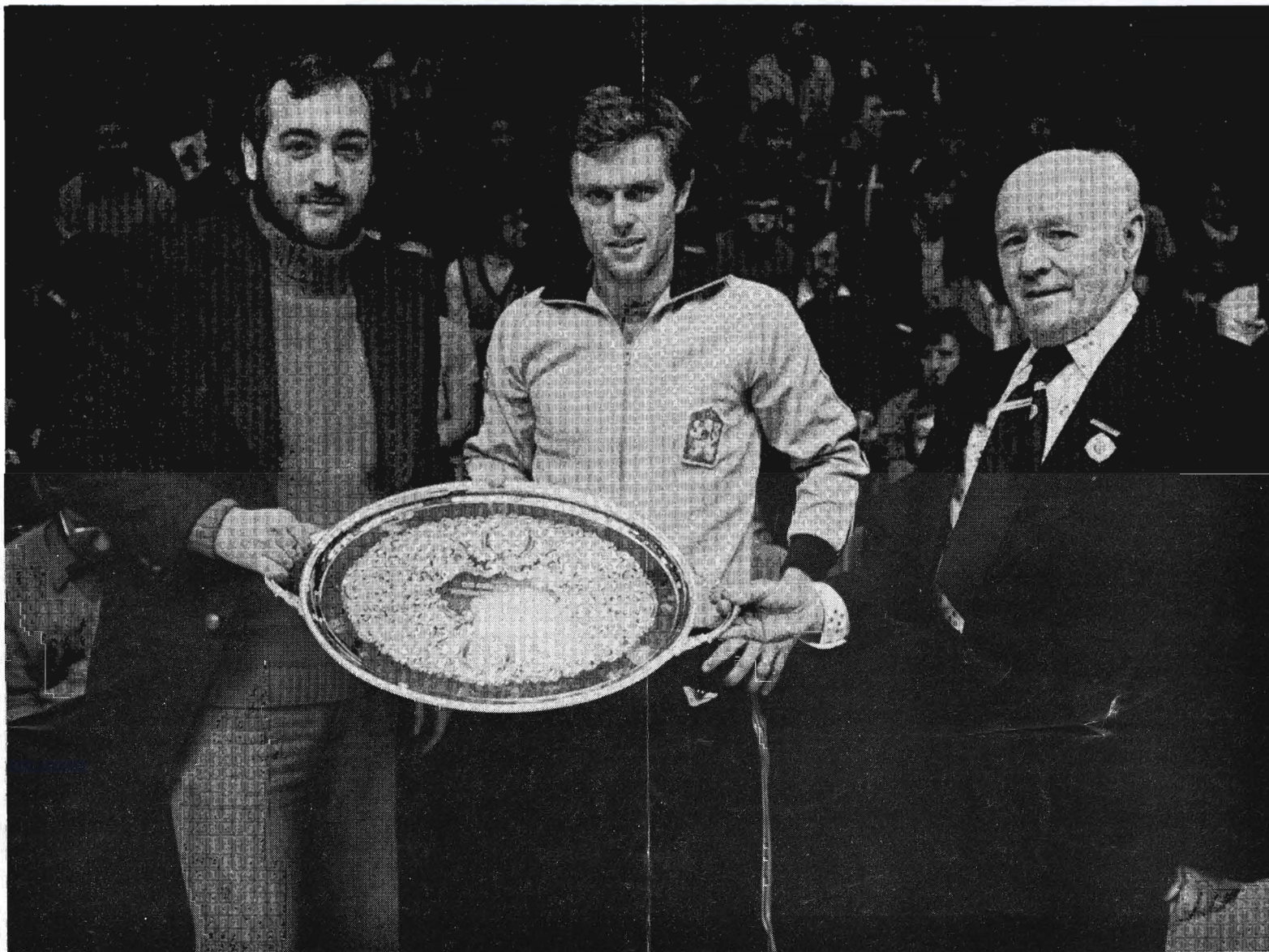


Photo by courtesy of Saatchi Compton, Leeds, Ltd.

Jaques

— of course

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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HARD-FORGED

To commence 1978 with two points netted in the Super Division of the European League, with wins over France and Sweden, and for Maurice Goldstein, the President of the English Table Tennis Association, to be honoured with the O.B.E. is no bad way to herald in the New Year.

If only the finances appertaining to the Birmingham World Championships had the same bright glow great would be the rejoicing and happy indeed would be Tom Blunn, the Association's Honorary Treasurer. But, sad to relate, his is a hang-over that has to be carried over but it is one shared by his co-officers and indeed by the membership as a whole.

The magic wand leading to merciful solvency is one that can only be waved by Birmingham Council and if citizen Maurice Goldstein can be singled out for a richly deserved honour so too can the E.T.T.A. whose links with the Midlands city, during the time of the world championships, was just as hard-forged and meaningful . . . or so it seemed when the project was first mooted!

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR

JACQUES AND JILL STILL TOP

Both **Jacques Secretin** of France and England's **Jill Hammersley**, the reigning European Champions who become due to defend their singles titles in Duisburg in March, retain their No. 1 positions in the revised classifications issued by the European Table Tennis Union on Dec. 29/77.

Still rising from the previous list, issued last September, **Desmond Douglas** is brought up from No. 11 to No. 8 and **Paul Day**, England's other representative in the men's list, leaves behind his joint ranking with Christian Martin of France, at Nos. 23/24 to take a position on his own at No. 20.

On the distaff side, apart from Jill, **Carole Knight** retains her No. 20 position and **Linda Howard** steps one pace forward from No. 24 to No. 23. Because of insufficient evidence Maria Alexandru (Rumania), previously at No. 6, is not included as is the case with the Soviet Union's Zoya Rudnova (11) and Elmira Antonian (12).

Lack of form has resulted in Sweden's Birgitta Olsson (21) and Tatjana Ferdman (22/23) of the Soviet Union being dropped from the rankings. This also applies to Stanislaw Fraczyk of Poland, previously at No. 25 in the men's list from which Kjell Johansson of Sweden (8) and England's Denis Neale (22) are familiar names to disappear.

Tibor Kreisz of Hungary, Roger Lagerfeldt of Sweden and Josef Juhas of Yugoslavia are the replacements, the former coming in at No. 14. Of the established men Martin of France makes the

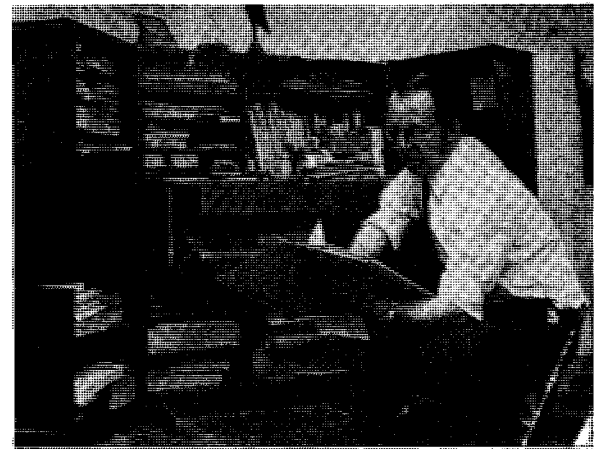
biggest leap, from being joint 23/24 to No. 10, which booked his ticket for the Top 12 tournament in Prague (Jan. 27/29).

A similar bound by Holland's Bettine Vriesekoop, from No. 16 to No. 11, also produced an invitation to the Czeck capital as it has for the Soviet Union's Valentine Popova, up from No. 13 to No. 8. But pride of place must go to Blanka Silhanova, the Czech girl, up from No. 14 to No. 5!

The new classifications (previous positions in brackets) are:—

Men

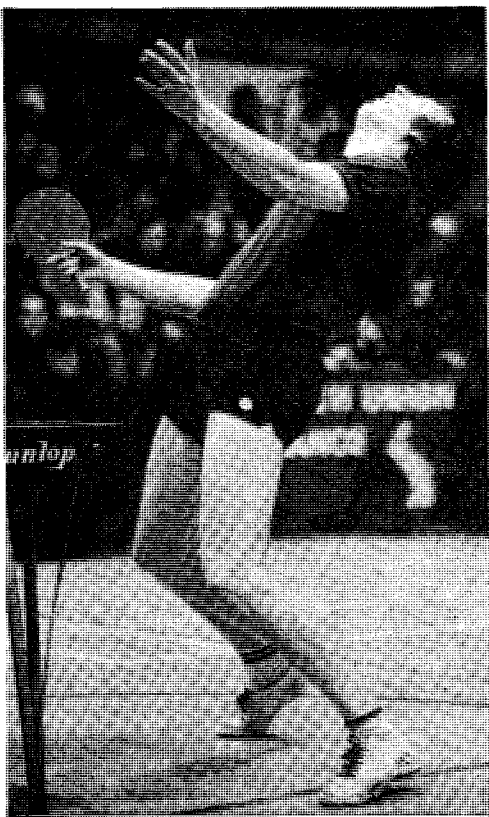
1. Jaques Secretin (France) (1)
2. Stellan Bengtsson (Sweden) (4/5)
3. Milan Orlovski (Czechoslovakia) (3)
4. Dragutin Surbek (Yugoslavia) (2)
5. Tibor Klampar (Hungary) (7)
6. Gabor Gergely (Hungary) (6)
7. Istvan Jonyer (Hungary) (4/5)
8. **Desmond Douglas (England) (11)**
9. Wilfried Lieck (Federal Germany) (10)
10. Christian Martin (France) (23/24)
11. Ulf Thorsell (Sweden) (13)
12. Anatoliy Strokotov (Soviet Union) (12)
13. Jaroslav Kunz (Czechoslovakia) (16)
14. Tibor Kreisz (Hungary) (—)
15. Anton Stipanac (Yugoslavia) (9)
16. Joechen Leiss (Federal Germany) (14)
17. Sarkis Sarkhojan (Soviet Union) (15)
18. Patrick Birocheau (France) (17/18)
19. Zoran Kosanovic (Yugoslavia) (20/21)
20. **Paul Day (England) (23/24)**



Seemingly advice as to how to stay there by England women's captain Bryan Merrett.

Photo by Tony Ross, Hessele.

21. Milivoj Karakasevic (Yugoslavia) (20/21)
22. Peter Stellwag (Federal Germany) (19)
23. Roger Lagerfeldt (Sweden) (—)
24. Josef Juhas (Yugoslavia) (—)
25. Stanislav Gomozkov (Soviet Union) (17/18)



How can it happen to me as portrayed by England's Denis Neale.

Photo by T. Edenden, Blandford Forum.

8. Valentine Popova (Soviet Union) (13)
9. Gabriella Szabo (Hungary) (10)
10. Erzebet Palatinus (Yugoslavia) (8/9)
11. Bettine Vriesekoop (Netherlands) (16)
12. Claude Bergeret (France) (8/9)
13. Dubravka Fabri (Yugoslavia) (17/18)
14. Wiebke Hendriksen (Federal Germany) (15)
15. Gordana Perkucin (Yugoslavia) (—)
16. Marie Lindblad (Sweden) (—)
17. Eva Stromvall (Sweden) (—)
18. Liana Mihut (Rumania) (25)
19. Branka Batinic (Yugoslavia) (22/23)
20. **Carole Knight (England) (20)**
21. Dana Dubinova (Czechoslovakia) (—)
22. Brigette Thiriet (France) (17/18)
23. **Linda Howard (England) (24)**
24. Zsuzsa Olah (Hungary) (—)
25. Eva Ferenczi (Rumania) (19).

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Taking advantage of Sweden's defeat by England (reported elsewhere) both the Soviet Union and Hungary draw level on points in the Super Division of the European League. But it was a narrow squeak for the Russians who, against the Netherlands in Middleburg on Dec. 15 only made it by a 4-3 scoreline with I. Solopov losing both his singles to Bert v.d. Helm and Nico van Slobbe. The other Dutch win came from the ever-improving Bettine Vriesekoop who beat Valentina Popova.

Scores:—

- B. v.d. Helm bt I. Solopov 14, 13;
- N. v. Slobbe lost to S. Sarkhojan -13, -18;
- B. Vriesekoop bt V. Popova 13, 11;
- v.d. Helm/v. Slobbe lost to Sarkhojan/Shevchenko -11, 12, -12;
- v. Slobbe/Vriesekoop lost to Sarkhojan/Popova -12, -14;
- v.d. Helm lost to Sarkhojan -19, -11;
- v. Slobbe bt Solopov 14, -19, 14.

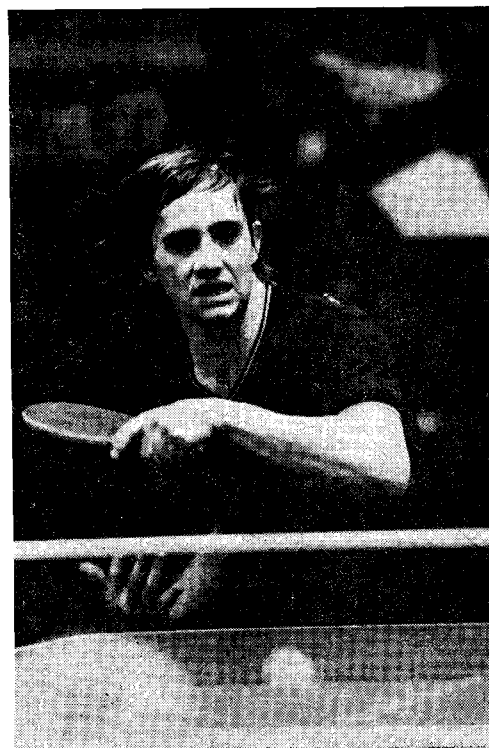
Hungary, in Pecs, really got back in their stride by beating Yugoslavia 6-1 the one to get away being the men's doubles won by Zoran Kosanovic and Milivoj Karakasevic against Istvan Jonyer and Tibor Klampar.

Scores:—

- T. Klampar bt Z. Kosanovic 15, -16, 18;
- G. Gergely bt Z. Kalinic 10, -8, 20;
- G. Szabo bt D. Fabri 12, 12;
- I. Jonyer/Klampar lost to M. Karakasevic/Kosanovic -17, -20;
- Klampar/Szabo bt Kosanovic/G. Perkucin 10, 19;
- Klampar bt Kalinic -19, 9, 18;
- Gergely bt Kosanovic 22, 17.

Not to be outsmarted by England, France travelled to Vsetin and beat Czechoslovakia 5-2

this after Milan Orlovski had beaten Jacques Secretin 10 and 9 in the opening set. It was not until the penultimate set that the Czechs registered another win when Orlovski got the better of Christian Martin over three games.



Unbeaten in European League matches Stellan Bengtsson rises to No. 2.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden.

Scores:—

- M. Orlovski bt J. Secretin 10, 9;
- J. Kunz lost to C. Martin -17, -10;
- B. Silhanova lost to C. Bergeret -16, -17;
- Kunz/Orlovski lost to P. Birocheau/Secretin -15, 14, -16;
- Orlovski/I. Uhlíkova lost to Secretin/Bergeret -14, 19, -18;
- Orlovski bt Martin 16, -16, 11;
- Kunz lost to Secretin -17, -6.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Sweden	4	3	1	19	9	3
Soviet Union	4	3	1	16	12	3
Hungary	4	3	1	15	13	3
France	4	2	2	16	12	2
England	4	2	2	13	15	2
Yugoslavia	4	2	2	11	17	2
Czechoslovakia	4	1	3	14	14	1
Netherlands	4	0	4	8	20	0

DIVISION ONE

Federal Germany realised their full potential in Craigavon when beating Ireland 7-0 only one set going into a deciding game when Peter Stellwag and Heinrich Lammers were taken the distance by young Colm Slevin and Kevin Keane.

Scores:—

- C. Slevin lost to H. Lammers -11, -12;
- K. Keane lost to P. Stellwag -17, -9;
- K. Senior lost to U. Hirschmuller -15, -14;
- Keane/Slevin lost to Lammers/Stellwag 21, -10, -8;
- Keane/Senior lost to Stellwag/Hirschmuller -11, -17;
- Slevin lost to Stellwag -17, -13;
- Keane lost to Lammers -18, -7.

St'ill on equal points Poland had a 6-1 win over Belgium in Lubin where the visitors' Marie-France Germiot beat Weronika Sikora but young Luc Driessens had a baptism under fire.

Scores:—

- L. Kucharski bt L. Driessens 8, 12;
- A. Grubba bt N. v.d. Walle 10, 16;
- W. Sikora lost to M-F Germiot -19, -16;
- R. Czochanski/Pryszel bt Driessens/v.d. Walle 8, 14;



Hungary's battling Judit Magos, down from No. 3 to No. 7.

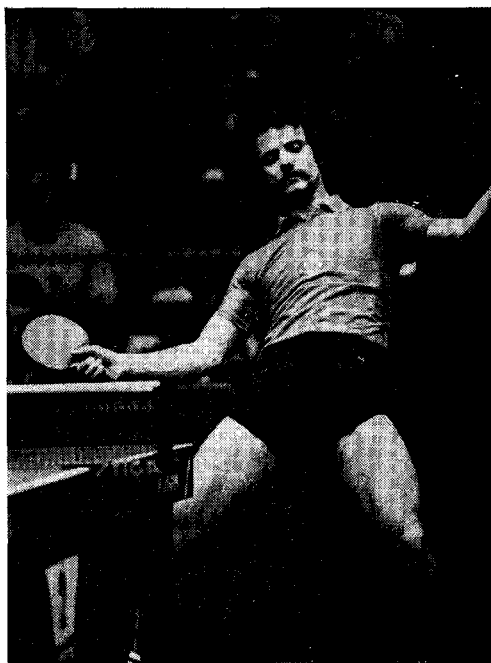
Czochanski/Sikora bt v.d. Walle/Germiat 19, -20, 18;
 Kurcharski bt v.d. Walle 13, 15;
 Grubba bt Driessens 11, 13.

In Sofia, Bulgaria kept themselves on the fringe of affairs by beating Austria 6-1 newcomer Waldhauser obtaining the visitors' solitary success by beating Bojidar Guentchev.

Scores:—
 I. Stojanov lost to E. Amplatz -11, -13;
 B. Guentchev bt Waldhauser -18, 21, 16;
 A. Rangelova bt D. Fetter 19, 15;
 Mitev/Stojanov bt Amplatz/G. Muller -15, 11, 21;
 Mitev/Rangelova bt Amplatz/Fetter 15, -16, 14;
 Stojanov bt Waldhauser 20, 19;
 Ghentchev bt Amplatz 15, 19.

Luxembourg obtained their first win of the season in beating Greece 5-2 in Athens.

Scores:—
 K. Priftis bt A. Hartmann 11, -19, 5;
 N. Kostopoulos lost to C. Putz -10, -13;
 L. Skrivanou bt J. Dom -16, -16;
 Kostopoulos/Priftis lost to Hartmann/Putz -13, 12, -17;
 E. Diakakis/Skrivanou lost to Hartmann/Dom -18, -17;
 Priftis lost to Putz -22, -13;
 Kostopoulos bt Hartmann 15, 19.



Gabor Gergely, the middle man of three Hungarians in the top twelve.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Federal Germany	4	4	0	27	1	4
Poland	4	4	0	24	4	4
Bulgaria	4	3	1	20	5	3
Greece	4	2	2	13	15	2
Belgium	4	1	3	7	21	1
Austria	4	1	3	7	21	1
Luxembourg	4	1	3	6	22	1
Ireland	4	0	4	5	20	0

DIVISION TWO

Scotland blotted their copy book in no uncertain fashion when beaten 5-2 by Finland in Helsinki their prospects of promotion to Division 1 now being on the far horizon. A win for Richard Yule, over Jarmo Jokinen, and the mixed, was all that the Scots could extract from the "Flying Finns".

Scores:—
 J. Ikonen bt E. Sutherland 7, 5;
 J. Jokinen lost to R. Yule -19, -12;
 S. Grefberg bt G. McKay 9, 6;
 Ikonen/Jokinen bt Sutherland/Yule 12, -10, 23;
 Jokinen/M. Grefberg lost to Yule/McKay -17, 16, -15;
 Ikonen bt Yule 12, 21;
 Jokinen bt Sutherland -19, 21, 13.

Spain, in Gerona, brought off their first win in beating Switzerland 4-3 the victory coming in the penultimate set when Jose-Maria Pales accounted for Laszlo Foldy.

Scores:—
 J. Pales bt T. Busin 12, 18;
 R. Junyent bt L. Foldy -17, 18, 12;
 P. Lupon lost to R. Wyder -13, -16;
 Junyent/S. Moles lost to J. Barcikowski/Busin -19, 17, -15;
 J. Lupon/P. Lupon bt Busin/Wyder -12, 20, 21;
 Pales bt Foldy 19, 21;
 Junyent lost to Busin -20, -17.

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Finland	3	2	1	14	7	2
Italy	2	2	0	11	3	2
Scotland	2	1	1	7	7	1
Spain	2	1	1	5	9	1
Switzerland	3	0	3	5	16	0

EUROPE CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS

Men

Round 2
 Sparta Praha bt T.T. Senigallia 5-0;
 Tempo Team bt A.S. Messine 5-1;
 S.S.V. Reutlingen bt Wloknigrz Lodz 5-1;
 G.S.T.K. Vjesnik bt S.V. Sax Langenlois 5-1;
Ormesby T.T.C. bt Virum Copenhagen 5-0;
 Havirov T.T.C. bt Young Stars Zurich 5-0;
 Molndals B.T.C. bt K.S.C. Maccabi 5-0;
 Bp Spartacus bt C.S.M. Cluj 5-3.

Round 3

S.S.V. Reutlingen bt G.S.T.K. Vjesnik 5-1;
 Havirov T.T.C. bt **Ormesby T.T.C.** 5-3;
 Bp Spartacus bt Molndals B.T.K. 5-3.

Women

Round 2

Statiztika Bp bt Tempo Team 5-1;
 Palatte Club Stave bt G.B.C. Bari;
 S.T.K. Proleter Coka bt Club de 7 a 9 5-0;
 C.S. Arad bt D.S.C. Kaiserberg 5-3;
 Pochtenez Sofia bt **Ormesby T.T.C.** 5-4;
 Spartak B.S. Vlasim bt A.C. Cabourg 5-1;
 31 Epitok bt Olympiacos;
 Varbergs B.T.C. bt Spojnia Warsaw 5-1.

Round 3

Statiztika Bp bt Palette Stave 5-1;
 Spartak Vlasim bt Pochtenez Sofia 5-1.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. MORAN

FIRST WIN FOR RACHAEL

A Happy New Year to you all and congratulations to the Birmingham Association officials and especially Referee Doug Young and the stalwart John Devey for a very well organised and smoothly run Midland Open. No local successes on the table in this tournament I'm afraid but a fine return to winning ways by Warwickshire in their County Premier match versus Glamorgan whose team of Alan Griffiths, Graham Davies and Mike Owen also represented Wales in the 1977 World Championships.

Ably presented by Chairman George Halvorsen and his Stratford Association colleagues the match ended in a 5-4 win for the home team despite Derek Munt having to concede the last set against Owen due to a back injury. Owen who also defeated Simon Claxton 21-6 in the third will be remembered by many of you for his play in the Birmingham and Coventry Leagues in recent years.

The highlight of the match was undoubtedly Rachel Mackriell's first singles win at senior level. The Leamington girl beat Diane Coulthard 14, 17 and gave the team a tremendous boost. The other points came from two wins by Dougie Johnson, one from Munt and these two also won the men's doubles.

The County Juniors remain unbeaten following a 5-5 draw with Leicestershire. David Ward, Lester Bertie, Richard Tanner, Jackie Harper and Sue Hemmings all pulled together in a fine team effort, Sue in particular fought back from 12-18 down to win 22-20 over Yvonne Hall.

Sad news recently of Coventry veteran Allen Bury. One of the County's most outstanding sportsmen for the past 25 years Allen is recovering in Walsgrave Hospital after suffering a brain haemorrhage which has left him paralysed down

his right side. This popular and much-respected sportsman has represented the County at tennis and table tennis and, when injury forced his premature (at the age of 44!) retirement from, a football career in which he played for Coventry City, Lockheed, Rugby and Banbury Spencer, he took up golf quickly bringing his handicap down to 3!

The latest news is that his fitness and tremendous will to win are much in evidence and I'm sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy and full recovery.

NORTH YORKSHIRE CLOSED

by Richard Scruton

Prior to the North Yorkshire Open, the Harrogate and Dist. League organised the 1st North Yorkshire Closed championships for players in the Harrogate, York, Northallerton and Selby leagues. An entry of 100 players was less than expected but did not detract from an interesting tournament.

Steve Tracey and Maureen Gott dominated the tournament winning five events between them. Tracey, an ex-Irish player who lives in Scarborough but represents York, defeated the former county players Nicky Davies and Alan Jones with ease to take the men's singles title. Mrs. Gott, ranked 8th in Yorkshire, won three titles without dropping a single game.

David Rawley, in his first competitive season, surprised the top two seeds in the boys' singles and made it six titles for the York League. 15-years-old David is the brightest prospect the York League has had for many years.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

S. Tracey (Y) bt J. Troughton (H) 15, 15;
 N. Davies (H) bt P. Campkin (H) 10, 13;
 J. Bojas (Y) bt L. Browning (H) -17, 14, 21;
 A. Jones (H) bt P. Canham (Y) 23, -23, 6.

Semi-finals:

Tracey bt Davies 14, 11;
 Jones bt Bojas 13, 18.

Final:

Tracey bt Jones 6, 8.
W.S.: M. Gott (Y) bt L. Smith (H) 10, 8.

M.D.: R. Lowery (Y)/Tracey bt Jones/I. Walmsley (H) 15, 11.

W.D.: M. Broadbent (Y) /Gott bt L. Bradley/B. Norman (Y) 15, 13.

X.D.: Bojas/Gott bt V. Smith (H)/L. Smith 14, 13.

B.S.: D. Rawley (Y) bt C. Twineham (H) 10, 13.

V.S.: Browning bt W. Dodd (H) 15, -17, 8.

DORSET NOTES

by M. ABBOTT

FOUR IN ACTION

In the last set of County matches Dorset had four teams in action and the day produced 2 wins and 2 defeats. The most important result of the day was the 1st team's 6-4 win over Hampshire. Joyce Coop and Janet New won all their sets with John Robinson and Trevor Smith beating the out-of-form Hants No. 1 Keith Summerfield.

The men's doubles was a crucial set with Robinson and Martin Abbott just overcoming Summerfield and Chris Shetler 19, 19. The other win was recorded by our Junior side who defeated Hants II 7-3 with Sarah Gilson, Sally New and Roger Lee unbeaten.

Dorset's senior 2nd side lost to a strong Berkshire II team 0-10, and the veterans' 2nd team lost 1-8 to Wiltshire. John Curnow won the only set.

In the Poole League, the strongest in the county, the two sides at the top of Division 1 clashed this month when Lytchett (champions for the past three seasons) met Broadstone Old Boys. Playing in the match were five county players. For Lytchett, Dorset's Nos. 2 and 3, Robinson and Abbott, and Hants No. 3 Chris Pickard. For Broadstone Dorset's Nos. 1 and 5 Smith and Cyril Bush. This was 8-2 in favour of Lytchett with Smith (No. 1) beating Robinson and Abbott (2 and 3).

HALEXSPORT KENT 2-STAR JUNIOR OPEN

RECORD ENTRY AT FOLKESTONE by CYRIL BURDEN

Once more this ever popular tournament was held at the Marine Pavilion, Folkestone over the weekend Nov. 26/27 and attracted a record entry to the point of being restricted two days before the closing date with at least 35 entry forms being returned to unlucky applicants.

Belgium again sent over a strong team of 5 boys and 3 girls giving an international flavour to the tournament. But the large entry brought with it an ever increasing headache to the organisers as the standard of play in the U-11 and U-13 events has improved so much that scheduling of junior events can no longer be done on the 15 minutes per set basis.

The Saturday events were confined to the U-15, U-13 and U-11 events and although a prompt 9 a.m. start was made, and for 13 hours not one of the 10 tables in use was idle, it became apparent that Kent's high standard of not finishing a junior event after 10 p.m. was going to go astray this season. Indeed, in order to finish before midnight, three finals were held over to the Sunday but unfortunately 2 titles, the U-15 and U-13 girls' doubles had to be shared by mutual agreement between the participants as three of the finalists were not engaged in the Sunday events.

But none of this detracted from the overall enjoyment shared both by the organisers and players as not a murmur of complaint was heard from the players, only praise for the smooth running, firm hand and sense of humour of the Referee Albert Shipley. Along with this must go thanks not only to the hard working band of senior umpires but to all those willing juniors who for a small reward kept the tournament running without a stoppage.

As to the play itself, the U-17 boys' singles attracted 8 of the top players in the country and with it quite a few surprises such as Tony Penney's

defeat of John Souter, No. 1 seed, in the 4th round -13, 14, 17, only later to be beaten by Desmond Charlery in the semis. The final itself between Charlery and Stuart Kimm was indeed worthy of the final for it finished with a win for Charlery -20, 19, 19 and he was trailing in both the final games.

The boys' doubles was a triumph for the Sussex pairing of Graham Gillett and Stephen Moore over the fancied Souter and Mark Oakley in straight games. The championships proved once again a personal victory for Mandy Reeves who, once again, took the U-17 girls' singles in which she beat Kent's Elaine Bolton in the final; the U-17 girls' doubles partnered by Helen Williams and mixed with Souter.

All this followed her triumph on Saturday in the U-15 girls' singles when she beat the up-and-coming Gillian Galloway in the final; the U-15 mixed with Souter and joint holder of the girls' doubles. The U-15 boys' singles was won by Souter but he had to work hard for his win over Glen Baker in the final.

The Belgian contingent featured in most of the semi-finals or finals but their only outright winner was Barbara Lippens who took the U-13 girls' singles title with a hard-fought win over Sarah Cresswell. She also, partnered by Nathalie Boeckx, became joint holder of the doubles in that age group with Jeanine Smith and Sarah Cresswell.

In the U-13 boys' singles Andrew Dixon from Wolverhampton made his mark with a straight games win over Adrian Moore, but the latter had some consolation with a win in the doubles partnered by Graham Russell. The quality of the play in the U-11 boys' and girls' singles was a revelation and augurs well for the future of table tennis in this country. The eventual winners were Carl Preen from the Isle of Wight and Lisa Bellinger of Dunstable.

Results:—

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

S. Kimm (E) bt C. Wilson (Mi) 15, 18;
D. Charlery (E) bt A. Penny (E) -16, 18, 18.

Final:

CHARLERY bt Kimm -20, 19, 19.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

M. Reeves (Mi) bt G. Galloway (Li) 18, 14;
E. Bolton (K) bt B. Lippens (Belg) 19, -13, 16.

Final:

REEVES bt Bolton 20, 5.

Boys' Doubles:

G. Gillett/S. Moore (Sx) bt M. Oakley (Sy)/
J. Souter (Mi) 10, 18.

Girls' Doubles:

Reeves/H. Williams (Mi) bt G. Ballard (K)/
Galloway -13, 15, 25.

Mixed Doubles:

Souter/Reeves bt D. Leroy (Belg)/Lippens
-18, 12, 13.

U-15 Events

B.S.: Souter bt G. Baker (Sy) 10, -16, 16.

G.S.: Reeves bt Galloway 13, 18.

B.D.: Oakley/Souter bt T. Cabrera (Belg)/
Leroy 20, 17.

G.D.: Title shared between Reeves/Galloway and
L. Garbet/S. Cresswell (Sy).

X.D.: Souter/Reeves bt Leroy/Lippens 15, -16, 16.

U-13 Events

B.S.: A. Dixon (St) bt A. Moore (Sx) 17, 19.

G.S.: Lippens bt Cresswell 15, -12, 4.

B.D.: Moore/G. Russell (Sy) bt B. Collingwood/
D. Sharpe (Mi) 15, -15, 17.

G.D.: Title shared between N. Boeckx (Belg)/
Lippens and Cresswell/J. Smith (He).

U-11 Events

B.S.: C. Preen (Ha) bt N. Tyler (Mi) 14, 6.

G.S.: L. Bellinger (Bd) bt J. Woodward (Ox) 7, 12.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. PENNY

SPECIAL PLEASURE

In this season of Peace and Goodwill it gives me special pleasure to quote the following report, sent to me by Ray Drew, General Secretary of King's Lynn T.T. Association:—

"In early October last year a party including ten players from the King's Lynn T.T.A. made the journey to Emmerich in W. Germany to play two matches against the T.V. Jahn Emmerich Vrssett Club. This followed a visit of the German club to King's Lynn in May and the results of each meeting were the same, being a win for the German club and a draw. On both occasions a great time was had by all and further meetings are being planned".

There were three county matches in December, Norfolk v Suffolk at Roman Hill School, Lowestoft (unfortunately abandoned owing to the late arrival of Suffolk's two leading players, following a car breakdown. Norfolk have claimed the points, but the outcome rests with the E.T.T.A.) then Norfolk II v Hunts at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S., where Norfolk led 4-0, only to slide to a 4-all, then taking the last two singles for a 6-4 win, and thirdly, Norfolk Juniors v Bucks at May & Baker's, Norwich, lost by 3-7. Here 14-year-old Sue Browne won her singles, and also her doubles with Ruth Harroven, and it was good to see Sue watching the second team match in the evening.

Congratulations to Wendy Hogg, Norfolk No. 3, on reaching the final of the Hastings Tiger Open, the first time a Norfolk woman has reached an Open final since Betty Cassell's tournament days (Incidentally, we hear that Betty may soon be attempting a comeback!). Wendy, her mother Ruth, and Pat Ross gave Norwich an exciting 6-3 away win against Cheshunt in the Rose Bowl. In the Juniors' Bromfield Trophy, Norwich went down 4-5 to Lowestoft at home, despite Ruth Harroven winning all three.

The Wilmott Cup saw Norwich succumb to a strong North Middlesex side, but Bob Thornton beat England-ranked Bob Potton and Douglas Bennett defeated Middlesex star David Tan. Dereham lost 4-5 to North Herts., Neville Graver having a good win over the Herts No. 1, Richard Jermyn.

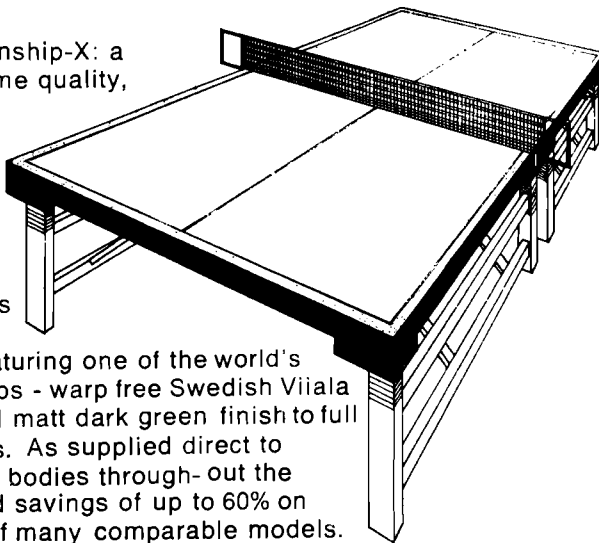
COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Mr. Howard Goddard presenting the trophy to Milan Orlowski of Czechoslovakia, winner of the Goddard Finance International Table Tennis Tournament at Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds on December 17/77. l to r Mr. Howard Goddard, Milan Orlowski, Charles M. Wyles, Chairman E.T.T.A.

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SPENSPORT

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

D.D. DAY AT PICKETT'S LOCK by DON KENNY

Whatever it might have been on the Saturday of the Middlesex Open, there was little doubt that the Sunday was going to be D.D. Day. For, from the word 'Go' D.D. looked what he proved to be . . . invincible. Others struggled, fought, won or lost in their various events, looked fallible, proved fallible. Not so our Mr. Douglas who, like 'Ole man river' jest kept rolling, untroubled, along.

With a 13, 13 victory over Kerry Palmer of New Zealand, the quarters saw him against John Dabin who, in the first game had the temerity to take 20 points from him and for his pains was allowed only 8 in the second. In the semis, facing a fighting Max Crimmins seeming to use the first game to get into gear before going into overdrive in the second . . . Exit Max -19, -13.

Paul Day meantime had been doing his own hatchet job disposing of Ian Horsham 13, 14 and Dougie Johnson, before meeting John Hilton to whom he had lost in the Nissen tournament on the Friday. Paul was in top gear very quickly to ensure that the same did not happen and ran out a fairly comfortable winner.

Nobody could complain about the quality of the men's final which included some fine rallies, some outstanding shots from both players and a good build-up of tension as the scores rose steadily together. At 20-all it was about as tense as it could be . . . Des scores the first, Paul the next . . . then two more to give the first game to Douglas. The second game if anything, surpassed the first with again both players producing top form, much to the appreciation of the audience. At 19-all Desmond produces one of his best to take a narrow lead and then Paul's return misses the table by an inch to give D.D. the title.

In the men's doubles, teamed with Alan Griffiths (Wales) who had beaten Errol Caetano (Canada) in as a late replacement for the injured Denis Neale, before losing to Hilton in the quarters, there was again no problem. Hilton and Don Parker were disposed of in the semis while Day and Andy Barden had gone out to David Tan and John Kitchener. While Tan and Kitchener fought as hard as they could they could only muster 11 points in the first and 14 in the second; D.D. strikes again!

Teamed with Linda Howard in the Mixed, the story continued in the same vein. The young and talented Alison Gordon and Graham Sandley were their opponents in the semis and this pair were majestically disposed of. In the opposite half Day teamed with Melody Ludi had to meet Jill Hammersley and Barden in the semis. Alas, it was not one of Jill's best days and it was the younger young lady who would appear in the final with a 14, 15 victory. Despite this, the pairing was not quite up to the task in the final with Linda and Des in comfortable command throughout cruising to an 11, 14 win to complete the treble.

The women had been quite interesting as they played through their singles matches, Carole Knight having disposed of Lesley Radford in good style, Linda Howard looking, despite the fact that she, herself is by no means un-youthful in appearance, quite an old Lady against the tiny Helen Williams, gave no chances. Karen Rogers was taken to 18 in the first by Suzanne Hunt but took the second at 13. Jill Hammersley met Angela Mitchell and looked comfortable in the first game, sailing home with a win to 13. The local Miss Mitchell hit form in the second, completely disregarding the reputation of the European Champion and came in with a good 22-20 win. Madam H., not appreciating the affront to her dignity, decided that enough was enough! In overdrive she was magnificent both in defence and attack and at 19-3 gave away only two more

points going for the kill, for a 21-5 revenge.

The semis saw Carole Knight overwhelm Linda Howard in their first game but Linda playing much better looked set to take the second before yielding -20. Jill Hammersley seemingly had no trouble against Karen Rogers.

The final was disappointing in that Jill somehow never got her game really going although Carole, who had beaten her on the Friday, was not giving her much help. A few tentative back-hands reduced her confidence and she was struggling. Carole meanwhile was gaining in confidence and after taking the first at 12 managed to take the second at 14, for the title.

Karen Witt and Melody Ludi looked suitably impressed when they came to the table to face the European Women's Champions in the final of the doubles, but in the event did a little impressing on their own account. Combining well with strong attacking play they came very near to winning the first, only losing at 20. In the second they took command and won a very convincing game 21-18. Jill and Linda, whilst not wishing to discourage the youngsters, felt that they had been given quite enough scope to display their talents, and took command of the third to ensure a decent contribution to their respective Christmas boxes and sailed home at 13.

Henry Buist, a previous winner of the Veterans in '75/76 made a return to the winner's rostrum with a good win over S. C. Battrick -14, 15, 17 to complete the list of Champions.

Results:—

Middlesex 3-Star Open

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Douglas (Wa) bt J. Dabin (K) 20, 8;
M. Crimmins (Sy) bt D. Tan (Mi) 18, -16, 17;
P. Day (Ca) bt D. Johnson (Wa) 14, 10;
J. Hilton (La) bt A. Griffiths (Gn) 17, 13.

Semi-finals:

Douglas bt Crimmins 19, 13.

Day bt Hilton 11, 11.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Day 21, 19.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

C. Knight (Cv) bt L. Radford (E) 12, 14;
L. Howard (Sy) bt H. Williams (Mi) 14, 15;
K. Rogers (Le) bt S. Hunt (Li) '8, 13;
J. Hammersley (Bu) bt A. Mitchell (Mi) 13, -20, 5.

Semi-finals:

Knight bt Howard 6, 20;

Hammersley bt Rogers 10, 12.

Final:

KNIGHT bt Hammersley 12, 14.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Douglas/Griffiths bt Hilton/D. Parker (La) 13, 9;
J. Kitchener (Sk)/Tan bt A. Barden (Mi)/Day
-18, 19, 16.

Final:

DOUGLAS/GRIFFITHS bt Kitchener/Tan 11, 14.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Hammersley/Howard bt A. Gordon/M. Smith (Bk)
12, 18;

M. Ludi (Y)/K. Witt (Bk) bt Rogers/Hunt 21, 17.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Ludi/Witt

22, -18, 13.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

Day/Ludi bt Barden/Hammersley 14, 15.
Douglas/Howard bt G. Sandley (Mi)/Gordon
10, 19.

Final:

DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Day/Ludi 11, 14.

U.A.U.-W.I.V.A.B.

Table Tennis

by DEREK OLDMAN

The annual UAU/WIVAB Individual Championships were held over the weekend 26/27 November at Keele University. This particular tournament will be remembered mainly for two reasons. Firstly the entry for the men's events contained more players of county standard than ever before. Appearing in a university event for the first time were John Clark of Sussex, "Cosmos" Graham of Middlesex, the Hazelwood twins of Yorkshire fame, Ian Smith from Lancashire and

Andrew Clark the Northumberland No. 1. When these names were added to the existing stars it meant that some players who had county honour could not make the seedings and choosing the correct eight became something of a lottery.

Sadly the championships will also be remembered as an occasion when there were a record number of withdrawers. Lack of sufficient suitable accommodation in the potteries was the main reason for this. Many students returned home after the Saturday events which left a very depleted mixed doubles programme for the Sunday morning. This meant a greatly increased workload on the referee, but with Tony Chatwin in charge of this department and very ably assisted by Arthur Morgan and Val Duffin there were very few problems. A mixed singles was hastily introduced to fill in the time and the finals began on schedule.

In the men's singles the seedings had been based on known county championship performances. Seven of the seeded players reached the quarter-finals, the odd man out being Robert Hazelwood of Hull University who was beaten by Philip Vickers, the Derbyshire player from Aston. Stephen Hazelwood (Hull), Andrew Clark (Newcastle), John Proffitt (Sussex) and Philip Vickers all fell at this stage leaving the 5th to 8th seeds to fight for a place in the final. Andrew Wellman was now emerging as most punters favourite. He duly defeated his Sussex colleague John Clark in the first semi while Graham, also from Sussex, won a very narrow victory over Ian Smith representing Aston. The all-Sussex final was always entertaining even though Wellman was on top for most of the time. He duly emerged as a very worthy champion, a title which should entitle him to top spot for the B.U.S.F. Championships later in the season. Top marks also to the American "Cosmos" Graham who certainly surprised a few people in the hall.

The only newcomer in the women's events of any substance was Anne Sweeney of Lancashire who is now studying at Manchester University. She was seeded at No. 3 immediately ahead of Linda Clemett of Leeds. Mandy Mellor, the holder (Loughborough) and Janet Carr (Manchester) were seeded to meet in the final. This duly happened, the result being a narrow victory for Mandy, the set going to 3 games in a repeat of last year's B.U.S.F. final. Unseeded Karen Saywell (Birmingham) out thought Anne Sweeney to reach the semi-finals but perished to Mandy Mellor. Janet Carr got the better of Linda Clemett in the other semi, this being a reversal of the result at the same stage last year.

The Hazelwood twins were selected as top seeds in the men's doubles. Also obvious lack of practise since going to university had blunted their play and they were ousted in the quarter-final by Clark and Ho of Newcastle, who themselves were put away by John Clark and "Cosmos" Graham at the next stage. In the other half of the draw Vickers and Smith (Aston) met the other fancied Sussex pair Proffitt and Wellman, the holders. The result was again an all-Sussex final which proved very entertaining. Proffitt and Wellman duly retained their title but needed 3 games to survive and a few anxious moments to do it.

In the women's doubles Janet Carr and Anne Sweeney were expected to win with most resistance coming from Mandy Mellor and Anne Maxwell of Loughborough. However the No. 3 seeds Linda Clemett and her "eastern" partner C. Yeoh were too good for the Loughborough pair in one of the semis. In the other Miss Saywell and Miss Glover never really got to grips with Carr and Sweeney who duly emerged as favourites for the title. This duly happened but not without a tremendous struggle. The Manchester pair lost the first game and were 19-20 down in the second before scraping through in the decider. The Leeds pair were certainly underrated and could very easily have stolen the title.

The mixed was the most difficult event to forecast. Robert Hazelwood and Barbara Devine from Hull were seeded to meet Wellman and sister Sally in the final. However No. 3 seed Colin Williams and Linda Clemett, last year's B.U.S.F. finalists beat the top seeds in a fine match. Steve Lawson (an able replacement for Donald Parker) and Mandy Mellor were the other unfortunate couple to go out at the penultimate stage, losing to the Wellman's of Sussex. Once again three games were

needed before the winners emerged. However, the combined strengths of the Leeds pair pulled them through in a closely contested match.

As previously mentioned a hastily convened mixed singles event took place to fill in the time caused by the mass withdrawals in the mixed. Vickers won this in spite of being handicapped, beating Colin Williams in the final. The beaten semi-finalists were Proffitt and Tony Hanks from Sheffield.

- Results:—**
M.S.: A. Wellman (Sx) bt C. Graham (Sx) 12, 19.
M.D.: Wellman/J. Proffitt (Sx) bt J. Clark/C. Graham (Sx) 16, -14, 15.
W.S.: M. Mellor (Lo) bt J. Carr (Mr) 16, -17, 14.
W.D.: Carr/A. Sweeney (Mr) bt L. Clemett/C. Yeoh (Ls) -17, 21, 15.
X.D.: C. Williams/L. Clemett (Ls) bt Wellman/S. Wellman (Sx) -15, 14, 14.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by DENNIS MILLMAN

EPIC VICTORY

Tony Clark set the seal on the County T.S.B. Jubilee Closed Championships at Kettering Recreation Centre, with an epic men's singles victory over John Palmer. The pair, competing in their first final, provided a classic confrontation of attack against defence, with Clark's greater initiative eventually paying off in one of the best finals for some years, as he won 14, -24, 18.

Clark, who in earlier rounds had needed all his ability to survive against Mick Hawes, and then came within a point of defeat in a superb semi-final with Steve Lyon, also reached the finals of both men's and mixed doubles without achieving ultimate success. Gary Alden's unfortunate absence through illness, enabled Clark to partner Christine Price in the mixed, but in the final they were unable to cope with the expertise of Lyon and Connie Bane, who in gaining a record number of

wins in this event, were the only winners to retain their title, and became in so doing the only players ever to win a county championship twice in one year.

In the men's doubles, Clark teamed up with Keith Nicoll and reached the final by beating another new pairing in Rod Marchant and Ian Morris, who earlier had accounted for holders Lyon and Phil Snelling. Meanwhile in the opposite half of the draw, the veteran pair John Palmer and Dennis Millman proceeded smoothly to the final without dropping an end, and then against the odds proceeded to beat Clark and Nicoll in straight games, the first time the men's doubles had gone to Kettering, and the first time that either Palmer or Millman had won a County Senior title in more years than either cares to remember. Palmer, having a first class tournament, despite the onset of an illness that was to keep him out of action for more than two weeks, also took the veterans' singles at his first attempt, when he patiently dethroned Colin Hogg, who had previously taken the title on every occasion since first entering the veteran ranks in 1973.

With Anne Wallis continuing her self imposed exile, and her much improved sister Mandy also not among the entrants, the women's events were thrown wide open, but on the day, the current County No. 1, Ann Wilson, justified her position with a fine controlled display in which she enjoyed an excellent win in the women's final over Christine Price, after having had to work much harder in the semi-final against former title-holder Connie Bane. With Miss Wilson partnering the experienced Dorothy Marsh, it was not surprising that the women's doubles also went their way, after a close semi-final with Christine Price and Glennis Hooper, and an easier final against the Margaret Maltby - Joyce Porter pairing who lost at the final hurdle for the second year in succession.

The junior competitions emphasised the value of T.S.B. Sponsorship, for members of the T.S.B. Junior Squad dominated the Under-17 events, with

David Gallo excelling himself to take the Boys' singles against Ian Morris, who earlier had beaten No. 1 seed Keith Nicoll, while Julie Robinson just deserved an enthralling Girls' singles success against young Jane Nicholl, who also lost the Under-14 Singles to a peak performance from Jane Wallis. However Rothborough's Richard Malfait gained the corresponding Boys' event with a straightforward win against Cadet team-mate Terry Cardwell.

In the special Jubilee Doubles, an event enjoyed by most competitors, Steve Lyon, partnered by the inexperienced Graham Carter of Corby, demonstrated the true spirit of table tennis, and confirmed his position as top doubles player in the county, by fighting for every point through a long and gruelling day, and ending with a superb win over Ian Morris and Mick Wilson of Towcester.

So ended a highly successful tournament, with the biggest entry for some years, most capably organised by Jim Chatburn and Ian Nicoll, with the full backing of the Kettering League Committee, at what has frequently been described as the best venue in the county. The splendour of the trophies and the enthusiasm and skills of the players were matched only by the total commitment and involvement of the Trustee Savings Bank officials, who were on hand throughout, to make a contribution much greater than their original sponsorship implied, and who perhaps more than anyone, made the Northamptonshire County Jubilee Closed Tournament, not only an unqualified success, but a unique occasion to be remembered, as together we move towards the golden jubilee of the future.

Results:—

M.S.: Semi-finals:

J. Palmer bt R. Marchant -18, 14, 7.

A. Clark bt S. Lyon -12, 22, 14.

Final:

Clark bt Palmer 14, -24, 18.

W.S.: A. Wilson bt C. Price 9, 13.

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Courses

1 1st to 6th August.

2 7th to 12 August.

3 12th to 20th August (9 days).

4 21st to 26th August.

5 27th August to 1st September.

M.D.: Palmer/D. Millman bt Clark/K. Nicholl 16, 19.
W.D.: Wilson/D.Marsh bt M. Maltby/J. Porter 16, 12.
X.D.: Lyon/C. Bane bt Clark/Price 16, 15.
V.S.: Palmer bt C. Hogg 15, 16.
U-17 B.S.: D. Gallo bt I. Morris 8, 17.
U-17 G.S.: J. Robinson bt J. Nicoll -14, 10, 20.
B.D.: T. Chamberlain/N. Knatt bt Gallo/Morris 22, 16.
G.D.: Nicoll/Cutler bt K. Towler/G. Philpott 17, 12.
U-14 B.S.: R. Malfait bt T. Cardwell 9, 10.
U-14 G.S.: J. Wallis bt Nicoll 16, 13.
Jubilee Doubles: Lyon/G. Carter bt I. Morris/M. Wilson 19, 13.

Unfortunately the enthusiasms generated at the County Tournament were not carried over to the County Championship matches, and the teams without Alden and Palmer suffered three further defeats, with the only wins coming from Phil Snelling, Valerie Feakin, Keith Nicoll and Helen Cottier, and the doubles pairings of Miss Feakin and Margaret Maltby, and Miss Cottier and Joanne Cutler. Perhaps the new rankings, due to take effect on the first day of 1978, will produce the desired results when the County sides next go into action.

Returning to more mundane affairs, the County League has produced one more result, with Wellingborough beating Towcester 8-3 and a postponement with Towcester failing to raise a side for their fixtures at Kettering. In the former, Towcester's Stephanie Lines and Ron Dunkley contributed all three points, while for Wellingborough, only Gary Alden and Richard Malfait remained unbeaten, although Brian Dangerfield, Graham Feakin and Dorothy Marsh all contributed to Wellingborough's first win of the season which leaves the League Table as follows:-

Northampton	3	3	0	26
Daventry	3	2	1	26
Wellingborough	3	1	2	10
Towcester	2	0	2	8
Kettering	1	0	1	2

In recent years, the South East Midlands League has been slow to get into its stride, and this year has proved to be no exception, with some teams still to play their opening match. However Northampton and Kettering have sides

to the fore in the Junior Divisions, as have Daventry in the Reserves section, while it is anticipated that Wellingborough Women and Kettering Veterans could come with a late run to get near the top of their respective divisions. Individually Alan Print, Cliff Bull and John Bishop of Daventry have each won 50% of their matches in the Men's Section, while John Aspinall after winning twice against Bedford and R.A.F. Veterans, scored Daventry's two points against League leaders Cambridge, including a magnificent -16, 20, 17 success over the hard to beat John Thurston.

8th NISSEN INVITATION TOURNAMENT

TITLES FOR DES AND CAROLE

by The Editor

Unsuccessful in the Scandinavian Open championships, England's No. 1 Desmond Douglas re-asserted his authority over a more domestic field by retaining his men's singles title in the 8th Nissen Invitation Tournament at the Dacorum Sports Centre, Hemel Hempstead on Dec. 9.

Extended only by Bob Potton, who replaced Denis Neale, the Warwickshire left-hander had no such problems in the final against John Hilton who, at 30 years of age, had earlier surprised the much younger but higher ranked Paul Day as well as a fading Andy Barden.

Linda Howard, on her first visit to the table, lost her grip on the women's title in bowing out to Carole Knight who went on to win the title, for the first time with yet another success over Jill Hammersley, the reigning European champion, whose fourth defeat this was in two seasons to the Cleveland girl.

Results:—

Men

Round 1:

D. Douglas (Wa) bt A. Griffiths (Wales) 17, 11;
 R. Potton (E) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 19, 13;
 A. Barden (Mi) bt N. Jarvis (Cv) 19, 8;
 J. Hilton (La) bt P. Day (Ca) 15, -12, 19.

Semi-finals:

Douglas bt Potton 10, -19, 16;
 Hilton bt Barden 12, 12.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Hilton 15, 19.

Women

Round 1:

C. Knight (Cv) bt L. Howard (Sy) -18, 17, 16;
 J. Hammersley (Bu) bt M. Ludi (Y) 11, 12.

Final:

KNIGHT bt Hammersley 16, 20.

An estimated five hundred table tennis fans attended the Tournament.

The table used for the final was donated by the tournament sponsors, Nissen International Ltd., and presented to the club with the largest group of spectators present at the Tournament. The Bishops High T.T.C., the school club from the Bishops Stortford Boys' High School, were the winners with 78, (the number would have been higher if it had not been for local league commitments on the same evening. The presentation was made to Peter Webb, Secretary of the club, by Charles Wyles, Chairman of the E.T.T.A. and a representative of the sponsors, Nissen Ltd.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by ALAN CAVELL

SPORTS CENTRES

One of the many recently built Sports and Leisure Centres in the area was the venue for the first international table tennis match to be held in Telford. The event, organised by the Telford Development Corporation in conjunction with the Wrekin District Council was held at the Stirchley Centre. A capacity crowd appreciatively watched the England players Paul Day, Nicky Jarvis and John Hilton play the Swedes Ulf Thorsell, Lars Franklin and Ulf Cronqvist.

At the neighbouring Idsall Centre at Shifnal, the Telford T.T.A. recently held its annual tournament for players who have not played in any town team. The group winners were D. Clibborn, G. Clibborn, P. Collins, J. Ellis, R. Farnworth, G. Fletcher, P. Gallier, J. Holding, M. Langford, G. Millington, J. Pritchard, G. Phillips, R. Phillips and G. Siddle. The eventual winner was P. Collins who beat M. Langford in the final.

Five of the six titles played for in the Shropshire Senior Closed tournament, held at the Harlestone Centre at Shrewsbury, were retained. The women's singles title was retained by Heather Flint, who beat junior Tracey Powell in the final. Heather retained the women's doubles title with Mavis Robinshaw and Tracey partnered Malcolm Green to retain the mixed title. Malcolm and Nigel Thomas retained the men's doubles title and Graham Cheetham retained the veterans' title when he beat the only other entrant Graham Walker.

The only title to change hands was the men's singles when Malcolm Green failed to complete a hat-trick of county singles title wins. He lost in the semi-final to Nigel Thomas, a reversal of all previous competitive results. Both players are sixteen years of age. Another junior Mark Pugh reached the final only to lose -11, -10 to Nigel Thomas. The results of the tournament confirm the ascendancy that junior players are establishing in Shropshire.

The top 10 in the Junior rankings issued 1st Dec. are:-

Boys:

1. M. Green, 2. N. Thomas, 3. M. Pugh, 4. H. Dalton, 5. N. Roberts, 6. Stephen Sonsino, 7. G. Lupton, 8. G. Edwards, 9. T. Cheetham, 10. I. Johnston.

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, 10. K. Harris.

The top Cadets are:-

Boys:

1. P. Jackson, 2. G. Morgan, 3. Simon Sonsino, 4. S. Balshaw, 5. P. Elton, 6. T. Charney.

Girls:

1. J. Cheetham, 2. A. Lowe, 3. K. Harris, 4. J. Wakeley, 5. D. Jones, 6. G. Hartley.

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NEW SPORTS FILM LAUNCHED

The 34th World Table Tennis Championships, held in Birmingham last year, was the biggest sporting event ever staged in Britain. With competitors from nearly seventy countries taking part, it surpassed in size both the 1948 Olympics and the 1966 World Cup.

A film of the Championships received its Premier on November 24, 1977. Called "Battle of the Bats", the film runs for 35 minutes. It has been sponsored by Norwich Union Insurance and STIGA AB and the National Exhibition Centre.

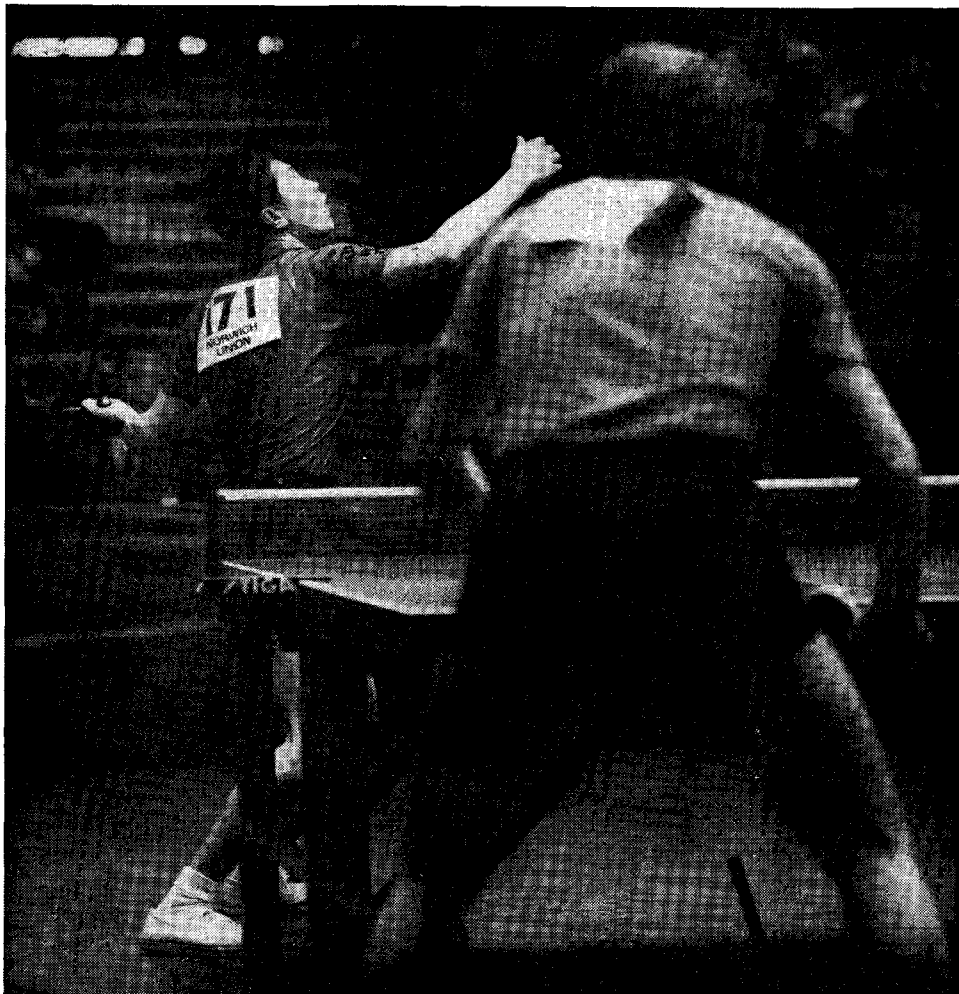
"Battle of the Bats" follows the progress of the world's top male players through to the finals of the competitions and includes spectacular action shots of the champions.

Copies of this 16 mm colour film are available for sale or hire from the producers — Sorel Films Limited, 120 Long Acre, London WC2 9PA. The Premier took place at the Princess Anne Theatre at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Piccadilly, London.

"BATTLE OF THE BATS" — REVIEW

The Preview showing of the 1977 World Championship film, "Battle of the Bats", sponsored by Norwich Union, Stiga A.B. and the National Exhibition Centre, was held at the Princess Anne Theatre at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Piccadilly, London on 24th November.

The film begins and ends with shots of the empty seats in the Main Arena at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham before and after, and shows the events during the ten days in between. It is not a technical or a promotional film, but is more of a general interest documentary with Tony Gubba of the B.B.C. doing the commentary, and from that point of view it is successful.



The mysteries of the Chinese serve fascinated those who watched and bewildered those who played at the World Table Tennis Championships. A scene from "Battle of the Bats".

The film features the Chinese men players in the team final against Japan, the Men's Singles semi-final and final between Khono and Liang Ke-liang and Khono and Kuo, with Stellan Bengtsson's matches receiving particular attention.

While the film lacks some of the significant performances and indicates little of the Women's play, ceremonies and other interesting facets of such a tremendous event, I am sure it will be enjoyed by many audiences around the world.

A.R.

THE INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

FROM THE PRESIDENT —
H. ROY EVANS

Table Tennis as an Olympic Sport

On 15th November, 1977 The International Table Tennis Federation received formal declaration of its recognition by the International Olympic Committee.

This means that table tennis is now an Olympic sport, but it does not mean that it can immediately be in the Olympic Games. Such inclusion depends on a choice by the organising country within limits imposed by the I.O.C. Programme Commission. There is certainly no prospect of table tennis being in the Olympics at Moscow in 1980 because the programme is already agreed. It is not clear yet whether Los Angeles will be the host city in 1984, so that the possibility of the inclusion of table tennis in that year is something that cannot be worked on at the moment.

In the meantime, however, there are other events such as Asian Games and Pan-American Games, in which our game can be included as an Olympic sport. We already know that The

Mediterranean Games, to be held in Split, Yugoslavia (in 1979) will include table tennis, restricted of course to amateur players within the requirements of Article 26 of the I.O.C. Preliminary meetings have already taken place between ITTF Officers and members of the Organising Committee of the Games.

Iran International Championships

My engagements in Hungary unfortunately meant that I was unable to accept the invitation of the Iranian Table Tennis Federation to attend their Second International (Pahlavi Cup) Championships. However, our Secretary-General, Tony Brooks, was able to be present in Tehran to represent the ITTF. Top players from China and Rumania participated, with some strong teams from three continents. It is clear that this is becoming a major international event, and it is interesting to note that this year's Championships took place just thirty years after the Iran Cup for the Men's Doubles world title was presented to the ITTF by His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Persia.

35th World Championships

Details of the Organizing Committee, which is now pressing ahead with the preparatory work, are as follows:

President: Mr. Kim Deuk Jun.

Secretary-General: Mr. Kim Dal Son.

Address: Organizing Committee for the 35th World Table Tennis Championships, Munsin-Dong 2, Dongdaewon District, Pyongyang, DPR Korea.

Cable address: TTCHAMPIONSHIPS, PYONGYANG.

Telephone: 5296, 2798.

The dates have now been settled: **25th April to 6th May, 1979**. This is rather later than normal for a World Championships, but we have accepted the recommendation of the DPR Korea Association since these dates will ensure that the climatic conditions in Pyongyang will be ideal.

5th INTERNATIONAL UMPIRES EXAMINATION

Some Associations which indicated their intention of submitting candidates have not yet submitted nominations, and the Chairman of the Rules Committee has agreed to extend the closing date for the receipt of nomination forms. These should be sent IMMEDIATELY to the ITTF Secretariat together with the fee of 10 Swiss Francs for each candidate.

The Examination Papers will be sent out in time to enable Associations to hold the examination in February/March 1978.

PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Nominations have been invited from a number of Associations which have players who will be classified as Professionals under the new Rules for representatives to serve on a Professionals Committee. This Committee, which will work by correspondence for the time being, will regulate the activities of the Professional players and protect their interests.

Nominations received so far are:

Netherlands : Mr. A. M. C. A. Poulissen.

France : Mr. Rene Champdorge.

U.S.A. : Mr. George D. Kennedy.

Scotland : Mr. B. D. George.

UMPIRES HANDBOOK

Sets of amendments sheets are now available to bring the English Handbook for Umpires completely up to date. There are seven sheets, dry-gummed on the back for sticking into the Handbooks.

REFEREES HANDBOOK

Amendments sheets for these will be available shortly.

ITTF APPROVED EQUIPMENT

To the list published in the last Bulletin, add:
Table Japan San-Ei (Kai-Sho).

OCEANIA FEDERATION

The Oceania Federation has now been formed and is recognised as a Continental Federation by the ITTF, its boundaries having been agreed by the Council and reported to the BGM in Birmingham. Present affiliated Associations are: Australia, New Zealand, Guam, Fiji (attached to New Zealand), and Papua New Guinea (attached to Australia).

Correspondence should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Keith Bowler, P.O. Box 52, Rozelle, New South Wales 2039, Australia.

RESULTS

HONG KONG INVITATION TOURNAMENT

Hong Kong 22/29 Oct. 1977

MT Final Placing: 1. China 2. Japan 3. Hong Kong 4. U.S.A. 5. England.

MS SF

Kuo Yao Hua bt Wang Chia Lin
-19, 12, -11, 17, 20.

Liao Fu-Min bt Huang Liang 13, 18, -20, 12.

F

Kuo Yao Hua bt Liao Fu-Min 18, 16, 14.

2nd IRAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tehran 8/16 Nov. 1977

MT Final Placing: 1. China 2. Pakistan 3. India 4. Iran A 5. Iran B 6. Iran C 7. Egypt 8. Saudi Arabia.

WT Final Placing: 1. China 2. Rumania 3. Egypt 4. Iran A 5. Iran B 6. Iran C.

MS SF

Li Chen-shih bt Chen Yung 13, 14, -20, 16.
Liang Ke-liang bt Wang Hui-Yuan 17, 17, 15.

F

Liang Ke-liang bt Li Chen-shih.

WS SF

Ke Hsin-ai bt Lin Hsiu-yen 20, 13, 16.
Chang Te-ying bt Alexandru 14, -18, 19, 14.

F

Chang Te-ying bt Ke Hsin-ai.

MD F

Liang Ke-liang/Li Chen-shih bt Hayat/Nakhuda
8, 9, 12.

WD F

Alexandru/Mihut bt Chang Te-ying/Ke Hsin-ai
15, -17, 17, 17.

XD F

Allace/Ehteshmzadeh bt Liang Ke-liang/
Ke Hsin-ai.

PING COMMENTARY

by JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"

HAVING BEEN present at most European League matches in England during the past three seasons, my bouquet for the most successful staging so far goes to the GLOUCESTER T.T.A. and the GLOUCESTERSHIRE T.T.A. for the superb promoting of the England v Sweden match on December 15. A crowd of nearly 1,700 fans is a new dimension in crowd support for this competition and I am sure this will spur the E.T.T.A. into seeking more venues where this sort of crowd can be raised, although as we all know, such a gathering of the clans is only achieved through a great deal of spadework.

Gloucester is, for those who have yet to visit, not amongst the biggest of our English cities. I understand that the people who helped to boost the crowd to nearer 2,000 than 1,000 came from long distances. A further incentive for the GLOUCESTER officials was their 50th Anniversary, but it should not need an anniversary to make these sort of successes more commonplace.

The fact that big matches near London fail to draw big crowds unless they are against China or Japan and their own supporters resident here turn up in force as they always do, still remains something of a mystery.

Forty-eight hours after visiting Gloucester, I saw around 200 people witnessing the Goddard Finance International Invitation at the Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds. In theory of course, Leeds should be able to double Gloucester's crowd, but not far away at Elland Road, Leeds F.C. were at home to Manchester City where the crowd was 37,380!

Returning to Gloucester, another luckier reason for the unbounded success of the evening was the

fact that England were 0-2 down, seemingly well on the way to defeat, but as most readers will know, there was a fairy-tale ending as England then forged ahead to win the next four, all credit there going to the players Desmond Douglas, Paul Day, Nicky Jarvis, Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard.

But, rather like a football crowd, they cheered and roared instead of just politely clapping, as happens at a number of international matches. England players are not accustomed to a thousand people cheering them on — how they responded!

What's on and where

January 1978

- 19—(Thurs.) European League — Super Division
CZECHOSLOVAKIA v ENGLAND
Div. 1 — LUXEMBOURG v IRELAND.
- 20/21—IRISH OPEN (Galway).
- 21—(Sat.) European League — Division 2
SCOTLAND v SPAIN, Lasswade Sports Centre,
Lasswade High School, Lasswade, Midlothian.
Details from Mr. B. Dawson, 20 Mauricewood Park,
Penicuik EH26 0BP (Phone 0968-75211).
- 21/22—Glamorgan Open.
- 21/22—E.S.T.T.A. Area Team Finals.
- 22—Meadowbank 2-Star Open (Edinburgh).
- 27/29—EUROPEAN TOP 12 (PRAGUE).
- 28—National Council Meeting (London).
- 28—Pontefract 1-Star Open.
- 28/29—Kent 2-Star Open (Folkstone).
- 28/29—Cotswold Junior 2-Star Open (Gloucester).
- 29—West of Scotland 2-Star Open (Bellahouston, Glasgow).

February

- 3/5—STIGA WELSH OPEN (Cardiff).
- 4—Exeter Junior 1-Star Open.
- 5—North Bournemouth 1-Star Open.
- 9—(Thurs.) European League — Super Division
HUNGARY v ENGLAND
Div. 1 IRELAND v BELGIUM
Div. 2 ITALY v SCOTLAND.
- 10/12—Reading Junior 'Select' sponsored by Gillette.
- 11—Lancashire 2-Star Open (Lostock, Bolton).
- 12—Lanarkshire 2-Star Open (Coatbridge).
- 16/18—NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS
Woking Sports and Leisure Centre, Woking Park,
Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey.
(Finals at 1.30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18).

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10 Lower Park Road, New Southgate Industrial Estate
London N.11 Telephone : 01-361-1059/1440

for further details and information on possible local sponsorship of the event.

Deserved Honour



MAURICE GOLDSTEIN

Photo by Simon Livingstone.

There could be no more deserving a recipient than Maurice Goldstein who, in the New Year's Honours List was awarded the O.B.E. Now in his fifth year as the President of the E.T.T.A., Maurice has worked diligently for Birmingham and Warwickshire for more years than he would care to remember.

Here is the story behind the new, English marathon singles world record which appears in the 1978 edition of the Guinness Book of Records: it is reproduced from last October's issue of the North Middlesex Journal, official magazine of the North Middlesex League . . .

A MARVELLOUS MARATHON SUCCESS STORY . . . WITH A HEART WARMING ENDING

by Keith Good

Taking a busman's holiday from leading Heathcote's first team in Division One of the North Middlesex Summer League, Paul Pells, 25, and his namesake, Paul Dudmish, also 25, a Civil Service League player, shattered the existing marathon singles world record by playing continuous table tennis for an incredible four-and-a-half days in June.

Paul Pells explained: "It all really happened because Paul and I agreed to play a sponsored marathon match to raise £500 to buy a guide dog for the blind, and, having reached our target of fifty hours, encouragement from everyone present led us into the world record attempt".

The player's mind-boggling epic began, appropriately, at high noon on Saturday, 25th June, at the Holborn Telephone Exchange Sports and Social Club, and ended 104 hours and 52 minutes later at 8.52 p.m. on Wednesday, 29th June, beating the previous record by well over an hour. I asked why they didn't stop immediately they had achieved their objective. "Well, we were in the middle of a set which I was winning", replied Paul Pells, wryly. "Seriously, we just seemed to float along on waves of tremendous support from everyone to reach the final tally of one thousand games, plus one for luck!"

Under the rules of this type of endurance record the players were permitted five-minute rest intervals (optional but agreeable) after every completed hour of play. In the early stages our indefatigable heroes aggregated their rest periods, but this tactic became decidedly hazardous later

on because of the obvious danger of falling into a coma-type sleep during longer breaks.

Throughout their interminable — so it must have seemed — playing stint the boys consumed vast quantities of glucose, health foods and orange juice to keep themselves going; in the less ennobling sense of the term it merely meant yet another constraint impinging on precious rest periods.

Tony Blackburn, bless him, kept the world informed of the event on Radio One, though one shudders just to think of those morale-destroying jokes. Radio London, too, chimed in with round-the-clock reports of the action all of which helped, when bodies ached and spirits flagged, to keep the players on course for the record. Paul again: "The hardest time of all was on the Tuesday night with twenty-four hours still to go. Although we were desperately tired, it was our badly-blistered feet which caused the biggest problem".

The two lads paid the highest possible tribute to the Post Office day and night staffs who umpired, acted as invigilators signing the log hourly, and they even presented the record-breakers with two handsome trophies to mark the occasion. The final act of this rare table tennis drama, in which all concerned were winners, featured the Post Office general manager appending the last signature to the log, thus ensuring the accolade of an entry in the Guinness Book of Records. Incidentally, this was confirmed in writing a few weeks later.

When it was all over a rip-roaring celebration party swiftly followed, whose momentum was kept nicely lubricated by a couple of breweries' (neither of which was Guinness, surprisingly) munificent donations of 33 gallons of beer. It carried on late into the night leaving the dynamic duo to spend yet another night at the Holborn Sports Club . . . sleeping rough on chairs in the canteen!

Here's a happy footnote to this almost saintly tale of two Pauls: Thanks to the lads' breathtaking (in more ways than one) performance a cheque in the sum of £650, the total amount raised, was presented to a representative of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association during a formal ceremony which took place, a month later, at the scene of their superb triumph.

Surely a greater love hath no man for his sport, nor indeed, a greater concern for his less fortunate fellow-men. On this evidence at any rate, there really isn't much wrong with the younger generation.

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NETHERLANDS DESPATCH

by BAS DEN BREEJEN

The 'Bondsraad' of the N.T.T.B. decided after 3½ hours discussion, that their 16-years-old European Youth champion, Bettine Vriesekoop, can play in the men's competition (for one year) to give her the opportunity, to develop her capacity. A lot of top (women) players said "no" but 95% of the N.T.T.B. believe it is a good decision, because once in about 20 years: a star is born.

In 1963 the Chinese teams were in Rotterdam, with Chuang Tse-tung and Shang Sieh-ling, to play against Bert Onnes and Frans Schoofs. That was the last time the Chinese were in Holland.

After years and years of correspondence the Chinese came (after the Scandinavian and French Opens). They played four matches. In every place it was a full house. In total there were about 5,000 spectators and Bettine Vriesekoop scored 50%. From the 6 matches she won 3 and lost 3.

Bettine beat Yang Yen-chunn 17, 12; Tsao Yen-hua 14, 16 and Yang Yen-shun 20, 20. She lost to Tsao Yen-hua -12, -17, Yang Ying -18, -14 and Tung Ling -8, 9, -19.

The match results were:-

Dec. 16 (Heerjansdam)	Men 0-5 Women 0-5
Dec. 17 (Goor)	Men 0-5 Women 1-4
Dec. 19 (den Haag)	Men 1-5 Women 0-5
Dec. 21 (Tilburg)	Men 0-5 Women 2-3

On three evenings the Chinese played exhibition matches: all the spectators were in the clouds — evenings never to be forgotten.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by TONY ROSS

METCALFE'S TITLE

Winner of the men's singles in the Yorkshire Closed Championships in Bradford on Nov. 27 was the top seed, Andrew Metcalfe (18), of Leeds. Holder Kevin Beadsley and one or two other possible title contenders chose to play in the Salford & Eccles Open, held on the same day. Metcalfe's heavy top spin effectively contained the fierce hitting of his final opponent, Bradford's Clem Lo, a penhold grip player who learned to play in Hong Kong.

Three of the eight seeds failed to reach their allotted places. Bradford's Steve Kosmowsky fell to Sheffield defender Trevor Williams, Hull's Joe Naser went out to fellow junior Tony Bottomley and Brian Metcalfe (Leeds) was defeated by Bradford's Bob Shutt.

In the women's singles final, the Bradford left-hander Helen Shields recovered from early setbacks to defeat the holder, Julie McLean, of Hull.

In a hard-fought boys' singles final, the attack of left-hander Bottomley eventually breached the defence of Bradford's Adrian Hill, who had earlier defeated the top seed, Naser. The two top seeds tumbled in the girls' singles, where the hopes of Leeds players Jane Guanaria and Cathy Haworth were extinguished by Sheffield's Margaret Sargent and Hull's Tracy Wenn. Miss Wenn, the country's top under-14 girl, went on to a surprise final win.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

A. Metcalfe (Leeds) bt M. Stephenson (Bradford)

-19, 13, 16;

M. Harrison (Hull) bt T. Williams (Sheffield) 22, 20;

A. Bottomley (Halifax) bt J. A. Yeats (Bradford)

-18, -17, 9;

C. Lo (Bradford) bt R. Shutt (Bradford) -11, 12, 12.

Semi-finals:

Metcalfe bt Harrison -20, 11, 18;

Lo bt Bottomley -15, 20, 12.

Final:

METCALFE bt Lo 15, 19.

Women's singles: Semi-finals:

Miss J. McLean (Hull) bt Miss J. Guanaria (Leeds) 8, 16;

Miss H. Shields (Bradford) bt Miss C. Grayson (Hull)

-16, 14, 14.

Final:

Miss SHIELDS bt Miss McLean -17, 18, 17.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Metcalfe/N. Harris (Bradford) bt Yeats/N. Davies (Leeds)

-17, -12, 20;

Harrison/J. Naser (Hull) bt Stephenson/R. Priestley

(Bradford) 12, -16, 19.

Final:

HARRISON/NASER bt Metcalfe/Harris 12, -18, 13.

Women's Doubles: Final:

Miss McLEAN/Miss SHIELDS bt Miss Grayson/

Miss C. Hasberry (Hull) 15, 15.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

HARRISON/Miss GRAYSON bt Metcalfe/Miss McLean

-17, 12, 14.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

A. Hill (Bradford) bt Naser 12, -15, 9; 2

Bottomley bt P. Sanderson (Leeds) 18, 15.

Final:

BOTTOMLEY bt Hill 24, -13, 18.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

Miss M. Sargent (Sheffield) bt Miss Guanaria 17, 21;

Miss T. Wenn (Hull) bt Miss J. Todd (Bradford) 11, 11.

Final:

Miss WENN bt Miss Sargent -8, 18, 21.

Veterans' Singles: Final:

G. BROOK (Huddersfield) bt S. Nunn (Bradford) 12, 15.

The county's congratulations go to Kevin Beadsley on his success in winning the English Junior Closed boys' singles title. He is the first Yorkshire boy to win this title since Middlesbrough's Jimmy Walker in 1971 and his success fulfilled the promise shown 3 years ago when he won the under-14 title. The county selectors and supporters will no doubt be hoping for some champion performances in county matches, where Kevin's form has tended to fall below that shown in tournaments. Kevin has now made himself available to play again for Halifax in the Yorkshire League and helped his team to their first win of the season, 7-3, at York.

County players Tony Clayton and Mike Harrison plucked a Welsh title from the grasp of local opposition at the Cardiff Open on Dec. 11, where they won the men's doubles event. In the men's singles semi-final, Tony just failed to win a long battle with veteran Welsh defender George Evans, who went on to beat "long pimpled" David Welsman, of Surrey, in the final. Welsman's bat rubber combination had earlier contributed significantly to Mike's downfall in the quarter-finals.

In the Carter Cup, Halifax (Beadsley, Bottomley,

Roper) progressed to Round 3 by defeating Manchester 5-1.

In the Yorkshire League Women's Division, Hull dropped an unexpected point at York. Carole Grayson won all her sets for the visitors, who were without Julie McLean. York also almost caused a shock at Bradford, where the home team, champions for the past three seasons, could only win 6-4. The visitors — Maureen Gott, Kathy Cleary and Jeanette Jackson — took all three sets from Sylvia Broadbent, and the doubles, and only unbeaten performances by the home team's Helen Shields and Sally Dickerson brought the champions both points.

Nine Yorkshire League teams could still boast of 100% records at the end of December. They are Sheffield (Div. 1), Huddersfield (Div. 2), Bradford IV (Div. 3), Harrogate V and Bradford V (Div. 5), Bradford (Women's Div.), Sheffield and Bradford (Junior Div. 1) and Doncaster (Junior Div. 2).

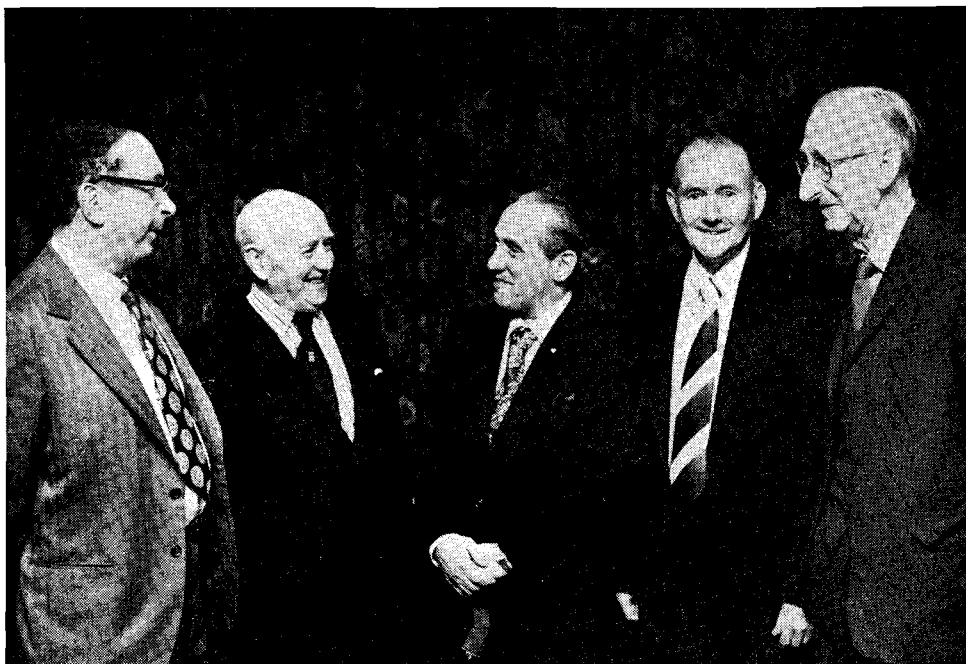
The Dewsbury League, in conjunction with Kirklees Council Leisure Services Department, have been putting a great deal of effort into the home senior county match against Essex on 21st January, to be played at Batley Sports Centre, Howden Clough, Batley (7 p.m.). I hope their efforts are rewarded by a big crowd.

Latest Yorkshire League leading positions are:—

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford II	5	3	1	1	36	14	7
Hull	5	3	1	1	25	25	7
Sheffield	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Doncaster	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Bradford	3	2	0	1	14	16	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 2							
Huddersfield	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
Doncaster II	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Sheffield II	5	4	0	1	31	19	8
Barnsley	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Harrogate	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Division 3							
Leeds III	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Halifax III	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Rotherham	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Dewsbury	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Bradford IV	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Division 4							
Castleford/Pontefract	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
York IV	5	3	2	0	31	19	8
Wakefield II	4	2	2	0	26	14	6
Rotherham II	5	2	1	2	23	17	5
Division 5							
Harrogate V	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Wakefield III	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Wharfedale/Airedale II	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Bradford V	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Veterans							
Leeds	5	4	1	0	31	19	9
Barnsley	5	4	0	1	39	11	8
Wharfedale/Airedale	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Halifax	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Women							
York	5	2	2	1	33	17	6
Bradford	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Hull	3	2	1	0	25	5	5
Sheffield	4	2	1	1	19	21	5
Leeds	3	1	2	0	20	10	4
Junior Division 1							
Sheffield	6	6	0	0	48	6	12
Leeds	7	6	0	1	48	15	12
Bradford	3	3	0	0	24	3	6
Bradford II	4	3	0	1	24	12	6
Hull II	4	2	0	2	15	21	4
Junior Division 2							
Doncaster	6	6	0	0	49	5	12
York	6	5	0	1	40	14	10
Huddersfield	6	4	0	2	35	19	8
Harrogate	5	4	0	1	30	15	8



Leading officials pictured at the Hull Association's 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance in November. Left to right - Mr. A. Abrahamson (Life Vice-President, Hull & DTTA), Mr. C. M. Wyles, O.B.E. (Chairman, ETTA), Mr. M. D. Shaffner (President, YTTA), Mr. H. Litchfield (Chairman, Hull & DTTA) and Mr. J. L. Wilkinson (Life President and a Founder Member, Hull & DTTA).

Photo by courtesy of the Hull Daily Mail.

Beneagles Whisky Open Championships

Bells Sports Centre Perth Scotland.

8th April 1978

£500:- total Prize Money

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County Notes

Supplement

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by DAVID COSWAY

CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

The main event recently in the County has been the Closed Tournament staged at Portsmouth's Wimbledon Park Sports Centre. Six of the top eight seeds reached the quarter-final stage of the men's singles. The exceptions were Lou Palaczky, who came through in place of the absent Trevor Smith, and Martin Abbot who beat Terry Bruce. In the quarters, Keith Summerfield had a comfortable 15, 6 victory over Derek Holman while Chris Pickard had an equally convincing 5, 14 win over Palaczky. In the other half Bill Molding beat Richard Bergemann 23, 23 while Chris Shetler also had a two-straight win, 12, 9 against Abbot. In the semis, Summerfield beat Pickard 16, 19, while Shetler was extended to three before beating Molding -17, 5, 14. In the final Shetler picked up his second championship to prevent Summerfield's third successive title.

Only fifteen entries contested the women's singles with the four top seeds reaching the semi-finals. At that stage Janet New convincingly beat Serina Sinanan 7, 15 while Joyce Coop reversed her defeat earlier in the season by Jane Whitcher to win 11, 19. In the final, Janet retained her title with a 19, 17 victory. The men's doubles did not produce its usual final, as Summerfield and Shetler, eliminated their normal final opponents, Molding and Bruce, at the semi-final stage with a two-straight victory. In the other half, John Robinson and Abbot beat Holman and Mike Douglas -16, 18, 16. In the final, Robinson and Abbot had a surprisingly easy victory, 16, 5 to prevent Summerfield and Shetler chalking up their fifth title in this event. Joyce Coop paired with Cherry Creasey and after dropping the first game at 14, won the next two 14 and 4 to beat Janet New and Beryl Duffield in the women's doubles final. Holman with Joyce Coop beat Abbot and Sarah Gilson 12, -19, 18 in the mixed final. Quite a few surprises in the Boys' Event: No. 1 seed, Bergemann, went out in the semis to Jason Creasey, whole No. 2 seed, John Summerfield, lost in straight games to Roger Lee at the same stage. Creasey won the final 16, 14. In the Girls' singles, Serina Sinanan beat Sarah Gilson in the semis while Cherry Creasey beat Jane Whitcher. In the final the No. 1 seed, Serina, went down in three to give the Creasey family their second Junior success, Cherry won 12, -21, 15. Ray Lush gained his sixth successive veterans' title at the final expense of Harry Spraggs 19, 12. Harold Albery is to be congratulated on his endeavours as Tournament Secretary in making this Tournament a success.

Unfortunately the County teams have not got off to a good start in the County Championships. The Mixed Team have lost both their opening fixtures. Firstly 2-8 to Surrey with only Shetler and Serina Sinanan gaining any success. In the 4-6 defeat by Dorset, Holman and Shetler each picked up two singles. Unfortunately the County No. 1, Summerfield, has yet to record a victory and no doubt his absence from Club and City competition this season is an important factor. The Junior First Team have fared even worse losing 0-10 to Essex II and 1-9 to Kent with Cathy Conlon saving the "whitewash". The Junior Second Team went down 2-8 to Sussex II with David Oakley and Judith Fairhall winning the only sets for the County. In the 3-7 defeat by Dorset, John Roberts and Russell Taylor gained singles successes as did Carl Preat who beat the new Hampshire Closed champion, Jason Creasey. The Veterans' First Team beat Dorset 6-3 with Ray Lush and Ged Holley winning two singles and Len Plant one. This team then went on to beat Avon 6-4 with Lush again winning two singles and Holley and

Avril Walters one each. The Veterans' Second Team lost 1-8 to Kent with Dennis Sheppard winning the only set for Hampshire.

I was pleased to see for the first time the Isle of Wight T.T.A.'s News Sheet. It is good to see the Island Association joining Bournemouth in providing their members with such an excellent service. The Editor, Tom Groves, is to be congratulated. I am therefore able to give you more information regarding the happenings on the Island than with other less ambitious Leagues. The Island teams in the Hampshire League have got off to a good start. The mixed team had a good win over Portsmouth, 7-5 due to a large extent to their women players, in particular I would mention Rose Grimaldi's excellent win over County No. 2, Serina Sinanan. The Men's team have already beaten Portsmouth, Winchester and Gosport although they went down 2-8 to last year's champions, Basingstoke. The Junior team look likely to gain promotion from the Second Division with two victories already under their belt. Their young team will all still be Juniors next season to take advantage of any promotion they may gain. The Veterans' Team, however, lost 2-8 to Portsmouth. In the Island First Division, Ryde as expected have won their first seven matches losing only 5 sets. I see also that Carl Preat did well to win his first Open Tournament victory when he gained the Kent Junior 2-Star U-11 title.

Clearly a great prospect for the County. I see from Harold Pearce's "21 Up" Bournemouth Association's News Sheet that they have a Sunday Select League with all their top players playing at the Merton Club. A competition of this nature between the top players, including ranked Juniors, can but benefit the Association.

SURREY NOTES

by TED SIMPKIN

CHINA BEATS HONG KONG

A very successful County Senior Tournament came to a rousing climax when Martin Shuttle, returned from his Chinese trip, belied his E.T.T.A. ranking in eclipsing Max Crimmins, himself not long back from Hong Kong, at 21-17 in the third. The day was a personal triumph for Martin as, with Keith Seager, he took the men's doubles, and, with Nicky Hayward, the mixed.

That the competition was such a success, not always the fate of this event, was due to the hard working and organisational ability of Norman Hooper; the excellent facilities of the Elmbridge Leisure Centre at Walton on Thames; the use of tables and surrounds supplied by Messrs. Halax, and the generous sponsorship of S. R. Jeffery and Son, the Sports firm of Guildford.

Results were:—

M.S.: M. Shuttle bt Max Crimmins.

W.S.: Jayne Mitchell bt Jenny Webster.

V.S.: Bill Holder bt Gordon Chapman.

M.D.: Shuttle/K. Seager bt Steve Boxall/
Steve Woodgate.

W.D.: Nicky Hayward/Webster bt Lorraine
Garbet/Sarah Cresswell.

X.D.: Shuttle/Hayward bt Crimmins/Garbet.

Shocks were caused by:- Mike Kercher in reaching the quarter-final of the senior event; the defeat of hot favourite Gordon Chapman in the veterans'; the tumbling of seeds in the women's to June Lodge from Molesey in the Thames Valley League until she met Jayne Mitchell in the semi-final; and the defeat of the men's doubles favourites by the two Steves, Boxall and Woodgate.

Nine out of fifteen finalists were from the Leatherhead and Epsom League, which, on this occasion held back the usually more impressive challenge from Guildford. The Leatherhead success makes up to some extent for their misfortune in having to meet Crawley in the first round of the Wilmott Cup, without their stars, Crimmins and Shuttle who were away on their Asiatic wanderings. Leatherhead also fell in the J. M. Rose Bowl competition, to Crawley, and must now pin their hopes again on the Carter Cup which they hold from last season. The side of Muhammed Ranji, Steve Holloway and Peter Bruntnell, with the expert coaching of the publicity-shy Peter Corner, should do well again this year.

The Dorking League, I am delighted to note, has now a fairly regular coverage in the local press, but a continuing problem in fixture congestion. One offending club has attempted to excuse their arrears by pointing out that some of their players participate in several leagues: I always consider that excuse of poor significance and suggest that when clubs enter a league competition they should accept the obligations which their entry implies.

On the more general front the idea of the resurrection of the old South of England Open has been mooted and County Secretary, Trevor Channing, is looking into the proposition.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

STILL UNBEATEN

It was another good week-end for Cambs. in the County Championships with all three teams again unbeaten. The first team had the most difficult fixture and were held to a 5-5 draw by Hertfordshire in a Div. II East match at March. Cambs were always struggling and despite three wins by Paul Day they were 3-5 down and defeat stared them in the face. But Keith Richardson and Mick Harper rallied to defeat Jonathan Proffit and Barry White respectively to earn a point. Sandra Harner and Valerie Scripps fought well in the women's singles against strong opposition but could not get the required results although Valerie took a game off Daphne Baines.

The Juniors won their second match by beating Bedfordshire 6-4 at Luton in what may prove to be the key match of Div. 3 East. Cambs got off to a flying start by taking the first three boys' singles but Beds hit back by taking the two doubles. Andy Withers and Robert Swift won their singles and David Brammer beat Bedall but lost to White after a promising start. Although Joanne Palmer lost to J. Bellinger, Jane Hunter beat L. Bellinger.

The Senior second team had a convincing 3-2 win over Northamptonshire II at Towcester in Div. III East. Brian Richardson, Geoff Davies and Tony Littlechild won their singles in fine style and Northants' two consolation wins came from Valerie Feakin over Valerie Parkes and the women's doubles when Miss Feakin and Miss M. Maltby beat Valerie Parkes and Joanne Palmer.

In the Cambs League, Soham I are still racing away at the head of the Division with a clean record although New Chesterton Institute are only one point behind with same number of matches played. University Press are in third position, all three being unbeaten. It is "dark days" for the once famous Y.M.C.A. with both teams at the foot of the first division with the second team yet to win a point! Telephones are in an almost similar plight with their two teams so it looks at this stage that it is between Y.M.C.A. and Telephones as to who goes down.

In the second division University I, who were relegated to Div. II last season, look like returning to the 1st Division as they are currently on top but will have to fight it out with Soham IV and Fisons I for promotion honours. In the third division "A", St. George's I are at the top although Impington II are hard on their heels if they do slip up. Here again a Y.M.C.A. team is in sore straits, namely their third who have yet to obtain a point. In Division IIIB Herbert Robinsons are at the top without defeat although Wesley I and Police I are also in good positions, the former also undefeated and P. Jolley having a 100% record.

In the Cambs League Knock-Out Handicap Trophy there were shocks for 1st Division teams as Impington IV beat New Chesterton I 5-4 and Wesley IV defeated St. Ives 5-4. Soham I and Press I are still there but last year's winners, Haverhill IV are out of the competition.

The Industrial action taken by the Firemen is causing fixture problems in the Cambs League where they have three teams. At the time of going to press there is the hint that they will withdraw all teams but this is premature and I hope that they will see their way clear to remain in the League although fixtures must be played and action by the Firemen must be forthright and immediate for the good of the League.

In the South East Midlands League the "local derby" between Cambridge and Ely (the Champions) resulted in a 6-4 win for the latter and enabled them to keep at the top. This was a good performance by Cambridge who were promoted from the second division last season and are still performing well. Wisbech are in second place in Div. II and have a good chance of promotion as have Cambridge seconds who are just behind them.

Although promoted to the first division this season Cambridge Juniors are in desperate straits being bottom and it looks like a swift return to the second division. This is a pity because they have a good attendance of Juniors for coaching at the Cambridge Sports Hall every Saturday afternoon and coach Pat O'Bryne must be wondering what is going wrong. I have seen several youngsters and I am sure that in the near future better results will come. Cambridge are well placed in the Veterans section and this season may see them regaining the title they so tragically lost last year.

Preparations are well in hand for the Two-Star Fenland Tournament to be held at Wisbech on March 5. Sponsorship has been coming in steadily and all events are now fully covered to the grand total of £339. The Wisbech Championships have been brought forward to Feb. 12 so as not to clash with the "Fenland".

Results of Wisbech matches in the various leagues:-

South East Midlands League
Senior v Daventry - Won 10-0
Juniors v St. Neots - Won 7-3
Juniors v Kettering - Won 6-4

East Anglian League

Wisbech maintained their 100% record by beating Beccles and King's Lynn. The Juniors beat Ipswich away 6-4 in their section.

North Norfolk League

v Dereham - Won 6-4
v Fakenham - Won 6-4
v Cromer - Lost 1-9

In the Wisbech League, Tydd are leading in Div. I with W.T.T.A. Maple Leaves and B.S.C. hard on their heels. Last season's champions, Institute, have fixtures in hand but need to win them well to keep up with the leaders. Rokewood "A" and Spartans look favourites for promotion to Div. I.

Day had a near miss when he lost to Desmond Douglas in the final of the Middlesex Open and also just missed out in the final of the Mixed. As Paul is No. 2 in England we can only wait to see his name as No. 1 in the near future.

Cambridge lost 1-5 to North Herts in the second round of the Wilmott Cup and this Herts team I am sure will do well in future rounds.

Cambridge League Leading Positions

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Soham 1	7	7	0	0	68	2	14
N.C.I. 1	7	6	1	0	52	18	13
Press 1	7	5	2	0	58	12	12
Guildhall	8	5	1	2	48	32	11
Division 2							
University 1	9	6	1	2	52	38	13
Soham 4	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
Fisons 1	7	4	3	0	43	27	11
Press 2	7	3	3	1	38	32	9
Division 3							
St. George's 1	8	8	0	0	57	23	16
Impington 2	7	6	1	0	53	17	13
C.I.B.A. 1	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Fire Service 1	4	4	0	0	33	7	8

S.E.M. LEAGUE CHATTER

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

PACE SETTERS

Milton Keynes are setting the pace in the Men's Section and, indeed, at the moment have a better average than Ely who started as favourites. It looks as though these two teams will be there at the end battling it out for the title. Bedford are setting the pace in the Junior Division and seem to have a well balanced team. Newly promoted Cambridge are faring very badly and I do not think they will remain long in the Division on

current form. North Herts have a commanding lead in the Women's Section although Wellingborough with a 10-0 victory over new team March must fancy their chances. Cambridge lead in the Veterans' Section and they too must fancy their chances to regain the title they lost so dramatically last season. Bedford are also a force in this section.

Team Secretaries are reminded that they must send in results as per regulations and I learn that already there have been one or two defaulters in this respect.

Leading Positions

Men Div. 1

	P	W	D	L	P
Milton Keynes	3	3	0	0	26
Ely	3	3	0	0	23
Bedford	3	3	0	0	22
Cambridge	3	1	1	1	15

Women

North Herts	2	2	0	0	17
Kettering	3	1	1	1	14
Peterborough	2	1	0	1	12
Bedford	3	1	0	2	11

Junior Div. 1

Bedford	3	3	0	0	29
Hunts Central	5	1	3	1	27
Kettering	4	3	1	0	26
Northampton	2	2	0	0	19

Veterans Div. 1

Cambridge	3	2	0	1	19
Northampton	4	1	0	3	16
Bedford	2	2	0	0	13
Daventry	3	1	0	2	12

SOMERSET & AVON LEAGUE

by DENNIS POPE

CHAMPIONS BEATEN

Last season's Premier Division Champions, Bath 'A' were beaten 6-4 by Portishead, for whom Paul Weekes and Jim Hawking scored two straight possibles, they also won the vital tenth set. The men's doubles, beating George O'Brien and Mike Sawyers 16, 15. Linda Porter and Shirley O'Brien were both unbeaten for Bath. In the same division, Pat Reeves, Muriel Lewis and Vernon Adams were all undefeated in Failand 'A' 8-2 away win over Bath 'B'.

In Division One, Weston 'A' beat Yeovil 7-3. Richard Neal had a good 11, 15 singles win over Joe Garland. In the match between Weston 'B' and Bath 'C' the scores were level after the eighth set, but then Bath took the final two singles. Brian White beat Alan Haysom 14, 18 and George O'Brien beat Norman Baker 17, 14 to complete a two straight possibles as did Tony Griffin. Sue Jones was undefeated for Weston. David Brown, Alan Groves and Mike James scored two straight possibles in Bedminster 7-3 away victory over Failand 'B' for whom Pat Watson and Joan Wyatt were unbeaten.

Tim Harris beat Dave Carter 15, -21, 16 in the vital tenth set to gain a point for Southend in a 5-5 draw with Yeovil, Debbie Gardiner and Gillian Harris won the three women events for Southmead.

Taunton 'A' maintained their 100% record in Division 2 with a 7-3 away victory over Mendip. Steve Kearney 20, 17 singles win over Steve Tanner was Twerton's only success in a 1-9 defeat to Bath 'D'.

Taunton 'B' led Ashton Court 4-2 but the latter fought back to level the scores at 4-4 before Taunton clinched the points with the two final men's singles, Eric Ferris beat Ron Cooper 14, -12, 13 and Steve Rogers beat John Grant 10, 15. Ray Sewell won both his singles for Ashton Court and men's doubles with Ron Cooper. Pam Cooper beat Margaret Waller 16, 18.

In the Junior Division, Bristol 'A' (Fromside) and Bristol 'B' shared the points in a 5-5 draw. Steve Wilkins was unbeaten for the former as was Janice Parker and Nick Baldwin for the latter. Rebecca Ruose had an excellent 13, 21 win over Avon County Junior Ann Laidler in the match between Mendip and Weston. Rebecca partnered with Alan Haysom also won the mixed doubles against Ann Laidler and Steve Maggs 18, 17, but

Mendip won the match 8-2. Bath were a player short for their visit to Bridgwater 'A' but still won 6-4. In a hard-fought match between Taunton and Bridgwater 'A' the former took a 4-3 lead, Harriet Humfress and Kevin Salter made certain of a point for Taunton with a -8, 14, 19 mixed doubles win over Andrew Anderson and Jill Buckingham. David Wilson (Bridgwater) beat Kevin Salter -18, 16, 20 to make the score 5-4, but Gary Russell made sure of both points for Taunton with an 11, 17 victory over Andrew Anderson, to make the final score 6-4.

Avon & Somerset League Results

Premier Division

Portishead 6 Bath 'A' 4
Bath 'B' 2 Failand 'A' 8

Division One

Yeovil 3 Weston 'A' 7
Southmead 5 Yeovil 5
Weston 'B' 4 Bath 'C' 6
Failand 'B' 3 Bedminster 7

Division Two

Mendip 3 Taunton 'A' 7
Taunton 'B' 6 Ashton Court 4
Twerton 1 Bath 'D' 9

Junior Division

Bristol 'A' (Fromside) 5 Bristol 'B' 5
Mendip 8 Weston 2
Bridgwater 'B' 4 Bath 6
Taunton 6 Bridgwater 'A' 4

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by PAULINE JACKSON

SECOND SUCCESSIVE DEFEAT

The Northumberland senior second team lost their second successive match on Dec. 3 when they crashed to a 0-10 defeat against Derbyshire II at Derby. The margin of the defeat was especially disappointing, as Northumberland had good leads in three of their sets, but unfortunately were unable to press home their advantage.

The juniors, however, maintained their unbeaten record by following their win over Cumbria II juniors with a 5-5 draw against the Cleveland III junior team at Ormesby. Susan Norris was undefeated in this match, winning her singles and the doubles with Christine Tweddle, while John Burke, John Anderson and Phillip Kolvin each won one of their singles.

Northumberland's next County fixtures will be on Jan. 21, when the junior team meet Nottinghamshire juniors in the afternoon, and the senior first team are hosts to Yorkshire II in the evening. The senior second team match against Nottinghamshire has been rearranged to take place on the afternoon of the following day, Sunday, Jan. 22. All matches are due to be played at Byker Community Centre.

The Northumberland League were drawn to play the Westmorland League at Sedgwick (near Kendal) in an early round of the Wilmott Cup on Dec. 11, and ran out easy winners by 9-0, maximums being gained by Frank Mitchinson, Chris Shepherd and Peter Whiteman.

With only three weeks left before the two-week break for Christmas and New Year, the positions in the Northumberland League after eleven weeks show that three clubs have yet to drop a point: Briarside (Premier), Simonside 'A' (Div. 4A) and Tyne Wear Fire Brigade 'A' (Div. 4B). The leading positions are as follows: Premier - Briarside and Byker C.C. 'A', Div. 1 - Delaval C.C. 'A' and D.H.S.S. 'A', Div. 2A - Visionhire 'A' and Telephones 'A', Div. 2B - Byker C.C. 'D' and Byker C.C. 'F', Div. 3A - Proctor and Gamble 'C' and Ouston 'A', Div. 3B - Eldon Square and Sterling Winthrop 'A', Div. 3C - North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'C' and Newcastle N.A.L.G.O. 'B', Div. 4A - Simonside 'A' and Ouston 'B', Div. 4B - Tyne Wear Fire Brigade 'A' and Newton 'C', Div. 4C - Thompson's 'C' and Sterling Winthrop 'C'.

The draw for the fourth round of the Men's Knock-Out Cup and the first round of the Ladies' Knock-Out Cup is shown below. All matches are to be played before Jan. 28.

Men's K.O. Cup (Round 4)

Postal Clerks or St. George's v Woodlands Park 'C' or Delaval C.C.

Telephones 'A' or Briarside v
North Fire Service or Woodlands Park 'A'
Byker C.C. 'B' or New Collingwood 'A' v
West Wylam or Procter and Gamble 'C'
South Shields Y.M.C.A. or Ouston 'A' v
North Shields B.C. or Gladstone Terrace B.B.C.
Procter and Gamble 'A' or North Shields
Y.M.C.A. 'A'

v
Revas or Telephones 'B'
Woodlands Park 'B' or North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'B'
v
St. Wilfrid's 'B' or Tyne Dock
Byker C.C. 'A' or Tyne Gas

v
St. Wilfrid's 'A' or North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'C'
D.H.S.S.

v
Blyth Town B.C. 'B' or New Collingwood 'B'

Women's K.O. Cup (Round 1)
St. George's 'B'

v
Thompson's

D.H.S.S.

v
John Boste

Cullercoats Meth.

v
St. George's 'A'

Winner of Preliminary Round
(North Shields Y.M.C.A. v Delaval C.C.)

v
Woodlands Park

Our Norwegian friends from Bergen will be making their biennial visit to this country during the period Jan. 12 to Jan. 16. The main attractions of table tennis interest will be the North Sea Cup competition and an invitation tournament. It is also hoped to organise other activities of interest during their stay here.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by DAVID DELLER

LAMPRELL BOUNCES BACK

The Hunts County tournament, staged pre-Christmas for the first time as an experiment was put on at St. Neots T.T. Centre on Nov. 27. The tournament again provided some twelve hours of fine competition although the overall number of competitors, dwindling during the past few seasons was not increased despite its' early season staging.

Alan Lamprell (St. Neots) saved two match points to lift the men's singles crown. His opponent in the final was Tim Speller (St. Ives) a former champion. The 20-year-old St. Ivesian took the first game comfortably, at 13, and led 20-18 in the second before Lamprell brought in his "Houdini" act to take the middle game 25-23. Having been on the brink of success there was no way back for Speller, his opponent running out a worthy 21-13 final leg winner.

In the last 8 of the singles Speller ousted clubmate Sid Burgess, whilst in a repeat of last season's final 17-year-old Mark Fisher knocked out Alan Albon, Lamprell proved too good for Derek Smith (St. Ives), and in the other quarter Alan Gray from Peterborough saw off Len Saywell who was taking time off from his heavy coaching duties. Gray reaching the semis was no match for Speller, with Fisher faring little better against the experience of Lamprell. The final was to prove one of the best in this event over the past few years.

Two teenagers met in the final of the women's singles with leading youngsters Belinda Chamberlain (St. Neots) and Melanie Ringrose (St. Ives) meeting in another good final. Belinda was in fine form to defeat her younger rival 21-19, 21-17. Melanie had overhauled No.2 seed Barbara Pace in straight games at the semi-final stage.

Les Wooding and Ken Green were rarely in trouble during their men's doubles final against last season's champs Speller and Fisher. In an all-Central final the more experienced pair came out 14, 9 winners. The Chamberlain/Ringrose combination retained their women's doubles crown with a convincing 8, 13 win over Peterborough duo Pip Baker and Sylvia Upton.

Another double to retain its' title was the Speller/Ringrose pairing which overhauled Saywell/Chamberlain 17, 16 in the mixed event. The veterans' crown went to Colin Dale of Peterborough who defeated top seed Green in straight games.

St. Ives provided the two junior champions with Mark Fisher and Melanie Ringrose finding little trouble in achieving these feats. Speller won the fourth staging of the Paul Charlton Memorial event for boys aged 17-21. In the final he defeated clubmate Alan Smith the only other winner of this event. Mappin Webb, the County chairman, can again take credit for a finely run tournament.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by JOAN ROBINSON

GILLIAN THE STAR

The star of the County Closed Championships held in November at North Kesteven Sports Centre, was 13-year-old Gillian Galloway of Lincoln. Gillian who was last year's News of the World-Butlins "Girl of the Year" not only won the Girls' singles against Carole Exton but went on to win the Womens' singles over fellow Lincoln girl Cheryl Buttery. In the semi-final Miss Galloway won a marathon match against past champion Jean White with the expedite rule being brought in at a crucial point of the first game.

Lincoln completed the Junior double when David Johnson comfortably beat David Skerratt in the Boys' singles.

The Men's singles was retained by Brian Hill in an excellent set over Peter Taylor. Hill's defence was put to the test in no uncertain fashion from Taylor's topspin forehand, but although Taylor took the first game Brian mixing solid defence with quick hitting came through to win the next two games and the title for the 14th time in the last 16 years.

Final Results:—

M.S.: B. Hill (Wyberton) bt P. Taylor -18, 12, 15.

M.D.: W. V. Moran/S. Morley (Grimsby) bt M. Sheader/B. Allison (Grimsby/Louth) 18, -21, 19.

W.S.: G. Galloway (Lincoln) bt C. Buttery (Lincoln) -18, 17, 16.

W.D.: J. White/M. Burgess (Spalding) bt B. Voss/M. Green (Mablethorpe) 13, 9.

X.D.: Taylor/Buttery bt Morley/White 19, 10.

B.S.: D. Johnson (Lincoln) bt D. Skerratt (Scunthorpe) 17, 15.

G.S.: Galloway bt C. Exton (Grantham) 9, 15.

V.S.: Sheader bt P. Skerratt (Scunthorpe) 13, -16, 17.

All three County Teams have played two matches, the Senior Team have got off to a tremendous start in the 3rd Division (North) by having wins over Lancashire II and Nottinghamshire. The highlight of the Nottinghamshire match was the set between the two No. 1's namely Hill for the home County and Alan Croome for Notts. This set was of a particular high standard, with many long and fast rallies, which kept the spectators on the edge of their seats, until the last point, with Croome just coming out on top. Both Junior Teams have won one and lost one.

The Haigh, Butlin and Butcher Cup Matches have nearly reached the halfway stage, in the Haigh both Wyberton and Grimsby are both on maximum points. In the Butlin, holders Spalding (J. White, M. Burgess, M. Green) have already lost to their old rivals Grimsby (C. Moran, P. Hale, K. Fisher) 6-4. Jean White unbeaten in this Competition last season, lost to both Connie Moran and Pauline Hale.

The latest County Team Ranking List issued at the end of November is as follows:—

Men:

B. Hill (Wy), P. Taylor (Goul), B. Allison (Lo), S. Morley (Gr), M. Newboul (Gr), M. East (Wy), S. Cuthbertson (Sc), D. Skerratt (Sc), D. Johnson (Li).

Women:

S. Hunt (Gr), J. White (Sp), G. Galloway (Li), C. Buttery (Li), A. Gunthorpe (Li), C. Moran (Gr).

Boys:

Skerratt, Johnson, K. Worth (Gr), J. Chesworth

(Li), M. Emmerson (Lo), S. Pullen (Gr), N. Sampson (Gr), R. Duke (Li), C. Bryan (Gr), W. Kirke (Lo).

Girls:

Galloway, C. Exton (Gr), S. Radley (Li), G. Sharpe (Gr), D. Brown (Gr), S. Worrell (Li), J. Barnett (Gr), J. Wingad (Gr).

Key:-

G—Grantham, Gr—Grimsby, Li—Lincoln, Lo—Louth, Sc—Scunthorpe.

Entry Forms are available for the East of England 2-Star Open Championships arranged for Sunday, 12th March, from Mrs. J. Robinson, 13 Croppers Way, Freiston, Boston, Lincs. With the high increase in the interest of Tournament Play, it will be wise to post your Entry early.

CHESHIRE CHAT

by DICK TURNER

MARK MAKES HIS MARK

Many of you will have noticed that John Hilton is now a Lancastrian. Although sorry to lose his services, the Cheshire Committee agreed to release him to play for Lancashire. He has joined his ex-Cheshire friend Brian Kean in the Lancashire Fold. For the benefit of table tennis, Cheshire have always acted in accordance with players' wishes and we can only say good luck to John in Open Tournaments and England Ranking position.

Nigel Eckersley is now firmly established as Cheshire's Number One and there are great hopes that he will be one of England's top three within two years. Nigel did well to reach the finals of the Midland 3-Star and the Harrogate 1-Star (where he beat Hilton in the semis), and Nigel will surely go from strength to strength now that he is full-time in table tennis.

The Division 2 clash between Cheshire and Lancashire on Jan. 21 should be a stirring affair as both Counties are keen to get back their Premier Division spot. Both Counties are, as yet, unbeaten, Cheshire having defeated Northumberland 9-1 and Cleveland II 7-3.

Cheshire's second team have beaten Staffordshire II 9-1 and drawn with Worcestershire. Mark Hankey, Cheshire's Number One Junior last season, has won all his games for the County second team. It was Mark who caused the sensation of the Salford and Eccles 2-Star by putting out Denis Neale two-straight in the second round. Mark has now made his mark and Cheshire look to him for further successes in the forthcoming months.

No doubt Mark will be setting his sights high in the Cheshire Closed, Jan. 14/15 next, aiming for the Men's Singles to add to his last year's Junior Singles Title, and the Men's Doubles with youthful veteran Pete D'Arcy — a pairing that is working well in Open Tournaments this season. Brian Johns will no doubt be anxious to hold on to the title he won so surprisingly last season when defeating both Eckersley and Hilton. Sue Lisle, currently England Number 4, should hold on to her Ladies' Singles title in her wedding year. Congratulations to Sue and to Cheshire's Roger Hampson. They are to marry on March 18th — what a great match it will make!

Cheshire's younger generation are also to be praised. 13-year-old Lynne Fennah is now in Cheshire's Senior Second Team and she and 14-year-old Janet Deakin have helped the lads to two good wins over Cleveland II 8-2 and Clwyd 7-3. They remained unbeaten against Cumberland when the team narrowly lost 6-4. John Weatherby is now in the England Junior Rankings and his older brother Ron has good claims to an England position on his results. In the Harrogate Junior Singles, Ron easily accounted for Cleveland's Number 19 England Ranked David Hughes. The Cheshire Juniors had a fair day for out of over 100 entries, three Cheshire boys — Ross MacFarlane, Ron Weatherby and little known 14-year-old Terry Turner, reached the quarter-finals.

The Old 'Uns, Cheshire Veterans, have also had a good start to the season, beating Clwyd 6-3.

The Cheshire Committee has lost only one of last year's members. John Wilkinson, who has worked extremely hard as Cheshire's Secretary for

a number of years, handed over to Dick Turner. John was very unfortunate to lose his wife after a short illness. Karen Tonge, from Runcorn Youth Centre, has taken over responsibility for Junior Coaching and is doing an excellent job. To promote more contact between the Leagues and the County, an occasional Newsletter, titled **Cheshire Chat** has started publication. The front page has an excellent illustration of a cat obviously about to serve illegally and his footwork does leave much to be desired. Does anyone know of any coaching course in this country that is open to cats, or in France for a Cheshire Chat?

SOMERSET NOTES

by GRAHAM GREEN

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

Following the Avon/Somerset split, Somerset is faced with a period of re-building at Junior level. Fortunately it has been possible to get this started on an intensive basis at Bridgwater where a Junior Centre has recently been established. Already rapid improvement has been observed in a number of promising juniors aged from 9 to 14. At the same time a few of the older juniors are making the most of this new facility to develop their game for the senior play that lies ahead of them.

Inevitably, the Centre and a number of linked tournament trips will improve Bridgwater Juniors at the expense of other county hopefuls. Although the Centre is available to all promising young players in the County it is likely that distance will limit attendance and it is hoped that other towns will establish similar centres. Having said this, it should be noted that the Chard Club sessions, run by Mr. and Mrs. Waller, continue to produce some useful Junior girls — no doubt to the eventual benefit of the Taunton League and the County.

Somerset Seniors travelled to Plymouth to play Devon in what turned out to be a close exciting match. Somerset's women, usually the backbone of the side, failed to win a set, this left the men with the strange task of winning 6 of their 7 sets for victory.

Brian Reeves laid the foundation for Somerset (as he has done many times in the past) with two convincing victories over Mike Short and Barry Davies, he also registered a third success teaming up with John Hartry in the men's doubles. Hartry's earlier victory over Short left the match poised at 5-4 to Devon with the two most experienced men to play; Roger Morris always looked like beating Barry Davies and by winning gave Somerset a well-deserved draw. It would be unfair to conclude this report without mentioning Adrian Wright who achieved two victories for the home county.

Somerset Juniors also visited Plymouth to play Devon II, the result being a 10-0 defeat. But, to finish on a high note, I would like to congratulate Jill Wilson on her successes at the Swansea Open, winning the women's doubles with Diane St. Ledger (Warwicks) and the mixed with Bob Bishop (Glam).

WESTERN LEAGUE NEWS

by GROVE MOTLOW

HARTRY TREBLE IN VAIN

Happy New Year to all officials and players in membership and to all table tennis enthusiasts everywhere — wishing you a successful 1978.

Weston, at home to Plymouth "B", had a hard encounter. At one stage the match score stood at 3-3 but then the visitors pulled away to take a decisive 5-3 lead leaving Weston to take the last set for a 5-4 result for the Devonians.

John Hartry for Weston took the man-of-the-match award in beating Keith James, Tom Anson and John Kelly but his performance did not produce the overall victory for his team. Only Graham Green managed to add a further set in beating Anson. Both James and Kelly won two for Plymouth with Anson winning the other.

Although a little late, I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Keith James and Kath Rowe, two of Plymouth's most popular

players, on their recent marriage. Here's wishing them calm sailing on life's journey together.

Newport, at home to Poole, were again without the recognised first team due to Welsh League commitments but were strengthened by the return of Terry Roden after a lengthy absence. Poole, last season's champions, were in excellent form and found no difficulty in winning 9-0. Their trio of Martin Abbott, Jason Creasey and John Robinson were in devastating form and worthy winners.

Bournemouth, playing at home against Plymouth "B", came out victors 6-3. Their best player proved to be Trevor Smith who won all his sets being ably supported by Chris Pickard who lost only to James. The home team's other success was by Neville Thorley who beat Kelly. Plymouth's only other win was recorded by Barry Davies who defeated Thorley.

A youthful Plymouth "A" team had a very close encounter with their visitors, Bristol, who were beaten 5-4. This was a good win for Plymouth their opponents having beaten West Wilts away in their previous match. Paul Whiting won two of his three sets, losing only to Chris Sewell, as did Mike Shearman. Mike Short accounted for Mildred.

May I again appeal to all captains to make sure that christian names are given on the scoresheets. Only after these have been noted will surnames and initials do. Thanks!

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by JOHN TAYLOR

FIRST POINTS

The County's two junior sides gained their first County Championships points of the season in their last round of matches when the 1st team defeated Cheshire 6-4 at Millom and the 2nd team drew 5-5 away to Durham.

The win for the first team follows two 7-3 defeats against Derbyshire and Yorkshire and unbeaten performances from Diccon Gray and Andrew Pachul with good support from Ian Reed made the win possible. Diccon's performance was of his usual high consistency while Andrew played particularly well and one of his wins was over Cheshire's ranked junior John Weatherby.

Ian's only defeat came at the hands of the same Cheshire player with Ian losing -19, -20. For the 3rd match in succession there was no joy for the girls with Gail Smith and Miranda Gray finding the opposition too good.

The 2nd team staged a good recovery in their match and after being 1-0 up with a Steven Sharp win over the Durham No. 2, R. Reed, then 1-4 down, the team fought back to lead 5-4. Paul Watson lost a close second set against the Durham No. 1 D. Robson -20, -23 and this was followed by further defeats for Michael Cairns against the Durham No. 3 M. Polkinghorn and for both boys' and girls' doubles before Janet Sephton stopped the rot by taking her singles in straight games.

This was followed by two hard-fought for but well deserved wins for Steven over Robson 19, -14, 17 and Elaine Mathie over Amanda Smith 19, -17, 18. Paul Watson then put Cumbria in front for the second time and with his share of the team's new found confidence took a comfortable 2-0 win over Polkinghorn. A second defeat for the below par Cairns in the final set levelled the scores but on the whole the team can feel satisfied with the one point after such a disappointing start.

The County seniors crashed 1-9 to Lancashire II in their second match of the season, a disappointing result against an under-strength Lancashire team made a little better when the score was later amended to 7-3 because Lancashire's Steve Cowley and Alan Whittle played in the wrong order. Chris Reed was our only winner on the original scoresheet and he gained a close -17, 13, 22 victory over the home side's No. 1 Steve Turner. Although four of the other sets went to a decider, with Bill Robinson, Stewart O'Neil, Jennifer Pachul and Bella Gray by no means disgraced, it was Chris again who came closest to another win when he lost -11, 13, -19 to Cowley in the opening set of the match.

Stewart stepped into the side as a last minute replacement for the injured David Kirkpatrick. Regular coaching sessions at fortnightly intervals have been arranged through Cumbria Schools T.T.A. and Cumbria T.T.A. and it is hoped that pupils from schools throughout the County will be able to attend the sessions at Millom School on Monday nights. John Reed is the organiser-in-chief and at the time of writing is hoping to persuade none other than Nicky Jarvis to make regular visits.

At the start of the season the Barrow branch of British Plympic Association set up a new competition in Barrow, namely the Furness Masters Invitation Table Tennis Championships. Ten players from the Furness area, which excludes Millom, compete in a league programme and three 5-game sets are played every Tuesday at Barrow A.F.C.'s Bluebird Club. At the moment, Alan Fay, undoubtedly Barrow's best player in recent years, heads the league table from Vickers Sports Club colleague and former Barrow closed champion Stan Halesworth. County No. 3, Bill Robinson is at No. 3 in the table and any player such as Bill, who is having his best season ever, will be somewhere near the top at the end of the season.

The only complaint so far has been about the lack of spectators present on match nights, which is hard to understand with the top class table tennis being offered free of charge. League Table for w.e. 17/12/77:-

	P	W	L	P
Alan Fay	7	6	1	26
Stan Halesworth	7	6	1	25
Bill Robinson	7	5	2	23
Neil Honeyman	7	4	3	18
Peter Buxton	7	4	3	16
Mike Jackson	6	3	3	14
Alan Hanson	6	3	3	13
Eddie O'Hara	6	3	3	12
Brian Sharp	6	0	6	6
Alan Turner	7	0	7	4

Each player gains one point for each game won plus one point for a best-out-of-five set win.

SUSSEX NOTES

by JOHN WOODFORD

ROGER BACK IN HARNESS

ROGER CHANDLER continues to create the surprises in Sussex. Following his shock defeat by Sam Ogundipe at the East Sussex championships finals in mid-September, when he announced his retirement for a year, my caution in describing Roger as being "semi-retired" seems to have been on target.

Roger returns to the sport at his favourite venue, the Brighton Corn Exchange, stage for his greatest triumphs, for both the Norwich Union International Championships and the Sussex Closed championships on Jan. 15.

When the seedings for the Sussex championships were decided, there was a division of opinion on whether Chandler should be No. 1 or whether he should appear down the list. But, it is well known that the reigning champion seeking his twelfth Sussex title, has been keeping in practice with other well-known Brighton players, so No. 1 it is, with inevitably John Clarke at No. 2.

Cosmo Graham will shortly appear for Sussex, following a transfer from Middlesex. Both Sussex in Division 2 (South) and the Sussex Junior first team are leading the tables and could be heading for the play-offs. So it looks as though Sussex University student Cosmo will take Graham Gillett's place in Div. 2 (South) whilst Graham (England No. 10) will return to the junior team to help in the bid to reach the play-offs.

Hazel O'Brien is the player that the Sussex selectors are most pleased with at the moment. In Round 2 of the Rose Bowl when Crawley beat Chelmsford 5-3, Hazel took a maximum that included Helen Gore and Julie Dowsett. Crawley are now locked into a third round clash with Eastbourne's trio of Sussex players Diane Griggs (nee Gard), Julie Reading and Linda Budd. Mrs. Griggs the Sussex champion married her new husband Peter at Eastbourne on December 17th.



Still talking despite criticism in 'The Sun' (Jan. 5) of overloading the magazine with photos of officials, Chester Barnes (right) and TT News Editor at a Stiga reception.

Photo by courtesy of Brian J. Hearn, Stiga AB Sweden.

Scandinavian and French Opens

CHINESE CRACKERS
by Geo. R. Yates

Of the fourteen titles at stake in the 20th Scandinavian Open, played at Borlange over the period Nov. 24-27, and in the 25th French Open played over Dec. 2-4 in Rennes, players from the People's Republic of China were victorious in no less than eleven events.

They missed out in both men's doubles and, in France, the mixed escaped them. All three crumbs to fall from the loaded table were picked up by the French.

Oh yes, English players participated, in strength in Borlange, but not so in Rennes.

Lu Chi-wei won both men's singles titles and Yang Ying the counterpart women's events. It goes without saying, of course, that all four team titles were won by the Chinese, England's Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard bowing out to Yang Ying and Yang-chun at the semi-final stage in Sweden.

The same thing happened in the women's doubles event in Borlange and at the same stage but, in the men's team event, after Desmond Douglas and Paul Day had beaten Denmark 3-1 the pair fell by the wayside in losing by the same score to Federal Germany whose Engelbert Hugging had a 13, 9 win over Douglas.

In the men's singles in the Scandinavian Douglas, after beating China's Fu Jung-shih (8, -13, 19, 14) and Tommy Danielsson of Sweden (19, 17, 21) fell in the third round to Jacques Secretin of France (17, -11, -18, -15).

It was also in Round 3 that Day was eliminated, by Stellan Bengtsson of the host nation, after wins over Hong Chol of Korea DPR and Nico van Slobbe of the Netherlands. In tandem the English duo lost to China's Lu Yuan-sheng and Lu Chi-wei (-13, -10, 18, -8).

In the women's singles Jill began with a win over Sweden's Kristine Nilsson (8, 7, 10) losing in the next round to the eventual winner Yang Ying. Linda after a walk-over against Jolanta Szatko of Poland was beaten by Ann-Christin Hellman of Sweden (-12, 15, -24, -15).

Spearheaded by Nicky Jarvis, England had four men in the field in Rennes but only Jarvis survived the first round and that but narrowly against Andre Hartmann of Luxembourg. Andy Barden was sunk without trace by Sweden's Roger Lagerfeldt, Bob Potton similarly by Jochen Leiss of Federal Germany but Martin Shuttle managed to extract one game from a Korean. Jarvis quit the scene in the second round when beaten by Federal Germany's Wilfried Lieck.

A look-in against foreign opposition was afforded Carole Knight but it was blinkered to a brief glance in losing to Korea DPR's Pak Yong Ok whose compatriot Ri Song Suk put paid to Linda Howard.

In the team events Jarvis and Barden, as England I, were beaten 3-0 by Hungary's Gabor Gergely and Tibor Kreiszi whilst the second string duo of Potton and Shuttle bowed out to Nigeria. Oh dear! China II accounted for Carole and Linda in the preliminary round of the women's team event.

The scratching of four seeds, Beatrix Kishazi (Hungary) (1), Ilona Uhlíkova (Czechoslovakia) (3), Ann-Christin Hellman (Sweden) (4) and Maria Alexandru (Romania) (5) marred the women's singles event in France, the No. 2 seed Ursula Hirschmuller losing in Rd. 3 to Tsao Yen-hua of China.

Bengtsson was the only seed to be a non-runner in the men's singles in which Secretin, the holder, lost to Kreiszi, as did Milan Orłowski. In Borlange, Bengtsson was beaten by Patrick Birocheau of France.

Results:—

20th SCANDINAVIAN OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

Lu Chi-wei (CHN) bt D. Surbek (YUG) 11, 10, 15;
P. Birocheau (FRA) bt S. Bengtsson (SWE) 18, 21, 18;
M. Orłowski (CZE) bt U. Thorsell (SWE) -19, 15, -19, 22, 15;
Lu Yuan-sheng (CHN) bt J. Secretin (FRA) 12, 11, 11.

Semi-finals:

Lu Chi-wei bt Birocheau 12, -19, 14, 13;
Lu Yuan-sheng bt Orłowski 7, 9, 12.

Final:

LU CHI-WEI bt Lu Yuan-sheng 12, 9, 12.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

Tung Ling (CHN) bt K. Kruger (GFR) 10, 21, -20, 10;
Yang Ling (CHN) bt E. Stromvall (SWE) 14, 11, 13;
Tsao Yen-hua (CHN) bt A. C. Hellman (SWE) 18, -10, 15, 16;

Yang Yen-chun (CHN) bt B. Vriesekoop (NET) 20, 20, 13.

Semi-finals:

Yang Ying bt Tung Ling 18, 13, 14;
Tsao Yen-hua bt Yang Yen-chun 16, 22, -20, 14.

Final:

YANG YING bt Tsao Yen-hua 17, -18, -15, 12, 12.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Birocheau/Secretin bt I. Dvoracek/I. Pansky (CZE) 15, 14, 12;
W. Lieck/P. Stellweg (GFR) bt J. Kunz (CZE)/Orłowski -16, 17, 20, 14.

Final:

BIROCHEAU/SECRETIN bt Lieck/Stellweg 11, 17, 20.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Yang Yen-chun/Yang Ying bt J. Hammersley/L. Howard (ENG) 12, 13, 19;

Tsao Yen-hua/Tung Ling bt D. Dubinova/B. Silhanova (CZE) 14, 16, 15.

Final:

TSAO YEN-HUA/TUNG LING bt Yang Yen-chun/Yang Ying 9, 12, 9.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

Secretin/C. Bergeret (FRA) bt Surbek/B. Batinic (YUG) 16, 18, 7;

Lu Chi-wei/Tsao Yen-hua bt Orłowski/Dubinova 16, 19, 14.

Final:

SECRETIN/BERGERET bt Lu Chi-wei/Tsao Yen-hua 14, 9, 16.

Team Events

Men

Round 1

China bt Nigeria 3-0;
France bt Finland 3-0;
Yugoslavia bt Sweden B 3-0;
Czechoslovakia w.o. Poland;
Federal Germany bt Norway 3-0;
England bt Denmark 3-1
D. Douglas bt P. Rud 7, 8;
P. Day lost to C. Pedersen -16, -14;
Day/Douglas bt Pedersen/Rud 16, 15;
Douglas bt Pedersen 5, -18, 19.
Korea DPR bt Holland 3-2;
Sweden A bt Australia 3-0.

Quarter-finals:

China bt France 3-1;
Yugoslavia bt Czechoslovakia 3-2;
Federal Germany bt England 3-1;
E. Hugging bt Day 14, 8;
W. Lieck lost to Douglas -18, 18, -17;
Lieck/P. Stellweg bt Day/Douglas -7, 15, 19;
Hugging bt Douglas 13, 19.
Sweden A bt Korea DPR 3-2.

Semi-finals:

China bt Yugoslavia 3-1
Lu Chi-wei bt Z. Kosanovic -15, 10, 16;
Lu Yuan-sheng lost to D. Surbek 14, -12, -17;
Huang Tung-sheng/Wei Ching-sheng bt Kosanovic/Surbek -16, 10, 16;
Lu Yuan-sheng bt Kosanovic 11, 13.
Federal Germany bt Sweden A 3-0
Lieck bt S. Bengtsson -13, 18, 19;
Hugging bt U. Thorsell -23, 16, 19;
Lieck/Stellweg bt Bengtsson/L. Franklin 16, 18.

Final:

CHINA bt Federal Germany 3-2
Lu Yuan-sheng bt Hugging -19, 8, 8;
Lu Chi-wei bt Lieck 15, 16;
Huang Tung-sheng/Wei Ching-sheng lost to Lieck/Stellweg -23, -13;
Lu Yuan-sheng lost to Lieck -13, -17;
Lu Chi-wei bt Hugging 14, 9.

Women

Round 1

China - bye;
Federal Germany bt Sweden B 3-1;
Czechoslovakia bt Nigeria 3-0;
England bt Finland 3-0
J. Hammersley bt S. Grefberg 9, 5.
L. Howard bt M. Grefberg 16, 19.
Hammersley/Howard bt Grefberg/Grefberg 16, 12.
Sweden A w.o. Poland;
Holland bt Yugoslavia 3-2;
France bt Norway 3-0;
Korea DPR - bye.

Quarter-finals:

China bt Federal Germany 3-1;
England bt Czechoslovakia 3-1
Hammersley lost to D. Dubinova 13, -19, -16;
Howard bt B. Silhanova 16, 20;
Hammersley/Howard bt Dubinova/Silhanova 15, -20, 19;
Hammersley bt Silhanova 14, 7.
Holland bt Sweden A 3-0;
Korea DPR bt France 3-1.

Semi-finals:

China bt England 3-0
Yang Yen-chun bt Hammersley -20, 15, 15;
Yang Ying bt Howard 10, 4;
Yang Yen-chun/Yang Ying bt Hammersley/Howard 16, 16.
Korea DPR bt Holland 3-0
Pak Yong Ok bt J. Williams 19, 18;
Li Song Suk bt B. Vriesekoop 16, 6;
Hong Gil Son/Pak Yong Ok bt Vriesekoop/Williams 19, -11, 11.

Final:

CHINA bt Korea DPR 3-1
Yang Ying bt Hong Gil Son 12, 19;
Yang Yen-chun bt Pak Yong Ok 16, 15;
Yang Yen-chun/Yang Ying lost to Pak Yong Ok/Hong Gil Son -22, 22, -15;
Yang Ying bt Pak Yong Ok 17, -20, 11.

25th FRENCH OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Surbek (YUG) bt J. Kunz (CZE) 3-1;
T. Klampar (HUN) bt J. Leiss (GFR) 3-2;
Lu Chi-wei (CHN) bt U. Thorsell (SWE) 3-1;
T. Kreiszi (HUN) bt M. Orłowski (CZE) 3-1.

Semi-finals:

Klampar bt Surbek 19, 16, 17;
Lu Chi-wei bt Kreiszi 10, 9, 6.

Final:
LU CHI-WEI bt Klampar 9, 10, 18.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
 B. Silhanova (CZE) bt Yang Yen-chun (CHN) 3-0;
 Tung Ling (CHN) bt W. Hendriksen (GFR) 3-0;
 Yang Ying (CHN) bt J. Magos (HUN) 3-2;
 Ri Song Suk (KDR) bt Tsao Yen-hua (CHN) 3-1.

Semi-finals:
 Tung Ling bt Silhanova 10, 16, 7;
 Yang Ying bt Ri Song Suk 17, 23, 17.

Final:
YANG YING bt Tung Ling 14, 10, 11.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
 L. Franklin (SWE)/Thorsell bt W. Lieck/R. Wosik (GFR) -14, -20, 18, 14, 19.
 P. Birocheau/J. Secretin (FRA) bt D. Jurcic (YUG)/Surbek -14, 12, 12, 16.

Final:
BIROCHEAU/SECRETIN bt Franklin/Thorsell 10, 16, -18, 15.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
 Kim Soon Ok/Lee Soon Joo (KRR) bt E. Ferenczi (RUM)/Z. Olah (HUN) 3-0;
 Yang Yen-chun/Yang Ying (CHN) bt Magos/G. Szabo (HUN) 3-2.

Final:
YANG YEN-CHUN/YANG YING bt Kim Soon Ok/Lee Soon Joo 15, -12, 16, 21.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
 Wen Ching-sheng (CHN)/Tsao Yen-hua bt Lu Yuan-sheng (CHN)/Tung Ling 3-1;
 Lu Chi-wei/Yang Ying bt Huang Tung-shen (CHN)/Yang Yen-chun 3-1.

Final:
WEN CHING-SHENG/TSAO YEN-HUA bt Lu Chi-wei/Yang Ying 20, 18, -18, 18.

Team Events

Men

Round 1

Hungary II bt England I 3-0;
 France I bt Korea R II 3-1;
 Rumania bt Luxembourg I 3-2;
 Nigeria bt England II 3-0;
 Yugoslavia bt Australia 3-0;
 Poland bt France II 3-0;
 Czechoslovakia bt Korea R I 3-0;
 China II bt France III 3-1;
 Federal Germany I bt Luxembourg II 3-0.

Round 2

China I bt Hungary II 3-0;
 Netherlands bt Spain 3-0;
 France I bt Rumania 3-0;
 Federal Germany I bt Sweden II 3-2;
 Hungary I bt Nigeria 3-0;
 Yugoslavia bt Poland 3-2;
 China II bt Czechoslovakia 3-2;
 Sweden I bt Federal Germany II 3-1.

Quarter-finals:

China bt Netherlands 3-0;
 France I bt Federal Germany I 3-2;
 Hungary I bt Yugoslavia 3-1;
 China II bt Sweden 3-1.

Semi-finals:

China I bt France I 3-1;
 Hungary bt China II 3-1.

Final:

CHINA I bt Hungary I 3-2
 Lu Chi-wei bt Klampar 17, 22;
 Lu Yuan-sheng lost to Jonyer 14, -15, -15;
 Lu Chi-wei/Lu Yuan-sheng lost to Jonyer/Klampar -15, -17;
 Lu Chi-wei bt Jonyer 16, 6;
 Lu Yuan-sheng bt Klampar 18, 11.

Women

Preliminary Round

Korea R II bt Netherlands 3-0;
 France I bt Nigeria 3-1;
 Sweden bt Korea R II 3-1;
 Federal Germany bt Poland 3-0;
 China II bt England 3-0.

Round 1

China I bt Luxembourg 3-0;
 Rumania bt Korea R II 3-2;
 Sweden bt France I 3-0;
 Hungary bt Yugoslavia 3-0;
 Korea R I bt Belgium 3-0;
 Czechoslovakia bt Spain 3-0;
 China II bt Federal Germany 3-0;
 Korea R I bt France II 3-1.

Quarter-finals:

China I bt Rumania 3-0;
 Hungary bt Sweden 3-0;
 Korea R I bt Czechoslovakia 3-1;
 China II bt Korea R I 3-0.

Semi-finals:

China I bt Hungary 3-1;
 China II bt Korea R II 3-0.

Final:

CHINA II bt China I 3-0
 Tsao Yen-hua bt Yang Ying 16, 13;
 Tung Ling bt Yang Yen-chun 6, -18, 12;
 Tsao Yen-hua/Tung Ling bt Yang Yen-chun/ Yang Ying -9, 14, 20.

BRYN WINS

In the Individual Divisional Championships of the Bolton League, Bryn Farnworth won the first division title beating Clive Heap 25-23, 21-16. Both represent Farnworth in the Lancashire and Cheshire League.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sue and Colin Henderson have changed their address to 96 Arethusa Way, Southwood Park, Bisley, Surrey and wish all their table tennis friends a Happy New Year.



Jill Hammersley (left) and Linda Howard who, in Duisburg in March, become due to defend their women's doubles title.

Photo by T. Edenden, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

MOOR GRANGE TABLE TENNIS CENTRE, LEEDS

by COLIN MORATH

Leeds T.T.A. Coaching Secretary and 2-Star Diploma Coach.

The development of Moor Grange school into a table tennis centre illustrates how schools may be fully utilised for the benefit of the community.

The Moor Grange centre was officially opened on 24th October, 1975. It represented the culmination of some five years of effort on the part of many organisations and individuals. The centre has 12 tables, 6 in each hall and is open daily throughout the year. Coaching in Leeds has expanded considerably since 1970 when the first schools course was held. The league has increased to 15 divisions, regular county coaching sessions are run, and since January, 1977 the first table tennis Centre of Excellence to be formed in Britain meets twice weekly. Moor Grange is at the hub of all these activities, providing the facilities for all these groups to operate.

The idea of the centre was first brought nearer a reality when the headmaster of Moor Grange school suggested that his hall and gymnasium could be used more fully for table tennis. A coaching class was already being held at the school and its teams featured prominently in National schools competitions. It would be necessary to purchase top grade tables and to install special lighting. The cost, over £2,000 an obvious snag.

After months of negotiations the co-operation of the following organisations ensured that the centre would become a reality.

- The Sports Council Yorkshire and Humberside Region
- The Leeds Table Tennis League
- The English Schools T.T.A.
- The Yorkshire T.T.A.
- The Leeds Education Authority
- Leeds Leisure Services
- Stiga A.B. (Mitre Sports)

These organisations assisted in providing the necessary finance to equip the centre with tables and lighting. The centre is run by a management committee which meets three times a year, the

members being drawn one from each of the participating agencies and organisations. It decides such items as equipment replacement, levies, user priorities, time table, etc. The facilities are hired from the Education Authority at an hourly rate, the Leeds League controlling the booking and paying the bills. They in turn bill the user. Schools and junior events are free, although everyone pays an equipment levy. Bookings are then passed to the head of Adult Education who is an employee of the Community Education staff. He is the link between the user and the authority and is responsible for events sponsored by them such as coaching. Coaching courses are run on one night each week these catering for players of all standards. The Centre of Excellence runs twice weekly and is funded jointly by the Sports Council and the Education Authority.

The league use the hall on two evenings. Clubs have been formed at the centre playing their home matches there. A practice session is also available for all registered league players.

At weekends the facilities are used for Yorkshire league and county matches, county coaching, schools events, tournaments etc.

The current weekly programme is designed to provide a balanced use of the centre by players of all abilities and inclinations. The schools use the facilities until 7 p.m. for school league matches, coaching and practice. After 7 p.m. the programme is as follows:-

- Monday—League matches, Centre of Excellence
- Tuesday—Coaching
- Wednesday—Centre of Excellence
- Thursday—League matches and practice
- Friday—Open for lettings
- Sat./Sun.—Special events, advanced booking essential.

The centre is already being used near to capacity and therefore our future aspirations are for a 20 table centre where the tables are left permanently erected giving more scope for school use and to enable open tournaments to be staged. The facility should ideally be linked to a sports complex which can provide facilities for weight training and physiotherapy etc.

The main factor in the development of Moor Grange has been the co-operation that has been shown by all the various organisations. Without the help of any one there would not be a thriving table tennis centre in Leeds today.

GODDARD INTERNATIONAL INVITATION

CHEQUE FOR CZECH
by JOHN WOODFORD

MILAN ORLOWSKI, ranked No. 8 in the world, demonstrated at Leeds on Dec. 17th why he is seeded No. 1 over the Chinese at Brighton in the Norwich Union International Championships. The muscular, athletic Czech ran away with the first game of the final of the £1,200 GODDARD INTERNATIONAL INVITATION tournament at Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds, to beat Desmond Douglas 21-10.

By that time Desmond had already assured himself of the £250 second prize. The Birmingham professional battled hard in the second set and actually led 19-15 with a dazzling series of attacking shots. But the Czech gradually whittled down the deficit, providing a really exciting climax for television, but just failed 22-24.

Douglas had the best draw in his group against Franklin and Stellwag, but Paul Day had it really tough against Orlovski and Thorsell. The semi-finals gave Desmond a chance to take revenge against Thorsell for Gloucester and this he did at 21-15 in the third game. Stellwag looked impressive in the other semi-final but it was Orlovski who survived 15, 18.

In the women's challenge match Carole Knight should have been playing Ann-Christin Hellman, but the Swedish girl had to depart to a Swedish training camp, so Melody Ludi deputised capably by taking the first game from the England women's champion, but could not hold the advantage and was beaten 18, 16.

GROUP A:

Desmond Douglas (England)
Peter Stellwag (Federal Germany)
Lars Franklin (Sweden)

Results:

Douglas bt Stellwag 21-16, 21-10.
Douglas bt Franklin 21-17, 21-9.
Stellwag bt Franklin 21-18, 21-15.

GROUP B:

Milan Orlovski (Czechoslovakia)
Ulf Thorsell (Sweden)
Paul Day (England)

Results:

Orlovski bt Thorsell 21-14, 21-10.
Orlovski bt Day 21-9, 21-19.
Thorsell bt Day 21-16, 21-19.

SEMI-FINALS:

Douglas bt Thorsell 21-17, 21-23, 21-15.
Orlovski bt Stellwag 21-15, 21-18.

FINAL:

Orlovski bt Douglas 21-10, 24-22.

MILAN AGAIN

by Jean Devys of France

In a tournament of champions at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin, Paris on Dec. 5 Milan Orlovski outstripped world class opposition to win the men's singles event. China's Yang Ying, winner of the Scandinavian and French Open titles maintained her winning ways in the women's event beating her compatriot Tung Ling in the final.

Scores:—

Men

Preliminary Round:

R. Hatem (FRA) bt G. Gergely (HUN) 2-0;
U. Thorsell (SWE) bt P. Renverse (FRA) 2-0.

Round 1

D. Surbek (YUG) bt Hatem 2-0;
C. Martin (FRA) bt Lu Yang-cheng (CHN) 2-1;
Lu Chi-wei (CHN) bt T. Klampar (HUN) 2-1;
M. Orlovski (CZE) bt P. Birocheau (FRA) 2-1;
I. Jonyer (HUN) bt J. D. Constant (FRA) 2-0;
Wei Ching-shang (CHN) bt T. Kreis (HUN) 2-1;
J. Secretin (FRA) bt Thorsell 2-0;
Huang Tung-sheng (CHN) bt B. Parietti (FRA) 2-1.

Quarter-finals:

Surbek bt Martin 2-0;

Orlovski bt Lu Chi-wei 2-0;
Jonyer bt Huang Tung-sheng 2-1;
Secretin bt Wei Ching-shang.

Semi-finals:

Orlovski bt Surbek 2-0;
Secretin bt Jonyer 2-0.

Final:

ORLOWSKI bt Secretin -22, 9, 7.

Women

Preliminary Round:

E. Stromvall (SWE) bt N. Daviaud (FRA) 2-1;
Z. Olah (HUN) bt M. Gourmelon (FRA) 2-1.

Quarter-finals:

Stromvall bt J. Magos (HUN) 2-0;
Tung Ling (CHN) bt C. Bergeret (FRA) 2-0;
B. Thiriet (FRA) bt G. Szabo (HUN) 2-1;
Yang Ying (CHN) bt Olah 2-1.

Semi-finals:

Tung Ling bt Stromvall 2-0;
Yang Ying bt Thiriet 2-1.

Final:

YANG YING bt Tung Ling 14, 12.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by PHILIP REID

GANNON TO THE FORE

It seems impossible to keep David Gannon out of the news these days. Against Warwickshire Juniors he won both his sets but even so Leicestershire could only manage a draw, with two wins coming from the girls and a first singles win for Simon Hall. Whilst a draw was acceptable Yvonne Hall, 18-10 up in the third against Sue Hemmings, should certainly have won her singles but her nerve went and she could hardly put a ball on the table.

In the county 2nd team fixture at Luton, Gannon showed all his skills against Bedfordshire II where nobody could collect more than twelve points against him. It was a thoroughly competent display and helped Leicestershire recover from a 1-3 deficit to win 7-3. Once again Eileen Shaler was unbeaten. In two years in the county team she has yet to savour defeat! The county first team meanwhile took all ten sets from Bedfordshire I, only one going the distance. The County's Ranking Lists have been revised. Whilst there have been no changes on the distaff side and only one in the Veterans (Charlie Jacques changing places with Bryan Hall) there have been several in the Mens. The list, with previous positions in brackets reads: 1. P. Randell (1), 2. C. Rogers (2), 3. M. Newman (3), 4. D. Gannon (6), 5. P. Smith (5), 6. G. Hall (4), 7. J. Iliffe (7), 8. B. Mayfield (10), 9. G. Hughes (—), 10. S. Kenney (9), 11. C. Truman (12), 12. P. Cawser (—), 13. A. Philpott (8), 14. S. White (—).

In the Wilmott Cup Leicester made further progress when they beat Nottingham 5-4. Alan Croome was on magnificent form beating Chris Rogers, Grahame Hall and Phil Smith. The decisive set — the ninth — was between Smith and Denis Collins and once again Phil showed what a superb temperament he has by emerging victorious.

In the Carter Cup, though, Leicester were duly eliminated by the Potteries, despite a maximum from Gannon.

Charlie Jacques is back to something like his best form for the Veterans. Against Oxford he won three but nobody else could manage a win. Against Leamington however the team took a point when Jacques' two were backed by one each from Phil Overend and Bryan Hall and a doubles win.

Leicester now look likely to win the Ladies Division in the Midland League, a 7-3 win against Birmingham almost clinching it.

Congratulations to Chris Rogers on a magnificent win in the Salford 2-Star Open. Chris needed to beat four England-ranked players (Nigel Eckersley, Dave Constance, Duggie Johnson and John Hilton) to take the title and this he did in style. Over the years Paul Randell has won five Star Opens, but this is the first Men's Singles success for Leicestershire in a Two-Star event. Certainly, the way Rogers is playing at the moment, Randell's supremacy — unchallenged for so long — is certain to be put to the test in the near future. Indeed, it would be a brave man who would separate the two now!

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE AFFAIRS

by GEORGE R. YATES

GRANADA TROPHY TOURNAMENT

Through the good offices of Mr. Paul Doherty, Head of Sport, Granada Television Limited, a knock-out tournament is being launched this month involving all leagues, with the exception of Manchester Banks and Insurance Offices and Liverpool Business Houses, within the Lancashire and Cheshire League and the six leagues forming the North Wales Counties T.T.A.

Initially the forty leagues involved have been split geographically into four groups each comprising ten leagues, the ultimate group winners becoming the overall semi-finalists. Teams will comprise three male players from those to have been registered in the L. and C. League as at Dec. 12/77 and, as appropriate in the North Wales Counties Association. Match regulations will be those appertaining in the current handbook of the L. and C. League.

The tournament was launched on Granada Reports with an exhibition match between John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley. It is also Mr. Doherty's intention to have interviews with the local personalities throughout the tournament and, on occasions, to send a film unit to cover some of the more important matches, being aware that coverage must also be afforded at least one other match in each group.

The semi-finals will take place on Apl. 22 and the final, most likely, on Thursday, May 4 at British Aerospace Dynamics Group, Lostock Factory nr. Bolton when full coverage will be afforded for subsequent highlights to be televised. Granada will undertake to provide six losing semi-final medals and the losing finalists will also receive medals. The winners will receive medals and the Granada Trophy. The groupings are:-

Group 1

Anglesey
Denbigh
East Flint
Ellesmere Port
Chester
Liverpool
Llandudno
Rhyl
Wirral
Wrexham

Group 3

Crewe
Hyde
Macclesfield
Manchester
Mid-Cheshire
Sale
St. Helens
Stockport
Warrington
Widnes

Group 2

Barrow
Blackpool
Burnley
Hyndburn
Lancaster/Morecambe
Lytham/St. Annes
Mid-Lancashire
Nelson
Preston
Ribbledale

Group 4

Ashton
Blackburn
Bolton
Bury
Farnworth
Oldham
Rochdale
Salford
Southport
Wigan

LANCASHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

Through the good offices of Mr. David D. Plowes, Personnel Officer of British Aerospace Dynamics Group, Lostock Factory (formerly Hawker Siddeley Dynamics) the Lancashire 2-Star Open to be held on Saturday, Feb. 11 will have a prize fund of £400 with £100 earmarked for the winner of the men's singles event and £50 for the winner of the women's singles.

Back in harness Mr. George T. H. Fackrell of 9 Clive Avenue, Orford, Warrington, Cheshire (Phone: Warrington 59228) has taken over from Mr. Chris Minta as the Hon. Organiser and Secretary and completed forms are available from him the closing date for entries being Wednesday, Feb. 1/78.

E.T.T.A. LINCOLN LOTTERY

Most leagues will have received details of this lottery which affords the opportunity to raise funds without any financial risk to yourselves. Please ask your Committee to seriously consider taking part as there are two selling months still left.



Welsh Corner

H. Roy Evans

CHINESE FOR CARDIFF

News of the Chinese participation in the Stiga Welsh Open is the most exciting topic in Wales at the moment, and we can look forward to the huge crowd we saw at the 1976 event. Negotiations are also proceeding with the North Koreans and it is hoped we shall see them in Wales for the first time. Entries close in early January, by which time it is expected that the "foreign" entry will be up to its usual standard.

December's domestic scene was dominated by the Cardiff Open, which, like the Swansea event, was held over two days, with the juniors and cadets playing on the Saturday and the seniors on the Sunday.

But the Cardiff Officials were a bit too enthusiastic, and by including seven junior and two cadet events on the Saturday they found that time caught up with them, and it was a very late finish indeed. But the quality of play was good, and it is now very significant indeed that a very large proportion of the entry into any tournament these days is composed of juniors.

Jeff Morgan played well to win from a large field, beating Kevin Satchell in the final, whilst Helen Gore had a good performance to reach her final where she went down to Claire Maisey.

Mark Thomas and Andrew Jones were the stars of the cadet singles, in which Mark beat Andrew in the final.

The Senior event on Sunday was not as strong as usual, mainly because of an unfortunate clash with the Middlesex Open. It was George Evans's day again — he had a splendid win over Tony Clayton in the semi-final, and then went on to beat David Welsman in the final, after the latter had eliminated Graham Davies.

George was beaten with John Bloomer in the men's doubles, but teamed up with Alma Taft to win the mixed. The women's events were dominated by the English contingent, although the old firm of Margaret Phillips and Sandra Pickering put up a spirited defence in the final against Claire Maisey and Pat Oung.

Full Results:—

M.S.: George Evans bt David Welsman (Sy) 15, 11.
W.S.: Janet Carr (Staffs) bt Claire Maisey (Wilts) 8, 11.

M.D.: Clayton/Harrison (Y) bt Evans/Bloomer 15, 18.

W.D.: Maisey/P. Oung bt Margaret Phillips/Sandra Pickering 17, -16, 15.

X.D.: Evans/Alma Taft bt Bob Brown/Diane St. Ledger 7, 16.

B.S.: Jeff Morgan bt Kevin Satchell (Wi) 14, -16, 9.

G.S.: Claire Maisey bt Helen Gore (E) 11, 19.

U-14 B.S.: Mark Thomas bt Andrew Jones 11, 15.

U-14 G.S.: Pauline Townsend (Wilts) bt Tracey Watkins 13, 10.

U-12 B.S.: Gary Lambert (Devon) bt Paul Halliday (Berks) 12, 11.

U-12 G.S.: Stephanie Hadley (Staffs) bt Vicki Bellingham (Staffs) 20, 10.

B.D.: Jeff Morgan/David Kenefick bt Nigel Thomas/Malcolm Green -5, 10, 13.

G.D.: Townsend/Maisey bt Cathryn Jones/Susan Jones (Sp) 20, 21.

X.D.: Green/Maisey bt Satchell/Townsend 13, 21.

Three good County Championship wins should have provided the right kind of spirit for Christmas but regrettably the first team went down to Warwickshire in a match they just had to win, and indeed should have. Mike Owen, the County No. 3 was in splendid form to take two singles and to provide a bonus with a mixed win with Debbie Coulthard. But with Alan Griffiths losing both, Graham Davies only taking one, and again failing in the doubles, Warwickshire were allowed to get away with a win they could hardly have expected.

Glamorgan's other three teams turned up trumps — The seconds with a good win over Avon, for whom Chris Sewell won two. Newly promoted Jeff Morgan won both his sets, thus contributing a lot to the 6-4 victory.

The Thirds, after shaky starts, disposed of Cornwall 7-3. Colin Rees and newcomer Tony Healan won two each, whilst both Glenys Thomas and Debbie Symons took their singles.

Against the Cornish juniors, Glamorgan won 8-2, with David Kenefick, Stephen Jordan and Andrew Jones all playing well, whilst both Cathryn and Susan Jones showed confidence.

Insofar as the County programme is concerned, it looks as if the First side will find it difficult to stay up in the Premier Division, having now lost two matches they should have won.

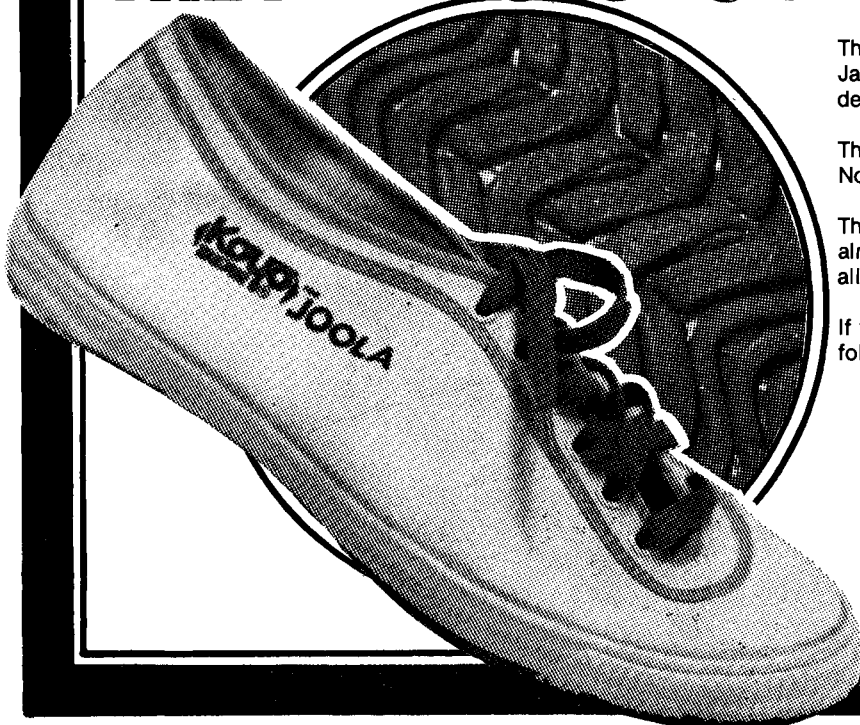
APPROVED BALLS

The licence for the Stiga Alser ball has been withdrawn as supplies are not available in this country at the present time. The intention to change the name of the Dunlop ball to Dunlop Super DDD could not be implemented for marketing reasons and will therefore continue to be known as the Dunlop Barna Super 3-crown and 2-crown.

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INTRODUCE**

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JOOLA

table tennis

THE OCTAVIUS ATKINSON NORTH YORKSHIRE 1-Star OPEN

by Richard Scruton

Donald Parker won the inaugural North Yorkshire Open men's singles title on Dec. 4 at Harrogate against Nigel Eckersley who saved 7 match points before Parker clinched the title. Parker led 20-16 in the second game before Eckersley came back to win, 24-22, and lead 8-2 in the decider. But again Eckersley came back, this time from 18-20 to level at 20-all before Parker took the last two points.

Parker had earlier defeated Canada's Errol Caetano and Alan Griffiths, the Welsh No. 1, in the top half of the draw from which Denis Neale had to scratch due to injury. Eckersley overcame No. 2 seed John Hilton in the semis in a tense third game. A surprise in the bottom half was a win by Bradford's Bob Shutt over Simon Claxton, Warwickshire's newest acquisition.

Melody Ludi swept aside all opposition to win the women's singles with a final win over Linda Hryszko. This event was somewhat weakened by the non-appearance of two nationally-ranked women.

The major surprise of the tournament was the defeat of the top seeds in the men's doubles, Hilton and Parker, in Rd. 2 by Kevin Beadsley and Mick Stephenson from Bradford. The latter pair went on to reach the semis where they fell to the eventual winners Griffiths and Peter McQueen by the narrowest margin.

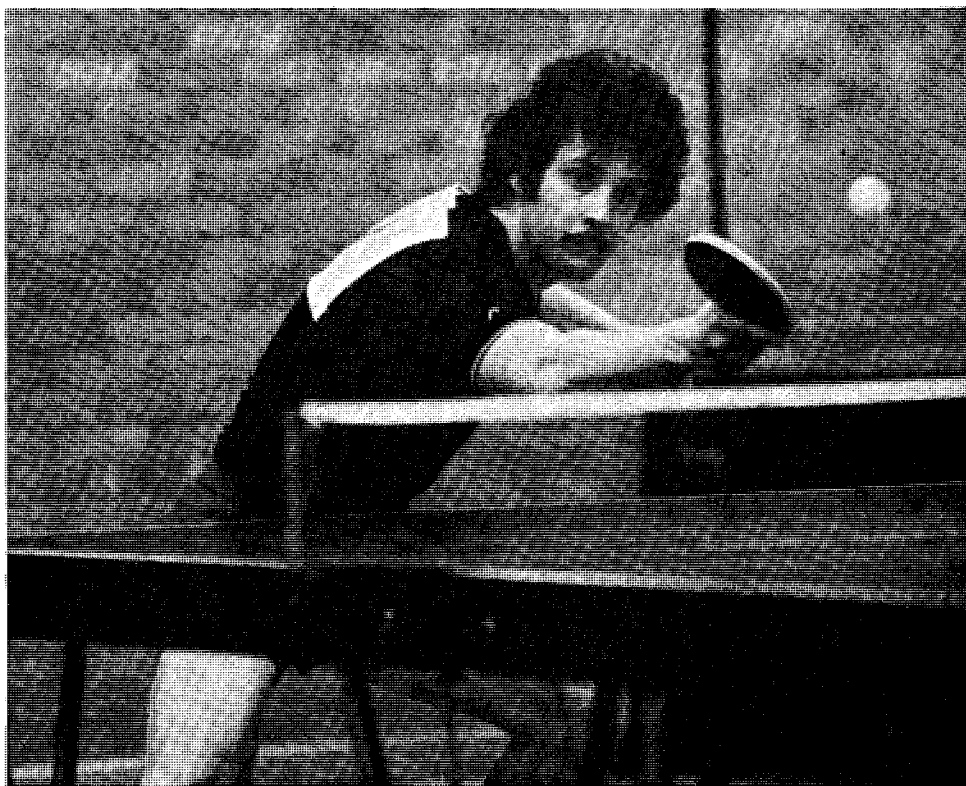
Both junior finals were all Bradford affairs. Beadsley struggled to take the first game against defender Adrian Hill but ran out a comfortable winner while Sally Midgley brimmed with confidence to beat her higher ranked doubles partner Linda Hryszko in the girls' singles final.

The tournament proved highly successful and the Harrogate League are hopeful of gaining 2-Star status next season. The prize fund was £270 thanks to the sponsorship by Octavius Atkinson with the men's champion taking £50. Over 450 sets were played during the day on 14 tables to enable the finals session to start at 8 p.m.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

A. Griffiths (Wales) bt A. Clark (Nd) 12, 18;



Cleveland's Nick Jarvis well on the way back to full recovery after last season's back operation. Photo by T. Edenden, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

D. Parker (La) bt E. Caetano (Canada) 15, 17;
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt D. Constance (Ch) 17, 5;
J. Hilton (La) bt P. McQueen (Cv) 15, 15.

Semi-finals:

Parker bt Griffiths 10, -14, 18;

Eckersley bt Hilton -14, 8, 19.

Final:

PARKER bt Eckersley 17, -22, 20.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

M. Ludi (Y) bt S. Midgley (Y) 17, 19;

D. St. Ledger (Wa) bt K. Cleary (Y) 11, 9;

L. Hryszko (Y) bt L. Holmes (Dy) 11, 13.

A. Fearnough (Dy) bt A. Marples (Dy)
-16, 18, 17.

Semi-finals:

Ludi bt St. Ledger 14, 16;

Hryszko bt Fearnough 15, 13.

Final:

LUDI bt Hryszko 10, 10.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Griffiths/McQueen bt K. Beadsley/M. Stephenson

(Y) -13, 15, 19;

Eckersley/A. Fletcher (Y) bt Caetano/K. Paxton

(Cv) 19, 17.

Final:

GRIFFITHS/McQUEEN bt Eckersley/Fletcher

-18, 14, 13.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Ludi/J. McLean (Y) bt J. Parker/C. Scowcroft

(La) 4, 10;

Hryszko/Midgley bt J. Marsh/H. Shields (Y)

13, 16.

Final:

HRYSZKO/MIDGLEY bt Ludi/McLean 12, 15.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt P. Hindle (Cv) 12, 11;

A. Hill (Y) bt P. Sanderson (Y) 16, -13, 15.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Hill 20, 12.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

Hryszko bt K. Lindley (Ng) 13, 10;

Midgley bt H. Robinson (Cv) 15, 14.

Final:

MIDGLEY bt Hryszko 12, 16.

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TTN

CLEVELAND VIEW

by ALAN RANSOME

SIMPLE WAY!

£500.00 RAISED. That was the result of a good night out for all table tennis enthusiasts over Christmas in Cleveland, thanks to the support of the County's leading night club, The Madison. Over 1,000 players, officials, husbands, wives, boy-friends and girlfriends, Old Uncle Tom Cobby and all, packed the two bars and dance floor at the Madison on December 27 with all admission charges presented to the Table Tennis Association.

This has now become an annual function with £200 raised in the first year, £400 last year and now over £500 in 1977. "It's a simple way of raising money for the funds", says Pam Richmond, the County's Social organiser. "All we have to do is sell the tickets and everyone goes along and has a great time".

ESSEX NOTES

by GEOFF NEWMAN

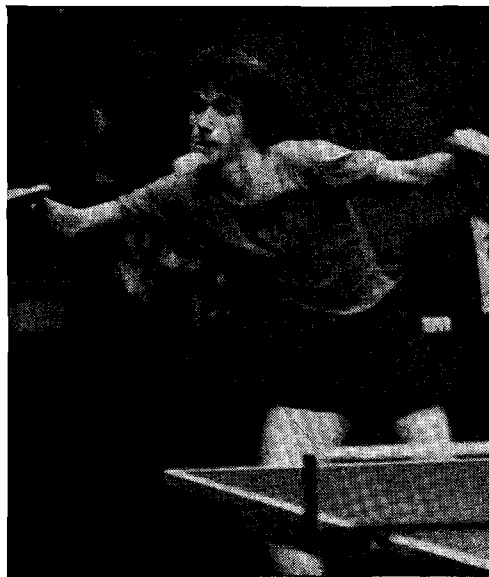
BUBBLE BURST

Well Berkshire burst the bubble in our last county match when our Senior Premier team were beaten 6-3. Dave Iszatt deputised for Bob Potton (away at the French Open) in this match and he in fact played extremely well winning one singles as did David Newman, our only other success coming in the mixed.

Lesley Radford fully extended Karen Witt and in fact looked a likely winner at one stage, another very close encounter was the Newman - Heaps battle which ended in a very narrow win for Heaps after a long delay when the match referee refused to accept the legality of Simon's bat the rubber not covering the whole surface of the blade.

In January's fixture away to Yorkshire the selectors have retained Iszatt in the team and he will be joined by Potton, Newman and Lesley Radford. The most youthful looking men's line-up for quite some time, perhaps a new era in the offing.

Our congratulations go to Potton who has been selected to represent England against China and will also be in the England squad for the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton. Well done Bob may you soon be joined by other Essex players in the international set-up.



Bob Potton selected for England.

The Senior seconds easily defeated Bucks to go to the top of their division and the game this month with Cambs could well be vital to our chances. Leon Smith another very useful player just out of the junior ranks retains his place in the team to meet Cambs, the same being Kevin Caldon, Les Eadie, Leon Smith, Shelagh Hession and Linda Barrow.

In recent years our Senior third team has been very successful but this season despite some keen and determined play they have yet to win and against Sussex II they again came to grief. Perhaps they can turn the tide in their next match at home to Bucks II when their team will be Peter Hunt, Jeff Drew, Andrew Bawden, Jane Livesey and Gill Locke.

Our Junior Premier team had a really tremendous match at home to Berkshire and a spine-tingling finish saw us home 6-4. Once again it was our boys who were our strength and Kenny Jackson, Des Charlery and Stuart Kimm deserve all the plaudits for their efforts. One comes to expect a lot from Kenny but Des and Stuart are really backing him up well and Des must be one of the most improved juniors in England.

This whole match was really superlative and Berkshire's contributed as much to the game as our own team. Our girls could not match their Berkshire counterparts but Yvette Brown and

Helen Gore kept on trying which is most important and perhaps their turn will come in the battles that lie ahead.

Against Middlesex II our Junior second string came unstuck going down 4-6 in a match they could well have won. Maxine Abbott and Skylet Andrews each won a singles while we took both the doubles. Away to Sussex II our Junior third team also took a dive although debutante Ian Attridge came through this match well.



Essex Junior second team (l to r)
Back - Tony Penny, Skylet Andrew and
Stephen Low. Front - Maxine Abbot and
Julie Dowsett.

A Fred Lockwood-inspired Veterans first team just scraped home 5-4 against Oxford while the second team had a convincing 7-2 success over Herts with Dave Finlayson taking the honours.

Our Closed Championships due to be held on Mar. 4/5 at St. Chad's School, Tilbury, will now be sponsored by Barclays Bank Ltd. and the County are delighted with their support.

Essex Inter-League results to date are:—

Men

Div. 1

Dagenham "A" 9 Romford "A" 1;
Chelmsford "A" 6 Southend "A" 4;
Dagenham "A" 6 Harlow "A" 4.

Div. 2

Billericay "A" 6 Southend "B" 4;
Basildon "A" 5 Romford "B" 5.

Div. 3

Colchester "A" 6 Basildon "B" 4;
Barking 8 Clacton "A" 2.

Div. 4

Becontree 7 Colchester "B" 3;
Billericay "B" 5 Chelmsford "B" 5;
Braintree "A" 7 Chelmsford "B" 3.

Div. 5

Clacton "B" 9 Burnham 1;
Basildon "C" 8 Braintree "B" 2.

Women

Div. 1

Chelmsford 9 Ilford 1;
Chelmsford 10 Walthamstow 0.

Div. 2

Southend 7 Billericay 3;
Burnham 5 Clacton 5;
Southend 9 Burnham 1.

Mixed

Div. 1

Romford 9 Harlow 1;
Dagenham "A" 9 Walthamstow 1.

Div. 2

Basildon 6 Colchester "A" 4;
Dagenham 'B' 9 Thurrock 'A' 1.

Div. 3

Barking 10 Thurrock "B" 0;
Colchester "B" 8 Clacton 2;
Becontree "A" 7 Thurrock "B" 3.

Junior

Div. 1

Romford "A" 7 Dagenham "A" 2;
Silvertown 8 Chelmsford "A" 1;
Barking "A" 9 Harlow "A" 0;
Silvertown 8 Barking "A" 1;
Dagenham "A" 8 Harlow "A" 1.

Div. 2

Basildon "A" 7 Colchester 2;
Billericay "A" 5 Ilford 4;
Clacton "A" 5 Dagenham "B" 4.

Div. 3

Billericay "B" 5 Chelmsford "B" 4;
Walthamstow "A" 5 Romford "B" 4.

Veterans

Div. 1

Colchester "A" 7 Dagenham "A" 2;
Billericay "A" 9 Southend "A" 0;
Romford "A" 7 Barking "A" 2;
Dagenham "A" 8 Barking "A" 1.

Div. 2

Romford "B" 6 Harlow "A" 3;
Chelmsford "A" 7 Ilford "A" 2;
Thurrock "A" 7 Southend "B" 2;
Thurrock "A" 6 Chelmsford "A" 3.

Div. 3

Basildon "A" 6 Barking "B" 3;
Harlow "B" 5 Braintree "A" 4;
Clacton "A" 6 Colchester "B" 3;
Braintree "A" 5 Barking "B" 4.

Boys' Under-14 rankings are now: 1. Ian Attridge, 2. Stephen Edwards, 3. Gregory Clement, 4. Ian Carson, 5. John Sparks, 6. Terry Pascal, 7. Paul Chaplin, 8. Jeffrey Bacon, 9. Chris Knight, 10. Stephen Allen, 11. Chris Avis, 12. Tony Dettmar, 13. Mark Blewitt, 14. Paul Fong, 15. Patrick Fender, 16. Paul Attreed, 17. Eric Deshaut, 18. Paul Sayer, 19. Ian Chalkley, 20. Mark Harris.



County Chairman Pat Dukes (left) enjoys a joke with Umpires Secretary Pete Roden.

Confusion over Bats

The new racket law seems to have given rise to a number of queries but the principal change comes into effect on January 1, 1978. This concerns the thickness of any pimped rubber which, in future, will have an upper limit on its thickness of 2mm. The limitation of 4mm as the total thickness for sandwich rubber remains but the pimped portion must not exceed 2mm. Rumour also has it that the colour of the covering on both sides of a bat must be similar. This is not so, you can still have red rubber on one side and, say, green rubber on the other side. If requested by your opponent, you must show him or her both sides of the blades before using a bat for the first time in a match. The new law is contained in the Norwich Union law booklets available from the E.T.T.A. office for the price of the postage.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION

The Durham 1-Star Open Championships scheduled for Feb. 11, 1978 has been cancelled.

WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED

TWO PLAYERS DOMINATE by Phil Reid

The Wayfarers English Junior Championships were dominated by two players — Bradford's Kevin Beadsley and Karen Witt of Reading. In the Boys' Singles there were few shocks, with the seeded players duly proceeding to the latter rounds. Two of the top eight seeds went out in the fourth round when Stuart Kimm recovered from losing the first game to take the next two easily against Colin Wilson. Bryn Tyler had a much closer affair against John Souter but emerged a well-deserved winner but having won that went one better in beating the No. 1 seed David Barr in a rousing game. Barr, not I feel the No. 1 yet is a player of immense promise and he took my eye more than any other at the tournament. A careful, dedicated player, he has a fine defence with a chop variation not often found in one so young, lightning footwork and a good kill (which however was not functioning at its best). All the ingredients are there for a future England star and he still has another year as a junior.

All this though, counted for nothing against Tyler, whose speedy hitting always looked likely to upset Barr. All three games were close and it at least showed that long rallies are not necessarily a thing of the past. The win gave Tyler a place in the semi-finals, where he was joined by Kenny Jackson, Graham Sandley and Beadsley, three left-handers. There were plenty of close to the table exchanges in the Tyler/Jackson match with the Essex boy just getting home by virtue of his greater consistency.

In the third quarter Sandley moved serenely into the last four without ever really looking in trouble whilst Beadsley made light work of all opposition in the bottom quarter, only Liverpool's Tony O'Connor really extending him. Whilst the semi-final with Sandley was settled in two games it was a pretty impressive set nevertheless with both players attacking well.

In the Girls' Singles Karen Witt had little trouble in justifying her No. 1 ranking, hitting powerfully against all her opponents on her way to the final. None looked like beating her and only one — team-mate Mandy Smith — as much as took a game off her and that was in the semi-final. Miss Witt has not been blessed with the best of health in recent seasons but there looked nothing wrong with her here. In the other half Angela Tierney proceeded in much the same way winning, if anything even more easily than Karen had done. In the semi-final she beat the No. 2 seed Alison Gordon 21-11, 21-13 — a pretty convincing win.

In the Girls' doubles there was once again little in the way of shocks with seeded pairs progressing in the main without much trouble.

Once again, the Mixed doubles — an event which traditionally produces shocks, failed to live up to its reputation with seven of the top eight seeds reaching the last eight. The exception was where the Souter/Mandy Reeves combination failed to cope with the sound pair of Kimm and Miss Tierney and went out at the first time of asking. This, however was not the limit of their success. They proceeded to the last eight where their opponents were top seeds Sandley and Alison Gordon. Even a 21-14 defeat in the first game failed to upset them. With Kimm hitting well and Miss Tierney backing him, they hit their way to a well-deserved victory. Jackson and Karen Witt — a formidable pair — had been beating all opposition they came across by virtue of practically non-stop hitting.

Karen, I would suggest, is exceptional at Mixed doubles in that she is quite as capable as her partner at putting the ball away and in this respect their opponents get no respite. Certainly their constant hitting was too much for the Kimm/Tierney pairing although there were some quite

excellent points. In the Bottom Half of the Mixed the four seeds reached their duly appointed places in the last eight without being seriously extended but this stage brought about the downfall of Tyler and Mandy Smith, the partnership of Barr and Gina Pritchard combining well. In the bottom quarter there were no such surprises with Beadsley using his forehand to good effect and being well supported by Linda Hryszko.

In the Boys' doubles only the Des Charlerly/Wilson pairing failed to reach the semi-finals of the top four pairings, losing to Mark Oakley/Souter in the quarters. Top seeds Sandley and Tyler came unstuck in the semis against the exciting Jackson/O'Connor partnership.

The finals were a succession of successes for Karen and Kevin. The first match was the Girls' singles where the power of Miss Witt was too much for a game Angela Tierney. Miss Witt's forehand carried a power which reminded me of Mary Wright. Beadsley was engaged in an interesting but often scrappy final with Jackson. Both players seemed nervous and as a result there was a number of unforced mistakes. Jackson won the first but Beadsley, showing a sound temperament came back to take the second. In the third Beadsley took an early lead and as he grew in confidence so he made more and more kills and he emerged a well-deserved winner. In the Girls' doubles Karen Witt and Angela Tierney went on the attack from the start and Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith must have wondered what had hit them. However, they came back gamely in the second game and almost went to a decider.

The Boys' doubles produced another success for Beadsley with Malcolm Green as his partner. A close first game went to Jackson/O'Connor but it was only to be a temporary success with Beadsley/Green swinging into action in the next two and hitting with great consistency.

It looked, in fact, as though Jackson was to have the unenviable record of three finals and three defeats but it was not to be. For the third time Jackson found himself facing Beadsley, this time with Karen Witt as his partner, Beadsley's partner being Linda Hryszko. In the first game there was only one pair in it. Hitting with great power and consistency, Jackson and Karen hardly

missed anything and even Beadsley was unable to stem the tide. However the Yorkshire pair were still full of fight and came back to take the second, though not without a lot of trouble. The third game was a real battle from start to finish with all four players hitting as often as possible. Mistakes were inevitable but there was no let-up. Eventually, at 24-23 Jackson put a kill away and the set was over. An interesting tournament. Not too many shocks perhaps and the general standard has often been higher. But there was a record entry and plenty of enthusiasm.

Scores:—

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

B. Tyler (Mi) bt D. Barr (Bk) 19, -18, 18;
K. Jackson (E) bt S. Kimm (E) 12, -19, 12;
G. Sandley (Mi) bt M. Green (Sp) 12, 15;
K. Beadsley (Y) bt A. O'Connor (La) 19, 17.

Semi-finals:

Jackson bt Tyler 16, -15, 15;
Beadsley bt Sandley 18, 19.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Jackson -17, 17, 9.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:

K. Witt (Bk) bt Y. Brown (E) 10, 5;
M. Smith (Bk) bt S. Midgley (Y) 15, 7;
A. Tierney (Cv) bt J. Purslow (Bk) 11, 10;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt H. Robinson (Cv) 19, 19.

Semi-finals:

Witt bt Smith 12, -8, 15;
Tierney bt Gordon 13, 11.

Final:

WITT bt Tierney 11, 17.

Boys' Doubles: Final:

Beadsley/Green bt Jackson/O'Connor -20, 14, 15.

Girls' Doubles: Final:

Tierney/Witt bt Gordon/Smith 12, 21.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

Jackson/Witt bt Beadsley/L. Hryszko (Y)
10, -19, 23.

PLASTERED

As though he did not have troubles enough Tom Blunn, the E.T.T.A.'s Hon. Treasurer, had the misfortune on Jan. 4, to fall and break his right wrist outside his own front door. No cheques will be issued (!) whilst the plaster remains on . . . a likely period of six weeks.

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European League

ENGLAND TRIUMPH AT GLORIOUS GLOUCESTER

by John Woodford

IT WAS GLORY all the way for England at Gloucester on December 15th in the Super Division of the European League . . . no more waiting until March hanging on by our fingertips to see if we can survive . . . the 4-3 victory over Sweden, previously undefeated, should keep England in the middle of the table and possibly stop Sweden from winning, although it is difficult to see how they can keep up their challenge without Stellan Bengtsson.

The news that Bengtsson did not arrive at Heathrow must have given the England players new heart that would help to make their efforts all worthwhile. As far as can be recalled, Gloucester Leisure Centre now holds the record for a European League match — nearly 1,700. The whole atmosphere changes of course, with this sort of crowd — E.T.T.A. officials were not needed to start the clapping, there were cheers from the start, although going 0-2 down it looked as though the vast crowd were in for a disappointment.

Ulf Thorsell is a strong all-round player, few though at Gloucester thought that he was strong

enough to beat Desmond Douglas in the opening clash. There can be no arguments that Paul Day does not apply one hundred per cent, although he lost to Cronquist his effort was superb. A pattern emerges in Day's scores, so often he just fails to win the second game, it happened twice that evening.

England's revival started with Jill Hammersley solidly up-ending full-time professional Ann-Christin Hellman. It wasn't long ago at Brighton when Jill beat her 21-3 — this must still be recalled by both girls.

Then came the crunch for Nicky Jarvis. There were many who were wondering if this was a selectors' gamble. I believe it was but it paid off handsomely! No one would have guessed that 12 months back, it seemed highly possible that the popular Clevelander might never play again. Thorsell and Lars Franklin were almost overwhelmed 13, 9.

At that stage the multitude began to buzz in their super stadium. England's mixed pairing of Desmond and Linda Howard has been a banker for several seasons. But, they lost the first 16 and had to struggle to capture the second at 18. Then Desmond and Linda began to increase the angles — the essence of their game as a pair — and swarmed through to victory 21-10.

Ulf Cronquist, a young defender was then next on the chopping block. Those who thought it would be a push-over for Desmond were wrong. The England No. 1 has little practice against defenders and a great deal of patience was needed to play at this slow pace. Douglas relies so much

in normal games on speed reflection. But, Desmond found the patience required and in the second the young, gallant Swede, found the pressure too great losing 19, 9, giving England a great and well-deserved success.

Individual scores:—

D. Douglas lost to U. Thorsell 21, -17, -16;
P. Day lost to U. Cronquist -16, -24;
J. Hammersley bt A-C. Hellman 14, 16;
Douglas/N. Jarvis bt L. Franklin/Thorsell 13, 9;
Douglas/L. Howard bt Thorsell/Hellman
-16, 18, 10;
Douglas bt Cronquist 19, 9.
Day lost to Thorsell -16, -20.

DOWN AT TELFORD

England failed to repeat their European League victory over Sweden in a friendly international played at Stirchley Recreation Centre, Telford on Dec. 15 the Swedes getting home 5-3 with Lars Franklin unbeaten.

John Hilton, Lancashire's newest acquisition played his part in beating both Ulf Thorsell and Ulf Cronqvist, the other English success coming from Nicky Jarvis. The set between Thorsell and Paul Day was not played with the Swede suffering from suspected flu and Day suffering from a shoulder injury.

Individual scores were:—

N. Jarvis lost to L. Franklin -9, -19;
J. Hilton bt U. Thorsell 17, 17;
P. Day lost to U. Cronqvist 14, -21, -18;
Jarvis lost to Thorsell -14, -14;
Day lost to Franklin 16, -18, -15;
Hilton bt Cronqvist 14, 16;
Hilton lost to Franklin -19, -16;
Jarvis bt Cronqvist 19, -11, 17.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RESONANCE PLAYS A PART

In the article entitled "How many legs has a T.T. ball?" the National Physics Laboratory does not appear in a very good light. Perhaps they did not take the subjects seriously enough. For example we all know that there is a difference in mass between a table tennis table and the ball. Surely what matters is the distribution of these masses. Even the contact of the ball on a bat is governed partly by the thickness and size of the wooden blade. If a ball is hit by an uncovered blade there will be a noticeable difference between the bounce off a large diameter thin blade and that off a small diameter thick blade.

These two dimensions plus the density of the material used, if in the correct proportions, will create the proper resonance to feel right when the ball is hit. If we now consider the table dimensions, surely it can be seen that if the mass of the table is spread out over the standard table tennis table dimensions, it is not the same as if we had a solid block of the same mass. Therefore we come back to the old idea that the thicker the table top the better and more even the bounce. I believe that resonance again plays a part in creating a good bounce and this of course would be adversely affected by any lack of good contact with the floor.

In the matter of the speed of a hit off a sponge or reversed sandwich bat being faster than that from a pimped rubber only bat, no mention was made of the possibility of a build-up of energy from the compression of the sponge being added to normal power developed by the stroke, before the ball leaves the surface of the bat.

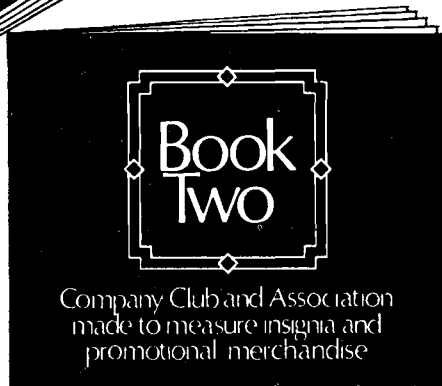
This, of course, is in consideration of the flat hit only. In mentioning the late Richard Bergmann's difficulty in defending against the sponge bat, the much shorter arc of the trajectory caused by the increased topspin off the sponge bat, making the ball drop more quickly and nearer to the table than was normal at that time, must have caused a lot of the difficulty, apart from any speed considerations.

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GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

by MIKE WATTS

The 1977/78 Season brought the 50th Anniversary of the Southend & District Table Tennis League, and during September the League held a week of festivities to celebrate. Following on the League again held their Open Championships attended by 250 players.

The Jubilee week started off on Sunday, Sept. 25 when the League held its first Hard Bat Tournament. 32 players entered the knockout with the winners going on and the losers going in the draw for a Consolation Event. Everyone agreed the event was a great success with the final being between Stuart Gibbs (Park Sports) and Fred Lockwood (St. Peter's). Gibbs emerged the winner -11, 11, 18. It was pleasing to see players not from the First Division in the Consolation final which was won by Ricky Gibbinson (Leigh Police) over Dick Gant (Customs).

On Monday, the Southend First team entertained the International Club whose team comprised Bob Potton, Gibbs, Laurie Landry, Angela Mitchell and Linda Barrow, Stuart and Linda being no strangers to Southend having played in the League for the last few years. It was the first time I believe that the International Club have taken part in the 50th Anniversary celebrations of any League, and the standard lived up to the occasion. Not unexpectedly the International Club ran out 7-1 winners but the match was far more even than the score suggests. In fact the home players hit just as many outright winners as the Internationals.

Southend's win came in the men's doubles when Mike Watts and John Poysden beat Landry and Potton 19, -9, 19. Potton had a shock in his singles set when Andrew Bawden, now fit again after a back complaint had kept him out of the game, for the past twelve months, took the first 21-11. Potton then worked himself to the bone to clinch the next two legs 13, 16 but Bawden did himself and the Southend League proud to run the England man so close. The other two men's singles were close affairs with tension costing Watts the chance of victory against Landry after leading 20-17 in the third, and Poysden went down to Gibbs in a glorious forehand match 17, -17, 13. Both women's sets went two-straight as expected, but Pauline English and Ruth Green were far from disgraced. The two doubles involving the women also went to the International Club.

On the Tuesday evening the League held their Jubilee Dinner at the Cumberland Banqueting Suite with nearly 70 Executive Members past and present being in attendance. Guest of Honour was Charles Wyles, Chairman of the E.T.T.A., and he proposed the toast to the League. Albert Haferkorn, delegate from the Heiligenhaus club in Federal Germany, who were over for the festivities, presented the League with a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

On Wednesday it was the turn of the veterans to show their paces when Southend Old (1927/39) played Southend New (1946/58). New won 6-1 but it was not the scoreline that mattered. Ted Allan, Harry Garrett and Jack Brown represented the Old whilst Bill Phipps, Gant and Ron Aldrich played for the New. A special mention must be made of Jack Brown the first Closed Champion in 1928 who came out of retirement especially for the match. The players had served the League as Officers for a period of 23 years, and between them had won 23 titles in the Closed Championships.

On Thursday two Southend "Select" sides played the visiting German Club T.T.C. 31 Heiligenhaus. Both home Men's and Women's teams were successful 5-2. Friday night gave everyone the chance to join in the celebrations when the League held its Jubilee Dance at the Rayleigh Mill Hall. It was one of the highlights of the week with over

300 attending. Music was to High Spirits and there was cabaret from Richard Graham.

Saturday, the final day of the week's celebrations, saw the new Waking Sports Centre as the venue for the Invitation Club Tournament. Sixteen teams entered, 13 from various Leagues throughout the country. The competition was split into four groups of four, but only 15 teams participated when Fellows Cranleigh failed to turn up. Omega (Berkshire) and Mid-Essex Transport (Essex) reached the final in which Mid-Essex started off well with their duo of David Newman and David Iszatt winning their doubles against David Reeves and Andy Welsman. Caroline Reeves then squared it beating an out-of-touch Linda Barrow. The next set was the turning point for Omega when Reeves beat Newman 24-22 in the decider. Newman came back from 10-15 to square it all at 19-11 but he was unlucky to volley a flashing forehand from Reeves at 22-all. The second men's singles which clinched it for Omega at 3-1 saw Welsman defeat Iszatt -13, 10, 13. The Omega team, sponsored by Ascot, then came forward to be presented with their awards from Brench Moon, General Secretary of the League.

It had been a great week for Table Tennis in Southend for all. Finally to commemorate the occasion the League have published a 50th Anniversary Handbook which traces the history of the League since its inception in 1927. Lovers of statistics and Table Tennis stories will find this book well worth 50p. Any person requiring a copy should write to Mike Watts, 25 Church Green, Canewdon, Essex, enclosing 60p (which includes postage and packing).

SOUTHEND OPEN

The Jubilee celebrations would not be complete without the Open Tournament, the 10th in the history of the League, sponsored for the second year running by the Midland Bank Ltd. Aply controlled by Referee Gordon Lightfoot, the Tournament ran completely to time and was enjoyed by all.

The men's singles produced a number of shocks. Top seeds Nigel Eckersley and Potton were expected to be the finalists in a field that included 10 of the top 16 men. Although the elite players were out of the country the remainder were eager to do well with a possible new ranking list due. Eckersley, the top seed, proceeded comfortably through to the quarters where he came up against John Dabin the sixth seed. Dabin, cleverly disguising the flight of the ball, caused the first shock. Next top seed to fall was Ian Horsham beaten also in the quarters by David Tan. The third seed to go was Potton again in the quarters to Chris Sewell. Of the top four seeds only Max Crimmins managed to reach his allotted place in the semis. Both were short lived with Crimmins accounting for Sewell, and Dabin beating Tan. The final was also short with Crimmins picking his shots well, and running out the winner.

Lesley Radford won her fifth women's singles title in eight years, and in a way her victory over teenager Angela Mitchell was quite extra-ordinary. Angela swept through the first game 21-16 and was 7-3 up in the second when nerves hit her with paralysing finality. Mrs. Radford steadily hauled herself back into the match, and went on to win. The men's doubles also created its surprises with top seeds Eckersley and Potton falling in the third round to England Cadet star Colin Wilson and Paul Beck. The eventual finalists were Tan and John Kitchener, the third seeds, and Crimmins and Mark Mitchell, the fourth seeds, with Tan and Kitchener the winners.

Angela Mitchell gained some revenge over Lesley Radford as both girls reached the finals of two doubles events. Angela partnered Eckersley to victory in the mixed, their final opponents being Horsham and Mrs. Radford. In the women's doubles Angela was partnered to victory by her County colleague Cadet Helen Williams, their win being against Lesley Radford and Helen Gore in the final. Kenny Jackson continued his brilliant form capturing the Boys' singles from Graham Sandley whilst Mandy Reeves was successful in the Girls'.

Peter D'Arcy gained the Veterans' title for the third time in four years from a gigantic entry of 38. A crowd of nearly 300 watched the finals, and prizes were presented by Mr. David Howell, Manager of the Midlands Bank Ltd., Southend.

Also in attendance was Councillor Bright, Chairman of Rochford District Council, other officials from the Midland Bank in Southend, and Mr. Bill Wynne, Manager Administration and Publicity from the Midland Bank Publicity Department.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Quarter Finals:

J. Dabin (K) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 19, 16;
D. Tan (M) bt I. Horsham (E) -16, 23, 12;
M. Crimmins (Sy) bt J. Kitchener (Sk) 15, 14;
C. Sewell (Av) bt R. Potton (E) 18, -19, 19.

Semi-finals:

Dabin bt Tan 19, 17;
Crimmins bt Sewell 18, 17.

Final:

Crimmins bt J. Dabin 11, 19.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

L. Radford (E) bt H. Williams (M) 13, 9;
A. Mitchell (M) bt L. Barrow (E) 11, -18, 10.

Final:

Radford bt Mitchell -16, 14, 13.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Crimmins/M. Mitchell (M) bt K. Caldon/I. Robertson (E)

-15, 18, 14;

Tan/Kitchener bt D. Iszatt/D. Newman (E) 9, 19.

Tan/Kitchener bt Crimmins/Mitchell 13, 18.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Radford/H. Gore (E) bt M. Reeves/K. Mashford (M)

14, 18.

Mitchell/Williams bt Barrow/E. Foulds (E) 25, 13.

Final:

Mitchell/Williams bt Radford/Gore 13, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

Eckersley/Mitchell bt Iszatt/Reeves 15, 12;

Horsham/Radford bt B. Tyler (M)/A. Wallis (Wp) 14, 17.

Final:

Eckersley/Mitchell bt Horsham/Radford 13, 19.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

K. Jackson (E) bt C. Wilson (M) 13, 14;

G. Sandley (M) bt S. Kimm (E) 18, 12.

Final:

Jackson bt Sandley 13, 13.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

Williams bt Gore 19, 15;

Reeves bt Y. Brown (E) 13, 19.

Final:

Reeves bt Williams 17, -16, 12.

Veterans' Singles: Semi-finals:

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt D. Smith (E) 17, -16, 16;

L. Fountain (E) bt K. Beamish (E) 19, -14, 14.

Final:

D'Arcy bt Fountain -18, 6, 9.

Letter to the Editor

DIFFERENT CAST, SAME PLAY, NEW IDEAS

After reading Alan Shepherd's letter in the December issue, I am surprised to see his views are 20 years behind the times. Surely Alan must realise that to fill a venue today you must have NEW ideas, NEW players and most of all NEW MONEY.

The County Championships in its present form can never be a paying proposition as firstly firms would not wish to sponsor an event which has not got any public appeal (e.g. Middlesex versus Yorkshire in a dusty hall late on a Saturday evening about the time of "Starsky and Hutch"). At the end of this match, for which admission would be about 30 or 40p, the winning team would receive about 50 claps from the full crowd present and a few sandwiches and cakes.

The obvious answer to this problem is that all matches should be boosted with as much publicity as possible through the National Press and other mediums. Arrange for the best possible players to play, male and female, wearing bright and attractive clothing, as like Lawn Tennis at Wimbledon, and also one or two not so great players with extreme characters. This would then attract support from various sponsors who would make sure that the venues were the best possible and offer attractive prize money.

This, in turn, would also attract Television as the prize money would be large and publicity from the Press would attract record crowds. We can then think of our sport as a major concern which could come into line with Tennis, Football and Golf. If we do not come up to date and make a big change with our image we will remain on the same level as Darts and Netball.

To prove my point that Alan's ideas are well behind the times and a big change can do more than a lot of good, I would be prepared to give up to £10,000 to sponsor a National Event under terms agreed by myself and the E.T.T.A.

BARRY MEISEL, A.F.I.B.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS TABLES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Premier							
Berkshire	3	2	0	1	17	10	4
Essex	3	2	0	1	15	12	4
Warwickshire	3	2	0	1	13	14	4
Surrey	2	1	0	1	11	7	2
Middlesex	2	1	0	1	10	8	2
Cleveland	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	7	11	2
Glamorgan	3	0	0	3	9	18	0
2nd South							
Kent	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Sussex	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Surrey II	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Dorset	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Middlesex II	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
2nd North							
Cheshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Lancashire	1	1	0	0	10	0	2
Yorkshire II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Cleveland II	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Northumberland	1	0	0	1	1	9	0
Durham	2	0	0	2	2	18	0
2nd Midland							
Leicestershire	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Derbyshire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Warwickshire II	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Staffordshire	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
Northamptonshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0
2nd East							
Essex II	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Hertfordshire	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Cambridgeshire	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Suffolk	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Norfolk	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Buckinghamshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0
2nd West							
Wiltshire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Glamorgan II	3	3	0	0	18	12	6
Somerset	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Devon	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Gwent	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Avon	2	0	0	2	8	12	0
Worcestershire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
3rd South							
Sussex II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Hertfordshire II	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Kent II	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Essex III	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Buckinghamshire II	1	0	0	1	1	9	0
3rd North							
Derbyshire II	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Lincolnshire	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Lancashire II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Cumbria	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Nottinghamshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Northumberland	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
3rd Midland							
Shropshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Cheshire II	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Worcestershire II	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Staffordshire II	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Clwyd	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Herefordshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
3rd East							
Norfolk II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Cambridgeshire II	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Leicestershire II	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Huntingdonshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Bedfordshire II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Northamptonshire II	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
3rd West							
Berkshire II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Gloucestershire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Glamorgan III	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Avon II	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Dorset II	2	0	1	1	5	15	1
Cornwall	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Junior Premier							
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Essex	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Surrey	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Berkshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Cleveland	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Lancashire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Devon	4	0	1	3	10	30	1

Junior 2nd South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sussex	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Middlesex II	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Surrey II	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Essex II	3	1	0	2	18	12	2
Kent	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Wiltshire	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

Junior 2nd North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Staffordshire	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Yorkshire II	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Cheshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Clwyd	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Cumbria	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Derbyshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Cleveland II	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

Junior 2nd Midland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwickshire	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Shropshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Hertfordshire	2	1	1	0	12	6	3
Buckinghamshire	3	1	1	1	15	13	3
Norfolk	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Leicestershire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Northamptonshire	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

Junior 3rd South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dorset	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Berkshire II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Essex III	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Sussex II	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Kent II	2	1	0	1	10	7	2
Buckinghamshire II	3	0	0	3	7	20	0
Hampshire II	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

Junior 3rd North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Nottinghamshire	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Northumberland	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Durham	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Lincolnshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Cumbria II	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Cleveland III	2	0	1	1	8	12	1

Junior 3rd Midland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Gloucestershire	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Worcestershire	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Staffordshire II	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Oxfordshire	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Shropshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Herefordshire	2	0	1	1	5	15	1

Junior 3rd East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambridgeshire	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Lincolnshire II	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Suffolk	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Hertfordshire II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Bedfordshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Huntingdonshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

Junior 3rd West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Devon II	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Gwent	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Glamorgan	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Cornwall	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Avon	2	1	0	1	14	6	2
Wiltshire II	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Somerset	3	0	0	3	0	30	0

Veteran South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex	2	2	0	0	12	6	4
Kent	2	1	0	1	12	6	2
Sussex	2	1	0	1	7	11	2
Oxfordshire	1	0	0	1	4	5	0
Hampshire II	1	0	0	1	1	8	0

Veteran Midland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Nottinghamshire	2	2	0	0	18	0	4
Cheshire	1	1	0	0	6	3	2
Clwyd	2	1	0	1	10	8	2
Leicestershire	2	0	0	2	2	16	0
Worcestershire	1	0	0	1	0	9	0

Veteran East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	2	2	0	0	13	5	4
Essex II	2	1	0	1	10	8	2
Suffolk	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Huntingdonshire	1	0	0	1	3	6	0
Hertfordshire	1	0	0	1	2	7	0

Veteran West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hampshire	2	2	0	0	12	6	4
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	11	7	2
Avon	2						

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

BERKSHIRE REIGN SUPREME

The Premier Division programme was partly completed during December when the Middlesex-Cleveland and Yorkshire-Surrey matches were postponed — International calls on Cleveland and Surrey players was the reason.

Bob Potton was on the same International call (French Open) and so missed the Essex-Berkshire match; his absence weakened the Essex team who fell to their first defeat of the season, inflicted by promoted Berkshire who move to the top of the division. Glamorgan are stuck firmly at the foot of the table after their third defeat, but the performance of Glamorgan II in 2 West could give them a chance of maintaining Premier status next season.

Elsewhere in the Second Division, Lancashire look set to improve their status now that John Hilton's move from Cheshire has been confirmed. I don't think that even Cheshire can stop them.

PREMIER DIVISION

Essex 3 Berkshire 6

Essex, without Bob Potton — released to contest the French Open, were certainly not let down by his replacement David Iszatt, who was desperately unlucky not to win both singles. Simon Heaps masterminded Berks' win with three victories. Karen Witt just edged out Lesley Radford in a fine set.

I. Horsham lost to S. Heaps -15, 13, -11;

lost to D. Reeves -12, -18.

D. Newman lost to Heaps -21, 11, -19;

beat A. Wellman 11, -17, 19.

D. Iszatt lost to Reeves -17, 9, -17;

beat Wellman -24, 12, 11.

Iszatt/Newman lost to Heaps/Wellman -19, -16.

Lesley Radford lost to Karen Witt -17, 13, -11.

Horsham/Mrs. Radford bt Reeves/Caroline Reeves 15, 11.

Warwickshire 5 Glamorgan 4

An unusual blank scoresheet for Alan Griffiths while Michael Owen opened his Premier account in defeating Simon Claxton; Rachel Mackriell also scored her first win at this level. Derek Munt forced (by his captain) to retire from final set due to injury.

D. Johnson bt A. Griffiths 10, 12;

bt G. Davies 20, 19.

D. Munt bt Griffiths 14, 17; conceded to

M. Owen.

S. Claxton lost to Davis -18, -14;

lost to Owen -16, 14, -6.

Johnson/Munt bt Davis/Griffiths -18, 18, 16.

Rachel Mackriell bt Debbie Coulthard 14, 17.

Claxton/Miss Mackriell lost to Owen/Miss

Coulthard -14, 17, -18.

2nd SOUTH

Dorset 6 Hampshire 4

Kent 6 Surrey II 4

Middlesex II 4 Sussex 6

2nd NORTH

Cheshire 7 Cleveland II 3

Durham 0 Lancashire 10

A very strong-looking Lancashire set to take this division with no trouble now that John Hilton's transfer has taken place from Cheshire.

2nd MIDLAND

Leicestershire 10 Bedfordshire 0

A competent performance by the home side. For Bedfordshire only Firoz Nilam was really impressive.

Warwickshire II 9 Northamptonshire 1

Staffordshire 3 Derbyshire 7

2nd EAST

Buckinghamshire 1 Essex II 9

"Whitewash" saved by home women when Brenda Stevens and Stephanie Lines beat Linda Barrow and Shelagh Hession!

Cambridgeshire 5 Hertfordshire 5

After eight sets Cambs trailed 3-5, Paul Day's

unbeaten display their total, but amazing contrast in styles in the final sets levelled final score.

2nd WEST

Avon 4 Glamorgan II 6

Avon yet to give Chris Sewell the backing to swing things.

Somerset 5 Gwent 5

John Hartry's 15, -16, 19 win over Brian Jeannes in final set. Somerset's only MS success of the match, and it gave them a draw.

Wiltshire 9 Worcestershire 1

3rd SOUTH

Sussex II 7 Essex III 3

Oxfordshire 3 Hertfordshire II 7

3rd NORTH

Derbyshire II 10 Northumberland II 0

Lancashire II 7 Cumbria 3

Score amended from 9-1 on the day, after Steve Cowley and Alan Whittle had played out of order

Lincolnshire 6 Nottinghamshire 4

3rd MIDLAND

Herefordshire 2 Staffordshire II 8

Shropshire 7 Clwyd 3

Worcestershire II 5 Cheshire II 5

3rd EAST

Norfolk II 6 Huntingdonshire 4

Northamptonshire II 2 Cambridgeshire II 8

Northants hit by illness and first-team calls to their men and were well beaten in this department; Valerie Feakin and Margaret Maltby were again impressive.

Bedfordshire II 3 Leicestershire II 7

Visitors won after trailing 3-1!

3rd WEST

Berkshire II 10 Dorset II 0

Glamorgan III 7 Cornwall 3

Gloucestershire 7 Avon II 3

JUNIOR PREMIER

Devon 5 Lancashire 5

P. Whiting lost to A. O'Connor -18, -14;

bt B. Carney 12, -14, 12.

M. Shearman lost to O'Connor -15, -15;

lost to P. Rainford -23, 17, -12.

S. Gwynne lost to Carney -16, 19, -13;

lost to Rainford -18, -24.

Shearman/Whiting bt O'Connor/Rainford 18, 18.

Miss G. Pritchard bt Miss J. Grundy 14, 14.

Miss C. Butler bt Miss C. Scowcroft 12, 21.

Miss Butler/Miss Scowcroft bt Miss Grundy/

Miss Scowcroft 16, 10.

Essex 6 Berkshire 4

This match was a real advertisement for junior County table tennis and it contained, in the Jackson-Barr match, one of the best sets ever seen in this division. That one, and BD win for Essex (decided by the cruellest of edge-balls) decided the match where the other eight sets (4-all) were fairly predictable.

K. Jackson bt D. Barr -10, 16, 20;

bt R. Johnson 18, 19.

S. Kimm lost to Barr -15, -11;

bt D. Gloster 18, 17.

D. Charley bt Johnson 16, 11;

bt Gloster 15, 18.

Charley/Jackson bt Barr/Johnson 22, -18, 19.

Yvette Brown lost to Alison Gordon -19, -7.

Helen Gore lost to Mandy Smith -12, -18.

Miss Brown/Miss Gore lost to Miss Gordon/

Miss Smith -12, -15.

Middlesex 9 Devon 1

Paul Whiting's win over Bryn Tyler in the opening set promised much for the visitors, but the next nine sets scored in two straight games!

G. Sandley bt P. Whiting 22, 18;

bt M. Shearman 18, 14.

B. Tyler lost to Whiting 18, -17, -17;

bt S. Gwynne 19, 16.

C. Wilson bt Shearman 18, 15;

bt Gwynne 19, 20.

Sandley/Tyler bt Shearman/Whiting 14, 17.

Mandy Reeves bt Gina Pritchard 12, 17.

Helen Williams bt Carol Butler 11, 10.

Miss Reeves/Miss Williams bt Miss Butler/

Miss Pritchard 14, 9.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Essex II 4 Middlesex II 6

Essex fought back from 0-3 to 3-3 but let the match slip. Lesley Tyler probably clinched it for Middlesex with a 23-21 in the third win over Julie Dowsett, although 'Costas' Papanтониou had astonishingly beaten Tony Penney after trailing 5-16 in deciding game.

Hampshire 1 Kent 9

Wiltshire 5 Sussex 5

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Staffordshire 9 Derbyshire 1

Yorkshire II 7 Cumbria 3

Cumbria 6 Cheshire 4

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Leicestershire 5 Warwickshire 5

David Gannon easily the best player on view. Yvonne Hall, 18-10 up in decider against Sue Hemmings unaccountably lost her nerve and lost a game which looked won.

Norfolk 3 Buckinghamshire 7

Northamptonshire 3 Shropshire 7

Both teams included only one of their top three boys — visitors stronger in depth.

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Berkshire II 7 Buckinghamshire II 3

Dorset 7 Hampshire II 3

Carl Prean — involved in match of the day against Jason Creasey — looks set for promising future; he has seven years left as a junior for Hants.

Sussex II 6 Essex III 4

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Cleveland II 5 Northumberland 5

Lincolnshire 3 Nottinghamshire 7

Durham 5 Cumbria II 5

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Gloucestershire 6 Staffordshire II 4

Gloucestershire's collapse came too late for visitors who trailed 1-6.

Shropshire II 4 Oxfordshire 6

Herefordshire 0 Worcestershire 10

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Hertfordshire II 8 Lincolnshire II 2

Huntingdonshire 2 Suffolk 8

Bedfordshire 4 Cambridgeshire 6

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Glamorgan 8 Cornwall 2

Gwent 10 Somerset 0

Wiltshire II 4 Devon II 6

VETERAN SOUTH

Oxfordshire 4 Essex 5

Sussex 5 Kent 4

VETERAN MIDLAND

Clwyd 7 Leicestershire 2

Nottinghamshire 9 Worcestershire 0

VETERAN EAST

Essex II 7 Hertfordshire 2

Middlesex 7 Suffolk 2

Terry Kirby (who moved into Suffolk from Middlesex during close season) had a hand in both successes for his new County.

VETERAN WEST

Dorset II 1 Wiltshire 8

Hampshire 6 Avon 3

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This season's Norwich Union English Championships will be held at Woking Sports and Leisure Centre, Woking Park, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey over the period Feb. 16/18, 1978. The Worthing Junior International Championships will again be held at the Worthing Sports Centre, Shaftesbury Avenue, Worthing, Sussex over the weekend May 13/14, 1978.