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EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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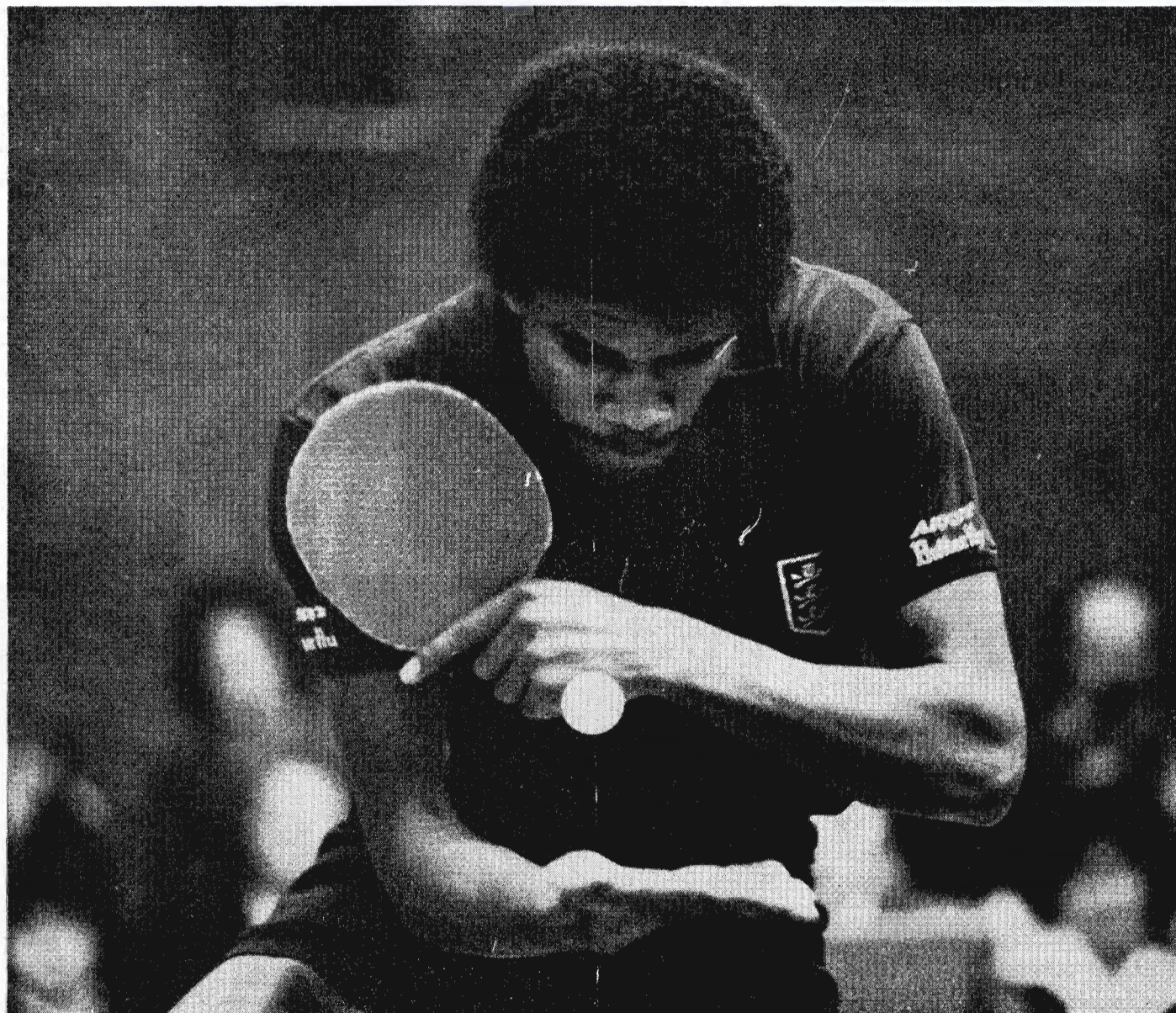


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SOONER THE BETTER

Not everyone accepted the withdrawal of Desmond Douglas from the Norwich Union English Championships at Woking philosophically. That he had a contractual obligation to represent his Federal German club, PSV Borussia Dusseldorf, in the Bundesliga of the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund was not considered by some, to be sufficient reason when the question of loyalties was bandied about.

But having signed a contract, be it lucrative or otherwise, Douglas was obliged to honour it and one must not overlook the clause, insisted upon by the player himself, that England would have first call on his services when it came to international representation.

In this regard Douglas has been an ever-present for his country in the Super Division of the European League and wore the England shirt both in the Norwich Union International Championships and the Stiga Welsh Open as he will in the forthcoming European Championships in Duisburg.

Lest others be tempted to seek remuneration for their skills in foreign parts, the sooner the formation of a national club league in this country — adequately sponsored and sufficiently magnetic to hold players — the better for all concerned. The day of the professional is here, like it or not.

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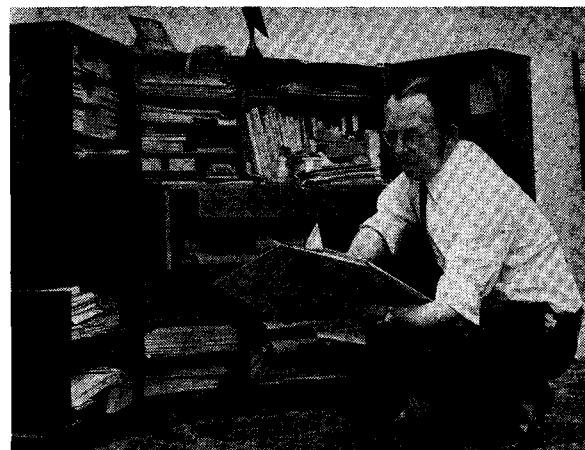
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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR



HUNGARY TAKE OVER

Beating England 5-2 in Szolnok on February 9 Hungary, the defending **Super Division** champions of the **European League**, took over the leadership from the Soviet Union who, against Sweden in Mariestad, on the same date, were beaten 4-3.

To retain the title Hungary must now beat Czechoslovakia in their final match otherwise France, provided they beat the Soviet Union, will become champions on April 6 by which date the season's fixtures are due for completion.

Beaten for the sixth successive time, the Netherlands are now doomed to be relegated after one season in the top flight.

The establishment of a 4-0 lead in Szolnok quickly earned Hungary their victory over England whose subsequent successes came with a mixed win by Desmond Douglas and Linda Howard over Tibor Klampar and Gabrielle Szabo, after Douglas and Nicky Jarvis had surrendered a 12-6 third game lead in the men's doubles.

Douglas, having lost narrowly to Gabor Gergely, won his second beating Istvan Jonyer.

Scores:-

I. Jonyer bt N. Jarvis 23, 16;

G. Gergely bt D. Douglas 14, 21;

S. Olah bt L. Howard 14, 18;

Jonyer/T. Klampar bt Douglas/Jarvis 6, -24, 14;

Klampar/G. Szabo lost to Douglas/Howard

20, -10, -13;

Jonyer lost to Douglas -17, -11;

Gergely bt Jarvis 14, -11, 16.

France, in Nantes, really got down to business beating Yugoslavia 6-1, the one to elude them being the women's singles, Erzebet Palatinus beating Claude Bergeret. Jacques Secretin figured in four wins.

Scores:-

P. Birocheau bt A. Stipancic 11, 15;

J. Secretin bt M. Karakasevic -19, 19, 14;

C. Bergeret lost to E. Palatinus -20, -16;

Birocheau/Secretin bt Karakasevic/Stipancic 16, 9;

Secretin/Bergeret by Stipancic/Palatinus

-19, 7, 17;

Birocheau bt Karakasevic 17, 18;

Secretin bt Stipancic -20, 15, 14.

Apart from one game taken from Jaroslav Kunz by Ronald Rijsdorp who, together with Han Gootzen, were 'blooded' to the exclusion of Bert v.d. Helm and Nico v. Slobbe, the Netherlands were sunk without trace in Zwolle. Not even Bettine Vriesekoop could stem the Czech tide going under to Ilona Uhlíkova in straight games.

Scores:-

R. Rijsdorp lost to J. Kunz -18, 22, -18;

H. Gootzen lost to M. Orłowski -13, -16;

B. Vriesekoop lost to I. Uhlíkova -18, -15;

J. van Spanje/Gootzen lost to Orłowski/J. Pansky

-10, -16;

Gootzen/Vriesekoop lost to Pansky/D. Dubinova

-19, -10;

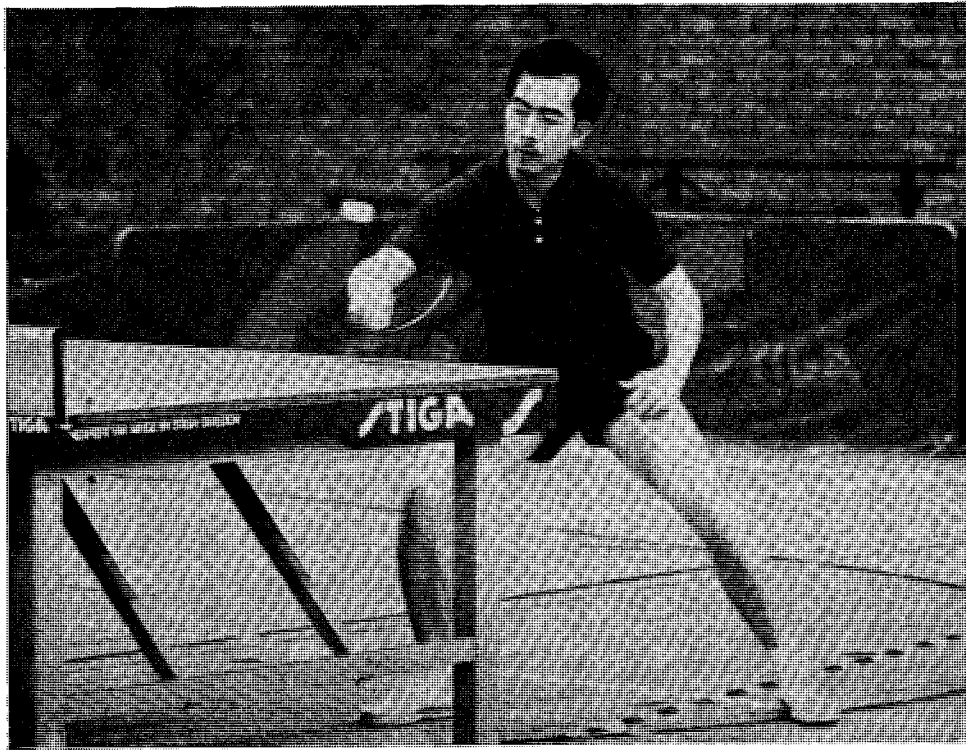
Rijsdorp lost to Orłowski -16, -14;

Gootzen lost to Kunz -13, -12.



Han Gootzen of the Netherlands who, in the Stiga Welsh Open, ousted the top seed Liang Ke-liang but got no change from either Milan Orłowski or Jaroslav Kunz when making his European League debut in Zwolle against Czechoslovakia.

Photo by Tony Ross, Hesse.



China's Liang Ke-liang winner of the men's singles title in the Rumanian Open in Bucharest on Feb. 12 with a final win over his compatriot Wang Chien-chiang.

Photo by Tony Ross, Hessle.

Architect of the Swedish victory over the Soviet Union was Stellan Bengtsson who had wins over Anatoli Strokotov and Sarkis Sarkhojan as well as sharing in a men's doubles success with Tommy Danielsson. Ann-Christin Hellman had a noteworthy win over Valentina Popova, the girl who finished second to England's Jill Hammersley in the Top 12 in Prague.

Scores:-

- T. Danielsson lost to S. Sarkhojan -14, -17;
- S. Bengtsson bt A. Strokotov 19, 11;
- A-C. Hellman bt V. Popova 13, -19, 12;
- Bengtsson/Danielsson bt Sarkhojan/Strokotov 15, 16;
- Bengtsson/Hellman lost to Strokotov/Popova -13, -18;
- Danielsson lost to Strokotov 20, -12, -17;
- Bengtsson bt Sarkhojan 13, -16, 13.

SUPER DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Hungary	6	5	1	24	18	5
France	6	4	2	28	14	4
Soviet Union	6	4	2	25	17	4
Sweden	6	4	2	24	18	4
Czechoslovakia	6	3	3	27	15	3
England	6	2	4	16	26	2
Yugoslavia	6	2	4	13	29	2
Netherlands	6	0	6	11	31	0

Final fixtures on Apl. 6th are:-

- Yugoslavia v Sweden
 - Czechoslovakia v Hungary
 - France v Soviet Union
 - England v Netherlands
- (Mayflower Centre, Plymouth)

DIVISION ONE

Both Federal Germany and Poland kept their unbeaten records intact in **Division 1**, the West Germans travelling to Sofia on Feb. 8 to account for Bulgaria 7-0 with only one set needing a deciding game. This was the last involving Jochen Leiss and Ivan Stoianov.

Results:-

- S. Stefanov lost to J. Leiss -13, -12;
- I. Stoianov lost to E. Hugging -15, -10;
- A. Rangelova lost to U. Hirschmuller -10, -14;
- Stefanov/Stoianov lost to Leiss/P. Stellwag -15, -18;
- Stoianov/Rangelova lost to Stellwag/Hirschmuller -13, -15;
- Stefanov lost to Hugging -12, -9;
- Stoianov lost to Leiss -20, 17, -14.

Poland, also away, to Greece in the Nikea Stadium, Athens won 5-2 but the crunch match

is scheduled for Apl. 6 when they are away to Federal Germany.

Scores in Athens were:-

- K. Priftis lost to L. Kucharski -18, -16;
- N. Kostopoulos lost to S. Dryszel -10, 18, -13;
- M. Louca bt J. Szatko 16, 20;
- E. Diakais/Priftis lost to Dryszel/Kucharski 19, -19, -15;
- Priftis/Louca lost to Kucharski/Szatko -13, 16, -21;
- Priftis bt Dryszel 10, -13, 18;
- Kostopoulos lost to Kucharski -12, 17, -8.

Ireland's 4-3 win over Belgium is reported elsewhere (by Willie Walsh) but in the remaining

encounter in Div. 1, Austria, in Langenlois, beat Luxembourg 5-2.

Scores:-

- E. Amplatz bt A. Hartmann 18, 22;
- F. Proglhof bt C. Putz 11, 17;
- D. Fetter lost to J. Dom -18, -13;
- Amplatz/G. Muller bt Hartmann/Putz -17, 10, 13;
- Muller/Fetter bt Hartmann/Dom 17, 22;
- Amplatz bt Putz 17, 9;
- Proglhof lost to Hartmann -16, -13.

DIVISION ONE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Federal Germany	6	6	0	40	2	6
Poland	6	6	0	34	8	6
Bulgaria	6	3	3	22	17	3
Austria	6	3	3	18	24	3
Greece	6	2	4	16	26	2
Luxembourg	6	2	4	12	30	2
Ireland	6	1	5	12	27	1
Belgium	6	1	5	11	31	1

Fixtures for Apl. 6 are:-
 Federal Germany v Poland
 Luxembourg v Belgium
 Bulgaria v Greece
 Austria v Ireland

DIVISION TWO

Italy, as a result of beating Scotland 4-3, earned themselves both the title and promotion as reported elsewhere by Denis George, the Scottish scribe. In the other match Finland, by beating Spain, finished runners-up.

Scores in the 5-2 victory at Pol Santa Fe Terez (Cadiz) were:-

- J. M. Pales lost to J. Johinen -17, -14;
- J. Lupton lost to M. Autio -18, -14;
- P. Lupon lost to M. Grefberg -9, -16;
- Lupon/Pales bt Autio/Johinen 18, 15;
- Lupon/Lupon lost to Johinen/Grefberg -17, -15;
- Pales lost to Autio -15, 19, -18;
- Lupon bt Johinen 14, 12.

DIVISION TWO TABLE (FINAL)

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Italy	4	4	0	19	9	4
Finland	4	3	1	19	9	3
Scotland	4	2	2	15	13	2
Spain	4	1	3	9	19	1
Switzerland	4	0	4	8	20	0

RUMANIAN OPEN

Making amends for his loss to Han Gootzen of the Netherlands in the Stiga Welsh Open, China's **Liang Ke-liang** made no mistake in Bucharest by winning the men's singles title in the Rumanian



International relations look well cemented here between England's Melody Ludi and Peter Stellwag of Federal Germany. The picture was taken at the Goddard Finance Invitation Tournament at Rothwell.

Photo by Tony Ross, Hessle.

Open. Among his victims were the Frenchmen Patrick Renverse and Patrick Birocheau and, in the semis, Jochen Leiss of Federal Germany. All this before final victory over his compatriot Wang Chien-chiang.

Korea DPR's **Pak Yong Ok** took the counter-part women's event beating China's Chang Li in the final following wins over Federal Germany's Ursula Hirschmuller (quarters) and Maria Alexandria of the host county (semis).

The People's Republic of China took both team titles and the three doubles events, the world champions Jacques Secretin and Claude Bergeret being beaten in the final of the mixed by Liang Ke-liang and Li Ming. Liang became a triple champion when, with Wang Chien-chiang they beat Anton Stipanovic and Damir Jurcic of Yugoslavia.

Results:-

M.S. Quarter-finals:

Liang Ke-liang (CHN) bt P. Birocheau (FRA) 3-0;
J. Leiss (GFR) bt Z. Kosanovic (YUG) 3-1;
Wang Chien-chiang (CHN) bt Wu Chin-hsin (CHN) 3-0;

J. Secretin (FRA) bt Ku Cheng-chiang (CHN) 3-1.

Semi-finals:

Liang Ke-liang bt Leiss 3-0;
Wang Chien-chiang bt Secretin 3-1.

Final:

LIANG KE-LIANG bt Wang Chien-chiang 9, 17, 15.

W.S. Quarter-finals:

Chiang Li (CHN) bt Hong Gil Son (KPR) 3-0;
Li Ming (CHN) bt Ri Song Suk (KPR) 3-1;
M. Alexandru (RUM) bt Li Shu-ying (CHN) 3-0;
Pak Yong Ok (KPR) bt U. Hirschmuller (GFR) 3-1.

Semi-finals:

Chang Li bt Li Ming 3-1;
Pak Yong Ok bt Alexandru 3-2.

Final:

PAK YONG OK bt Chang Li -13, -16, 20, 19, 18.

M.D. Final:

LIANG KE-LIANG/WANG CHIEN-CHIANG bt A. Stipanovic/D. Jurcic (YUG) 12, 13, -16, 8.

W.D. Final:

LI MING/YEN KUAL-LI (CHN) bt Chang Li/Li Shu-ying 8, 14, 14.

X.D. Final:

LIANG KE-LIANG/LI MING bt J. Secretin/C. Bergeret (FRA) 12, -20, 6, 15.

TEAM EVENTS

Men

CHINA bt Federal Germany 5-0 (Huging, Leiss and Nolten).

Women

CHINA I bt China II 3-0.

11th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

HARD ROAD FOR JILL

In defence of her European women's singles title in the Rhein-Ruhr-Halle, Duisburg (March 10-19) England's Jill Hammersley, although seeded No. 1, will not relish the prospect of a probable quarter-final meeting with Beatrix Kishazi of Hungary who as recently as January beat the English champion -16, 22, 18 in the Top 12 tournament in Prague.

Another of Mrs. Hammersley's conquerors in the Czech capital was Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union and she too is located in the same half of the draw being seeded at No. 3. Bettine Vriesekoop, the ever-improving Dutch girl, is at the opposite end of the draw, seeded No. 2, in whose quarter is located England's No. 2 Carole Knight with Ursula Hirschmuller of Federal Germany, seeded No. 6, barring her path. Former champion, Ilona Uhlíkova (nee Vostova) is the No. 4 seed, at the top of the second half, wherein Linda Howard has been drawn.

Sharing the women's doubles title defence, Mrs. Hammersley and Miss Howard will have stern opposition from the outset being drawn to meet the redoubtable Maria Alexandru and Liana Mihut of Rumania in the first round with the wholly defensive Kishazi and the Federal German champion Wiebke Hendriksen lying in wait.

Desmond Douglas, England's main hope in the men's singles, has been badly drawn his progression likely to be impeded by Jacques Secretin of France, the defending title holder, in the round before the quarters. National champion Paul Day, who won his spurs at Woking has the prospect of meeting former champion Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia in the second round.

John Hilton has a first round meeting with Eric Sutherland of Scotland; Max Crimmins plays Clive Hansford of Jersey but worst drawn of England's male quintet Nicky Jarvis has to overcome Ralf Wosik of Federal Germany with the dubious reward of a meeting with Gabor Gergely of Hungary should he be successful. Karen Witt, England's fourth member of the female squad has a preliminary round meeting with Zsuzsa Olah of Hungary.

Seeds (in draw order) are:-

Men

- 1 Jacques Secretin (France)
- 9 Desmond Douglas (England)
- 12 Jochen Leiss (Federal Germany)
- 6 Tibor Klampar (Hungary)
- 5 Istvan Jonyer (Hungary)
- 11 Jaroslav Kunz (Czechoslovakia)
- 14 Sarkis Sarkhojan (USSR)
- 4 Stellan Bengtsson (Sweden)
- 3 Milan Orlowski (Czechoslovakia)
- 13 Christian Martin (France)
- 10 Tibor Kreis (Hungary)
- 8 Dragutin Surbek (Yugoslavia)
- 7 Wilfried Lieck (Federal Germany)
- 15 Anatoli Strokotov (USSR)
- 16 Ulf Thorsell (Sweden)
- 2 Gabor Gergely (Hungary)

Women

- 1 Jill Hammersley (England)
- 7 Beatrix Kishazi (Hungary)
- 5 Ann-Christin Hellman (Sweden)
- 3 Valentina Popova (USSR)
- 4 Ilona Uhlíkova (Czechoslovakia)
- 8 Gabriella Szabo (Hungary)
- 6 Ursula Hirschmuller (Federal Germany)
- 2 Bettine Vriesekoop (Netherlands)

TEAM EVENTS

(previous positions in brackets)

Men

Category 1

Group 1A
Yugoslavia (1)
France (4)
Czechoslovakia (5)
Hungary (8)
Poland (9)
Netherlands (14)

Group 2A
Austria (11)
Greece (16)
Wales (17)
Spain (20)
Luxembourg (21)
Norway (24)
Scotland (25)
Guernsey (—)

Group 1B
Sweden (2)
Soviet Union (3)
Federal Germany (6)
England (7)
Bulgaria (10)
Denmark (13)

Group 2B
Rumania (scratched from Group A1 in Prague)
Italy (15)
Finland (18)
Belgium (19)
Turkey (22)
Ireland (23)
Switzerland (26)
Portugal (—)
Jersey (—)

Women

Group 1A

Soviet Union (1)
Yugoslavia (4)
Rumania (5)
Federal Germany (8)
Netherlands (9)
Belgium (14)

Group 2A

Bulgaria (11)
Greece (16)
Denmark (17)
Austria (20)
Ireland (21)
Norway (24)
Finland (25)

Group 1B

England (2)
Czechoslovakia (3)
Sweden (6)
Hungary (7)
Luxembourg (10)
France (13)

Group 2B

Poland (12)
Switzerland (15)
Scotland (18)
Spain (19)
Turkey (22)
Italy (23)
Wales (—)

England's women will, of course, be attempting to improve on their runners-up position in Prague whilst the men want a final position not less than sixth to improve on their last finishing position of seventh.

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LANCASHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

INCENTIVE WORKS
by Geo. R. Yates

Most of England's top players, who boycotted the Lancashire 2-Star Open last season because of low prize money, competed in this season's competition, on Feb. 11, at the Lostock factory of the British Aerospace Dynamics Group, Bolton.

The prize fund stood in excess of £400 thanks to local sponsorship headed by British Aerospace and £100 went to the surprise winner of the men's singles event David Constance of Cheshire.

Having beaten the second seed, John Hilton, in the quarter-finals, Constance, aged 20, disposed of Nicky Jarvis, seeded No. 4, before winning the title. He beat Donald Parker, the third seed, in the final.

Surrey's Maxwell Crimmins, recently promoted from No. 8 to No. 3 in the English national rankings, headed the men's seeds but, alas, he went out in the second round to David Yallop of Derbyshire who, in turn, fell to the host county's Phil Bowen.

A strong Commonwealth contingent headed by Robbie Javor and Robert Tuckett of Australia failed to make any great impact both being dismissed prior to the semis, Javor in the fourth round by Alan Griffiths, of Wales and his compatriot in the quarters by Parker, Richard Lee of New Zealand also going out in the quarters to Nigel Eckersley.

Surrey had a triple champion in Linda Howard who, as first seed, won the women's singles title with a victory in the final over Susan Lisle and, partnered by Melody Ludi and Jarvis, took the women's and mixed doubles title, the former at the expense of the two Canadian girls Marianne Domonkos and Birute Plucas.

The Parker/Hilton combine in the men's doubles lost to Constance and Peter McQueen who, in the final, lost to Eckersley and Alan Fletcher.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

N. Eckersley (Ch) bt R. Lee (NEZ) 11, 16.
D. Parker (La) bt R. Tuckett (AUL) 21, 15;
N. Jarvis (Cv) bt A. Griffiths (WAL) -21, 13, 14;
D. Constance (Ch) bt J. Hilton (La) -9, 10, 18.

Semi-finals:

Constance bt Jarvis 18, 21;
Parker bt Eckersley 19, 11.

Final:

CONSTANCE bt Parker -18, 14, 19.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

L. Howard (Sy) bt B. Plucas (CAN) 12, 13;
L. Holmes (Ng) bt B. Kirkman (La) 9, 18;
S. Lisle (Ch) bt M. Ludi (Y) 16, 17;
M. Domonkos (CAN) bt A. Stevenson (Le) -20, 20, 20.

Semi-finals:

Howard bt Holmes 10, 13;
Lisle bt Domonkos 11, 15.

Final:

HOWARD bt Lisle 17, 14.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Constance/P. McQueen (Cv) bt C. Dewison/I. Johns (Ch) 11, 18;
Eckersley/A. Fletcher (Y) bt M. Crimmins (Sy)/P. Bowen (La) 18, 19.

Final:

ECKERSLEY/FLETCHER bt Constance/McQueen -23, 18, 11.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Howard/Ludi bt J. Carr (St)/A. Marples (Dy) 13, 11;
Domonkos/B. Plucas (CAN) bt Lisle/Stevenson 14, 18.

Final:

HOWARD/LUDI bt Domonkos/Plucas 12, 18.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Jarvis/Howard bt Fletcher/J. Fielding (La) 10, 15;
Eckersley/Ludi bt Tuckett/Domonkos 8, -4, 18.

Final:

JARVIS/HOWARD bt Eckersley/Ludi 15, -20, 17.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

D. Schofield (Ch) bt A. Hershorn (La) 15, -13, 16;
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt M. Tew (Ch) 18, -19, 12.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 20, 10.

U-17 G.S.: G. Galloway (Li) bt R. Mackriell (Wa) 18, -13, 20.

U-17 B.D.: D. Charlery/Andrew (E) bt J. Creasey (Do)/K. Satchell (Wi) 18, 15.

U-17 G.D.: Galloway/L. Fennah (Ch) bt S. Cain (St)/L. Tyler (Mi) 21, -13, 22.

U-17 X.D.: Andrew/Cain bt Green/Galloway 18, 18.

U-15 B.S.: J. Souter (Mi) bt Satchell 8, -12, 20.

U-15 G.S.: J. Harris (St) bt Cain 19, -12, 12.

U-15 B.D.: Souter/M. Oakley (Sy) bt K. Nicoll (Np)/J. Hall (Sk) 13, 20.

U-15 G.D.: Harris/J. Deakin (Ch) bt Galloway/Fennah 17, 17.

U-13 B.S.: A. Dixon (St) bt J. Duffield (Wo) 15, 13.

U-13 G.S.: C. Creasey (Do) bt J. Bellinger (Bd) -16, 16, 16.

U-13 B.D.: Duffield/Dixon bt I. Fullerton (Bk)/C. Bryan (Li) 12, 17.

U-13 G.D.: J. Bellinger/L. Bellinger (Bd) bt C. Creasey/Y. Hall (Le) 16, 19.

U-11 B.S.: J. Bradbury (Bu) bt I. Smith (Sh) 13, 12.

U-11 G.S.: L. Bellinger bt L. Goldsmith (Mi) 14, 7.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

by JOHN REED

Once upon a time before tournament officials believed it possible for players to enjoy the pursuit of excellence, whilst concealing their bitter disappointment in defeat, and table tennis was played for the fun of it, junior tournaments were held throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Now as there were at that time certain young players who wanted to prove themselves the best, and because there was so much travelling to be done to so many events, it was declared that there should be three major meetings which all aspiring young players should attend, in order to establish their rightful place in line for the throne. Quite naturally all these youngsters were under the impression that such tournaments would be of the very highest quality, and run fairly, without favour, and under the very best conditions.

Local organisers and officials vied with each other for the honour of staging such prestigious events, and the band of well-intentioned unpaid amateur officials had much to be proud of, particularly those from the warlike primitive and isolated areas of the Eastern fishing villages, and the more Northerly territories. Many compliments were paid and few grumbles were heard from the grateful players and their patrons, until one day (or it may have been the same day in three successive years), they descended in their thousands to do battle yet again.

But wait, discord was about to raise its ugly head, as Black Beardsworth that naughty piratical table tennis player and No. 1 seed had eaten too much Yorkshire pud at a Lancastrian (?) function, and could not attend. What consternation! What a dilemma! There was only one thing for it. The No. 5 seed had got to be moved to the No. 1 seeding position on the draw, leaving Black Country boy Andrew Poor, unseeded, in his place. There is little room for doubt that it was purely by coincidence that local hero and No. 5 seed found himself elevated to the No. 1 spot. What a pity that a copy of the jousting regulations were not to hand, as it would have been discovered (18, 4, 3, 3) that no player may be moved from one place on the draw to another, except as provided in 18, 4, 3, 9 below:-

18, 4, 3, 9 — "Exceptionally where the imbalance is due to the withdrawal of several seeds, from the same section of the draw, and a complete redraw is impracticable, the remaining seeded players, may be renumbered in ranking order and redrawn to the extent possible amongst the seeded players, leaving the remainder of the draw unchanged". The clear implication being that if the

COTSWOLD JUNIOR OPEN 2-STAR TOURNAMENT

by Dave Foulser

UNSEEDED SKYLET TAKES TWO TITLES

This season's Cotswold Junior was notable for the exceptional performance of one player — the young coloured lad from Essex — Skylet Andrew, who I am told is only the 6th ranked junior in his own county and has never before won an event in any tournament outside his own county. Well, you would never have known it, for in partnership with ranked junior Desmond Charlery he took the U-17 Boys doubles as well as the Mixed with Shirley Cain.

However, the focus was really upon him when he ploughed through all the opposition to face the holder of the U-17 Boys' Singles title in the final, Malcolm Green. In the first game, Green played his usual immaculate game to win 21-9 with Skylet's play reflecting his inexperience at this high level, but in the second game he fought back magnificently to win 21-18 and only lost the third -16. The crowd that had stayed to watch the finals were ecstatic during the last two games of this final as some of the rallies were highly spectacular looping encounters with both players changing from dynamic attack to balloon defence — and both players received an ovation at the end.

Young Skylet should be heard of again in the next few months because he was definitely the star of the show. Green's performance in winning the U-17 Boys' Singles for the second time (in succession) was a fine one and creates a new record as even previous winners such as Desmond Douglas and Paul Day did not take the title twice. In the Girls' U-17 Singles Gillian Galloway played very steadily, although without much attacking flair to take the title on the Saturday but then was beaten on Sunday in the U-15 Girls' Singles by Jill Harris who subsequently won the event beating County team-mate Shirley Cain in the final.

In the final of the U-15 Boys' Singles John Souter found himself 16-20 down in the third to Kevin Satchell but with some brilliant attacking play took the next six points and with it both the set and the title. The team of administrators from Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud, Worcester, Witney and Oxford ran the tournament very smoothly and all credit must be given to them for making it a great success.

Results:-

U-17 B.S.: M. Green (Sp) bt S. Andrew (E) 9, -18, 16.



Maxwell Crimmins, the top seed at Bolton, but suffering under the pressure of being elevated to No. 3 in the English rankings.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.

other seeded players have not arrived due to their having a later start time, and the tournament would as a result have been unduly delayed, then the original draw should stand. Further the seeding was in fact incorrect with players placed according to the ranking list which was produced after the date of the draw. To the best of knowledge players were not notified of the change of draw date, which as everyone knows they are entitled to attend to see fair play. How fortunate it was that Alan Rantomkin was advised not to travel on the advertised date because of pressure of work.

But where was the fateful Appendix B to Rules Part 2? One could only suppose it had been lost without trace beneath the welter of paperwork and forms, which it must be admitted were magnificent, and did much to contribute towards the frantic level of activity on the podium. What a pity that this was in no way matched by the organisation on and around the tables. Unfortunately for the players they were not made aware that they had to take second place to a sacrosanct schedule, and could be excused for thinking that the competition was being run for their benefit.

In the meantime players and spectators alike were being treated to a steady stream of exhibition games, played on up to nine of the eleven tables, with four at a time using two balls. This was interspersed with many very urgent last requests to refrain from cross knocking, which the speaker found increasingly tiresome, as it required him peeping over or around the board on which all the action was taking place, and which looked suspiciously as if it had been placed there to reduce the glare from the lighting.

Assurances had been given that the lighting was well up to the standard of that used over the outside courts in the 1827 World Championships in Anchorage, Alaska. This is more than can be said for the nets which had already been pronounced unfit by Ena Sharples' grandmother. Mainly because of the dazzling nature of the lighting few people noticed the rogue table in the corner which underwent an overnight mutation, but which ignored regulation 25, 2, which states that all tables shall be of the same make and grade.

And so to the many muted cries of 'Umbali, umbali', and a resolute effort by the organisers to repel all boarders with a calm obstinacy, and a determination to avoid seeing the wood for the trees, we duly came to the girls' singles, where another top seed failed to appear. This time it was the turn of Angie Tearful to give it a miss. How would the officials cope this time? Surprise, surprise. The elusive regulation had reappeared and rule 18, 4, 3, 9 applied. Cleopatra could not have matched such consistency in inconsistency.

But all fairy stories must have their happy ending, and a most reasonable and accommodating official, took great care to pour the oil on troubled water, and competitors and players alike took their leave, without rancour, the leading official was made a freeman of the city, and all lived happily ever after for a year at least.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SPONSORSHIP AND PROMOTION

I do not believe it is necessary to reply to Alan Shepherd's letter in the February edition since I agree with a few of his ideas. Any further comments would become tedious since everybody connected with our sport has different ideas, particularly with regard to promotion and sponsorship. However, having read his letter expressing his views, I AM LOST FOR WORDS, and coming from me, that is a compliment.

I should like to make quite clear my company's intentions regarding promotion and sponsorship of Table Tennis on a national and, hopefully, world basis, as many readers will have seen from various articles in the previous magazine and the Sun newspaper.

Firstly, our aim is to come to a mutual agreement with the E.T.T.A. for arranging various events and to promote the game in the best

possible way for the sport as a whole, the players (offering larger money prizes), better conditions and more social events following competitions held.

To do this my company is in a position to attract sponsorship from various national companies and we will promote the game in the best possible way so that it will appeal to the public, press, T.V., and — most of all — the players.

We wish to organise a national handicap tournament which will give large cash prizes, possibly down to the last 32 players. This event will give everyone competing an equal chance to win because the handicap will be given according to standard. Obviously there will be difficulties, but these will not be unsurmountable. To coincide with this event we are considering holding a Top 10 tournament so that the public can see our very best players in action. It is our intention to make this tournament the most attractive spectacle possible with good class players, colourful clothing, good conditions, entertainment and a team of attractive hostesses selling programmes etc.

After the completion of this event I intend to follow up with programmes of either first-class matches, handicaps, graded or regular tournaments, all with top promotion and the sponsor in mind.

As the events progress we expect to see that the public, press and T.V. will recognise that Table Tennis is a major sport and that the players are sportsmen and not just players.

We have had a lot of response from players, umpires and organisers showing their enthusiasm for our ideas and willingness to help stage the events.

I would like to thank everyone, including Alan Shepherd, for their interest.

In order that we can start to organise our first event — the National Handicap — I would like all who are interested in competing to write to me giving their name, address and standard of play, i.e. National, County, Inter-league or local league and the division in which they play.

BARRY MEISEL,

**Parkside (World Wide) Insurance Agency,
50 Green Lane,
Chislehurst, Kent.
Telephone: 01-467 7727.**

A preliminary meeting has already taken place between Tom Blunn, the Association's Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Meisel and it is hoped that further discussions will take place in the near future. Ed.

NEW ZEALAND WEDDING

by Frank O'Gorman

1969 and 1974 New Zealand table tennis champion Yvonne Fogarty and her husband, Auckland accountant Tony Eyre are pictured leaving St. Paul's College Chapel, Auckland after their wedding earlier this year.

Yvonne made her first overseas trip as a member of the 1967 New Zealand team to the World tourney in Stockholm. Just eleven years ago this month (March), the youthful Otago left-hander dropped in to the Scottish Open at Edinburgh and won the women's doubles crown with teammate Neti Traill as well as the girls' singles.

A member of the New Zealand team also to the World Championships in 1971, 1973 and 1975, Yvonne made her mark at the 1973 Commonwealth singles in Cardiff when this plucky player fought her way through to the semi-finals — one of the first-ever players from the Southern hemisphere to reach a major singles semi-final. Her New Zealand women's team took the Silver medal behind England in the 1971 Commonwealth Championships in Singapore.

Away back in January, 1972 at Dunedin, Yvonne was chief bridesmaid to her elder sister Maree on her wedding to 1970 New Zealand champion Gary Murphy, older son of "Bos" Murphy, former British Empire boxing champion (see Table Tennis News, March, 1972). Maree returned the compliment by acting as Matron of honour to Yvonne this time. Maree missed this photo — she was away feeding her third youngster, David, nearly 3-months-old.

Our wedding photo records some table tennis-minded enthusiasts who escorted Tony and Yvonne from the Chapel and were present later with other guests to share with the happy pair in their first meal together as husband and wife. In our hap-hap-happy picture, Yvonne and Maree's father, the 1948 New Zealand champion W. J. Fogarty is on the left of the front row. N.Z. international Kathy Fraser stands to his left then follows Tony and Yvonne Eyre, younger sister Barbara Fogarty (Otago junior representative), N.Z.T.T.A. Life Member Frank O'Gorman and Maree's husband Gary Murphy.

At the back are Graham Lassen, "Bos" Murphy, Sister Joan Mary Fogarty (Convent of Mercy) — Yvonne's eldest sister and a recognised T.T. coach herself — and Robert Blair. Lassen, Kathy Blair and Gary Murphy are all New Zealand table tennis internationals. Yvonne and Tony (who is now learning a little more about T.T.) are at home at 10 Westmere Crescent, Westmere, Auckland 2, New Zealand.



Halex Sport Kent 2-Star Open

by Cyril Burden

This season's championships at Folkestone on Jan. 28/29 took on a mini Commonwealth look with entries from Australia, Canada and New Zealand with the two girls from Canada, Birute Plucas and Marianne Domonkos, enjoying their weekend by carrying off between them the women's singles, U-20 girls' singles, women's doubles and mixed titles.

The entry this year was on a par with recent years with five of the top men's 20 competing but the men's singles was somewhat marred by the No. 1 seed and defending title holder, Max Crimmins, getting in the wrong portion of the train and arriving over 2 hours late and having to be scratched.

This allowed Kenny Jackson, the up-and-coming Essex player, to reach the semis along with John Dabin (Kent), Martin Shuttle (Surrey) and Mark Mitchell (Middlesex), the latter disposing of the No. 2 seed Ian Horsham (Essex) in the quarters 16 and 12. The semis were rather contrasting affairs with Shuttle overcoming Jackson 12 and 19 while the other one between Dabin and Mitchell, watched by an enthusiastic crowd, was full of exciting rallies and ended with Mark victorious 19 and 20.

Although none of the top 16 women had entered the play was of a high standard and all four seeds fell by the wayside, the biggest surprise being the defeat, in Round 2, of the holder for the past two seasons, Elaine Foulds, by Marion Elliman. The four semi-finalists were Miss Plucas, Helen Williams (Middlesex), Sheila King (Sussex) and Mandy Reeves (Middlesex), the latter having accounted for the other Canadian Miss Domonkos in the quarters -13, 16 and 20. The semis both produced straight wins for Birute and Mandy.

Kent have for a long time run an U-20 boys' and girls' singles and it has always produced some

fine matches and this year was no exception with only Horsham of the men's singles seeds not eligible. The semis were between Crimmins and Mitchell, and David Iszatt and Shuttle. Mark did his England ranking no harm by overcoming Max in straight games 15 and 15 and David was no match for the in-form Martin who won 17 and 9, so giving a repeat of the men's singles final of Mark versus Martin.

The finals themselves started promptly at 6.30 p.m. watched by the Mayor of Folkestone, Cllr. Mrs. Allen and her husband, and the audience were given seven finals of excellent table tennis with the two encounters between Mitchell and Shuttle being the pick of them. Both went to Shuttle which should do his confidence a power of good. All-in-all, an entertaining weekend of table tennis helped in no small way by the hard-working band of umpires under the direction of new National Umpire Joan Zeiske of Kent.

Results:-

M.S.: M. Shuttle (Sy) bt M. Mitchell (Mi) -18, 13, 16.
W.S.: B. Plucas (Canada) bt M. Reeves (Mi) 16, 20.
M.D.: D. Iszatt/D. Newman (E) bt K. Seager/Shuttle 17, 12.
X.D.: Newman/M. Domonkos (Canada) bt I. Horsham/L. Barrow (E) -18, 15, 16.

EXETER JUNIOR 1-STAR OPEN

by KEITH PONTING

The outstanding performance in this year's tournament was that of Cheryl Creasey, from Wimbourne, Dorset, who won all the girls' singles events. In the many years of this tournament no player of either sex has accomplished this. Cheryl is a player of immense promise and will rank with the best Dorset has produced over the years. Another to catch the eye was 10-year-old Carl Prean, from the Isle of Wight who captured the boys' U-13 title. Both Cheryl and Carl are very fortunate in having the full support of their parents — a priceless asset at such a young age — who are prepared to travel around with their children, and I am sure we are going to hear a

lot of these two youngsters in the years ahead. David Pilling, from London won the boys' U-17 title just getting the better of Jason Creasey in a three game thriller. Guildford's Glen Baker was the boys' U-15 champion by some steady play against Paul Stretton, from London.

Another near-record entry was received and the organising Committee decided not to proceed with the Mixed Doubles enabling all those who entered to take part in all other events.

We were fortunate in having the services of experienced National Referee, Stan Ford, just leaving the R.A.F. after 21 years service, to referee our tournament and our thanks go to him and the organising committee for getting through well before 10 p.m. The awards were presented by the Chairman of the Exeter league, Mr. Mike Lyons.

Results:-

B.S. U-13: C. Prean bt G. Lambert 11, 17.
B.S. U-15: G. Baker bt P. Stratton -20, 15, 17.
B.S. U-17: D. Pilling bt J. Creasey 16, -14, 9.
G.S. U-13: C. Creasey bt M. Williams 13, 7.
G.S. U-15: Creasey bt C. Butler 17, 13.
G.S. U-17: Creasey bt S. James 13, -18, 15.
Boys' Doubles: M. Smith/E. Wilkes bt Pilling/Stratton 18, -20, 15.
Girls' Doubles: J. Whitcher/C. Robb bt G. and J. Pritchard 14, 18.

NORTH BOURNEMOUTH CLUB 1-STAR

by C. B. Cashell

The North Bournemouth Club 1-Star tournament attracted a full entry, some 25 forms having to be returned. There were many close games and Referee A. Bridle and his helpers worked hard to finish the tournament at a reasonable hour.

David Harvey was outstanding in the men's singles beating John Robinson in straight games in the final. Cheryl Creasey, a much improved junior showed excellent form in winning the women's singles.

Results:-

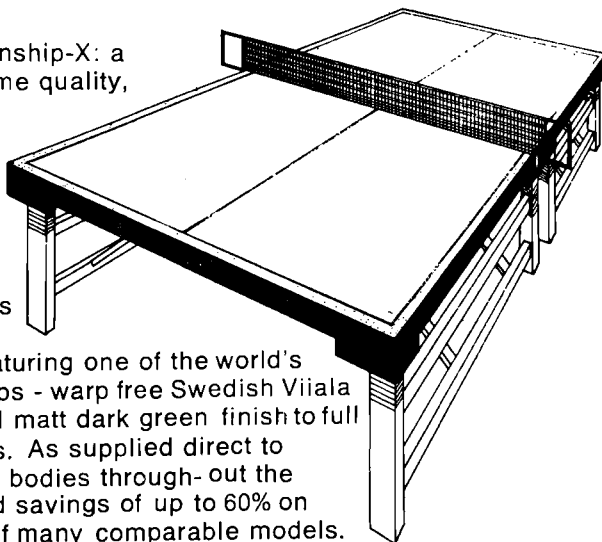
M.S. Semi-finals:
D. Harvey (Gs) bt M. Smith (Av) 18, -19, 11;
J. Robinson (Do) bt E. Wilkes (St) 11, -12, 19.
Final:
Harvey bt Robinson 14, 13.
W.S. Semi-finals:
C. Creasey (Do) bt J. Applin (Do) 15, 13;
S. Sinanan (Ha) bt C. Robb (Gs).
Final:
Creasey bt Sinanan 13, 14.
M.D. Final:
Harvey/M. Lane (Gs) bt J. Creasey/R. Lee (Do) 14, 20.
W.D. Final:
Applin/Sinanan bt J. Coop (Do)/Creasey 20, 12.
X.D. Final:
T. Smith (Ha)/Coop bt Robinson/J. New (Do) 21, 10.
B.S. Final:
M. Francis (Sx) bt Wilkes.
G.S. Final:
C. Webster (He) bt Sinanan.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

March
10/19—11th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS,
'Rhein-Ruhr-Hall', Duisburg, West Germany.
11—County Championships (6).
11—E.S.T.A. National Finals (Lea Green, Derbyshire).
12—East of England 2-Star Open (Scunthorpe).
17/18—The Barclays Bank 1978 Merseyside 2-Star Open,
Kirkby Sports Centre, Valley Road, Liverpool
L32 4UP.
19—Middlesex Junior Authorised (South Ruislip).
25/26—Yorkshire Junior 'Select',
Ferans Recreation Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North,
Hull.
26—Edinburgh Junior and Youth 2-Star Open
(Meadowbank).
31 -
April
2—SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL OPEN (Meadowbank
Stadium, Edinburgh).
6—European League Super Division
ENGLAND v NETHERLANDS (Plymouth).
8—South Yorkshire 2-Star Open (Sheffield).
8—Millom Junior 1-Star Open (Millom, Cumbria).
8—Beneages Whisky Open 2-Star (Perth).
9—Merton Junior 1-Star Open (Bournemouth).
15—Sedgfield 2-Star Open (Newton Aycliffe).
16—Bedford 1-Star Open.
23—Cheshire Junior 1-Star Open (Birkenhead).

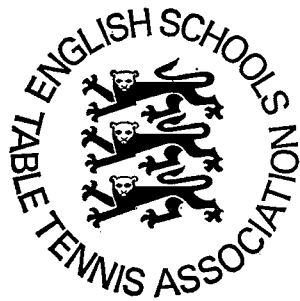
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For further details, write to Spen Sport
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SPENSPORT



by DAVID LOMAS

Millom School, Cumbria, stole the headlines when they emerged from the North Regional Final of the National School Team Championships at Moor Grange High School, Leeds, on Feb. 19 with FOUR teams through to the National Finals at Lea Green on Saturday, March 11th. And just to make the Cumbrian dominance complete Longlands Boys School, Kendal, also qualified in the U-13 Boys' event.

Millom's victories came in the Girls' U-16 category (where they are defending their national title), Girls' U-13, Boys' U-19 (national holders) and Boys' U-16. With the exception of the Girls' U-13 event where Millom could only draw 4-4 with current holders Wibsey Middle School, Bradford, their wins were convincing.

No wonder Millom captured a slot on BBC Nationwide's "Look North" news programme. Cumbria's five-strong representation is believed to be a new record. Also in for the first time is a team from Tyne and Wear, Monkwearmouth whilst Holmgate Primary School from Clay Cross will be local participants in the Under-11 event.

The inclement weather decimated the Midlands and West Region competition which was due to be played at Swindon on the same day. Eleven teams were unable to make the journey but thanks to some commendable flexibility play-offs took place at Stroud Leisure Centre on Thursday, Feb. 23. At the time of writing only the U-11 representatives remained to be determined with the contenders being national holders Littleham, Exmouth, and Bassett Green Middle School, Southampton.

The South and East Regional Finals took place at a new venue — the Walnuts Sports Centre, Orpington. Four Newham teams — once the supremos of schools table tennis — fell by the wayside. Lister School and Brampton Manor Comprehensive, both finalists last year — went out to "sudden-death" doubles matches but Trinity kept the London Borough's flag flying in the Boys' U-13 event after a close match with St. Felix Middle School, Newmarket.

Surrey County have three teams through, Esher College and Guildford C.E. who have teams in the Girls' U-19 and U-16 events. But winners from this Region look most likely to come from Mill Vale, Dunstable, who include Jackie and Lisa Bellinger, and Hill House School in the U-11's who are the first-ever team from Inner London to qualify.

Results:-

NORTH REGION:

BOYS' UNDER-19:

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
2. John Port, Derby (Derbyshire)
3. South Hunsley, Hull (Humberside)
4. Culcheth High (Cheshire)

GIRLS' UNDER-19:

1. MONKWEARMOUTH (Tyne and Wear)
2. Roundhay, Leeds (West Yorkshire)
3. Netherthorpe Grammar (Derbyshire)
4. Fleetwood Hesketh High (Lancashire)

BOYS' UNDER-16:

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
2. Riley High, Hull (Humberside)
3. Formby High (Merseyside)
4. Kings, Grantham (Lincolnshire)

GIRLS' UNDER-16:

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
2. Thornes House, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)
3. All Saints High, Blackpool (Lancashire)
4. Fairham Comprehensive, Nottingham (Notts)

BOYS' UNDER-13:

1. LONGLANDS BOYS, Kendal (Cumbria)
2. Danepark Junior High, Hull (Humberside)
3. High Storrs (South Yorkshire)
4. Culcheth High (Cheshire)

GIRLS' UNDER-13:

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
2. Kesteven and Grantham Girls (Lincolnshire)
3. Wibsey Middle, Bradford (West Yorkshire)
4. Culcheth High (Cheshire)

UNDER 11:

1. HOLMGATE PRIMARY, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
2. Barnes Junior (Tyne and Wear)
2. Rossmere, Hartlepool (Cleveland)
4. Meeling with Wrayton (Lancashire)

MIDLANDS AND WEST REGION:

BOYS' U-19: KINGS HEATH, BIRMINGHAM (West Midlands)

GIRLS' U-19: HIGHFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON (West Midlands)

BOYS' U-16: MOSELEY PARK, WOLVERHAMPTON (West Midlands)

GIRLS' U-16: BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (Dorset)

BOYS' U-13: MOSELEY PARK, WOLVERHAMPTON (West Midlands)

GIRLS' U-13 CALLINGTON (Cornwall)

SOUTH AND EAST REGION:

BOYS' U-19:

1. ESHER COLLEGE (Surrey County)
2. Salvatorian College (Middlesex)
3. Hampton (Surrey Metropolitan)
3. Northgate, Ipswich (Suffolk)

GIRLS' U-19:

1. GUILDFORD C.E. (Surrey County)
2. Tolworth Girls (Surrey Metropolitan)
3. Lister, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
4. St. Bernard's Convent (Essex County)

BOYS' U-16:

1. DESBOROUGH, MAIDENHEAD (Berkshire)
2. Lister, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
3. Colchester Royal Grammar (Essex County)
4. Beverley Boys, New Malden (Surrey Metropolitan)

GIRLS' U-16:

1. GUILDFORD C.E. (Surrey County)
2. Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
3. Brentwood County High (Essex County)

BOYS' U-13:

1. TRINITY NEWHAM (Essex Metropolitan)
2. St. Felix Middle, Newmarket (Suffolk)
3. Ifield (West Sussex)
4. Brookland, Leighton Buzzard (Bedfordshire)

GIRLS' U-13:

1. MILL VALE, DUNSTABLE (Bedfordshire)
2. Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
3. Swanscombe (Kent County)

UNDER-11:

1. HILL HOUSE (Inner London)
2. Leighton Middle (Bedfordshire)
3. All Saints, Brentwood (Essex County)
4. Balfour, Rochester (Kent County)

PING COMMENTARY

by JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent

"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"

TRIFLE SAD

I find it a trifle sad that "The Sun" is wise enough to be the only national newspaper to devote a regular "chat" column each week to table tennis but the majority of the content is an un-ending stream of brickbats for the E.T.T.A.

We all disagree at times with E.T.T.A. policies, at times I have been a leading critic of the administration in this column and in other media. Indeed, there are a number of things that Chester Barnes writes about with which I heartily agree — I don't believe at this time that there are eight better players than Denis Neale in the country, despite the match-points he missed against Donald Parker at Woking.

But, despite Barry Meisel's generous offer to start the ball rolling with a National League, I cannot see how Chester or Barry can really have expected a Woking red carpet. There is a time and place for everything and everything takes time. I was at Woking for all of the three days and failed to spot Mr. Meisel, not even a glimpse of him or even Chester, so whether they were directing operations from the Sauna suite or not, I really do not know!

Now, we have the suggestion that Barry is to go it alone and organise a singles competition of his own for the huge pile of cash that might have started the National League — if only we could get people working together instead of rushing into collision course.

CHESHIRE CHAT

by DICK TURNER

GREAT DAY FOR DAVE

After a few hectic weeks of January, the end of the month and the first half of February contained just one County activity — a junior coaching session. Cheshire's top ten junior boys and one junior girl had a useful four hours of coaching and match play under the guidance of Coaching Secretary Karen Tonge, assisted by coach Norman Deakin and student coach Derek Sadler. Senior players were invited along to play the top juniors. Wayne Percival spent a useful two hours with the juniors, but he was the only senior player there. A further coaching session will take place on Sunday, March 19 at the same venue, Broomfields Sports Centre, Warrington. Karen Tonge (Runcorn 64569) will be pleased to see more senior players there — so Nigel, Dave, Brian and all, how about coming along please — 2.45 to 5 p.m. for you, so there's plenty of time to enjoy your lunch first. (1 p.m. to 5 p.m. for the Juniors).

Although Cheshire as a County were doing little, the individual County players were having a busy and successful time in closed and open tournaments. The Manchester Closed brought Cheshire players a number of titles with the Men's Singles going to Nigel Eckersley and the women's Singles to Sue Lisle. Roger Hampson and Derek Schofield beat Ron and John Weatherby (an all-Cheshire affair) in the Men's doubles, and John Weatherby won the Junior Singles. It goes without saying that Derek Schofield won the Veterans' Singles. Who did he beat in the final? Pete D'Arcy, of course!

However, pride of place this month goes to Dave Constance. Dave, just deleted from England's top twenty ranking, had a great day at the Lancashire Open in which there was a formidable field of England-ranked players. Dave played extremely well to beat first Alan Fletcher and then John Hilton, before disposing of Nicky Jarvis in the semi-final and Donald Parker in the final. Well done Dave! Let us hope you will leap back into the rankings soon.

As the event is important, a little advance notice could be helpful. One of Cheshire's Leagues, Macclesfield, is 50 years old this year. To celebrate the event, the League have invited England's Top Six to play an exhibition match at the Drill Hall, Macclesfield, on Saturday, April 8 (7.15 p.m.). The Macclesfield Secretary, Miss B. Bailey, 55 Belgrave Road, Macclesfield, will have tickets available from March 20.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by ALAN CAVELL

The Telford T.T.A. has continued its policy of providing interesting competitions for all its members and its new handicap singles tournament was very well supported by players from all divisions. The event was very successful and financially self supporting. In a close final Tony Horobin beat Dave Elkin 19 and 18. Both played off a minus three handicap.

The Telford T.T.A. has given much support to the Telford Schools T.T.A.'s annual tournaments for several years. These tournaments are now attracting much larger entries than formerly.

The Donnington firm of C. & W. Walker Ltd., Gas Engineers, is sponsoring the Telford Closed Tournament this year. The Albrighton T.T.C. is running a tournament sponsored by the Sheba World Travel Co., for boys and girls U-11, U-14 and U-17 living in the Bridgnorth and District Sports Advisory Council's area.

The recently opened New College T.T.C., open to members of the public as well as students, has excellent facilities and is flourishing. The Telford T.T.A. expects to maintain its gradual annual expansion: the general standard of play is rising and the proportion of coached juniors is increasing. To enable teams to rise more rapidly through the divisions the management committee will be proposing alterations to the rules governing promotion and relegation. Proposals to be put at the A.G.M. to increase the entry fees next season are expected to have the general support of the members.

Norwich Union English Championships

GRADUATION DAY FOR PAUL

by THE EDITOR

As is so often the case in the final session of major competitions, so it was in the Norwich Union English Championships at Woking Leisure Centre on February 18 which failed to reach that degree of excitement and unpredictability which was so prevalent in the quarter-finals of the two singles events in which both Denis Neale and Carole Knight, the defending title holders, were beaten respectively by Donald Parker and Anita Stevenson.

Apart from the men's singles in which Paul Day, the 19-year-old Cambridge University graduate realised his most immediate ambition with a final 3-2 victory over thrice beaten finalist Nicky Jarvis, the remainder of the finals failed to raise the temperature sufficiently for the crowd to warm themselves. This was especially so in the women's singles in which Jill Hammersley cruised to her fifth title in six attempts against the local bank clerk Linda Howard from nearby Guildford.

BOWED OUT

Having bowed out to Parker in the men's singles the subsequent withdrawal of Neale from the men's doubles, in which he was partnered by Maxwell Crimmins, removed the gloss from an event won by Day and Andy Barden with a final victory over the northerners Nigel Eckersley and Alan Fletcher.

Utterly predictable Mrs. Hammersley and Miss Howard put down the final challenge of Miss Knight and Miss Stevenson to take the women's doubles title for the third consecutive time to bring the curtain down on what, for Neale, might well be his swan song in major competitive play.

Prior to, on the Friday evening, Miss Howard with Kevin Beadsley, the English junior champion, standing in for the absent Desmond Douglas, reached the final of the mixed only to lose a glorious set which went to five games against Eckersley and Karen Witt, England's other junior champion. A pity this was not televised for commentator Johnny Leach confessed that his role on the Saturday afternoon was a hard one in working up any enthusiasm.

SECOND OCCASION

Parker's defeat of Neale in the men's singles was the second occasion this season that the Lancastrian has ousted England's most-capped player, the other occasion being at the Alumwell Centre, Walsall in the Midland Counties Open when Parker triumphed 18 and 11 in the second round.

Parker had, in total, beaten Neale on three previous occasions but now in his fourth year at Loughborough University of Technology studying for a B.Ed. degree in P.E., he would be the first to admit the latest victory was the hardest to accomplish. Neale led 2 games to 1 and was 20-18 up in the fourth!

This was in the magical quarters at which stage Robert Potton had all his work cut out to put down David Tan and Jarvis was no more at ease against the blocking tactics of Mark Mitchell. Only Day had it comparatively easy in disposing of a rejuvenated John Dabin who had sunk the hopes of John Kitchener after the Suffolk player had eliminated an out-of-touch Max Crimmins.

Considering the leisurely pace of the tournament during the day, it seemed a pity that shortly after Parker and Day had mopped their brows they were recalled to the table to contest their semi-final. Parker began where he had left off against Neale but try as he did Day got the upper hand and up went the fist with victory at 3-1. Jarvis meantime took Potton in straight games.

A repeat of the Midland Counties Open was

also enacted in the women's singles, again in the quarters, when the left-handed Anita Stevenson repeated her win over Carole Knight. It was 3-straight too although it was by a hair's breadth in the vital third. Karen Rogers was the other seed to fall in this event going under to some strong hitting by Karen Witt.

ELIMINATED

Having been eliminated in the men's singles by Ian Horsham (11, 14 and 17) David Constance, winner of the Lancashire Open the previous weekend, fared no better in the men's doubles when, with M. Bishop (Derbys), the axe was wielded by Martin Shuttle and "Benny" Robertson.

A feature of the third round matches in the men's singles was that seven of the eight were decided in straight games the only exception being that between Neale and Dougie Johnson which went to four. The same nearly applied at the same stage in the women's singles with Angela Tierney taking five games to dispose of Angela Mitchell and Karen Rogers receiving a walk-over.

No denying the venue at Woking being first class and the staff most co-operative. But weather-wise it was cold, but then, where wasn't? I know . . . John McDonnell's bar!

Results:-

Men's Singles Round 3:

D. Tan (Mi) bt A. Wellman (Bk) 17, 13, 21;
R. Potton (E) bt D. Barr (Bk) 20, 19, 14;
M. Mitchell (Mi) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 10, 18, 15;
N. Jarvis (Cv) bt C. Sewell (Av) 13, 11, 16;
D. Neale (Cv) bt D. Johnson (Wa) 13, 17, -16, 15;
D. Parker (La) bt A. Barden (Mi) 19, 13, 17;
J. Dabin (K) bt J. Kitchener (Sk) -9, 19, 14, 15;
P. Day (Ca) bt I. Horsham (E) 16, 11, -20, -20, 11.

Quarter-finals:

Potton bt Tan 19, 16, -15, -19, 14;
Jarvis bt Mitchell -14, 17, -13, 18, 10;
Parker bt Neale -17, 19, -13, 21, 20;
Day bt Dabin 18, -21, 10, 18.

Semi-finals:

Jarvis bt Potton 14, 9, 15;
Day bt Parker -15, 18, 20, 18.

Final:

DAY bt Jarvis -15, 15, 5, -12, 15.

Women's Singles Round 2:

J. Hammersley (Bu) bt L. Nolmes (Ng) 12, 7, 11;
A. Tierney (Cv) bt A. Mitchell (Mi) -19, -18, 20, 10, 19;
K. Witt (Bk) bt E. Foulds (E) 6, 15, 17;
K. Rogers (Le) w.o. C. Webster (He) and S. Hession (E) Scr;

L. Howard (Sy) bt C. Buttery (Li) 12, 12, 12;
M. Ludi (Y) bt J. Witcher (Ha) 11, 14, 17;
A. Stevenson (Le) bt M. Reeves (Mi) 18, 6, 13;
C. Knight (Cv) bt M. Smith (Bk) 12, 9, 14.

Quarter-finals:

Hammersley bt Tierney 13, 8, 7;
Witt bt Rogers 20, 16, -19, 12;
Howard bt Ludi 19, 25, -17, 19;
Stevenson bt Knight 15, 15, 19.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley bt Witt 19, 13, 8;
Howard bt Stevenson 13, 6, 12.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 11, -19, 9, 12.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:

P. McQueen/R. Wiley (Cv) w.o. M. Crimmins (Sy)/Neale Scr;

Eckersley/A. Fletcher (Y) bt Kitchener/Tan

17, -16, 17, 19;

Jarvis/Potton bt D. Iszatt/D. Newman (E)

-19, 21, -18, 17, 17;

Barden/Day bt P. Beck (K)/C. Wilson (Mi)

-15, -16, 18, 17, 18.

Semi-finals:

Eckersley/Fletcher bt McQueen/Wiley 13, 20, 21;

Barden/Day bt Jarvis/Potton 15, -16, 19, 6.

Final:

BARDEN/DAY bt Eckersley/Fletcher -19, 17, 19, 14.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Hammersley/Howard bt E. Lamb (Dv)/W. Parker (Wi)

8, 15, 11;

Mitchell/Tierney bt A. Gordon (Bk)/Smith 18, 17, 18;

Ludi/Witt bt S. Hunt (Li)/Rogers -15, 17, 19, 8;

Knight/Stevenson bt G. Pritchard (Dv)/L. Taylor (Bk)

14, 5, 6.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley/Howard bt Mitchell/Tierney 14, 10, 18;

Knight/Stevenson bt Ludi/Witt 8, 17, 14.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Knight/Stevenson

18, 19, 19.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y)/Howard bt M. Shuttle (Sy)/Mitchell

16, 19, 9;

Mitchell/Tierney bt G. Sandley (Mi)/Gordon 14, 14, 13;

Kitchener/Rogers bt Iszatt/Hunt 12, 16, 16;

Eckersley/Witt bt Jarvis/Knight 19, 19, -8, 22.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley/Howard bt Mitchell/Tierney 17, -17, 16, 12;

Eckersley/Witt bt Kitchener/Rogers 17, 17, 19.

Final:

ECKERSLEY/WITT bt Beadsley/Howard

12, -14, 18, -14, 17.

Men's Consolation Semi-finals:

Fletcher bt I. Robertson (E) 13, 14;

B. Johnson (Wa) bt Sandley 8, -19, 9.

Final:

FLETCHER bt Johnson 15, 20.

Women's Consolation Semi-finals:

S. Dove (Mi) bt Pritchard 15, 12;

Holmes bt Lamb 15, -18, 16.

Final:

HOLMES bt Dove 17, 15.



Paul Day of Soham, Cambs on his way to winning the men's singles title at Woking Leisure Centre.

IRELAND v BELGIUM:

Ireland scored their first point in the European League 1st Division, when they beat Belgium 4-3 in a 'cliff-hanger' in Limerick on Feb. 9. The match was level at three-all when Ireland's No. 2 played his Belgian counterpart Lambert Belien in the decider. Keane really played superbly to win in straight games and helped to keep Ireland's hopes of staying in the first division alive. Karen Senior won her singles, and mixed with Jim Langan. She was never in any danger of losing to Marie-France Germiot whom she beat 18, 13.

Langan again found Norbert van de Walle too tough a nut to crack, and although he was within two points of victory in the second, he eventually lost it 23/21. Van de Walle won the final game comfortably 21/14.

April 6th will now decide Ireland's fate in the 1st Division. If they beat Austria away, they are safe, but if they lose and Belgium beat Luxembourg, then they are in trouble.



OVER TO YOU

Mr. J. Lunt (extreme left) Manager of Barclays Bank, Smithdown Place, Liverpool, presents a cheque for £500 as sponsorship for the Merseyside 2-Star Open Championships to be played at Kirkby Sports Centre, Valley Road, Liverpool on Friday, Mar. 17 (locals) and Saturday, Mar. 18 with finals at 7.30 p.m.

Arthur Upton, Chairman, and John McKim, Hon. Sec. of the Liverpool & Dist. T.T.L. lend a steady hand with a badged Jack Bond, Lancashire's former cricket captain and now the table tennis champion of the Isle of Man looking on. Between Messrs Upton (centre) and McKim is the bespectacled Brian Leeson, N.R., the Hon. Sec. and Organiser of the 1978 Merseyside 2-Star Open.

SURREY NOTES

by TED SIMPKIN

TWO AT No. 3

Surrey has some cause for optimism these days with all teams doing well in the County Championships; two players at No. 3 in the England rankings, Linda Howard and Max Crimmins, and a much livelier feeling displayed by the Council. The two annual tournaments are being pursued with vigour and imagination and with both Peter Brennan and Trevor Channing involved on the National Council its voice is being heard where the decisions are made.

The Thames Valley League held their annual tournament early this year, at Kingston Grammar School, and the organisers would have been delighted when all titles changed hands. In the men's singles, No. 1 seed, John Garland regained the title he had last won ten years ago, beating John Wright, No. 3, in the semi, and Andy Browne, No. 16, in the final. Andy played the best match of his career in the semi against No. 2, Keith Preston.

Sue Walker, now expected to rise in the County rankings, had a well-deserved victory in the women's singles, knocking out the holder, June Lodge in the semi, and finding her forehand winners too much for a fighting Jennifer Webster in the final, Kevin Allen and Steve Hunt took the men's doubles by putting aside the top seeds, Preston and Ken Walker in the semi, and Garland and Wright in a closely-fought final. The veterans' went to Wright who "organised" a good win in the final against the vastly improved Peter Thorpe, and Mark Haskell-Cooper took the Junior with the best of three from Sue Walker.

The Croydon Business Houses League deserves admiration for arranging their annual tournament, at Monks Hill Sports Centre on 10-12 tables, at an entrance fee of only 15 pence. How do they do it at the price?

It has been said many times, and cynically, that bad publicity is better than no publicity, but I wonder whether the Dorking League is doing the right thing by local paper articles which banner headline the disagreements to which the league, to go by these reports, appears to be so susceptible. The recent furor is about the alleged use of specially drafted top players in important matches by some clubs while others soldier on with their regulars. Perhaps their league rules need looking at before the next A.G.M.? This controversy is doubly a pity because there is no doubt that the Dorking League is a thriving one with very healthy competition, and with clubs named Friends Provident and Goblin it ought to be easy to publicise the more cheerful side of things.

The County Committee are hoping, as ever, for a good turn out at the A.G.M., to be held at Fetcham on June 21 and genial Treasurer, Barry Vine, in getting the outgoing Council to recommend an increase in club fees from 75p to £1 a team, has probably teased a few extra delegates to come along.

IRISH NOTES

by WILLIE WALSH

STIGA IRISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The first Stiga Irish Open Championships were held in the Leisureland Complex, Galway, on January 20/22. Another first was the appearance of an Australian and New Zealand men's team and a Canadian women's team.

A big disappointment to the Irish Table Tennis Association and the Connacht Branch who organised the event, was the non-entry of England, Scotland and Wales. Spain had entered, but owing to Scotland's request to them to change the date of their European league match to Saturday, 21, they withdrew.

In the Men's team event Semi-finals, Ireland (A) beat New Zealand 3-2, and Australia beat Ireland (B) 5-0. In the Final Australia beat Ireland (A) 3-2. Jim Langan beat Bob Tuckett 18, 15, and Robert Javor 12, -24, 10. Kevin Keane lost to both Tuckett and Javor and Australia won the doubles, -17, 17, 20.

In the Women's team event Final Ireland beat Canada 3-2. Karen Senior beat Birute Plucas 16, -13, 13 and Marianne Domonkos 16, -15, 16. Both the Canadians beat Deirdre Kilpatrick, but Ireland won the doubles -19, 15, 13.

In the Men's Singles, Jim Langan was trying to win his first Irish Open, and after his defeat of the Australians and New Zealanders, who would question his position as No. 2 seed to Javor and favourite to win. Unfortunately for Langan, Tuckett hit peak form in defeating him in the Semi-final, 13, 16. Javor beat Keane in the other Semi-final 15, -16, 13. In the final No. 3 seed Tuckett beat No. 1 seed Javor -18, 16, 7.

The Women's Final was an all-Irish affair which saw top seed Karen Senior beat Ann Leonard 9, 13. In the semi-finals Senior beat Domonkos 15, -20, 15 and Leonard beat Plucas -21, 10, 7. The Women's Doubles final was won by the Canadians when they beat K. Senior and L. Cash, -19, 13, 19, and the Men's Doubles title also went overseas when Javor/Tuckett beat Langan/Keane 13, 17. Langan/Senior beat Keane/Kilpatrick 13, -14, 11 in the mixed final.

Results:-
Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

R. Javor (Aust) bt C. Slevin (Irl) 17, 12;
K. Keane (Irl) bt R. Lee (N.Z.) 16, 19;
R. Tuckett (Aust) bt A. Cairns (Irl) -12, 19, 15;
J. Langan (Irl) bt T. Heasley (Irl) 15, 16.

Semi-finals:
Javor bt Keane 15, -16, 13;
Tuckett bt Langan 13, 16.

Final:
Tuckett bt Javor -18, 16, 7.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:
K. Senior (Irl) bt M. Sheehan (Irl) 9, 11;
M. Domonkos (Can) bt L. Cash (Irl) 13, 14;
A. Leonard (Irl) bt D. Kilpatrick (Irl) 12, 12;
B. Plucas (Can) bt K. Murray (Irl) 13, 12.

Semi-finals:
Senior bt Domonkos 15, -20, 15;
Leonard bt Plucas -21, 10, 7.

Final:
Senior bt Leonard 9, 13.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:
Senior/Cash bt K. & G. Keely 13, 13;
T. Devaney/V. Kilgannon bt Sheehan/A. Kelly 16, 20;
Leonard/Kilpatrick bt C. Lokko/T. McGurke 20, 12;

Plucas/Domonkos bt J. Cronin/T. Sweeney 10, 6.

Semi-finals:
Senior/Cash bt Devaney/Kilgannon 12, 6;
Plucas/Domonkos bt Leonard/Kilpatrick -18, 16, 7.

Final:
Domonkos/Plucas bt Senior/Cash -19, 13, 19.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:
Langan/Senior bt K. & A. Leonard 11, 14;
Tuckett/Domonkos bt Lee/D. McInerney 17, 18;
Keane/Kilpatrick bt Cairns/Cash 14, -20, 17;
Javor/Plucas bt T. Heasley/Sweeney 11, 22.

Semi-finals:
Langan/Senior bt Tuckett/Domonkos 19, 11;
Keane/Kilpatrick bt Javor/Plucas -17, 18, 19.

Final:
Langan/Senior bt Keane/Kilpatrick 13, -14, 11.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:
Javor/Tuckett bt Cairns/D. Weir 9, 17;
Lee/K. Palmer bt Heasley/T. Dolan 15, 16;
C. Slevin/B. Larrigan bt N. Hitchcock/
J. Bridgeman 19, 21.

Langan/Keane bt J. Robinson/P. Henderson 10, 19.

Semi-finals:
Javor/Tuckett bt Lee/Palmer 13, 16;
Langan/Keane bt Slevin/Larrigan (Irl) 15, -20, 11.

Final:
Javor/Tuckett bt Langan/Keane 13, 17.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. LANGRIDGE

SUFFOLK JUNIOR CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Julian Hall of the Bury League's W.E. Home Guard Club, last season's Suffolk Junior Boys' champion, retained his title again this year at the Thurleston School, Ipswich.

In a final of the highest standard he overcame the extremely stiff opposition and experience of Stuart Palmer. Stuart had, in fact, defeated him earlier in the final of the Under-15 Boys' Singles.

With Gary Douglas, Julian also carried off the Boys' Doubles title and was runner-up in two further events.

The pick of the older girls came from the Lowestoft League but the Bury League provided the large majority of the title winners. Gary and Nigel Douglas, Anthony Booth, Shaun Carvalho, Andrew Bentinck, Jane Leonard and Jane Richards have all benefited from very good coaching and have made exceptional progress in just one year.

Their turn to represent their county as Juniors cannot now be very far away.

Results:-

U-17 B.S.: J. Hall bt S. Palmer 17, 16.

U-17 G.S.: Debra Hubble bt Louise Harris 11, 8.

U-15 B.S.: Palmer bt Hall 16, -8, 20.

U-15 G.S.: Jane Leonard bt Dawn Harvey -10, 13, 16.

U-13 B.S.: S. Carvalho bt A. Bentinck 12, 14.

U-13 G.S.: Jane Richards bt Jane Leonard 15, -11, 18.

B.D.: Hall/G. Douglas bt Anthony Booth/Nigel Douglas 19, 14.

G.D.: Hubble/Harris bt Maureen Thomas/Jane Wilgloss 17, 11.

X.D.: Louise Harris/Palmer bt Debra Hubble/Hall -10, 16, 28.

The form of Anthony Booth (Newmarket) in these championships was so exceptionally con-

sistent that he was immediately promoted in the County Junior Ranking List from No. 10 to No. 4.

The recent remarkable form of Julian Hall has also earned him the No. 12 place in the Senior Ranking List which now reads:-

1. John Kitchener
2. Robert Hellaby
3. Mick Palmer
4. Russell King
5. Terry Kirby
6. Andy Schooler
7. Rob Milne
8. David Henderson
9. Dave Halliday
10. Chris Shepherd
11. Stuart Palmer
12. Julian Hall
13. Clive Woollard
14. Barney Garrod

JUNIORS WIN

Stuart Palmer and Julian Hall, of the Bury Table Tennis League helped Suffolk Juniors to a handsome 8-2 win against Hunts Juniors at St. Neots in the County Championships.

Stuart and Julian each won both of their singles games and also combined to take the boys' doubles.

Further wins by Michael Shorten (two) and Louise Harris brought the total of Suffolk games to eight.

This was a most encouraging result for Suffolk's very keen and talented youngsters.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by DOUG MOSS

BIG AGE GAP

The County Closed Championships held recently have highlighted the situation in Worcestershire that it is mainly veterans who are of the highest

standard and then there is a big age gap to 15 year-old-players of talent. It is at least most encouraging that some young players have made considerable progress and are challenging strongly to be at the top in the County. The aim must be to speed up the progress of the young players and produce more of them.

The Championships were a personal triumph for Brian Belcher, who won the Men's Singles for the first time. He also took the Veterans' Singles title, the Veterans' Doubles and was runner-up in the Men's Doubles (in each event his partner was Mervyn Wood). He was unable to enter the Mixed because of a restriction on the number of events in which a player can take part! Everyone was impressed by his play throughout the Championships and the standard of fitness he displayed. There was also, of course, a great deal of determination. It must have given Brian great satisfaction, especially having started the season in the County 1st team but having been left out of the team in the match preceding the Championships.

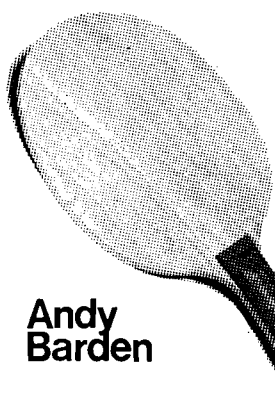
Joyce Lloyd, who had, at the beginning of the season, asked not to be considered for County play, came along to the Championships and reached her 20th Women's Singles final, winning the event for the 13th time, which is a truly remarkable record — added to which she represented the County in over 100 National Championship matches. Andy Jones, who has lived in the County for five years or so, has recently rejoined Worcestershire from Warwickshire and showed her value in reaching the finals of the Women's Singles and Doubles events.

Steve Moreman, who joined Worcestershire from Gloucestershire at the beginning of the season, made a very good debut in the Worcestershire Championships. Partnered by Simon Gray he won the Men's Doubles and was runner-up in the Men's Singles. In this event he beat two County first team players in Derek Baddeley and Cliff Benson!

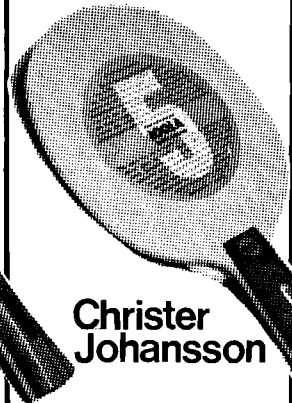
It was pleasing to see that Beryl Shammon appeared in her 5th Veterans Women's Singles

Blades & Rubbers

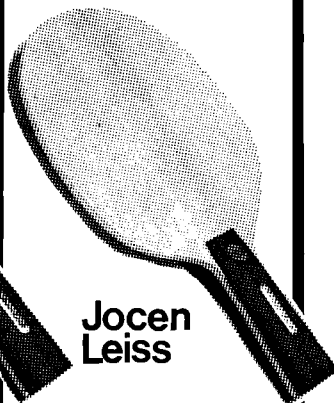
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JOOLA

table tennis

Final and won the Championship for the third time.

Sixteen-year-old Mandy Mytton had an excellent tournament and demonstrated the progress she has made over the past year. She won the Women's Doubles, partnered by Lynda Reid, and the Mixed with Mike Sykes as partner. In the women's singles event she beat Lynda Reid, of the County I team, and in the semi-final lost only very narrowly to Andy Jones. This was a most encouraging performance and having a regular place in the County II team is obviously paying off. Mandy still has another season to go as a Junior.

Other players of the County Junior team distinguished themselves. One of the big surprises was provided by Ian Langston and Adrian Russell who knocked out Derek Baddeley and Mike Sykes, the No. 2 seeds in the Men's Doubles. They progressed further and were finally beaten by the Champions (Steve Moreman and Simon Gray). It was also significant that Adrian Russell beat Phil Knights in the Men's Singles and was finally eliminated by Mike Sykes. Jeremy Duffield also reached the quarter-final before losing to the most experienced Mervyn Wood, who has played in County I team matches this season.

The County Junior Championships had been held earlier. Duffield retained the Boys' Singles Championship and also the Doubles — this time with Nicky Oakley as partner. Mandy Mytton excelled in winning the Girls' Singles for the third time.

It is remarkable that Duffield has three seasons left as a Junior. It is good news to see that he is currently ranked No. 11 in the England Cadet Ranking list BUT, with Worcestershire not represented in the National Ranking lists, rather frustrating to see that he is listed as a Hereford representative, which is not the case! However, a correction will be brought to notice!

The detailed results of the two County Closed Tournaments are below.

WORCESTERSHIRE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS — 1978

Seniors

- M.S.: B. Belcher** bt S. Moreman 18, 19.
M.D.: Moreman/S. Gray bt Belcher/M. Wood 19, -13, 15.
W.S.: J. Lloyd bt A. Jones 14, 13.
W.D.: L. Reid/M. Mytton bt Jones/S. Randle -18, 17, 22.
X.D.: M. Sykes/Mytton bt D. Baddeley/J. Hunt 15, 18.
V.M.S.: Belcher bt Wood 12, 15.
V.D.: Belcher/Wood bt D. Reynolds/E. Salter 10, 11.
V.W.S.: B. Shammon bt J. Carter 14, 15.

Juniors

- B.S.: J. Duffield** bt A. Russell 15, 17.
G.S.: Mytton bt M. Westwood 15, 15.
J.D.: Duffield/N. Oakley bt I. Langston/Russell 18, 20.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. MORAN

CADETS PARADE

The first of this season's U-14 ranking trials was held at Tamworth in January and representatives from Birmingham, Coventry and Tamworth paraded their skills before the selection committee of Stan Parr, Don Richards and Don Storr who issued the following ranking list for February:-

1. A. Pilgrim (Cov)
2. S. Beer (Birmingham)
3. N. Thomas (Birmingham)
4. C. Higgins (Birmingham)
5. A. Bache (Tam)
6. D. Storr (Tam)

It is to be hoped that Nuneaton, Stratford and Leamington will send their youngsters to the next

trial. The response to this same series of trials last season was, at best, apathetic so come on you regions, it's your Association's future as well as Warwickshire's that depends on these players.

Press deadlines being what they are, I am writing this article before certain events take place but for the magazine issue published after they happen. Accordingly I can only tell you at this time that entries for the first-ever Coventry 1-Star Open and for the Warwickshire Closed are excellent in both quality and quantity.

Head of the list for the Coventry Open is Nigel Eckersley and four other England-ranked seniors have entered. Top prize money is on offer and the ambitious Coventry Association have aims of making this tournament an annual event with eventual 2 or even 3-Star rating.

Congratulations are due to Dougie Johnson who has moved to No. 10 from No. 16 in the England Senior rankings, led of course by Des Douglas who confirmed his position at No.1 when winning the recent Stiga Welsh Open against the might of the Orient.

News on the County Championships front is not so bright, only the Juniors brought home the bacon in the last fixtures. Hon Kin, Dave Ward, Lester Bertie, Julie Harper and Sue Hemming combined to beat Shropshire 8-2 despite a last minute change of venue, a late start and being without a captain! The "B" team failed by the same score against a very strong Leicester team, Barry Johnson and Ralph Gunnion winning a singles each.

The Premier Division team went down 4-5 to Surrey, sets were won by Johnson, Derek Munt and Barry Hayward with Johnson/Munt winning the doubles. I hope to bring you the results of both the Tournaments, the County matches versus Essex and Yorkshire, plus news of the Warwickshire League in the next report but I would still like your regional news so please write.

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- 4 Nicky Jarvis — Director of Tees Sport, National Squad Member, English International.
- 5 Bob Wiley — E.T.T.A. 3 Star Coach from the Ormesby T.T. Club.
- 6 Donald Parker — Qualified P.E. Instructor, English Cadet Captain, English International.
- 7 Carole Knight — English Ladies Champion, European and World Ranked, English International.

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.

County Notes

Supplement

DEVON NOTES

by KEITH PONTING

INTERNATIONAL AT PLYMOUTH

Arrangements are well in hand for the European League match between England and the Netherlands at the Mayflower Sports Centre, Plymouth on Thursday, Apl. 6. Surprisingly, this is the first international match staged by the Plymouth League since its formation in 1903 and it is appropriate that it should come in their 75th Anniversary year. Secretary, Graham May tells me that tickets are going really well and there should be a complete sell-out. This is good news for the hardworking Plymouth league officials and another opportunity to see top-class table tennis in Devon.

The feature of the new Men's ranking list is the naming of Chester Barnes at No. 1. Chester, now resident in Brixham, has been playing in the Exeter league and has expressed a wish to play for the county when his business commitments permit. Should this materialise he will, undoubtedly, be a big asset and his experience will be invaluable, particularly to the younger players who will be playing with him.

The County Junior championships were again staged by the Exeter league and there were few surprises. There was some good play in the finals, particularly two expedite matches between Carol Butler and Gina Pritchard. Honours were even as Carol took the U-15 title and Gina the U-17 event. Paul Whiting was both U-15 and 17 champion whilst Gary Lambert retained the boys' U-13 title.

Results were:-

- B.S. U-11: M. Diancono bt D. Finnimore -20, 16, 15.
- B.S. U-13: G. Lambert bt M. Ellett 13, -20, 16.
- B.S. U-15: P. Whiting bt C. Bunch 15, 18.
- B.S. U-17: Whiting bt M. Shearman 15, 13.
- G.S. U-11: S. O'Leary bt V. Bannelick 14, 17.
- G.S. U-13: C. Trainer bt O'Leary 17, 12.
- G.S. U-15: C. Butler bt G. Pritchard 18, 17.
- G.S. U-17: G. Pritchard bt Butler -15, 18, 17.
- Boys' Doubles: P. Waldron/C. Craig bt Whiting/Shearman 18, -12, 22.
- Girls' Doubles: G. and J. Pritchard bt Butler/C. Moore 18, 7.
- Mixed Doubles: Lambert/J. Pritchard bt Whiting/Butler 17, -13, 19.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by DAVE FOULSER

CATHY HAVING GREAT SEASON

Firstly, my apologies for the lack of a column in all but one of the issues of this magazine so far this season which has been due to pressure of work and personal problems.

This season appears to have been a great success for both our County Seniors and Juniors as well as for most of the Cheltenham teams. The Seniors have already beaten Cornwall, and Avon, and have drawn away with Berkshire whilst the juniors have beaten Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Oxfordshire (the latter 9-1) so with continued good fortune both our county teams might be promoted. All the men have played well in an unchanged side (Dave Harvey, Martin Lane and Bill Dawe) whilst Cathy Robb and Vanessa Cruwys have done well on the distaff side.

Cathy Robb has been in tremendous form this season having a current 100% record in Div. 1 of the newly formed Cotswold Women's League (having been unbeaten against Bristol 'A', Oxford 'A', Leamington and Stroud) and if she can see off the challenge from Swindon 'A' in Cheltenham's last match she will become the first player

to record a 100% record in Div. 1 having played in all the matches.

When Cheltenham travelled to Leamington both Cathy and Vanessa beat England-ranked junior Rachell Mackriell to lead Cheltenham to a 9-1 victory and were well supported by Jan Foulser who won two, although Rachell gained revenge over Cathy at the Cotswold Junior Open. In recent weeks Cathy has beaten two other England-ranked juniors — Jill Purslow in a senior county match and Janet New in one of the Bournemouth Open tournaments. In addition she is third in the averages in Div. 2 of the Cheltenham League when last season she only attained approximately 33% in the same division.

Vanessa has supported Cathy well also winning three against Oxford 'A' and Stroud but against Bristol she was in poor form losing all three. Jan Foulser could not muster a win against Oxford 'A' or Bristol 'A' but has since struck form when winning two against both Leamington and Stroud. During the latter match Jan scored her best-ever victory in women's table tennis when she defeated Sylvia Giles.

Dave Harvey has also been in tremendous form this season, having won the Men's Singles title in the Winton (1-Star) and the Bournemouth (1-Star) tournaments. He also won the Men's Doubles events at each of those tournaments with Steve Moreman and Martin Lane respectively. In addition he lost in the final of the Men's Singles to Leicestershire's Paul Randall, and in the final of the Birmingham Closed to Derek Munt.

Cheltenham's Midland League Div. 2 team have won all but one of their matches and might obtain promotion (Messrs. Harvey and Moreman accompanied by one of Don Sweeney, Roy Fowler or Graham Slack) whilst their Div. 4 team in their first season won two, drew two and lost three (two of them by only 4-6 scoreline) and I am sure that all the players have benefitted considerably (Guy Greening, Clive Little, Mike Hodgetts, Ray Dillon, Adrian Vale, and John Turner). Cheltenham Veterans record in Div. 1 was a fair one (won 2, drew 2 and lost 4) and they were represented by Peter Slack, Alan Williams, Sam Ewens and Joe Cox.

Unfortunately I have not managed to keep track, this season, of the progress of the Gloucester and Stroud town teams but I do know that Gloucester men won 8-2 away at Leamington when Dawe was unbeaten (including a win over John Fuller the Leamington No. 1 and ex-Norfolk No. 1 which was Fuller's first defeat of the season). Gloucester Veterans also beat Derby 7-3 when Les Allan won three but it was in this match that Pete Wood lost his unbeaten record to C. Horn -16, -20. The Veterans also beat Walsall 6-4 when Brian Greaves scored a maximum. Gloucester juniors beat Stroud 8-2 in a County League match and then drew with Nottingham 'A'. Stroud juniors also lost 1-9 to Cheltenham in the County League but recovered to beat Birmingham 'C' 7-3 when Martin Harper was at his best to win three.

This season's County Closed was one of the best ever held. Harvey staved off the challenge of the young lads from Hereford beating Michael Owens in a close set in the semi-final of the Men's Singles which was followed up by victory in the final over Mark Owen thus gaining revenge over Mark for his sole defeat in the County championship the previous season. The Men's doubles was surprisingly taken by Guy Greening and Adrian Vale whilst the Mixed was won by Vanessa Cruwys and Guy — he is obviously a fine doubles player. As Vanessa beat Cathy Robb in one final and lost to her in another I might have the titles back to front but I think from memory that Vanessa took the Women's and Cathy the Under-17 Girls' Singles but in any event they took the Doubles title together. Mike Prosser beat Peter Wood in the veterans' final.

Gloucester were given the privilege of staging the European League match between England and Sweden as it is Gloucester's jubilee year. The work done by both the Gloucester committee assisted by county committee representatives was enormous but it proved highly successful as the match was watched by more than 1,500 spectators who cheered on the England team like a football crowd. The English players responded magnificently to record a memorable 4-3 victory.

I should also place on record that in October

the County Association were invited to send a party of players and officials to Kirchzarten in the Black Forest area of West Germany in return for the trip a similar party from their town were given by our Association two or three years ago. Our party, of 25 people had a wonderful time during their short stay and we cannot thank our German hosts too much. Although there were a couple of informal friendly matches played (which we lost) the accent was very heavily on the social rather than playing side.

At the last County meeting it was reported that unless a few more people qualify as County umpires this season, we shall be in considerable difficulty in having sufficient county umpires at county matches next season. Please do not leave it to everyone else because we all have to umpire matches in our ordinary league matches, whichever division we play in, and anybody can qualify. If you are interested please contact George Payne, 18 Peregrine Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham. As an inducement, you might like to know that 4 Cheltenham umpires officiated at the recent England v Sweden match, and from the best possible seats!

This season's Cheltenham Closed Tournaments are to be held at Cheltenham College, Thirlestaine Road, Cheltenham and our thanks must go to the College for their invaluable assistance in making that venue available. The Junior and U-21 events will be held on Sunday, Apl. 16, the Jubilee event on Friday, Apl. 28, and all the remaining events on Saturday, 29th and Sunday, 30th April. Entry forms can be obtained from me at 17 Moorend Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham or by telephoning me at work on Cheltenham 21391 Ext. 219. The Gloucester City Closed Tournaments are to be held at Beaufort Sports Centre Tuffley on Sunday, Apl. 9 but by the time you read this, the closing date for entries will have passed by. Gloucester are having a separate Finals night at C.E.G.B., Barnett Way, Barnwood at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, Apl. 13, 1978.

Before closing can I ask all those ladies from Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud to ensure that they post me their entry forms for the Cotswold Ladies' League Closed tournament which is also to be held at Cheltenham College at 9.00 a.m. on Sunday, Apl. 23.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. PENNY

TITLE REGAINED

In the Norfolk Closed at the Corn Exchange, King's Lynn, 16-year-old Douglas Bennett regained the title he first won two seasons ago.

Wendy Hogg defeated the holder, Jeanne Brown, in the women's singles, won the doubles with her mother, Ruth, and just lost the mixed with Bennett. For this she won the Victor Ludorum.

Results:-

- M.S.: D. Bennett (N) bt Steven Howlett (Wym) 9, -18, 9.
- W.S.: Miss W. Hogg (N) bt Mrs. J. Brown (N) 19, 16.
- V.S.: Dave Hardy (D) bt P. Saunders (KL).
- M.D.: Trevor Bunn/Mick Musson (holders) bt Chris Bensley/Mick Broughton -15, 17, 22 (after 15-20!).
- W.D.: W. & Mrs. R. Hogg bt J. Brown/Mary Ashmore (Fakenham) 9, 14.
- X.D.: C. Bensley/Margaret Hales bt Bennett/Hogg 15, -2, 19.

In the Norfolk Junior Closed, at Neatherd High School, Dereham, Bennett won for a record fifth time. Sue Browne, aged 14, took the U-17 and U-15 titles, also the doubles and mixed.

Results:-

- Boys
- U-17: D. Bennett (N) bt David Smith (N) 9, 12.
- U-15: Paul Ninham (N) bt Andrew Wilson (Y) 12, -17, 14.
- U-13: Graham McKim (T) bt Eddie Hodson (D) 18, -15, 16.
- Girls
- U-17: Sue Browne (N) bt Ruth Harrowven (N) 13, 19.
- U-15: Sue Browne bt Zoe Nicholls (D) 15, 17.
- U-13: Zoe Nicholls bt Sarah Bignall (Y) 18, 11.
- B.D.: Bennett/Smith bt David Unwin (T)/Andrew Buckingham (T) -18, 8, 21.

G.D.: S. Browne/R. Harrowven bt Z. Nicholls/
Ann Bowers (Y) 17, 15.

X.D.: P. Ninham (N)/Sue Browne bt D. Smith/
Ruth Harrowven 18, -18, 18.

Key:- D—Dereham, N—Norwich, T—Thetford,
Y—Yarmouth.

King's Lynn T.T.A. have also held their championships at their Corn Exchange. Here Geoff Davies (Tydd) and Jane Hunter (Gaywood Cons.) retained their titles.

Results:-

Open S.: G. Davies bt Bob Swift (Wisbech) 14, 13.
W.S.: Jane Hunter bt Anthea Rudd (Wisbech "A")
-20, 11, 18.

V.S.: P. Saunders bt G. Wood 17, -19, 20.

M.D.: Barrett/Archer bt Bramford/Vertigan
16, 15.

W.D.: Sally Hayes/Pauline Hyams bt A. Rudd/
Di Tooke 11, 11.

X.D.: Barry Wilson/Anthea Rudd bt
Chris Brewer/Jane Hunter 20, 13.

J.S.: R. Swift bt T. Bramford 19, 21.

Divisional winners: 2. K. Burlingham, 3. C.
Harrod, 4. D. Ridgewell, 5. L. Baldock and
6. A. Thackeray.

In Wymondham's championships, Steve Howlett, the County finalist, beat Steve Bassett 14, 18 in their open singles, and Margaret Hales won the Women's from Linda Kowalski. Andrew Buckingham and David Unwin beat Les Rayment and Jim Ryder -19, 13, 15 in the open doubles, and Bob King/Margaret Hales took the mixed from Les Rayment/Linda Kowalski 18, -13, 12.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

FRIGHT FOR DAY

In the County Championships, Cambs first team had a narrow 4-6 defeat against Essex. Paul Day and Keith Richardson were successful in their singles, although Day had a fright when he was 17-20 down to Stuart Gibbs in the last set, but he managed to pull through and win. Sandra Harper and Valerie Scripps could not match their Essex counterparts and Cambs were not successful in any of the doubles; Mick Harper, for once, had a fruitless evening. The second team, going great guns, had a splendid 7-3 win against Norfolk and are very confident of winning their division. This is a complete reversal of form by this team and after years of being 'in the wilderness' they are now coming into their own.

In the Cambs League, Ely Fire Service dropped their first point in Div. 4a when they were held to a 5-5 draw by lowly C.I.B.A. II. The firemen, who were without Ray Crabtree, were hard-pressed to gain even one point as they trailed 2-4 and 3-5, but two wins each by Dennis Pluck and Les Edwards, plus the doubles, finally kept their record unbeaten. Press III are now within one point of Ely Fire Service, following their 9-1 win over last season's Handicap winners Haverhill IV. University IV, have an unbeaten record in this division, but will need to play two matches per week if they are to complete their fixtures before Easter.

In the top match in Div. Va St. George's kept their unbeaten record with a 9-1 win over second-placed Grant II. Alan Garner and Robert Custeron won three each and Grant's sole success came when Gamble beat Maurice Oates. Grant's Roberts failed to score for the first time this season. Saffron Walden III, who won their opening seven matches in Div. Vb, lost their second consecutive match when they went down 4-6 to Torchbearers IV, a team they beat 9-1 earlier in the season. Craske (3) and Wattan (2) gave their best performance of the season for Torchbearers. Saffron Walden first team, who are bottom in Div. 3b, gained only their second point of the season with a draw against third-placed Police. Walden were trailing 1-4 and 2-5, but three wins by Parsons helped them to a hard-earned point.

Soham are still ahead in Div. I and I feel that they are already champions, as New Chesterton Institute were heavily defeated by University Press. Y.M.C.A. and Telephones teams are all struggling to avoid 'the drop' and it looks as if 'one of each' will go down — though one can never tell!

In the Cambs League Handicap Knockout Trophy, Soham I and Guildhall have clashed in the quarter-final, so it's 'odds on' that Soham will again reach the semi-final, but their opponents will be a team from a lower division. In the fifth round of the competition Guildhall had an easy passage by defeating Impington V 5-1, but Soham were pushed to the limit by Saffron Walden III, only winning by the odd set after trailing 1-3, but three wins by Keith Richardson gave them the edge. Banks and Eves both beat Mick Palmer and Brian Richardson, but Neaves was unable to score and turn the match Saffron Walden's way. Torchbearers had a comfortable 7-2 win over Fisons II. Veteran John Dyer had wins over John Jaggs and Vic Tiplady, but Mike Jackson proved too much for him. There was consolation for Fisons when their third team beat Shire Hall II 6-3, with Moore, Crouch and Gates winning two each. Wesley IV had a 7-2 win over St. George's VI with Rod Bryant and Mark Freeman doing good work for them. The draw for the quarter-finals is:-

Guildhall (Scr) v Soham I (Scr)

Howard Mallet II (+22) or

Impington IV (+20) v Fisons III (+22)

Torchbearers III (+18) v Swavesey II (+20) or

Swavesey I (+10)

St. Georges III (+18) or

St. Georges IV (+18) v Wesley IV (+22)

Good news for Cambs Juniors is that 11-year-old Julian Wheel, who is currently playing for Wesley V in Div. 5 of the Cambs League, had two good excursions when he played in the Ely Closed and the Bedford Championships. He reached the semi-final on both occasions in the junior events and, as he has won 12 out of 17 sets in his recent matches for Wesley, he must be considered as a very good prospect. Good luck to him and to Mandy Judd of Impington, also 11-years-of-age, who is playing very well and has some good wins to her credit in the Cambs League.

In the S.E.M. League Veterans' tournament, Tony Rayner of Ely (who also plays in the Cambs League), won the Div. II title when he beat D. Frost of Dunstable in the final -9, 18, 21 which was a first class performance. In the doubles John Thurston and Ron Nunn of Cambridge lost in the final to S. Roberts and R. Stubbs of St. Neots -21, -18. Ken Green of Cambridge had a successful run in the Veterans' Div. I event when he reached the final but was defeated by C. Dale of Peterborough.

In the Men's Division of the S.E.M. League, Cambridge lie in sixth place but after overwhelming Wellingborough 9-1 they lost heavily to Milton Keynes, Ely, to my mind, will again clinch the Championship as they recently beat Milton Keynes who were offering a strong challenge. Cambridge are also in the middle of Div. II but their Juniors lie bottom of their section and will have to improve dramatically if they are to survive. They have yet to notch a win although they gave North Herts a close run losing 4-6 and then to Wisbech 3-7.

Wisbech are doing well in Div. II of the Men's Section and have yet to be beaten — so we may see them in Div. I next season! Wisbech are unbeaten in Junior Div. II, also without defeat. Cambridge are top of the Veterans' Section but they must beware of Bedford who are going "great guns".

The Cambs Closed Championships are being held at March on April 2. This is the first time the Championships have been held out of Cambridge and I am sure the new venue will prove popular. As Referee, I am looking forward to this new venture.

Wisbech held their closed at the Hudson Sports Centre on Feb. 12 and were an enormous success according to my Wisbech correspondent. There was a very large entry and the Championships were well organised which should auger well for the forthcoming Fenland Open. Geoff Davies by winning the Men's Singles title, when beating Chris Brewer, completed a unique treble as he had already won the Ely and Kings Lynn Closed.

Results:-

M.S.: Geoff Davies bt Chris Brewer.

W.S.: Jane Hunter bt Anthea Rudd.

B.S.: Robert Swift bt Michael Jackman.

G.S.: Jane Hunter bt Ruth Hunter.

M.D.: Brewer/Davies bt Steve Barrett/David

Shaw.

W.D.: Diana Tooke/Rudd bt Kath Hubbard/
Sally Hayes.

B.D.: Swift/David Brammer bt Gary Jordan/
Jackman.

G.D.: Hunter/Hunter bt Alison Edge/Tracy
Fisher.

X.D.: Cyril Halstead/Rudd bt Jim Defty/Hayes.

V.S.: Harry Tingey bt Halstead.

U-14 B.S.: Paul Stacey bt James Frost.

U-14 G.S.: Ruth Hunter bt Georgie Calvert.

Div. II Singles: John Frost bt Martin Horsepole.

Div. III Singles: Ray Williams bt Cedric German.

Div. IV Singles: Barry Johnson bt Joyce Hunter.

Div V Singles: Don Rogers bt Garry Dow.

Wisbech are top of their section in the East Anglian League which is on a par with their performances in the South East Midlands League as both teams have yet to lose.

Happy Easter to all players and fans!

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by JOHN TAYLOR

JUNIORS STRUGGLE

The County's Junior 1st team are having a struggle to find their feet in the Junior 2nd Division (North) following the departure of Chris Reed and Neil Smith into the senior ranks and in the last round of matches they lost their third encounter of the season 3-7 away to Staffordshire.

Our No. 1 junior Diccon Gray, is however, having a season in marked contrast to the rest of the team and this last match produced another personal triumph for Diccon who won his two singles and the boys' doubles with Ian Reed. Congratulations are also due to Diccon on achieving his England "A" Group status, on present form it shouldn't be too long before he progresses to the actual rankings.

The Junior 2nd team travelled to Lincolnshire and picked up their second point of the season (after 3 matches) in a 5-5 draw. Steven Sharp is proving to be as successful in this team as Diccon is in the 1st team and he remains undefeated in this division (Jnr. 3rd North) after taking another two singles and the boys' doubles with Michael Cairns. Cairns showed much better form than in the previous match against Durham and took one singles losing 29-31, 13-21 in the other. Mark Butcher stepped into the side with Paul Watson being unavailable and played well to win one singles and so gain his first county success.

The men's singles final of the Cumbria Closed held at Whitehaven on Feb. 5 brought together the Nos. 1 and 2 seeds and without doubt the two outstanding Cumbrians at present in Chris Reed and Diccon Gray. Gray reached five finals on the day compared to Reed's three but it was County No. 1 Reed who successfully defended his title. Both players progressed fairly smoothly to the final with Reed defeating local hero Jimmy Cummings in his semi, a match which produced the incredible scoreline of 9, -12, 3! and Gray defeated Stewart O'Neil (Carlisle) in his half.

Cummings, unseeded, progressed to the semis with a win over No. 4 seed David Kilpatrick (Carlisle). Diccon's younger sister, Bella, provided one of the major surprises by winning the women's singles title over defending champion and County No. 1 Jennifer Pachul (Carlisle). Bella also overcame stiff opposition from Gail Smith and elder sister Miranda on the way.

Young David Archer (Westmorland) provided the other major upset by winning the U-14 title over favourite Michael Cairns (Millom) and David is now a member of the County Junior squad after such an impressive showing. Eddie O'Hara (Barrow) became only the second non-Millom player to win a title when he retained his veterans' crown with a win over County chairman Bob Gale (Westmorland).

Full results:-

M.S. Semi-finals:

C. Reed bt J. Cummings 9, -12, 3;
D. Gray bt S. O'Neil 11, 19.

Final:

Reed bt Gray 16, -17, 19.

W.S. Semi-finals:

J. Pachul bt C. Rose 9, 19;
B. Gray bt M. Gray 17, -15, 12.

Final:
 Gray bt Pachul 20, -19, 17.
M.D. Semi-finals:
 A. Pachul/C. Reed bt D. Kirkpatrick/O'Neil
 16, 17;
 Gray/I. Reed bt Cummings/S. Crosby 16, 13.
Final:
 Pachul/Reed bt Gray/Reed 23, -13, 19.
W.D. Final:
 E. Mathie/G. Smith bt Rose/S. Studholme
 -21, 13, 16.
X.D. Final:
 D. Gray/M. Gray bt C. Reed/B. Gray 9, 18.
B.S. Semi-finals:
 Gray bt P. Watson 13, 17;
 I. Reed bt A. Pachul 18, -11, 16.
Final:
 Gray bt Reed 19, 16.
G.S. Final:
 G. Smith bt E. Mathie 14, 15.
J.D. Final:
 Gray/I. Reed bt Pachul/S. Sharp 18, 12.
U-14 Singles Final:
 D. Archer bt M. Cairns 22, 18.
V.S. Final:
 E. O'Hara bt R. Gale 10, 16.

INTER-LEAGUE COMPETITION

Millom and Whitehaven gained their first points in the Inter-League competition with wins over Barrow and Westmorland respectively. Neil Smith was Millom's star in their 7-5 win with three singles and the men's doubles to his credit. The opening set of the match produced a classic attack v defence encounter with Smith's topspin just getting the edge on Barrow's county No. 3 Bill Robinson to the tune of 19, 19. Barrow replied by taking the next three sets, the closest being Alan Manson's 20, -13, 21 win over Andrew Pachul.

Millom then took a firm hold on the affairs by winning the next five sets with Smith and Pachul gaining a singles each, over Manson and Stan Halesworth, plus the men's doubles over Robinson and Halesworth: Bella Gray defeated Sue Williams for her first inter-league win and Bella and John Taylor combined for an important mixed win with a -20, 20, 17 success over Williams and Manson. Barrow fought back with Manson and Robinson taking their second singles victories, over Taylor and Pachul, but Smith secured the two points for the home side with a 19, 13 win over Halesworth.

In Whitehaven's opening fixture against Westmorland veteran Barnard Hand started to remain undefeated and with good support from Cummings and Stephen Crosby. Whitehaven ran out 8-4 winners. Ron Wilson gained another two wins for Westmorland to add to his successes against Carlisle in their last match.

MILLOM NOTES

Andrew Pachul was on top form to win the men's singles title in the Millom Closed with a 16, -19, 14 success over Neil Smith who was bidding for his third title in as many years. Pachul was a deserved winner and he also won the Junior event at the expense of Steven Sharp who at one stage looked to be landing a surprise win after taking the first game and holding a big lead in the second. Pachul eventually won -21, 15, 17. Elaine Mathie won the women's singles title with a 17, 13 win over Janet Sephton.

Elaine combined with Neil Smith to become the first mixed pairing to win the doubles title and they gained an unexpected 21, -15, 18 win over Pachul and Sharp.

Millom F.P.T.S. player Alan Fallows reached a milestone in his table tennis career recently when he became the first Millom and Dist. League player to compete in 200 league matches since the league began in 68/69. A fine achievement for founder member Alan who has seemed to have played to the same high standard ever since he took the game up. Not far behind Alan are F.P.T.S. colleagues Colin and John Taylor on 184 and 185 matches respectively.

The Northern Area Finals of the E.S.T.T.A. Championships were held at Millom School in late January and the hosts responded by getting four out of their five team through to the regional finals. Last season's outright winners, the Boys' U-19 and Girls' U-16 teams won 8-0, 7-1 and 8-0, 8-0 respectively over the other teams in their groups. Gail Smith, Elaine Mathie, Janet Sephton and Bella Gray dropped only one game out of

the 16 played. The Girls' U-13 team surprised themselves and also won both their matches, scores being 8-0 and 6-2. The Boys' U-16 team of Diccoun Gray, Ian Reed, Andrew Pachul and Steven Sharp is also looking good after sound victories of 8-0 and 7-1. Millom's opponents on the day were teams from Durham and Tyne and Wear.

WESTMORLAND NOTES

Westmorland's closed tournament had a large entry of 70 (42 of them juniors) who enjoyed a full day's play at Haversham Grammar School and it was a case of success at last for Geoff Baines who won the men's singles title after being runner-up on at least three previous occasions. Baines beat David Archer in the final 16, -16, 18 and it was 13-year-old Archer who caused the sensation of the day when he defeated Ron Wilson 10 and 6 in the 4th round of the men's singles. Archer won the Junior Boys' title with a 21, 18 win over Andrew Dawson and teamed up with Wilson to take the doubles over Bob Gale and Charles Usher.

BARROW NOTES

Stan Halesworth (VSC) became the first player to win the Furness Masters T.T. Championships when he defeated Alan Manson 3-0 in his final match. Halesworth won 8 out of 9 matches and played consistently well. Bill Robinson finished a clear second after his final 3-1 win over Alan Fay.

Final positions:-

	P	W	L	P
Stan Halesworth	9	8	1	33
Bill Robinson	9	8	1	31
Alan Fay	9	6	3	27
Neil Honeyman	9	6	3	26
Alan Manson	9	5	4	21
Peter Buxton	9	5	4	20
Mike Jackson	9	4	5	19
Eddie O'Hara	9	4	5	19
Brian Sharp	9	1	8	11
Alan Turner	9	0	9	5

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by PHILIP REID

POLISHED PERFORMANCE

Leicestershire's two senior teams recorded good wins against Warwickshire II and Huntingdonshire the 1st team winning 8-2 and the 2nd 7-3. In the first team victory Chris Rogers gave a polished performance in winning both his sets, one of the highlights of the match being his set with the still-sprightly Ralph Gunnion. Although Paul Randell lost to Barry Johnson (subsequently beaten by Maurice Newman) and Newman to Gunnion, Leicestershire took all the other sets of course held a strong advantage on the distaff side where Karen Rogers and Anita Stevenson were never in trouble.

The second team had a 7-3 win over Huntingdonshire for whom Les Wooding was outstanding. His set with David Gannon was easily the best of the ten and I would go as far as to say there will not be many better sets than this in the division all season.

The juniors, without the services of Julie Revill and David Gannon (playing for the County 2nd team) were further hampered when two of the boys chosen were selected for a schools event. The scratch team went to Aylesbury and lost 1-9, Yvonne Hall preventing the "whitewash".

Gannon made a creditable debut for the Mens 1st team in the Midland team League when Leicester lost 4-6 to champions Birmingham. He beat Bob Brown and had a tremendous match with Paul Judd. He had, however, no idea how to cope with Derek Munt, surely one of the greatest servants Birmingham have ever had. Season after season Munt turns out for Birmingham and Warwickshire, always gives 100% and continues to enjoy himself as much on the table as he does in the bar afterwards. When some of the players in the match in question were chatting about tactics afterwards Munt said to me "Tactics? Oh, I don't bother with that — I just carry on chopping!" Long may he continue to chop for Birmingham and Warwickshire! But getting back to the match — Rogers recorded a superb two-straight maximum and is well worth his No. 16 place in the England Ranking List — the first Leicestershire male player ever to be ranked.

Leicester women have completed their fixtures in the Midland League won every one and of course taken the title. Karen Rogers won all of her fifteen sets (as one would naturally expect) but Julie Revill benefited from this team perhaps more than anyone, recording a very creditable 75%.

Ian McKlevey recently suffered a nasty injury when playing table tennis. He collided with the umpire's table which had a supply of beer glasses (recently filled by John Iliffe) and in trying to break the fall, cut his hand on one of the glasses. This necessitated having several stitches in his hand, but nothing daunted he returned a few weeks later to beat Chalky White in an impressive display. Just shows you can't keep a good man down!!

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by JACK CHALKLEY

EDDIE TAKES THE CAKE

Congratulations to the four young players from Staffordshire whose names appear in the latest E.T.T.A. ranking lists. Andrew Bellingham and Eddie Wilkes are in Group A of the Junior Boys and Shirley Cain is listed in Group A of the Junior Girls, whilst Andrew Dixon is ranked sixth in the Cadets (Under-14). Within the County, Shirley is still ranked No. 2 behind Jill Harris, and with Jill's recent win over Shirley in the final of the Junior Girls U-15 event at the Cotswold Tournament, perhaps we shall see a fifth Staffordshire name in the lists soon.

Other tournament news — Wilkes, who has been absent from the County Junior team recently due to school commitments, demonstrated that he has kept in form by winning the Pontefract Junior title. Dixon completed a trio of victories for the County in the Cotswold Tournament at Burford by winning the Junior U-13 Singles and the Doubles with Jeremy Duffield of Hereford. Andrew also collected the Kent U-13 title and his younger brother, 9-year-old Adrian, did well to reach the semi-final of the U-11's in the Reading 'Select'.

The County Junior "A" team are maintaining their challenge to reach again the play-off for a place in the Premier Division. They remain unbeaten with further wins against Derbyshire (9-1) and Cumbria (7-3), and with Wilkes now available for the last two matches, they should end up at the top of the 2nd Division North. Against Cumbria, Bellingham, Rich and Dixon won four of the singles and it was due to the girls, Jill Harris and Shirley Cain, who won all their sets, that both points came our way. The play-off is to be organised by Staffordshire, who have arranged for it to be played at Featherstone Prison, Wolverhampton on May 6/7. Ray Dixon, in charge of the arrangements, tells me that the general shortage of umpires within the County may present a problem, and anyone able to help should contact Ray (Bilston 47848) or our Umpire Secretary, Norman Stanton (Stafford 53996).

Although losing to Gloucestershire 4-6, the Junior "B" side still have an outside chance of heading their division following a 9-1 win over Herefordshire. Stephanie Hadley came in as a late replacement in the Staffs. side and won her first set for the County.

The County Committee is still operating without a secretary, and chairman Don Pritchard is filling in as temporary assistant secretary. Entry forms are available for the County Closed Tournament at Northwood Stadium on April 9, and are obtainable from league secretaries. Closing date for entries is March 21. Semi-finalists in the Beattie Trophy are as follows:-

Lichfield v Walsall
 Potteries v Wolverhampton

In the County League, Potteries teams are in strong positions in the 1st and 2nd Divisions, although at the moment Walsall "A" are in top spot. Wolverhampton "C", Darlaston "B" and Leek "B" are unbeaten in Divisions 3, 4, and 5 and are favourites to win the titles.

Leading positions:-

Division 1	P	W	Pts.
Walsall 'A'	3	3	6
Wolverhampton 'A'	4	3	6
Potteries 'A'	2	2	4

Division 2			
Potteries 'B'	3	3	6
Potteries 'C'	4	2	4
Stafford 'A'	4	2	4
West Bromwich	2	2	4
Division 3			
Wolverhampton 'C'	4	4	8
Walsall 'C'	4	3	6
Leek 'A'	3	2	4
Division 4			
Darlaston 'B'	4	4	8
Bridgnorth	4	2	5
Potteries 'D'	3	2	4
Division 5			
Leek 'B'	4	4	8
Stafford Veterans	4	3	6
Stone 'D'	5	3	6
Darlaston 'C'	3	2	4

In news from the Staffordshire leagues, mention should be made of the new facilities at Norton, one of the leading clubs in the Potteries League. Claimed to be the first purpose-built table tennis hall in Staffordshire — and possibly the Midlands — the work started last May and was completed in time for the start of the season in late September. Costs were kept down by do-it-yourself contribution from members, but the Job Creation scheme and a grant from the Sports Council helped considerably towards the hall which is valued at about £25,000.

The table tennis section is part of the Norton Cricket Club and Miners' Welfare Institute, which has a number of expansion projects planned including a changing room block next to the table tennis hall. Norton run eight teams in the Potteries League and are always in the running for the Championship of the Premier Division. With half their membership as juniors, Norton look to coaching courses as one of the main uses of the new hall, which has been equipped with two tables used in the world championships at Birmingham.

The Lichfield league, although small, continue to be active. Their enthusiasm is not lessened by their lowly position in the County League, and competition in their divisions is as keen as many of a much higher standard. Their singles champion, Ernie Coggins, a well-known former County veteran player, recently lost all three sets to Bound Brook "B", and his team, Bound Brook "A" may now be toppled from the leadership. In the Stafford league, last year's champions have reappeared as M.E.S.C. "A" and are again heading the 1st division. John Taylor is still the mainstay of the team, and with his long-standing team-mate Barry Donnelly and former M.E.S.C. player Dave Coates, they are near certainties for the title again.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by D. A. INKLEY

AVID FOR NEWS

These are the first notes to appear since October and must inevitably contain some news which is old hat. However Pat Hopkin, the former County player now coaching in Western Australia is avid for news.

The old adage that life begins at forty certainly seems to apply to our veterans who have dropped but one rubber in three outings of the County Championships and only need to repeat last season's result against Cheshire in March to clinch the Midland division title for the third consecutive year.

The seniors are having a lean time but it is worth noting that their two defeats were against undefeated teams and there is still a chance of them finishing in mid-table respectability.

The juniors with two wins and a draw behind them appear to have an excellent chance of gaining promotion from Division 3 North. Their remaining two fixtures are against sides without a win. The strength of this unchanged side is that there is only a shade between the three boys and between the two girls, indeed the girls, Pauline Cameron and Kathryn Lindley are alternatively in ranking month by month.

The Nottingham girls are Notts sole survivors in the National team competitions having disposed of Lincoln and Leicester 5-3 and 5-1 respectively in the Bromfield Trophy. This team consists of

Pauline, Kathryn and Linda Holmes the former Derbyshire player who now plays for the County senior team. The girls are eagerly anticipating their match at Birmingham in the next round on March 3. The Nottingham boys, Stephen Inkley, Mark Pearson and Robert Watson had a good win in the first round of the Carter cup at Grimsby but crashed heavily in the second 0-5 against Derby at the Sycamore Sports Centre.

The seniors made an early exit from the Wilmott Cup losing to Leicester in an exciting match at Nottingham.

The Nottingham League Championship looks likely to change hands this year, Conflow, it seems having lost too many points to retain the title. Their successors are likely to be either Green Lane Youth Club or Y.M.C.A. with City Transport waiting to seize on any mistakes these two may make. These teams all contain County players of various vintage.

In the coaching field, County Coach, David Fairholm and Ralph Green who manages the three Nottingham Junior teams are as energetic as ever. The juniors are encouraged to enter as many tournaments as possible and Linda Holmes has achieved some success in these. With the amount of enthusiasm displayed by coaches and pupils alike, one feels it cannot be long before Linda is joined by other winners.

The Mansfield weekly newspaper has recently sponsored a couple of exhibition tournaments at Mansfield in which top players from Notts, Derbyshire and Yorkshire have taken part, I hope to include a report of these in the next issue, and also of the Nottingham's team progress in the Midland League.

These notes do not contain any information about the Mansfield, Newark, Retford and Work-sop leagues, I should be very pleased to rectify this but I can only do this if the league secretaries supply me with information.

Finally the Nottinghamshire closed tournament is to take place on 2nd and 9th April at the Sycamore Sports Centre, the first Sunday for juniors and the second for seniors. The Nottingham closed tournament is to be held at the Victoria Leisure Centre on 16th April. The organisers are looking for a good turn-out at both events.

SOMERSET & AVON LEAGUE

by DENNIS POPE

100% RECORD

Bridgwater 'A' lead the Premier Division of the Avon & Somerset League with a 100% record. Betty Norman, John Hartry and Graham Green were all undefeated in their 9-1 away victory over Bristol Club, they also beat Bridgwater 'B' by the same margin, the 'B' only success being the men's doubles, John Crabtree and Bob Thornton beating Hartry and Green 18, 20.

In the same division Portishead recorded a further narrow 6-4 victory, this time over Bridgwater 'B'. Christine Mohan and Rosemary Weeks were unbeaten winning five sets between them, and Jim Hawkins made sure of both points for Portishead with a 17, -13, 14 victory over Thornton.

In Division One, Weston 'A' have taken maximum points from their three matches, their latest victory being an 8-2 win over previously undefeated Bedminster. Mike James and David Brown each winning a single for Bedminster. The latter had a good 7-3 away win over Bath 'C' after winning the last two sets. Southmead won their first match of the season when they beat Weston 'B' 8-2. Gillian Harris, Debbie Gardiner, Tim Harris and David Nipper were all undefeated.

Karen Hubbard won her singles and doubles with Joan Wyatt for Failand 'B' but this was the limit of her team's success when they were beaten by Yeovil 2-8. Failand also went down to Bath 'C' 3-7, but a good singles victory here for Failand's evergreen 70-year-old plus Nellie Mason.

Both Taunton teams still hold 100% records in the second division. Taunton 'A' beat Twerton 7-3 whilst the 'B' beat the same side 9-1. Steve Kierney registered the only victory for Twerton in the latter match. Despite being a player short Mendip took a good away point with a 5-5 draw

against Bridgwater 'C', Mendip recovered well from 3-5 to win the last two sets. Mendip again finished well winning the last three sets in the 7-3 home win over Ashton Court. Anne Laidler, Jill King and John Chivers were unbeaten for Mendip and Ray Sewell won both his singles for Ashton Court.

Bristol maintained their unbeaten record in the Junior Division with a convincing 9-1 win over Bridgwater 'B'. David Williams, Geoff Totterdell and Nick Baldwin were all undefeated. Weston recorded their second draw of the season, this time with Bath, Rebecca Russe won her games for Weston. In the battle of Bridgwater the 'A' beat the 'B' 7-3 but the 'B' side consisted of 11 and 12-year-olds who all gave promising displays especially David Lee who beat Somerset County Junior No. 1 Mark Lazenby -19, 15, 18. Anne Laidler was unbeaten for Mendip in their 7-3 and 6-4 victories over Taunton and Bath respectively. Bridgwater 'A' moved into second place in the league with a 7-3 victory over Fromeside, Wendy Payne and David Wilson were unbeaten for Bridgwater as was Chris Harris for Fromeside.

Leading positions:-

Premier Division		Sets					
	P	W	D	F	A	P	
Bridgwater 'A'	4	4	0	34	6	8	
Bath 'A'	4	3	0	30	10	6	
Failand 'A'	2	2	0	14	6	4	
Portishead	3	2	0	16	14	4	
Division One		Sets					
Weston 'A'	3	3	0	24	6	6	
Bedminster	4	3	0	23	17	6	
Bath 'C'	3	2	0	16	14	4	
Southmead	2	1	1	13	7	3	
Division Two		Sets					
Taunton 'A'	4	4	0	27	13	8	
Taunton 'B'	3	3	0	22	8	6	
Bath 'D'	4	2	1	25	15	5	
Mendip	4	1	2	20	20	4	
Junior Division		Sets					
Bristol	4	3	1	28	12	7	
Bridgwater 'A'	4	3	0	26	14	6	
Mendip	4	3	0	23	17	6	
Bath	4	2	1	21	19	5	

WESTERN LEAGUE NEWS

by GROVE MOTLOW

DOWN AGAIN

Poole, last season's champions, at home to Plymouth "A" went down 3-6 so preserving the visitors' unbeaten record. But no disgrace in that for under the guidance of Mike Short, Plymouth's young stars, Paul Whiting and Michael Shearman have both received national recognition and undoubtedly are having an excellent season.

Short, himself, paved the way for this latest victory with wins over Martin Abbott, Jason Creasey and John Robinson. Whiting lent a willing hand losing only to Creasey with Shearman coming in at the expense of Robinson.

Poole, away to Weston, had a good win being successful 7-2 thanks to the excellent form of both Abbott and Robinson both recording maximums against Joe Garland, John Crabtree and Graham Green. Poole's other win came from Howard Davies, who last played in October, against West Wilts. Weston's victories were obtained by Garland and Crabtree over Davies.

GWENT OPEN

Closing date for the Gwent Open is March 25, the tournament being scheduled for Cwmbran Sports Stadium on Apl. 8. Forms can be obtained from either Grove Motlow at 29 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Gwent ('Phone: Newport 71964) or Mr. R. Groucott, 16 Birch Grove, Llanmartin, Gwent ('Phone: Llanwern 2139) the joint secretaries of the tournament.

WESTERN LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Plymouth "A"	4	4	0	24	12	8
Bournemouth	6	4	2	34	20	8
Bristol	4	3	1	24	12	6
Poole	5	2	3	27	18	4
West Wilts	3	2	1	15	14	4
Weston	6	2	4	20	34	4
Plymouth "B"	3	0	3	10	19	0
Newport	3	0	3	3	24	0

HERTFORDSHIRE CLOSED

by Bob Bridges



RICHARD JERMYN - Men's Champion



JANET RODGERS - Women's Champion

Clashing styles caused greatest surprises in the Women's Singles event in the Herts Closed at Barnet on Feb. 12 when only Lindsey Booth of the top four seeded women reached the semi-finals.

No. 1 ranked Linda Towler, still shrugging off the effects of a bad injury received falling from a moped in icy conditions a week before, almost gave in to Janet Rodgers in the decider after two very close games in the first quarter-final, while No. 2 seed Daphne Baines was eliminated at the same stage by Sue Felstead; both Janet and Sue fought out the final. Neither player has played regularly so far this season due to injury and illness but both had recovered sufficiently although one notable absence from the championships was Barbara Peters who has been out of action since December, and will be for the rest of the season.

Early departures from the Men's singles was No. 3 Simon Proffitt taken out by Michael Johnston, but Johnston's success was short-lived with his departure in the following round to Jack Bender.

Details:-

M.S. Quarter-finals:

R. Jermyn (N. Herts) bt J. Baxter (Hemel) 16, 16;
J. Bender (Ches) bt M. Johnston (Ches) 9, 15;
J. Proffitt (St. A) bt C. Jackson (Ches) 11, 10;
B. White (Ches) bt D. Seaholme (Wat) 17, 16.

Semi-finals:

Jermyn bt Bender 13, 15;
Proffitt bt White 14, 12.

Final:

Jermyn bt Proffitt 13, 21.

W.S. Quarter-finals:

J. Rodgers (Sto) bt L. Towler (St. A) 24, -22, 11;
G. Calver (N. Herts) bt J. Hartwell (Ches) 18, 15;
L. Booth (N. Herts) bt C. Webster (Sto) 19, 16;
S. Felstead (N. Herts) bt D. Baines (N. Herts) 15, 13.

Semi-finals:

Rogers bt Calver 20, 15;
Felstead bt Booth 5, 17.

Final:

Rodgers bt Felstead 20, 19.

M.D. Semi-finals:

J. & S. Proffitt (St. A) bt G. Bax (St. A)/Baxter 17, 18;

G. Giles (St. A)/Jackson bt Bender/White 10, 19.

Final:

Proffitt/Proffitt bt Giles/Jackson -15, 16, 7.

W.D. Semi-finals:

Towler/Hartwell bt Calver/Rodgers 18, 18;
T. Pickard (Ches/G. White (St. A) bt
H. Bardwell (Sto)/Webster 20, 14.

Final:

Hartwell/Towler bt Pickard/White 19, 17.

X.D. Semi-finals:

S. Proffitt/Towler bt J. Proffitt/Hartwell 18, 18;
Jermyn/K. Morton (N. Herts) bt Bax/Baines -19, 17, 15.

Final:

Proffitt/Towler bt Jermyn/Morton 13, -18, 11.

M.V.S. Final:

Baxter bt A. E. Smith (St. A) 14, 13.

W.V.S. Final:

Baines bt White 20, -19, 12.

M.C.S.:

J. Williams (Hert) bt B. Gale (Ches) 12, 15.

W.C.S.:

C. Gale (Ches) bt J. Harding (N. Herts) -16, 18, 19.

S. E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

Four teams are contesting the headship of the Men's Section - Bedford, Ely, North Herts and Milton Keynes in that order. I feel that Ely have the best chance with Bedford and Milton Keynes doing exceptionally well although the latter recently lost to Ely. In Div. II Bedford also lead but Wisbech have not yet lost.

Northampton lead the Junior 1st Division and it will take a good team to topple them but here again Bedford are the main challengers being unbeaten. Northampton are also in a good position in Junior Div. 2 and I have a feeling that they will do the double which will be quite unique. In this division March (newcomers to the league) are also in with a chance and so far have not lost. Wellingborough and Northampton are in the lead in the women's Section and it will be a close thing as to who will be the eventual champions. Cambridge lead the Veterans' section but here again Bedford are unbeaten and are a very serious challenge to the "light blues" who will be anxious to regain their title which they lost by default last season. Kettering are in a commanding position in the Veterans' Div. 2 and I can see no serious challenge to them forthcoming. Bedford and Northampton could be the "teams of the season" by their current performances.

In the Junior Tournament there were 93 entries and a very successful event was run by John Jermyn. It was run on the group system with the following results:-

B.S.: I. Haines (MK) bt D. Gallo (Np) 17, 18.

G.S.: M. Wallis (Well) bt J. Bellinger (Dun) 13, 13.

B.D.: P. Bradbury/S. Harmer (MK) bt A. Withers (Cam)/M. Fisher (HC) 11, 15.

G.D.: J. & L. Bellinger (Dun) bt H. Cottier/J. Cutler (Np) 17, 10.

X.D.: K. Nicholl (Ket)/Wallis bt Harmer/D. Risey (MK) 13, -16, 16.

J.G. Div. S: L. Bellinger bt J. Bellinger -17, 10, 13.

Div. 2 S: M. Jackman (Mar) bt D. Bedall (Bed) 20, 9.

In the Veterans' Tournament which included the Reserve Division there were many interesting results. In the Div. I Singles final C. Dale beat Ken Green having previously disposed of John Thurston. In the Div. II Singles Tony Rayner defeated D. Frost in three, the last game going to 23-21. In the Doubles S. Roberts and R. Stubbs defeated Thurston and R. Nunn.

Results:-

Div. 1: C. Dale (Bed) bt K. Green (Cam) 2-0.

Div. 2: T. Rayner (Ely) bt D. Frost (Dun) -9, 18, 21.

V.D.: R. Stubbs (St. N)/S. Roberts bt J. Thurston/R. Nunn (Cam) 21, 18.

Reserve Division

M.S.: G. Baldwin (Dun) bt C. Handshaw (Ket) 20, 11.

W.S.: M. Ringrose (HC) bt P. Gale (St. N) 15, 18.

M.D.: D. Birch (Np)/M. Collier bt S. Oliver/Baldwin (Dun) -20, 18, 12.

J.S.: P. Cole (St. N) bt Miss J. Robinson (Np) 16, 15.

W.D. Ringrose/P. Norman (HC) bt J. Robinson/J. Cutler (Np) 12, -20, 17.

X.D.: M. Ringrose (HC)/Ringrose bt

K. Thompson/D. Campbell (Dun) 17, 18.

J.D.: A. Hillard/J. Randall (St. N) bt Cutler/Robinson 13, 21.

Leading League positions:-

Men Div. 1

	P	W	D	L	P
Bedford	5	4	1	0	37
Ely	5	4	1	0	37
North Herts	6	4	1	1	35
Milton Keynes	4	4	0	0	34

Women's Section

	P	W	D	L	P
Wellingborough	5	4	1	0	44
Northampton	4	4	0	0	34
North Herts	4	2	1	1	26
Kettering	4	2	1	1	24

Junior Div. 1

	P	W	D	L	P
Northampton	7	6	0	1	53
Kettering	8	4	2	2	44
Bedford	5	5	0	0	43
Hunts Central	7	2	3	2	34

Veterans Div. 1

	P	W	D	L	P
Cambridge	6	4	1	1	38
Daventry	6	2	1	3	28
Bedford	4	4	0	0	25
Peterborough	4	2	1	1	25

Girls' Division

	P	W	D	L	P
Milton Keynes	3	2	0	1	19
Northampton	2	2	0	0	16
Dunstable	2	1	0	1	10

ON THE COACHING FRONT

with DOREEN HENDERSON

As a result of the wide television coverage of the World Championships the Coaches have received many requests for coaching sessions in schools, clubs and by individuals. To do justice to this we need more Coaches, players who would like to take up coaching, teachers who would like to attend Coaching study courses in order to teach Table Tennis as a subject, to help young players start on the right foot.

Many of our young players come to us who have played some Table Tennis by trial and error and watching others play. This way they pick up bad habits and once ingrained are very hard to get out of doing. We must have a quality of Coach who will coach the skill of the game, and not coach a player to win — the quality of game will make winners, not just occasionally, or sometimes, but consistent winners. Not just one player in a hundred, but many players, all with individual skill.

We have been very lucky to see the Chinese players in this country so many times in such a short space of time. We must do more than just admire their skill, we must endeavour to teach our young players to skilfully play the ball.

We would like to hear from anyone over the age of 21 who would like to take up coaching. We would organise the eight initial sessions for Coaches within your own county if possible. After the initial 8 sessions we would suggest Centres where you could practise your coaching with other coaches, where you could gain experience and see whether you like teaching. **Not all players are able to teach or like teaching.**

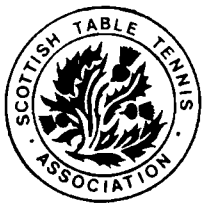
PROFICIENCY AWARDS

It is very nice to go into School Centres where coaches are working regularly to see the young players with their Proficiency Award Badges. It is an advantage if you are a visiting coach being allocated to a table, you immediately know the ability of your group of young players, and can straight away proceed with your coaching session with them.

It is very time consuming coaching a group of young players, and not know their ability — time is precious when you are coaching, the time you have to spare must not be wasted. By not coaching in easy stages you could take a player forward too soon, and do more harm than good.

Coaches make sure your players are progressing by taking these Awards. It would be nice to think that at least half your young players had their Gold Award. Let's make 1978 an outstanding year for Awards.

SCOTTISH NEWS



by DENIS GEORGE

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Division II

We finished our European League programme with the match against ITALY in Milan on Feb. 11 where we sought a 7-0 win to give us a remote chance of topping the divisional table. The match started disastrously with John McNee losing to Stefano Bosi, Richard Yule to Massimo Constantini and Grace McKay to Sonia Milic — 0-3 down and one set from defeat. Then the Scots struck back winning both doubles and Yule beating the Italian No. 1 — Bosi — two straight to level the match score at 3 sets each. In the final set Constantini narrowly edged home 19 and 19 against McNee to give the Italians a 4-3 victory. So we finished in the middle spot in the table and must fight again next season to achieve Division I status.

Scores:-

Stefano BOSI bt John McNEE 16, 9.

Massimo CONSTANTINI bt Richard YULE

20, -14, 10.

Sonia MILIC bt Grace McKAY 19, 17.

BOSI/G. BISI lost to YULE/McNEE -15, 16, -14.

BISI/MILIC lost to YULE/McKAY 18, -16, -15.

BOSI lost to YULE -13, -20.

CONSTANTINI bt McNEE 19, 19.

Result:- ITALY 4 SCOTLAND 3

WEST OF SCOTLAND OPEN — Glasgow 28th January, 1978

John MOIR (Aberdeen) celebrated his selection for Duisburg by winning his first senior title. Mabel NEISH (Dundee) beat Carole DALRYMPLE in the Women's Singles after Leslie

Montague (Glasgow) had surprisingly beaten Grace McKay in the $\frac{1}{4}$ finals.

Results:-

OPEN SINGLES Semi-finals:

J. Moir bt J. Rodger 17, 15;

J. Hawkins bt R. Bhalla.

Final:

Moir bt Hawkins 13, 20.

WOMENS' SINGLES Semi-finals:

M. Neish bt L. Montague -21, 9, 10;

C. Dalrymple bt P. Fleming 20, 14.

Final:

Neish bt Dalrymple -21, 18, 8.

OPEN JUNIOR SINGLES Semi-finals:

D. McLroy bt D. Morrice -21, 12, 11;

K. Rodger bt P. Matthew 14, 12.

Final:

Rodger bt McLroy -25, 15, 15.

CADET SINGLES Final:

D. Campbell bt R. Fletcher 11, 15.

MEN'S DOUBLES Final:

K. McLean/A. McCulloch bt J. Wilson/Hawkins 21, 14.

MIXED DOUBLES Final:

D. Rylatt/Neish bt R. Brown/Dalrymple.

WELSH OPEN — Cardiff 3rd/5th February, 1978

Our team of Yule and McNee achieved their best results in an international team event outside Scotland by beating JERSEY 3-0, AUSTRALIA 3-1 and ENGLAND II 3-2 before losing 0-3 to CHINA I in the Semi-finals. Max Crimmins, newly promoted England team player, was beaten by both Scots in the $\frac{1}{4}$ final match.

Continuing their good form into the individual events Yule defeated China's Wu Chin-Hsin (who had beaten Nicky Jarvis in the team event) 3-2 in Round 1 and went on to win a $\frac{1}{4}$ final place where he lost 0-3 to Des. Douglas. McNee beat David Constance 3-2 and Max Crimmins (again) 3-1 before losing to Wang Chien-Chiang (China) in Round 3. Richard and John combined well in the Men's Doubles beating Bob Potton and Crimmins 3-1 in the $\frac{1}{4}$ finals to win a place in the Semi-finals where they lost 0-3 to Liang Ke-liang and Wang Chien-Chiang.

LANARKSHIRE OPEN — Coatbridge 12th February, 1978

With our top 3 in Italy for the European League match, the chance was created for lesser

lights to shine. Keith Rodger (Edinburgh) seized the opportunity to win his first senior title whilst still in junior ranks. Carole Dalrymple, also a junior, won the Women's title from Patrice Fleming. Rodger also won the Open Junior title.

Results:-

MEN'S SINGLES Semi-finals:

K. Rodger bt J. Graham 10, 14;

J. Wilson bt J. Hawkins 11, 13.

Final:

Rodger bt Wilson 14, -15, 17.

WOMENS' SINGLES Semi-finals:

C. Dalrymple bt M. Neish 6, 15;

P. Fleming bt I. Ferguson -18, 12, 17.

Final:

Dalrymple bt Fleming 12, 15.

JUNIOR SINGLES:

Rodger bt D. McLroy 11, 16.

CADET SINGLES:

D. Lewis bt R. Fletcher 20, 21.

OPEN DOUBLES:

Wilson/Hawkins bt K. McLean/A. McCulloch 20, 6

BENEAGLES WHISKY OPEN — Perth 8th April, 1978

Preparations are now well under way for this major event in the Scottish T.T. calendar when £500 in prize money will be at stake. Entries from South of the Border will be welcomed and should be sent to Mr. J. Muir, 29 Muirend Avenue, PERTH, by March 25th.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by ANNE FEARNEHOUGH

CONVINCING WIN

In the quarter-final of the Wilmott Cup, a place in the semi-final is being strongly contested by Chesterfield and Derby after the former had a very convincing win over Leics. with Maurice Billington in great form, winning his three sets with fine wins over Paul Randall and Chris Rogers (ranked 16 in England). Well done.

In the National Club Competition, I only have two results — both from St. Andrews of Derby who both go through to the next round.

The men had a very exciting game against Barwell Liberals with all the players being extended to their limits. Philip Vickers and David Yallop won two each and Philip played some great table-tennis to beat Randall after three very close games — he then only just lost to Maurice Newman who in turn lost to David, who with Philip and Steven, all beat John Iliffe to clinch the match 5-4.

In the women's match, St. Andrews played Pinewood away with all of us expecting a tough match. But surprisingly the match was won quite comfortably 5-2, when I won all three (beating Lynn Fennah), with Marilyn and Karen losing to Lynn, so we all had our fish and chips earlier than anticipated!

In the January County matches, both Derbyshire Senior teams came through unscathed.

For the 2nd team, Derrick Marples got into his rhythm straight away and had no trouble in winning both his sets in comfortable fashion, whilst Alison Marples and Jane Griffin had to fight for their points but nevertheless won. Martin Kinsella lost both his — perhaps unluckily — and Vickers lost one of his, so the team ended up winning 7-3.

The 1st team beat Northants 7-3. Neil Marples, (following in his father's footsteps), won his two and Marilyn Deakin also had 100% after winning very easily. Jackie Billington broke another record in this match — she spoilt her previous unbeaten County record when she lost -19, -18 to Ann Wilson and then afterwards she was promptly awarded her County badge from the Chairman, Bill Druce. What a pity you had to lose to receive it Jackie! Both Ivor Warner and David Yallop had 50% after winning and losing equally as easy!! Nevertheless we won 7-3.

In the Midland League 2nd Division, Derby "A" must be due for promotion after beating Derby "B" 9-1 (Frank O'Sullivan lost to Steven Macarthy). They have not dropped a point and have only one match left which is against Leics. "B".

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TTN

The 1978 Stiga Welsh Open Table Tennis Championships

ROLL OF HONOUR

Men's Singles:
DESMOND DOUGLAS
(England)

Men's Doubles:
LIANG KE-LIANG and
WANG CHIEN-CHIANG
(China)

Mixed Doubles:
DESMOND DOUGLAS and LINDA HOWARD
(England)

Men's Team:
CHINA I

Women's Singles:
CHANG LI
(China)

Women's Doubles:
LI MING and YEN KUAI-LI
(China)

Women's Team:
KOREA DPR I

singles and sharing in a doubles success. But when that particular set was lost in the subsequent match against Scotland, so was the match 2-3 with Crimmins going down twice to Richard Yule and John McNee.

As with the men so, on the distaff side, England's first women's team reached the semis with Jill Hammersley and Carole Knight recording 3-0 successes over Norway and Belgium. But, against China I, the scoreline was effectively reversed.

England II, represented by Linda Howard and Karen Witt, began brightly enough with a 3-0 win over Canada's Birute Plucas and Marianne Domonkos but, inevitably, 0-3 was the defeat at the hands of China II in the next round. But it wasn't China that took this team title but the duo of Korea DPR whose Ri Song Suk and Pak Yong Ok triumphed 3-1 over China I in the final. Their world champion, Pak Yung Sun, although present, took no part in the championships, being somewhat under the weather healthwise. It did rain in Cardiff, and then some, but that was not the reason.

HIGHER RANKED

Apart from the failure of Liang Ke-liang to reach his allotted position, the three remaining top seeds all reached the semis Yang Chuan-ning coming through in place of his higher ranked compatriot.

Jarvis and Day, the latter coming in for the individual events, both joined Douglas in the quarter-finals but the Cleveland man went out to Ku Cheng-chiang and Day to Wang Chien-chiang.

continued on page 26

DOUGLAS THE PRINCE

by George R. Yates

Incredible reflex play often leaving his Chinese opponent shaking his head in bewilderment carried England's **Desmond Douglas** to final success over Yang Chuan-ning in the men's singles event of the Stiga Welsh Open played at the National Sports Centre for Wales over the period Feb. 3/5.

Having suffered a final defeat twelve months previously in the same arena at the hands of Wilfried Lieck of Federal Germany, the Warwickshire left-hander played with the determination not to let it happen a second time nor did he as the English No. 1 shrugged off an opening game defeat to assume the ascendancy which became more and more pronounced as the final set progressed.

Prior to, in the third round, top seed Liang Ke-liang, world ranked at No. 4, had fallen to the comparatively unknown Dutch boy Han Gootzen, aged 18, from Maastricht, who in the deciding game of five struck a purple patch on which he will be inclined to dwell for many years to come.

Not content with appearing in one final Douglas also made an appearance in two others being partnered by **Nicky Jarvis** in the men's doubles and by **Linda Howard** in the mixed. But Des would hardly dwell on the loss of a triple crown when measured against the glory of success in the blue riband event — the men's singles — last won by an Englishman eight years ago by Chester Barnes. But although the men's doubles was lost, the English pair did win the mixed.

Linda Howard apart little in the way of success came England's way in the women's events with the exception of Anita Stevenson who had a second meritorious success of the season over Carole Knight in the singles from which Jill Hammersley departed in Round 3 when beaten by Li Ming of China.

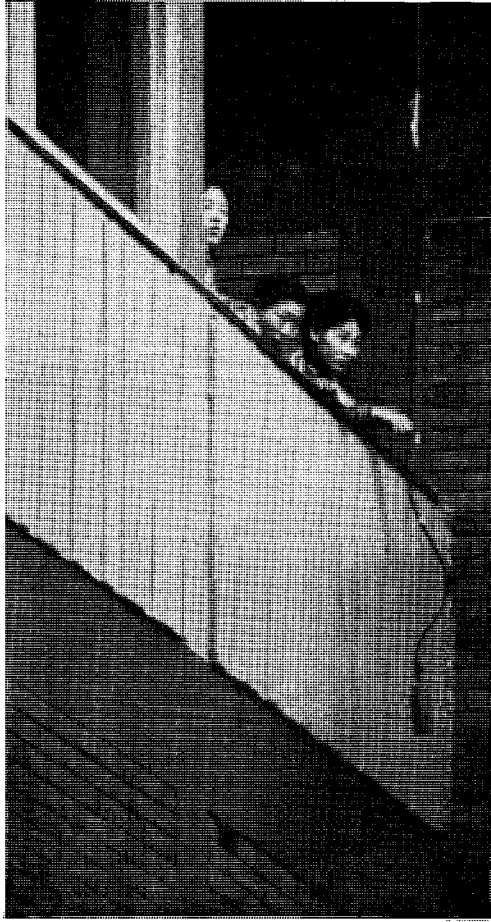
TEAM EVENTS

England I, represented by Douglas and Jarvis, had 3-0 victories over both New Zealand and Norway but failed by two sets to three against China II in the semi-final although, here again, Douglas had wins over Wu Chin-hsin and Yang Chuan-ning.

The second string, comprising Maxwell Crimmins and Robert Potton — Paul Day did not participate — began shakily with a 3-2 win over Turkey with Potton the hero in winning both his



Desmond Douglas, winner of The Orme Cup in Cardiff, the first Englishman to do so since Chester Barnes in season 1970-71.



Pak Yung Sun, Korea DPR's world champion looks down from the Gods!

Scotland's Yule was the player to be axed at this stage by Douglas who went on to beat Wang in the semis.

Poor Max Crimmins fell, a second time, to McNee and his memories of Sophia Gardens would be in keeping with the dripping skies over the principality. Jimmy Walker made the trip from Germany but, after wins over O. Cimen of Turkey and Kevin Beadsley, the English junior champion, he fell to Day.

Yule did well to beat Wu Chin-hsin in the first round, and Bob Bishop of Wales and David Welsman, an Anglo-Welshman, prior to his meeting with the 'Prince'.

In the women's singles Karen Witt had a win over Miss Plucas to open her account and followed up with an inspiring win over Ri Yong Sil of Korea DPR before going down, with all guns blazing, to Yen Kuai-li in the quarters. Mrs. Hammersley also bid us farewell in this round, to Li Ming, and Miss Stevenson to another Chinese Li Shu-ying.

The Yule/McNee pairing kept Scotland's flag flying into the semi-final of the men's doubles with Ireland's Alaister Cairns and Colm Slevin, and England's Potton and Crimmins in their wake although the latter pair did have a win of note against Day and his Chinese partner Ku Cheng-chiang.

Douglas and Jarvis, seeded No. 2 behind the winners, accounted for the New Zealanders Richard Lee and Kerry Palmer, Andy Barden and Alan Murray, Tony Clayton and Chris Sewell and Wu Chin-hsin and Yang Chuan-ning prior to their defeat in the final.

Jill and Linda, the European champions, did reach the semis of the women's doubles following wins over Angela Tierney and June Williams, and J. Toussaint and C. Risch of Luxembourg. But Chang Li and Li Shu-ying effectively barred their path just as did Yen Kuai-li and Ling Ming to the aspirations of Miss Knight and Miss Witt.

MISFORTUNE

Karen, in partnership with Potton, did reach the penultimate stage of the mixed but then had the misfortune to come up against Douglas and Miss Howard in full flight and in no mood to be hampered. Jill and Nicky lost to Wang Chien-chiang and Li Ming.

But what of the Welsh? Only Andy Griffiths, a non-starter in the team events, made the third round of the men's singles beating Alexandiridis of Turkey and Steven Mills of Yorkshire before losing to Yang Chian-ning. Graham Davies, after warding off the challenge of Brian Kean, retired unwell after losing the first five points to Welsman in Round 2.

Veteran George Evans was not abashed at having to tackle the top seed, Liang Ke-liang, in the first round, but scores of 8, 9 and 4 must have seemed like swimming against the tide and George is not a bad swimmer.

As always, at an event in Wales, Roy and Nancy Evans gave of their all, more than setting an example to less willing souls but still finding the time to be gracious hosts as well as keeping happy their sponsors and many visitors even to the extent of welcoming them to Cyncoed Road where the root crops of Korea DPR were much in evidence — hence their liveness!

But from Newport, on to soggy Bolton it was rain, rain all the way but even that could not dampen the joy experienced in having witnessed Desmond Douglas' greatest triumph.

TEAM EVENTS

Men

Preliminary Round

Scotland 3 Jersey 0

J. McNee bt F. Bourgeard 12, 16;
R. Yule bt M. Sunier 6, 12;
McNee/Yule bt Bourgeard/Sunier 10, 20.

Round 1

China I 3 Ireland 0

Wang Chien-chiang bt A. Cairns 13, 9;
Liang Ke-liang bt C. Slevin 10, 13;
Wang/Liang bt Cairns/Slevin 15, 11.

Luxembourg 3 Wales II 2

M. Birel lost to N. Thomas -13, 19, -17;
G. Stebins bt K. Morgan 16, 12;
Birel/Stebins bt Morgan/Thomas 17, 19;
Birel lost to Morgan 14, -12, -13;
Stebins bt Thomas 17, 14.

England II 3 Turkey 2

M. Crimmins lost to V. Aleksandiris -16, -14;
B. Potton bt O. Cimen 19, 15;
Crimmins/Potton bt Aleksandiris/Cimen -15, 17, 15;
Crimmins lost to Cimen 24, -9, -15;
Potton bt Aleksandiris 17, -18, 14.

Scotland 3 Australia 1

Yule bt R. Tuckett 17, 18;

McNee lost to R. Javor -8, 17, -16;
McNee/Yule bt Javor/Tuckett 10, -21, 18;
Yule bt Javor -2, 11, 17.

China II 3 Malta 0

Yang Chuan-ning bt A. Anastasi 4, 7;
Wu Chin-hsin bt M. Cini 5, 5;
Wu/Yang bt Anastasi/Cini 12, 9.

Netherlands 3 Wales I 1

R. Rijsdorp bt G. Evans 20, 14;
H. Gootzen bt R. Bishop 15, 12;
Gootzen/Rijsdorp lost to Bishop/Evans -17, -14;
Rijsdorp lost to Bishop 13, -22, -24;
Gootzen bt Evans 17, -5, 15.

Norway 3 Guernsey 0

P. Guttormsen bt M. James 9, 14;
J. Grahl-Madsen bt M. Pipet 15, 12;
Guttormsen/H. Meland bt James/Pipet 12, 27.

England I 3 New Zealand 0

D. Douglas bt R. Lee 10, 8;
N. Jarvis bt K. Palmer 9, 17;
Douglas/Jarvis bt Lee/Palmer 16, 17.

Quarter-finals:

China I 3 Luxembourg 0

Wang Chien-chiang bt Stebins 14, 6;
Liang Ke-liang bt Birel 8, 11;
Liang/Wang bt Birel/Stebins 16, 9.

Scotland 3 England II 2

McNee lost to Potton -15, -17;
Yule bt Crimmins -13, 12, 15;
McNee/Yule bt Crimmins/Potton 20, -17, 12;
Yule lost to Potton -16, -14;
McNee bt Crimmins 18, 14.

China II 3 Netherlands 0

Wu Chin-hsin bt Gootzen 10, 17;
Yang Chuan-ning bt Rijsdorp 16, 11;
Wu/Yang bt Gootzen/Rijsdorp 15, 19.

England I 3 Norway 0

Jarvis bt Meland 13, 17;
Douglas bt Guttormsen 5, 12;
Douglas/Jarvis bt Guttormsen/Meland 7, 11.

Semi-finals:

China I 3 Scotland 0

Wang Chien-chiang bt Yule 19, 12;
Liang Ke-liang bt McNee 11, 6;
Liang/Wang bt McNee/Yule 1, 11.

China II 3 England I 2

Yang Chuan-ning bt Jarvis 11, 11;
Wu Chin-hsin lost to Douglas -18, -14;
Wu/Yang bt Douglas/Jarvis 18, -16, 18;
Wang Chuan-ning lost to Douglas -14, -19;
Wu Chin-hsin bt Jarvis 18, 6.

Final:

CHINA I 3 China II 0

Liang Ke-liang bt Ku Cheng-chiang 19, 19;
Wang Chien-chiang bt Wu Chin-hsin 14, 11;
Liang/Wang bt Wu/Yang 9, 13.

Women

Preliminary Round

Turkey 3 Guernsey 0

H. Tomsuk bt K. Herquin 16, 20;
K. Poyrozoglu bt A. Lesbirel 8, 8;
Poyrozoglu/Tomsuk bt Herquin/Lesbirel 15, 10.

Round 1

China I 3 Turkey 0

Li Shu-ying bt Poyrozoglu 5, 3;
Chang Li bt Tomsuk 5, 3;
Chang/Li bt Poyrozoglu/Tomsuk 5, 6.

continued on page 28



Pak's teammates Ri Song Suk and Pak Yong Ok, winners of the women's team event.



Women's doubles winners, Yen Kuai-li and Li Ming of China with the beaten finalists Chang Li and Li Shu-ying on the second step of the rostrum. Nancy Roy Evans, Hon. General Secretary of the Table Tennis Association of Wales passes the awards to presenter Patrick Arkell.

Korea DPR II Malta 0

Hong Gil Son bt M. Pullicino 3, 7;
Ri Yong Sil bt M-T. Chalmers 10, 6;
Hong/Li bt Chalmers/Pullicino 6, 11.

Belgium 3 Wales 1 0

M-F. Germiot bt K. Wheatley 13, 9;
C. Verachtart bt D. Coulthard 14, 11;
Germiot/Verachtart bt Coulthard/Wheatley 14, 10.

England I 3 Norway 0

J. Hammersley bt T. Folkson 7, 11;
C. Knight bt G. Hundveen 11, 9;
Hammersley/Knight bt Folkson/Hundveen 9, 17.

England II 3 Canada 0

L. Howard bt B. Plucas 15, 12;
K. Witt bt M. Domonkos 14, 15;
Howard/Witt bt Domonkos/Plucas 11, -18, 10.

China II 3 Wales II 0

Yen Kuai-li bt S. Coulson 12, 6;
Li Ming bt D. Symons 8, 10;
Li/Yen bt Coulson/Symons 9, 9.

Luxembourg 3 Ireland 1

M. Toussaint lost to A. Leonard -14, -13;
C. Risch bt D. Kirkpatrick 7, 14;
Risch/Toussaint bt Kirkpatrick/Leonard 18, -21, 15;
Risch bt Leonard 17, 16.

Korea I 3 Jersey 0

Ri Song Suk bt P. Soper 9, 6;
Pak Yong Ok bt C. Abraham 8, 14;
Li/Pak bt Abraham/Soper 16, 7.

Quarter-finals:

China I 3 Korea DPR II 0

Chang Li bt Ri Yong Sil 17, 7;
Li Shu-ying bt Hong Gil Son 18, 12;
Chang/Li bt Hong/Ri 12, 10.

England I Belgium 0

Hammersley bt Verachtart 11, 14;
Knight bt Germiot 13, 9;
Hammersley/Knight bt Germiot/Verachtart 16, 16.

China II 3 England II 0

Li Ming bt Howard 7, 23;
Yen Kuai-li bt Witt 18, 15;
Li/Yen bt Howard/Witt -16, 10, 11.

Korea DPR 3 Luxembourg 0

Ri Song Suk bt Risch 12, -10, 22;
Pak Yong Ok bt Toussaint 4, 11;
Pak/Ri bt Risch/Toussaint 12, 4.

Semi-finals:

China I 3 England I 0

Chang Li bt Knight 11, 5;
Li Shu-ying bt Hammersley 18, 19;
Chang/Li bt Hammersley/Knight 13, 20.

Korea DPR I 3 China II 1

Pak Yong Ok lost to Li Ming -10, -16;
Ri Song Suk bt Yen Kuai-li -20, 12, 17;
Pak/Ri bt Li/Yen 17, 14;
Pak Yong Ok bt Yen Kuai-li -12, 18, 19.

Final:

KOREA DPR I 3 China I 1

Ri Song Suk lost to Chang Li -11, -13;
Pak Yong Ok bt Li Shu-ying 7, 16;
Pak/Ri bt Chang/Li -17, 16, 21;
Pak Yong Ok bt Chang Li 15, -13, 17.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Men's Singles Round 3:

H. Gootsen (NET) bt Liang Ke-liang (CHN) -9, 18, -11, 17, 21;
Yang Chuan-ning (CHN) bt A. Griffiths (WAL) 19, 15, -21, 17;
N. Jarvis (ENG) bt R. Javor (AUL) 14, 16, 16;
Ku Cheng-chiang (CHN) bt R. Potton (ENG) -16, 16, 15, 18;
D. Douglas (ENG) bt A. Cairas (IRE) 9, 9, 8;
R. Yule (SCO) bt D. Welsman (Sy) 19, 16, 13;
P. Day (ENG) bt J. Walker (GBR) 18, 15, -20, 15;
Wang Chien-chiang (CHN) bt J. McNee (SCO) 3, 13, 10.

Quarter-finals:

Yang Chuan-ning bt Gootzen 9, 11, 7;
Ku Cheng-chiang bt Jarvis 15, 14, -20, 14;
Douglas bt Yule 14, 17, 7;
Wang Chien-chiang bt Day 20, 15, 7.

Semi-finals:

Yang Chuan-ning bt Ku Cheng-chiang 18, 19, 14;
Douglas bt Wang Chien-chiang -11, 17, 11, 12.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Yang Chuan-ning -19, 20, 10, 16.

Women's Singles Round 2:

J. Hammersley (ENG) bt J. Williams (Cv) 10, 10, 11;
Li Ming (CHN) bt Pak Yong Ok (KDR) 16, 10, -19, -20, 20;
K. Witt (ENG) bt Hon Gil Son (KDR) 14, 18, -10, -22, 18;
Yen Kuai-li (CHN) bt Ri Yong Sil (KDR) 17, 13, 12;
A. Stevenson (Le) bt C. Knight (ENG) 19, -16, 19, -16, 16;
Li Shu-ying (CHN) bt M. Smith (Bk) 16, 15, 10;
Ri Song Suk (KDR) bt L. Howard (ENG) 13, 19, 17;
Chang Li (CHN) bt M-F Germiot (BEL) 8, 7, 10.

Quarter-finals:

Li Ming bt Hammersley -18, 9, -17, 11, 12;
Yen Kuai-li bt Witt 18, 13, 19;
Li Shu-ying bt Stevenson 19, 12, 6;
Chang Li bt Ri Song Suk 13, 19, 11.

Semi-finals:

Li Ming bt Yen Kuai-li -21, 17, 15, 15;
Chang Li bt Li Shu-ying 17, 13, 16.

Final:

CHANG LI bt Li Ming 19, 17, -14, 10.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Liang Ke-liang/Wang Chien-chiang bt N. Eckersley (Ch)/A. Fletcher (Y) 6, 3, 16;
McNee/Yule bt M. Crimmins (ENG)/Potton -19, 11, 20, 18;
Wu Chin-hsin (CHN)/Yang Chuan-ning bt G. Davies (WAL)/Griffiths -17, -15, 13, 17, 12;
Douglas/Jarvis bt A. Clayton (Y)/C. Sewell (Av) -18, 9, -12, 11, 12.

Semi-finals:

Liang Ke-liang/Wang Chien-chiang bt McNee/Yule 13, 15, 18;
Douglas/Jarvis bt Wu Chen-hsin/Yang Chuan-ning 8, 9, 12.

Final:

LIANG KE-LIANG/WANG CHIEN-CHIANG bt Douglas/Jarvis 15, 16, 18.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Hang Gil Son/Pak Yong Ok bt C. Dhondt (BEL)/Germiot 19, 19, 17;
Li Ming/Yen Kuai-li bt Knight/Witt 16, -17, 20, 12;
Hammersley/Howard bt C. Risch/J. Toussaint (LUX) 14, 11, 12;
Chang Li/Li Shu-ying bt Ri Yong Sil/H. Williams (Mi) 8, 17, 10.

Semi-finals:

Li Ming/Yen Kuai-li bt Hong Gil Son/Pak Yong Ok 13, -15, 16, 13;
Chang Li/Li Shu-ying bt Hammersley/Howard 9, 17, 13.

Final:

LI MING/YEN KUA-LI bt Chang Li/Li Shu-ying 19, 12, 17.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:

Douglas/Howard bt Ku Chang-chiang (CHN)/Pak Yong Ok -17, 13, 17, 13;
Potton/Witt bt Yang Chuan-ning/Yen Kuai-li 14, 19, 18;
Wang Chien-chiang/Li Ming bt Jarvis/Hammersley 11, 18, 16;
Liang Ke-liang/Chang Li bt R. Tuckett (AUL)/Germiot 11, 11, 15.

Semi-finals:

Douglas/Howard bt Potton/Witt 11, 19, 13;
Liang Ke-liang/Chang Li bt Wang Chien-chiang/Li Ming 17, 18, 17.

Final:

DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Liang Ke-liang/Chang Li -15, 19, -9, 17, 19.

Men's Consolation Singles Semi-finals:

S. Mills (Y) bt Eckersley -13, 16, 14;
R. Rijsdorp (NET) bt K. Jackson (E) -17, 13, 11.

Final:

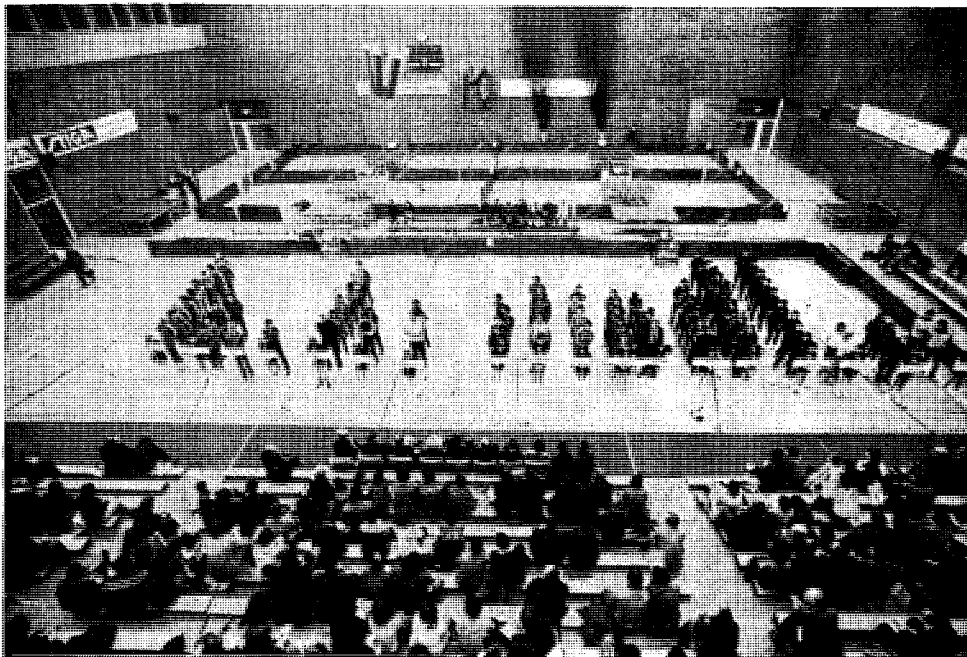
Rijsdorp bt Mills 5, 8.

Women's Consolation Singles Semi-finals:

B. Plucas (CAN) bt D. Kilpatrick (IRE) 20, 18;
M. Domonkos (CAN) bt A. Leonard (IRE) 18, 13.

Final:

Domonkos bt Plucas -9, 13, 22.



The Opening Ceremony at the National Sports Centre for Wales.

STIGA WELSH OPEN

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LANCASHIRE NOTES

by GEORGE R. YATES

GRANADA PROGRESSION

All the big four are still there Liverpool, with a treble from Tony O'Connor, having overcome Wrexham in Group 1, Preston 9-0 winners over Barrow, Manchester progressing by a similar score against St. Helens and Farnworth at the expense of Bolton. Second round results were:-

Group 1
Anglesey 8 Denbigh 1
East Flint 7 Wirral 2
Llandudno 0 Rhyl 9
Liverpool 7 Wrexham 2
Group 2
Blackpool 8 Mid-Lancs 1
Preston 9 Barrow 0
Hyndburn 0 Burnley 9
Nelson 5 Lytham 4
Group 3
Widnes 5 Macclesfield 4
Mid-Cheshire 3 Warrington 6
Manchester 9 St. Helens 0
Crewe 6 Stockport 3
Group 4
Wigan 1 Salford 8
Farnworth 7 Bolton 2
Blackburn 7 Oldham 2
Bury 7 Ashton 2

Maximum wins were recorded by Don Hobbs and Emrys Coupe (Anglesey), Charlie Potts (Chester), Roy Frankland and Brian Carney (Blackpool), Steven Turner, Alan Whittle and John Hardiker (Preston), Arthur Hartshorn, David Newton and Jack Keogh (Burnley), Gordon Sharples (Lytham), Derek Abbott (Macclesfield), D. Stalburg (Mid-Ches.), Phil Bowen, Brian Kean and Mark Hankey (Manchester), Lou Moran and Paul Steele (Crewe), Derek Schofield and Ron Weatherby (Salford), David Constance and Bryn Farnworth (Farnworth), Alan Grimshaw (Blackburn) and Graham and Michael Hoy (Bury).

The photograph accompanying these notes is of that oh so happy pair John and Christine Hilton (nee Hancock) who were married on Jan. 28 taken by John de Pledge of Rochdale. At the recent County matches at Newton-le-Willows, against Northumberland, Christine celebrated her 21st birthday by figuring in a 10-0 win by the Red Rose second team which saw Andrew Clark beat Donald Parker 16 and 16. It was quite an impressive success for the Northumbrian who also counts the scalps of David Constance (Cheshire) and Peter McQueen (Cleveland) among his souvenirs!



Obituary

ABE "PUDSEY" GOLDSTONE

The sudden death of Abe 'Pudsey' Goldstone on February 11th, 1978 in his 68th year, has left a gap in Manchester Table Tennis that will be extremely hard to fill.

"Pudsey", as he was affectionately known to all who had the honour of sharing his friendship devoted his life to the service of young people. For over 45 years he master-minded Table Tennis at the Grove House and latterly the Jewish Lads' Brigade, was a Vice-President of the Manchester League, and member of the Management Committee since 21st May, 1957.

So Pudsey has passed on, but the influence of this gentleman and sportsman lives on.

The sincere condolences of all his friends in Table Tennis are offered to his wife Zena and family.

L.W.J.

SUSSEX NOTES

by JOHN WOODFORD

SAM'S MUSKET DROPPED

How many players in England who have played the English tournament circuit in the last ten years would agree with Sam's latest Sussex ranking of No. 13? The answer is probably none at all!

Sam, a former Nigerian international, current holder of the East Sussex "Sussex Express" title when he beat Roger Chandler in the final, was to put it mildly, a little put out when he read the news of his demotion.

But, to be fair to the selectors, there is a complicated set of circumstances involving the construction of two ranking lists, one for the county championships and one general list, on which it is necessary to place non-county championships players because of other domestic tournaments.

Sam had a bad Sussex tournament at Brighton he freely admits and no doubt the selectors wished to encourage the younger players and again in favour of the selectors he has not played in many events because of pressure of work and shift work in particular, that is the real penalty.

However, as a vice-president of the Sussex T.T.A. he made a personal appearance at the management council meeting at Lewes on Feb. 19th to support his letter of protest. Chairman

Bert Fretwell decided to allow a discussion on what was a committee matter, whereas his predecessor Keith Watts might well have referred the whole thing to the selectors without the members airing their views. But, possibly as Sam is a vice-chairman, discourse was permitted, but the inevitable result was that it was referred back to the selection committee, who are regarded as brave for issuing a list anyway.

I have always said, "You need broad shoulders and a thick skin to be a selector and there comes a time when harassed by parents and coaches you have a right to say that if they do not like certain decisions they can do the other thing and then vote for new people at the next A.G.M. if they can find them".

To illustrate the point, I disagree with the England junior selectors that there is no place, even in Group A for Stephen Moore of Bexhill, "News of the World" Boy of the Year, Hastings senior champion, conqueror three times recently of England No. 11 Graham Gillett and many wins over his listed rivals. Stephen has in fact fallen between the cadets list and Group A, but I respect the selectors right to say that he has to earn his place at the junior tournaments and that means a breakthrough beyond his seeded position.

ESSEX NOTES

by GEOFF NEWMAN

TOURNAMENT CONCENTRATION

With everything quiet on the County Championships front this month, most of our players have been concentrating on the Open Tournament circuit. Young Kenny Jackson continues to storm along on the junior front and he annexed his second "Select" title at Reading.

Kenny takes his place in the England Junior team for the French Junior Open at Luneville on March 25/26. Well done Kenny a deserved honour and a just reward for a lot of hard work. Our other current England international, Bob Potton, managed a semi-final place at Woking but has to be content with a reserve position for England's team at the European Championships, so near but yet so far. Never mind Bob it's quite an honour to get so close.

At the Kent Open the two Daves, Newman and Iszatt, notched the men's doubles title. They have promised to win an Open doubles title all season and at last have managed one. Newman also won the mixed at Folkstone partnered by Canada's Marianne Domonkos.

Most of our member leagues are beginning to hold their own closed tournaments and two of our leagues, Chelmsford and Southend have completed their event. The Chelmsford Closed must be one of the largest tournaments of its kind in England and this season, with sponsorship from the Essex Weekly News, well over 600 games were played from an entry well in excess of 200. Some "Closed" event!

Chelmsford's organising secretary, Colin Trundle, deserves congratulations for ensuring these championships went through without a hitch. Chelmsford's secretary Chris Dafforn reports that some tremendous matches reflected the intense competition played, nonetheless, in a truly sporting manner.

Ron Gore, our coaching officer, has organised a Coaches Conference in conjunction with the E.S.T.T.A.'s coaching committee at Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill, Witham on Sunday, Mar. 19 (10 to 6).

The conference will include many facets of the game and included in the day's affairs will be the following programme: Sponsorship, Mr. A. Simcox (M.D. Actifsports Ltd.); Players view of the E.T.T.A. Coaching Scheme (Nigel Eckersley); Biorythms applied to personal performance in sport (Mr. N. J. Chipping, Director B.R.A.); Communication in the coaching sphere (Mr. G. Steggall, Chairman, E.T.T.A. C. and S. committee); the 1977 World Championships — a coach's view (Peter Hirst, E.T.T.A. National Coach).

Also included will be general discussion and the conference will also be addressed by county chairman Pat Dukes. Fee for this very worthwhile conference is £3 and interested people who wish to attend should contact Ron Gore, 2 Vista Road, Wickford, Essex (Phone: Wickford 61003).

EMPTY RHETORIC

Your February leader (All Very Well) was naive in trotting out the familiar question: why can't we produce players as good as the Chinese? Such empty rhetoric is no help to England's maligned coaches who, like the rest of us, need little knowledge of statistics to realise that a unified pool of 4m. players is several times more likely to throw up the exceptional super-talent than its much smaller counterpart scattered across Europe.

The article betrayed a self-defeating attitude of some officials that the prestige of a few easily won honours in the Chinese absence does more to lift playing standards than the tautened effort required to overcome superior opposition.

If we are to aspire to their level, we must encourage the Chinese to continue their recent visits on a regular basis; then we may learn from them in the arena. But to dismiss them (in both senses) as mere poachers of glory is shameful and insulting.

79 Marine Parade,
Brighton, Sussex.

C. A. BRENAN

Interpret the leader as you may but nowhere is there a suggestion that the Chinese be dismissed in any sense. Rather was the finger pointed at those European nations advocating accordingly . . . but not England, and certainly not Desmond Douglas!
Ed.

REVOLUTIONARY POLICY!

I write to ask you to let your readers know of a revolutionary development in table tennis equipment. I am hoping to patent the "Norwich Friendship Table", especially designed as a Union of two philosophies; those who wish to win table tennis matches, and those who wish the matches to be won by their opponents.

With my new table go special Norwich Way bats which are plain plywood.

The table differs from the usual one in that the surface of the table is covered in rubber, one end of the table being in long pimpled rubber, whilst the other end is in tacky. A button underneath the table enables the player to choose, without their opponent or the umpire seeing, which surface his opponent should play on, because by use of the button, high speed mechanism swoops over the table-tops at such a rate that it is possible to have them changed over again to receive the return of a service.

The long standing problem of balls going off the end of the table has been resolved in my "Norwich Friendship Table" by having pockets, similar to billiard tables, on all four sides of the table. This also facilitates all that fiddling about retrieving balls from the back of the court.

In keeping with new fashions in table tennis of new coloured court surrounds and coloured floors, the table will have a variety of rubber finishes in distinctive colours, the choice of which will be left to the players.

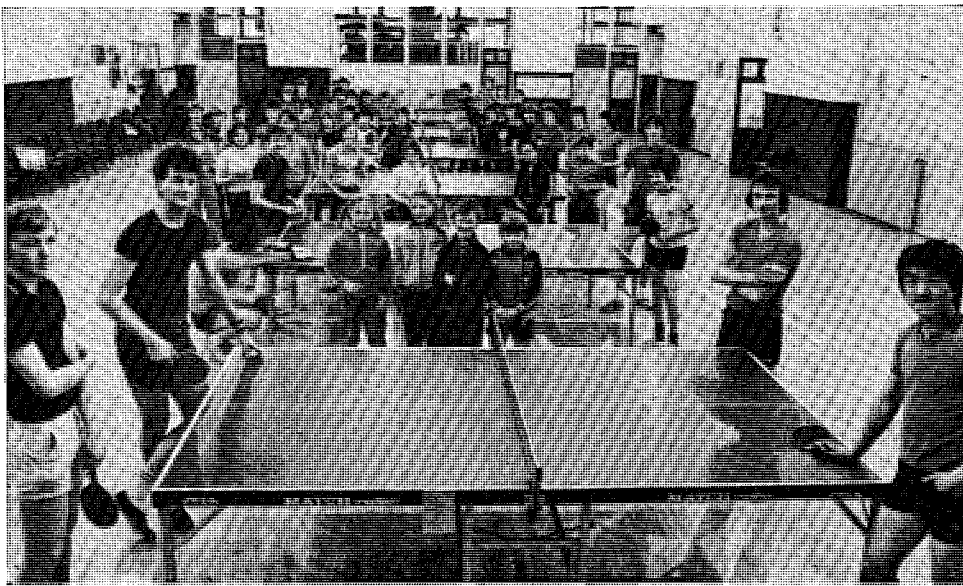
Marketing the "Norwich Friendship Table" will cause few problems — its revolutionary changes will be readily accepted by table tennis players and for publicity, a short paragraph written by one of the well-known ex-English International journalists will ensure support from all Sun worshippers.

I think your readers will wish to know that all the profits from the sale of the "Norwich Friendship" equipment will be devoted to a fund for financing the table tennis team from that part of Norfolk which wishes to declare U.D.I., so enabling it to enter its own team for the next World Championships in Korea, and of course, whichever Olympic Games choose to have table tennis as one of its sports. So you can see this is a cause well worthy of your readers' support, generosity, and of course, charity.

There remains only one outstanding problem before the whole package is unveiled, and that is the question of balls. I am seeking guidance from a number of associations from whom of course, I expect advice will be forthcoming.

VICE PRESIDENT McDONNELL.

Nuetta House,
Let Avenue,
Service Road, Expedite,
Batshire, NU21 CU0.



Standing at the ready for 12 gruelling hours of non-stop table tennis at the Wakefield marathon.

Photo by courtesy of The Wakefield Express.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by TONY ROSS

Sheffield look set to take the Div. 1 Yorkshire League title for the first time since 1960/61. Following wins over Bradford (6-4) and Bradford II (8-2), they require one point from their two remaining matches to put the issue beyond doubt.

Success has rekindled local interest in the team, who have been provided with a smart new playing strip of orange shirts and black shorts by the Sheffield League. Current County No. 6 Steven Mills, former county man David Rayner and Derbyshire's Martin Kinsella (formerly Notts) are the players who have sharpened the attack of the new-look team.

In Div. 2, Doncaster II and Huddersfield are favourites to win promotion, a feat already achieved by Castleford/Pontefract and York in Div. 4.

Lacking the services of Kevin Beadsley and Linda Hryszko, the Junior first team could only draw their re-arranged Junior Premier Division fixture with Surrey, thereby dousing any remaining hopes of retaining the championship of this division. Linda was injured, but the non-appearance of Beadsley was unscheduled and the result of a number of unforeseen hitches in the arrangements.

The sponsored table tennis marathon organised in Wakefield to raise money to provide specialist treatment for a brain-damaged local boy doubled the expectations. Over 50 youngsters played non-stop for 12 hours at the Wakefield Youth Table Tennis Coaching School and their efforts realised over £400.

In the Carter Cup, Halifax (Beadsley, Tony Bottomley and Adrian Roper) beat Leeds 5-2 and next face up to Ormesby in the quarter-finals.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

including matches played Feb. 25th, 1978
(except where shown otherwise)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Premier							
Surrey	4	3	0	1	21	15	6
Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	21	15	6
Essex	5	3	0	2	21	24	6
Middlesex	4	2	0	2	20	16	4
Berkshire	4	2	0	2	19	17	4
Cleveland	4	2	0	2	18	18	4
Warwickshire	5	2	0	3	21	24	4
Glamorgan	4	0	0	4	12	24	0
Games: Surrey 50-36 Yorks 47-42							
2nd South							
Sussex	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Kent	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Middlesex II	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Surrey II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Dorset	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Hampshire	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
2nd North							
Cheshire	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Yorkshire II	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Lancashire	3	2	0	1	23	7	4
Cleveland II	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Northumberland	3	0	0	3	2	28	0
Durham	4	0	0	4	2	38	0
2nd Midland							
Leicestershire	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Derbyshire	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Warwickshire II	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Staffordshire	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Northants	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Bedfordshire	4	0	0	4	8	32	0
not including Staffs v Leics.							
2nd East							
Essex II	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Hertfordshire	4	2	2	0	25	15	6
Cambridgeshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Norfolk	3	0	2	1	12	18	2
Buckinghamshire	4	0	1	3	10	30	1
Suffolk	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
2nd West							
Wiltshire	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Glamorgan II	4	4	0	0	24	16	8
Somerset	4	2	2	0	23	17	6
Devon	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Avon	4	0	1	3	17	23	1
Gwent	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Worcestershire	4	0	1	3	13	27	1
3rd South							
Sussex II	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Kent II	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Hertfordshire II	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Essex III	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Oxfordshire	4	0	1	3	12	28	1
Buckinghamshire II	4	0	1	3	9	31	1
3rd North							
Derbyshire II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Lincolnshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Lancashire II	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Nottinghamshire	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Cumbria	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Northumberland II	4	0	0	4	6	34	0
3rd Midland							
Shropshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Cheshire II	4	2	2	0	27	13	6
Staffordshire II	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Clwyd	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Worcestershire II	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Herefordshire	4	0	0	4	9	31	0
3rd East							
Leicestershire II	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Cambridgeshire II	4	2	2	0	25	15	6
Norfolk II	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Huntingdonshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Northamptonshire II	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Bedfordshire II	4	0	0	4	10	30	0
3rd West							
Berkshire II	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Gloucestershire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Glamorgan III	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Avon II	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Dorset II	3	0	2	1	10	20	2
Cornwall	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
Junior Premier							
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Essex	5	4	0	1	28	22	8
Yorkshire	5	2	2	1	31	19	6
Surrey	5	1	3	1	23	27	5
Berkshire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Cleveland	4	0	2	2	18	22	2
Lancashire	5	0	2	3	18	32	2
Devon	4	0	1	3	10	30	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Junior 2nd South							
Middlesex II	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Sussex	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Essex II	5	3	0	2	34	16	6
Surrey II	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Wiltshire	4	1	1	2	21	19	3
Kent	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Hampshire	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Junior 2nd North							
Staffordshire	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Cheshire	5	4	0	1	33	17	3
Clwyd	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Yorkshire II	4	2	0	2	25	15	4
Cumbria	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Derbyshire	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Cleveland II	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Junior 2nd Midland							
Hertfordshire	4	3	1	0	27	11	7
Warwickshire	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Buckinghamshire	4	2	1	1	24	14	5
Shropshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Norfolk	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Northamptonshire	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Leicestershire	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

not including Norfolk v Warwicks.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Junior 3rd South							
Dorset	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Berkshire II	4	4	0	0	26	14	8
Sussex II	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Essex III	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Kent II	4	2	0	2	20	17	4
Buckinghamshire II	4	0	0	4	10	27	0
Hampshire II	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Junior 3rd North							
Nottinghamshire	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Lincolnshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Durham	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Northumberland	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Cumbria II	4	0	2	2	14	26	2
Cleveland III	3	0	1	2	11	19	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Junior 3rd Midland							
Gloucestershire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Staffordshire II	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Worcestershire	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Oxfordshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Herefordshire	5	0	2	3	12	38	2
Shropshire II	4	0	1	3	16	24	1

not including Worcs v Staffs II.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Junior 3rd East							
Cambridgeshire	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Bedfordshire	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Suffolk	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Hertfordshire II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Lincolnshire II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Huntingdonshire	4	0	0	4	3	37	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Junior 3rd West							
Gwent	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Glamorgan	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Devon II	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Cornwall	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Avon	2	1	0	1	14	6	2
Somerset	4	1	0	3	7	33	2
Wiltshire II	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Veteran South							
Essex	4	3	0	1	24	12	6
Kent	3	2	0	1	18	9	4
Oxfordshire	3	1	0	2	13	14	2
Sussex	3	1	0	2	11	16	2
Hampshire II	3	1	0	2	6	21	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Veteran Midland							
Nottinghamshire	3	3	0	0	26	1	6
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	18	9	6
Clwyd	4	2	0	2	17	19	4
Worcestershire	3	0	0	3	7	20	0
Leicestershire	3	0	0	3	4	23	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Veteran East							
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	28	8	8
Essex II	3	2	0	1	16	11	4
Suffolk	3	1					

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

WARWICKSHIRE DOOMED??

Every game of the remaining matches in the Premier Division will be decisive, but none more so than the top of the table clash between Surrey and Yorkshire on April 2nd at Redhill. They are locked together at the top of the table and should, barring catastrophes, win their other matches.

Yorkshire are quietly surprising everyone by disposing of other contenders in no uncertain terms. Their 8-1 destruction of Essex in January was followed last month by the disposal of Cleveland. Cleveland must now dispel any chance of their third successive Premier Championship; but Surrey, who went to the head of the table after their close win over Middlesex are Yorkshire's most important opposition.

Warwickshire's 4-5 reversal by Essex puts them in line for relegation and with their remaining matches against Yorkshire and Cleveland, their future certainly looks bleak.

Sussex look good favourites to win 2nd South and will play Kent to substantiate their position at the end of the season. My predictions have often been proved wrong, but can Kent beat Sussex 8-2?

Already playing for a place in the Premier next season are Cheshire, and they will be hosts for the senior challenge matches at I.C.I. Hyde on April 29/30. Suffolk had their appeal upheld on the grounds that the Referee had insufficient information — this in Div. 2 (East).

Hertfordshire muffed their chance of going to the Play-offs by dropping a point to Norfolk, while Cambridgeshire, even without Paul Day in their final matches, look certain to finish behind Essex II in 2nd East.

On the junior front, Junior Premier leaders Middlesex took a tighter hold on the division with the 10-0 demolition of Surrey, while other main contenders Yorkshire failed in two matches and could only manage draws against Surrey and Cleveland.

At the foot of the Division, Devon look like going down, along with the other promotees last season Lancashire, or Cleveland.

With new Rules governing players at the Junior Promotion Challenge matches (players must be juniors next season), we shall have to wait and see who of the eligible Counties rate their chances, perhaps without their top juniors this season. Sussex look only likely contenders from the southern section, Cheshire and Staffordshire head Junior 2nd North while three Counties from Junior 2nd Midland will be fighting for the two available places — Buckinghamshire, Warwickshire and Hertfordshire.

Junior Challenge matches will be played in Staffordshire.

PREMIER

Middlesex 4 Surrey 5

The match had everything to please the large crowd filling the Staines Sports Centre which eventually went Surrey's way with Dave Welsman winning the final set at 4-all against David Tan 21-18, 23-25, 22-20!

A. Barden bt M. Crimmins -21, 18, 15;

bt M. Shuttle 13, -15, 18.

D. Tan lost to Crimmins -12, -18;

lost to D. Welsman -18, 23, -20.

M. Mitchell bt Shuttle 17, 14;

bt Welsman 14, -15, 16.

Mitchell/Tan lost to Crimmins/Welsman -14, -16.

Angela Mitchell lost to Linda Howard -19, -9.

Barden/Miss Mitchell lost to Shuttle/

Miss Howard -17, -13.

Warwickshire 4 Essex 5

Victory for Essex after trailing 0-2 — the turning point coming when Potton defeated Johnson at 3-all. Derek Munt most definitely the best player on view and his opening set victory over Potton superb to say the least. For Warwickshire perhaps their most famous spectator none-other than Des Douglas!!!

D. Johnson lost to R. Potton 20, -19, -12;

bt D. Newman 17, 13.

D. Munt bt Potton 18, 12;

bt S. Gibbs 8, 19.

B. Hayward lost to Newman -12, -16;

lost to Gibbs -15, -15.

Johnson/Munt bt Newman/Potton -21, 19, 12.

Rachel Mackriell lost to Lesley Radford -8, -8.

Hayward/Miss Mackriell lost to Gibbs/

Mrs. Radford -9, -10.

Yorkshire 6 Cleveland 3

Cleveland — without Denis Neale — well beaten although Yorkshire required the decider for four of their successes; in a nutshell, Nicky Jarvis and Carole Knight didn't get the support to clinch a Cleveland win.

A. Clayton lost to N. Jarvis -14, -8;

bt P. McQueen 12, -18, 15.

K. Beadsley lost to Jarvis -13, -13;

bt A. Martin 12, 23.

A. Fletcher bt McQueen 15, -15, 14;

bt Martin 15, -19, 14.

Beadsley/Fletcher bt Jarvis/McQueen 14, 12.

Melody Ludi lost to Carole Knight -15, -11.

Clayton/Miss Ludi bt Martin/Miss Knight

-15, 18, 13.

2nd SOUTH

Dorset 3 Sussex 7

Sussex won the six Men's Singles, and led 3-0, but Dorset equalised to 3-all; Julie Reading's close tussle with Joyce Coop really sealed victory for the visitors.

Hampshire 2 Kent 8

Home side's wins both from Richard Bergemann over Clive Morris and Joe Kennedy, both 21-19 in the decider.

Surrey II 2 Middlesex II 8

Some close finishes, but it wasn't Surrey's day.

2nd NORTH

Cleveland II 5 Yorkshire II 5

Durham 0 Cheshire 10

Lancashire 9 Northumberland 1

2nd MIDLAND

Northamptonshire 7 Bedfordshire 3

Warwickshire II 7 Derbyshire 3

A fine team performance by Warwickshire and a welcome return for Karen Groves after illness.

2nd EAST

Norfolk 5 Hertfordshire 5

Suffolk 3 Essex II 7

Cambridgeshire 7 Buckinghamshire 3

2nd WEST

Worcestershire 5 Avon 5

3rd SOUTH

Buckinghamshire II 5 Oxfordshire 5

Essex III 6 Kent II 4

Hertfordshire II 3 Sussex II 7

Buckinghamshire II 2 Kent II 8

3rd NORTH

Lancashire II 10 Northumberland II 0

Nottinghamshire 8 Cumbria 2

Lincolnshire 4 Derbyshire II 6

3rd MIDLAND

Staffordshire II 6 Worcestershire II 4

Cheshire II 5 Shropshire 5

Visitors, looking for honours and promotion let

5-2 lead slip out of their hands.

Clwyd 6 Hertfordshire 4

3rd EAST

Huntingdonshire 5 Cambridgeshire II 5

Alan Lamprell's return to form for Hunts

probably cost Cambs the division!

Bedfordshire II 2 Norfolk II 8

Leicestershire II 9 Northamptonshire II 1

3rd WEST

Berkshire II 9 Cornwall 1

JUNIOR PREMIER

Essex 7 Lancashire 3

K. Jackson lost to P. Rainford -20, -19;

bt A. O'Connor -13, 15, 17.

S. Kimm bt O'Connor 16, -10, 13;

bt R. Freely 19, 14.

D. Charlery bt Rainford -17, 16, 14;

bt Freely 17, 12.

Charlery/Jackson bt O'Connor/Rainford 17, 19.

Yvette Brown lost to Joy Grundy -17, -19.

Maxine Abbott bt Carolyn Scowcroft -13, 19, 13.

Miss Abbott/Miss Brown lost to Miss Grundy/

Miss Scowcroft -15, -15.

Middlesex 10 Surrey 0

G. Sandley bt S. Holloway 11, 18;

bt S. Woodgate 13, 13.

B. Tyler bt Holloway -23, 13, 17;

bt M. Oakley 12, 12.

C. Wilson bt Woodgate 19, 18;

bt Oakley 11, -15, 17.

Sandley/Tyler bt Holloway/Woodgate 17, 20.

Mandy Reeves bt Sarah Cresswell 18, 13.

Helen Williams bt Lorraine Garbet 14, 15.

Miss Reeves/Miss Williams bt Miss Cresswell/

Miss Garbet 15, 14.

Yorkshire 5 Cleveland 5

A. Bottomley bt P. Hindle 13, 18;

lost to I. Plummer -15, -16.

J. Naser bt Hindle 20, 5;

bt D. Hughes -21, 12, 15.

A. Hill bt Plummer 18, 14;

lost to Hughes -19, -15.

Bottomley/Naser bt Hughes/Plummer 13, 13.

Miss M. Sargent lost to Angela Tierney -15, -13.

Miss T. Wenn lost to Helen Robinson -18, -14.

Miss Sargent/Miss Wenn lost to Miss Robinson/

Miss Tierney 16, -10, -17.

Surrey 5 Yorkshire 5

S. Holloway bt A. Bottomley 18, -19, 19;

lost to J. Naser 17, -18, -14.

S. Woodgate lost to Bottomley -12, -20;

lost to A. Hill -18, 12, -10.

M. Oakley lost to Naser -9, -19;

bt Hill 18, 15.

Holloway/Woodgate bt Bottomley/Naser

12, -19, 19.

Sarah Cresswell lost to Sally Midgeley -18, -9.

Lorraine Garbet bt Margaret Sargent 18, 12.

Miss Cresswell/Miss Garbett bt Miss Midgeley/

Miss Sargent 14, -14, 14.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Hampshire 2 Wiltshire 8

Kent 1 Essex II 9

Surrey II 5 Middlesex II 5

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Cumbria 2 Clwyd 8

Derbyshire 2 Cheshire 8

Cleveland II 0 Staffordshire 10

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Shropshire 3 Hertfordshire 7

Leicestershire 1 Northamptonshire 9

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Essex III 2 Dorset 8

Kent II 8 Hampshire II 2

Sussex II 4 Berkshire II 6

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Cumbria II 0 Nottinghamshire 10

Durham 3 Lincolnshire 7

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Gloucestershire 6 Shropshire 4

Gloucestershire 5 Herefordshire 5

Herefordshire 1 Oxfordshire 9

Worcestershire 2 Staffordshire II 8

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Bedfordshire 7 Hertfordshire II 3

Huntingdonshire 1 Cambridgeshire 9

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Somerset 7 Wiltshire 3

After a number of successive 10-0 defeats,

Somerset's youngsters perseverance has paid up

with this win.

VETERAN SOUTH

Hampshire II 5 Oxfordshire 4

Kent 6 Essex 3

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire 7 Leicestershire 2

Worcestershire 3 Clwyd 6

VETERAN EAST

Hertfordshire 0 Middlesex 9

Essex II 6 Huntingdonshire 3

VETERAN WEST

Dorset 7 Dorset II 2

Wiltshire 0 Hampshire 9