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Table Tennis News

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VIVE LA FRANCE

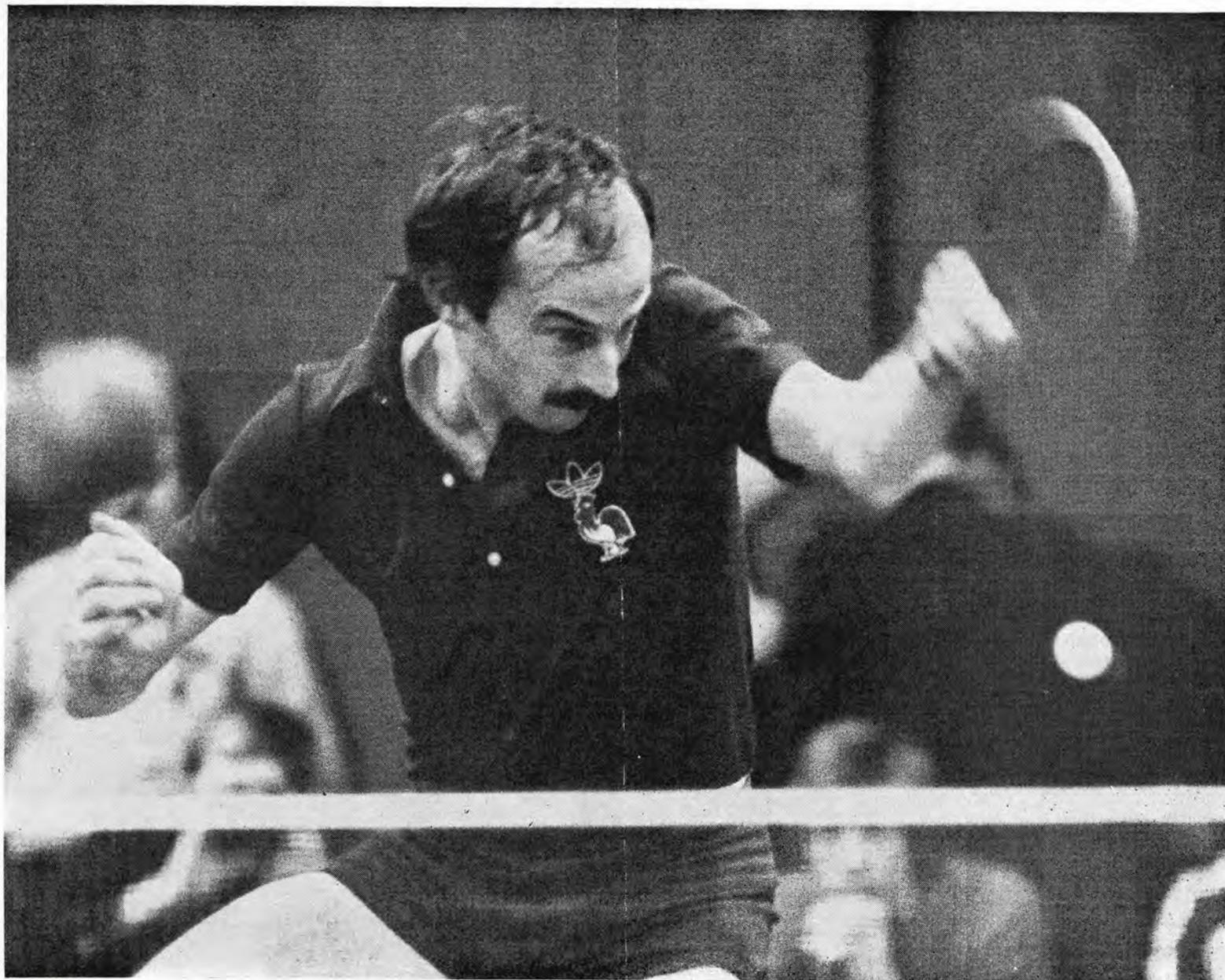


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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Editorial: George R. Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs. BL1 6JH. Phone: Bolton 42223 (h); 061-228 2141, Ext. 2698 (b).

CHAINS THAT BIND

On the occasion of this year's Annual General Meeting, to be held in London on July 8th, another significant chapter in the annals of the English Table Tennis Association will be terminated when Charles Murton Wyles, O.B.E., officially hands over the reins of chairmanship to the retiring Hon. Treasurer Tom Blunn, the Chairman Elect.

A person of immense bonhomie, with that all-important sense of humour, Charles Wyles has, in many ways, been an admirable captain who, as an ambassador, has cemented a relationship with the People's Republic of China which should stand the Association in good stead for many years to come.

Latterly, due to ill-health brought on by the hazards of office, Charles Wyles has taken a back seat, which, in all fairness, was his intention twelve months ago but for the persuasive tongues of his co-officers who were not keen on a split-up of the triumvirate which had worked so amicably.

Now that the time has come to finally sever the chains — as often indeed they are — a vote of thanks is hereby recorded, doubtless seconded throughout the land, for a job well and truly accomplished.

Mr. Chairman, may a long and happy retirement be your just reward.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.

President: M. Goldstein, O.B.E.

Life Vice-President: Hon. Ivor Montagu.

Chairman: C. M. Wyles, O.B.E.

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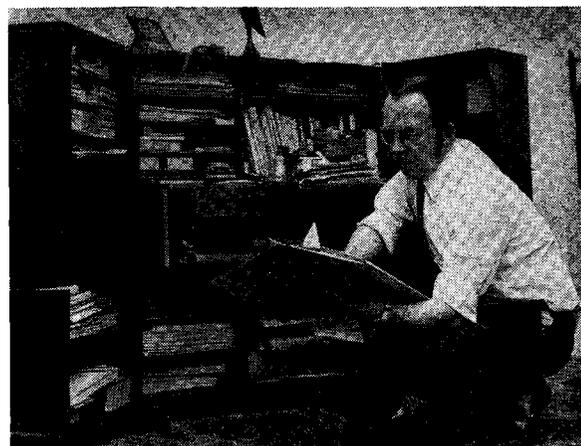
General Secretary: Albert W. Shipley

Management Committee:

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

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR



TITLE FOR FRANCE

Following their first-ever success, last season, in the World Championships when Jacques Secretin (pictured on front cover) and Claude Bergeret won the mixed doubles title in Birmingham, France added another first when, beating the Soviet Union 4-3 in the Stade Pierre de Coubertin, Paris on April 6, they won the **Super Division** of the **European League**.

Triumph came in the penultimate set when Secretin beat Stanislav Gomozkov to establish a winning 4-2 lead. Prior to the French ace had beaten Valery Schevtchenko in the opening set and shared, with Patrick Birocheau, in a men's doubles victory. The other win came from Miss Bergeret who just edged home, 19 in the third, in a nail-biting encounter with Valentina Popova.

Scores:-

J. Secretin bt V. Schevtchenko 24, 14;

C. Martin lost to S. Gomozkov 19, -20, -19;

C. Bergeret bt V. Popova -8, 8, 19;

P. Birocheau/Secretin bt Gomozkov/

Schevtchenko 11, -22, 13;

Secretin/Bergeret lost to Gomozkov/Popova

-15, 19, -13;

Secretin bt Gomozkov -15, 16, 13;

Martin lost to Schevtchenko 18, -17, -17.

Against Czechoslovakia, in Prague, Hungary, the defending champions and winners of both team titles in Duisburg, were beaten 5-2 with Milan Orlovski winning two singles — taking in the European champion, Gabor Gergely —

and sharing success in the mixed doubles with Ilona Uhlíkova. Uhlíkova had a win over Gabrielle Szabo in the women's singles and, in the final, Jindrich Pansky defeated Tibor Kreisz to really rub it in.

Scores:-

J. Pansky bt T. Kreisz 13, 19;

M. Orlovski bt G. Gergely 17, -19, 20;

I. Uhlíkova bt G. Szabo 18, 18;

Orlovski/Pansky lost to Gergely/J. Takacs

-10, -11;

Orlovski/Uhlíkova bt Gergely/J. Magos 14, 16;

Pansky lost to Gergely 16, -18, -8;

Orlovski bt Kreisz 17, 17.

Other than the men's doubles, lost by Paul Day and Nicky Jarvis to Bert van der Helm and Nico van Slobbe, before 1,500 spectators in Plymouth, England sped to a decisive 4-1 lead eventually winning the match 5-2 — Day losing the last set to v.d. Helm of the Netherlands.

Main applause of the evening was reserved for Desmond Douglas whose exploits in the European Championships enhanced his stock considerably but did not prevent van der Helm from taking the opening game off him.

In retaliation Douglas set about the Dutch champion in more workmanlike style to win the second game 21-7 and the third but by a less flattering margin. Day carried on the good work by accounting for van Slobbe in straight games as did Linda Howard in her meeting with Sandra de Kruiff.



Orlovski and Gergely — together in the men's doubles event in the European Championships but on opposite sides in the Czecho-Hungarian European League clash in Prague.

Photo by Horst Muller, Dusseldorf.

Then came the men's doubles in which Jarvis and Day seemed ill-matched but in the subsequent mixed the more established partnership of Douglas and Miss Howard gave England their decisive lead to secure the home victory.

Scores:-

D.Douglas bt B. v.d. Helm -17, 7, 18.
P. Day bt N. v Slobbe 18, 14;
L. Howard bt S. de Kruijff 18, 19;
Day/N. Jarvis lost to v.d. Helm/v. Slobbe -15, -17;
Douglas/Howard bt v.d. Helm/de Kruijff 14, 15;
Douglas bt v. Slobbe 14, 16;
Day lost to v.d. Helm -14, -14.

In Sarajevo, Yugoslavia salvaged a little of their lost pride this season by beating a much understrength Sweden 7-0. And, in a friendly match played in conjunction with Yugoslavia's 50th Anniversary celebrations on April 8, the home team again slammed their way to success. Scores in Sarajevo were:-

M. Karakasevic bt U. Bengtsson 9, 11;
Z. Kalinic bt L. Franklin -10, 18, 14;
B. Batinic bt M. Lindblad 11, 11;
Karakasevic/Kalinic bt Bengtsson/Franklin -19, 19, 11;
Kalinic/Batinic bt U. Carlsson/A. Hernvall 20, 10;
Karakasevic bt Franklin 13, -20, 9.
Kalinic bt Bengtsson 11, 12.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
France	7	5	2	32	17	5
Hungary	7	5	2	26	23	5
Czechoslovakia	7	4	3	32	17	4
Soviet Union	7	4	3	28	21	4
Sweden	7	4	3	24	25	4
England	7	3	4	21	28	3
Yugoslavia	7	3	4	20	29	3
Netherlands	7	0	7	13	36	0

From the foregoing league table it will be seen that there was equality in points between France and Hungary, but France had the better set average and so become champions. Netherlands are relegated to Division 1 after just one season with the elite.

As a result of their last match against Poland, Federal Germany — winners by 5 sets to 2 — celebrated their return to the Super Division by championing **Division 1** in the Sportshalle Corneliussfeld, St. Tonis on April 6.

The decisive lead was taken as early as the fourth set when Jochen Leiss and Peter Stellweg won their men's doubles encounter against Stefan Dryszel and Leszek Kucharski. This was after Stellweg had opened his singles account against Andrzel Grubba; Engelbert Hugging had done likewise against Kucharski as did Kirsten Kruger when opposed by Weronika Sikora.

Scores:-

P. Stellweg bt A. Grubba 20, 14;
E. Hugging bt L. Kucharski 20, 18;
K. Kruger bt W. Sikora 11, 17;
J. Leiss/Stellweg bt S. Dryszel/Kucharski 19, -16, 16;
Leiss/Kruger lost to Kucharski/Sikora 16, -14, -17;
Stellweg lost to Kucharski -11, -18;
Hugging bt Grubba 14, 16.

Belgium, in losing 1-6 to Luxembourg, find themselves relegated to Division 2, to be replaced by Italy next season. In Luxembourg only Marie-France Germiot met with success when she beat Jeanny Dom otherwise it was the home team that dominated.

Scores:-

C. Putz bt R. Frisque 18, 26;
A. Hartmann bt L. Belien 6, -15, 16;
J. Dom lost to M-F. Germiot -19, -18;
Hartmann/Putz bt Belien/Frisque 15, 8;
Hartmann/Dom bt Frisque/Germiot 17, -17, 8;
Putz bt Belien -19, 17, 16;
Hartmann bt Frisque 17, 11.

Ireland (as reported elsewhere) were beaten 5-2 by Austria in Judenburg whilst Bulgaria, in Sofia, accounted for Greece 7-0.

Scores:-

I. Stojanov bt A. Vakoulis 10, -19, 17;
S. Ribantchov bt A. Dessis 13, 7;
A. Rangelova bt I. Moraitou 14, 14;
N. Agopian/Ribantchov bt Dessis/Vakoulis 17, 19;



Federal Germany's national champion Engelbert Hugging who won his two sets against Poland in St. Tonis.

Photo by Rzepka, Delmenhorst.

Stojanov/Rangelova bt Dessis/Moraitou 21, 13;
Stojanov bt Dessis 10, 15;
Ribantchov bt Vakoulis 17, 9.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Federal Germany	7	7	0	45	4	7
Poland	7	6	1	36	13	6
Bulgaria	7	4	3	29	17	4
Austria	7	4	3	23	26	3
Luxembourg	7	3	4	18	31	3
Greece	7	2	5	16	33	2
Ireland	7	1	6	14	32	1
Belgium	7	1	6	12	37	1

Italy, as previously reported, are the champions of Division 2 and go up to Division 1, whilst Switzerland are relegated to Division 2. Turkey, the Division 3 champions are promoted to Division 2. Fixtures for the 1978/79 season are:-

SUPER DIVISION

1978
September 28
Hungary v Federal Germany
Soviet Union v France
Sweden v Czechoslovakia
Yugoslavia v **England**
October 12
Yugoslavia v Hungary
France v **England**
Federal Germany v Sweden
Czechoslovakia v Soviet Union
November 8
Soviet Union v Hungary
France v Czechoslovakia
Sweden v Yugoslavia
England v Federal Germany (Preston)
December 7
Hungary v France
Soviet Union v Sweden
England v Czechoslovakia (Hull or Dewsbury)
Federal Germany v Yugoslavia
1979
January 17
Hungary v Czechoslovakia
Yugoslavia v France
Sweden v **England**
Federal Germany v Soviet Union
February 7
England v Hungary (Belper)
France v Sweden
Soviet Union v Yugoslavia
Czechoslovakia v Federal Germany

March 8
Sweden v Hungary
France v Federal Germany
England v Soviet Union (Southend)
Czechoslovakia v Yugoslavia

DIVISION ONE

1978
September 28
Netherlands v Italy
Poland v **Ireland**
Bulgaria v Luxembourg
Greece v Austria

October 12
Ireland v Netherlands
Luxembourg v Poland
Austria v Bulgaria
Italy v Greece

November 8
Netherlands v Luxembourg
Poland v Austria
Greece v Bulgaria
Italy v **Ireland**

December 7
Austria v Netherlands
Greece v Poland
Bulgaria v Italy
Ireland v Luxembourg

1979
January 17
Netherlands v Greece
Poland v Bulgaria
Ireland v Austria
Italy v Luxembourg

February 7
Bulgaria v Netherlands
Poland v Italy
Greece v **Ireland**
Luxembourg v Austria

March 8
Netherlands v Poland
Ireland v Bulgaria
Luxembourg v Greece
Austria v Italy

DIVISION TWO

1978
October 12
Switzerland v **Scotland**
Turkey v Finland
November 8
Spain v Turkey
Finland v Switzerland

December 7
Scotland v Finland
 Switzerland v Spain
1979

January 17
 Turkey v Switzerland
 Spain v **Scotland**

February 7
Scotland v Turkey
 Finland v Spain

DIVISION THREE

The following will probably play in Division 3, but arrangements for date and venue are not yet finalised:- Denmark, **Guernsey**, Jersey, Malta, Norway, Portugal and Rumania.

EQUIPMENT ADOPTIONS

The undermentioned equipment has been adopted for use in the European League in Seasons 1978/79 and 1979/80.

Tables —
 Super Division — Stiga
 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions — Butterfly Europa

Nets —
 Super Division — Stiga
 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions — Joola

Balls —
 All Divisions — Barna Super

Counters —
 Super Division — Joola
 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions — Butterfly Europa

Surrounds—
 Super Division — Joola
 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions — Butterfly Europa

Manufacturers will be writing direct to the Associations involved asking for forwarding instructions for the equipment to be supplied free of charge under the terms of the contracts.

E.T.T.U. COACHING COURSE

The Federal German T.T.A. are to organise a European Table Tennis Coaching course in either Osnabruck or Heidelberg during August, 1978, when the following Associations are invited to

send two players each plus one coach:- Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Guernsey, Ireland, Italy, Jersey, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Wales.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

This season's European Youth Championships are to be held in Barcelona, Spain from July 22 - 30, 1978.

E.T.T.U. CONGRESS, DUISBURG

All four officers of the European Table Tennis Union were returned unopposed at the Congress held in Duisburg during the period of the 11th European Championships. They are:-

President: Jupp Schlaf, Federal Germany.
 Vice-President: Mr. Josef Nekvasil, Czechoslovakia.
 Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Henk van Dilst, Netherlands.
 Hon. General Secretary: Mrs. Nancy Evans, Wales.

A ballot took place for the seven places on the Management Committee with the following results:-

Elected
 Dr. G. Lakatos (Hungary) 25 votes
 S. O. Hammerlund (Sweden) 21 votes
 M. Kapentanic (Yugoslavia) 21 votes
 J. Dahowski (Poland) 17 votes
G. R. Yates (England) 17 votes
 S. Danet (Rumania) 16 votes
 Dr. K. Smekal (Austria) 13 votes
 Not Elected
 Madame M. Asderis (Greece) 9 votes
 R. Champdorge (France) 7 votes
 D. T. Ciper (Turkey) 7 votes
 J. Salichs (Spain) 5 votes

E.T.T.U. COMMITTEES

The Election of Chairmen and Corresponding Members of E.T.T.U. Committees resulted:-

Classification
Members:
Dr. Georgy Lakatos (Hungary) - Chairman.
 Andre Damman (Belgium); Jaroslav Stanek (Czechoslovakia) and Stanko Rebolj (Yugoslavia).

Publicity:
George R. Yates (England) - Chairman.
 Bas den Breejen (Netherlands); Mihaly Kozak (Hungary) and Felix Przybylski (Poland).

Referees:
Dr. Karl Smekal (Austria) - Chairman.
 Hans Giesecke (Federal Germany); Dr. Pavol Hajek (Czechoslovakia) and Dr. Gabor Diner (Hungary).

Technical:
Mihovil Kapetanic (Yugoslavia) - Chairman.
 Danyal Ciper (Turkey); Georges Rolamd (Belgium) and Urs Wymann (Switzerland).

Teaching and Training:
Sven-olof Hammerlund (Sweden) - Chairman.
 Dr. Ernest Demetrovic (Czechoslovakia); Martin Sklorz (Federal Germany); Charles Roesch (France) and Ella Constantinescu (Rumania).

Youth:
Sever Danet (Rumania) - Chairman.
 Hans-Jurgen Haase (Federal Germany); Jean Devys (France) and Juan Perales (Spain).

Health and Fitness:
Jerzy Dachowski (Poland) - Chairman.
 Goran Aronson (Sweden); Karel Koerts (Netherlands) and Georghe Enache (Rumania).

OPTIONS

The 12th European Championships will take place in Berne, Switzerland (April 4-15, 1980). The venue would be the Ice Palace with seating for 15,000 spectators. Jupp Schlaf, the E.T.T.U. President, stated that the situation after 1980 was still undecided. The Hungarian Association would like to have the option for 1982, but it was dependent on their new stadium being ready. Yugoslavia would be willing to host the event in 1982 if Hungary was not ready, and it was therefore agreed that in 1982, the Championships would be in either Hungary or Yugoslavia, in 1984 Hungary or Yugoslavia and in 1986 - Czechoslovakia.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

This season's European Youth Championships are to be held in Barcelona, Spain from July 22/30, 1978. In 1979, the Championships would probably be held in Italy. Further options were afforded Poland (1980) and Czechoslovakia (1981).

TOP 12 TOURNAMENT

Next Season's Europe Top 12 will be in Sweden, in Sodertalje on Feb. 16/18, 1979. Further options have been listed as follows:-

1980 Federal Germany
 1981 Hungary
 1982 France
1983 England
 1984 Czechoslovakia
 1985 Spain
 1986 Sweden

THE PROFESSIONALS

(PERMIT MEMBERS)

by Albert W. Shipley, Gen. Sec., E.T.T.A.

At the Biennial General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held during the World Championships in Birmingham, a significant change was made in the I.T.T.F. constitution to allow table tennis to be recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

The major effect of this change was that in many countries it gave the sport the prestige required for it to receive financial assistance from their National Olympic Committee.

As a consequence, the I.T.T.F. Constitution had to include the definition of an amateur, instead of simply referring to "players", as it had done for over 40 years along with the constitution of the E.T.T.A.

One of the requirements under the new I.T.T.F. rules was that member associations must maintain a register of its players who are classified as professional, and shall make the register available for inspection by the I.T.T.F. on request.

This posed no problem to the E.T.T.A. for this is exactly the end result of our Permit Member regulations, but it does emphasise the need for all members who earn money from playing, coaching, writing, etc. to register as a Permit Member.

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MIDDLESEX JUNIOR AND CADET AUTHORISED CHAMPIONSHIPS

BERKSHIRE TRIUMPHANT

by John Wright

Played at the South Ruislip Leisure Centre on Sunday, 19th March, and with £130 of Gift Vouchers generously provided by CURRYS, The Middlesex Junior and Cadet Authorised Championships did not this season attract entries from the highest ranked players and it was therefore particularly pleasant to see David Barr, the highest ranked boy competing, and Mandy Smith, second highest girl, rewarded by success for putting their reputations on the line. In these days, when it seems certain players enter tournaments to gain a high ranking position, and then fail to give others the opportunity to knock them from their exalted positions, I must applaud the attitude of these Berkshire players, together with Alison Gordon and their coaches, for setting an example all should follow.

No entries were received from Beadsley (doesn't like Halex balls — believed a new excuse — England selectors please note), from Jackson (replied almost 3 weeks after the closing date, and then to the wrong address, that he had other commitments), Sandley (honest — he did not want to play); then "family reasons" caused Green to withdraw a few days before the event. Alan Ransome "regretted the heavy Cleveland programme ruled out a further London visit" — this took away Tierney and several boys but this reply was received in plenty of time. But, enough of those who didn't go, and now for those who did!

The very late arrival of Skylett Andrew gave a walkover in Group A to Stuart Kimm who shortly after lost to Sam Harmer. Kimm suffered no more group defeats and the last match in that group saw Stephen Holloway beating Andrew to level with him on sets won. The better game average of Holloway put him through as group A runner-up to Kimm. Group B was straight

forward, with neither Barr nor Colin Wilson dropping a game although Robert Swift got 20 and 21 off Wilson. The last set in this group saw Wilson polish off Barr 14, 11 to put Wilson winner and Barr runner-up. John Souter, thought a probable scratching through illness, sailed through as Group C winner despite dropping the second game to Graham Gillett. Desmond Charlery was in good form in this group and came through as runner-up. Tony Bottomley and Andrew Bellingham took full advantage of the transfer of Kimm to group A, with Bellingham (three times needing a deciding game) the winner and Bottomley runner-up.

In the quarters, Barr quickly polished off Kimm and Bellingham disposed of Charlery; Souter's effort was ended by Bottomley and Wilson clearly knew too much for Holloway. Two splendid semis followed, with Barr fighting every inch of the way to overcome Bellingham and Bottomley disposing of a fourth Middlesex player (he had two in his group) when he just beat Wilson. Barr never really looked like going under to Bottomley in the final which was something of an anticlimax.

Alison Gordon headed the first girls group, E, beating Mandy Reeves -17, 13, 19 in the last set. These two went into the quarters as winner and runner-up, Alison having surprisingly dropped the second game to Sarah Cresswell and Mandy having done similarly against Claire Maisey. In Group F Mandy Smith was given a fright by Helen Williams before winning 17, -17, 19 but Helen had earlier lost -17, -8 to Gillian Galloway and it was Gillian who took 2nd place. Sally Midgley, absent though the illness of her father, made life easier for Jill Purslow in Group G but Jill went down -11, 16, -20 to Julie Dowsett but whipped Gina Pritchard 11, -15, 8. Gina then beat Julie -14, 23, 15 and a triple tie looked very much on the cards when Gina went on to play Nicky Hayward in the last set of the group. But Stew Dane was saved the need to count up points when Nicky produced some of the best play of her career to win -21, 18, 19 leaving Jill top (5 wins, 11-3 games), Julie 2nd (5, 11-4) and Gina 3rd (4, 10-5). A super group. Linda Holmes dropped but one game in winning Group H, weakened when Linda Hryszko notified that her injured wrist had not recovered, and Shirley Cain, three times needed the deciding game before taking 2nd place.

Alison Gordon soon ended the challenge of Shirley Cain in the quarters and then took out

Gillian Galloway in a good semi, Gillian having recorded a fine win over Jill Purslow. Mrs. Smith had not enthused over Mandy's quarter-final draw v Mandy Reeves and the closeness of her daughter's win must have given her much alarm, but she did come through to a semi meeting with Linda Holmes, comfortable winner over Julie Dowsett. Then more cause for alarm for Mrs. Smith before Mandy overcame the brave challenge for a final encounter with Alison. Too well do these two players know each other's game for one to expect a classic, and on this occasion it was Mandy who triumphed in convincing fashion.

Stuart Palmer and Andrew Dixon finished at the head of Group J of the Cadet Boys, each having 6 wins with Palmer's 12-2 game average clearly better than Dixon's 12-5. Ian Attridge with 5 wins was 3rd, and must have been bitterly disappointed by his opening set defeat by Bruce Collingwood -19, 11, -21: but for that a triple tie would have been likely! There was a triple tie at the head of Group K, Jeremy Duffield (5, 12-5), Stephen Edwards (5, 11-6) and Philip Bradbury (5, 11-8) finishing in that order. Duffield lost to both these two, Edwards to Bradbury and David Pilling, and Bradbury to David Sharpe and Graham Russell, the last named having a very thin time of it. Palmer dropped the first game in the semi v Edwards, and the second to Duffield in the final which was a little disappointing. Duffield had beaten Dixon in straight games in the other semi — another meeting of players well known to each other.

What a tussle in the Cadet Girls group! Jackie Bellinger lost early on, -13, -21 to sister Lisa; then Lisa lost to the very useful Cherry Creasey (who had already beaten Melanie Ringrose). A second defeat for Lisa, to Melanie, seemed to leave the way clear for Cherry, but she fell -15, 19, -18 to Jackie. Girls and parents were doing frantic sums and it was agreed that the outcome rested on Jackie's set with Melanie and that if she won that in straight games she took the title. This she did, despite Cherry's final victory in straight games over Yvonne Hall, Jackie having 6 wins and a game average of 12-3 against Cherry's 6 and 13-4. Lisa, with 5 wins, was 3rd and Melanie 4th (4, 10-8) just pipping Kim Mudge (4, 9-8). A really splendid tournament, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

JUNIOR BOYS

Quarter-finals:

D. Barr (Bk) bt S. Kimm (E) 15, 18.
A. Bellingham (St) bt D. Charlery (E) 23, 15.
A. Bottomley (Y) bt J. Souter (Mi) 10, 22.
C. Wilson (Mi) bt S. Holloway (Sy) 16, 17.

Semi-finals:

Barr bt Bellingham -18, 12, 17.
Bottomley bt Wilson 9, -15, 18.

Final:

Barr bt Bottomley 16, 16.

JUNIOR GIRLS

Quarter-finals:

M. Smith (Bk) bt M. Reeves (Mi) 18, -18, 17.
L. Holmes (Dy) bt J. Dowsett (E) 11, 14.
A. Gordon (Bk) bt S. Cain (St) 15, 15.
G. Galloway (Li) bt J. Purslow (Bk) -15, 20, 18.

Semi-finals:

Smith bt Holmes 12, -20, 17.
Gordon bt Galloway 18, 16.

Final:

Smith bt Gordon 11, 18.

CADET BOYS

Semi-finals:

S. Palmer (Sk) bt S. Edwards (E) -16, 14, 14.
J. Duffield (Wo) bt A. Dixon (St) 19, 16.

Final:

Palmer bt Duffield 13, -18, 12.

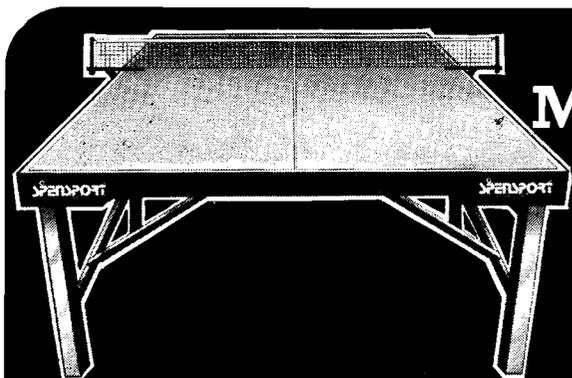
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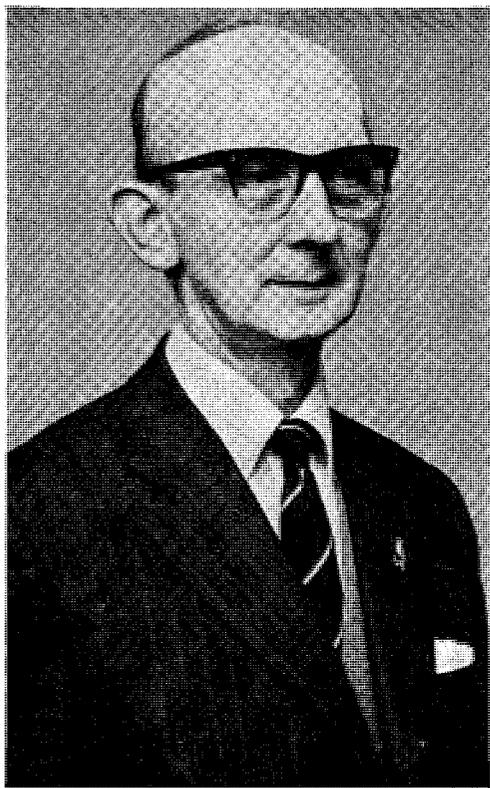
CHAIRMAN ELECT

Following the retirement of Charles Wyles, the membership have elected Mr. Tom Blunn, the current Treasurer of the E.T.T.A., to be Chairman for the 1978/79 season.

Mr. Blunn's table tennis activities started over 40 years ago in Oldham, Lancashire, the town of his birth, and before moving to his present home in Hesse, North Humberside, he had played a

significant part in the founding of the Wirral League and the County Associations of Lancashire and Cheshire.

His national career began in earnest in 1952 when he was appointed Treasurer of the County Championships, followed by election to the National Executive in 1956 and finally becoming E.T.T.A. Treasurer in 1958. This length of service as an officer is the third longest in the history of the Association.



TOM BLUNN, Chairman Elect.



CHARLES M. WYLES, O.B.E., the retiring Chairman.

A Training Officer for a large firm of Chartered Accountants, Tom is married with two sons and one daughter all of whom are themselves married.

The position of Deputy Chairman remains with George Yates and taking over as Treasurer will be Mike Greatrex from Southampton.

Results of the Election of Officers for Season 1978/79 were:-

Chairman: **T. Blunn** - 164 votes - ELECTED

L. Hoffman - 59 votes - not elected

Deputy Chairman: **G. R. Yates** - unopposed - ELECTED

Treasurer: **M. S. Greatrex** - unopposed - ELECTED

The Electoral Register contains 338 electors. 116 ballot papers were received by the due date (April 20, 1978) of which 4 were declared invalid.

All three newly-elected officers tender their sincere thanks for the confidence placed in them.

PONTEFRACT 1-STAR OPEN

by GEOFF SCRUTON,

Singles Double for Beadsley

From an entry of 115 in the Men's Singles and 64 in the Boys' Singles, Kevin Beadsley played magnificently to win both events. In a repeat of last year's men's final opponent Mike Harrison of Hull and Yorkshire, matched Beadsley shot for shot and was desperately unfortunate to lose at 20-all in the third. All credit to Beadsley for staying the course which started at 10 a.m. and finished at 10.30 p.m.! He beat fellow County Team-mate Tony Bottomley in the Boys' final, and Bottomley must be wondering how he let it slip from 17-13 up in the second to lose 21-18! Earlier Bottomley in beating No. 3 seed Eddie Wilkes had dropped his only game on the way to the final. Beadsley beat all his opponents two-straight including Doug Bennett from Norwich, who made a big impression not only physically but in his performance at the table. Ironically these same two players arrived at the men's quarter-final but even a second bite for Bennett proved unsuccessful.

Results:-

M.S. Quarter-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y) bt D. Bennett (Nk) 15, 17.

S. Mills (Y) bt E. Wilkes (St) 20, 18.

M. Harrison (Y) bt P. Rowe (Y) 18, 15.

D. Schofield (Ch) bt A. Metcalfe (Y) 19, -19, 15.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Mills 17, 16.

Harrison bt Schofield -17, 15, 18.

Final:

Beadsley bt Harrison -17, 19, 21.

W.S. Semi-finals:

J. Revell (Le) bt L. Holmes (Ng) 14, -18, 19.

J. McLean (Y) bt C. Moran (Li) 14, 13.

Final:

McLean bt Revell 6, 7.

M.D. Semi-finals:

D. Sykes/T. Williams (Y) bt Mills/Collins

-17, 10, 14.

Allison/Sheader bt Metcalfe/Harrison 17, 11.

Final:

Sykes/Williams bt Allison/Sheader 19, 16.

W.D. Semi-finals:

C. Grayson (Y)/Moran bt J. White (L)/G. Stocks (Y) 19, 22.

McLean/H. Shields (Y) bt Holmes/Revill 19, 16.

Final:

McLean/Shields bt Grayson/Moran 17, 8.

X.D. Final:

A. Rich (St)/Revill bt Beadsley/J. Deakin (Ch) 15, 21.

B.S. Semi-finals:

Bottomley bt Wilkes -12, 18, 16.

Beadsley bt Bennett 7, 14.

Final:

Beadsley bt Bottomley 21, 18.

G.S. Semi-finals:

Deakin bt A. Fearnough 18, 17.

Holmes bt Revill 20, -18, 18.

Final:

Holmes bt Deakin 18, 13.

V.S. Final:

A. Summerscales (Y) bt Schofield 17, -19, 17.

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County Notes

Supplement

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by PAULINE JACKSON

DISAPPOINTING SEASON

An already disappointing County season ended on a low note when the junior team narrowly lost their last match 4-6 to Durham on April 1 at Byker Community Centre. The match, however, resulted in a personal triumph for Henderson Yeung, who was making only his second junior County appearance. He won both his singles from a losing position in each case, and also took the boys' doubles in partnership with John Burke, who also scored a singles victory — but unfortunately no further sets were forthcoming.

Perhaps the overall season has fallen rather flat for the juniors, who started off well by beating Cumbria II and drawing with Cleveland III, but lost their last three matches against Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Durham. However, it should be remembered that only John Anderson and Susan Norris had previous experience of County play at the start of the season, and I am sure that the rest will have benefited from regular play at this level.

There is certainly no lack of interest in the sport at schools level. Nearly 150 boys and girls competed in the Newcastle Schools Tournament, which was held at Eldon Square Recreation Centre on April 5. John Burke and Susan Norris confirmed their County positions by winning both their U-10 and U-16 events, but there were other promising performances which should augur well for the future if the interest is maintained. Our thanks go to Phil Clark for the tournament organisation, and also for the hard work she has put in during the Schools League season.

The senior County performances have, of course, already been mentioned — the season just completed was the worst ever for results, with neither the first nor the second team being able to register a victory or a draw between them. However Andrew Clark, Ron Kettlewell and Malcolm McMaster have all performed quite well in various tournaments this season, the most recent performance being in the Perth Open, where Kettlewell and McMaster reached the quarter-finals of the men's doubles. Pauline Jackson had a dream debut in the Civil Service v U.A.U. representative match at Ellenborough on April 8, having retained her national D.H.S.S. women's singles title in Newcastle the day before, she recorded victories over the U.A.U. team of Linda Clemett (Leeds), Anne Sweeney (Manchester) and Barbara Devine (Hull).

The Northumberland League season should have officially ended during the week commencing March 27, but the Easter holidays and various other reasons combined to have the season extended well into April, and the final promotion and relegation issues are not yet definitely settled at the time of writing.

Both Knock-out Cup finals, however, have been played. Briarside 'A' became the new holders of the men's Knock-out Cup when they beat Byker C.C. 'A' in the final. The team of Andrew Clark, Frank Mitchinson and Steve Robinson had won all of their matches 5-0 on the way to the final, and the last hurdle proved to be no exception. The highlight of this match was the unexpected victory of Steve Robinson over Malcolm McMaster.

The women's Knock-out Cup was won by the "women from the Ministry", Pauline Jackson and Pat Small of D.H.S.S., who beat Thompson's in the final, having emulated Briarside 'A' by beating all previous opponents 5-0. The final proved to be no exception, although in the opening set Pauline Jackson only just managed to contain the big hitting of Joan Leslie.

Results:-

Men's K.O. Cup Final:

Briarside 'A' 5 Byker C.C. 'A' 0

A. Clarke bt R. Kettlewell 19, 15;
bt C. Shepherd 17, 13.

F. Mitchinson bt Shepherd 8, 17;
bt M. McMaster 14, 19.

S. Robinson bt McMaster -16, 13, 18.

Women's K.O. Cup Final:

D.H.S.S. 5 Thompson's 0

P. Jackson bt J. Leslie 20, -17, 17;
bt A. Brown 15, 15.

P. Small bt Leslie 18, 14;

bt A. Brown 15, 12.

Jackson/Small bt Leslie/Brown 12, 19.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by JACK CHALKLEY

DESERVED REBUKE

My report two months ago regarding the new facilities at Norton being claimed as the first purpose-built table tennis hall in Staffordshire brought a deserved rebuke from the south of the County. I was sharply reminded of the new Woodfield Club at Wolverhampton which is frequently used for County events. My apologies, although I suppose I could wriggle out of it by commenting that the postal address of the Woodfield is West Midlands. Fortunately, Wolverhampton remains strongly part of Staffordshire in table tennis circles. So, I plead guilty.

The final of the Beattie Trophy is between Springfield (Walsall), who beat Boundbrook from Lichfield 5-0 in the semi-final, and Norton (Potteries) who are the present holders.

In their last match in the County Championships the junior 'A' side went down to Cheshire 4-6. With their place in the play-offs assured, they took the opportunity of giving some of next year's players a chance to prove their worth, but Cheshire, holding second place in the division, were too strong for this experiment to succeed. Nevertheless, we look forward to the play-off which is being played in Staffordshire at the beginning of May. I find it difficult to see the logic in the ruling that teams in the play-off should be composed only of players eligible for the following season. Surely, a strong junior side that takes the County into the play-off should have the chance to complete a successful season and prove its strength, and in any case strength at junior level can change rapidly with players developing quickly. Why stop at the play-offs? It could be argued that by applying the same misguided logic the whole of the season should be played with a side eligible for the following season.

The County League is finishing the year with a major controversy which the County Committee has tried to resolve in a sensible way. The championship of Div. 1 depends on the match between Potteries 'A' and Walsall 'A' which has yet to be played. By omitting to put the arrangements in writing in the first instance, the home team (Potteries) caused a series of misunderstandings during which both sides were to some extent at fault. It is surprising that experienced teams can allow this sort of thing to happen, but championship places cannot really be awarded except on merit, and the Committee agreed that a fine was the most suitable penalty. The match has now been satisfactorily rearranged.

Winners of the other divisions have all been decided: Potteries (Div. 2), Wolverhampton 'C' (Div. 3), Darlaston 'B' (Div. 4 — assuming they get the expected point from their last match) and Leek 'B' (Div. 5).

The strength of the County juniors was seen only too clearly in the County Closed Championships at Northfield Sports Centre. The main surprises occurred in the Men's semi-finals when top juniors Andrew Bellingham and Andrew Rich overcame senior opposition in the Nos. 1 and 2 seeds Tony Isaac and Steve Rowe.

The outstanding performance was undoubtedly Bellingham's complete scoop of the Men's, Intermediate, Boys' and Junior Doubles titles, and it seemed that the only challenge might come from the County No. 1 Isaac but this was not to be. In a close, exciting semi Rich brought off a spectacular victory over three games, the set going

to 19 in the third. The final was rather an anticlimax, between two players who practice regularly together, and although Rich fought well and showed occasional signs of a spirited recovery, he eventually succumbed to the powerful all-round play of the new champion.

Janet Carr confirmed her No. 1 position in the County but not without some uneasy moments against Stephanie Jones. Shirley Cain perhaps took advantage of a tired Jill Harris — the twelve events of the Championship took over 13 hours to complete — in winning the Girls', and whilst Andrew Dixon won the Cadet Boys' with little difficulty, as expected, Stephanie Hadley can be credited with a fine win in the Cadet Girls' Singles. Isaac and Rowe at least rescued one title for the north of the County in the Men's Doubles and Brian Tatton (Potteries) retained the Veterans' Singles, but the younger players from the south took most of the other honours and figured strongly in all the later rounds.

Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

A. Bellingham (W'ton) bt S. Rowe (Pott.) 14, 12;
A. Rich (W'ton) bt A. Isaac (Pott.) -14, 22, 19.

Final:

Bellingham bt Rich 16, 14.

Women's Singles:

J. Carr (W'ton) bt S. Jones (W'ton) -19, 11, 19.

Intermediate Singles:

Bellingham bt E. Wilkes (Pott.) 14, 13.

Boys' Singles:

Bellingham bt Rich 9, 13.

Girls' Singles:

S. Cain (W'ton) bt J. Harris 18, 13.

Cadet Boys' Singles:

A. Dixon (W'ton) bt P. Dawes (Walsall) 13, 7.

Cadet Girls' Singles:

S. Hadley (W'ton) bt L. Taylor (W'ton) 14, 14.

Veteran Singles:

B. Tatton (Pott.) bt R. Wain (Pott.) 15, 18.

Men's Doubles:

Isaac/Rowe bt Rich/S. Dunning (W'ton) 15, 12.

Women's Doubles:

Carr/J. Chubb (W'ton) bt Jones/Cain 12, 17.

Mixed Doubles:

Jones/Isaac bt Harris/K. Fellows (W'ton) 14, 12.

Junior Doubles:

Bellingham/Rich bt Wilkes/M. Evans (Pott.)
18, -19, 17.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

PROMISE FULFILLED

Cambs. Juniors who drew 5-5 with Suffolk at Ipswich have finished top of Div. III East and so fulfilled their promise at the beginning of the season. Cambs. started disastrously, losing their first three singles, but the girls put them back in the match by taking their three and with Andy Withers and Robert Swift winning the boys' doubles, Cambs. went into a 4-3 lead. Stuart Palmer levelled the scores for Suffolk by beating Withers but Swift made short work of Mick Shorten to gain for Cambs. their vital point. Joanne Palmer and Jane Hunter won their singles by beating D. Hubble and L. Harris respectively and also accounted for the same pair in the doubles. A good performance by the Cambridgeshire youngsters who next season should gain further honours.

In the Cambs. League Soham I are running away with the Championship and at this stage it is a question as to who will be the runners-up. In recent matches Soham I "whitewashed" Guildhall and Telephones I, and Soham II thrashed Y.M.C.A. I 9-1. At the foot of the table it is a case of either Y.M.C.A. II or Telephones II as to who will finish bottom. Palmer (Suffolk's top junior) won all three singles when playing for Soham III against N.C.I. I who were without Tony Littlechild and Geoff Davies and who went down 4-6 and so lost valuable points in their quest for "runners-up" position. After 10 consecutive defeats Eastern Electricity won their first match of the season when they beat Howard Mallett 6-4. Two wins each from Elbourn and Richardson and one from Crabbe plus the doubles earned them their win while Colin Benson won three for Howard Mallett. Former County champion Keith Chapman made one of his rare appearances for Wesley I

in Division IIIB and his three wins helped them beat Police 6-4. Although Wesley are now unlikely to catch the leaders Herbert Robinson this win over third placed Police should clinch the runners-up position.

University I return after a season's absence to the top flight but are likely to concede the Div. II Championship to Soham IV who will join their top three teams in the First Division. University II and Gas Board are doomed to relegation, but as usual there is a tremendous struggle to avoid the third relegation place. It would appear to be between Torchbearers II, Melbourn and Haverhill. Impington II are certain to top Division IIIA with St. George's almost certain to be runners-up. Y.M.C.A. III and G.O.R.D. will be relegated from this Division. Herbert Robinson have yet to drop a point in Division IIIB and are certain of winning the Division with Wesley finishing in second place. It will be Division IV next season for Saffron Walden and Grant. Press III need one point from three matches to win Div. IVA. St. George's III cannot be caught in Div. IVB. St. George's V have won Div. VA despite losing recently to Fisons III, and Telephones V have topped Div. VB with Saffron Walden III almost certain to be promoted with them.

JUNIORS CLINCH HIGHER STATUS

It has been a successful season for Cambs. with three teams losing only one match between them and that was when the Senior team lost 4-6 to Essex II in January. Despite such a good record both Senior teams narrowly missed out on honours, so it was gratifying that the Juniors gained a point from Suffolk to win their Division and bring some reward from the County's consistency. This is the third time in the last seven seasons that the Juniors have won the Eastern section — 1971/72 and 1974/75 were the other Championship years — and no other Eastern County can match that record.

Their full record was four wins and one draw from their five matches with 35 sets for and 15 against. Withers won 8 of his 10 singles while Robert Swift won 7 from 8 and these two combined to win 3 of their 4 Boys' Doubles. The third boy's position was shared by David Brammer (who won 4 out of 8) and Andrew Hunter (3 from 4). Joanne Palmer and Jane Hunter played in all five matches, Joanne winning three singles and Jane four with the pair also having successes in three Girls' Doubles. Next season will see them back in Div. II with only Joanne Palmer of the current squad no longer available. Withers, Swift and Jane Hunter should form the basis of a team capable of holding their own in the higher division and the County will be looking to Michael Jackman, Paul Stacey, Gary Jordan, Rachel Norris and Mandy Judd to challenge for their places.

Cambridge Juniors Tournament

On April 1 the end of the season Tournament was held at Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall under the Coaching supervision of Pat O'Bryne. Two groups of youngsters (a beginners and advanced) played for the distinction of winning a silver cup. There was an entry of twenty with the following results:-

Beginners Group

Semi-finals:

Julian Wheel bt Peter Blackwell;
Jonathan Hulme bt Stephen Finn.

Final:

Wheel bt Hulme 18, 11.

Advanced Group

Semi-finals:

Stephen George bt Miss V. O'Bryne 2-1;
Robert Venn bt Peter Rose 2-0.

Final:

Venn bt George 3-2.

Wheel played well to win the Beginners Group and a big future seems to be in store for this youngster of 12 who already plays for the Wesley Club in the Cambs. League with distinction. Venn beat George in the Advanced Group after losing the first two games and fully deserved his victory. Pat O'Bryne (Cambs. Coach) presented the Trophies and awarded Merit Shields to Stephen Finn and Peter Blackwell for their efforts. 1978/79 Coaching Sessions commence next September every Saturday morning at the Cambridge Sports Hall when it is hoped that there will be a full quota of youngsters for these important sessions.

WISBECH NEWS

With the season nearly at an end the promotion and relegation issues are beginning to sort themselves out. Tydd Trojans are almost certain to be champions of Div. 1 in Wisbech and so break the stranglehold that Institute have had on the trophy for the last three seasons. Barry Wilson, Derek Kiddle, Mike Crowson and R. Hall can be well pleased with themselves for a job well done. Institute look favourites for the runners-up position.

Smedleys who were promoted last year, go straight back into the second division along with Terrington. Spartacus have run away with the Div. 2 title with Rokewood 'A' almost certain to accompany them to the 1st Division. The two March teams (White Hart and B.M.C.) are at the top of Div. 3 and all set to move into a higher sphere with the former the leaders. In Div. 4 Police 'A' and Sutton Bridge are well clear of the field but Div. 5 is turning out to be a real fight to a finish with B.S.C. 'A', Marshland Y.C., Nomads and Police 'B' all in with a chance.

The East Anglian Town team have won their section this year and now go forward to the "play-offs" full of confidence with promotion in mind to Division 1.

The S.E.M. League team have won Div. II in the Men's Section so that over all one can say that Wisbech have had a very successful season and look forward with confidence to 1978/79!

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by JOAN ROBINSON

FIRST TIME WIN

For the first time in the history of the Butlin Cup Competition Lincoln Ladies have won the title. They made a draw with Spalding (J. White, M. Burgess, M. Green) in their last match of the season. Lincoln (C. Buttery, A. Gunthorpe, C. Judson) were without Gillian Galloway, but with two sets each from Cheryl and Angela and Carol Judson winning one, it was sufficient to take the Trophy, Spalding's Jean White was unbeaten.

The Haigh (Men's) Cup has been won again by Wyberton (B. Hill, M. East, J. Brewster) and Grantham have won the Butcher. Grantham's team mainly consisted of Keith Eldred and 13-year-olds County Juniors, Simon Pullen and Chris Bryan.

Final Tables:

HAIGH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wyberton	8	8	0	0	66	14	16
Grimsby	8	7	0	1	64	16	14
Louth	8	6	0	2	53	27	12
Gainsborough	8	4	1	3	46	34	9
Lincoln	8	3	2	3	39	41	8
Boston	8	2	2	4	34	46	6
Grantham	8	1	1	6	24	56	3
Scunthorpe	7	0	2	5	18	52	2
Mablethorpe	7	0	0	7	6	64	0

(The match between Scunthorpe and Mablethorpe void).

Records: (At least 5 matches played)

	P	W	Aver.
			%
B. Hill (Wy)	21	21	100.0
S. Morley (Gri)	15	14	93.3
M. East (Wy)	18	16	88.8
M. Shearer (Lo)	24	20	83.3
M. Newbould (Gri)	18	15	83.3
B. Allison (Lo)	24	19	79.1

BUTLIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lincoln	5	4	1	0	41	9	9
Spalding	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Grimsby	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Mablethorpe	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Boston	5	0	1	4	15	35	1
Grantham	5	0	1	4	10	40	1

Records: (At least 3 matches played)

	P	W	Aver.
			%
G. Galloway (Li)	9	9	100.0
C. Buttery (Li)	15	14	93.3
J. White (Sp)	15	13	86.6
C. Moran (Gri)	15	13	86.6
M. Green (Ma)	15	11	73.3
B. Voss (Ma)	15	11	73.3

BUTCHER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Grantham	9	8	1	0	79	11	17
Stamford	9	6	2	1	60	30	14
Grimsby	9	6	1	2	60	30	13
Lincoln	9	5	1	3	53	37	11
Gainsborough	9	5	0	4	53	37	10
Louth	9	5	0	4	50	40	10
Spalding	9	4	0	5	37	53	8
Boston	9	2	0	7	26	64	4
Mablethorpe	9	1	1	7	21	69	3
Wyberton	9	0	0	9	11	79	0

Records: (At least 5 matches played)

	P	W	Aver.
			%
M. Bradford (St)	21	20	95.2
K. Eldred (Gra)	15	14	93.3
C. Bryan (Gra)	21	19	90.4
S. Pullen (Gra)	27	24	88.8
J. Hancock (Gri)	18	15	83.3
A. Goodacre (St)	21	17	80.9

In the last County Match of the season the Senior Team had a convincing 8-2 win against Cumbria. With only one defeat behind them this season they have finished second in the 3rd Division (North), and should gain promotion. Lincolnshire's team against Cumbria included Jim Brewster (Wyberton) and Angela Gunthorpe (Lincoln) both making their County Senior debuts. Angela won her singles, and partnered by Jean White won the Women's Doubles. Jim playing two singles, lost his first to Stewart O'Neil but won the last set of the match over Bill Robinson. The other set for Cumbria was Peter Taylor's (Grimsby) defeat by Chris Reed, whilst Mark Newbould was unbeaten.

The County Junior II team lost 3-7 to Suffolk at Louth. The girls Gillian Sharpe (Grimsby) and Susan Worrell (Lincoln) saved the home County from having a blank score sheet. Possibly the best set of the match was Susan's win over L. Harris, from 5-11 down in the third Susan came back to win 21-19. Marcus Emmerson (Louth) Stuart Worrell (Lincoln) together with Philip Eyles (Louth) who was playing his first match for the County, whilst all unsuccessful, were not disgraced. The Suffolk No. 1 Stuart Palmer is currently ranked No. 7 in the English Cadet List.

The A.G.M. of the County Association is being held on Monday, May 22, at the Con. Club, Silver Street, Lincoln (7.30 p.m.). The meeting will need to appoint a new General/Match Secretary and Press Officer, as yours truly is retiring at the end of the season. (Thanks for all your efforts, Joan, Ed.)

DEVON NOTES

by KEITH PONTING

WELL DONE PLYMOUTH

Many congratulations to our friends in the Plymouth League for their excellent staging of the European League match between England and the Netherlands, at the Mayflower Sports Centre, Plymouth on April 6.

The league officials were determined to make a success of their first International and they spared no efforts in promoting the match, even taking the unprecedented step of taking table tennis tables into the streets of Plymouth and playing exhibition matches amongst the shoppers. The result was a complete sell-out with standing room only for the late-comers, and the tremendous warmth of the reception given to the two teams as they entered the playing arena was something I had not experienced for a very long time and it set the right atmosphere for a match in which England were always in control.

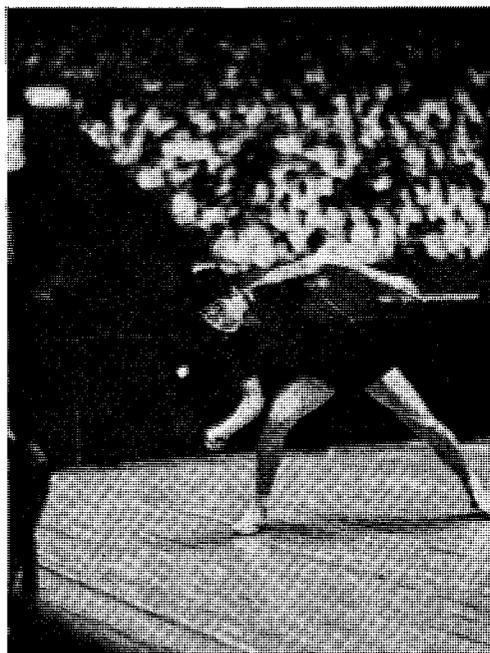
The match was given civic recognition by the support of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth, Councillors Mr. and Mrs. R. Ramsey Thornton, who stayed for the whole match and entertained the teams and officials afterwards at the Council House. It was a delightful and interesting reception and we were given a history lesson on the priceless paintings and civic regalia on display as well as an interesting talk on the workings of the City Council in the Council Chambers.

In his address the Mayor welcomed both players and officials and said how much he enjoyed the

(continued on page 19)

Letting a Hundred Flowers Blossom - Chinese way of improving skills at Table Tennis

by Li Pao-hua



Huang Liang, a tennis-grip player favouring the cutting-stroke game.

Chinese specialists attribute China's sustained progress in table tennis skills to the diversity of playing styles. They describe the encouragement of this diversity as "letting a hundred flowers blossom".

European, Japanese and Chinese styles are all to be found here.

Chinese players made their debut in the World Table Tennis Championships in 1953. Despite their failure to win honours then, their unique playing style attracted world-wide attention. Flexible in their tactics and having a good command of backhand shots, these penholders played a fast attacking game close to the table. Some favoured a game of forehand attack and backhand pushing shots. A few made both forehand and backhand attack.

More contests were sponsored at home in the period between 1958 and 1961, the year the 26th World Table Tennis Championships were held in Peking, for players of different styles from all parts of the country to sharpen their games. The result was a general improvement in skills.

Specialists found in those contests that the Peking players were well trained in the rudiments of table tennis and their play was considered somewhat "orthodox". Players from Kwangtung province had developed all-round skills, playing a firm and steady game with flexible tactics. Shanghai players, however, were remarkable for their fierce attack, quick half-volleys, and service techniques. Players from other parts of the country had other strong points.

Meanwhile, China trained a number of players in the European-style cutting stroke using the tennis grip. Regular competition between the attacking pen-holders and defensive tennis-grip players not only improved the latter's game but also helped the former develop better tactics against European players.

China learned of the introduction of the loop drive by the Japanese team just prior to the 26th World Championships. Relinquishing their own playing styles, a number of Chinese players voluntarily changed over to the loop drive so as to accustom the Chinese participants to the new technique. As a result, the fast attackers that were the main strength of the Chinese team were able

to rapidly develop tactics that would offset the loop drive.

This diversity of playing styles won China the world title for the men's team event and that for the women's singles, both for the first time. The Chinese team also carried off the world title for the men's singles for the second time. The Chinese players in the Peking championships were well suited to both European and Japanese styles of playing.

The fast attacking Chinese pen-holders developed a game marked by "speed, accuracy, power and flexibility" in the years following the Peking world championships. Later on, they tried to introduce spin into their game while keeping to their original style.

Hsi En-ting led the way by changing his bat with outward pimples rubber to one with inward pimples rubber and playing a fast attacking game combined with use of the loop drive. After a year of hard training he rose from third place in the men's singles in the 31st World Championships to champion in the 32nd World Championships.

Today many Chinese players have mastered to a considerable degree the art of combining loop drive and topspin lift with fast attack. Players and coaches are trying to further improve the traditional Chinese fast attacking game.

By learning from and extending the European playing style, Chinese tennis-grip players have developed a game characterized by low chops, varied spins, forehand and backhand attack, and "stonewall defence". Women players Lin Hui-ching and Cheng Min-chih and men players Liang Koliang and Huang Liang, who took high rank in the world championships, give a greater variety of spin to the ball by using a bat with rubber facings of two different types. This type of bat, legal under international rules, shows how important the bat can be.

Since the 26th World Championships energetic efforts have also been made by the Chinese players to develop the loop drive technique.

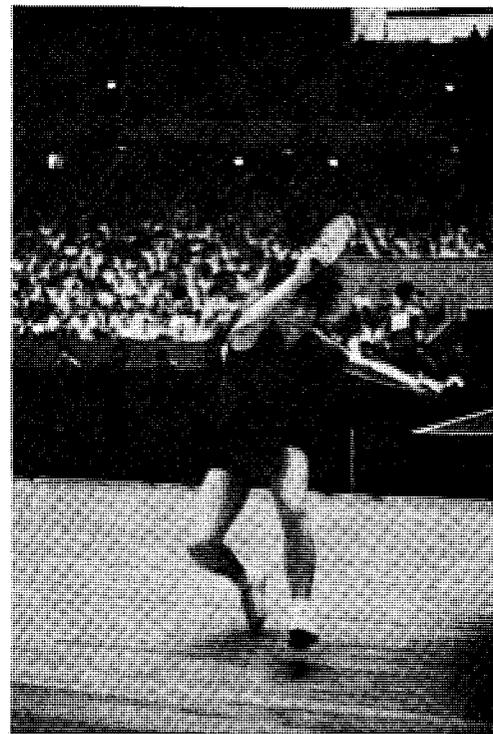
European players have improved this Japanese technique by increasing speed and spin. They execute it both forehand and backhand in combination with fast attack.

Learning from Japanese and European players, the Chinese have developed a new style marked by limited and quick arm swing, feints and improved backhand shots combined with fast attack. A few years ago Tiao Wen-yuan distinguished himself by his Chinese-style loop drive. Recently a male player, Kuo Yao-hua, and a female player, Yang Ying, demonstrated another Chinese style, in which they position themselves still closer to the table and give greater speed to the ball.

As Chinese players have discovered, any playing style can win world honours as long as the player trains hard to exploit the advantages of his or her style. This is illustrated by top placers in individual

and group events in world championships who adopted diversified styles. They include men players Li Ching-kuang and Li Chen-shih and women players Chang Li and Chang Teh-ying who are fast attacking pen-holders; male player Chang Hsieh-lin and female player Ko Hsin-ai who are pen-holders favouring a cutting-stroke defensive game; female player Hu Yu-lan, a tennis-grip player with an all-out attacking game. Among them are also tennis-grip players combining attack with defence, pen-holders combining fast attack with loop drive and loop drive players using the penholder grip.

Chinese teams taking part in international contests usually are made up of players with diversified styles. So players can be fielded to whose style opponents are not accustomed. This has been a factor in the success of Chinese teams.

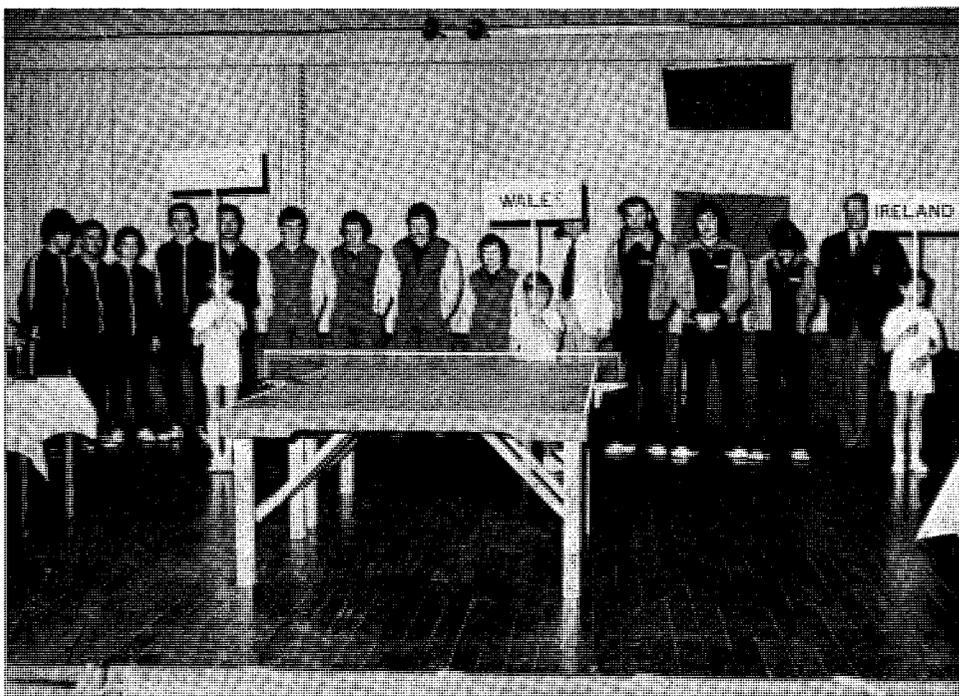


Chang Teh-ying, a fast-attacking woman penholder.

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Wang Wen-yung, a fast-attacking penholder.



25th Anniversary Maxotels Triangular Tournament

RABAT, MALTA (April 15 - 18, 1978)

by **MOYRA PULLICINO,**
Hon. Secretary, M.T.T.A.

The Irish Table Tennis Team made up of Joe Veselsky (captain), Jimmy Langan, Tommy Caffrey and Dieder Kilpatrick won the Eric MacAdie Trophy when they accounted for Wales by 6-1 and Malta by a similar score in the Maxotels Table Tennis Tournament organised in Malta by the Malta Table Tennis Association as part of its 25th Anniversary Celebrations.

The Welsh Team composed of John Bloomer, David Welsman, Tony Healan and Debbie Symons beat Malta in the opening match at the Grand Hotel Verdala, Rabat also by 6-1.

The Tournament was run on a European League basis and the only two victories by the Malta Team came by way of the Mixed Doubles combination of Alex Anastasi and Moyra Pullicino. The other two players forming the Malta Team were the up-and-coming Martin Cini and Malta's ex-champion Joe Borg Cardona.

Apart from the Maxotels Triangular Tournament the Malta Association organised various other activities during the Celebrations week. These activities included a one day open tournament for local players sponsored by 'Wrangler' in which more than 110 participants entered, the showing of the film 'The Battle of the Bats' in different towns and villages and a 25th Anniversary Reception held hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Paddy Stubbs at St. Andrews.

"The presence amongst us of Mr. H. Roy Evans, President of the I.T.T.F., Mrs. Nancy Evans, Secretary of the E.T.T.U. and Mr. A. K. Vint Hon. President of the M.T.T.A. and Counsellor of the I.T.T.F., demonstrates that Malta is no small dot in the Mediterranean as far as table tennis is concerned" stated Miss Marie Therese Chalmers, President of the Malta Table Tennis Association during the speech she made in connection with the 25th Anniversary Celebrations.

During the reply speeches made by Joe Veselsky on behalf of the Irish Team and H. Roy Evans speaking for the Welsh Association it was evidently clear that both teams enjoyed their week's stay in the small but friendly Island of Malta so that a much desired bond of friendship between table tennis players of Ireland, Wales and Malta has now been successfully established.

Results:-

WALES 6 v MALTA 1

Men's Singles:

Welsman bt Anastasi 2-0; bt Cini 2-0.
Bloomer bt Cini 2-1; bt Anastasi 2-1.

Women's Singles:

Symons bt Pullicino 2-1.

Men's Doubles:

Welsman/Bloomer bt Anastasi/Borg Cardona 2-1.

Mixed Doubles:

Healan/Symons lost to Anastasi/Pullicino 0-2.

IRELAND 6 v MALTA 1

Men's Singles:

Langan bt Anastasi 2-0; bt Borg Cardona 2-0.

Caffrey bt Borg Cardona 2-0; bt Anastasi 2-0.

Women's Singles:

Kilpatrick bt Pullicino 2-0.

Men's Doubles:

Langan/Caffrey bt Anastasi/Borg Cardona 2-0.

Mixed Doubles:

Langan/Kilpatrick lost to Anastasi/Pullicino 0-2.

IRELAND 6 v WALES 1

Men's Singles:

Langan bt Welsman 2-0; bt Bloomer 2-1.

Caffrey bt Bloomer 2-0; lost to Welsman 0-2.

Women's Singles:

Kilpatrick bt Symons 2-1.

Men's Doubles:

Langan/Caffrey bt Welsman/Bloomer 2-0.

Mixed Doubles:

Langan/Kilpatrick bt Welsman/Symons 2-0.

BENEAGLES WHISKY OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS, PERTH

MIDDLESEX PAIR STEAL SHOW

by **Chris White,**

Championship Referee and
Asst. International Sec., S.T.T.A.

Nearly all English players who journey north of the border in search of competition and prize money are preceded by their reputations and John Hilton, Nigel Eckersley and others from Lancashire, Cheshire and Northumberland are no exception.

This year from Middlesex came Graham Sandley and Helen Williams and what a joy they were to watch. Only rarely do Scottish sportsmen take the English to their hearts but with this youthful pair all table tennis fans and players and the city of Perth would make them welcome any time.

Men's Singles — Results as expected with the seeds progressing to the quarters where Richard Yule needed three games to beat Mark Hankey of Cheshire. The first semi-final saw Hilton extended for the first time as Sandley led by 4 pts. to 17-13 only for the Lancastrian to triumph in the end. The second semi saw Yule defeat Eckersley. In the final Hilton was in devastating form and easily won the trophy and the £100 first prize.

Men's Doubles — Eckersley and Hankey went out to the scratch pairing of Sandley and John Wilson of Glasgow only for the latter to succumb to Hilton/Brian Kean in the final.

Junior Boys' — There were no shocks as Sandley easily defeated Keith Rodger (Edinburgh) in the semis but in the final before a spellbound crowd David McIlroy (Glasgow) found some of his European Youth form and the superbly sporting Sandley had to take second place.

Women's Singles — Patrice Fleming returned to form at last to provide a good semi-final win over Helen Williams then lost to Scotland's Commonwealth-ranked Grace McKay in the final.

Junior Girls' — Helen Williams triumphed over Carole Dalrymple (Stirling) for the second time during the championships.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

R. Yule (Aber) bt A. Matthew (Aber) 17, 15;

N. Eckersley (Ch) bt . McCulloch (WOS) 7, 8;

G. Sandley (Mi) bt R. Kerr (Edin) 9, 13;

J. Hilton (La) bt E. Sutherland (Edin) 13, 11.

Semi-finals:

Yule bt Eckersley 19, 16;

Hilton bt Sandley 19, 13.

Final:

Hilton bt Yule 16, 7.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

G. McKay (Edin) bt M. Neish (Dun) 14, 13;

P. Fleming (WOS) bt H. Williams (Mi) 21, 18.

Final:

McKay bt Fleming 18, -21, 18.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hilton/B. Kean (La) bt K. McLean (WOS)/

McCulloch 10, 11;

Sandley/J. Wilson (WOS) bt Eckersley/

M. Hankey (Ch) 14, 19.

Final:

Hilton/Kean bt Sandley/Wilson 18, 17.

Women's Doubles Final:

Fleming/McKay bt M. Cuthbertson (St)/Neish
16, 16.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Sandley/Williams bt Kerr/McKay 14, 17.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Sandley bt K. Rodger (Edin) 8, 16;

D. McIlroy (WOS) bt S. Paterson (Edin) 17, 18.

Final:

McIlroy bt Sandley 19, -15, 15.

Girls' Singles Final:

Williams bt C. Dalrymple (Stir) 13, 17.

Consolation Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

T. Reid (WOS) bt S. Kane (Lan) -21, 18, 5;

D. Campbell (Aber) bt R. Fletcher (WOS) 11, 10.

Final:

Campbell bt Reid 18, -21, 15.

Consolation Girls' Singles Final:

Aileen Bennett of Stirling won the Group play.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB OF ENGLAND

by **Laurie Landry**

The International Club played a Midlands Select team at the Grove School, Market Drayton, Shropshire on May 3. In front of an audience of about 180 people, the Club won 7-2 in a match that helped create some interest in this area of the country. Scores (Club names first) were:-

John Hilton bt Alan Fletcher 11, 12;

bt Malcolm Green 16, -11, 22;

lost to Tony Isaac 16, -19, -19.

Tony Clayton lost to Fletcher -16, -17;

bt Green 20, 15;

bt Isaac 13, 17.

Nigel Eckersley bt Fletcher 17, 17;

bt Green 16, 16;

bt Isaac 16, -16, 15.

Otherwise the Club members, of which there are about 150, are nominating the Officers and Committee for 1978. It would seem to be no change with Chairman Les Cohen, Secretary Laurie Landry and Hon Treasurer Brian Wright all willing to stand.

CUT-BACK

Laurie Landry is to quit his position as National Councillor for Cornwall and in a severe cut-back of his former activities the only positions he will retain for next season will be the secretaryship of the International Club and Secretary of the Willesden League.

BAIRSTOW EVES 3-STAR ESSEX OPEN

by Geoff Newman

Ipswich (he wasn't too worried after that Wembley result!) and went on to take the mixed title with his girl friend Angela Mitchell defeating Nicky Jarvis and Linda Howard.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Sewell (Av) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 20, -20, 17;
J. Hilton (La) bt R. Potton (E) 18, 9;
D. Johnson (Wa) bt M. Mitchell (Mi) 17, -19, 11;
M. Crimmins (Sy) bt P. Bowen (La) 16, 7.

Semi-finals:

Sewell bt Hilton 19, 16;
Crimmins bt Johnson 17, 13.

Final:

CRIMMINS bt Sewell 17, 19.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Ludi (Y) bt A. Mitchell (Mi) -19, 13, 16;
L. Howard (Sy) bt L. Radford (E) 18, 19.

Final:

LUDI bt Howard -15, 19, 17.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

J. Kitchener (Sk)/D. Tan (Mi) bt J. Proffitt (He)/
A. Wellman (Bk) 15, 13.

Eckersley/A. Fletcher (Y) bt S. Andrews/D. Charlery (E)
12, 10.

Final:

ECKERSLEY/FLETCHER bt Kitchener/Tan -17, 16, 13.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Howard/A. Stevenson (Le) bt N. Haywood/J. Webster (Sy)
12, 9;

Mitchell/H. Williams (Mi) bt H. Gore (E)/Radford 15, 19.

Final:

HOWARD/STEVENSON bt Mitchell/Williams 15, 9.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Potton/Mitchell bt I. Horsham (E)/Radford 16, -20, 12;
N. Jarvis (Cv)/Howard bt Fletcher/S. Midgley (Y) 13, 21.

Final:

POTTON/MITCHELL bt Jarvis/Howard 17, -16, 14.

Intermediate Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Kitchener bt Wellman 16, 12;
Potton bt Crimmins 14, 22.

Final:

POTTON bt Kitchener 14, 22.

Intermediate Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Ludi bt W. Hogg (Nk) 9, 15;
Stevenson bt Mitchell -16, 18, 23.

Final:

STEVENSON bt Ludi 17, -19, 14.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

G. Evans (Gn) bt F. Lockwood (E) 7, 14;
G. Chapman (Sy) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) 19, 13.

Final:

EVANS bt Chapman 10, 14.

GWENT OPEN

by GROVE MOTLOW

English competitors swept the board in the Gwent Open played at Cwmbran Stadium, Newport on Apl. 8. Alan Griffiths, Graham Davies and Mike Owen, the top three Welsh players, could not compete because of a county match and the number of entries from Gwent and Glamorgan was poor.

Avon's Chris Sewell won the men's singles, beating fellow Bristolian Tony Clayton rather easily. Janet New of Bournemouth beat D. St. Ledger to win the women's singles title.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

C. Sewell (Av) bt S. Claxton (Wa) 17, -12, 9;
A. Clayton (Y) bt G. Evans (Gn) -11, 21, 16.

Final:

SEWELL bt Clayton 9, 9.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

D. St. Ledger (Wa) bt J. Coop (Do) 16, 24;
J. New (Do) bt E. Lamb (Dv) 21, -19, 10.

Final:

NEW bt St. Ledger 14, 11.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Clayton/Sewell bt Claxton/R. Brown (Wo) 14, 11;
Evans/A. Healan (Gn) bt M. Smith/K. Satchell (Wi) 16, 17.

Final:

CLAYTON/SEWELL bt Evans/Healan 20, 20.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Gilson (Do)/St. Ledger bt C. Maisey/P. Townsend (Wi)
10, -13, 14;

Coop/New bt G. Harris/H. Pogmore (Av) 25, 15.

Final:

COOP/NEW bt Gilson/St. Ledger 17, 16.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Sewell/H. Gore (E) bt Claxton/St. Ledger 19, -18, 13;
M. Abbott (Do)/Gilson bt T. Smith (Do)/Coop 11, -17, 13.

Final:

SEWELL/GORE bt Abbott/Gilson 11, 15.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

D. Kenefick (Gm) bt J. Morgan (Gn) 21, -10, 18;
Satchell bt S. Jordon 19, 17.

Final:

SATCHELL bt Kenefick 18, 19.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Gilson bt C. Robb -13, 22, 13;
Gore bt Maisey 21, 12.

Final:

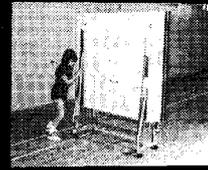
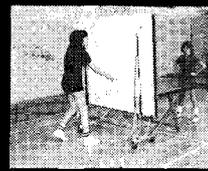
GORE bt Gilson 21, 18.

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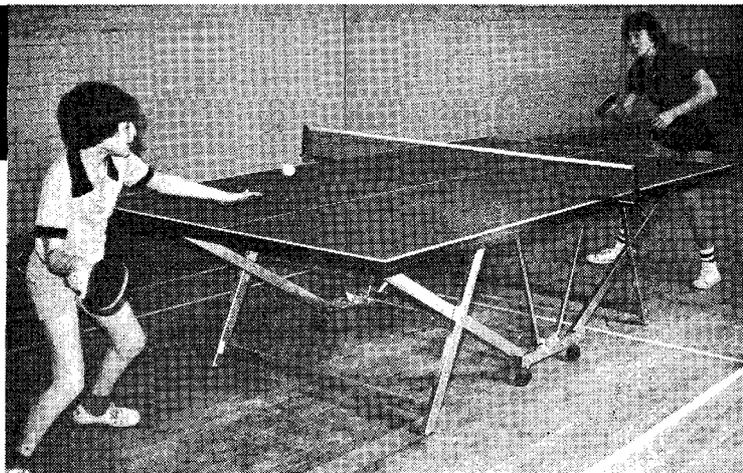
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DYNAMATICS INTERNATIONAL



Essex Champions of Champions Tournament

by Robin Frost,

Sports Editor, The Evening Gazette, Colchester

Maldon's 18-year-old table tennis ace David Newman came within a whisper of completing a hat trick of victories in the Essex Champion of Champions event sponsored by the Colchester Sports Council.

Having cleaned up the boys' and men's singles titles in convincing fashion, Newman and his Chelmsford League partner Linda Barrow, started the day's last final as warm favourites for the mixed crown. However, they had reckoned without the spirited challenge of Terry and Julie Dowsett, a young brother and sister duo representing the Braintree League. Having lost the first game -15, the Dowsetts fought back splendidly to level the set at 15, and with Julie in inspired form, repeated the score in the third and decisive game.



Laurie Fountain of Becontree, the veterans' champion.

Dave Newman (Chelmsford) winner of the men's and boys' singles titles.

Even so the day belonged to Newman, currently ranked fourth in the county, but pressing to regain his top three placing, "This performance won't have done me any harm," said the fair-haired left-hander. "It would have been nice to have made it three wins, but all credit to Terry and Julie. They played well".

Newman retained his boys' singles title at the expense of Tony Penny of Romford. He quickly raced into an 8-point lead on his way to a 21-14 victory in the first game. The first 20 points of the second game were evenly contested, but then Newman slipped into a higher gear to run out a 21-12 victor.

In the men's singles, Newman had accounted for Colchester hope Brian Cartwright in the first round 17 and 19. He came up against holder Kevin Caldron of Dagenham in the final, but wore his opponent down with lightning reactions and flashing forehands to take the title in straight games.

It was a disappointing day for Chelmsford hope Linda Barrow. As well as the mixed setback, she also lost her women's singles crown in straight games to Elaine Foulds of Dagenham. But the best

final of the night was probably the junior girls' contest between holder Elaine Sayer of Barking and Julie Dowsett, this time competing on behalf of the Chelmsford League. The more composed Miss Dowsett held off the spirited challenge of her frail opponent in a match which produced some sparkling rallies. Fittingly, Essex county secretary Mike Watts partnered Andrew Bawden to success in the men's doubles over coloured duo Leon Smith and Skylett Andrews from Silveryown.

The whole day went without a hitch and the support given by both the Colchester League and Sports Council was instrumental in making this tournament so successful.

Phil Bowen, all in two-straight, Jimmy then found Alan Griffiths and Nigel Eckersley more difficult in the quarters and semis, needing three games against each to secure his place in the Final. Here he met, perhaps unexpectedly, the in-form Kevin Beadsley, who had earlier knocked out local player Keith Williams (an ex-Liverpool Champion), then Jim Graham — Scotland No. 6, Donald Parker, seeded No. 1 in the Tournament, and next, in the semi-final, another seeded player, Dougie Johnson.

The final itself however turned out to be an easy win for Jimmy, who was never in any trouble and gained the title most convincingly.

In the Men's Doubles, Griffiths and Peter McQueen won through without dropping a game at any stage. Their defeated opponents were S. Cowley/A. Kilburn, G. Reid/M. Owen, B. Carney/R. Frankland, N. Thomas/P. Beck, M. Smith/C. Sewell and finally D. Johnson/B. Johnson. The two Johnsons had to overcome Walker/M. Johns and Eckersley/A. Fletcher in the Q-F and S-F but the final was a two-straight win for the Wales/Cleveland pair.

Many players and visiting officials commented to me on the excellence of the playing conditions and the facilities generally at this new venue, Kirkby Sports Centre, and all were unanimous in recommending that the Centre be used again for future tournaments. Although it must be said that this Merseyside was an undoubted success, I must also say that this success could not have been achieved without the help of such a large team of assistants who volunteered their services. I would like here to record my personal thanks to everyone involved in the running of the event and a special thank-you to our sponsor, Barclays Bank, without whose help the Tournament would not have been possible in the first place.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y) bt D. Parker (La) 17, -16, 20;
D. Johnson (Wa) bt P. McQueen (Cv) 12, 13;
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt M. Johns (Ch) 13, 22;
J. Walker (Cv) bt A. Griffiths (Gn) 10, -18, 17.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Johnson 12, -19, 15;
Walker bt Eckersley 15, -15, 20.

Final:

Walker bt Beadsley 10, 13.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Johnson/B. Johnson (Wa) bt Eckersley/
A. Fletcher (Y) -15, 17, 15;
Griffiths/McQueen bt C. Sewell/M. Smith (Av)
21, 20.

Final:

Griffiths/McQueen bt Johnson/Johnson 20, 14.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Ludi (Y) bt P. French (La) 15, 11;
L. Fennah (Ch) bt Mrs. S. Alexander (La) 12, 18;
J. Le Page (La) bt J. Myers (La) 22, -16, 17;
S. Hunt (Li) bt J. Carr (St) 12, 9.

Semi-finals:

Ludi bt Fennah 11, 17;
Hunt bt Le Page 12, 10.

Final:

Ludi bt Hunt 19, 11.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Ludi/Fennah bt Hunt/Carr 13, 14;
Kirkman (La)/Alexander bt C. Scowcroft/
J. Parker (La) 8, 11.

Final:

Ludi/Fennah bt Kirkman/Alexander 23, 11.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

Beadsley bt R. Freely (La) 6, 12;
D. Gray (Cu) bt P. Hoy (La) 17, 16;
N. Thomas (Cw) bt R. Palfreeman (Y) -19, 13, 17;
P. Rainford (La) bt T. Hatton (La) -15, 17, 8.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Gray 14, 13;
Thomas bt Rainford -10, 12, 13.

Final:

Thomas bt Beadsley 9, 19.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

K. Smart (Dy) bt M. Gray (Cu) 12, 11;
Fennah bt B. Gray (Cu) 17, 10.

Final:

Smart bt Fennah -23, 15, 15.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt W. Harris (La) 3, 9;
J. Evans (La) bt J. Stoodley (La) 8, 18.

Final:

D'Arcy bt Evans 10, 11.

Results:-

Men's Singles:

D. Newman bt K. Caldron 18, 20.

Women's Singles:

E. Foulds bt L. Barrow 10, 19.

Boys' Singles:

Newman bt T. Penny 14, 12.

Girls' Singles:

J. Dowsett bt E. Sayer 16, -17, 13.

Veterans' Singles:

L. Fountain bt E. Todd 19, -18, 10.

Men's Doubles:

A. Bawden/M. Watts bt S. Andrews/L. Smith
21, 25.

Women's Doubles:

Foulds/Sayer bt P. Dipre/K. Mayhew 17, 17.

Mixed Doubles:

T. Dowsett/J. Dowsett bt Newman/Barrow
15, -15, 15.

THE BARCLAYS BANK 1978 MERSEYSIDE 2-STAR OPEN

by BRIAN LEESON, Hon. Referee

CONVINCING WIN FOR WALKER

The Barclays Bank 1978 Merseyside Tournament, held at Kirkby Sports Centre on March 17/18, proved to be a great success.

Top prize of £50 in the Men's Singles was won by Jimmy Walker. After four comfortable wins over Brian Carney, Steven Mills, Peter Lee and

11th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

by Alan Ransome

How things have changed! Two years ago in Prague it was Yugoslavia and Sweden who were dominating, particularly the male events, in the European Championships. But in Duisburg the domination was all Hungarian — with one exception — Desmond Douglas.

It is not that the Hungarians are necessarily all that better. Certainly Istvan Jonyer played as well as at any time in the past. Gabor Gergely in winning the Men's Singles was clearly at his peak, whilst Tibor Klampar put in his best performance since 1971 in Nagoya. Basically their game is still the same. Very strong loops on the forehand with a consistent, sometimes awkward backhand loop.

The key to Douglas's success was his brilliant control, particularly on the backhand wing where he seems to be able to return virtually any ball with his backhand block or topspin. Desmond seems to be a more confident player having participated in the Federal German National League for a season and more than doubled his earnings in the last twelve months.

Two good defensive players have come to the fore in Engelbert Huing of Federal Germany and Tibor Kreisz of Hungary. They play with smooth rubber on one side of the bat and long pimples on the other, continually twiddling the racket and mixing the spin. Also the Russians have developed a defensive player in their squad, Igor Solopov.

The Yugoslavs and Swedes have slipped back partly due to the retirement, or semi-retirement, of some of their well known stars such as Kjell Johansson and Anton Stipanovic. The remaining players on the teams did not perform well without the usual support. Dragutin Surbek had only a mediocre tournament, and Stellan Bengtsson appeared a shadow of his former self.

If there are any new technical developments these are general ones. The services appear to be more sophisticated and stronger, but also the technology on the receiving of services is better to compensate. The loops seem stronger and particularly in the case of Douglas, the armoury to receive the spin is more developed.

From the recent tours of Europe by the Chinese it would appear that they have the upper hand and I would forecast that any new developments on the technical side of the game are more likely to come from Peking at the present time rather than Europe and from that viewpoint the next World Championships in North Korea in April 1979 should prove of great interest.

E.T.T.A. BEHIND TOP PLAYERS

by Dick Tammade,
E.T.T.A. Development Officer

The National Council's recent approval in principle for the formation of a National Club League may or may not be the great step towards professionalism in Table Tennis that some have greeted it as — but it has given rise to all sorts of ill-informed and totally misleading statements both in and out of the press.

Many people will have read Richard Eaton's gloomy article in the Sunday Times, in which three of our top players expressed their reservations on the new league. Unfortunately, Mr. Eaton did not refer back to the English Table Tennis Association or several of his pronouncements could have been corrected. Perhaps it is now time for a bit of record straightening.

Firstly, the League is not seen as a sudden overnight cure for English Table Tennis. To talk immediately of enormous sums of money and full-time professional players, is not only unrealistic but foolhardy. It is even open to question whether cash injections at the top of the sport will percolate down and benefit the ordinary casual player in any way. There is simply no way in which we could form a Bundesliga in one season — it would be foolish to try.

In Mr. Eaton's article, several of the top players complain that this move is "progressive but tardy". "Better late than never" may be a cliché, but it is also very true. What is inescapable is the con-

clusion that by approving these plans, the E.T.T.A. has shown itself to be behind the top players in their efforts to make a living from Table Tennis, and behind any plan which will generate interest and finance for the sport in this country.

Initially the League is expected to consist only of a Premier Division of eight clubs. Each would play all the other clubs, both home and away, this giving a total of 56 matches, or fourteen to each club. The result of each match would be pointed and tabulated to give a league table which, at the end of the season, would provide first, second and third placed clubs to receive prize money.

Clubs wishing to participate would apply and be selected, but it would be a condition of their selection that they would be able to provide the kind of facilities for play and spectators that this venture demands.

It must be appreciated however that this is not a minor event or a new tournament merely to be slotted into the calendar. The National Club League is bound to have far-reaching effects in many different aspects of the sport and if the E.T.T.A. appears to be moving slowly it is because the proposals need to be carefully considered and their effects closely studied. Naturally the Association wants the League to be a success — but success in this case will be the product of careful research not rushing headlong!

All the press interest might seem rather premature, since the League is still very much in the discussion stage. The E.T.T.A. is currently in contact with several potential sponsors, but it looks very likely that definite progress will be made in time for next season.

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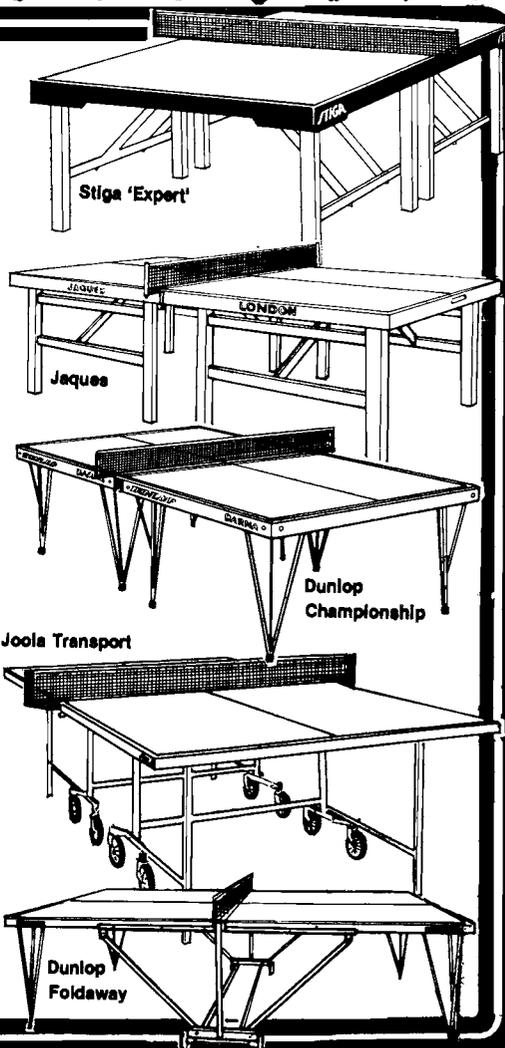
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IRISH NOTES

by WILLIE WALSH

AUSTRIA v IRELAND - EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Ireland lost their final European League 1st Division match to Austria 2-5 in Judenburg on Thursday, 6th April. Fortunately for Ireland, Belgium lost to Luxembourg on the same night and so Belgium take the plunge into Div. 2 on a slightly worse average.

Jim Langan got Ireland off to a great start, when in the first set he played his best table tennis for years in beating local hero Erich Amplatz. Langan was really at his best here as he never allowed Amplatz to get into the game. His fast counter hitting of Amplatz's loops stunned the large crowd, and the longer the set went on, the more Langan got on top.

In the second set, Franz Proglhof beat Thomas Heasley. This was Heasley's first European League Singles and he certainly had no reason to be ashamed of his display against Proglhof or in his second singles against Amplatz, which he also lost.

The real shock of the night was the victory of Dolores Fetter over Karen Senior. This was a set that saw Karen not playing with her usual confidence and Miss Fetter playing inspired table tennis, particularly when she saved 2 set points. On both occasions she returned two 'kills' which I'm sure she will remember for a long time.

Ireland also lost the men's doubles and this was the turning point of the match as this was one of the 'bankers'. Incredible though it may seem, Langan and Heasley actually lead 11-0 in the second — after winning the first — and yet lost.

Langan and Senior maintained their good record in the mixed when they beat Amplatz and Fetter but in the last set, Proglhof beat Langan.

I would like to pay a tribute to the Austrians on the beautiful conditions under which the match was played, and compliment them on their arrangements and hospitality.

Results:-

E. Amplatz lost to J. Langan -18, -8.
F. Proglhof bt T. Heasley 16, 18.

D. Fetter bt K. Senior 14, -20, 22.
Amplatz/Muller bt Langan/Heasley -23, 14, 11.
Amplatz/Fetter lost to Langan/Senior -18, -9.
E. Amplatz bt T. Heasley 15, 15.
F. Proglhof bt J. Langan 18, -11, 18.

Austria 5 Ireland 2

IRISH TABLE TENNIS GOES TO THE DOGS

In an effort to raise money to send the Men's and Women's teams to the European Championships last March, the players and Management Committee met to discuss fund-raising. Jim Langan — who has been known to occasionally enjoy an odd flutter on a horse or greyhound — suggested a Sponsored Greyhound meeting.

The idea was that in conjunction with the Irish Auctioneers Society and Bord na gCon (The Greyhound Board), they would get people to sponsor each race. The Greyhound Board also made a contribution and without going into details, enough money was made to supplement what was also made through raffles, dances and exhibitions to send the teams to Germany. All the players and Officials did their bit and, as well as raising the money, I feel they enjoyed themselves.

UMPIRES' BLAZERS

The E.T.T.A. has entered into an arrangement with John Collier Tailoring Ltd. whereby umpires can obtain one of the blue blazers first used at the World Championships in Birmingham. The total cost for each blazer will be £22 and the system of ordering is as follows:

1. Send a cheque, payable to the E.T.T.A., for £4.50 and in return you will receive a letter of authorisation which quotes the cloth and style number.
2. Take the authorisation to any branch of John Collier who will measure you and make the blazer for which you will pay them the sum of £17.50.

The reason for the charge of £4.50 is to cover the cost of the cloth, which has been purchased in bulk by the Association.

SCOTTISH NEWS



by DENIS GEORGE

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh

April 1 and 2, 1978

The small English contingent swept the field at Meadowbank Sports Centre, over the weekend of April 1/2, to take all titles. In the MEN'S SINGLES Richard Yule was the only Scot to reach the semi-finals, John Moir going out in the ¼-finals to Nicky Jarvis, Jimmy Graham to Kenny Jackson and Alan Collier to Donald Parker. Yule came back twice in his semi-final against Jarvis to level the score at 2 games all but the Englishman led all the way in the 5th to win 21-16, whilst Parker defeated Jackson 3-0. The final was a real crowd pleaser with Jarvis looping from the far corners of the court and Parker keeping up a continuous barrage of attacking strokes. After 5 hectic games the Lancastrian took the title 18 in the 5th.

Carole Knight beat Patrice Fleming 3-0 in one semi-final but Anita Stevenson dropped the 3rd game when beating Carole Dalrymple 3-1 in the other. Miss Knight took the final 3-1.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

N. Jarvis (Eng) bt R. Yule (Scot)
19, -21, 17, -20, 16;

D. Parker (Eng) bt K. Jackson (Eng) 18, 16, 12.

Final:

Parker bt Jarvis -18, 22, 19, -12, 18.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

C. Knight (Eng) bt P. Fleming (Scot) 12, 14, 17.
A. Stevenson (Eng) bt C. Dalrymple (Scot)
17, -20, 10, 10.

Final:

Knight bt Stevenson 14, 20, -11, 13.

Men's Doubles Final:

Jarvis/Parker bt J. Moir/A. Matthew (Scot)
10, 13, 21.

Women's Doubles Final:

Knight/Stevenson bt Dalrymple/Fleming
8, -18, 12, 12.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Parker/A. Stevenson bt Jarvis/Knight (Eng)
19, 20, 19.

SCOTTISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh

April 23, 1978

Richard Yule retained his triple crown, in so doing achieving a record-breaking 7th. Men's Singles title, and Grace McKay retained her Women's Singles title.

Surprises came early in the Men's Singles with Anwar Majid beating John Moir 2-1 in Round 2 and Russell Brown beating John McNee 2-1 in the ¼-finals to allow 5th seeded Keith Rodger through to the final where he pushed Yule to the 3rd.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

R. Yule bt E. Sutherland 16, 14.

K. Rodger bt R. Brown 18, -18, 16.

Final:

Yule bt Rodger 11, -17, 13.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

G. McKay bt M. Cuthbertson 18, 11;

C. Dalrymple bt P. Fleming 12, 18.

Final:

McKay bt Dalrymple 13, 10.

Men's Doubles Final:

Yule/J. Moir bt J. Hawkins/J. Wilson 15, 17.

Women's Doubles Final:

McKay/Fleming bt Dalrymple/M. Cuthbertson

14, 18.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Yule/Fleming bt Wilson/I. Ferguson 13, -12, 14.

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COUNTY NOTES Continued

match and expressed the hope that more events of this nature could be held in Plymouth. It was a delight to welcome to Devon the President of the E.T.T.A., Mr. Maurice Goldstein and he suitably replied to the Mayor.

The evening was rounded off by presentations to the players by Michael Spiers, the main sponsors of the match.

The hard work put in beforehand was all worth while, and League Chairman, Arthur 'Sandy' Sanderson and his colleagues can feel pleased on a job well done.

On a more sombre note, gloom was cast over the county when our Junior Premier team were relegated after just one season. We would like to thank the teams for the reception given to us and congratulate those lucky enough to stay up who we hope to meet again in the not too distant future. For our part many lessons were learned which will not be forgotten should we reach the Premier division again. On a happier note our second junior team finished the season well coming runners-up in their division whilst the senior team finished mid-way in 2nd West.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by D. A. INKLEY

GREATEST SUCCESS!

Linda Holmes, Kathryn Lindley and Pauline Cameron will long remember Monday, April 3rd, 1978, for on that day they achieved their greatest success for Nottingham by defeating Ormesby in an exciting semi-final of the Bromfield Trophy before a large audience at Nottingham Y.M.C.A. Four times Nottingham wrestled the lead and four times Ormesby drew level before Nottingham delivered the coup de grace in the ninth set.

Pauline drew first blood against the left-handed Julie Woodcock but Angela Tierney quickly levelled matters with a comprehensive victory against Kathryn. Linda restored Nottingham's advantage in defeating the off-key Helen Robinson only for Angela to return to the table to overcome Pauline fairly easily to square the match yet again. Linda accounted for Julie and Helen responded with another three game win against Kathryn to equalise for the third time.

The stage was set for the most crucial contest of all, Linda versus Angela. Angela opened confidently, looping at every opportunity and quickly establishing a good lead but Linda refused to be intimidated and inexorably clawed her way back to "deuce" with her patient game of push, chop and occasional flat smash. Both girls had game point before Linda ran out winner at 25-23. The second game followed the same pattern then with the score at 23-22 in Angela's favour, Linda uncharacteristically served off the table and left it all to do again. The decider was point for point until change of ends when Linda's patience and discipline finally took its toll and she inevitably won 21-12 to rapturous applause.

Ormesby were not finished as the improving Helen demonstrated by a comfortable win against Pauline and the match score was levelled for the fourth time. And so the encounter was to be decided in the ninth a contingency which neither side had anticipated and moreover to be contested by girls without a win. If both girls were nervous, neither showed it but Kathryn as if sensing a debt was owed to Linda rose to the occasion and with some fierce hitting put paid to Julie in two.

It was quite some time before the referee could announce the result . . .

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CLOSED

On the previous day the first leg of the County Closed Championships had taken place with the junior events. All the seeds won through to their designated places and it was only thereafter that any upsets took place.

Two new events were introduced, girls' and mixed doubles, the former was won by Pauline Cameron and Kathryn Lindley 14 and 15 against Linda Holmes and Debbie Inkley, here the seeding was confirmed as indeed it was in the mixed which Linda and Stephen Inkley secured 11 and 9 from Kathryn and Mark Pearson. The boys' doubles

went to No. 2 seeds Gary Shepherd and Shaun Green of Mansfield who defeated Stephen and Mark the No. 1 seeds 19, -22, 22 after surviving two championship points. Gary and Shaun were the only players outside of Nottingham to achieve any success.

The girls' singles was another confirmation of seeding in which Linda defeated Pauline 14 and 16. The final of the boys' singles was an anticlimax which Stephen won 15 and 12 against third seed Robert Watson, the No. 2 seed Mark having fallen in the quarters.

Stephen's toughest encounter had been an early round match against Gordon Fearn which went to three and which had seen some ferocious hitting from Gordon and a nail-biting semi against Shaun Green which Stephen won 22 in the third after surrendering three match points.

Clearly next year Gordon and Shaun are going to be two of the boys the rest of the Notts. juniors have to beat.

The second leg of the Championships took place the following Sunday with the senior events, in which Alan Croome emphasised his dominance by winning all three events he was entitled to enter without conceding a game. Alan won the singles against Dennis Collins and combined with Dennis to take the men's doubles from Colin Hammond and Nick Kirkland. Alan's third victory was in the mixed with Gloria Stocks at the expense of Dennis and Linda Holmes.

Linda beat Gloria very narrowly in three in the women's singles and accompanied by Pat Hammond beat junior champions Pauline Cameron and Kathryn Lindley to annex the women's doubles title.

The only reversal of seeding in the senior events had been the dismissal of Pat Hammond by Gloria Stocks in the semi-final of the women's singles.

NOTTINGHAM CLOSED

The next Sunday saw the Nottingham Closed Tournament, several players took advantage of Croome's absence to share the spoils; Alan had elected to enter the Chesterfield Closed which unfortunately co-incided. The fourteen individual trophies at stake were taken by nine players with Stephen Inkley taking a larger share. Stephen won the boy's singles from doubles partner Mark Pearson, the junior doubles with Mark against Robert Albutt and Linda Holmes and the senior mixed together with Pauline Cameron against mother and son, Pat and Colin Hammond, indeed there was a Hammond of one sort or another in all five senior finals.

The tournament, however, belonged to diminutive Trevor Kerry who throughout the day hit the ball with astonishing power and accuracy to win both the men's and intermediate singles, several notable players fell to his blows including former men's title holder Glenn Stredder. Trevor's crestfallen opponents were, in the men's Hammond and the intermediates, Glenn. Pat Hammond had an excellent win, -11, 14 and 20, over Linda Holmes in the final of the women's singles after trailing 15-20 in the third. Pat completed a fine double when she and Linda repeated their County success against Pauline and Kathryn in the women's doubles. Linda became the third player to record a double when she overcame Pauline in the final of the girls' singles, another repeat of the County Tournament.

The men's doubles resulted in a very easy win for Hammond and Kirkland over Terry Bull and Collins and the battle of the evergreens between Ron Bolton and Dave Pearson was won by the former in three.

A fine tournament, well organised and nice to see so many names among the winners.

HERE AND THERE

The Worksop Tournament was held on the same day, in this Terry Moran defeated Mick Bell in the third to become singles champion and these two joined forces to win the open doubles against Philip Wakefield and Paul Clarke. The Worksop Division I title goes to Ollerton this year with Genefax taking the runners-up spot.

The Mansfield Schools Championships were held recently and here female liberation is taken to the ultimate in that the girls have to compete

with the boys in the restricted age groups. Sharon Grocott, who made one appearance for the County Junior team last season, did not let this deter her and won the Under-13's section in two straight against Adrian Kent. Sharon was the only girl in an entry of 18! The U-15's was won by Gary Shepherd in three against Shaun Green but Shaun turned the tables in the open boys' singles and had his revenge in two. The open girls' singles resulted in victory for Helen Kilbane over Sharon. Helen required three games to secure this win.

Several cadets competed in a tournament at St. Neots recently to fill three places allocated to the East Midlands region for national ranking and Conrad Stoddart was successful. Conrad, or, as he prefers to be called, Junior, has given one or two of the older boys a fright in recent match play and is another one to watch next season.

The County senior team finished its programme with a 6-4 win against Lancs. It thus finishing with more wins than losses, a creditable performance in the light of the first 2 results.

Finally the Nottingham senior team won its last match 7-3 against the Potteries to give them promotion to the Midland League first division. Stephen Inkley was called in at the last minute to deputise for the indisposed Dennis Collins and justified his selection with two wins.

After such an encouraging season for Notts., providing the A.G.M. throws up a strong committee, next season bodes well.

SURREY NOTES

by TED SIMPKIN

ALL CHANGE

It was all change at the Redhill and Reigate individual tournament this year as champion after champion surrendered his trophy. Phil Smith took the men's singles from the holder, K. Horton, after a very exciting struggle in the semi against Chris Wells. In the women's M. Millward surprised Hazel O'Brien to take the title, and F. Doyle edged out D. Oaster in the veterans' final. The men's doubles was won by Smith and Wells.

In a separate competition the Cadets title went to P. Vacchi who knocked out D. Monnery in the final, and in the very pleasing Family Doubles event the father and son combination of P. and B. Smith beat a similar partnership of J. and P. Richardson. This league, which now has over 400 registered players, has been edging into the lime-light of late, and made a very successful staging of the county game against Yorkshire with well over a hundred spectators.

The Byfleet League is one which holds a finals night as a separate exercise, and this year, at the Byfleet Lawn Tennis Club, there was a great surprise when young Graham Russell, a product of the Guildford Coaching Scheme, and unseeded, came through to take the men's singles from the No. 2 seed, George Bradshaw. Theresa Watson retained her women's trophy when her pressure proved too much for another youngster, Karen Gosling.

Mrs. Watson, partnered by Mrs. Eng, easily put aside Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Hutchinson for the doubles title, and the men's doubles was the only event to go to three when Mike Barratt and Harry Peeke beat Colin Henderson and Roger Fairhead, 21-5 in the third. P. Hiley lost to P. Simmonds at 19 and 19 for the Youth Singles, and, after expedite towards the end of the second game, Mike Barratt retained his veterans' title, 18 and 19 against team mate, John Hodges.

The Guildford Championships were again held over two days, and returned to the old venue of Surrey University. There were 451 entries to be guided through to the finals at 7 p.m. on the Sunday, and with well over a hundred spectators staying behind till the end, John Oakley brilliantly organised the sequence of the finals to follow the organisational skills of Trevor Channing and his merry men.

Guildford Juniors have their own closed championship but were not inhibited by any kind of diffidence in that, because they fairly monopolised the glory that was going. In the men's singles the total age of the semi-finalists came to 64, and

here Terry Haley beat Mark Oakley and David Hannah beat Glen Baker. The final went to three but the holder, David, was too strong for a valiant loser. Kerry Merritt was a very popular women's singles winner, again in three, over the equally charming Jayne Mitchell.

Best match of the finals was that in which Baker and Cliff Keen won the doubles' title by outlasting the singles finalists, Hannah and Haley, at 16 in the third after looking well beaten. Keen, a competitor before some of today's victors saw their first bat, and seeded automatically for many years yet never previously a winner, added the hard bat title when he beat John Oakley in the semi and Jim Elliott in the final. Jimmy Moore took the veterans' title from the holder, Paul Brook, and young Gavin Kemp played exceedingly well to win the Intermediate Singles from Peter Palmer. The lower divisions title went to a promising youngster, Paul Gibbs, and old stagers, John Bish and John Salter deserve their names in print for their feat in taking the doubles title at that level.

GLoucestershire NOTES

by DAVE FOULSER

PROMOTION AFTER ALL?

In my last column I reported that our senior team had to beat Dorset 10-0 to take the championship of the 3rd Division West. Unfortunately we only managed a 9-1 victory, the surprise being that our girls, Cathy Robb and Vanessa Cruwys dropping the ladies doubles. However, everyone I have spoken to cannot remember our senior team ever recording a maximum even in our glory days when we could field such players as Ian Harrison, Brian Merrett, Roy Morley and Dennis Holland, so our present team should try not to feel too disappointed. After the match everyone present felt disappointed as that last result meant that the championship had been won by Berkshire on a better games average (the two counties having not only the same points total but also an identical sets average), but it now appears that the county championships committee had overlooked a somewhat technical, but nevertheless all important point concerning two sets which Berkshire dropped earlier in the season to Glamorgan. According to our calculations this error results in Gloucestershire taking the title and we anticipate that by the time you read this article the decision will have been made.

Much as I want our team to be champions, I must say that it seems a pity for either one of these two fine teams to be forced into remaining in the third division next season and I therefore hope that the county championship committee arrange it so that both teams are promoted to the second division.

Both Gloucester and Stroud had completed their annual Closed Tournaments at the time of writing whilst Cheltenham had finished its junior events. Details of the two former had not been published in the local press so I cannot set out the results in full. In Stroud, I am told that young Andrew Golding swept the board — he won the U-15 Singles, U-17 Singles, Mixed Doubles, Men's Doubles and the Men's Singles. In Gloucester Dave Harvey won the Men's Singles without too much trouble. In the final he defeated Martin Lane in four games, having dropped the second. Dave also won the Men's Doubles with Steve Moreman beating Bill Dawe and Mike Collier in the final. However, one title did elude Dave — the Mixed Doubles, for he and Shelley Creighton were knocked out in the semi-final by the unseeded Mark Owen and Jan Foulser, after they had been one game up. Mark and Jan had not played together before, but in addition to knocking out Dave and Shelley who were the 2nd seeds, they also knocked out another seeded pair in the quarter-finals — Steve Moreman and Joyce Weatherall. However, the holders of the event, Bill Dawe and Jane Dovey got the better of them in the final. Jane Dovey retained her Ladies Singles title when she beat junior Julie Philips in three in the final. Julie did well to beat second seed, Shelley Creighton in the semis whilst Jane had disposed of Jan Foulser 19 and 18 in a very close encounter. Jan had previously knocked out top seed Irene Dollin in startling fashion beating her 7 and 18.

Andrew Golding also made his mark in Gloucester beating two seeds in Mike Prosser and Don Sweeney although he was on the wrong end of a surprise defeat when he and County Men's Doubles champion, Adrian Vale, were beaten 17 and 14 by the writer and John Turner who had never played together before. John and I nearly created a further surprise in the following round when we lost only -16 in the third to Martin Lane and Derek Morgan.

Darren Griffin won the U-17 and U-13 Singles but was prevented from making a clean sweep when he fell to John Turner in the U-15 Singles. The two surprises were Griffin beating Derek Morgan in straight games in the semi-final of the U-17 Singles and in the other semi-final Adam Berry falling in three to Donovan Smith.

Results of the Cheltenham Closed Junior events were as follows:-

U-21 Singles:

G. Greening bt G. Slack 14, -13, 19.

U-17 Singles:

G. Slack bt J. Turner 16, -16, 16.

U-17 Girls' Singles:

C. Robb bt V. Cruwys 14, 15.

U-15 Singles:

G. Slack bt J. Turner 9, -18, 20.

U-15 Girls' Singles:

J. Philips bt A. Bryant 10, 14.

U-13 Singles:

S. North bt P. Witts -12, 13, 14.

U-17 Doubles:

G. Slack/M. Turner bt C. Robb/V. Cruwys 16, -18, 20.

Novices U-21 Singles:

D. Crawford bt T. Fitzgerald 13, 25.

The player who caused the most shocks was Andrew East from the 4th division who, in the U-17 Singles beat 1st division Adam Berry, 2nd division Richard Russell and then 2nd division Cathy Robb before falling closely in the third to John Turner.

The Gloucester City league programme has now been completed and the results briefly are as follows:-

Champions	Division	Runners-up
Taynton 'A'	Division 1	Newent
Gordon League	Division 2	Tuffley
C.E.G.B.	Division 3	Hartpury
Gordon League	Division 4	Strollers 'A'
Strollers	Division 5	Gordon League
Clover Dairies	Division 6	Post Office
Saintbridge	Division 7	Churchdown
Saintbridge	Division 8	St. Marks

Details of the top few averages in each division are as follows:-

Division 1

D. Harvey 97%, M. Lane 95%,
M. Owen 92%, S. Moreman 88%,
W. Dawe, Jr. 86%.

Division 2

D. Griffin 98%, R. Brabiner 89%,
A. Thomas 80%.

Division 3

S. Ruddlestone 89%, W. Smith 87%,
E. Hill 86%, S. Foulger 83%.

Division 4

J. Davis 88%, N. Gregory 86%,
J. Howells 85%.

Division 5

A. Lerry 97%, N. Dowding 97%,
J. Hughes 96%.

Division 6

A. Stevens 96%, T. Grail 95%,
T. Tomlins 93%, W. Jones 88%.

Division 7

G. Edwards 98%, S. Salisbury 85%,
R. Limbird 83%.

Division 8

D. Pearce 100%, R. Limbrick 93%,
E. Tank 92%, M. Hannaford 91%.

By the time you read this the Gloucester League may have seen some drastic changes at its A.G.M. as the main proposals on the agenda were to change the points system from two for a win and

one for a draw to one point for each set won; and a proposal to form a premier division of either six or seven teams playing each other four times during the season — I have spoken to a lot of our top players who are nearly all in favour of this idea. If it is agreed then obviously a considerable number of teams in each division will be promoted.

CLWYD REPORT

by ROY WILLIAMS

HARD LUCK RHYL

Rhyl were the visitors at the English Electric T.T.C., Kirkby for the Group 1 final of the Granada Reports T.V. tournament and almost pulled it off for a place in the grand semi-finals. Rhyl had a four sets to two lead but Liverpool's team of O'Connor, Williams and Strettle won the remaining three to clinch the tie. For Rhyl Greg Powell won two sets with John Hook and Mark Thomas one each. Alun Williams the fourth member of the squad was on this occasion first reserve. Best wishes to the scousers in their semi-final against Preston.

The remaining closed tournaments were completed in North Wales when Anglesey, East Flint and Llandudno all held their championships recently. Mark Byles beat holder Eddie Griffiths to win the East Flint closed after a very close final. Sandra Bennett beat Nalda Holden to claim the women's title and Byles completed his day by also winning the junior singles and for good measure the men's doubles and the mixed.

Don Hobbs won the Anglesey men's singles for the seventh time and then with his son Gary he won the men's doubles. Mark Bryant won the junior event.

Alf Hardman won three titles at the Llandudno closed, the men's and veteran singles and, partnered by Glyn Gibbons, the men's doubles. Newcomer to the town Roger Isherwood won the junior and cadet singles at his first attempt.

Clwyd's Alun Williams and Mark Thomas have been selected for the junior and cadet Welsh teams to play in the European Youth championship to be held in Barcelona in July. The Welsh selectors have also chosen Mark Byles and Diane Hewitt for the Guinness School of Sport tournament to be held at the National Sports Centre, Cardiff also in July.

Congratulations to Mark Thomas on retaining his cadet championship at the Welsh closed recently and to Sue Powell who was beaten in the final of the girl's cadet event. Oriol, Rhyl (Greg Powell and Mark Thomas) reached the senior final of the club team championship of Wales losing to Telephones, Cardiff by the odd set. Courtaulds, Flint (Mark Thomas and Mark Byles) reached the junior final for North Wales but again the southern club Telephones won the trophy by the odd set. Both Telephone teams had been represented by Jeff Morgan and David Kenefick a remarkable double. Rhyl, East Flint and Llandudno all held their annual dinner and presentation dance on the same evening, April 28. This was a very unusual arrangement but most players support more than one league.

New officials are required for the N.W.C.T.T.A. none more urgent than our long serving secretary Phil Overson who during the last thirty years has held most posts in the association and also of the Rhyl and D.T.T.L. We hope that Phil may consider taking an active part in some less demanding office.

Tournament results:-

Anglesey Closed

Men's Singles:

D. Hobbs bt E. Coupe.

Junior Singles:

M. Bryant bt M. Lewis.

Cadet Singles:

G. Jones bt D. Lewis.

Handicap Singles:

M. Bryant bt S. Thomas.

Men's Doubles:

D. Hobbs/G. Hobbs bt Coupe/N. Davies.

East Flint Closed

Men's Singles:

M. Byles bt E. Griffiths.

Women's Singles:
S. Bennett bt N. Holden.
Veterans' Singles:
E. Griffiths bt W. Nield.
Junior Singles:
Byles bt C. Powell.
Cadet Singles:
S. Conway bt P. Griffiths.
Men's Doubles:
Byles/Powell bt R. Lloyd/G. Wilson.
Women's Doubles:
Bennett/J. Parry bt Holden/M. Parry.
Mixed Doubles:
Byles/Bennett bt C. Potts/Holden.

Llandudno Closed

Men's Singles:
A. Hardman bt G. Gibbons.
Women's Singles:
V. Williams bt J. Shone.
Veterans' Singles:
Hardman bt A. L. Jones.
Junior Singles:
R. Isherwood bt D. Butterworth.
Cadet Singles:
Isherwood bt Butterworth.
2nd S:
G. Mynott bt P. Lynden.

S.D.:
Hardman/Gibbons bt S. Gogerly/D. Williams.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by JOHN TAYLOR

BETTER NOTE

The County Junior 1st team ended a disappointing season on a better note with a 9-1 win over Cleveland II at Sedgwick (Kendal) Village Hall. A comfortable win for Diccon Gray, Ian Reed, Andrew Pachul, Gail Smith and Miranda Gray with Miranda losing the only one against Ann Holden. A result however which isn't enough to stave off relegation from Junior 2 (North) and this in turn seals the fate of the Junior 2nd team who will have to give up their place in the 3rd Div. North if the 1st team are to compete in that division.

The 2nd team themselves ended a disappointing season with a 5-5 result against Cleveland III also at Kendal (Natland Village Hall). They never quite managed a win during their campaign and this was their third draw out of the five matches played although only once did we have our strongest team on show. The match itself saw Stephen Sharp take another two wins and in the three matches in which he took part he has been undefeated in his singles. Both Elaine Mathie and Janet Sephton were much too good for their opposition and they took our other three wins between them. In complete contrast both Michael Cairns and David Archer found their opposition a lot tougher and neither could gain any success, although Archer, on his debut for the County, went close when losing -9, 15, -24 to L. Taylor.

The County Senior team had an unhappy end to the season with a 2-8 defeat by Lincolnshire. With the Cumbria side at full strength a closer result must have been hoped for but defeats for both Bill Robinson and Chris Reed in the opening sets were to prove setbacks which were never overcome. Robinson took on the visitors' No. 1 Peter Taylor in the opening set and he was never in any trouble throughout the first game which he won 21-17. The second began as the first ended and Bill stormed into a 7-0 lead from which the picture changed dramatically as Taylor put his game together to take that game and the next 10 and 11. The pattern was repeated in the next set when Chris Reed took the first game comfortable at 13 but suffered in the next two losing 11 and 18. Stewart O'Neil put us back on the right path by winning his first set although the 19, -15, 18 scoreline was just a little too close for comfort.

Defeats in both the following doubles sets however, after chances had gone begging, left the side 1-4 down. Chris went on to score our only other win with an 11, -18, 13 success over Taylor, this being sandwiched between disappointing singles defeats for both Bella Gray and Jennifer Willis. Robinson fought hard in his final set but eventually went down -13, 15, -17 to Jim Brewster.

INTER-LEAGUE COMPETITION

After one of the closest run competitions for a good few seasons reigning champions Carlisle retained their title following a 7-5 win over nearest challengers Whitehaven in their final match. An understrength Carlisle team, with Alec Craib deputizing for John Willis, just scraped home with three wins from David Kirkpatrick, two from O'Neil and the women's singles and mixed from Jennifer Willis and O'Neil and Jennifer together. Nevertheless, as close as it was, a good performance from the home side which restricted Whitehaven stars Bernard Hand and Jimmy Cummings to four wins between them, two from Bernard, one from Jimmy and the men's doubles. T. Stevenson gained their other win over Craib.

Whitehaven, in fact, only needed a draw to become champions themselves, thanks mainly to Barrow's 7-5 win over Carlisle the previous week. The Barrow team turned the table upside down and both Bill Robinson and Neil Honeyman produced star performances to win three singles each and the men's doubles against a full strength Carlisle team of O'Neil, Kirkpatrick and John and Jennifer Willis, who each won their respective sets against Peter Buxton and Mary McPortland.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Carlisle	4	3	0	1	30	18	6
Whitehaven	4	2	1	1	26	22	5
Westmorland	4	1	1	2	25	23	3
Millom	4	1	1	2	21	27	3
Barrow	4	1	1	2	18	30	3

WEST CUMBRIA CLOSED

The West Cumbria Closed tournament, at Moorclose School, Workington was dominated by top seeds Stephen Crosby and Lyndon Merner who featured in both the men's singles and handicap finals as well as pairing up for the doubles. Merner (0) defeated Crosby (0) in the handicap final but the latter gained revenge later on by taking the men's singles title.

Results:

Men's Singles:

S. Crosby bt L. Merner 18, 13.

Men's Doubles:

Crosby/Merner bt G. Dixon/J. Kane 13, 12.

Junior Singles:

B. Lennon bt G. Kirkpatrick 25, 14.

Veteran Singles:

T. Mitchell bt N. Brannan -19, 13, 19.

Handicap Singles:

Merner bt Crosby -17, 16, 14.

MILLOM ASCOT 1-STAR JUNIOR

Millom School's Ascot 1-Star Junior tournament proved to be quite a successful venture once again and with an impressive array of 18 tables in use plus tiered seating in the largest hall organiser John Reed had good cause to feel pleased with the outcome of the proceedings on the day. The use of the group play-offs system, which was used for the first time this year, means more sets to get through but undoubtedly raises the stature of a tournament. Millom's Diccon Gray came close to capturing the major event of the day but went down in 3 games to Sam Harmer in the final of Boy's Singles. Diccon again came runner-up in the Boys' Doubles with Ian Reed, losing in three to Cheshire's John and Ron Weatherby.

S. E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

WIN FOR ELY

Ely have won the Men's Division in the S.E.M. League and only dropped one point in the process. The fight for second place is still on and Milton Keynes and Bedford will be fighting it out until the last fixture. R.A.F. will be demoted but it has yet to be decided who will go up from Div. II as Hunts Central, Wisbech and Bedford are all in with a chance although Wisbech must be favourites.

Bedford and Northampton look like fighting it out for the Junior Division title with Bedford the slight favourites. Cambridge look like being demoted after a season in this Division although they can still catch Peterborough. March are at the head of Junior Div. II and are almost certain to be promoted, their first season in the league. Ely,

incredulously, lie at the bottom and are wooden-spoonists.

Wellingborough are at the head of the Women's Division and are almost certain to be champions with Northampton having the outside chance. March lie at the bottom having, at the moment, only obtained 5 sets without a victory. Cambridge have regained the Veterans' title with either Peterborough or Bedford as runners-up. In Div. II (Veterans) Bedford or Kettering will be at the top with Bedford slight favourites. R.A.F. are at the bottom of the Veterans Div. I and will be demoted.

In the Junior Girls' Division, Milton Keynes are in top position but Northampton still have a chance of catching them should they obtain 7 sets in their next and final match. In the Reserve Section Daventry and Northampton are the top teams with the latter in the most favoured position. I am informed that Henry Fox (Secretary and Treasurer) and Mappin Webb (Chairman) will not be seeking re-election next season. Both these men were elected at the inception of the League in 1961 in a meeting held at St. Neots and have served so conscientiously over the period of 17 years. All players and fans must salute these officers for a job well done and I know that the League has benefited enormously through their efforts. Thank you Henry and Mappin!

LEAGUE TABLES

(Leading positions)

Men Div. I

	P	W	D	L	P
Ely	8	7	1	0	59
Milton Keynes	7	5	0	2	47
Bedford	7	4	1	2	45
North Herts	7	5	1	1	41
Cambridge	7	4	1	2	39

Junior Div. I

	P	W	D	L	P
Northampton	8	6	0	2	57
Bedford	7	6	0	1	55
Kettering	10	5	2	3	51
Dunstable	8	5	2	1	46

Women's Division

	P	W	D	L	P
Wellingborough	6	5	1	0	50
Northampton	5	4	0	1	38
Kettering	5	3	1	1	33
North Herts	5	3	1	1	32

Veterans' Div. I

	P	W	D	L	P
Cambridge	7	5	1	1	45
North Herts	7	3	1	3	37
Bedford	6	5	0	1	36
Peterborough	6	3	2	1	36

NORTHANTS NOTES

by DENNIS MILLMAN

SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

The popularity of tournaments, particularly at junior level, has never been higher than during the current season, and two further successful events have helped this season towards its close.

The Corby Junior League Tournament emphasised all that is good in table tennis especially when staged in an area which needs more encouragement than most, and it again produced some outstanding matches.

Gary Smith, unbeaten in league matches, justified his ranking by winning the handicap singles against Terry Cardwell, but lost for the only time this season, when involved in a succession of finals, he went down to Gary Robinson in the under-17 singles.

Results:-

U-17 Singles:

Gary Robinson bt Gary Smith 19, 13.

U-14 Singles:

Terry Cardwell bt Robin Pipe -16, 14, 17.

U-17 Handicap Singles:

Smith (-5) bt Graham Ball (-2) 17, -13, 8.

Mystery Doubles:

Smith/Neil Robinson bt Patrick Dorr/
David Adams 14, 18.

The Rothborough Invitation Handicap Tournament continues to maintain its high standard, with an entry of 83, and although many experienced players set out to seek the awards, it was the junior

element who stayed the course to reach the finals, where back-marker Keith Nicoll (-6) came through to win comfortably, so emulating Rothborough's other talented performer Garry Alden, who has already handicapped himself out of this event.

Results:-

Singles Semi-finals:

Neil Knatt bt Jane Wallis 21, -12, 19.

Keith Nicoll bt Mark Raven 15, -17, 14.

Final:

Nicoll bt Knatt 14, 10.

Doubles Final:

Raven/Patrick Dorr bt Nicoll/Brian Sanders

21, 21.

On the County scene, the season improved as it went along, with the T.S.B. Junior Squad really giving their sponsors value for money and going a long way to prove that the sponsorship scheme has been mutually beneficial to both County Table Tennis and to the Trustee Savings Bank. One can only hope that the splendid example set by such nationwide organisations as the T.S.B. and the Norwich Union will encourage other similar institutions to take a more active part in the development of the nation's sporting prowess.

Steve Lyon and Valerie Feakin also have good cause to look back on a successful season with pride and pleasure, as they produced the best results for their respective County sides, but other players have much to prove in seasons yet to come.

In the South East Midlands League, the Wellingborough's women again proved too good for the opposition, with Anne and Mandy Wallis, together with Dorothy Marsh increasing their tally of honours, despite some improvement from both Northampton and Kettering.

Although Kettering's hopes lie with its juniors, it was the Veterans who took the honours this year, with John Palmer, Dick Cole and Dennis Millman taking 55 of a possible 60 sets to win the Veterans Second Division, while it is expected that Northampton's last Reserve match will give them the title, with Daventry a good second.

At the time of writing the Northants County League has yet to be finally resolved, with Northampton requiring the formality of a point or two from a match postponed by Towcester. If this match is played before an April 30th deadline, Kettering will again finish second, with a young remodelled side, who recently administered a shattering 10-1 defeat on Daventry, with Keith Nicholl, Steve West, Anne and Mandy Wallis all unbeaten, and Mark Raven losing just once.

Although all the major league titles were retained, by Y.M.C.A. 'A' at Northampton, by Rothborough 'A' at Wellingborough, and by Kettering Town 'A' at Kettering, for once they were not discouraging results, as all these teams now have a youthful element, which has perhaps been the hallmark of a season highlighted by the County Silver Jubilee T.S.B. Closed Tournament.

All that remains is the County A.G.M., to take place on May 24, where with changes in the air, it is hoped that some of the present crop of very good players, will volunteer to try their hands at the increasingly important task of administration.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. PENNY

GRAND FINALE FOR DOUG

This month the headlines must go to Douglas Bennett, now in his last season as a Junior. At the University of East Anglia sports centre, before a large crowd, he took the Senior and Junior titles in the Norwich Closed for the third successive season. Moreover, he equalled his record of the season before last of winning the Norfolk Closed senior and junior titles in addition, an achievement which may never be equalled.

In the Senior final Dougie beat Bob Thornton, the ex-Berkshire No. 1, in two straight, but he had a harder struggle in the semis against Bob Mitcham, when he must have been thankful to win. In the Junior final David Smith was eight points up in the second game, only for Bennett to win at 21-18.

Wendy Hogg, the No. 1, being absent ill, the Women's title went to the improving Margaret Hales.

Results:-

Men's Singles:

D. Bennett bt R. Thornton 20, 15.

Women's Singles:

M. Hales bt Glynis Houseago 15, -17, 9.

Boys' Singles:

Bennett bt D. Smith 16, 18.

Girls' Singles:

Sue Browne bt Ruth Harrowven 16, 14.

Veterans' Singles:

Stan Honor bt Dave Hardy 17, 14.

Men's Doubles:

M. Musson/T. Bunn bt N. Graver/Thornton

14, 17.

Women's Doubles:

Mrs. J. Dixon/Miss Houseago bt Mrs. R. Hogg/

Miss P. Ribbans 13, -17, 14.

Mixed Doubles:

Neville Graver/ Heather Pearce bt M. Musson/

Mrs. R. Hogg -19, 16, 18.

Handicap:

P. Brown bt M. Smith -14, 18, 22.

The Norwich League title went to CEYMS 'A' who headed their 'B' team by one point. CEYMS 'A' (R. Thornton, C. Bensley, N. Graver, J. Turner) also beat Norwich Union (M. Musson, A. Cooper, R. King, G. Johnston) 7-2 in the Readwin Team Cup for a league and cup double which has eluded them for ten years. The Union took full points for turnout in their new green shirts. Another double went to Wincarnis who won Division 4 and beat Norco 6-3 in the Handicap Cup. Norwich Premier Division club, Gothic, paid an enjoyable visit to Spes Philippins Omnisports, Rouen over Easter, but lost the "Test Match" 1-8.

There is a record entry for the Dereham league championships, at Neatherd High School's new sports hall. Trevor Bunn will be defending his title. Dereham league winners are Costessey. Thetford British Legion have topped the Wymondham League.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. MORAN

OUTGUNNED BY CLEVELAND

Oh! What a wailing and gnashing of teeth there was as Cleveland rolled out their heavy artillery and big guns, Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale, pounded Warwickshire to an 8-1 defeat shooting us down and out of the Premier Division. Simon Claxton gained our solitary success beating England-ranked Peter McQueen, but this was a dismal end to a disappointing season. Our conquerors beat Middlesex and Glamorgan by the same margin to win the County Championship — again.

Warwickshire have struggled all season without Des Douglas who has been prevented from playing, on most occasions, by his German commitments. Stalwart Derek Munt, so deservedly praised by the Leicestershire correspondent in February's T.T. News, had another magnificent season but Dougie Johnson has been unlucky in losing games that his best form suggests he should have won. Three matches lost 4-5 tell the whole story of our season. Next season we must accept that Des has gone on to bigger and better things and work towards finding a replacement and regaining our Premier Division status.

The future in fact looks a little brighter thanks to the form of our Juniors. They have won their division and rounded off the season with a fine 7-3 away win over Herts. This gives them the right to challenge at the Junior Play-offs. Our representatives will be Lester Bertie, Richard Tanner, Andy Cockerill, Kevin Grundy, Sue Hemming and Julie Harper. The Referee will be Coventry's Geoff Taylor (Top Table Star!), let's hope he presides over a successful weekend for our youngsters and perhaps sees the emergence of our next European Super Star.

A total and inexplicable lack of co-operation on the part of Competitions Secretary Richard Habgood has forced the County Executive to cancel the Warwickshire Cup competition for this season, participating clubs will have the choice of a refund or free entry into next season's events. The Warwickshire League however will be completed and results to date show the following

league positions:-

	P	W	L	F	A	P
South B'gham	5	5	0	35	10	10
Nuneaton	4	3	1	18	18	6
B'gham BH and Wks.	3	1	2	14	13	2
Leamington	3	1	2	13	14	2
Tamworth	3	1	2	13	14	2
Stratford	3	0	3	6	21	0
East B'gham	1	0	1	0	9	0

So, the season winds to a close the last event being the Midland Closed to be held on May 21 at the Rover Works, Solihull. Full details from Maurice Goldstein at 31 Blenheim Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13. Until then keep practicing, keep smiling and get ready for a promotion run next season!

CHESHIRE CHAT

by DICK TURNER

CHAMPIONSHIP FOR CHESHIRE

Cheshire's Senior Team, without their three leading men players, lost 4-6 to Yorkshire II, but this was good enough to give them the championship of Division 2 North. A return to the Premier now depended on the results of the Play-off between five counties. Nigel Eckersley did not play in the Yorkshire match as he was busy winning his first European Tournament — the Portuguese Open.

The Junior side did well to defeat Staffordshire 6-4 in another top clash. But Staffs managed by one set to win the Junior 2 North championship, with Cheshire the runners-up. Both counties needed to meet again, together with other Junior 2 champions and runners-up, in the Junior Play-off.

In Open tournaments, Nigel made the final of the Men's Singles at Sedgefield, only to lose this time to rival John Hilton. A week earlier, Derek Schofield reached the semi-final of the South Yorkshire, beating Alan Hydes en-route, and the final of the Veterans, from both of which he had to withdraw because of a leg injury. Peter D'Arcy took the Veterans title to add to his collection. Brothers Ron and John Weatherby went to the Millom Junior that day and collected the Boys' Doubles title.

The Macclesfield League celebrated their 50th Anniversary by inviting an England Squad to give an exhibition. Local champion Derek Abbot came very close to winning the £100 offered, for beating England's Paul Day, losing the prize game only at 21-19.

A large number of Juniors attended the training session at Stretford, supported by a number of senior players. Another large gathering is expected at the next session on Sunday, May 21, also at Stretford. Cheshire's two leading girl juniors, Lynne Fennah and Janet Deakin, were ranked one and two in the recent Girls' Regional Ranking, and John Weatherby was ranked at number three in the Boys.

There are many who serve the County off the playing table. Eric Pentland has a right to be proud, for after seven years of county umpiring, he has now received his badge as a National Umpire, Cheshire's first. Eric, who umpired a number of World Championship matches, is hoping to get his International Umpire badge next year.

The A.G.M. of the Cheshire T.T.A. is to take place at the Park Hotel, Lloyd Street, Altrincham, on Friday, May 19 (7.30 p.m.).

FRENCH LEAVE

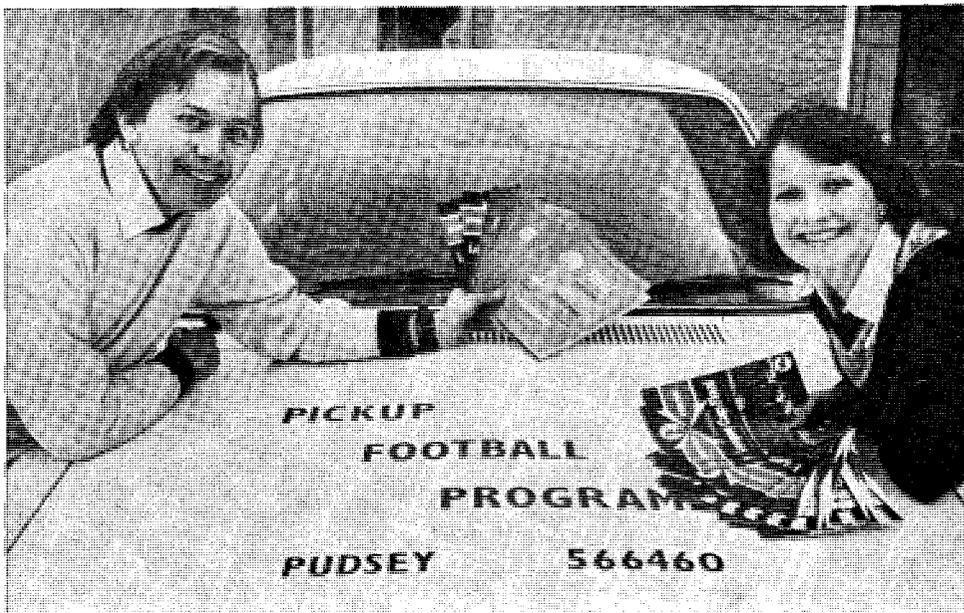
A club in France is organising a kind of table tennis festival from 17th to 31st July 1978 and they cordially invite teams of six players from clubs in England.

In addition to team and individual table tennis events, there will be other forms of entertainment and there are facilities for camping at inexpensive rates.

For full details and tariff, apply to:-

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2 Vallee du Parc,
79800 : a Mothe St. Heray,
France.

(continued on page 31)



BACKING FOR MELODY

by The Editor

In May 1970 Melody Ludi was selected for her first competitive match. Playing for Unity Hall in the Bradford Summer League Melody started out, on a cold rainy Monday, along a long hard road towards a career which one now feels is soon to blossom more fully.

A member of that Unity Hall team in which Melody played for a few years was Peter Pickup, club secretary and, in fact, the person responsible for forming the club in August, 1965.

"I well recall", Peter tells me, "the thrill Mel had in her first match and as we were 1-8 down with only the doubles to play, I allowed her to partner me in the doubles with the hope of her gaining her first taste of success.

"That night it did not happen, but it wasn't long before she was chalking up the odd singles success, gaining the admiration of all within the club, and outside it. By the time she made her first appearance in the Bradford League proper, Melody was sufficiently competent to win her three singles.

"There were many times when Melody came close to beating a player I had lost to, and sure enough one night Melody beat such a player and turned a corner from which she has never looked back".

Now England ranked at No. 6 Melody like many other needing players has turned to sponsorship and with her ex-skipper now a successful businessman in Pudsey, it is not surprising that the two have agreed on a contract which runs from Apl. 1 this year to Mar. 31, 1979.

The oddity, if I may call it that, is that Peter Pickup is a member of an exclusive set of businessmen totalling eight. These people are

known as Football Programme Dealers and make a living from selling old and new Football Programmes to collectors, club shops, etc.

Melody is, as you will see from the photograph — published by courtesy of the Bradford Telegraph and Argus — going to display the company name and 'phone number on her car bonnet, and the name will also be displayed on goods (track-suit etc.) supplied by the Company.

"In my opinion" says Mr. Pickup "I could not sponsor a finer person. During the time I have known Mel, I have found her to be honest, dedicated, loyal, sincere and a loveable person, to whom all who meet her take an instant liking. No longer can I give Mel the encouragement of how to play the game as I used to. In fact, because of business, I no longer find time to play. I can however help Mel in other ways and hope my contribution through the Sports Council's Individual Sponsorship scheme will help her attain the heights of which I know she is capable".

Mr. Pickup is Secretary of the Bradford and District Table Tennis Summer League and has recently been concerned with the publication of The History of Bradford Park Avenue.

Profits on sales are to go into a sponsorship fund for the probable renewal of Melody's contract at the end of its current period.

BOOK REVIEW

ENJOYING RACQUET SPORTS
by the Diagram Group

Published by The Paddington Press

Enjoying Racquet Sports is a heavily illustrated manual, giving the rules and playing techniques not only on Table Tennis, Badminton, Squash and Tennis, but also on such obscure activities as Paddle Tennis, Racquetball and Platform Tennis.

The book is an American production, which

accounts for some of the obscure terms and "wrong" spellings; 'paddle' for 'bat', and 'color' for 'colour', but is attractively designed and well laid out. Indeed, so profuse are the illustrations, that it is sometimes difficult to follow the snippets of text which surround them, and an excessive use of cross-referencing and notes in brackets adds to the confusion!

In the section on Table Tennis, the rules of the game are laid out with useful black and white line drawings as illustrations. After this the book goes on to discuss grips, positioning and stroke play in considerable detail, and with a considerable understanding of the technical difficulties involved.

On a sour note, it must be admitted that Table Tennis has been relegated into the shorter sections on 'minority' sports at the end of the book, despite the admission that "after soccer, Table Tennis may well be the most widely played sport in the world". Nonetheless, this manual is concise and useful, and, at £1.95, represents realistic value for money — particularly for those whose sporting interests do not stop with Table Tennis.

DICK TAMMADGE.

ASCOT-MILLOM 1-STAR OPEN

by John Taylor

With the group qualifying systems in operation for the first time at this, the third Ascot/Millom School tournament, over four hundred matches had been played on the eighteen tables in use before Sam Harmer won the main event of the day, the boys' singles, with a 3-game success over local favourite Diccon Gray.

In the semi-finals Harmer's determined efforts saw him triumph, again in three games, over Preston's Paul Rainford while Gray had a more comfortable 2-straight win over Ross McFarlane of Cheshire.

Rainford retained his Cadet title, but he had to fight all the way against the Welsh No. 1 Junior Mark Thomas and the result in the end could have gone either way. Janet Deakin of Warrington won the U-17 girls' singles with a win over Lytham's Joy Grundy, a final which saw a complete reversal of fortunes after Miss Grundy took command early on. Joy for Joy however with a comfortable win over Tracy Robertshaw in the Cadet Girls' final.

Results:-

Boys' Singles:

S. Harmer (Bd) bt D. Gray (Cu) 18, -15, 12.

Girls' Singles:

J. Deakin (Ch) bt J. Grundy (La) -18, 16, 14.

Boys' Doubles:

J. and R. Weatherby (Ch) bt Gray/I. Reed (Cu) 19, -18, 16.

Girls' Doubles:

Deakin/Grundy bt M. Gray/J. Sephton (Cu) 8, 17.

Consolation Boys' Singles:

P. Rainford (La) bt M. Thomas (Wal) -12, 17, 23.

Consolation Girls' Singles:

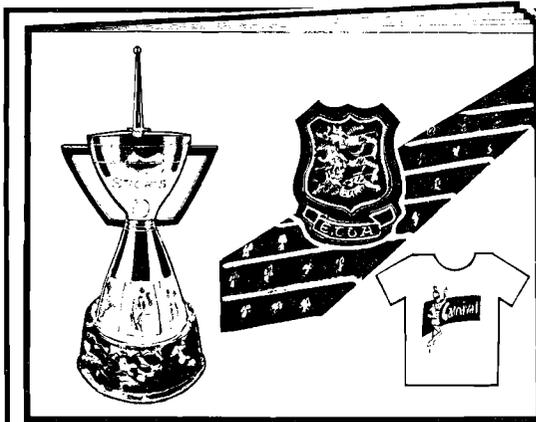
Grundy bt T. Robertshaw 7, 17.

Consolation Boys' Doubles:

P. Jackson/Thomas bt R. Palfreeman (Y)/Rainford 15, -14, 9.

Consolation Girls' Doubles:

Grundy/S. Powell bt A. Holden/J. Woodcock (Cv) 11, 16.



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A handshake for Kenny Jackson with a smiling Kevin Beadsley alongside.

FRENCH JUNIOR OPEN

GOLD FOR ENGLAND IN LUNEVILLE

by Alan Ransome

Kevin Beadsley and Kenny Jackson representing England boys' won the gold medal in the French Junior Open Championships which were played at Luneville on 25th and 26th March.

Taking the team title from such a strong field was a great performance for the two English lads, in particular for Jackson who was making his first international appearance.

All the other titles in Luneville were won by the strong Federal German outfit who were led by the ex-Swedish coach, Christer Johansson. It was the Germans, in fact, who were the first victims of the England pair in the team event. Beadsley put in one of his best performances to win both his singles beating Rebel at 19 in the 3rd and Fischer at 23-21 in the 3rd. Jackson played his part in the doubles to give England their 3 sets.

By comparison the quarter-final victory over the Netherlands 3-0 was a "walk over" with none of the sets requiring a decider. Jackson excelled in the semi-final against Austria which England won 3-0. He did well to beat Krola at 21-10 in the decider.

The final against France which finished at 11.45 p.m. was a cliff hanger. The French No. 1 Parietti was the star of the match and won both his singles. Parietti beat Jackson in the opening set. Beadsley levelled with a narrow 3 game win over Farout. The vital doubles went to England at 16 in the 3rd. Parietti levelled for France against Beadsley and then Jackson won a nail biter against Farout at 23-21 in the decider to give England a 3-2 win and the title.

England girls, Angela Tierney and Alison Gordon, were not so fortunate in their opening round of the team event going out to the Germans 3-0.

In the singles the only success was Alison Gordon who reached the quarter-final and after taking the first game against the efficient Monica Stork of Federal Germany, she was able to make little impression on the German's sound defence in the next two.

The Doubles saw two bronze medals for England in the Mixed event. Beadsley and Tierney were beaten in the semi-final by the French No. 1 pair Parietti/Daviaud in straight games, whilst Jackson

and Gordon went down in the same round to the eventual winners, the German defenders Plum/Stork.

What was most impressive in the Championships was the standard and the strength in depth of the German squad. Their boys were very effective all with different styles, whilst the girls played an ultra consistent game against which our English entrants seemed to have no answer.

Final Results:-

Boys' Singles:

Plum (West Germany) bt Fischer (West Germany) 16, 21.

Girls' Singles:

Stork (West Germany) bt Daviaud (France) -18, 22, 17.

Boys' Doubles:

Fischer/Rebel (West Germany) bt Plum/Assner (West Germany) 16, 20.

Girls' Doubles:

Wenzel/Olschewski (West Germany) bt Daviaud/Germain (France) 13, 14.

Mixed Doubles:

Plum/Stork (West Germany) bt Parietti/Daviaud (France) -18, 15, 13.

Girls' Team:

West Germany 3 France 0

Boys' Team:

England 3 France 2

CHESHIRE JUNIOR 1-STAR OPEN

by N. Berry

Tony Bottomley of Yorkshire and Linda Holmes of Derbyshire took the major awards at the Cheshire Junior 1-Star Open played at Birkenhead on Apl. 23, the Cadet singles titles being won by Mark Thomas of Wales and Gillian Galloway of Lincolnshire.

Results:-

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

L. Bertie (Wa) bt S. Yallop (Dy) -19, 19, 17;
A. Bellingham (St) bt R. Weatherby (Ch) 15, -20, 6;
M. Thomas (Wales) bt E. Wilkes (St) 14, 14;
A. Bottomley (Y) bt J. Weatherby (Ch) 9, 12.

Semi-finals:

Bertie bt Bellingham -19, 18, 18;
Bottomley bt Thomas 17, 17.

Final:

BOTTOMLEY bt Bertie 17, 9.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

J. Grundy (La) bt S. Cain (St) 17, -18, 12;
L. Holmes (Dy) bt J. Deakin (Ch) 15, 5.

Final:

HOLMES bt Grundy 14, 14.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

A. Dixon (St)/P. Rainford (La) bt Thomas/A. Williams (Wales) 14, 11;
S. McCarthy (Dy)/Yallop bt K. Nicoll (Np)/Wilkes -17, 16, 16.

Final:

MCCARTHY/YALLOP bt Dixon/Rainford -13, 12, 10.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Holmes/M. Reeves (Mi) bt Grundy/S. Powell (Wales) 6, 9;
L. Fennah (Ch)/Galloway bt Cain/S. Smart (Dy) -16, 14, 11;

Final:

HOLMES/REEVES bt Fennah/Galloway 14, 19.

Consolation Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Thomas bt Dixon 16, 9;
Rainford bt A. Trubshaw (St) 11, 9.

Final:

THOMAS bt Rainford 21, 23.

Consolation Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Galloway bt C. Peacock (La) 11, 11;
Grundy bt Fennah 19, 14.

Final:

GALLOWAY bt Grundy -22, 16, 16.

Consolation Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Dixon/Rainford bt P. Ashcroft/M. Mercer (La) 16, 6;
J. Duffield (Wo)/Thomas bt M. Gibbons/S. Mercer (La) 11, 13.

Final:

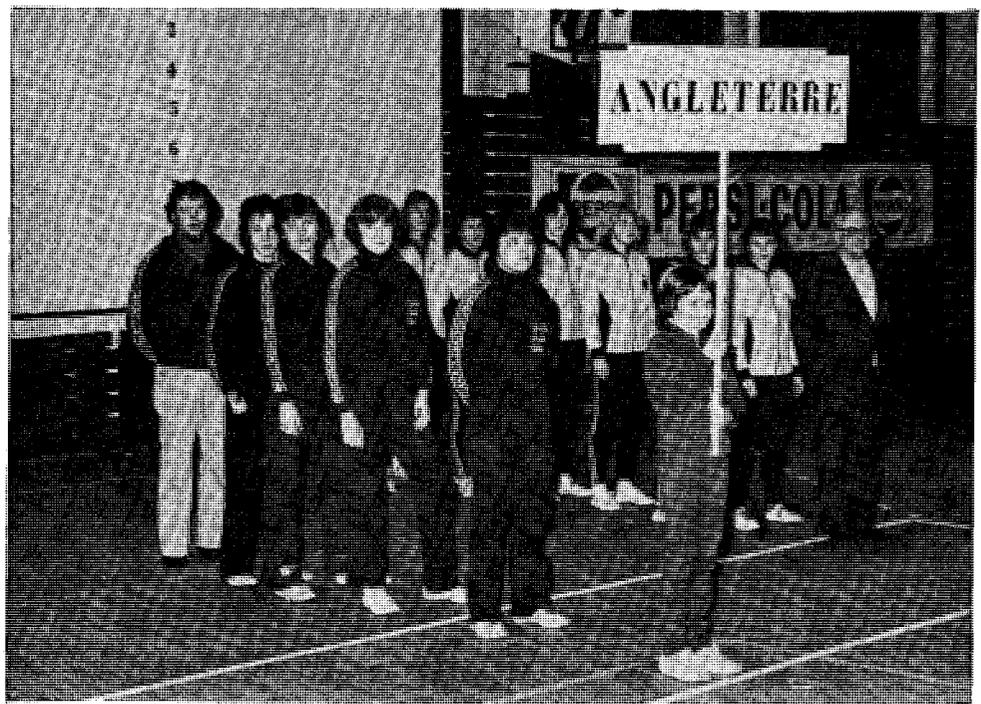
DUFFIELD/THOMAS bt Dixon/Rainford 14, 18.

Consolation Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Fennah/Galloway bt M. Williams/J. Wilding 12, 15;
Grundy/Powell bt D. Cox/P. Truman 18, 13.

Final:

GRUNDY/POWELL bt Fennah/Galloway -18, 21, 14.



Lined up behind the nameboard — Angela Tierney, Alison Gordon, Kenny Jackson, Kevin Beadsley and Alan Ransome the N.P.C.



Pictured at the Isle of Man T.T.A. dinner in Douglas (l to r) Brian Walton (Gen. Sec.) George Yates (E.T.T.A. Deputy Chairman), Malcolm Kelly (I.O.M. Chairman), Chas Grills (Fixtures Sec.), Maureen Wilcock (Vice-President), Richard Kennett (Treasurer), Mrs. Doreen Yates and Ken Page (Press Secretary).

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by GEORGE R. YATES

GRANADA TROPHY FOR MANCHESTER

In front of a bumper crowd at Bolton's Institute of Technology on May 2 Manchester and Liverpool emerged victorious to contest the final of the Granada Reports T.V. knock-out tournament three nights later at British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock.

In the semis Manchester included John Hilton for the first time and he together with Phil Bowen and Brian Kean accounted for Salford 8-1 the one lost being by Kean to ace veteran Derek Schofield. Meantime matters between Liverpool and Preston climaxed to that most desired of situations of a 4-4 scoreline with all depending on the result of the final set.

In this particular case it brought John McNee and Ian Smith together with the Anglo-Scot victorious for the Merseysiders. But Smith, in losing the opening set to Keith Williams, set Preston a task they could not accomplish.

Nor could Liverpool in the final, won 6-1 by Manchester, only McNee sparkling under the bright lights in beating his fellow Anglo, Kean, but not good enough for Hilton or Bowen.

Following the writer's visit to the Isle of Man to present their prizes there could well be involvement of the Island's players in northern tournaments next season. It is now on the cards that the I.O.M.T.T.A. will affiliate to the E.T.T.A. and most welcome they would be for such is their administrative set-up that an Isle of Man Open is a viable proposition.

Nigel Hallows showed a welcome return to form in the Bolton League's closed championships beating Clive Heap (semis) and Stephen Cowley in the final of the men's singles event. Carolyn Scowcroft won the women's title beating the previous winner Linda Rothwell in the final. In the men's singles final of the Mid-Lancs League Graham Hoy retained his title with a final victory over Bob Freely, the Bury League champion.

The shock news of Roger Hampson having his left hand severed by a circular saw was not only echoed round his native Stockport and Cheshire but all around the North. All will join me in hoping that the 8½ hours operation that Roger underwent will eventually result in his regaining the use of the hand now, thanks to the surgeons skill at Withington Hospital, Manchester is back in place. The very best of luck Roger, and keep your pecker up.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by TONY ROSS

SHEFFIELD CHAMPIONS

Sheffield are Yorkshire League champions for the first time since 1960/61, whilst Bradford took three titles — Division 5, Women's Division and Junior Division 1. The winners and runners-up of the various divisions, together with the winners of the Merit Awards are:-

- Div. 1 — Sheffield; Leeds; S. Mills (Sheffield).
- Div. 2 — Huddersfield; Doncaster; T. Williams (Sheffield II).
- Div. 3 — York III; not yet known; P. Halmshaw (Bradford IV).
- Div. 4 — Castleford/Pontefract; York IV; A. Hanson (Castleford/Pontefract).
- Div. 5 — Bradford V; Wakefield IV; D. Close (Northallerton).
- Women's Div. — Bradford; Hull; H. Shields (Bradford).
- Junior Div. 1 — Bradford; Leeds; Boys — N. Harris (Bradford); Girls — Miss S. Midgley (Bradford).
- Junior Div. 2 — Doncaster; York; Merit Award winners not yet known.
- Veterans' Div. — Barnsley; Leeds; B. Starkie (Barnsley).

Bradford's Unity reached the final of all three sections of the Yorkshire Club Championships. In the men's competition they defeated Sheffield's Wadsley Bridge, but in the women's section Hull Y.P.I. retained the title they won last season. The result of the final of the junior competition was not known at the time of writing.

Halifax reached the final of the Carter Cup with a home 5-2 win over Potteries. Details:- Adrian Hill bt Eddie Wilkes 17, -18, 11; Kevin Beadsley bt Mark Evans 11, 19; Tony Bottomley lost to Malcolm Green -21, 17, -19; Beadsley bt Wilkes 13, 16; Hill lost to Green -21, -16; Bottomley bt Evans -15, 15, 14; Beadsley bt Green 14, 14.

Ablly organised by County Umpires' Secretary Geoff Scruton, the second annual Yorkshire umpires' tournament was held at Moor Grange School, Leeds, on 16th April. The winner and recipient of the Cliff Darley Memorial Trophy was Harrogate's Richard Scruton, with a final 15, -19, 14 victory over Sheffield's Alan Lowe.

After expressing a wish to retire from the office at the end of last season, county treasurer Ron Hart (Bradford) was persuaded to continue for a further season as no successor could be found. Ron

is again standing down and hopefully a younger financial custodian may be prevailed upon to take up the office. Also not seeking re-election are Coaching Secretary Ian Waterhouse (Leeds), Umpires' Secretary Geoff Scruton (Harrogate) and West Region member Geoff Barnes (Halifax). To all those retiring from office may I express our thanks for their contribution to the running of the county's activities.

There were shocks at the Sheffield Closed in the men's singles event, in which leading contenders David Rayner (the holder) and county player Steve Mills were removed by defensive bat twiddlers Trevor Williams and Terry Curran respectively. Derbyshire players Martin Kinsella and Robert Allen were also ousted at the semi-final stage. The final "battle of the bats" resulted in a win for Williams, though Curran won the first game and surrendered a long lead in the second.

Confidence, consistency and control helped Keith Dodd to victory in the men's singles final of the Harrogate Closed, which was sponsored by local firm Modern Maintenance Products. Dodd, seeded No. 5, defeated second seed Peter Campkin in the final after knocking out top seed Ian Walmsley in the quarters. The same players as last season met in the final of the women's singles, but the result was reversed.

All titles changed hands in the Huddersfield Closed, in which men's singles holder Malcolm Mear was defeated in the final by Stuart Sykes. In the Dewsbury Closed, Stewart Milnes won four titles.

The Northallerton Closed was sponsored by the Vale of Mowbray Bacon Factory, Leeming, and was won by Harry Sissens. The final stages were dominated by Middlesbrough Y.M.C.A. players (except Sissens), including Ian Noble, the former Ormesby defender.

Closed Championships Results:-

DEWSBURY

M.S. — S. Milnes bt J. Collinson 14, 12.
M.D. — Milnes/D. Firth bt D. Laycock/D. Collinson 1, -16, 19.
Y.S. — H. Cummins bt P. Thompson 14, 9.
V.S. — B. Lightowler bt F. Lockwood 15, -18, 19.

HARROGATE

M.S. — K. Dodd bt P. Campkin 12, -18, 11.
W.S. — L. Smith bt Y. Abdallah 15, 15.
M.D. — P. Campkin/J. Troughton bt I. Walmsley/R. Maxfield 15, -18, 16.
X.D. — J. Ellis/K. Bell bt W. Morris/D. Ward 16, 19.
V.S. — D. Cram bt S. Kidson 19, 19.
U-20 S. — C. Twineham bt A. Tipling 19, 15.
U-17 S. — A. Tipling bt N. Pennock 13, 19.
U-14 S. — N. Pennock bt R. Whiteley -19, 13, 21.

HUDDERSFIELD

M.S. — S. Sykes bt M. Mear 18, -15, 10.
W.S. — B. Dunn bt J. France 16, 14.
M.D. — G. Brook/S. Brailsford.
W.D. — B. Dunn/J. France.
X.D. — S. Brailsford/B. Dunn.
J.S. — A. Rennison.
V.S. — G. Brook.

NORTHALLERTON

M.S. — H. Sissens bt D. Close.
M.D. — I. Noble/M. Shallows bt D. Close/P. Sermon.

SHEFFIELD

M.S. — T. Williams bt T. Curran.
W.S. — A. Marples bt G. Stocks.
M.D. — M. Askham/S. Mills bt K. Foster/T. Curran.
W.D. — G. Stocks/J. Guest bt A. Wass/H. Stones.
X.D. — M. Askham/G. Stocks bt N. Marples/A. Marples.
V.S. — D. Marples bt K. Foster.
Y.S. — M. Kinsella bt S. Mills.
B.S. — not yet played.
G.S. — L. Broomhead bt E. Rawlings.

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

by K. T. O. Ponting

Scheduled for Sunday, May 21 the North Middlesex League will have a triple representation in the Finals of the National League Championships at The Leisure Centre, Stratford Park, Stroud, Gloucs.

Programme:-

10 a.m.

Bromfield Trophy:

Nottingham v North Middlesex

Carter Cup:

Halifax v North Middlesex

2 p.m.

J. M. Rose Bowl:

Newbury v Ormesby

Wilmott Cup:

Birmingham v North Middlesex

Only Ormesby in the Rose Bowl competition will be defending their title, Manchester (Wilmott), Leatherhead (Carter) and Ormesby (Bromfield) all having been eliminated.

Yorkshire Junior Select

by Rea Balmforth

A total of 310 players, which included a six-strong contingent from Bergen in Norway and an International quartet from Denmark, entered the Yorkshire Junior Open, the final two-star 'Select' of the season, and, rather than refuse entries or cut out the popular group system of play in the singles events, referee Tony Ross decided to pare his schedule to the bone, play the finals on two tables and accept all applicants.

This he did and a finishing time of nearer to 9 p.m. than 10 p.m. on both evenings reflects considerable credit on him and on those players and adults who co-operated so well to keep the Tournament moving.

Four top stars were missing, on duty for England at the French Junior Open championships, but, despite this, selectorial thinking caps will need to be at the ready when the results of the Championships are analysed and built into the end of season ranking list.

In the major Boys' Singles only Graham Gillett and Malcolm Green took their allotted places, the latter being the only one of the top four boys to step up for the semi-finals, Graham Sandley, Bryn Tyler and David Barr all falling in the quarters.

Old rival Colin Wilson showed Sandley the door and then moved past the unranked Malcolm Francis, who had dismissed Tyler in two advantage games, to take the title in the tightest of finals in which his consistency just proved the deciding factor over Green, always the more ready to take the game to his opponent.

Among the Cadet Boys Paul Rainford showed his displeasure at his omission from the latest rankings by toppling Mark Oakley in the final after dropping the first game.

On the Girls' side Mandy Smith, a late

acceptance on the withdrawal of Helen Robinson, was beaten for a semi-final spot by Linda Holmes, while, in the other half Mandy Reeves edged home in a tight contest with Sally Midgley, but neither Linda nor Mandy could find an answer to the power of top seed Karen Witt, who conceded only 36 points over the two games.

The England No. 1 completed a treble when she added the Mixed (with Sandley) and the Girls' Doubles (with Miss Midgley), with the losing finalists Green/Gillian Galloway and Linda Holmes/Mandy Smith.

In the Cadet Girls' Singles Miss Galloway, demoted from 1 to 5 in the latest Cadet list, was another to, metaphorically, thumb her nose at the selectors when she beat first Helen Williams, top of the pack, in a straight games semi-final and then went on to claim the title, again in straight games, with a win over Gina Pritchard, despite taking some little time to settle down in the first game.

JUNIOR EVENTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Wilson (Mi) bt G. Sandley (Mi) 14, -15, 19;
M. Green (Sp) bt G. Gillett (Sx) 15, -17, 17;
M. Francis (Sx) bt B. Tyler (Mi) 22, 21;
A. Bellingham (St) bt D. Barr (Bk) 16, 19.

Semi-finals:

Wilson bt Francis 14, 19;
Green bt Bellingham 11, -20, 21.

Final:

WILSON bt Green -19, 18, 20.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

K. Witt (Bk) bt L. Holmes (Dy) 6, 17;
M. Reeves (Mi) bt S. Midgley (Y) 12, -23, 15.

Final:

WITT bt Reeves 7, 6.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Sandley/Tyler bt A. Haukanes (Norway)/
A. Bottomley (Y) 17, 16;

Green/Barr bt A. O'Connor (La)/I. Attridge (E)
17, 14.

Final:

SANDLEY/TYLER bt Green/Barr 6, 15.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Witt/Midgley bt H. Williams (Mi)/Reeves
16, -17, 8;

Holmes/M. Smith (Bk) bt S. Cain (St)/
G. Galloway (Li) -13, 6, 15.

Final:

WITT/MIDGLEY bt Holmes/Smith -12, 13, 15.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Sandley/Witt bt Wilson/Williams -21, 14, 19;
Green/Galloway bt Tyler/Midgley 14, 22.

Final:

SANDLEY/WITT bt Green/Galloway 15, 19.

CADET EVENTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

P. Rainford (La) bt C. Freeley (La) 15, 13;
M. Oakley (Sy) bt B. Johnson (Bk) 19, 13;
S. Palmer (Sk) bt C. Preen (Ha) -12, 15, 12.
P. Bradbury (Bu) bt S. Ruse (Y) 10, 18.

Semi-finals:

Rainford bt Palmer 19, 16.

Oakley bt Bradbury 11, 10.

Final:

RAINFORD bt Oakley -16, 6, 19.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Galloway bt Williams 15, 14;
G. Pritchard (Dv) bt L. Bellinger (Bd) 15, 16;

Final:

GALLOWAY bt Pritchard 26, 16.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Madden/R. Palfreeman (Y) bt A. Moore (Sx)/
Bradbury 17, -12, 15;

Rainford/A. Dixon (St) bt D. Pilling (Mi)/
P. Brownlow (He) 14, 17.

Final:

MADDEN/PALFREEMAN bt Rainford/Dixon
-13, 14, 14.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Pritchard/L. Taylor (Bk) bt L. and J. Bellinger
(Bd) -18, 18, 18;

Williams/S. Cresswell (Sy) bt D. Taylor (E)/
Galloway 16, -16, 18.

Final:

PRITCHARD/TAYLOR bt Williams/Cresswell
16, -12, 9.

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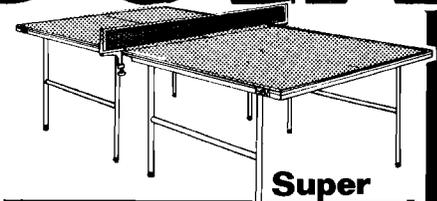
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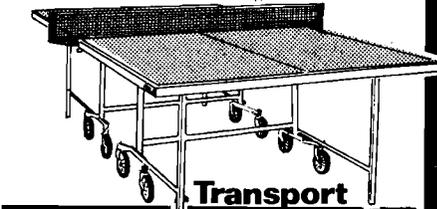
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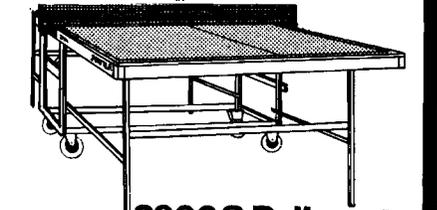
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TOP PLAYERS SIGN WITH NEW COMPANY



The picture shows three of England's top Players now using TSP table tennis equipment, inspecting items in the exciting new range. From left to right: Des Douglas, Linda Howard, Eddy King, Managing Director TSP and Karen Witt. Not in the picture Anita Stevenson.

MEXICO REVISITED

by Albert W. Shipley

As a consequence of my conducting a seminar for umpires in Mexico City last October, I was fortunate enough to receive a further invitation for my wife and I to return as guests during the staging of the first ever Latin-American table tennis championships reported elsewhere in this issue.

Owing to my presence with the England team in Duisburg for the European Championships, we were unable to be in Mexico for the full span of the championships, but 36 hours after returning from Germany, we were on our way, arriving in time for the individual events.

The playing schedule was almost as generous as the hospitality provided, with six days allowed to cover for an entry of 47 men and 24 women from eleven countries. Therefore, in addition to witnessing most of the play, we were able to take advantage of the transport kindly provided for whatever sightseeing we wished to undertake.

Because of the Easter holidays, window shopping was the main occupation for the first four days and with the banks closed, very few pesos passed through my wallet, but by the time the shops reopened my wife had some definite views on her purchases. Silver being a product of the country, it is one of the best buys and the variety and form available is quite bewildering. Markets abound throughout Mexico City but the problem for us reserved English is the need to haggle over the price and as a general rule you must allow a 50% reduction in the first price quoted before considering a purchase. If one shows a lack of desire to purchase and starts to walk away, the cry will always come "How much you pay?". I will confess that most of our purchases were made in reputable stores where the prices were displayed and some assurance on the quality of the goods was given.

Clothing was another attractive item with many colourful designs and, much to my wife's disgust, a far wider choice for men than for women. We were tempted to buy many times, but the majority of garments were suited to a land where the sun always shines and they would have looked out of place on a grey English day. Leather goods were also in abundance with an amazing variety of

articles being made in this material, including superb jackets and coats at prices very comparable to England. My heart was set on one of the golf bags covered with intricate hand-worked designs and Betty would have loved a full length leather coat, but either one would have exceeded our customs concession on "goods to the value of".

One of the strongest memories from this trip was leaving a cold and wet England to bask in sunshine for eight days and in temperatures reaching the high seventies, although it took us a full 24 hours to adjust back again on our return.

The most interesting aspect of the visit for me was the chance to study the play, organisation and umpiring in this completely different environment. My first realisation was that laws and regulations made in the cool atmosphere of a committee meeting in Europe, seem somewhat officious when applied to the latin temperament in a warm climate. Although the standard of play was such that any team from one of the counties in our Premier Division could win the team event, the players could execute all the modern strokes and were only lacking in tactical application, making them perfect material for some coaching. It is pleasing to report that the I.T.T.F. are making every effort to organise such coaching and I was delighted to be able to have discussions on this subject with Mr. Ernesto Guzman, the President of Venezuela Table Tennis Association on behalf of the I.T.T.F.

There was much enthusiasm from the countries to improve their standards and a thirst for knowledge of developments in Europe, to which I was able to contribute in talking to people like Mr. Renato de Aguero of Cuba, Mr. Piero Scottini of Peru, Mr. John Vallejo of Colombia and (briefly) Mr. Jaime Munoz of Ecuador.

Naturally, the greater part of my dialogue was with my host, Dr. Helios Farrell, President of the Mexican Table Tennis Federation, whose efforts to unify the table tennis associations in Latin-America are to be encouraged, and his initiative in organising the first Latin-American Championships must surely have helped this worthy cause.

We also enjoyed the time spent in the company of Roy Hylton and Ken McLachlan from Jamaica and Winston Cowan, a Jamaican residing in Trinidad, for in the midst of so much Spanish, their oh-so-English attitudes and delightful accents were like an oasis for us. It also became a history and

geography lesson to more fully realise just how much Jamaica is an English outpost in the midst of the former Spanish empire.

The hospitality afforded to all delegates and guests was excellent, with the luxury of a five-star hotel in which the little touches are remembered most, such as freshly squeezed orange juice sitting in a bed of crushed ice each breakfast-time.

Our last night in Mexico was another memorable occasion when at a palatial theatre known as the Palace of Fine Arts, we witnessed the spectacle known as the "Ballet Folklorico". The word "ballet" was a complete misnomer, for the entertainment consisted of all the folk dances and songs from the various regions of Mexico and the choreography, the lighting and the different groups of musicians playing a series of foot-tapping tunes made it superb and spectacular entertainment.

Few people from England have the opportunity to visit Mexico and I consider myself doubly fortunate to have been able to make two visits within the space of six months, both of which have given me a valuable insight into table tennis problems and views from a part of the world so different in temperament, attitude and climate to our own.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the support and encouragement given to me by both the E.T.T.A. and the I.T.T.F. for these trips and, of course, the generosity of my host, Dr. Helios Farrell, without whom neither trip would have been possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KEEP IT AMATEUR

Have we changed the sport of table tennis to full time professionalism from its amateur status. Amateur I hope it remains but others think otherwise. Only recently I heard there was to be large sums of money put into our sport for Open Championships.

I am not saying it is neither good nor bad to go full time professional as European Associations, but in doing so we will lose the player who wants to play his league match for his local team in the local league and then trot down to the local for a swift pint of lager.

The administrative set-up could be for full time people, coaches, umpires and players. Let us keep our popular sport a FULL TIME AMATEUR SPORT. Look what has happened to Soccer. I hope table tennis will not go the same way. I would not like to see youngsters breaking their way through crash barriers and hooliganism in our match halls etc

MIKE HAWKINS,
Amateur Player and Umpire.

87 Newton Road,
Twerton-on-Avon,
Bath, Avon.

SOME SYMPATHY

I have read with interest the letter from J. F. Walk, in your April issue, and would like to comment on two points.

Although I have some sympathy with the writer regarding the "fragmentary nature" of the E.T.T.A., it will be up to him to regularly contact his nearest Coaching authority, as they often assess the keenness of a student or newly qualified coach by the effort he makes in finding out where and when sessions are held and I agree with this policy.

As regards the "considerable expense" of week end courses, this I'm afraid is a fact of life which he will have to accept. It really depends on the attitude one takes. Sometimes it means financial outlay, not to coach, but to watch and listen, which is a vital part of the all round development of a coach.

I look on my appointment as a coach, to an enjoyable, part-time profession, and accept I should take some initiative myself.

L. R. NEVILLE,
Club Coach, Runnymede T.T.C., Benfleet, Essex.
17 Westleigh Avenue,
Leigh-on-Sea,
Essex.

by GEOFF NEWMAN

DROP AVOIDED DESPITE DEFEATS

Our Senior Premier team have just avoided the drop and live to fight another day for the top County Championship honours. A capacity crowd at Chelmsford saw a magnificent match when the Senior Premier team entertained Middlesex.

Excellently staged by the Chelmsford League the whole evening turned out to be a great advertisement for table tennis. The only disappointment for Essex was the final 5-4 victory in favour of Middlesex.

Bob Potton was in cracking form and he won both his singles well and the doubles partnered with Dave Newman. Bob's encounter with Mark Mitchell nearly brought the house down and one can foresee it will not be too difficult to get a good crowd again at this venue.

Our other success in this match was the mixed won by Stuart Gibbs and Lesley Radford. Our final match away to Surrey was also lost this time 3-6 but once again Potton was on top of his form with wins over Max Crimmins and Martin Shuttle. Debutant Kenny Jackson also had a good match winning well over Crimmins and only losing narrowly to Dave Welsman. Gibbs and Mrs. Radford tried hard but were unable to open their account in this match.

On the Junior front our first team had to be content with the runners-up berth, Middlesex defeating us 7-3 and deservedly becoming champions. Graham Sandley was their match winner as indeed he had been in the Senior Premier match and he gave Jackson a rare junior defeat. Julie Dowsett gave a very good display in this match winning well over Helen Williams.

The Veterans teams both finished in second place in their respective divisions Kent pipping the first team on games average while the second team were only defeated by the title holders Middlesex in their division.

On the Essex Inter-League front Dick Roffe has been very busy this season. The innovation of having three competitions has proved quite a handful both to Dick and the many league match secretaries. I am sure many people did not realise how much more work it would entail with the result that it has made Dick's job so much more difficult. Champions and runners-up in the various divisions were:-

- Men**
- | | |
|---|------------|
| Winners | Runners-up |
| Div. 1 — Dagenham and Chelmsford | |
| Div. 2 — Walthamstow and Billericay 'A' | |
| Div. 3 — Ilford and Colchester 'A' | |
| Div. 4 — Braintree and Becontree | |
| Div. 5 — Southend 'C' and Clacton 'B' | |
- Mixed**
- | |
|---|
| Div. 1 — Chelmsford and Dagenham 'A' |
| Div. 2 — Dagenham 'B' and Thurrock 'A' |
| Div. 3 — Becontree 'A' and Colchester 'B' |
| Div. 4 — West Essex and Braintree |

- Women**
- | |
|------------------------------------|
| Div. 1 — Chelmsford and Colchester |
| Div. 2 — Southend and Billericay |
- Veterans**
- | |
|--|
| Div. 1 — Colchester 'A' and Billericay 'A' |
| Div. 2 — Thurrock 'A' and Romford 'B' |
| Div. 3 — Harlow 'B' and Braintree 'A' |
| Div. 4 — Ilford 'B' and Becontree 'A' |
| Div. 5 — Dagenham 'B' and Billericay 'B' |
| Div. 6 — Ilford 'C' and Becontree 'B' |
| Div. 7 — Colchester 'B' and Ilford 'B' |
- Juniors**
- | |
|--|
| Div. 1 — Silvertown and Romford 'A' |
| Div. 2 — Basildon 'A' and Clacton 'A' |
| Div. 3 — Braintree and Walthamstow 'A' |
| Div. 4 — Barking 'B' and Walthamstow 'B' |
| Div. 5 — Southend and Basildon 'B' |

The Essex T.T.A., in conjunction with the E.T.T.A.'s Coaching and Schools Committee held a very successful Coaches Conference at the Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill, Witham during March with an attendance of over 60 people. My picture shows the Panel answering questions (from l to r):- Pat Dukes (Essex T.T.A. Chairman), Mark Mitchell (England international), Mr. N. J. Chipping (Director Biorthrythms Assn.), Peter Hirst (National Coach), Mr. A. Simcox (Managing Director Actif Sports Ltd.) and Gordon Steggall (Chairman, E.T.T.A. C. and S. Committee).

**VETERANS AT 40 . . .
RIDICULOUS!**

Says Harold Pearce

How many years ago was it decided that at the age of 40, a man/woman was past it as a player of any consequence and qualified to be called a 'veteran'. Probably in the early 1930's when the Champions at that time were 16/17 years-of-age and the general comment at that time was that a person of 20 was too old for top table tennis. With the war of 1939/45 and world class players such as the late Victor Barna and Richard Bergeman continuing to play and after the war still holding their own with many others of similar age and continuing to win major championships, the cry of 'finished at 20 was finally dispelled. Even with the faster game of to-day, the average of participants at club, league and even county level has advanced higher and higher. Even at International level the average age must be quite high with perhaps the exception of the Asian block.

Domestically where would we be without our veterans? There are, unfortunately, no statistics to show the average age of players regularly participating in leagues and tournaments throughout the country, but I would wager the average is pretty high. Indeed there are probably many leagues whose singles/doubles champions are over '40' and many of them still representing their 'town teams' and I know there are certainly a few still appearing in their 'B' county team. So, I repeat,

veterans at 40 is just ridiculous. Men/Women are living longer these days and at the age of '40' one has only reached half one's life. Remember the old adage . . . a man is in the prime of his life at '40' . . . we had better say a woman as well as no discrimination must be made in todays equality of the sexes. The leagues are just seething with excellent players who are just '40'.

So, in my opinion, the age for all veteran tournaments, whether they be open or closed, county veteran teams and Inter Town Leagues (Vets) should be raised to '50' at least. In America I see they have tournaments for over 40's, over 50's, over 60's and a veterans' for over 70's, I am not advocating so many age differentials as that, which I am sure will please John Woodford.

Under my scheme, then what ambitions are left for players just reaching the age of '40'. Well, at this age they have probably spent at least twenty years or more playing our game. Now is the time for them to give something back to the sport they have taken so much out of. By all means continue to play, but they should now be prepared to take on committee work at club and/or league, county and national level and/or coaching, umpiring etc. At this age they would still be in touch with the modern trends of our sport and would be of infinite value to us at this stage of their career. How many pleas do we hear for youngsters to serve on committees. Well, at '40' they are young. By the time they have reached '50', many of them would have perhaps found a new interest in table tennis, in helping others, those that have continued to play and have the necessary standard could qualify for the veteran events . . . UTOPIA, yes I am afraid it is, but wouldn't it be a marvellous set up?

NORTHUMBERLAND CLOSED

The Northumberland Closed which was partly sponsored by the Prudhoe wall and floor tiling firm of P. Plunkett (Tiling Contractor) was held at Eldon Square Recreation Centre on Apl. 22. Nearly 150 competitors entered the 11 events which included for the first time a Cadet Boys' singles (won by Bernard Clark) and a counterpart Girls' event (won by Christine Burke).

Andrew Clark retained his men's singles title and Pauline Jackson turned the clock back nine years when winning the women's singles — plus the women's doubles with Nancy Kirsop (nee Ferguson).

- Results:-**
- M.S.: A. Clark bt C. Shepherd 7, 17.
 W.S.: P. Jackson bt K. Cheung 11, 21.
 M.D.: W. Dial/F. Short bt D. Armstrong/
 F. Mitchinson 11, -13, 18.
 W.D.: Jackson/N. Kirsop bt Cheung/J. Hobson
 -16, 18, 19.
 X.D.: Mitchinson/S. Norris bt A. Warets/L. Aust
 15, -18, 12.
 V.S.: J. Jackson bt W. Newham 15, 12.
 B.S.: H. Yeung bt B. Clark -20, 12, 16.
 G.S.: Norris bt C. Tweddle -17, 14, 15.
 C.B.S.: Clark bt J. Brumby 13, 14.
 C.G.S.: C. Burke bt A. Brigham 15, 15.
 Handicap: J. Scope (scr) bt S. Garthwaite (+13)
 -14, 20, 19.



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YORKSHIRE 2 STAR OPEN

OTHERWISE MODERATE

by Richard Scruton

Held at the Huddersfield Sports Centre for the first time, the Yorkshire 2-Star Open, on March 4, will be remembered for the two singles finals which enhanced an otherwise moderate tournament.

Alan Griffiths, the Welsh No. 1, reached the men's singles final from his 5th seeded position and faced the No. 2 seed Jimmy Walker now with the Federal German club G.W. Bad Hamm and given a month's break because of the European Championships. When Walker led 10-3 in the final game he seemed set to retain the title but Griffiths never relented and took 18 of the last 21 points.

Sally Midgley gave her county colleague Melody Ludi a tough time in the women's final. In each game Melody started well, and in the final game she led 9-2 and then trailed 15-17, but she went for her shots and took the game 21-18 from Sally, who certainly deserves her No. 2 ranking in Yorkshire.

Results:-

- Men's Singles:**
A. Griffiths (Gn) bt J. Walker (GS Bad Hamm) 2-1, 15, 13.
- Women's Singles:**
M. Ludi (Y) bt S. Midgley (Y) 19, -15, 18.
- Men's Doubles:**
N. Eckersley (Ch)/A. Fletcher (Y) bt C. Sewell (Av)/S. Cowley (La) -13, 16, 16.
- Women's Doubles:**
Ludi/Midgley bt J. McLean (Y)/M. Reeves (Mi) 19, 13.
- Mixed Doubles:**
Eckersley/Ludi bt Fletcher/Midgley 20, -19, 11.
- Veteran Singles:**
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt D. Marples (Dy) 18, 13.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CLOSED

by Leslie Constable

GRANDSTAND FINAL

The Cambs. Closed Championships were held at Hudson Leisure Centre, Wisbech on April 2 with ten tables in action. Mick Harper and Valerie Scripps were defending their singles titles and last year's beaten finalist, Keith Richardson, was out to regain the title he lost last season. In the semi-finals both Richardson and Harper had comfortable victories over Geoff Davies and Graham Archer respectively and the stage was set for a "Grandstand" final — which it proved to be! Harper led all the way in the first up to 19-16 but Richardson fought back to win 24-22. In the second it was Harper who trailed in the early stages but finally won at 17. In the final game there was seldom a point between the pair but Richardson finally broke through to win at 18 and so avenged his previous defeat.

Richardson and Harper combined to win the Men's Doubles after disposing of Brian Richardson and Andy Withers in the semis. Their win against Chris Brewer and Davies (who had earlier beaten Keith Burlingham and David Brammer) was not without incident and, indeed, they lost the first at 18 but recovered to win the next two at 15 and 19 after a pulsating last game in which the defeated pair showed great stubbornness. Richardson completed a hat-trick when, partnered by Joanne Palmer, they won the Mixed against Withers and Rachel Norris.

Valerie Scripps retained her Women's Singles title but only after a great fight against the youthful Jane Hunter (15) who hails from the Wisbech League. Valerie won after taking the first at 18 then losing the next, which Jane controlled throughout. In the third young Jane took the Cambridge girl all the way but just lost after a great struggle.

In the Junior events Robert Swift had a good

win over top seed Withers in the Boys' Singles and got home at 12 in the third. Joanne Palmer beat Jane Hunter in the Girls' Singles thus gaining revenge for a Women's Singles defeat earlier in the tournament. Mandy Judd won the Cadet Girls in a very close match with Alison Edge only winning 19 in the third after a great struggle with the Cambridge girl "keeping her head" at a crucial stage. Paul Stacey had a 2-straight win over Jamie Frost in the Cadet Boys' Singles and Ron Nunn, so often beaten in the Veterans, finally achieved his ambition when he defeated Tony Rayner in the final. The March League who staged the Championships must be congratulated on the smooth running which enabled players and officials to get home at a reasonable time.

Results:-

- Men's Singles Semi-finals:**
M. Harper (Camb) bt G. Archer (Wisb) 18, 22;
K. Richardson (Ely) bt G. Davies (Wisb) 13, 16.
- Final:**
Richardson bt Harper 22, -17, 18.
- Women's Singles Semi-finals:**
Valerie Scripps (Camb) bt Amanda Judd (Camb);
Jane Hunter (March) bt Joanne Palmer (Ely).
- Final:**
Scripps bt Hunter 11, -18, 18.
- Men's Doubles:**
Richardson/Harper bt Davies/Brewer (Wisb) -18, 15, 19.
- Women's Doubles:**
Scripps/Palmer bt P. Hyam/S. Hayes (Wisb) 9, 12.
- Boys' Singles:**
R. Swift (March) bt A. Withers (Haver) 15, -18, 12.
- C.B.S.:**
P. Stacey (March) bt J. Frost (Wisb) 18, 18.
- Girls' Singles:**
Palmer bt Hunter 7, 18.
- G.G.S.:**
Judd bt A. Edge (March) 14, -15, 19.
- Mixed Doubles:**
K. Richardson/Palmer bt Withers/R. Norris (Haver) 17, 15.
- Veterans' Singles:**
R. Nunn (Camb) bt A. Rayner (Camb) 14, 13.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CLOSED

March 4/5 at Montem Sports Centre, Slough

- Men's Singles:**
C. Leslie (Aylesbury) bt S. Brindle (Slough) 21, 16.
- Women's Singles:**
Miss S. Lines (Milton Keynes) bt Mrs. B. Stevens (Slough) 19, 17.
- Men's Doubles:**
F. Earis (Slough)/A. Watson (High Wycombe) bt G. Hamilton (M.K.)/Leslie -23, 20, 16.
- Women's Doubles:**
Mrs. Stevens/Mrs. J. Thomas (Slough) bt Miss Lines/Miss D. Risby (M.K.) -22, 13, 20.
- Mixed Doubles:**
Watson/Mrs. Stevens bt Earis/Mrs. J. Thomas (Slough) 16, 14.
- Boys' Singles:**
S. Harmer (M.K.) bt I. Haines (M.K.) 14, 14.
- Girls' Singles:**
Miss N. Hamilton (M.K.) bt Miss Risby 20, -18, 18.
- Junior Doubles:**
P. Bradbury (Ayles)/Haines bt S. Lines/A. Pratt (Ayles) -17, 12, 12.
- Veterans' Singles:**
I. Gough (Chiltern) bt J. Weakley (Chalfonts) 10, 15.

HIGH WYCOMBE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Alec Watson sets new record

Highlight of the High Wycombe League Championship Finals held at Hazlemere Community Centre on March 31 was a record sixth win in the Men's Singles by the ever-reliable Alec Watson.

In fact the only season he has not won since 1971/1972 was 1974/1975 when he did not enter

so after seven years he has still to lose, a truly fine achievement.

It was a successful and busy tournament for 16-year-old Martin Bartholomew who entered a maximum of six events, went out in the semi-finals of the Mixed and reached the remaining five finals.

This year the trophies were presented by MICHAEL WALE the sports reporter from the Thames Television programme "Sport at 6". Not only did Michael come straight to the Championships from the studio but as he closed his sporting report he was seen to pick up a Finals Night Programme with the remark "I'm now off to present the trophies at the High Wycombe Table Tennis League Championships".

Following an amusing speech of welcome by League Chairman Brian Webb, Michael then presented the trophies with panache.

Results:-

- Men's Singles Semi-finals:**
A. Watson (Exiles) bt P. Sears (Marlow) 14, 18;
M. Bartholomew (Marlow) bt M. Dean (Marlow) 16, 20.
- Final:**
Watson bt Bartholomew 14, 6.
- Women's Singles:**
A. Catchpole (Den) bt V. McCorkell (Broom and Wade) 2, 18.
- Men's Doubles:**
J. Cooper/P. Wilton (B. and W.) bt B. Cox/Bartholomew (Marlow) 11, -9, 14.
- Women's Doubles:**
J. Curtis/J. Hawes (Apollo) bt J. Lewis/McCorkell (B. and W.) 16, 12.
- Boys' Singles:**
Bartholomew bt M. Curtis (Den) 9, 5.
- Boys' Doubles:**
Bartholomew/M. Bellamy (Exiles) bt M. Curtis/S. Foster (Den) 12, 10.
- Girls' Singles:**
A. Hope (Den) bt A. Harvey (Marlow) 15, -18, 16.
- Girls' Doubles:**
Hope/D. Robbins (Den) bt S. and J. Ilett (Bourne End) 15, -15, 21.
- Mixed Doubles:**
Sears/Curtis bt Cooper/E. Barry (B. and W.) 11, 19.
- Veterans' Singles:**
J. Davey (Hazlemere) bt H. Bartholomew (Marlow) 18, 8.
- R.S.:**
Bartholomew bt Bellamy 12, 19.

SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

by Leslie Constable

IN-FORM RICHARDSON

The S.E.M. Closed held at St. Neots produced some fine table tennis and Keith Richardson of Ely emerged victorious. In the semis he overcame the challenge of Les Wooding after losing the second game at 16. Richard Jermyn beat Mick Harper in the other semi at 10 and 15 but he came across a much-in-form Richardson in the final and was beaten 7 and 23.

Anne Wallis won the Women's Singles when she beat her sister Mandy at 16, -20 and 18. The sisters had had easy passages to the semis and Brian Richardson were successful in the Men's Doubles against G. Booth and Harper and in the Women's Doubles the Wallis sisters had victory against E. Hooper and D. Marsh. Anne Wallis annexed her third title when, with Brian Richardson beat Geoff Davies and Miss Rudd. Davies beat P. Jackson for the Div. 2 title. In the Team event Wellingborough were successful 4-3 against North Herts. in the final with both teams having to "fight" to get there.

Results:-

- Men's Singles Semi-finals:**
K. Richardson (Ely) bt L. Wooding (Milton Keynes) 21, -14, 13.
- R. Jermyn (N. Herts) bt M. Harper (N. Herts) 10, 15.

Final:
Richardson bt Jermy 7, 21.
Women's Singles Semi-finals:
M. Wallis (Well) bt A. Rudd (Wisbech) 8, 20;
A. Wallis (Well) bt S. Lines (Wisbech) 13, 15.
Final:
A. Wallis bt M. Wallis 16, -20, 18.
Men's Doubles:
K. Richardson/B. Richardson (Ely) bt G. Booth
(N. Herts)/Harper 2-0.
Women's Doubles:
Wallis/Wallis bt G. Hooper/D. Marsh (Kettering)
2-0.
Mixed Doubles:
B. Richardson/A. Wallis bt G. Davies (Wisbech)/
Rudd 2-0.
Div. 2 Singles:
Davies bt P. Jackson (Wisbech) 2-0.

READING JUNIOR 'SELECT'

CONFUSION EXPLAINED by Alan Dines

The Reading Junior "Select" Championships were staged on Feb. 10/12 at Meadway Sports Centre, Reading. The championships were organised by I.M.P.A.C.T. (Institute of Match Play and Coaching Technics) and sponsored by Gillette Industries Ltd. A record entry of 336 competed for 10 titles and a share of the £250 prize money, £100 worth of Papermate pens and a share of the 100 bannerettes.

Results went generally as expected although there were a number of 'exceptional' performances which will, no doubt, give rise to the possibility of a few adjustments in the next E.T.T.A. ranking list. The tournament in spite of problems on Sunday morning with the Boys' Singles (see end of Report) ran like clockwork, and each day the Finals were completed by mid-evening, thus keeping its 100% record as an 'on time' tournament.

In the Boys' Singles the Nos. 2 to 5 seeds were adjusted 1 to 4 because of the absence of the original No. 1 seed. There were good performances from E. Wilkes (unseeded) who reached the quarter-finals at the expense of John Souter (No. 8 seed), Tony Bottomley (12) with wins over David Barr (4) and Bryn Tyler (6), Michael Shearman who beat Mark Owen (14) and David Glaston who eliminated Desmond Charlery (15). The player who caused most havoc with current ranked players was Colin Wilson at No. 13. He beat the No. 3 seed Malcolm Green in the quarters and the No. 2, Graham Sandley, in the semis. However in the Final he was not able to make much impression on the No. 1 seed, Kenny Jackson, who was the convincing winner of this event. Sandley and Tyler performed well in the Boys' Doubles and won a close Final against Wilson and Charlery, who had survived a very close semi-final clash with Jackson and Tony O'Connor.

The Girls' Singles and Doubles were dominated by locals and results were much as expected. Reseeding was necessary because of the absence of a few players. In the Singles there were good performances from Carol Butler with a win over Yvette Brown (No. 12 seed) and Gina Pritchard (10) who beat Linda Holmes (7). Both semis went to deuce in the third and the Final could easily have been between the two who did not survive. In the first semi Karen Witt (1) beat Mandy Smith (3) 17 in the first, lost the second -21 and after trailing 19-20 in the third, managed to pip her rival 22-20. Winner of the second semi was Alison Gordon (2) with a win against Sally Midgley (4) by the surprising score line 13, -6, 21. The Final was an anti-climax and K. Witt was the winner 10, 15. In the Doubles K. Witt and Jill Purslow had a semi-final win over E. Hughes and Rachel Mackriell. M. Smith and A. Gordon scraped home in their semi against Mandy Reeves and Helen Williams and won the Final relatively easily.

The Cadet Boys' Singles produced a number of shocks. J. Sparks put out G. Lambert (=9) and I. Fullerton beat K. Green (=9). Stephen Palmer (4) went out to B. Johnson (=9) who in turn went

out to Philip Bradbury (8). Causing the greatest havoc was Ian Attridge (=9) who disposed of Mark Oakley (3) Andrew Dixon (6) and Bradbury to reach the Final. His opponent there was as expected John Souter. The first game was just won 22-20 by Souter and the second lost -17. In the third Attridge was in tremendous form and took the title with a 21-18 win. Souter and Oakley combined to win the Doubles Final with a win over Palmer and Johnson.

The biggest shock in the Cadet Girls' Singles was the defeat of the No. 1 seed, Gillian Galloway, by unseeded Lisa Bellinger who then went on to beat Sarah Cresswell (5) and eventually lost in the semi-final to Lorraine Garbett (6). Other seeds to bite the dust were Cheryl Creacey (7) who was eliminated by Pauline Townsend and Lynne Fennah (4) who went out to L. Taylor. The winner of the event was Helen Williams with a semi-final win over G. Pritchard 18 in the third, and a Final win over L. Garbett also 18 in the third. The Doubles winners were L. Garbett and S. Cresswell who won the Final against G. Pritchard and L. Taylor.

The winners of the Under-11 events were as expected. In the Boys' Singles C. Prean beat J. Bradbury in the Final who had put out A. Dixon in the semis. Finalists in the Girls' Singles were L. Bellinger and L. Goldsmith, with the former collecting the title.

There seemed to be some confusion in understanding some aspects of the tournament so these are explained for those interested.

Seeding for Junior and Cadet Singles was based on the latest E.T.T.A. rankings released shortly before the Tournament. This was achieved in consultation with the E.T.T.A. and much to the relief of most players and coaches by delaying completion of the draw for these events.

There was some disruption to the play on Sunday morning caused by the information obtained at 9 a.m., just as matches were due to start, that the No. 1 seed in the Junior Boys' Singles, K. Beadley, had withdrawn. This provoked heated discussion which will presumably be considered by the E.T.T.A. The Organisers fortunately were able to take immediate action to ensure the next four seeded players were in different quarters. The imbalanced draw with Nos. 2 and 3 seeds in the same half and No. 4 in the other half could have been left as it stood but it was felt that this would be unfair to all those ranked players who had made the effort to attend a "Select" tournament. Some players including the No. 2 seed were not due on until about 3 hours later, so complete reseeding could not be carried out without causing late completion of the day's play. Much well meaning and conflicting advice was put to the Referee, including stopping the tournament for 3 hours until everyone was there and then reseeding of redrawing completely. Statements were also made that another top seeded player was definitely not attending and should be scratched. This information was not acted on and was found to be wrong.

The Organisers decided to do what was possible and practical. They were able to make sure the top 4 remaining ranked players were in different quarters and to re-arrange the quarters of the draw. The new No. 1 and 2 seeds were placed in top and bottom halves of the draw and the new No. 3 and 4 seeds were then drawn for position. This did not affect the playing schedule for each quarter and meant that the re-arrangement took place at semi-final stage. The original Nos. 2 to 5 seeds were changed to Nos. 1 to 4 and the new No. 4 (old No. 5) was put into the quarter vacated by the original No. 1. This was possible because the old No. 5 seed had reported in at 9 a.m. Had other top seeds reported in several hours early, further reseeding would have been possible.

There were also problems in the Girls' Singles, but as this event was later in the day with a smaller entry and seeded withdrawals known in advance, the planned reseeding in this event was put into effect. Absences in this event were L. Hryszko (No. 6) due to injury, A. Tierney (No. 2) and H. Robinson (No. 8).

Results:-

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
K. Jackson (E) bt A. O'Connor (La) 11, 16.
A. Bottomley (Y) bt B. Tyler (Mi) 20, 20.

C. Wilson (Mi) bt M. Green (Sp) 18, 11.
G. Sandley (Mi) bt E. Wilkes (St) 7, 13.

Semi-finals:

Jackson bt Bottomley 11, 10.
Wilson bt Sandley -17, 17, 17.

Final:

Jackson bt Wilson 11, 17.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Sandley/Tyler bt Green/S. Andrew (E) 17, 20.
Wilson/D. Charlery (E) bt Jackson/O'Connor
15, -24, 22.

Final:

Sandley/Tyler bt Wilson/Charlery 19, -11, 19.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Witt (Bk) bt M. Reeves (Mi).
M. Smith (Bk) bt H. Williams (Mi).
S. Midgley (Y) bt G. Pritchard (Bv).
A. Gordon (Bk) bt J. Purslow (Bk).

Semi-finals:

Witt bt Smith 14, -21, 20.
Gordon bt Midgley 13, -6, 21.

Final:

Witt bt Gordon 10, 15.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Witt/Purslow bt E. Hughes (Ox)/R. Mackriell
(Wa) 15, 9.
Smith/Gordon bt Reeves/Williams 18, -19, 19.

Final:

Smith/Gordon bt Witt/Purslow -10, 11, 7.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Souter (Mi) bt A. Moore (Sx) 16, 16.
G. Russell (Sy) bt D. Pilling (Mi) 21, 15.
P. Bradbury (Bu) bt B. Johnson (Bk) 4, 14.
I. Attridge (E) bt A. Dixon (St) 15, -13, 18.

Semi-finals:

Souter bt Russell 10, 14.
Attridge bt Bradbury 17, -12, 18.

Final:

Attridge bt Souter -22, 17, 18.

Cadet Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Souter/M. Oakley (Sy) bt E. Gorniak/
B. Collingwood (Mi) 17, 18.
S. Palmer (Sk)/Johnson bt Attridge/N. Harris (K)
13, -19, 6.

Final:

Souter/Oakley bt Palmer/Johnson -19, 15, 17.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

L. Bellinger (Bd) bt S. Cresswell (Sy) 13, 19.
L. Garbett (Sy) bt L. Taylor (Bk) 10, -12, 15.
Pritchard bt P. Townsend (Wi) 14, 17.
Williams bt C. Butler (Dv) 13, 20.

Semi-finals:

Garbett bt Bellinger 10, 14.
Williams bt Pritchard -12, 12, 18.

Final:

Williams bt Garbett 21, -16, 18.

Cadet Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Garbett/Cresswell bt G. Galloway (Li)/L. Fennah
(Ch) -13, 15, 11.
Pritchard/Taylor bt Williams/Butler 21, 19.

Final:

Garbett/Cresswell bt Pritchard/Taylor 16, -16, 19.

Boys' U-11 Singles Semi-finals:

C. Prean (Ha) bt P. Judson (Cv) 7, 10.
J. Bradbury (Bu) bt Dixon 14, 19.

Final:

Prean bt Bradbury 14, 11.

Girls' U-11 Singles Semi-finals:

Bellinger bt R. Harris (Sp) 8, 3.
L. Goldsmith (Mi) bt J. Mills (Sy) 10, 13.

Final:

Bellinger bt Goldsmith 6, 8.

EXCHANGE VISIT REQUIRED

The Treasurer of the German Table Tennis Association, Herr Gerhard Milde, has two sons for whom he wishes to arrange a visit to England, in order to improve their English speaking ability.

The two boys are 18 and 16 years old and it is for the elder of the two that he is most keen to make arrangements.

Ideally, the boy(s) would be totally supported by the English host for a three week period in July/August and a similar facility would be given in return, either at the Milde home in Frankfurt or during August at their summer residence in Davos, Switzerland.

The boys are not table tennis players, but if anyone has a son who is learning German, here is an opportunity to combine a holiday with learning.

Anyone who feels they can help with this request please contact Albert Shipley at the E.T.T.A. office.



by DAVID LOMAS

The Stiga Schools' International Championships take place at the new Richard Dunn Sports Centre, Bradford, West Yorkshire on 14th, 15th and 16th July, 1978.

It is expected that teams from France, Scotland, Wales and Ireland will be competing against two England teams.

STIGA ENGLISH SCHOOLS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Almost 300 players from schools and Associations throughout the country took part in the fifth annual Stiga English Schools' Individual Championships which took place at Luton Regional Sports Centre on Saturday, April 29th.

There were no major surprises with very few seeded players falling by the wayside in the preliminary groups.

In addition to the familiar names on the ranking lists there were some promising performances especially amongst the lower age groups.

CARL PREAN was a convincing winner in the Under-11 Boys category putting the Isle of Wight in the limelight whilst LISA BELLINGER of Dunstable wasn't even taken to double figures in any of her matches in the Under-11 Girls event.

Lisa's older sister, Jackie, was beaten in the Girls U-13 but only after a brave fight against SARAH CRESSWELL who won the Girls U-11 two years ago. ANDREW DIXON also had to go to three games against Jeremy Duffield (another former champion) but ALISON GORDON (Berkshire) was too good for Sally Midgley (West Yorkshire) in the Under-16 Girls.

There was quite a battle in the Boys U-16 event where COLIN WILSON beat John Souter after three "deuce" games.

MANDY SMITH and MALCOLM GREEN won the major (U-19) titles in winning in straight games over Angela Tierney and Graham Sandley respectively.

But there were no titles for northern counties.

Mr. Ron Crayden, Chairman of the senior body's Selectors was a most welcome guest at the Championships which have become an established feature of the Tournament Calendar.

It has not been my practice to criticise in this column but I am sure that all those many people present were aware of the poor quality of the public address system — a deficiency which I hope will be remedied next year.

Results:- BOYS' UNDER-19 (nine group winners)

- 1A Graham Sandley (Herts)
- 1B Diccon Gray (Cumbria)
- 1C Mark Oakley (Surrey County)
- 1D Sam Harmer (Bedfordshire)
- 1E Keith Paxton (Cleveland)
- 1F Bryn Tyler (Inner London)
- 1G Mark Owen (Hereford and Worcester)
- 1H Robert Johnson (Berkshire)
- 1J Malcolm Green (Salop)

Semi-finals:
Sandley bt Paxton -16, 18, 19.
Green bt Tyler 16, 14.

Final:
GREEN bt Sandley 18, 18.
Third place: Paxton w/o Tyler.

GIRLS' UNDER-19 (seven group winners)

- 2A Angela Tierney (Cleveland)
- 2B Cheryl Buttery (Lincolnshire)
- 2C Wendy Parker (Wiltshire)
- 2D Stephanie Jones (West Midlands)
- 2E Gina Pritchard (Devon)

- 2F Rachel Mackriell (Warwickshire)
- 2G Mandy Smith (Berkshire)

Semi-finals:
Tierney bt Buttery 12, 15.
Smith bt Jones 11, 8.

Final:
SMITH bt Tierney 11, 16.
Third place: Jones bt Buttery 17, 13.

- BOYS' UNDER-16 (ten group winners)**
- 3A David Barr (Berkshire)
 - 3B John Weatherby (Greater Manchester)
 - 3C Bryon Johnson (Oxfordshire)
 - 3D Skylet Andrews (Essex Metropolitan)
 - 3E Colin Wilson (Hertfordshire)
 - 3F Paul Whiting (Devon)
 - 3G Kevin Satchell (Wiltshire)
 - 3H Andrew Bellingham (West Midlands)
 - 3J Ian Reed (Cumbria)
 - 3K John Souter (Middlesex)

Semi-finals:
Wilson bt Barr -18, 17, 14.
Souter bt Whiting 17, 15.

Final:
WILSON bt Souter -20, 22, 20.
Third place: Barr bt Whiting 15, 14.

- GIRLS' UNDER-16 (nine group winners)**
- 4A Alison Gordon (Berkshire)

- 4B Lynne Fennah (Cheshire)
- 4C Cheryl Creasey (Dorset)
- 4D Lorraine Garbet (Surrey County)
- 4E Julie Dowsett (Essex County)
- 4F Helen Williams (Middlesex)
- 4G Carol Butler (Devon)
- 4H Shirley Cain (West Midlands)
- 4J Sally Midgley (West Yorkshire)

Semi-finals:
Gordon bt Garbet 14, 13.
Midgley bt Williams 13, 16.

Final:
GORDON bt Midgley 12, 19.
Third place: Williams bt Garbet 13, 11.

BOYS' UNDER-13 (eleven group winners)

- 5A Graham Russell (Surrey County)
- 5B Garry Bonner (West Sussex)
- 5C Daren Griffin (Gloucestershire)
- 5D Ray Namdjou (Kent County)
- 5E Gary Lambert (Devon)
- 5F Jeremy Duffield (Hereford and Worcester)
- 5G Ian McLoughlin (Greater Manchester)
- 5H David Sharpe (Bedfordshire)
- 5J Stephen Dixon (Cumbria)
- 5K Christopher Bryan (Lincolnshire)
- 5L Andrew Dixon (West Midlands)



Girls' U-13 (l to r) Jean Parker (4), Julia Woodcock (3), Sarah Cresswell (1) and Jackie Bellinger (2) with E.S.T.T.A. Vice-Chairman Mr. Bob Wood.

Photo by John O'Sullivan.



Girls' U-19 (l to r) Cheryl Buttery (4), Stephanie Jones (3), Mandy Smith (1) and Angela Tierney (2) with Mrs. Arnold (wife of E.S.T.T.A. Gen. Sec.).

Photo by John O'Sullivan.

Semi-finals:
Lambert bt Russell 15, 20.
A. Dixon bt Duffield 18, -18, 12.

Final:
A DIXON bt Lambert 17, 17.
Third place: Duffield bt Russell 19, 12.

GIRLS' UNDER-13 (ten group winners)
6A Sarah Cresswell (Surrey County)
6B Fiona Elliot (West Midlands)
6C Caron Hastings (Warwickshire)
6D Lesley Broomhead (South Yorkshire)
6E Jean Parker (Lancashire)
6F Julia Woodcock (Cleveland)
6G Michelle Williams (Middlesex)
6H Amanda Judd (Cambridge)
6J Jane Richards (Suffolk)
6K Jackie Bellinger (Bedfordshire)

Semi-finals:
Cresswell bt Parker 12, 12.
Bellinger bt Woodcock 16, 14.

Final:
CRESSWELL bt Bellinger 20, -15, 19.
Third place: Woodcock bt Parker -15, 17, 15.

BOYS' UNDER-11 (nine group winners)
7A Carl Prean (Isle of Wight)
7B Anthony Treweek (Cheshire)
7C Nigel Tyler (Middlesex)
7D Donald Masters (Inner London)
7E Francis Treece (Devon)
7F Keith Weatherby (Greater Manchester)
7G Martin Schapira (Tyne and Wear)
7H Neal Wesson (Hertfordshire)
7J Paul Deag (Essex Metropolitan)

Semi-finals:
Prean bt Tyler 10, 7.
Schapira bt Deag -17, 14, 10.

Final:
PREAN bt Schapira 14, 19.
Third place: Tyler bt Deag 20, 12.

GIRLS' UNDER-11 (six group winners)
8A Lisa Bellinger (Bedfordshire)
8B Katy Gamston (West Midlands)
8C Tracey Fisher (Cambridgeshire)
8D Jane Mills (Surrey County)
8E Kate Harris (Shropshire)
8F Laura Goldsmith (Middlesex)

Semi-finals:
Bellinger bt Fisher 3, 7.
Mills bt Goldsmith 21, 17.

Final:
BELLINGER bt Mills 7, 4.
Third place: Goldsmith bt Fisher 12, 17.



Tom Matthews (left), Chairman of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association, receiving a cheque from Don Ward, Managing Director of Mileta Sports Ltd., the main distributors of the leading International Brand of Butterfly Table Tennis Equipment, who are sponsoring the E.S.T.T.A.'s team entry in the World Schools Games to be held from July 18-24, 1978 in Ankara, Turkey.

This will be the first time that table tennis has been included in the Games, the other sports being Athletics, Swimming and Gymnastics.

The E.S.T.T.A. are sending a team of four boys and three girls, and three officials.

Tom Matthews has high expectations that the English team will do well even against the Chinese who are expected to take part.

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SHIRTS	Price	5.75	5.95	6.95	6.95	7.25
	100% absorbent cotton.	Colours available: Red, Green Navy				
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ON THE COACHING FRONT

with **DOREEN HENDERSON**

What you need in young players to develop full potential

They must be strong in three departments:-

STRONG and fit physically, in order to withstand a full days competitive play, and still be able to give of their best in the final at the end of the day.

STRONG psychologically in order to withstand the constant pressure of concentration and competitive play.

STRONG in the quality of their game in order that they are able to:-

Take all forms of spin and return it safely without losing the advantage.

Use the spin to make an attacking shot, and place it to be a winner.

Take the ball on their bats in such a way as to be in a position to play the correct shot for the particular situation.

Know how to Forehand and Backhand touch control push, push to anywhere on the table, be able to play the short chop shot over the table, push with slow back-spin, make the shot early, medium or late.

Understand the advantage of varying the speed of the ball and recognising the effect of the varied speed on the opponent in order to take the advantage.

Know there is more than one forehand and backhand attacking shot, topspin, drive, loop and smash, know where, when, and how to use them.

Be sufficiently skilled and flexible to be able to make late adjustments to the intended shot, to meet situations such as when the ball catches the net or the edge of the table.

Be good enough to have this margin for error.

Learn to be a **COMPLETE PLAYER**, a strong attack needs a good defence to back it up just as a very good defence needs good attacking shots to press home the advantage. No player can hope to reach International standard and win consistently without a **COMPLETE GAME**.

Be able to half-volley block, all attacking shots, to kill the shot, to turn it into a drop shot, to return all the spin to the opponent. By taking a slightly firmer grip of the bat, the half-volley block can be directed quickly to an open space on the other side of the table.

The loop can also be returned as a half-volley, either as a block shot, or a guided shot to out manoeuvre the opponent, or as a straight drive back.

Careful touch and angle of the bat is needed. The sidespin loop also needs great care if that spin is to be used to advantage in a half-volley attack.

Good play needs **GOOD FOOTWORK and BALANCE**. Keep relaxed and flexible from the balls of the feet to the top of your head. Footwork should be learnt in conjunction with the strokes, feet must be moved quickly and lightly, with balance coming naturally. If it does become necessary to play a shot off the wrong foot, the player must return to a balanced position quickly, otherwise the player is caught off balance for the next shot. **NEVER** assume that any shot is a winner.

TACTICS. Learn how and when to change the speed and the spin of the shot whilst concealing this from your opponent. A good defence can test out an opponents attack, concealment can keep them guessing as to the speed of the ball and the amount of spin on it.

Learn to play all shots with confidence.

Be competitive at all times on the table, and play with aggression and determination to win.

Nothing exists whilst the game is being played except the beating of the opponent, they cease to be friends till the game is over.

Learn to lose with dignity and good grace, whilst still hating to lose at all.

When playing in a team, play with the other team members, a good team spirit helps to win matches, watch for weaknesses in the opposition.

Most of all **ENJOY** the game at all times.

Paraplegic International

GREAT BRITAIN v THE NETHERLANDS

by Ted Inge

In this jointly sponsored match by Mileta, Halex and Crayford Sports Ltd., held at Gravesend recently, Great Britain were outplayed by the Netherlands throughout the match, and landed up on the end of a 7-1 hiding.

From the opening sets, when Neil Macdonald and Derek Riches lost easily in straight games, to Loek van der Leur and Grady Uitdeboogaardt respectively, it was apparent that our men were going to receive little mercy from these well prepared and much improved Dutchmen. Neither Neil nor Derek could cope with the sheer power of shot or, when required the subtle change of direction, that the Dutch lads served up, and both struggled even to avoid single figure defeats.

It was to our women then that Great Britain looked to salvage a respectable score from the match, and when Carol Bryant and Janet Swann took the doubles in two close games, British hopes were raised. Alas, it was not to be. As it turned out it was the only set to be won during the evening.

After another easy win for the Dutch in the clash of the No. 1 men, which put the match score 3-1 in favour of the Dutch, much rested on Carol Bryant who was taking on Irene Schmidt the current 'Olympic' champion. Carol, a former 'Olympic' champion herself, started brightly in the first game, going into a 9-6 lead, but Irene with some beautiful angled shots and terrific counter-hitting, gradually got on top to take the game at 14. In the second game, Carol, again, went into an early lead of 6-4 but collapsed at this point to lose 14 points in a row to find herself 6-18 down. A late burst by Carol only just made the score respectable, but it was inevitably another Dutch victory.

The Men's doubles clinched the match for the Dutch team, and only in the remaining women's singles set, when Janet Swann lost in 3 games to Marian Bakker, did it seem likely that we could improve the scoreline. It was not to be, however, and with the final men's singles also going to the Dutch, they ran out very worthy winners by 7-1.

The magnificent trophy, presented by Crayford Sports Ltd., was presented to the victorious Dutch team, by Miss Joan Scruton, Secretary General of the Stoke Mandeville Games Federation. This trophy will be played for again in Holland next year in a return match. It is hoped that this will now be an annual affair.

The organisers are indebted to all sponsors of the match, especially Mileta Ltd., who kitted the British team for the match, and to Halex who supplied the table and surrounds, which made this first ever independantly staged match possible. Although the match was a little one-sided, the skill and the quality of the play, was well appreciated by the 130 or so spectators that the match attracted. Could it be the forerunner of matches against other countries in Europe?

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ormesby still have both their teams defending their National Club Championships titles, their men being next due to meet Soham (Cambridge) in the semi-final of the Men's competition, the other tie being between Ellenborough (North Middlesex) and Denmark T.T.C. (Beckenham, Kent). These ties are due for completion by May 21. The final of the women's competition will be between Ormesby and Omega (Bracknell). In the semi-finals Omega beat Ellenborough (5-2) and Wellingborough conceded their tie to the Cleveland team.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by LAURIE LANDRY

The Middlesex County Junior team won the Junior Premier Division of the County Championships after a 7-year gap but in the intervening years they were second on five occasions, twice on set average. Our players Graham Sandley, Bryn Tyler, Colin Wilson, Mandy Reeves and Helen Williams won all their matches.

The Senior Premier team which did experience some difficulties managed fourth place in the end whilst the Veterans' side won their division and will be defending their National title in the play-offs.

The Executive Committee will be seeking new blood for the 1978/79 season because both John Wright and myself will be stepping down from office after a number of years. We have both decided that our marriages will take first place.

NORWICH UNION ANNOUNCE START OF £10,000 GRAND PRIX

Norwich Union Insurance, the main sponsors of table tennis in England since 1973, announced yesterday that they will put up £10,000 in prize money for a grand prix circuit of six national open championships in Europe during the 1978-79 season.

As in lawn tennis, there will be points for performances in each of these tournaments, which include the Norwich Union international championships (formerly the English Open in Brighton) and the Stiga Welsh Open, in Cardiff.

The winner of each tournament will take £200 from the prize money pool and the runner-up £100; the accumulator of the highest grand prix points will pick up an additional £500.

Two prestige events sponsored by Norwich Union fully will be fitted on to the circuit, the first half way through the series, and the other, a Masters competition, at the end.

There will be additional prize money of £5,500 for the 16 Masters, the draw for which will include the reigning European champion (Gergely, Hungary) and the 1979 world champion. This competition most likely will be played in London.

£200 SPONSORSHIP

The Bournemouth Restricted 1-Star Open, to be held on Sunday, Sept. 24, 1978 will be sponsored to the amount of £200. Enquiries for entry forms should be made to Mr. B. Hudson at 130 Gire Road, New Milton, Hampshire.

AVON NOTES

by MIKE HAWKINS

RECORD CLOSED ENTRY

The Avon County Closed tournament held at Worle Comprehensive School attracted a record 149 players. Chris Sewell reached the final with ease and had no difficulty in taking the title against a somewhat overawed Robert Oldfield.

Geoff Douglas of Bristol had some notable wins and Mike Baker of Midsomer-Norton completed a hat-trick when he won the Veterans' singles titles having previously won this event in the Bath and Bristol tournaments.

The presentation of awards was made by Mr. Henry Whitmore, M.B.E.

Results:-

Men's Singles:

C. Sewell (Bris) bt R. Oldfield (Bris) 12, 10.

Women's Singles:

Jill Harris (Bris) bt Margaret Hooker (Bris) 15, 10.

Men's Doubles:

A. Brown (Bris)/Sewell bt M. Smith/L. Stewart (Bris) 9, 18.

Women's Doubles:

Jill Harris/Helen Pogmore (Bris) bt Linda Porter/Andrea Seager (Bath) 15, 17.

Mixed Doubles:

Stewart/Jill Harris bt Smith/Helen Pogmore 19, 11.

Boys' Singles:

Martin Smith bt Phil Riley (Bris) 7, 19.

Girls' Singles:

Gillian Sandford (Bris) bt A. Russe (Weston) 8, 8.

Junior Doubles:

Martin Smith/Matthew Smith (Bath) bt Riley/Steve Wilkins (Bris) 15, 15.

Veterans' Singles:

Michael Baker (MN) bt Gordon Mildred (Bris) 17, 13.

It was interesting to note that the Bristol and Dist. Assn. dominated the finals and Martin Smith, a most promising player, reached no fewer than four finals.

(continued from page 38)

back to win the decider convincingly. A disbelieving Jon Proffitt left the table after his first game win over Eckersley, but the England-ranked Cheshire player also won convincingly — Hertfordshire were in strong company, their only successes taken from 'Scotty' John McNee by the Proffitt brothers.

Eckersley bt Jermyn 11, 15;
bt J. Proffitt -17, 18, 13.

Constance bt Jermyn 19, 18, 11;
bt S. Proffitt 16, 16.

McNee lost to J. Proffitt -14, 15, -10;
lost to S. Proffitt -13, -16.

Eckersley/B. Johns bt Jermyn/B. White 14, 19.
Doreen Schofield bt Linda Towler 18, 15.

Johns/Mrs. Schofield bt White/Miss Towler 19, 14.

Glamorgan beat Sussex 6-3

John Clarke's win over Griffiths in the first set equalled by Glamorgan's Mixed Doubles success in the fourth set; Glamorgan ran away 6-3 winners with final three Men's Singles wins after score stood at 3-all; Roger Chandler and Gerald Pugh taking full advantage of Davies/Griffiths doubles failure 23-21, 21-9.

Griffiths bt R. Chandler 15, -20, 14;
lost to J. Clarke 12, -20, -12.

Davies bt Chandler 17, -16, 19;
bt G. Pugh 20, 15.

Evans bt Clarke -18, 11, 24;
bt Pugh 22, 11.

Davies/Griffiths lost to Chandler/Pugh -21, -9.
Debbie Coulthard lost to Julie Reading 16, 13, -15.

R. Bishop/Miss Coulthard bt Clarke/Miss Reading -19, 19, 17.

Session 3 (Sunday, 9.30 a.m.)

Glamorgan beat Hertfordshire 8-1

Another hurdle for Glamorgan who easily overcame Hertfordshire; fine win by Debbie Coulthard over Linda Towler who came back into the game trailing 20-16 in the second after losing the first. The Davies/Griffiths doubles combination again failed, and saved Herts once again from the white-wash.

Griffiths bt J. Proffitt 18, 20;
bt S. Proffitt 14, 17.

Davies bt J. Proffitt 8, -19, 15;
bt B. White 21, 13.

Evans bt S. Proffitt 12, 6;
bt White 8, 10.

Davies/Griffiths lost to Jermyn/J. Proffitt -18, 12, -19.

Debbie Coulthard bt Linda Towler -15, 20, 15.
Bishop/Miss Coulthard bt Jermyn/Miss Towler 3, -17, 18.

Leicestershire beat Sussex 7-2

With Leicestershire leading 4-2, Roger Chandler looked like keeping Sussex in the match leading Paul Randell 15-10 in the decider, but Randell took the next six points and with both players producing some sparkling play, Randell emerged winner to give Leicestershire the match.

Randell bt Chandler 19, -19, 19;
bt Clarke 12, 12.

Rogers bt Chandler -18, 12, 21;
bt Pugh 16, 10.

Newman bt Clarke 15, 22;
lost to Pugh 15, -12, -19.

Newman/Rogers lost to Chandler/Pugh -11, -16.
Anita Stevenson bt Julie Reading 9, 15.

Randell/Miss Stevenson bt Clarke/Miss Reading 8, 16.

Session 4 (Sunday, 1.15 p.m.)

Cheshire beat Leicestershire 5-4

Good start by Cheshire in taking the first three Men's Singles, but Leicestershire pulled the score level with wins in the Mixed, Men's Doubles and Women's Singles and Cheshire were in trouble. Randell beat Eckersley 17-21, then Eckersley won the second before Randell drew 13-8 ahead in the decider; but things just would not go for Randell and Eckersley allowed him one more point taking the set 21-14 in that decider. Cheshire led 4-3 and a two-straight win by Rogers over Brian Johns reinstated the status quo and in the final set Constance always looked an easy winner over Maurice Newman, but Constance's five/six point lead throughout the first game was wiped out and Constance served off at 20-19! but won 22-20 and took the second game 21-14.

Eckersley bt Randell -17, 10, 14;
bt Rogers 15, 21.

Constance bt Randell 12, 15;
bt Newman 20, 14.

B. Johns lost to Rogers -13, -17;
bt Newman 15, 16.

Eckersley/Johns lost to Newman/Rogers 14, -13, -16.

Doreen Schofield lost to Anita Stevenson -9, -15.

Constance/Mrs. Schofield lost to Randell/
Miss Stevenson -14, -13.

Sussex beat Hertfordshire 6-3

With nothing to play for, apparently, Sussex and Herts played out their final matches in an endeavour to avoid bottom place in the Challenge; Sussex won, even fielding reserves Robin Stace and Linda Budd for the first time during the play-offs.

Chandler bt Jermyn 20, 17;
bt J. Proffitt 15, 9.

Clarke lost to Jermyn -13, -18;
bt White 16, -20, 17.

R. Stace lost to J. Proffitt -17, -7;
bt White 17, 17.

Chandler/Clarke bt J. and S. Proffitt 19, -11, 14.
Julie Reading bt Linda Towler -20, 19, 14.

Stace/Miss Linda Budd lost to S. Proffitt/
Miss Towler 16, -15, -20.

Session 5 (Sunday, 4.30 p.m.)

Cheshire beat Sussex (Sussex conceded)

Glamorgan beat Leicestershire 5-3

With all to play for, after two days of play, Chris Rogers gave Leicestershire the start they wanted with a win (21-19 in decider) in the opening set over Griffiths; Davies and George Evans put Glamorgan 2-1 ahead and after Leics had drawn level with Mixed Doubles success, the Men's Doubles combination of Davies and Griffiths, in winning only their second set of the weekend put Glamorgan back in the driving seat before Anita Stevenson pulled one back to level the score once more.

Battle of the No. 1 men again proved significant, but with Griffiths playing the right game against the now shattered Randell, putting the Welsh County ahead again, Davies kept Glamorgan in the Premier Division with a 21-12, 21-17 win over Newman.

Griffiths bt Randell 10, 13;
lost to Rogers -12, 14, -19.

Davies bt Randell 22, 15;
bt Newman 12, 17.

Evans bt Newman 17, 20.

Davies/Griffiths bt Newman/Rogers 23, -19, 18.
Debbie Coulthard lost to Anita Stevenson -10, -11.

Bishop/Miss Coulthard lost to Randell/
Miss Stevenson -16, -10.

The Senior Promotion Challenge matches were excellently staged by the Cheshire Table Tennis Association at the I.C.I. Sports Hall, Hyde and thanks are extended to Tony Parker who, with his hard-working committee, made all the necessary playing and hospitality arrangements.

Final Averages

PREMIER

	P	W	L	Av%
N. Jarvis (Cv)	10	9	1	90
D. Neale (Cv)	6	5	1	83
D. Welsman (Sy)	14	11	3	79
P. Guttormsen (Mi)	4	3	1	75
M. Mitchell (Mi)	12	8	4	67
R. Pottin (E)	12	8	4	67
A. Barden (Mi)	6	4	2	67
D. Barr (Bk)	6	4	2	67
D. Munt (Wa)	11	7	4	64
S. Heaps (Bk)	8	5	3	63
Miss C. Knight (Cv)	7	7	0	100
Miss K. Witt (Bk)	5	5	0	100
Miss C. Reeves (Bk)	2	2	0	100
Miss M. Ludi (Y)	7	5	2	71

2 SOUTH

	P	W	L	Av%
J. Clarke (Sx)	6	5	1	83
C. Morris (K)	10	8	2	80
N. Richardson (Mi)	4	3	1	75
P. Smith (Sx)	4	3	1	75
J. Kennedy (K)	10	7	3	70
G. Chapman (Sy)	8	5	3	63
D. Jemmett (Mi)	8	5	3	63
J. Dabin (K)	10	6	4	60
G. Pugh (Sx)	10	6	4	60
C. Shetler (Ha)	10	6	4	60
Miss J. New (Do)	5	5	0	100
Miss J. Reading (Sx)	4	4	0	100
Mrs. C. Hewitt (Sx)	2	2	0	100
Mrs. J. Coop (Do)	5	4	1	80
Mrs. B. Clayton (Mi)	3	2	1	67
Mrs. D. Griggs (Sx)	3	2	1	67

2 NORTH

	P	W	L	Av%
A. Martin (Cv)	8	7	1	88
D. Parker (La)	8	7	1	88
N. Eckersley (Ch)	6	5	1	83
A. Metcalfe (Y)	6	5	1	83
S. Mills (Y)	10	8	2	80
B. Johns (Ch)	4	3	1	75
D. Schofield (Ch)	4	3	1	75
P. Bowen (La)	10	7	3	70
M. Harrison (Y)	10	7	3	70
J. Hilton (La)	6	4	2	67
K. Paxton (Cv)	6	4	2	67
D. Constance (Ch)	8	5	3	63
Miss J. Williams (Cv)	4	4	0	100
Miss J. Skipp (Cv)	3	3	0	100
Miss S. Midgeley (Y)	2	2	0	100
Miss S. Lisle (Ch)	5	4	1	80
Mrs. S. Alexander (La)	4	3	1	75
Miss J. MacLean (Y)	3	2	1	67
Mrs. D. Schofield (Ch)	5	3	2	60

2 MIDLAND

	P	W	L	Av%
C. Rogers (Le)	10	10	0	100
P. Randell (Le)	10	9	1	90
M. Newman (Le)	10	8	2	80
B. Johnson (Wa)	8	6	2	75
R. Gunnion (Wa)	10	7	3	70
A. Isaac (St)	10	7	3	70
I. Warner (Dy)	8	5	3	63
S. Lyon (Np)	10	6	4	60
Miss K. Rogers (Le)	5	5	0	100
Miss A. Stevenson (Le)	4	4	0	100
Miss J. Bellinger (Bd)	3	3	0	100
Miss S. Jones (St)	3	2	1	67
Mrs. J. Billington (Dy)	5	3	2	60
Miss J. Carr (St)	5	3	2	60

2 EAST

	P	W	L	Av%
J. Kitchener (Sk)	8	8	0	100
P. Day (Ca)	6	6	0	100
K. Richardson (Ca)	10	8	2	80
K. Caldon (E)	8	6	2	75
R. Jermyn (He)	10	7	3	70
M. Mussen (Nk)	6	4	2	67
L. Smith (E)	8	5	3	63
L. Eadie (E)	10	6	4	60
R. Thornton (Nk)	10	6	4	60
Miss L. Towler (He)	5	5	0	100
Mrs. D. Baines (He)	3	3	0	100
Miss S. Hession (E)	3	3	0	100
Miss G. Lock (E)	2	2	0	100
Mrs. L. Barrow (E)	5	4	1	80
Mrs. B. Stevens (Bu)	4	3	1	75
Miss L. Woodcock (Sk)	5	3	2	60

2 WEST

	P	W	L	Av%
C. Sewell (Av)	12	12	0	100
P. Whiting (Dv)	4	4	0	100
R. Bishop (Gn)	12	11	1	92
K. Satchell (Wi)	10	9	1	90
G. Evans (Gn)	10	8	2	80
J. Morgan (Gn)	8	6	2	75
J. Bloomer (Gw)	10	7	3	70
T. Bruce (Wi)	12	8	4	67
Miss E. Lamb (Dv)	6	6	0	100
Miss G. Pritchard (Dv)	3	3	0	100
Miss A. Boyce (Wi)	2	2	0	100
Miss P. Mortimer (Dv)	2	2	0	100
Mrs. J. Green (So)	6	4	2	67
Miss W. Parker (Wi)	6	4	2	67
Mrs. J. Hunt (Wo)	3	2	1	67
Miss A. Jones (Wo)	3	2	1	67
Mrs. A. Lloyd (Wo)	3	2	1	67

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(continued from page 39)

Cleveland 3 Middlesex 7
P. Hindle lost to G. Sandley -20, -7;
lost to B. Tyler -12, -14.
I. Plummer lost to Sandley 14, -12, -19;
lost to C. Wilson -16, -16.
D. Hughes lost to Tyler 18, -11, -14;
lost to Wilson -11, -16.
Hughes/Plummer bt Sandley/Tyler -13, 18, 15.
Angela Tierney bt Helen Williams 11, 12.
Helen Robinson lost to J. Wilding 14, -13, -18.
Miss Robinson/Miss Tierney bt Miss Wilding/
Miss Williams -12, 16, 18.

JUNIOR 2 SOUTH

Middlesex II 7 Hampshire 3
Sussex 7 Surrey II 3
Wiltshire 8 Kent 2

JUNIOR 2 NORTH

Cheshire 6 Staffordshire 4
Cumbria 9 Cleveland II 1
Yorkshire II 5 Derbyshire 5

JUNIOR 2 MIDLAND

Buckinghamshire 7 Shropshire 3
Northamptonshire 5 Norfolk 5
Hertfordshire 5 Leicestershire 5

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH

Berkshire II 6 Essex III 4
Dorset 8 Buckinghamshire II 2
Kent II 0 Sussex II 10
Dorset 7 Berkshire II 3

Both teams had hundred per cent records with everything to play for — no surprise that the atmosphere was tense and until the halfway stage the visitors seemed to have the whip-hand and led 2-3; Dorset, however, took the next five!

JUNIOR 3 NORTH

Cumbria II 5 Cleveland III 5
Northumberland 4 Durham 6

JUNIOR 3 EAST

Suffolk 5 Cambridgeshire 5
Hertfordshire II 7 Huntingdonshire 3
Lincolnshire II 3 Suffolk 7

JUNIOR 3 WEST

Avon 2 Devon 8
Cornwall 10 Somerset 0
Glamorgan 8 Gwent 2
Avon 0 Glamorgan 10
Devon II 8 Gwent 2

VETERAN EAST

Hertfordshire 7 Huntingdonshire 2

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Final Tables

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Premier Division, 2 South, 2 North, 2 Midland, Junior 3 South, and Junior 3 North.

games: Staffs 57-61

Derbys 54-65

* Two sets deducted from Derbyshire's 7-3 win over Beds — ineligible player competed and sets forfeited to Beds.

2 East

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for 2 East counties: Essex II, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, Buckinghamshire.

2 West

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for 2 West counties: Glamorgan II, Wiltshire, Devon, Somerset, Avon, Worcestershire, Gwent.

3 South

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for 3 South counties: Sussex II, Kent II, Hertfordshire II, Essex III, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire II.

3 North

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for 3 North counties: Derbyshire II, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire II, Cumbria, Northumberland II.

3 West

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for 3 West counties: Gloucestershire, Berkshire II, Avon II, Dorset II, Glamorgan III, Cornwall.

games: Gloucs 79-36
Berts II 78-37

Junior Premier

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Junior Premier counties: Middlesex, Essex, Yorkshire, Berkshire, Surrey, Cleveland, Lancashire, Devon.

Junior 2 South

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Junior 2 South counties: Sussex, Middlesex II, Essex II, Surrey II, Wiltshire, Kent, Hampshire.

Junior 2 North

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Junior 2 North counties: Staffordshire, Cheshire, Clwyd, Yorkshire II, Derbyshire, Cumbria, Cleveland II.

Junior 2 Midland

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Junior 2 Midland counties: Warwickshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Shropshire, Northamptonshire, Norfolk, Leicestershire.

Junior 3 South

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Junior 3 South counties: Dorset, Berkshire II, Sussex II, Kent II, Essex III, Hampshire II, Buckinghamshire II.

Junior 3 North

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Junior 3 North counties: Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumbria II, Cleveland II.

games: Northumb 45-69

Cumb II 45-71

Junior 3 East

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Junior 3 East counties: Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire II, Lincolnshire II, Huntingdonshire.

Junior 3 West

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Junior 3 West counties: Glamorgan, Devon II, Gwent, Cornwall, Avon, Somerset, Wiltshire II.

Veteran Midland

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Veteran Midland counties: Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Clwyd, Worcestershire, Leicestershire.

Veteran East

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, P for Veteran East counties: Middlesex, Essex II, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Huntingdonshire.

SENIOR PROMOTION PLAY-OFFS

Glamorgan keep Premier place

Glamorgan and Cheshire will be playing in the Premier Division next season and Leicestershire are committed to another season in the second division after one of the best series of Challenge Matches for a long time, at the I.C.I. Sports Hall, Hyde, Cheshire on April 29/30.

After Cheshire had won their very close encounter over Glamorgan and Leicestershire (both 5-4) it was left to those two Counties to play for the remaining promotion place in the final match of the event. Glamorgan beat Leicestershire 5-3, but one of the most important factors underlying Leicestershire's failure was that the Glamorgan match was their third, hard match of the day, having played Sussex in the morning, Cheshire after lunch and finally Glamorgan during the late afternoon. The team was understandably jaded, and it was most evident in Paul Randell's performance; Paul had enthralled the crowd with some exciting play, but the days' play had taken its toll resulting in his blank score-sheet against Glamorgan.

Promotion play-offs details

Session 1 (Saturday, 2.30 p.m.)

Cheshire beat Glamorgan 5-4

Opening match between Nigel Eckersley and Graham Davies set the pattern for remainder of the match with Eckersley inching home 22-20 in the decider; he did it again over Alan Griffiths (22-20 in the third) to give Cheshire a 4-3 lead at the crucial stage.

N. Eckersley bt A. Griffiths 16, -16, 20;

bt G. Davies -18, 16, 20.

D. Constance lost to Griffiths 18, -18, -14;

bt G. Evans 14, 17.

J. McNee lost to Davies -13, -15;

lost to Evans -16, -18.

Eckersley/B. Johns lost to Davies/Griffiths -18, -20.

Doreen Schofield bt Debbie Coulthard 11, 12.

Johns/Mrs. Schofield bt Evans/Miss Coulthard 19, -17, 8.

Leicestershire beat Hertfordshire 8-1

No trouble for Leicestershire over Hertfordshire who avoided the whitewash in the final set!

P. Randell bt R. Jermyn 4, 12;

bt J. Proffitt -19, 14, 15.

C. Rogers bt Jermyn 16, 10;

bt B. White 10, 13.

M. Newman lost to Proffitt -18, -15;

bt White 11, -19, 11.

Newman/Rogers bt J. and S. Proffitt 26, -19, 19.

Anita Stevenson bt Linda Towler 9, 4.

Randell/Miss Stevenson bt S. Proffitt/Miss Towler 11, 20.

Session 2 (Saturday, 6.00 p.m.)

Cheshire beat Hertfordshire 7-2

Cheshire were feeling the effects of their previous win over Glamorgan, with David Constance looking tired in his opener over Richard Jermyn, who took the first game 19-21, but Constance fought

(continued on page 37)

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

CLEVELAND CHAMPIONS AGAIN

Cleveland emerged from the depths of the County Championships Premier Division to take the Championship for the third successive year after Berkshire had ruined Surrey's chances and Surrey had returned the compliment to Yorkshire.

The Surrey-Yorkshire clash on April 2 was being billed the match of the year upon which the fate of the Championship rested; much rested on results up to the clash but both Counties seemed capable of overcoming the hurdles in their path — Surrey's hurdle was Berkshire and Yorkshire's was Glamorgan. Yorkshire overcame Glamorgan 7-2 but quite incredibly Surrey failed to win over Berkshire, but with the ball going their way against Yorkshire, Surrey sailed home easy 7-2 victors.

Another incredible result was the 5-4 reverse on Berkshire by the already doomed Glamorgan; Glamorgan providing for Berkshire the type of team they do not like — two strong men, Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies won the match between them, just as they did in last season's promotion play-offs.

With defeats to Surrey and Yorkshire the way was left open for Cleveland to win their remaining three matches — all at home and over the following weekend.

Their team against Middlesex included neither Neale nor Jarvis, but with Middlesex struggling to field a regular-looking team Cleveland romped home 8-1. They also romped home by the same margin over Glamorgan and Douglas-less Warwickshire.

Warwickshire go down with Glamorgan, who were able to fight for retention of their Premier status after Glamorgan II had won 2 West.

An error in the calculation of games ratio in 3 West has reversed a previously-published fact; Berkshire II were shown as divisional winners, but regard had not been taken of forfeited sets which did not favour Berkshire and Gloucestershire are winners of 3 West.

Another alteration in the positions within a division occurs in 2 Midland, where Derbyshire played an ineligible player against Bedfordshire and the original 7-3 result changes to 5-all after two wins are forfeited.

PREMIER

Glamorgan 2 Yorkshire 7

A. Griffiths lost to A. Clayton -9, -14;

lost to K. Beadsley 20, -9, -19;

G. Davies bt Clayton 17, -17, 23;

lost to A. Fletcher -16, -19.

M. Owen lost to Beadsley -14, -14;

bt Fletcher 13, 16.

Davies/Griffiths lost to Beadsley/Fletcher -15, -16.

Debbie Coulthard lost to Melody Ludi -17, -14.

Owen/Miss Coulthard lost to Clayton/Miss Ludi

-18, -11.

Surrey 4 Berkshire 5

Surrey started off well enough, but their 3-1 lead was wiped out and overtaken before Dave Welsman beat David Reeves so that Martin Shuttle and David Barr had to play for the result — the younger defender did it for Berks 7 and 15!

M. Crimmins lost to A. Wellman 14, -17, -14;

bt D. Reeves 15, 19.

M. Shuttle lost to Wellman 15, -16, -19;

lost to D. Barr -7, -15.

D. Welsman bt Reeves -19, 19, 16;

bt Barr 15, 18.

Crimmins/Welsman lost to Barr/Reeves -7, -10.

Linda Howard lost to Karen Witt -20, -15.

Shuttle/Miss Howard bt Wellman/Miss Witt

17, -15, 16.

Berkshire 4 Glamorgan 5

Glamorgan provided the opposition Berkshire just don't like — two very strong men; Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies won it between them!

A. Wellman lost to A. Griffiths -22, -17;

lost to G. Davies -16, -12.

D. Reeves lost to Griffiths -18, -14;

bt M. Owen 10, 14.

D. Barr lost to Davies -16, -16;

bt M. Owen 16, 7.

Barr/Reeves lost to Davies/Griffiths -13, -23.

Caroline Reeves bt Debbie Coulthard -19, 16, 11.

Wellman/Karen Witt bt M. Owen/Miss Coulthard

13, -17, 19.

Surrey 7 Yorkshire 2

Not Yorkshire's day which looked good when Kevin Beadsley dictated play over Max Crimmins and held a commanding lead in the first game (13-4) but Crimmins was allowed back losing narrowly in the first and winning the next two; Yorkshire were not allowed back into the match until Melody Ludi beat Linda Howard, but Surrey were leading 5-0.

M. Crimmins lost to A. Clayton -18, -18;

bt K. Beadsley -17, 17, 18.

M. Shuttle bt Clayton 8, 16;

bt A. Fletcher -21, 19, 17.

D. Welsman bt Beadsley 12, 21;

bt Fletcher 18, -18, 13.

Crimmins/Welsman bt Beadsley/Fletcher 20, 12.

Linda Howard lost to Melody Ludi -13, -25.

Shuttle/Miss Howard bt Clayton/Miss Ludi 15, 20.

Essex 4 Middlesex 5

R. Potton bt M. Mitchell 15, -14, 17;

bt P. Guttormsen 8, 21.

D. Newman lost to Mitchell -18, -11;

lost to G. Sandley -14, -16.

S. Gibbs lost to Guttormsen -17, -16;

lost to Sandley -21, -10.

Newman/Potton bt Mitchell/Sandley -21, -10.

Lesley Radford lost to Angela Mitchell -15, -13.

Gibbs/Mrs. Radford bt Guttormsen/Miss Mitchell

19, 13.

Surrey 6 Essex 3

M. Crimmins lost to R. Potton -20, -15;

lost to K. Jackson -16, -14.

M. Shuttle lost to Potton -13, -20;

bt S. Gibbs 17, 20.

D. Welsman bt Jackson 14, -16, 20;

bt Gibbs 22, -16, 11.

Crimmins/Welsman bt Jackson/Potton -16, 19, 19.

Linda Howard bt Lesley Radford 11, 14.

Shuttle/Miss Howard bt Gibbs/Mrs. Radford

19, 12.

Cleveland 8 Middlesex 1

Visitors hit by unusual crop of unavailable players with Laurie Landry making his 100th County appearance for Middlesex.

P. McQueen bt M. Mitchell 18, -12, 17;

bt L. Landry 19, 5.

T. Martin bt Mitchell -19, 14, 20;

bt B. Tyler 13, -17, 16.

K. Paxton bt Landry 10, 15;

bt Tyler 18, 12.

Martin/Paxton bt Landry/Tyler 12, -19, 19.

Carole Knight bt Angela Mitchell 11, 15.

McQueen/Miss Knight lost to Mitchell/

Miss Mitchell -18, -14.

Cleveland 8 Glamorgan 1

D. Neale bt A. Griffiths 19, 19;

bt G. Davies 20, 20.

N. Jarvis lost to Griffiths -16, -22;

bt M. Owen 13, 17.

P. McQueen bt Davies 18, 18;

bt M. Owen 17, 16.

Jarvis/McQueen bt Davies/Griffiths 21, -15, 19.

Carole Knight bt Debbie Coulthard 13, 15.

Neale/Miss Knight bt Owen/Miss Coulthard

16, 15.

Cleveland 8 Warwickshire 1

D. Neale bt D. Johnson 17, -17, 21;

bt D. Munt 12, 15.

N. Jarvis bt D. Johnson 9, 19;

bt S. Claxton 17, 18.

P. McQueen bt Munt 16, 18;

lost to Claxton 15, -16, -20.

Jarvis/McQueen bt Johnson/Munt 18, 15.

Carole Knight bt Di St. Ledger 11, 12.

Neale/Miss Knight bt Claxton/Miss St. Ledger

18, 8.

2 SOUTH

Middlesex 4 Dorset 6

Sussex 8 Surrey II 2

2 NORTH

Lancashire 4 Cleveland II 6

Yorkshire II 6 Cheshire 4

2 EAST

Suffolk 8 Norfolk 2

2 WEST

Avon 3 Devon 7

Gwent 4 Worcestershire 6

Somerset 2 Glamorgan II 8

Glamorgan II 6 Wiltshire 4

Devon 7 Gwent 3

3 SOUTH

Buckinghamshire II 1 Hertfordshire II 9

3 NORTH

Lancashire II 4 Nottinghamshire 6

Cumbria 2 Lincolnshire 8

3 WEST

Avon II 6 Glamorgan III 4

JUNIOR PREMIER

Cleveland 9 Devon 1

A motorway muddle and bad driving conditions brought on by snow slowed down Devon's boys en-route for Ormesby, who failed to arrive by virtue of finding themselves at the Hull end of the M62.

Angela Tierney bt Gina Pritchard 17, 14.

Helen Robinson lost to J. Pritchard -19, -18.

Miss Robinson/Miss Tierney bt Misses G. and J.

Pritchard 12, 21.

Devon 6 Yorkshire 4

P. Whiting bt A. Bottomley 24, 20;

lost to A. Hill -15, -18.

S. Gwynne lost to Bottomley -15, -11;

lost to P. Sanderson 19, -19, -21.

M. Shearman lost to Hill 19, -15, -13;

bt Sanderson 20, 19.

Shearman/Whiting bt Bottomley/Sanderson 17, 21.

Gina Pritchard bt J. Guanaria 13, 13.

Carol Butler bt Tracey Wenn 18, 12.

Miss Butler/Miss Pritchard bt Miss Guanaria/

Miss Wenn 9, 9.

Lancashire 6 Cleveland 4

A. O'Connor bt P. Hindle 10, 16;

bt I. Plummer 14, 16.

P. Rainford lost to Hindle -12, 17, -13;

bt D. Hughes -12, 8, 21.

R. Freely bt Plummer 9, 11;

lost to Hughes 17, -15, -17.

O'Connor/Rainford bt Plummer/Hughes 15, 9.

Joy Grundy lost to Angela Tierney -9, -20.

Carolyn Scowcroft bt Helen Robinson 18, -17, 19.

Miss Grundy/Miss Scowcroft lost to

Miss Robinson/Miss Tierney 20, -12, -17.

Surrey 2 Berkshire 8

S. Holloway lost to D. Barr -11, -11;

bt D. Gloster 20, 14.

S. Woodgate lost to Barr 16, -4, -16;

lost to B. Johnson -16, -12.

M. Oakley lost to Gloster 14, -17, -14;

bt Johnson 15, 13.

Holloway/Oakley lost to Barr/Johnson -6, -20.

Sarah Cresswell lost to Alison Gordon -16, -15.

Lorraine Garbet lost to Mandy Smith -19, -20.

Miss Cresswell/Miss Garbet lost to Miss Gordon/

Miss Smith -16, 16, -18.

Essex 3 Middlesex 7

K. Jackson lost to G. Sandley -8, 9, -18;

bt B. Tyler 16, 17.

S. Kimm lost to Sandley -13, -15;

lost to C. Wilson -15, 20, -15.

A. Penney bt Tyler 17, 14;

lost to Wilson -14, 15, -15.

D. Charlery/Jackson lost to Sandley/Tyler

18, -12, -17.

Helen Gore lost to Mandy Reeves -10, -10.

Julie Dowsett bt Helen Williams 20, 15.

Maxine Abbott/Miss Dowsett lost to Miss Reeves/

Miss Williams -15, -19.

Devon 4 Berkshire 6

P. Whiting lost to D. Barr -20, -20;

bt D. Gloster 14, 10.

S. Gwynne lost to Barr -14, -12;

lost to B. Johnson -21, 17, -14.

M. Shearman bt D. Gloster -10, 10, 19;

bt Johnson -19, 19, 13.

Shearman/Whiting lost to Barr/Gloster

-14, 17, -21.

Gina Pritchard lost to Alison Gordon -10, -17.

Carol Butler bt Taryn Valli 9, 10.

Miss Butler/Miss Pritchard lost to Miss Gordon/

Miss Valli -15, -18.

(continued on page 38)