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Table Tennis News

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EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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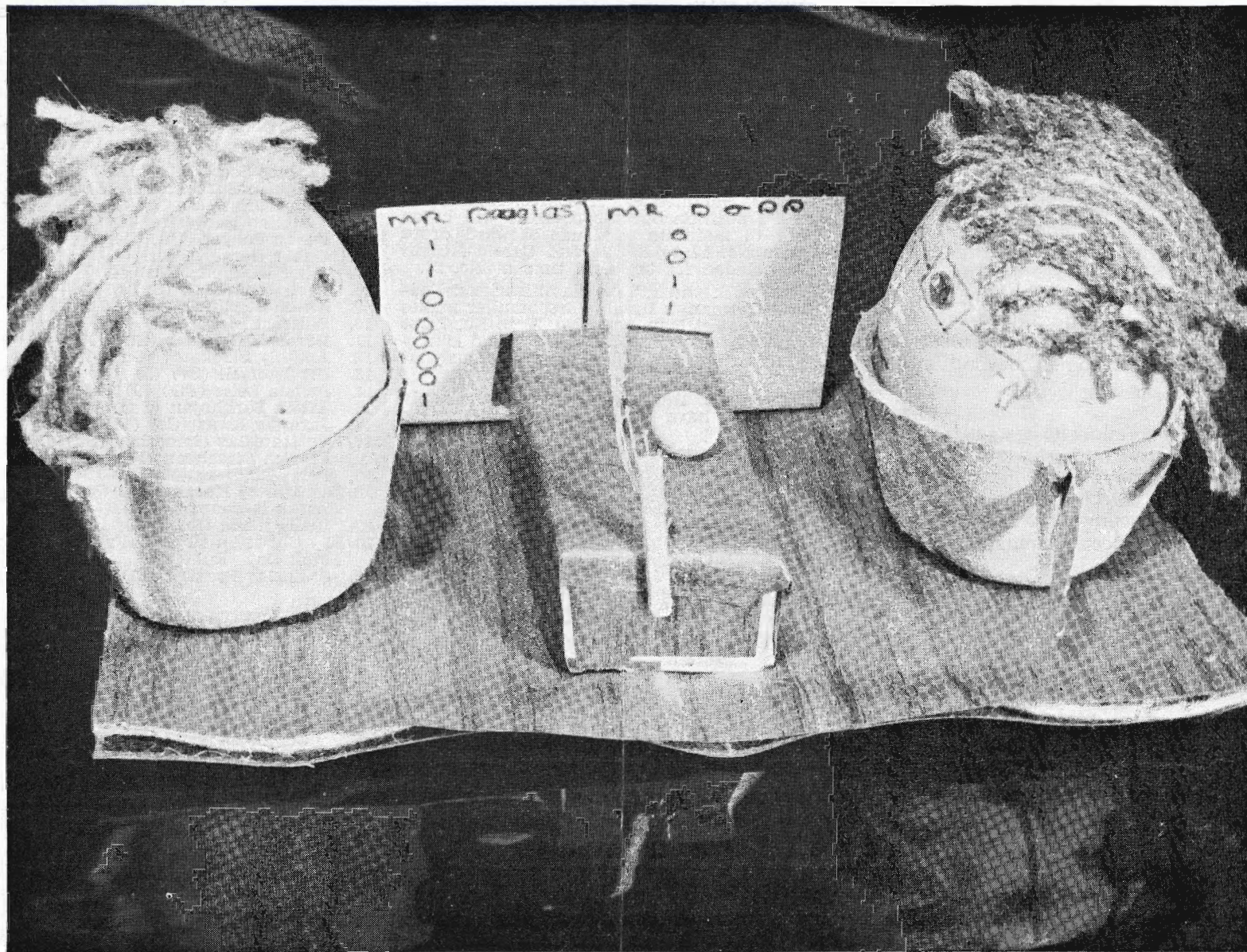


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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Advertisements: Mrs. Christine Wilkes, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA. Phone: Hastings (0424) 433121.

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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).

HAND IN HAND

European League successes over Jacques Secretin and Patrick Birocheau of France and Anton Stipanovic and Zoran Kosanovic of Yugoslavia, plus a title-winning performance in the North of England Open, constitute a whirlwind start to the season for Desmond Douglas.

The Warwickshire left-hander, doubtless benefitting from his frequent excursions to Federal Germany would appear to have blossomed beyond all recognition.

Most certainly he has established quite a gap between himself and the rest of the domestic field, the difference being that of a well paid full time professional and those concerned with academic and career qualifications outside the sport.

Trainer/Coach Peter Simpson has the task of bringing on those with the desire to succeed, as Douglas is doing, but whether this can be accomplished with part-timers is problematical.

Yet, given the incentive of being able to make a worthwhile living at the game in this country could go a long way towards providing a solution that would put England up with the front runners as well as regaining that vital spectator element. The two go hand in hand.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR

JACQUES AND JILL ON TOP

European champions Jacques Secretin (France) and England's Jill Hammersley head the European Table Tennis Union's revised classifications released on Oct 1 and to remain operative until the end of December, 1977.

All told England have six players — three men and three women — in the fifty listed, one more in each category since the last revision in January of this year.

In the men's list Desmond Douglas is lifted five positions, from No. 16 to No. 11, but Paul Day suffers relegation from No. 17 to share positions Nos. 23/24 with Christian Martin of France. Denis Neale has been reinstated at No. 22.

Mrs. Hammersley, of course, retains her No. 1 position but the pressure will be on her to maintain it. Linda Howard drops from No. 17 to No. 24 and Carole Knight is included for the first time at No. 20.

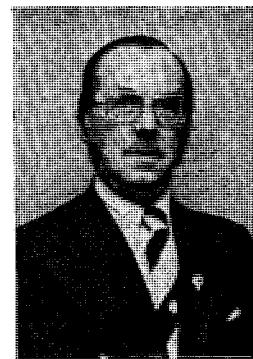
As with the ITTF's classifications, Federal Germany's Ursula Hirschmuller makes the greatest leap, from No. 20 to No. 7 but out go Eva Stromvall of Sweden and Marie-France Germiot of Belgium previously at Nos. 18 and 19.

Sweden's Ake Gronlund is the only player to have been axed from the men's



French ace Jacques Secretin, here seen being congratulated by Stellan Bengtsson of Sweden, back at No. 1 man in the ETTU classifications.

Photo by Petr Barta, Ostrava.



list having been at No. 19. Both lists have been extended from 20 to 25 players. The newcomers are:—

Men — Stellwag, Kosanovic, Neale and Fraczyk together with Johansson and Stipanovic.

Women — Popova, Vrieskoop, Ferenczi, Knight and Mihut together with Antonian and Ferdman. The latter pair, as with the men, not having been classified in the previous list because of insufficient evidence.

NEW CLASSIFICATIONS

(Previous positions in brackets)

Men

1. Jacques Secretin (Fr) (2)
2. Dragutin Surbek (Yu) (3)
3. Milan Orlovski (Cs) (7)
- 4/5. Stellan Bengtsson (Sv) (6)
- Istvan Jonyer (Hu) (1)
6. Gabor Gergely (Hu) (8)
7. Tibor Klampar (Hu) (4)
8. Kjell Johansson (Sv) (5-8)
9. Anton Stipanovic (Yu) (5-8)
10. Wilfried Lieck (FG) (12)
11. Desmond Douglas (En) (16)
12. Anatoly Strokotov (Su) (10)
13. Ulf Thorsell (Sv) (5)
14. Jochen Leiss (FG) (9)
15. Sarkis Sarkhojan (Su) (11)
16. Jaroslav Kunz (Cs) (13)
- 17/18. Stanislav Gomozkov (Su) (15)
- Patrick Birocheau (Fr) (18)
19. Peter Stellwag (FG) (—)
- 20/21. Milivoj Karakasevic (Yu) (14)
- Zoran Kosanovic (Yu) (—)
22. Denis Neale (En) (—)
- 23/24. Christian Martin (Fr) (20)
- Paul Day (En) (17)
25. Stanislav Fraczyk (Pl) (—)

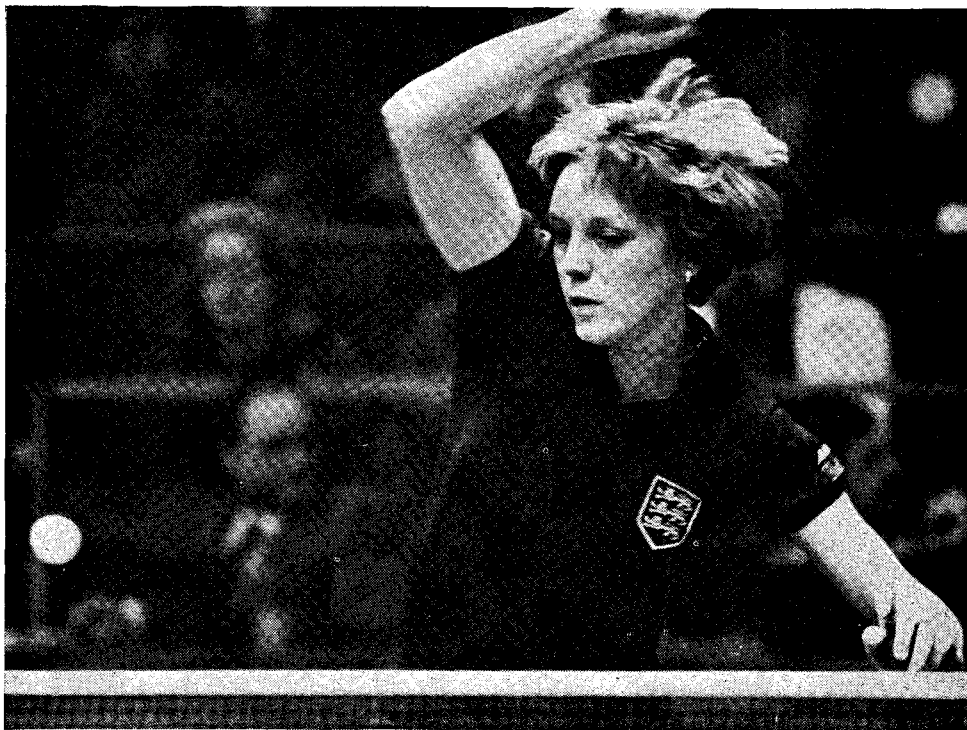
Women

1. Jill Hammersley (En) (1)
2. Beatrix Kishazi (Hu) (3)
3. Judit Magos (Hu) (2)
4. Ann-Christin Hellman (Sv) (4)
5. Ilona Uhlkova (Cs) (5)
6. Maria Alexandru (Ru) (8)
7. Ursula Hirschmuller (FG) (20)
- 8/9. Claude Bergeret (Fr) (6)
- Erzebet Palatinus (Yu) (12)
10. Gabriella Szabo (Hu) (10)
11. Zoya Rudnova (Su) (7)
12. Elmira Antonian (Su) (5-8)
13. Valentina Popova (Su) (—)
14. Blanka Silhanova (Cs) (9)
15. Wiebke Hendriksen (FG) (11)
16. Bettine Vrieskoop (NL) (—)
- 17/18. Brigitte Thiriet (Fr) (16)
- Dubravka Fabri (Yu) (13)
19. Eva Ferenczi (Ru) (—)
20. Carole Knight (En) (—)
21. Birgitta Olsson (Sv) (15)
- 22/23. Tatjana Ferdman (Su) (13-16)
- Branka Batinic (Yu) (14)
24. Linda Howard (En) (17)
25. Liana Mihut (Ru) (—)

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Hungary, the defending Super Division champions, suffered a shock 1-6 home reverse to Sweden in Budapest on Oct 29 when the curtain went up on the 1977-78 European League season.

Another unexpected result (reported elsewhere) occurred in Millom, Cumbria



England's Jill Hammersley, perhaps a little fortunate to retain her No. 1 European position.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.

where England triumphed 4-3 against France last season's runners-up.

In Budapest only Istvan Jonyer brought cheer to the home spectators when, in the second set, he equated the match score with a 23-21 third game win over Ulf Thorsell.

Thereafter, despite another four sets going to a deciding game, a Stellan Bengtsson-inspired Sweden carried all before them with Ann-Christin Hellman beating Beatrix Kishazi and Thorsell having a penultimate set win over Tibor Klampar.

Individual scores:—
T. Klampar lost to S. Bengtsson -15, -14;
I. Jonyer bt U. Thorsell -17, 18, 21;
B. Kishazi lost to A-C. Hellman 15, -17, -10;
Jonyer/Klampar lost to Bengtsson/Thorsell 18, -14, -20;
G. Gergely/J. Magos lost to Bengtsson/Hellman 13, -13, -17;
Klampar lost to Thorsell -18, -15;
Jonyer lost to Bengtsson -13, 21, -17.

In Moscow on the same night the Soviet Union went from 1-1 to a decisive 4-1 with Anatolij Strokotov figuring in three of the wins and Valentina Popova successful against Iona Uhlakova of Czechoslovakia.

Scores:—
A. Strokotov bt J. Kunz -18, 12, 20;
V. Shevchenko lost to M. Orlowski -8, -16;
V. Popova bt I. Uhlakova 18, 16;
Strokotov/S. Sarkhojan bt Orlowski/Kunz 10, 14;
Strokotov/Popova bt Orlowski/Uhlakova -18, 15, 16;
Strokotov lost to Orlowski 19, -15, -11;
Shevchenko lost to Kunz -14, 19, -17.

Promotees Netherlands, away to Yugoslavia in Pluj, were beaten 5-2 the visitors' wins coming from European Youth champion Bettine Vriesekoop over Erzebet Palatinus and by Rene Hijne against Anton Stipancic. Although available, if required, Dragutin Surbek was not called upon.

Scores:—
A. Stipancic bt B. v.d. Helm 8, 13;
Z. Kosanovic bt R. Hijne 17, 19;
E. Palatinus lost to B. Vriesekoop -11, -13;
Kosanovic/M. Karakasevic bt v.d. Helm/Hijne 17, 16;
Stipancic/Palatinus bt v.d. Helm/Vriesekoop 17, 14;
Stipancic lost to Hijne 15, -18, -18;
Kosanovic bt v.d. Helm -21, 9, 14.

Indeed the self-same Yugoslav team represented their country against England at Bracknell on Oct 13 and triumphed 4-3 in another match having a separate report elsewhere in this issue.

On the same date, again in Budapest, Hungary brought back the smiles in defeating the Soviet Union 4-3 recovering from a 2-3 deficit to do so. Jonyer won both his singles, beating Strokotov and Sarkis Sarkhojan, and further combined with Klampar to win the men's doubles. Gabor Gergely administered the coup-de-grace in beating Sarkhojan in the final set. Russia's Valentina Popova brought off another impressive win in accounting for Judit Magos. Scores:—
Jonyer bt Sarkhojan 27, 21;
Gergely lost to Strokotov -21, 15, -12;
Magos lost to Popova 18, -12, -16;
Jonyer/Klampar bt Strokotov/Sarkhojan 17, -19, 20;
Jonyer/Magos lost to Strokotov/Popova -20, -17;
Jonyer bt Strokotov -13, 20, 17;
Gergely bt Sarkhojan -16, 18, 14.

Meanwhile, away to Czechoslovakia in Usti nad Labem, Sweden brought off the second away success in winning 4-3 victory coming in the last set when Bengtsson beat Jaroslav Kunz, having accounted for Orlowski in the opening one. Scores:—
Orlowski lost to Bengtsson -24, -8;
Kunz lost to Thorsell -17, 16, -16;
Uhlakova bt Hellman 15, 19;
Orlowski/Kunz bt Bengtsson/Thorsell 15, -9, 19;
Orlowski/Uhlakova lost to Bengtsson/Hellman -18, -16;
Orlowski bt Thorsell 12, 20;
Kunz lost to Bengtsson -13, -23.

Before 600 spectators in Alkmaar (Kasestadt — Cheesetown) Netherlands went down 2-5 to France the Dutch wins again coming from Bettine Vriesekoop, who beat Claude Bergeret, and from Hijne who, in the final set, just got home 23-21 in the deciding game against Patrick Birocheau. Scores:—
v.d. Helm lost to P. Birocheau -16, -8;
Hijne lost to J. Secretin -12, -9;
Vriesekoop bt C. Bergeret 18, -19, 16;
v.d. Helm/N. v. Slobbe lost to Secretin/Birocheau -10, -18;
Hijne/Vriesekoop lost to Secretin/Bergeret -16, -14;

v.d. Helm lost to Secretin -15, -18;
Hijne bt Birocheau -19, 13, 21.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	2	0	10	4	2
Yugoslavia	2	2	0	9	5	2
France	2	1	1	8	6	1
England	2	1	1	7	7	1
U.S.S.R.	2	1	1	7	7	1
Hungary	2	1	1	5	9	1
Czechoslovakia	2	0	2	6	8	0
Netherlands	2	0	2	4	10	0

Demotees to Division 1, Federal Germany, began their comeback campaign away to Belgium in Eupen winning 7-0 with only two of the seven sets needing a third game decider.

Scores:—
N. v.d. Walle lost to R. Wosik -8, -8;
D. Nassaux lost to P. Stellwag -13, 15, -12;
M-F. Germiot lost to U. Hirschmuller -10, -11;
v.d. Walle/Nassaux lost to Wosik/H-J. Nolten -11, -16;
v.d. Walle/Germiot lost to Wosik/K. Kruger 13, -17, -18;
v.d. Walle lost to Stellwag -18, -20;
Nassaux lost to Wosik -10, -14.

Another "whitewash" was administered by Bulgaria away to Luxembourg in Ettelbruck where the scores were:—

A. Hartmann lost to P. Mitev 14, -2, -18;
C. Putz lost to Stoianov -16, -16;
J. Dom lost to E. Neikova -13, -19;
Hartmann/Putz lost to Mitev/Stoianov -14, -19;
Hartmann/Dom lost to Stoianov/Neikova -14, -12;
Hartmann lost to Stoianov 17, -10, -13;
Putz lost to Mitev -16, 17, -18.

Poland, the other main challengers to Federal Germany travelled to Drosendorf to defeat Austria 6-1 the home win coming from Erich Amplatz and Gunter Muller in the men's doubles. Scores:—

F. Waldhausl lost to L. Kucharski -16, -20;
E. Amplatz lost to A. Grubba -9, -13;
D. Fetter lost to W. Sikora -19, -18;
Amplatz/G. Muller bt Kucharski/S. Dryszel -17, 21, 11;
Muller/Fetter lost to Grubba/Sikora 18, -15, -19;
Waldhausl lost to Grubba 19, -20, -19;
Amplatz lost to Kucharski -15, -15.

Up in Londonderry Ireland began their programme with a home match against Greece who just got home 4-3 when Nicolas Kostopoulos had a last set win over Tommy Caffrey. Scores:—
J. Langan bt N. Kostopoulos -15, 16, 26;
T. Caffrey lost to C. Priftis -11, -12;
K. Senior bt L. Scivanou 15, -19, 16;
Langan/Caffrey lost to Priftis/Kostopoulos 19, -18, -16;
Langan/Senior bt Priftis/Scivanou 20, 19;
Langan lost to Priftis -21, -12;
Caffrey lost to Kostopoulos -20, -6.

But a black mark to Ireland who failed to honour their second fixture away to Bulgaria having slept in on the question of visas and, when faced with a bat hang-up by Caffrey, finding their nominated reserve without a passport! By rule Bulgaria have been given a 4-0 result.

With Jochen Leiss replacing Ralf Wosik, Federal Germany gained their second successive 7-0 win this time at the expense of Austria in Springe on Oct 13. Scores:—
J. Leiss bt Amplatz 15, 20;
Stellwag bt Muller 8, 15;
W. Hendriksen bt Fetter 10, 13;
Leiss/P. Engel bt Amplatz/Muller -19, 16, 10;
Engel/Hirschmuller bt Muller/Fetter 13, 18;
Leiss bt Muller 9, 18;
Stellwag bt Amplatz -19, 15, 18.

Poland also kept a clean sheet in their home 7-0 victory over Luxembourg in Warsaw, although four times a deciding set was needed. Scores:—
Kucharski bt Hartmann 12, 9;
Grubba bt Putz 13, 15;
Sikora bt Dom -17, 13, 16;

Grubba/Dryszel bt Hartmann/Putz
-15, 8, 9;
Kucharski/J. Szatko bt Hartmann/Dom
19, 17;
Kucharski bt Putz -16, 8, 15;
Grubba bt Hartmann -13, 8, 11.

In the other match played on Oct 13,
Greece beat Belgium 5-2.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Federal Germany	2	2	0	14	0	2
Poland	2	2	0	13	1	2
Bulgaria	2	2	0	11	0	2
Greece	2	2	0	9	5	2
Ireland	2	0	2	3	8	0
Belgium	2	0	2	2	12	0
Austria	2	0	2	1	13	0
Luxembourg	2	0	2	0	14	0

Matching Scotland's 5-2 success against
Switzerland (see Scottish Notes for details)
Italy travelled to Finland to obtain the
same result.

DIVISION 2

Italy	1	1	0	5	2	1
Scotland	1	1	0	5	2	1
Finland	1	0	1	2	5	0
Switzerland	1	0	1	2	5	0
Spain						

EUROPE CLUB CUP

Dublin's Pioneer Club team of Pat O'-
Brien, Joe Hickey and Mick Rice went down
5-0 to Amsterdam's Tempo Team of Bert
Van der Helm, Nico Van Slobbe and Rene
Hijne whose next opponents will be A.S.
Messine, Paris again in Amsterdam.

Three wins for Marian v.d. Vliet and one
each from Sonja v. Weelderren (nee Heltzel)
and Mieke Arntz carried Tempo Team to a
5-2 win over Capip Dommeldange of
Luxembourg in the women's section, the
opposition's two wins coming from Carin
Risch. Next opponents for the Dutch side
are the holders, Statisztika Budapest, the
holders.

England's Ormesby Club, play hosts to
Virum Copenhagen, the Danish champions,
in the men's competition. The match was
scheduled for Nov 4 at Eston Sports Centre.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Victorian State team members returned
from Perth laden with shields and trophies.
Three of the four team events (men's,
women's and boys') were won by Victoria,
the girls' title going to Queensland for the
first time. A highlight of the champion-
ships was the fine win by Robbie Javor of
the men's singles title. The women's singles
title went to 40-years-old Joyce Tregea of
Queensland, who is possibly the oldest
player to win this event. She is also the
first Queenslander to win the title since
1937, the year she was born!

The winning of the mixed title by
Stephen Knapp and Denise Millikan des-
erves special mention in that Stephen has
now won the title five times in succession
with five different partners! Also, this is
the first national title ever won by a Tas-
manian player. 12-years-old Adele Morrow
broke the record of sister Leanne of being
the youngest player ever to win the girls'
singles title (Leanne was 13 when she won
in 1972).

Finals results:—
MS: R. Javor (V) bt P. Pinkewich (NSW)
-13, 18, 11, 16.
WS: J. Tregea (Q) bt A. Middleton (SA)
21, 17, 18.
MD: Javor/S. Knapp bt Pinkewich/R.
Tuckett (NSW) 12, 18, 8.
WD: Middleton/K. Thompson (V) bt H.
Morrow/V. Woodward (V) 19, 13, -14,
-17, 17.
XD: Knapp/D. Millikan (TAS) bt N. Ward
(SA)/Middleton -18, 16, 19, 16.
BS: Ward bt R. Carlyle (V) 9, -20, 23.
GS: A. Morrow (V) bt M. Buckby (SA)
14, 11.

Team placings were:—

Men:
1 Victoria; 2 Queensland; 3 New South



Carole Knight, England's No. 1 ranked woman, included in the ETTU
classifications for the first time at No. 20.

Photo by Sports News Service, London, WC1.

Wales; 4 South Australia; 5 Western Aust-
ralia; 6 Tasmania.

Women:

1 Victoria; 2 New South Wales; 3 South
Australia; 4 Queensland; 5 Tasmania; 6
Western Australia.

The Barns Award for the "Senior Player
of the Year" went to Robert Tuckett
(NSW); the Szabados Award to the "Junior
Player of the Year" to Neil Ward (SA)

and the Trudek Award was won by Vic-
toria.

Following the retirement of Keith Bowler
from the Australian TTA, Len Haycraft
has been elected International Secretary
and Acting Treasurer. Italy have been in-
vited to send a team to Australia early next
year.

(Continued on page 6)

START RIGHT . . .

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- France:**
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Tamasu Europa (Butterfly Europa);
Gewo (Scholer);
Imperial;
Joola (2000 S).
- Japan:**
Tamasu (Butterfly).
- Sweden:**
Stiga (Expert VM).
- Netherlands:**
Cor du Buy (Europa 72) — (not for World Championships).
- Yugoslavia:**
Kombinat (SP 73 Sport).

NETS

- Germany FR:**
Hanno (Weltmeister);
Imperial (Weltmeister);
Scholdkrot (Selecta)
- Sweden:**
Stiga (Clipper VM)
- Requiring modification before final approval:**
- Japan:**
Tamasu (Butterfly de luxe)
- Germany FR:**
Joola (Europaliga)
- Netherlands:**
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BALLS

(Note: White only unless otherwise shown)

- China:**
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- Germany DR:**
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Imperial (XXX) White and Yellow;
Scholdkrot (XXX) White and Yellow.
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Nittaku (XXX) White and Yellow;
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- Korea R:**
Peace XXX.
- Sweden:**
Stiga (Alser XXX) White and Yellow.
- Switzerland:**
Urchetti (Montana).

4th INTERNATIONAL UMPIRES EXAM 1977

Among the list of successful candidates to which certificates have been sent to their Associations are the following English entrants: R. C. Scruton, J. J. Longden, W. V. Moran and A. G. Morgan.

The next International Umpires examination will be held in Feb/Mar 1978 and nominations must reach the ITTF office not later than Nov 30/77 from the nominating Associations.

5th ARAB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Played in Rabat over the period July 22/31 the results of the 5th Arab Championships were:—

- MT:** 1. Egypt; 2. Tunisia; 3. Saudi Arabia; 4. Iraq; 5. Kuwait; 6. Jordan; 7. Morocco; 8. Palestine (Gaza); 9. Bahrain; 10. United Arab Emirates; 11. Libya; 12. Mauritania; 13. PDR Yemen.
- WT:** 1. Egypt; 2. Iraq; 3. Jordan; 4. Morocco; 5. Tunisia; 6. Palestine (Gaza); 7. PDR Yemen; 8. Bahrain.
- MS:** 1. Ahmed Dawlatly (Egy); 2. Galal Ezz (Egy); 3. Salah Omran (Egy); 4. Helmy Zahar (Sau).
- WS:** 1. Bahija Shaarawi (Egy); 2. Nahed Kamal (Egy); 3. Hada Abdel Kerim (Egy); 4. Randa Tawfic (Egy).

- MD: Dawlatly/Ezz bt Baker/Emad (Irq) 23, 10, 17.
WD: Bahija/Hoda (Egy) bt Nahed/Tawfic (Egy) 19, 15, 15.
XD: Ezz/Tawfic bt Dawlatly/Nahed 17, 16, -17, -19, 19.

Mr. Douglas, is not the England No. 1 but a teacher, by the same name, at Parkside.

NEW TOURNAMENT

On Sunday, Dec. 4 at the Exhibition Hall No. 1, Kings Road, Harrogate, the Octavius Atkinson North Yorkshire 1-Star Open Championships will be launched by the Harrogate and District TT League.

Twelve Butterfly tables will be in use on a Thermoplastic Floor with individual table lighting and Peace 3-Star (White) Balls. The cash prize fund, under the Sponsorship of Octavius Atkinson and Sons Ltd., Constructional Engineers, amounts to £300 with £50 going to the winner of the men's singles.

The tournament, organised in conjunction with Harrogate District Council and Tees Sport Ltd., will commence at 9 a.m. with the Finals at 6-30 p.m. Richard Scruton (T.R., I.U.) will be the Referee and entries close to him at 79 Kingsley Road, Harrogate, North Yorks HG1 4RD on Saturday, Nov. 19.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Prior to the 34th World Championships and in an attempt to keep his pupils quiet for the last two days of term, an Easter egg competition, the brainchild of Mr. Gilbert Dodd, a Newbiggin-on-Sea school-teacher, was devised for a class of 9-10 year old boys and girls at Parkside Middle School, Cramlington, Northumberland.

Having been informed of the big event at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre and of it being televised, Mr. Dodd persuaded some of them to watch and even bribed one boy into doing so by paying him 10p.

But, completely out of the blue, came the model pictured on the front cover which won the first prize. It was the work of Fiona Laws, made at home and brought in on the last day. Actual size 5½" x 3½".



Mr. Eddy King, Managing Director TSP and Desmond Douglas discussing details of TSP range.

Desmond Douglas Signs with New TSP Company

A new company has now been formed with headquarters in London to market the famous TSP range of table tennis equipment throughout Europe.

The name of the Company is TSP Sports Europe Ltd. and the new Managing Director is Mr. Eddy King, who was formerly Promotions Executive with Ascot Sports International where he gained considerable success for the companies products.

TSP Sports will concentrate solely on a comprehensive range of table tennis equipment designed for table tennis players of all standards from the young beginner to the established international player. Already the TSP ball is well established here in the U.K. used exclusively at all County Championships and now other famous TSP products will be available such as SPECTOL rubber as used by the current world champion, Kohno, as well as other high quality rubbers like Super Flash, Final and Cut Man.

Already TSP sports have signed England's fast rising leading player Desmond Douglas to use and promote TSP products and included in the bat range will be specially designed Douglas bats. Since joining TSP Douglas has enjoyed considerable success with wins over European Champion Secretin and Stipanovic among others and is unbeaten in international matches this year.

Mr. Eddy King says "There are exciting plans ahead for the company whereby through our specialist range of equipment and unique clothing all players can benefit and I hope that we shall play an important part in maintaining and increasing the image of table tennis as a major sport to be enjoyed by all."

ITT SUSSEX 2-STAR OPEN

DOUGLAS SHOWS WHY HE'S ENGLAND'S BEST

by John Woodford

Dazzling Desmond Douglas marches on... a path strewn with pounds sterling and deutschmarks towards the European men's crown.

Even if he fails to win at Duisburg in March those who witnessed his victory on Oct 16 in the ITT Sussex Open championships at the White Rock Pavilion, Hastings, will tell you that here is England's finest player in 30 years.

His record this season is virtually untarnished. Unbeaten in all tournaments and the European league he has lost only one set to Dragutin Surbek (Yugoslavia) in the Bundesliga, the premier division of the Federal German national league.

No longer a Birmingham bus worker, he is full-time table tennis professional. He trains and practices every day, commuting most weekends from Heathrow to Dusseldorf to play No. 1 for PSV Borussia Dusseldorf in this European super-star set-up for an undisclosed bonanza in cash!

At Hastings his play was out of this world. In the final he met England's No. 3 Andy Barden who was also playing well. Desmond won the first game 21-10 with electrifying bursts of counter-hitting that left the large crowd unable to believe what they saw. In the second game Barden unleashed an assault that would have left most opponents beaten to lead 17-13. Desmond came back ice-calm to win the £100 with a score of 22-20.

Desmond's rise to the top of the European scene stems directly from his moonlighting to Germany each week to play the top continental players. Long may it continue but it is sad that it has to be foreign money that has taken him this far.

Jill Hammersley was the women's singles winner with an easy task in the final over the holder Shelagh Hession. Jill, the present holder of the European title, will need a boost in her game if she is to hold on to her title in Duisburg.

Sussex players Gerald Pugh and John Clarke (Crawley) put on the best performance by local players when they reached the semi-finals of the men's doubles.

All four Sussex women were defeated in the second and third rounds of the women's singles. Diane Gard was swept away 21-10, 21-10 by England No. 3 Junior Mandy Smith. Julie Reading floundered to England No. 12 junior Carol Colegate, while Linda Budd went down uneasily to Gillian Locke, of Essex.

They will all need to play a lot better at Bexhill in the Sussex trials if they are to impress the county selectors. In the men's singles the only Sussex player to reach Round 4 was Clarke who is nearly 30, so the younger men Pugh and Phil Smith will also have to sharpen up.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Douglas (Wa) bt P. Guttormsen (Mi) 15, 17;

I. Horsham (E) bt D. Tan (Mi) 18, 11;
J. Dabin (K) bt S. Mills (Y) 13, 15;
A. Barden (Mi) bt A. Fletcher (Y) 14, 15.

Semi-finals:
Douglas bt Horsham 14, 14;
Barden bt Dabin 9, 7.

Final:
DOUGLAS bt Barden 10, 20.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Hammersley (Bu) bt J. Livesey (E) 13, 16;

A. Gordon (Bk) bt H. Williams (Mi) 9, 17;

A. Mitchell (Mi) bt M. Reeves (Mi) 17, 20;

S. Hession (E) bt M. Smith (Bk) 19, 16.

Semi-finals:
Hammersley bt Gordon 9, 7;
Hession bt Mitchell 19, -17, 16.

Final:
HAMMERSLEY bt Hession 13, 10.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
G. Chapman (Sy) bt R. Milne -10, 13, 8;
F. Lockwood (E) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) -19, 15, 15.

Final:
LOCKWOOD bt Chapman 19, 18.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Barden/Douglas bt P. Beck/C. Wilson (Mi) 19, 13;

D. Iszatt/D. Newman (E) bt J. Clarke/J. Pugh (Sx) 18, 16.

Final:
BARDEN/DOUGLAS bt Iszatt/Newman 16, 14.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
G. Locke (E)/C. Reeves (Bk) bt Hammersley/Hession -13, 18, 17;
Mitchell/Williams bt Gordon/Smith 16, 18.

Final:
LOCKE/REEVES bt Mitchell/Williams 13, 14.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Barden/Hammersley bt J. Kitchener (Sk)/L. Woodcock (Sx) 13, -18, 14;
Douglas/Mitchell bt Tan/J. New (Do) 11, 11.

Final:
BARDEN/HAMMERSLEY bt Douglas/Mitchell 21, -14, 14.

Trials at Moor Grange School, Leeds on Sept 24:

Boys:

1 S. Madden (Hull); 2 R. Palfreeman (Halifax); 3 M. Heppenstall (Sheffield); 4 D. Illingworth (Barnsley); 5 M. Plowright (Bradford); 6 N. Edgecock (Leeds); 7 T. Adams (York); 8 S. Ruse (Leeds); 9 S. Waterson (Hull); 10 M. Baverstock (Sheffield); 11 J. Balkwill (Hull); 12 A. Clarke (Bradford); 13 N. Pennock (Harrogate); 14 N. Halmshaw (Bradford); 15 A. Tooke (Harrogate); 16 P. Wainwright (Hull); 17 D. Rooke (Bradford); 18 M. Thornton (Bradford).

Girls:

1 T. Wenn (Hull); 2 J. Todd (Bradford); 3 D. Partridge (Bradford); 4 S. Kallianpur (Hull); 5 L. Broomhead (Wakefield); 6 T. Robertshaw (Bradford); 7 G. Watson (Wakefield); 8 M. Seaton (Doncaster); 9 J. Brier (Huddersfield); 10 K. Baxter (Huddersfield); 11 J. Ryalls (Sheffield).

Nell Barley (Hull) and Margaret Sargent (Sheffield) made their county debuts on Oct 8 in the junior second team away match against Staffordshire. Unfortunately, the debuts were not accompanied by success on this occasion and the team went down 4-6. Nevertheless, with so many of our players in their last season as juniors, it is right that younger players be given experience in the junior second team. The senior and junior first teams had wins over Berkshire in the Premier and Junior Premier Divisions. The senior match was a close affair, with Tony Clayton's two singles wins the vital factor. A highlight of the junior match was Sally Midgley's performance in beating Alison Gordon. The attendance at these matches, played at Abbeydale, Dore, Sheffield, was disappointing.

A correction to last month's notes — the recipient of the Leslie Forrest Memorial Award last season was Melody Ludi, not Alec Head as stated. Alec in fact received the award in 1975-76.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by TONY ROSS

CADET RANKINGS

The following county cadet (under-14) ranking lists have been issued following

CHESTER BARNES

Midas Silver Spot Bats £8

CHESTER BARNES

Midas Bronze Spot Bats £7

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Please add 50p postage and package.

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Doyen Cleveland Closed

CHAMPIONSHIP REPEAT
FOR NEALE

by Alan Ransome

Denis Neale retained the Men's Singles title in the Doyen Cleveland Closed at Stockton Sports Centre on Sunday, Oct 2, beating Nicky Jarvis in a close final.

The first game was even up to the last couple of points with Jarvis moving and playing his best so far since returning from a six month layoff with a back injury, while Neale cleverly moved the ball around the table and picked off any loose balls with a quick hit.

In the second game Neale got away to a flying start being up 16-9, but Jarvis fought back to 17-19 before Neale clinched the last two decisive points.

Both players won their semi-finals by comfortable margins with Neale defeating Peter McQueen and Jarvis, Robert Wiley.

The biggest upset in this event was junior David Hughes' victory over Durham champion Keith Paxton. Hughes also put up a good show against McQueen in the quarters.

Carole Knight won a tense Women's Singles final against Angela Tierney who looked to be in with a chance in the decider. But Carole took advantage of some hesitation on her opponent's part and played a series of unstoppable loop drives.

Miss Tierney had a comfortable final win in the Girls' Singles, beating Helen Robinson, while Paul Hindle confirmed his position as the County No. 1 junior by winning the Boys' Singles, beating Michael Laird in the final and Hughes in the semi.

Cadet Boys' winner was Kevin Green, who beat Kenneth Eden in the final. Eden did well to oust two seeds, Lindsay Taylor and Glenn Skipp.

The Cadet Girls' title was won by Julie Woodcock after a close final with Ann Holden. The semi-final, too, was also close

with Miss Holden narrowly defeating Georgina Sirs.

The awards for the Cadet and Junior events were in the form of a Doyen Scholarship which will help the recipients to attend events outside the Cleveland area so developing their standard of play.

June Williams won the Handicap singles for the second successive year beating Michael Lowe in the final giving away four points start, while the Handicap Doubles was won by juniors Ian Plummer and Laird who beat Michael Lowe and Jimmy Clifford in the final.

With a total cash prize fund of £510 and Doyen Scholarship fund of £240, the Doyen Cleveland Closed attracted a bumper entry, with the Handicap Singles in which players of all standards were in with an equal chance of winning the money, having over 130 entries alone.

Stockton won the Inter-Borough Trophy presented by Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department. Presentations were made by Mr. Bill Sykes, Events and Promotions Officer for the Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department, along with Mr. R. E. Ransome, President and Mr. C. Davison, Chairman of the Cleveland County Table Tennis Association.

RESULTS

M.S. Q-F's:

D. Neale bt P. Ward 13, 13;
P. McQueen bt D. Hughes 12, -16, 15;
R. Wiley bt S. Souter 19, 16;
N. Jarvis bt A. Martin 18, 17.

Semi-finals:

Neale bt McQueen 9, 13;
Jarvis bt Wiley 11, 16.

Final:

NEALE bt Jarvis 18, 17.

W.S.: S-F's:

C. Knight bt J. Skipp 14, 11;
A. Tierney bt J. Williams 19, -16, 16.

Final:

KNIGHT bt Tierney 9, -16, 14.

B.S.: S-F's:

P. Hindle bt Hughes 17, -19, 17;
M. Laird bt I. Plummer -23, 17, 18.

Final:

HINDLE bt Laird 14, 20.

G.S.: Final:

TIERNEY bt H. Robinson 8, 7.

Cadet Boys' Final:

K. GREEN bt K. Eden 15, 19.

Cadet Girls' Final:

J. WOODCOCK bt A. Holden -19, 14, 15.

Handicap Singles: S-F's:

Williams bt K. Stevenson 16, -20, 20;
M. Lowe bt J. Mason 20, 18.

Final:

WILLIAMS bt Lowe 19, -19, 16.

Handicap Doubles: Final:

LAIRD/PLUMMER bt J. Clifford/Lowe 16, 12.

Inter Borough Trophy:

Stockton 476 pts; Langbaugh 373 pts; Middlesbrough 198 pts; Hartlepool 96 pts.

Charlery 13, -19, 15; S. McCarthy beat No. 11 Paul Whiting 11, -23, 19; Nigel Thomas of Wales beat Michael Shearman 16, 18 and S. Palmer beat Graham Gillett 21, -18, 16. However, the top 4 seeds eventually made it to the semi-finals and No. 2 beat No. 3 in the final. Results:—

Under-17 Events

BS: Q-F's: (146 entries)

D. Barr (Bk) bt A. Penny (E) 14, 11;
M. Green (Sp) bt N. Thomas (Wa) -17, 12, 14;
J. Souter (Mi) bt K. Satchell (Wi) -18, 15, 18;
K. Jackson (E) bt M. Owen (Hr) 13, 19.

S-F's:

Green bt Barr 13, 12;
Jackson bt Souter 10, 17.

Final:

JACKSON bt Green 18, 15.

GS: Q-F's: (53 entries)

A. Gordon (Bk) bt H. Williams (Mi) 16, 19;
L. Holmes (Dy) bt R. Mackriell (Wa) 18, 16;
G. Pritchard (Dv) bt C. Maisey (Wi) -19, 17, 20;
M. Smith (Bk) bt S. Cresswell (Sy) 11, 7.

S-F's:

Gordon bt Holmes 18, -15, 16;
Smith bt Pritchard 11, 7.

Final:

GORDON bt Smith 12, 14.

BD: S-F's: (71 entries)

Jackson/S. Kimm (E) bt M. Shearman/P. Whiting (Dv) 17, 12;
Green/Thomas bt Barr/R. Johnson (Bk) -14, 7, 14.

Final:

JACKSON/KIMM bt Green/Thomas 19, -15, 14.

GD: S-F's: (24 entries)

Gordon/Smith bt A. Fearnough (Dy)/Holmes -15, 14, 18;

L. Taylor (Bk)/Williams bt Maisey/P. Townsend (Wi) 18, -17, 12.

Final:

GORDON/SMITH bt Taylor/Williams 13, 12.

Under-14 Events (Cadets)

BS: Q-F's: (112 entries)

Souter bt D. Pilling (Mi) 11, 11;
M. Oakley (Sy) bt G. Russell (Sy) 13, -18, 15;
S. Palmer (Sk) bt J. Duffield (Hr) 13, 19;
A. Moore bt I. Attridge (E) 21, -9, 18.

S-F's:

Souter bt Oakley 15, 16;
Palmer bt Moore -16, 20, 14.

Final:

SOUTER bt Palmer 10, 16.

GS: Q-F's: (62 entries)

C. Creasey (Dv) bt L. Garbet 21, 17;
Pritchard bt Townsend -16, 11, 18;
Cresswell bt J. Bellinger (Bd) -14, 20, 13;
Taylor bt C. Harmer (Bd) 7, 2.

S-F's:

Creasey bt Pritchard 14, 16;
Cresswell bt Taylor 18, 14.

Final:

CRESWELL bt Creasey 17, -15, 15.

BD: S-F's: (51 entries)

Oakley/Souter bt P. Bradbury/D. Sharpe 17, 11;
B. Johnson/Palmer bt Attridge/S. Edwards -12, 17, 15.

Final:

JOHNSON/PALMER bt Oakley/Souter 14, 18.

GD: S-F's: (28 entries)

Pritchard/Taylor bt J. Askem/K. Mudge 16, 15;
Creasey/Y. Hall (Le) bt Cresswell/Garbet -19, 16, 21.

Final:

PRITCHARD/TAYLOR bt Creasey/Hall 8, 17.

Under-12 Events

BS: Q-F's: (50 entries)

G. Lambert bt P. Gibbs 13, 10;
N. Sutton bt I. Doughty -18, 18, 16;
M. Butler bt A. Sexton -18, 21, 17;
B. Collingwood bt M. Ellett 18, -18, 14.

S-F's:

Lambert bt Sutton 7, 5;
Collingwood bt Butler 19, 6.

Final:

LAMBERT bt Collingwood -19, 13, 16.

GS: S-F's: (28 entries)

L. Bellinger bt L. S. Green 8, 13;
N. Hamilton bt T. Moore 14, 12.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Hamilton 11, 13.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR RANGOON REQUEST

I am writing on behalf of the Judson Table Tennis Club here in Rangoon, Burma in my capacity as the Secretary of this amateur club.

Table tennis is a popular sport here mostly played by young people and a few not so young like myself (I am 32 — the current Burmese men's singles champion is 39). Although equipment is expensive we manage to get by.

I would like to correspond with any person or persons in the U.K. interested to discuss with me on the aspects of the game and to exchange views on the different playing styles etc. I am earnestly trying to promote this sport among the youth of my country and also play myself at least three times a week.

CHO SETT (Mr.)

P.O. Box 290,
Rangoon, Burma.



Denis Neale, winner of the men's singles at Stockton.

Photo by Frank Davies, Bolton

NEWBURY JUNIOR 1-STAR OPEN

UPSURGE AGAIN EVIDENT

by Bill Heath

A new venue, over the weekend of Oct. 1-2, where only 9 tables were possible instead of the usual 12 meant that many entries had to be returned. Ranked players responded well and in the Junior Boys' we were able to take fourteen seeds straight from the ranking list.

The recent upsurge of interest among younger players was demonstrated by 50 competitors in the U-12 Boys' and even the U-12 Girls' produced 28 entries.

Of the 16 seeds in the Junior Boys' four lost on their way to the last 16. The seed-beaters were D. Ward who beat No. 7 Des



HILL HOUSE JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL UNDER-11 TEAM
 Left to Right: Simon Murphy (Capt.), Donald Masters, R. A. Perrin (Coach) and Jeremy Saunders.

HILL HOUSE JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The majority of schools in this country play table tennis with inadequate facilities and only as a minor sport. Not at Hill House which is a private school in Chelsea.

The school has converted a Church Crypt Hall to accommodate 9 table tennis tables and play takes place every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with different groups participating.

With such enthusiasm within the school, Colonel Townend, the Principal of Hill House, has bought another 6 tables and is looking for extra facilities for his table tennis squad.

The school's table tennis section has won a number of championships, including:

- I.L.E.A. LONDON UNDER-11 Knockout Champions
- I.L.E.A. LONDON UNDER-11 Individual Champion
- I.L.E.A. LONDON UNDER-12 League Champions

which is quite an achievement considering the Under-11's were in their first season of competition.

The club is headed by Ray Perrin a teacher at the school who is qualified as an I.L.E.A. and E.T.T.A. coach. The club has great ambitions to develop their table tennis strengths even further, looking forward to a successful 1977/78 season.

The New Zealand Scene

by FRANK O'GORMAN

A Life Member of the N.Z.T.T.A. and a former veteran champion of Box 182, Timaru

Paul Pinkewich, Australia's most experienced current international and New Zealand's 21-years-old Jan Morris (Canterbury) took the major honours at the 40th New Zealand Open championships held at Timaru in the South Island.

The 26-years-old defensive Pinkewich, runner-up in last year's Australian open singles — and again this year to Robbie Javor — overcame strong competition from Geoff Rau (Franklin), then Richard Lee (Auckland) and ultimately the defending champion hard-hitting Hirurangi bachelor farmer James Morris (Northland) in the final. There were 192 entrants.

Rau who had studied coaching in South Korea some years ago, took the first game off the Australian at 19 and then lost the

next two -16, -11 only to just dip out in the vital fourth game -19. Pinkewich encountered former champion Lee in the semis and after losing the second game, just headed off Lee in the third and gained control to take the fourth 14, -17, 17, 12. In the previous round, Lee had survived two match points at 18-20 down in the fourth game to fight back and overcome the inconsistently brilliant Wayne Adamson (Canterbury) -23, 6, -21, 21, 16.

Meanwhile in the bottom half, Morris had survived a grim battle with the up-and-coming Kerry Palmer (Auckland) who dropped the first two games and then worried the champion by taking the next two before Morris went away early in the fifth to win 16, 13, -14, -13, 9. Young Palmer, just into his 20's, hopes to play in Great Britain this current season.

Robert Blair (Franklin) knocked out Graham Lassen (Auckland) in five tenacious games in the quarters, then bowed out to Morris 11, 13, -13, 13.

Morris actually led 18-17 in the first game of the final only to see the steadier Pinkewich entice the more aggressive Morris into errors to go one up. Pinkewich, ahead at 10-8 in the second,

then took eight points in a row to gain the game. Morris lost out 1-4 on his own serves in the third, recovered at 12-14 and 14-17 but could not penetrate the Australian's defence who took his first national open title at 19, 15, 14.

Defending doubles champions Lee and Morris displayed better control to take the doubles final from Pinkewich and talented Australian junior Warren Vickery 16, -19, 21, 15.

In a strong field of 82, New Zealand's Angela Brackenridge and Jan Morris fought their way through to clash in the final with lefthander Morris, runner-up to four times champion Anne Stonestreet (Auckland — now retired) last year, just taking control from 15-all in the fifth to win her first national open title. Jan led 6-3 then 10-5 at the change of ends in the decider but 18-years-old Angela fought back well to even at 10-all — 5 in a row — and actually took the lead at 14-13 before scores evened at 15-all. Here young Angela, forcing the pace, lost 5 points in a row on her own errors before Jan took the title at 24, -21, -13, 17, 16.

Earlier Angela had headed off Shelley Palmer (18) (Auckland — younger sister of Kerry 18, 17, 25 in the top half semi whilst Jan had eliminated under-18 champion Debbie Looms (Marlborough) 8, 9, 17 in the other. In the quarters, Jan had ousted former international Kathy Fraser (now Franklin) 8, -15, 10, 20. Former internationals Neti Traill (Northland) and Yvonne Fogarty (Auckland) did not compete. Neti, seeded No. 3, withdrew after the inter-provincial team events, and Yvonne, making a welcome return at this level, competed with credit for the champion Auckland team in the inter-provincial contests but had not entered for the individual titles.

Jan and Angela joined forces to defeat Kathy Fraser and Canterbury's Barbara Taylor 19, 14, 15 in the women's doubles final. Kathy was again on the losing end in the mixed final bowing out with Richard Lee to Blair and Angela Brackenridge 16, 22, 12.

Australians Vickery (U-18) and Glen Brown (U-16) took the junior boys' titles and Auckland's Linda Dyer annexed the U-16-girls' singles. In the newly created U-14 singles, brilliant Auckland 13-years-old Barrie Griffiths collected the boys' singles and Kada Rice (Bay of Plenty) defeated 11-years-old Wendy Cuthbert (Otago) in the girls'.

Swaythling club member Errol Cheal — at 70 — went out early in the veteran events.

Tall rangy sports reporter Gary Frew (Northland), came south to support his much younger international James Morris in the team events and was expected to snap up the over-35 title. Frew, a member of the NZ team to the 1954 world's in London, met expected resistance from the current New Zealand president Nelson Tizard (Wanganui) at -15, -18 in the quarters. Tizard went out in the semis to giantkiller Barrie Kendall (Otago) who lost to the evergreen John Armstrong (titleholder) in the final.

Freestriking Neville Brightwell (Canterbury), a member of the NZ team to the 1950 world's in Budapest, again took the treble in the veteran events over-45 whilst Bill Fogarty (Otago), father of Yvonne and a member of the 1949 NZ team in NZ against Barna and Bergmann, made the newly created Men's Esquire singles (55 and all that) final only to bow out to NZ Executive member Keith Pointon (Hutt Valley) who snatched the last point of the third game with a vital "net cord". Earlier Pointon had hit top seed Frank O'Gorman (South Canterbury and Referee of the tourney) off the table in straight games in the semis (fancy my doubles partner doing that!).

These "friendly championships" were held in the spacious well-equipped Aorangi Sports Stadium, Timaru where 21 Foster tables (built so expertly by former New Zealand international Bryan Foster) were used by tournament manager Johnny Fox and a hardworking team to run the twelve hundred or more matches off in splendid fashion — a feat rated by Australian Noel Shorter as one of the best national tournaments he had ever attended. Noel wanted to take the stadium back with him — "nothing like it in Australia" he quipped during his presentation ceremony speech — but alas we keep it — "Beaut"!

The Stadium, venue of the NZ Gymnastic championships the following week and then a two-indoor-court lawn tennis coaching seminar by Australian Vic Edwards, coach of the fabulous Evonne Goologong, is now completely debt free 3½ years after its opening. Help came from organising and fund-raising schemes by our New Zealand Service Clubs — Rotary, Round Table, Lions and Jaycees and the unsurpassed support of the whole district. The playing space measures 120ft. by 118ft.

Earlier in the season, New Zealand, with Richard Lee and James Morris defeated the Australian touring team of Bob Tuckett and young Savage 4-1 in the one and only Test match with Lee unbeaten.

Earlier still, our hard-working secretary of many a long year Ken Wilkinson, B.E.M., was honoured with Life Membership of the N.Z.T.T.A. Ken has been our national Secretary since 1949 and his untiring efforts for table tennis within New Zealand and throughout the Oceania Zone, of which he is the ITTF Vice-President, is unsurpassed. He has been a worthy ambassador for NZ at many World and Commonwealth tournaments. Next year in October, he hopes to play host to the first ever Oceania Zone championships shortly after the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Here in New Zealand we were fortunate early after the 1977 worlds, so well conducted by the ETTA in Birmingham, to see some of the men's singles and doubles finals on TV. The screening so soon after the actual finals gave table tennis in NZ a great boost.

NEW COTSWOLD LADIES LEAGUE

by Dave Foulser

The three table tennis leagues within the County of Gloucestershire have in the last decade been virtually devoid of any ladies of the standard necessary to win games at County senior level. This was due to the fact that Cheltenham, Stroud and Gloucester did not have teams strong enough to enter the Ladies' division of the Midland League.

However, faced with that situation, it was decided that something had to be done to remedy the situation and to provide the fairer sex with the availability of table tennis at representative level. A squad of ladies and junior girls was formed in Cheltenham and various friendly matches played with neighbouring towns from which it became apparent that many other towns were in a similar position.

With the backing of the Cheltenham and the Gloucestershire Associations Jan Foulser wrote to other Associations within an approximate sixty mile radius of Cheltenham and eventually the inaugural meeting took place in June at which Rules were drawn up and a committee formed and on that day, 26th June, 1977 the Cotswold Ladies' Table Tennis League was formed. It is now an organisation in good standing with the E.T.T.A. and it is hoped that in the not too distant future a Cotswold Ladies' League Closed Tournament might take place.

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North-West Tournaments

RANKING UNDERLINED

by GEORGE R. YATES

Desmond Douglas, underlined his top England ranking in winning the men's singles title of the Wilsons Brewery North of England 2-Star Open at Mather & Platt Ltd., Manchester on Sept 24. Not once in the eight sets required to claim the title was the Warwickshire left-hander extended to a third game decider.

Defending champion Paul Day was ousted in the semis by John Hilton who, partnered by **Alan Hydes** in the men's doubles, brought off a notable success in beating Douglas and Day in the final.

Unseeded **Angela Tierney** accomplished a creditable double in winning both the junior girls' and women's singles titles. Her county colleague and title holder, Carole Knight, was a non-starter in the senior event. But all credit to Angela who ousted the higher ranked Susan Lisle and Karen Rogers, the latter having disposed of Karen Witt.

New England No. 1 boy, David Barr, did all that was expected of him up to his final meeting with **Kevin Beadsley** who tumbled the Berkshire lad in no uncertain fashion.

Three seeds failed to answer the starter's gun in the men's singles — Nicky Jarvis, who at short notice had to attend a Trade Fair in Cologne, Robert Wiley and Max Crimmins. But none could have halted the progress of Douglas who, up to the quarters, had beaten the up-and-coming Barr (8 and 6) and Yorkshire's Andrew Metcalfe (18 and 12).

Hilton's victims took in Northumberland's Frank Mitchinson, Malcolm Green of Salop, Brian Metcalfe (twin brother of Andrew) and Chris Rogers, the latter with scores of 15, -14, 14.

One week later in the border city of Carlisle, **Hilton** came into his own by winning the men's singles title in the Cumbria 2-Star Open defeating the defending title holder, Nicky Jarvis, in the final after overcoming the challenge of the Welsh No. 1, Alan Griffiths, in the semis.

Ranked players abounded in the Market Hall on Oct 1 especially on the distaff side with Linda Howard journeying up from the European League match in Millom to do battle with **Carole Knight**. But, in the final, it was the Cleveland girl who triumphed as she had over Anita Stevenson who had, but narrowly, ousted Miss Tierney in the quarters.

Top seeds, **Hilton** and **Donald Parker**, survived an opening game reverse in their semi against Tony Martin and Keith Paxton but simply sailed home against Jarvis and Robert Wiley in the final. Equally proficient Mesdames **Knight** and **Howard** took the counterpart women's event.

Jarvis at last had his reward when, partnered by **Miss Howard**, the mixed title was claimed but it took three games as it had against Paxton and Miss Tierney in the semis.

Not so bristling with star players the junior boys' event was won by Cleveland's **David Hughes** with a final victory over Ian Reed who failed to emulate the deeds of his elder brother, Chris, twelve months previously.

Top seed Michael Laird suffered a quarter-final reverse at the hands of Lanca-

shire's Philip Hoy and for his subsequent ill-mannered behaviour was expelled from the tournament.

Miss Tierney came into her own again in the girls' singles which she won hands down beating surprise finalist Carolyn Scowcroft of Lancashire who had ousted the No. 2 seed Janet Deakin of Cheshire.

Players from Scotland, Ireland and Wales, made this a truly home countries affair, and a day to remember in the annals of Cumbrian table tennis which had its zenith with the Anglo-French match two evenings earlier in Millom.

NORTH OF ENGLAND 2-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Douglas (Wa) bt B. Kean (Sc) 7, 13;
A. Hydes (Y) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) -17, 13, 24;
J. Hilton (Ch) bt C. Sewell (Av) -25, 10, 15;
P. Day (Ca) bt D. Parker (La) -18, 13, 17.

Semi-finals:
Douglas bt Hydes 10, 14;
Hilton bt Day 14, 15.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Hilton 13, 19.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

A. Gordon (Bk) bt S. Midgley (Y) 19, 19;
K. Rogers (Le) bt K. Witt (Bk) 20, 19;
A. Tierney (Cv) bt S. Lisle (Ch) 13, 10;
M. Ludi (Y) bt M. Smith (Bk) -17, 17, 11.

Semi-finals:
Rogers bt Gordon 18, 20;
Tierney bt Ludi -17, 14, 18.

Final:

TIERNEY bt Rogers -19, 8, 17.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Day/Douglas bt Eckersley/A. Fletcher (Y) 14, 17;
Hilton/Hydes bt D. Barr (Bk)/A. O'Connor (La) -22, 15, 13.

Final:

HILTON/HYDES bt Day/Douglas 19, 9.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

S. Hunt (Li)/Rogers bt Gordon/Smith 15, -22, 18;
Lisle/A. Stevenson (Le) bt C. Buttery (Li)/Witt 9, 20.

Final:

HUNT/ROGERS bt Lisle/Stevenson 12, 15.

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Barr bt J. Naser (Y) 17, 12;
N. Thomas (Wales) bt N. Harris (Y) 17, 15;
M. Green (Sp) bt M. Pugh (Sp) 20, 19;
Beadsley bt E. Wilkes (St) 12, 16.

Semi-finals:

Barr bt Thomas 13, 17;
Beadsley bt Green 19, -16, 13.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Barr 13, 14.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Gordon bt E. Mathie (Cu) 10, 14;
Tierney bt L. Hryszko (Y) 12, 8;
Midgley bt L. Holmes (Dy) 14, 12;
M. Wallis (Np) bt Smith -10, 18, 19.

Semi-finals:

Tierney bt Gordon -18, 16, 15;
Wallis bt Midgley 21, 14.

Final:

TIERNEY bt Wallis 8, 10.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

A. Hartshorn (La) bt D. Schofield (Ch) 9, -20, 13;
G. Evans (Wales) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) 17, 14.

Final:

EVANS bt Hartshorn 15, 10.

CUMBRIA 2-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

N. Jarvis (Cv) bt A. Kilburn (Cv) 16, 15;
D. Parker (La) bt D. Constance (Ch) -19, 18, 16;
A. Griffiths (Gn) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) -9, 14, 18;
J. Hilton (Ch) bt R. Wiley (Cv) 19, 17.

Semi-finals:

Jarvis bt Parker 23, 18;
Hilton bt Griffiths 21, 9.

Final:

HILTON bt Jarvis 19, 20.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

C. Knight (Cv) bt J. Deakin (Ch) 20, 12;
A. Stevenson (Le) bt A. Tierney (Cv) 18, 22;
S. Lisle (Ch) bt J. Pachul (Cu) 12, 9;
L. Howard (Sy) bt J. Skipp (Cu) 10, 8.

Semi-finals:

Knight bt Stevenson 19, 15;
Howard bt Lisle 16, 14.

Final:

KNIGHT bt Howard 15, 16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Hilton/Parker bt A. Martin/K. Paxton (Cv) -9, 12, 15;
Jarvis/Wiley bt Constance/Eckersley 16, 13.

Final:

HILTON/PARKER bt Jarvis/Wiley 10, 18.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Howard/Knight bt I. Ferguson/S. Ferguson (W of Sc) 5, 4;

Lisle/Stevenson bt Pachul/Tierney 18, 15.

Final:

HOWARD/KNIGHT bt Lisle/Stevenson 12, 19.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

Jarvis/Howard bt Paxton/Tierney -17, 13, 16;
Hilton/Knight bt Eckersley/Lisle 9, -19, 18.

Final:

JARVIS/HOWARD bt Hilton/Knight -11, 19, 13.

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

P. Hoy (La) bt M. Laird (Cv) 17, -11, 17;
I. Reed (Cu) bt B. Pollard (Le) 13, 17;
P. Rainford (La) bt D. McIlroy (W of Sc) 17, -18, 16;
D. Hughes (Cv) bt N. Cray (La) 15, 14.

Semi-finals:

Reed bt Hoy 17, -20, 20;
Hughes bt Rainford -13, 16, 17.

Final:

HUGHES bt Reed -18, 13, 18.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Tierney bt E. Mathie (Cu) 7, 8;
G. Smith (Cu) bt J. Grundy (La) 19, -20, 15;
C. Scowcroft (La) bt M. Daley (Ire) -16, 11, 12;
Deakin bt J. Sephton (Cu) 16, 18.

Semi-finals:

Tierney bt Smith 6, 9;
Scowcroft bt Deakin -13, 14, 21.

Final:

TIERNEY bt Scowcroft 6, 6.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

D. Schofield (Ch) bt G. Lapping (Cu) 6, 14;
T. Donlon (Ch) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) 16, 13.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt Donlon 13, -21, 20.

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C.N.E. OPEN

by MAL ANDERSON

The Canadian National Exhibition Open was held on Sept 1-4 in Toronto—here are the results—

International Team Matches —

Canada won the Men's match 5-4, as Errol Caetano won all 3 of his matches and Alan Heap (a former English Jr. International) and Peter Joe won one each. Caetano beat Dave Philip 17, 14; beat Roger Sverdluk 22, 12; beat Ray Guillen 11, 16. Joe lost to Sverdluk -16, -9; lost to Guillen -19, -7; beat Philip 18, 17. Heap lost to Guillen -12, -18; lost to Philip -19, -18; beat Sverdluk 19, 20. Canada trailed 4-2 before pulling it out. (The Seemiller brothers declined to play in these matches as they didn't receive so much as free entry from the sponsors).

The USA won the Women's match 3-0. In Sook Bhushan beat Birute Plucas 12, 9; Kasia Dawidowicz beat Suzanna Kavallerou 17, 19; In Sook and Kasia beat the team of Plucas - Christine Forgo -10, 12, 19. (Violetta Nesukaitis, outstanding member of Canada's teams for the last ten years, is now married and not playing).

Jr. Men's match was won by the USA 5-0—Eric and Scott Boggan and Rutledge Barry didn't lose a game to Dave Williams, Roger Woo or Ian Kent. The US should have used these kids in the Men's match.

Canada won the Junior Miss match 3-0. Nimi Athwal beat Denise Horn 18, 18; Gloria Nesukaitis beat Georgette Rideg 13, 14; Athwal - Colleen Johnson beat Rideg - Jackie Heyman 18, -17, 16.

Individual events —

Men's Singles. Danny Seemiller won the event for the 5th straight year, beating Nicky Jarvis 10, 16, 15. Dan's sore ankle had less effect on the play than did Nicky's sore back! Semis—Seemiller d. Caetano (for the 16th straight time!) -17, 19, 14, -19, 11 and Jarvis beat Derek Wall 12, 14, 14. Quarters—Seemiller d. Rutledge Barry 12, 19, 14; Caetano d. Ray Guillen 18, -16, 19, -19, 14; Wall d. Ricky Seemiller -16, -19, 20, 20, 18 (!), Jarvis d. Mike Lardon 16, 17, 8.

Women's Singles—In Sook won the event for the 4th straight time. In Sook Bhushan d. Kasia Dawidowicz 16, 5, 12 in the finals. Semi—Bhushan d. Gloria Hsu 9, 12, 9; Dawidowicz d. Birute Plucas 19, 17, 10. Quarters—Bhushan d. Faan Yeen Liu 7, 11, 5; Hsu d. Christine Forgo 22, 20, 15; Plucas d. Kellye Crockett 16, -18, 17, 19; Dawidowicz d. Suzanna Kavallerou -21, 11, -11, 18, 14.

Men's Youth (Under 21)—Final—Rutledge Barry d. Eric Boggan, 18, -18, 17, 11; Semi—Barry d. Peter Joe -16, 17, -12, 18, 12; Boggan d. Roger Sverdluk, default. (Sverdluk hurt his shoulder in the International Team event).

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by DOUG AYRES

LESLIE BACK IN HARNESS

Good news and bad for the County this season. The good is that Leslie Woollard has agreed to become President of the Beds. Association; a man who devoted many of his earlier years to our sport both locally and Nationally. He has been a Vice-President of the Bedford league for five years and among his positions with the E.T.T.A. he was editor of this magazine.

The bad news is that our Chairman, Owen Reeves, has to resign because he takes up a new appointment with his company in Scotland. We wish him and his wife, Joyce, every success across the border. They will both be missed very much in table tennis circles in Bedfordshire.

Keith Beddall (Bedford) is again Vice-Chairman this season with Gerald Hammond as Secretary and National Councillor. Ron Robinson continues as Treasurer and David Rawlinson is Match Secretary.

Following the County trials, the following ranking list has been published.

Men:

D. Rawlinson, F. Nilam, G. Major, M. Harlow, D. Holden, M. Walters, D. Hyde, G. Baldwin, P. Norton, A. Chandler.

Women:

B. Hammond, J. Reeves, J. Bellinger, A. Robinson, J. Roberts, L. Bellinger, D. Campbell, L. Robinson, L. Wright, L. Cutting.

Boys:

G. White, D. Sharpe, S. Barby, D. Beddall, P. Pyburn, D. Foster, D. Cartwright, C. Yates, R. Cheese, N. Luscombe.

Girls:

J. Bellinger, L. Bellinger, L. Cutting, J. Perkiss, Joint No. 5—J. Dimmock, J. Miles, K. Phillips, S. Shaw.

The annual closed tournament will be held on Nov 20 at the Vauxhall canteen.

We are disappointed that the national Cadet team event will not be run in our area this year. As we are building up a squad of useful youngsters in this age group, competitions of this kind are very useful in improving their standard.

SOMERSET NOTES

by GRAHAM GREEN

ROGER RETURNS

It is pleasing to note that Roger Morris, a retired Somerset veteran, has elected to make himself available for selection this season and has been listed at No. 3 in the following ranking lists:—

Men:

- 1—B. Reeves (F)
- 2—J. Hartry (W)
- 3—R. Morris (W)
- 4—C. Feltham (F)
- 5—J. Andrews (W)
- 6—G. Green (B)
- 7—J. Garland (W)
- 8—R. Thornton (B)
- 9—J. Crabtree (B)
- 10—V. Adams (F)
- 11—R. Neal (Y)
- 12—R. Trim (Y)

Women:

- 1—A. Taft-Heath (D)
- 2—J. Wilson (B)
- 3—P. Reeves (F)
- 4—B. Norman (B)
- 5—B. Dickason (W)
- 6—W. Pryce (B)

KEY: B—Bridgwater; D—Dulverton;

F—Failand; W—Weston; Y—Yeovil.

Somerset Seniors made a fine start to the season, beating Avon 6-4 in a hard-fought derby match. The undisputed star of the match was Avon's Chris Sewell, his loop-kill game proved more than a match for his opponents. Somerset's Jill Wilson and Alma Taft-Heath were always in command in the women's sets, although Jill was fully extended against Mrs. Seager.

The home male trio of Brian Reeves, John Hartry and Roger Morris won one set each to swing the match Somerset's way. The Juniors made a disappointing start going down 0-10 to a strong Avon side.

Letters to the Editor

PROVEN SYSTEM

I was quite interested in the Tony Ross article on graded tournaments (Oct issue). We've had them for years in the U.S.A.—how else could we have 38 events in the

U.S. Open? I'd like to suggest to Mr. Ross that the ETTA Development and Tournament committees should consider using our Rating system for grading players for these tournaments. I've explained the system and its success in the U.S. and Canada in previous articles in T.T. News. By using an established, proven system you don't need to develop your own, and by adopting this system you would help spread an objective, mathematical method of rating players that we hope will eventually be used world wide. You can help T.T. all over the World reach this goal.

MAL ANDERSON

2102 W. Sunnyside Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60625,
United States of America.

FET IN THE NEWS ROOM

After reading Mr. Ron Crayden's very interesting article "Fifty Eventful Years" in the October issue, I feel that, perhaps, we are living on past glories. What table tennis needs is more promotion on a big scale nationally — we must surely agree on that.

It made me very angry on reading "The Sun — An Apology" to think that, year after year, we have been moaning and groaning as to why we cannot get publicity in the National Press. Hundreds of people write in vain, only to be told by the Nationals that there is not enough interest in Table Tennis and it is not a big spectator sport.

Then, at last, The Sun decides to publish a regular Table Tennis feature. Marvellous, everyone is happy, publicity at last with regular coverage. So why be so sensitive and touchy, demanding apologies. Other sporting bodies take criticism.

It is extremely difficult to get anything printed about Table Tennis whether the facts be 100% correct or not. It is all table tennis news. Let us get our feet in the News Room, just a little and dip our big toe in printing ink. Letters of apology after each article will not encourage papers to print even results.

VIC ELSTON

30 Belvedere Road,
Leyton, London, E10.

STOP PRESS

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

SUPER DIVISION

Yugoslavia 1, Czechoslovakia 6.
Sweden 6, Netherlands 1.
France 3, Hungary 4.
U.S.S.R. 5, England 2.

DIVISION ONE

Austria 5, Greece 2.
Belgium 4, Bulgaria 3.
Luxembourg 1, Fed. Germany 6.
Ireland 2, Poland 5.

League Tables

SUPER DIVISION

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

DIVISION ONE

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



How many legs has a T.T. ball?

by IVOR MONTAGU

What do we really know about the movements of a ball on the bounce or as a result of various impulses imparted to it by various movements of the racket? Very little. It is well attested that, of rapid movement, only an approximate guess is perceptible to the human eye. Until near the close of the 19th century no-one knew for certain whether the legs of a galloping horse moved front and back pair together, or by opposite corners, or, if in some other manner, then in what particular sequence.

This can be clearly seen from paintings and drawings earlier than that date. Eventually the matter was settled (to decide a bet) by the then Governor of California, Claud Stanford, employing the English photographer, Edward Muybridge to lay a series of parallel threads across a racetrack each attached to a camera, the shutter of which was activated as its thread was broken by the hooves of a galloping horse.

The incident is a well-known episode in the history of cinematography. A number of sports have since been studied, and their motions analysed by rapid-motion cinematography, either by what is commonly called slow-motion or by such ultra systems (beyond the capacity of camera-shutter speed) as that effected by a sensitive film left stationary and exposed to record movement as disclosed by the ultra-rapid discharges of successive electric sparks.

Such research is costly and so most frequently applied to games that either appeal to very rich people, or present important commercial possibilities should one manufacturer thereby discover improvements that might notably increase sales over his rivals. Of the former type is golf, and there must be few master strokes at that game that have not been analysed by such means. (Applying this knowledge is however, a different problem). There is little, so far as I know, that has been done in either direction in Table Tennis. The present writer made slow-motion records of top-spin and under-spin ball flights, and the strokes and tactics of Bull, Perry, Hayden, Mechlovits, Peci and Metzger in 1927-8, but unfortunately these are missing, probably destroyed in the war. Dunlop, under advice of Barna, used refined apparatus, I believe, to compare the deformation in flight, and following certain strokes, of the ordinary celluloid ball and their new plastic ball, while developing the latter.

But I do not know of very much that has ever become public property from these or any like studies.

It may therefore be of interest to place on record three matters in which the I.T.T.F. did attempt to gain scientific knowledge to help in solving disputed problems. None of these was very successful — but for different reasons.

On three of these we consulted the National Physical Laboratory. No charge was made for these consultations, the N.P.L. is there to promote the furtherance of knowledge, and members of the staff were keen on the problems formulated — which did not mean they could come up with a solution. On the third we also had help from similarly keen research staff at the Physics Department of Birkbeck College.

Incidentally, our 'advice' leaflet on edge-balls was not, I think, based on any research. It was our own 'lay' opinion that a ball touch on the rear edge of the table must be 'good' (i.e. contact the upper edge, therefore the upper surface) however the ball arrived there, with whatever spin; and that this must be true also of a ball contacting a side if arriving in a diagonal path after passing over the table surface; but that contacting a side, struck from outside that side, the contact could only be with the upper edge of the ball bounced upwards above the horizontal; if the ball bounced straight out or downwards it **must** have been a contact **below** the upper edge. I think we put this to the physicists and they agreed, but I do not know if they experimented at all. Anyway, a lot of players (and umpires) still pay too little attention to the distinction.

My guess today is that experiments would be desirable. The matter may be more complicated than we guessed then.

Anyway; the consultations. The first was about net-corders. Any TT player who also plays Tennis (formerly called Lawn Tennis), knows that net-corders are much more frequent with our game. The question we were asked to put was: how could these be reduced. We were answered: the tighter or narrower the net suspension, the wider the mesh, the fewer would be the net cords. This is because a net-corder, usually resulting from top-spin (NOT from a plain-hit or a chop), **climbs over** the net. The forward revolution of a ball moving with top-spin tends to climb by friction. A wide mesh and a narrow tape will give less friction and make climbing more difficult, a taut suspension will tend to repel the ball, throw it off, and so act as a barrier.

Wide mesh, narrow tape at the top, and a wire suspension (which can be much tauter than cord) will minimise the number of net-corders. So said the N.P.L.

Unfortunately no-one liked this advice. In the England of those days players were used to narrow-mesh stiffened green gauze, with a wide cloth strip along the top — ideal for seeing the obstacle your stroke was to surmount. (Ideal, also, unfortunately, as a ladder for every top-spin revolving ball). Wide-mesh, they said, would put players off because you can see the table through it. Fortunately this latter type of net was always generally used outside England. So eventually players here too got used to the wide mesh and this now prevails. **But nobody would put up with wire suspension.** We tried it for a season or two, but then the vote for dropping it was overwhelming. Certainly it stopped the net-corders. Oh, yes, it stopped them all right! But the trouble was that if the attacker hit a ball into the top of the net, the wire suspension hurled it back at him (so fast it had no chance to climb) with a derisive 'Ping!'. Attackers said it favoured the defence by putting them right off their stroke.

So we still have too many net-corders.

The second was about what the table stands on, the substratum. Every experienced player believed that the game is slower (the bounce is lower) if the table stands not on something hard (like stone, or concrete or composition — good for the bounce but bad for the legs; or like wood — ideal if even), but on something relatively soft, like linoleum or — worse still — carpet. True or false? Anyway, Decker (our equipment expert), if faced with linoleum floor covering under the table, used always to cut out little squares beneath each table leg (and stick them back afterwards) to everyone's approval (we hoped the hall owners wouldn't notice).

The truth is very difficult to decide. Of course you can drop a ball on a table and measure its bounce. But the real strokes in a game are not like that. They never drop, spinless and without forward impulsion, vertically onto the table. Experiments with real play movement would require complex apparatus. So, apparently, do calculations. All our N.P.L. friends would say was that, considering the weight and mass of the ball relative to the weight and mass of the table, its substance and distance from the substratum, they just couldn't think of any possible way what we all thought was true could be true. **But**, they noted cautiously, this didn't prove it wasn't. Their experience was that, if experts were all unanimous in thinking something, there was usually something in what they thought, even if the scientists couldn't tell why.

They did give us one hint. They did say that if this effect really happened, whatever caused it to happen might conceivably be weakened by laying heavy weights on the bars that most TT tables have joining their legs together. So we had to be content with that, which Decker regularly did, and went on cutting his little holes out of the linoleum.

The third and most mysterious mystery was sponge. It is of course the case that I first used a sponge racket (sent me by Jaques to try) in the first world championships 51 years ago. And did ever after. But this worried nobody because I didn't play well enough. Twenty-six years ago a better English player and a better Austrian adopted it and at once turned up some surprising results.

The next year (in Bombay), the first year the Japanese took part; one used sponge (it had been used ever since, in about 1925, my mother had taken samples I sent of this and other western equipment as a gift to Japan) and won the world's singles title. It was not until two years later, at Wembley, that in the hands of one Swede, one Yugoslav and several Japanese **hitters** the magic sponge reduced everyone else to chattering imbecility. No-one but no-one at all — could anticipate these players' attacking strokes. The great Richard Bergmann, whose defence included every resource of skill and of experience, was no more than the proverbial butter before a knife. Everyone — but everyone — thought sponge too fast.

Was it? Is it? Here not only the N.P.L. but the Physics Department at Birkbeck were **much** surer of themselves. There was no way — they were quite sure and still are — that an object struck by a soft surface (however resilient and even if hard-backed) could travel faster than an object struck with equal force by a hard surface (or a hard surface faced with much thinner and harder substance than the soft). **No** way. (This time no qualification about the experts who know better and therefore must not be disregarded).

What is the truth here? Some people

guessed it may have had something to do with the less sound of a sponge hit than that of a harder surface racket. (Yet the sound is quite loud enough to hear, even if not so loud as that which was usual with pimped rubber). I have my own guess. It is this suspicion: a plain hit with a pimped rubber surface is not easy. (Only the forehand of Perry and the backhand of Bellak truly approached a plain hit). Nearly all table tennis pimped rubber hits have a degree of top spin, less or more. The sponge winning hits of Flisberg and the Japanese were often plain. (Incidentally Dolinar used sponge on one side and something else on the other — anticipating certain modern tactics and making the speed still more unpredictable).

Now it is clear that if a ball, travelling from A to B, travels in one case in a top-spin curve, and the other — even if not quite so fast — in a straight line, in the latter it may well arrive at B more quickly than in the former. Could this not have had something to do with it? And another point, many spectators, watching Bergmann, the wizard defender being hit through as though he were a paper phantom, did not realise that for a long time he had been past his best. His defence, which once had been a miracle of quickness, had long been — instead — a miracle of anticipation. Since the sound rhythm was different, the hand-movements of the opponent different and the trajectory different, he could not anticipate at all, for his experience was now no help, even a hindrance. And perhaps this was true of lesser players in a lesser degree.

Anyway, science let me down again and left us another mystery. I do wish, sometimes I wish very much, someone interested

in T.T. had as much surplus money as Governor Claud Stanford did and could back the research for us to find out what exactly does happen with some of these problems — and some services too if I may add a spot of mischief.

PING COMMENTARY

by JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"

NATIONAL LEAGUE ON THE WAY?

As Tony Ross points out, my prediction that graded tournaments would arrive has come true, so that seems to be the cue for a new piece of crystal ball gazing . . . within four years, possibly much sooner, England will possess a national league of clubs sponsored to the tune of many thousands of pounds so that our top players do not have to commute to the continent!

Alan Ransome's elevation to the E.T.T.A. Management Committee seems to point the way. I am tempted to suggest that the County Championships set-up started on the downward path the day some five years ago when veterans divisions were born! Before that starts an avalanche of letters from Alan Shepherd and others I would hasten to add that I am aware that many veterans, officials and older players are thoroughly enjoying veterans competing at county level.

But, the whole idea of the county championships started many years ago was as a spectator attraction for people outside the sport as well. I know that even now

a few premier division matches are watched and enjoyed by crowds between one and two hundred. But, look at the huge number of teams, counties with five teams and more. I am willing to bet that the vast majority of these matches are watched by so few spectators that a line of chairs down one side of the court is sometimes more than adequate.

So many people now play for their counties in the various sections that the honour of doing so means little. The problem of finding venues for all these matches is even more acute — the prices being charged for halls is an outrage. How few people these days want to spend a "dry" Saturday evening with just a chance of a late drink if the matches are finished in straight games?

Some readers may not be aware of the format of a national league. As I see it, it is a small number of super-clubs, heavily backed by sponsors who provide the money to travel from one end of the country to the other and to pay the top players appearance money something like £100 a match. The fact that Desmond Douglas has to travel to Germany to earn this money shows that England is way behind the times.

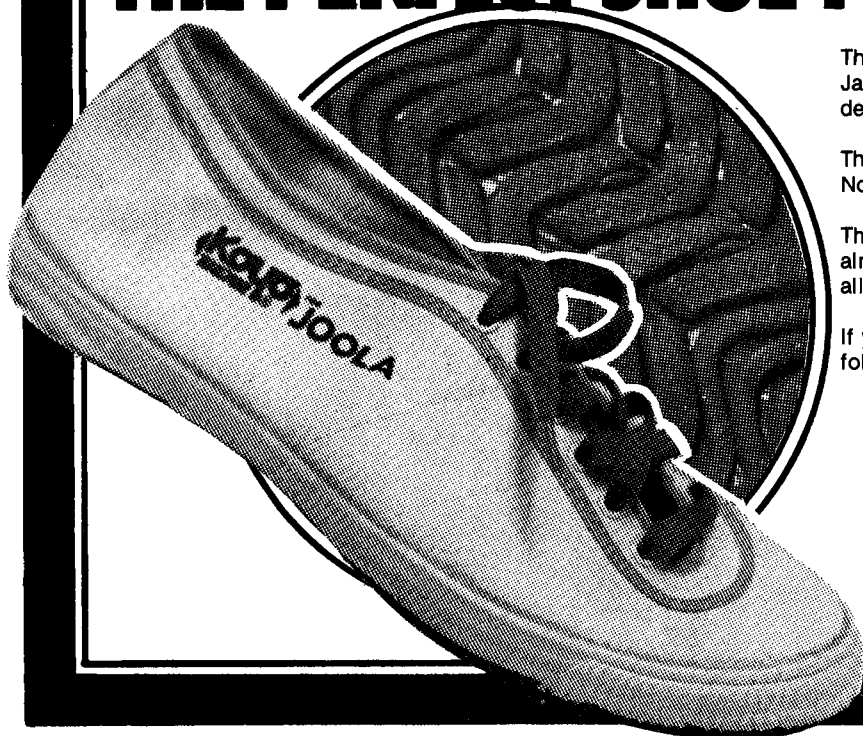
I see no reason why the County Championships could not continue in its present form, almost without spectators that is, but the cream of the players on the England ranking lists would be falling over themselves to earn the money that the other countries seem certain they deserve.

Are Germany, Holland, Sweden wrong and we are right? I am a patriot by nature but I have a feeling that the existing set-up here in England is out-of-date and it is only a matter of time before we see a National League!

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JOOLA
table tennis



A smiling Johnny Leach poses with Gillian and Stephen after the presentations at Minehead Camp.

News of the World Coaching Scheme

by JOHNNY LEACH

DASHING DEBUTANTS

Two dashing debutants—Stephen Moore, 14, of Bexhill-on-Sea and Gillian Galloway, 13, of Lincoln, have been adjudged "Boy" and "Girl of the Year" in the 23rd annual NoW National Table Tennis Coaching Scheme.

Following the Grand Finals Weekend at Butlin's Minehead Camp in late September, former world champion Johnny Leach and a panel of current international stars selected this pair of first-time entrants as the most promising of all 26,900 under-17s who took part in our Scheme at Butlin Holiday Camps this summer.

Such was the high standard set that the margins by which Stephen and Gillian won from their nearest challengers were extremely slim but the judges were unanimous in the opinion that both these exciting, attacking players fully deserved their passport to international fame which our award has so often proved to be in the past.

Jill Hammersley, the reigning European champion who was chief judge is herself a former NoW champion. Her fellow judges were Denis Neale, six times English champion, Andy Barden, the England No. 4 and Alan Griffiths, the Welsh No. 1.

The prizes were presented by Charles Wyles, the chairman of the English Table Tennis Association. Stephen Moore is the son of a Sussex County player and has a special ambition to represent England against China.

Runner-up to Stephen Moore was Malcolm Green, 16, from Shrewsbury who narrowly missed first place for the third year in succession. Last year Malcolm shared the Pupil Partner doubles champion title with Helen Williams and Nigel Eckersley his coach at Butlin's Pwhelli Camp this summer, is confident that this accomplished young player will soon hit a triumphant winning streak.

A free weekend holiday at Butlin's Skegness Camp was a prize won by Gillian Galloway at the Birmingham World Championships when she scored most points against a robot opponent in the Sportacus Exhibition. Gillian extended her holiday in order to enter the NoW Scheme for the first time, became our "Player of the Week" and, eventually, of "the Year". Denis Neale, our coach resident at Butlin's Skegness camp, thinks she could prove another Carole Knight capable of a rapid break through to the top.

But once again, the marking at the top was extremely close and Gillian gained the decision only narrowly over 11-years-old Nikki Hamilton from Milton Keynes who started table tennis in our scheme at the age of five, has six times been selected "Girl of the Week" and three times a Grand finalist.

Third places went to 14-years-old Glenn Baker, a left-hander from Guildford and 13-years-old Carol Butler from Plymouth, and so close were Glenn and Carol from the main titles that for the first time it was decided to present a special trophy to them as well as to the pair in second place.

The winners of the Pupil Partner Challenge Cup were Butlin's Skegness Camp represented by Gillian Galloway and 14-years-old Peter Docherty of Cleveland. Minehead, last year's winners, were this time runners-up in a doubles competition of near international standard. Minehead's representatives were 13-years-old Carol Butler and Stephen McBean, 12, of Swindon.

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Gillian Galloway and Peter Docherty, winners of the Pupil Partner Trophy.

County Notes Supplement

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by DAVID COSWAY

COLIN WILSON DEPARTS

Just avoiding relegation from Div. 2 (South) last season was a mixed blessing for the Senior team. It means once again the County are in a very strong division and one where with most Senior and Junior matches clashing the choice must be made whether to 'blood' Juniors in perhaps too strong a Division or keep them a little sheltered in the Junior Section. On the distaff side, with two Juniors battling for the No. 1 Senior spot and most established County women unavailable or with changed allegiance, the selectors have little choice.

But with Chris Shetler and Chris Pickard once again available, the male situation is different and the experience of these two players with Keith Summerfield, Steve Kitcher and Barry Hill leaves Richard Bergemann with perhaps another year to gain experience in the Juniors before taking his inevitable place in the Senior team. The Junior team with the top two girls likely to be playing in the Senior team and the availability of Joanne Bush uncertain could well struggle.

The situation is not helped by the transfer of Colin Wilson to Middlesex now he has moved to London. The trials showed the potential of 9-years-old Carl Preat. It is good to see him chosen straight away for the Second Junior team where he can gain the experience which, if his game continues to improve, will be of help when he matures to First team standard.

I think my fellow selectors were as disgusted as I was with the turnout for the veteran trials. Despite the assurances of keenness to the H.T.T.A. which resulted in two teams being entered by the County this season, FOUR men arrived at the trials. None of the top men were there to put their head on the block and the excuses given, which ranged from a broken bat to lack of transport, raise serious doubts as to the enthusiasm of these players. The Selection Committee as usual took into account past form and other factors as well as the result of the trials before the following rankings were given:—

SENIORS

Men:

1 Keith Summerfield (S); 2 Chris Shetler (S); 3 Chris Pickard (B); 4 Richard Bergemann (B); 5 Steve Kitcher (P); 6 Barry Hill (BA); 7 Andy Whitcher (S); 8 Chris Wilshire (S); 9 Gary Longland (S); 10 Colln Sargeant (BA).

Women:

1 Jane Whitcher (S); 2 Serina Sinanan (P); 3 Avril Waters (BA); 4 Kathy Line (P); 5 Di Winmill (G); 6 Mary Barron (P).

JUNIORS

Boys:

1 Bergemann; 2 John Summerbell (S); 3 Ben Thomas (B); 4 Dave Oakley (A); 5 Carl Preat (IOW); 6 Russell Taylor (A); 7 John Roberts (S); 8 Clive Young (BA); 9 Alan Palaczky (BA); 10 Chris Rees (B).

Girls:

1 Whitcher; 2 Sinanan; 3 Joanne Bush (B); 4 Judith Fairhall (B); 5 Kathy Conlon (BA); 6 Beverley Nicholson (S).

VETERANS

Men:

1 Ray Lush (P); 2 Ged Holley (P); 3 Len Plant (P); 4 Dennis Shepherd (S); 5 Harry Spraggs (A); 6 Ron Fairhall (B); 7 Bill Roberts (S); 8 Paul Smith (G); 9 Tom Ginn (P); 10 Bernie Harrison (BA).

Women:

1 Waters 2 Line; 3 Betty Brislane (B); 4 Joyce Rockett (G); 5 Thora Arthur (G); 6 Barron.

KEY:—Aldershot (A); Gosport (G); Basingstoke (BA); Isle of Wight (IOW); Bournemouth (B); Portsmouth (P); Southampton (S).

In Southampton the Premier Division looks more open than in recent seasons. The champions, Alpha A, are without Summerfield and Don Cartridge who helped them to last year's first success. Andy Whitcher is joined by Peter Parsons and Ken Murray to defend their title. Strong contenders, however, are likely to be Snow's A, who choose from Chris Shetler, Phil Brown, Chris Wilshire and Steve White, while Four T's A will have Garry Longland, Steve Kitcher, and Mike Douglas as strong challenge. In Bournemouth, Merton A, last year's unbeaten champions of the Premier Division, again look likely to take the title although Y.M.C.A. will again prove their main challengers.

I am pleased to receive a Report on the Isle of Wight League from John Preat who tells me that in the Island First Division this season again looks likely to be dominated with one team. Steve Harris, once a County Junior, returns to the Ryde team joining Jim Daly and John Stacey and they look unbeatable. Columbia, who provided strong competition last season and led the table for several weeks, have split their teams and are unlikely to provide a strong challenge to the champions. It could well prove to be Ryde's fifth Championship victory in succession and they could well go on to emulate the Shanklin Club of the 1960's who strung together nine victories. This does not, however, make for exciting competition.

The Peach Cup looks like providing the more interesting table tennis. This is a competition for the fourteen top teams of the previous season in a knock-out competition. Two Ryde and two Columbia teams have emerged as semi-finalists and the competition has been improved by the fact that no team is allowed to field players with a total average in excess of 180%. This kept the top players in different teams and should provide some real competition in the closing stages. In the earlier rounds of this event, Carl Preat has again showed his potential with 9 victories over First Division players which has left him unbeaten at this stage.

The Closed Tournament is to be held at Wimbledon Park, Portsmouth, on Sunday, Nov. 13.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by JACK CHALKLEY

SECRETARY WANTED

The County Association are continuing their efforts to find a successor to Roy Colclough as County Secretary. Roy has had to give up the job for business reasons after giving the County tremendous service over a great many years. So far no candidate has been found and consequently activities in the County are suffering. Chairman Don Pritchard has already said that at the moment it would appear that the Malcolm Scott Restricted and the Staffs. Closed Tournaments will not be run this season. County Committee Meetings will in future be held on the third Tuesday of each month, and it is to be hoped that the current difficulties will be resolved at the next meeting.

The County Junior "A" side started their County Championships season with an excellent win against Yorkshire, believed to be the first time a Staffs. team, or certainly juniors, have beaten a team from this County. The score reached four sets each before Andrew Bellingham and Andrew Dixon scored wins to clinch the points Details:—

Eddie Wilkes bt N. Harris 14, 20;
lost to A. Hill 15, -9, -14.

A. Bellingham lost to A. Hill -19, -16;

beat N. Barley 18, 10.

A. Dixon bt N. Barley 13, 18;

beat N. Harris 16, -19, 17.

Bellingham/Dixon bt Hill/Harris 16, -17, 16.

Sue Watton lost to J. Guanaria -13, 19, -18.

Jill Harris bt M. Sargeant 16, 15.

Watton/Harris lost to Guanaria/Sargeant -15, -15.

Team captains for the season are Brian Keates (senior "A" side), John Riley ("B" side), Wilf Hadley — non-playing (junior "A") and Ray Dixon — non-playing (junior "B").

Senior rankings have still to be decided, but junior ranking lists are as follows:—

Boys

1. E. Wilkes
2. A. Bellingham
3. A. Dixon
4. A. Rich
5. M. Evans
6. S. Richards
7. P. Dawes
8. G. Lamb
9. G. Hallam
10. P. Patel

CADETS:—

Boys

1. Dixon
2. Dawes
3. P. Barnett
4. A. Devitt
5. C. McFarlane
6. S. Rogers
7. I. Evans

Girls

1. S. Watton
2. J. Harris
3. S. Cain
4. J. Chubb
5. K. Wass
6. S. Hadley
7. L. Taylor

Girls

1. Hadley
2. Taylor
3. V. Bellingham
4. F. Elliott

AVON NOTES

by MARY WETMORE

SUCCESS IN HANOVER

Following the success of the Avon Clubs' Team Competition organised last season, Mike Hawkins of Bath is again running this event.

Congratulations to Chris Sewell on being selected by England to play in the International Invitation Tournament in Hong Kong, this opportunity will give Chris valuable experience against players from the Far East.

Following the successful run in the Wil-mott Cup Competition last season, the Avon men, Chris Sewell, Brian Reeves, Gordon Mildred, Robert Oldfield, Lloyd Stewart, Tony Brown, accompanied by Mike Lewis visited Hanover to take part in the Bristol-Hanover Table Tennis 30th year Sporting Exchange. After a delay of six hours at the airport, due to the recent air control dispute, the team eventually finished their journey to Hanover by coach.

Twelve teams took part in the competition in two groups, 3 men and 1 woman from Hanover, team A consisted of Sewell, Reeves, Mildred and Eva Franz; team B Stewart, Brown, Oldfield and Miss A. Petz. All matches were very hard fought, the Bristol A team getting through to the final against Rouen. This proved to be a very strongly contested final, sets going 1-1, 2-2, all the way through, Reeves winning the last set 19 in the 3rd — Sewell having won all his three. Following the games, medals were presented to all members of the team.

Hospitality received was absolutely perfect, and the players were invited later to a civic reception. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and hope that in the

near future the hospitality can be reciprocated.

DIVISION 2 WEST —

Somerset 6, Avon 4

What a start to a season — a very close and hard fought match between the two old rivals, the result hinging on the last set between Robert Oldfield and John Harptree, John eventually coming through to secure the match for Somerset. Highlight of the match was the 9th set with Avon's young Jeremy Musselwhite beating the experienced Roger Morris 18 and 19. Chris Sewell was again 'man of the match' scoring a possible.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3 WEST —

Somerset 0, Avon 10

Good win by Avon Juniors, congratulations to Geraldine Sandford playing in her first County match for Avon winning her singles in 2-straight and her doubles. Somerset had to make a late change, David Bennett taking the place of Nick Baldwin.

AVON RANKINGS

Men: 1 C. Sewell; 2 G. Mildred; 3 J. Musselwhite; 4 A. Brown; 5 R. Oldfield; 6 L. Stewart; 7 M. Baker; 8 R. Sewell; 9 J. Morris; 10 Martin Smith. **Women:** 1 Andrea Seager; 2 Lynn Porter; 3 Jill Harris; 4 June Watts; 5 G. Beer; 6 M. Hooker; 7 D. Vowles; 8 J. Quarry; 9 B. Dickenson; 10 J. A'Church. **Boys:** 1 Martin Smith; 2 Matthew Smith; 3 P. Riley; 4 R. Wolfe; 5 C. Harris; 6 K. Morris; 7 G. Totterdale; 8 M. Coleman; 9 S. Wilkins; 10 M. Stewart. **Girls:** 1 G. Sandford; 2 A. Laidler; 3 J. Cooper; 4 J. Parker; 5 D. Mogg; 6 T. Shortman.

SUSSEX NOTES

by JOHN WOODFORD

SHOCK ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sussex scene started with an enormous flourish — within a fortnight the new £140 "Sussex Express" tournament was over with both senior champions defeated, Roger Chandler had announced his retirement for a year to decorate his house and Stephen Moore (Bexhill) had become News of the World "Boy of the Year"!

At the newspaper tournament at Bexhill, Sam Ogundipe and Julie Reading won the singles events. Sam toppled Chandler in a superb final. The former Nigerian international said afterwards, "He's relentless, he never gives up". A week later Chandler made the shock announcement that he was out for a year!

In the semi-finals of the men's singles, Chandler was almost fully extended by Graham Gillett, England's new No. 10, whilst Ogundipe took out Brighton's Alan Reed. More shocks occurred in the women's singles — never before have Sussex had such strength. Julie Reading, Diane Gard and Linda Budd fought for the new East Sussex title with the combined power that should make them one of the very best Rose Bowl teams in the country. It was Julie's day — "I like a fighter" said county chairman Bert Fretwell and fight she did, beating a ruffled Linda Budd in the semis and then Diane Gard 21-18, 21-19 in the final.

Sam Ogundipe went home with £40, much more than he had ever won before for four rounds of table tennis. Miss Reading took £28 as she also won the women's doubles with Miss Budd.

So Sussex have real strength in depth in the ladies' field — waiting in the wings are Carol Hewett (nee Randall), her sister Christine, Angla Mock and the steadily improving lawn tennis player Sheila King. Incidentally, Sussex have an even brighter lawn tennis star, Anita Gedge of Hastings. She is the national winner of the "Evening News" tournament.

Sweeping changes are coming in the

Sussex men's rankings. With Chandler eliminated from the reckoning, the next Sussex No. 1 should be Gerald Pugh of Crawley, not to mention the threats to the senior players by Graham Gillett and Stephen Moore. But another contender has emerged, Phil Smith of East Grinstead. Mainly through the powerful Crawley league, Smith has beaten all the top men, Clarke, Pugh, Horton, Douglas, leaving the retired or semi-retired Chandler and Ogundipe as the only ones he hasn't knocked down.

Smith however, seems to save his best play for the clubrooms; if he is going for the top of the tree he will have to do it in the tournament halls with all the distractions. Prediction — the top three for Sussex this season, in County Championships terms will be Pugh, Gillett and Smith, a really young side.

SURREY NOTES

by TED SIMPKIN

STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

The Leatherhead and Epsom League is bounding ahead from strength to strength, and after a most successful season in 76/77, during which they triumphed in the Carter Cup, and Rosehill capped their entry to the First Division by taking the championship, they start the current season with their biggest ever entry and a very imposing strength in depth. Bob Pearson claims this league to be the strongest in the County, and while I think that Guildford with its 153 teams to the claimant's 69, and 12 divisions to their 7, could reasonably contest that assumption, Leatherhead, with Max Crimmins, Martin Shuttle, Steve Boxall and David Hannah, can show some justice for suggesting top place.

County Rankings:—

Men: 1 Max Crimmins; 2 Martin Shuttle; 3 David Welsman; 4 Steve Lyons; 5 Connie Warren; 6 Gordon Chapman; 7 Steve Boxall; 8 David Hannah; 9 Ian Girdler; 10 David Harding; 11 Paul Bishop; 12 Derek Holman; 13 Paul Smith; 14 John Chamberlain; 15 Terry Haley; 16 Gary Stewart; 17 Chris Thorns; 18 Steve Holloway; 19 Alan Watson; 20 Mike Nash; 21 Brian Garroway; 22 Steve Woodgate; 23 Bill Holder; 24 Keith Seager; 25 Peter Brennan. **Women:** 1 Linda Howard; 2 Jayne Mitchell; 3 Sarah Cresswell; 4 Lorraine Garbet; 5 Kerry Merritt; 6 Avril McMahon; 7 Jennifer Webster; 8 Susan Walker; 9 Nicola Hayward; 10 Gail McCulloch; 11 Michele Bland; 12 Kim Vincent; 13 Kim Stewart; 14 Sheila Greatwood. **Boys:** 1 Holloway; 2 Woodgate; 3 Mark Oakley; 4 Muhammad Ramji; 5 Peter Bruntnell; 6 Glenn Baker; 7 Graham Russell; 8 Steve Baggott; 9 Peter Venables; 10 Norman Hamilton; 11 Tony Allen; 12 Steven Silver. **Girls:** 1 Cresswell; 2 Garbet; 3 Merritt; 4 McMahon; 5 Walker; 6 Hayward; 7 Bland; 8 Vincent; 9 Stewart; 10 Sally Conway.

There is now keen rivalry for the top positions as can be seen by the fight at the head of the men's list between Crimmins, who is showing astonishing progress, and Shuttle, and for the No. 2 women's spot where Sarah Cresswell is very close upon the shoulder of Jayne Mitchell. Guildford, with 5 out of 12 boys and 3 out of 10 girls, looks certain to supply a large share of the County's senior talent before long. Watch out for Kerry Merritt, now at No. 3.

Norman Hooper is well ahead with arrangements for the Senior Closed, to be held at Elmbridge Leisure Centre, Walton on Thames, on Sunday, Nov 27, and has been fortunate enough to have the assistance of Sponsors: for £100 from Messrs. S. R. Jeffery and Son, the sports store in Guildford, and in tables, equipment, etc., from Ms. Halex Ltd.

Spotting the winners is far from easy, even amongst the girls unless of course, Linda Howard is able to enter. In the men's it should rest between Crimmins and Shuttle, but any one of Lyons, Chapman, Boxall, Hannah, and Bishop (who has now returned to the County) could upset this reckoning.

The Dorking League is yet another where interest is increasing, and more clubs and more teams have joined this organisation where Miss M. Hayman happily takes on yet another year's work as General Secretary and Treasurer. She will be assisted by Chairman, Mr. A. R. Bennett and by Barry Gilbert as Match Secretary.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by ALAN CAVELL

DEVELOPMENT

The second Shropshire mini-Olympics, organised this year by the Telford Development Corporation, is now established as an annual summer activity. The Bridgnorth Sports Advisory Council will promote next year. The finals of the table tennis team competition were held at the Sports and Leisure Centre at Bridgnorth. The Shrewsbury SAC team retained the trophy won last year, Bridgnorth was second and the Wrekin third. The teams were:— Bridgnorth SAC — R. Smith, Mrs. M. Robinshaw, R. Hambleton, P. Hambleton, Miss T. Powell, M. Tufft and Miss A. Austin. Shrewsbury SAC — M. Green, Mrs. G. Gee, M. C. F. Jones, N. Thomas, G. Morgan and Miss H. Rogers. Wrekin SAC — H. Horobin, Mrs. P. Willcocks, F. Manley, N. Charnley, Miss J. Siddle, M. Hinton and Miss A. Lowe.

To boost table tennis in its area the Wrekin District Council has recently promoted a junior tournament and has followed this up with two 12 week coaching courses, for boys and girls under 13 and under 16. Brian Thomas, the Council's Sports Officer, has said "Table tennis is growing in popularity in schools and we are trying to build on this base to further the sport's development in the area."

WESTERN LEAGUE NEWS

by GROVE MOTLOW

CHAIRMAN RECOVERING

We are pleased to hear that our Chairman, Reg Salway is making an excellent recovery after his operation and is now convalescing. Look forward to seeing you soon.

I thought it would not be long before Plymouth applied to enter a "B" team in the senior league. They have plenty of young talent there and mixed in with a couple of experienced players like Keith James, who incidentally recently married Kath Rowe of the Plymouth women's team to whom we send belated congratulations, both "A" and "B" teams should do well.

Bournemouth fielding a strong side out for their home match against Newport in Trevor Smith, Cyril Bush and Roger Lee had very little trouble in winning comfortably against a much weakened Newport team, not one of their recognised first team being able to travel early. But I knew it would be unfair to ask for a postponement as both leagues are heavily committed and postponements disastrous.

Still Newport's trio of Tony Watkins, Graham Sell and John Goodwin, the latter making his first ever town game and called on to take over from Tony Roden, tried hard but were no match for the opposition who won 9-0. Only Lee dropped a game to Sell, and Smith one to Watkins.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

GREAT STYLE

Cambs. won their opening match in Div II East of the County Championships by beating Suffolk 6-4 at Wisbech, starting in great style by winning six of the first seven sets. Paul Day won both his singles, against Mick Palmer and Hellaby, and then partnered Keith Richardson to win the Men's Doubles. Richardson was successful against Russell King but Mick Harper was beaten by King although a win against Hellaby afforded some consolation. Joanne Palmer made a successful debut by beating Debbie Wootton after losing the second game when leading 11-0! Former Cambs. player Linda Woodcock started a Suffolk revival by beating Valerie Scripps and with Palmer and King winning their remaining singles this added respectability to the score.

With Day available this season Cambs. have a good chance of gaining promotion and I am sure that every player will be striving to attain this end. In the not too distant future a young girl player in the shape of Armanda Judd should be really emerging upon the scene to give Cambs. a really first class lady player. Her form at the moment is very encouraging and she is still only eleven-years-old!

In the opening matches of the Cambs. League there was an upset when David Jarvis beat John Thurston and Steve Andrews, but could not prevent New Chesterton Institute from beating Telephones II 8-2. David Tiplady won all his sets for N.C.I. The N.C.I. second team also began with a win beating Telephones I 6-4 including a maximum from Mick Byrd. Top County Junior Andy Withers, formerly of Haverhill, beat Eddie Sharp on his Div I debut for Soham II but Guildhall were easy 8-2 winners with Albert Jackson and Alan Gray unbeaten.

Relegated Fisons had to settle for a point in their Div II match with Impington. Kevin Moore was unbeaten for the "Pests" but Impington played well to earn a draw. Impington's Steve Lee had a thrilling set against Alf Mills, coming back from losing the first game and trailing 14-20 in the second to win. Haverhill lost to Torch-bearers I 4-6 after three times holding the lead and they sorely miss Withers.

The Cambs. League Handicap Trophy has attracted an entry of 85 teams and Haverhill IV, who won last season, should again fancy their chances.

Junior coaching at the Cambridge Sports Hall is proceeding smoothly and coach Pat O'Byrne has now about 50 youngsters coming every Saturday afternoon with eleven tables in use. I have received two of them at my club and they are very useful indeed — note the names of Stephen Clarke and Julian Wheel!

Three clubs in the Cambs. League have now got six teams operating, namely:— Telephones, Wesley and St. George's which means that more and more people are wanting to play table tennis and that is a healthy sign for the game in general and for Cambs. in particular.

Armanda Judd who was chosen as a Butlin's "Girl of the Week" by Denis Neale, breaks into the Junior ranking lists for the first time following trials at Cambridge. Miss Judd plays for Impington Village College and is ranked No. 4 in the "Under-17's and No. 1 in the Cadets. Withers retains his No. 1 position in the Boys', while Joanne Palmer keeps her top spot in the Girls'. Rankings:—

Men:

1 Paul Day (E); 2 Mick Harper (C); 3 Keith Richardson (E); 4 Geoff Davies (W); 5 Brian Richardson (E); 6 Tony Littlechild (C); 7 David Tiplady (C); 8 Chris

Brewer (W); 9 Brian Jones (E); 10 Andy Withers (H); 11 Robert Swift (M).

Women:

1 Sandra Harding (C); 2 Valerie Scripps (C); 3 Jean Allinson (C); 4 Valerie Parkes (C); 5 Joanne Palmer (E); 6 Jane Hunter (W); 7 Rachel Norris (H); 8 Anthea Rudd (W); 9 Kath Hubbard (M).

Boys:

1 Withers; 2 Swift and D. Brammer (W); 4 S. Calvert (W); 5 A. Hunter (W); 6 G. Jordan (M); 7 M. Jackman (M); 8 P. Stacey (M).

Girls:

1 Palmer; 2 Hunter; 3 Norris; 4 A. Judd (C); 5 A. Edge (M); 6 R. Hunter (W); 7 T. Fisher (M).

Cadets — Boys:

1 Stacey; 2 J. Frost (W); 3 C. Alexander (C); 4 N. Granger (M); 5 T. Ashman (E).

Cadets — Girls:

1 Judd; 2 Edge; 3 Hunter; 4 Fisher.

KEY: C — Cambridge; E — Ely; H — Haverhill; M — March; W — Wisbech.

Three free sessions were held at the Hudson Sports Centre, Wisbech in July to attract new players into the game and the response was quite good especially from school children. Wisbech fixtures commenced in mid-September with 70 teams in action in five divisions. The Wisbech League are hoping to form a Cadet League as response from youngsters in the area has been exceptionally good. Arrangements between the League and the Schools are going ahead and it is hoped that fixtures will start in November with at least 6 local schools entering teams.

Geoff Ward is now Town Coach and has the assistance of Mick Forth and Bob West. Former Coach Geoff Canham has now moved to March. All three attended a coaching session which was held at March, organised by Geoff Canham and Peter Hirst.

Coaching in Wisbech is now taking place every Monday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and the response from youngsters has been excellent as has the response from more senior players.

The Hudson Sports Centre will be the venue for the Fenland 2-Star Open on Mar. 5, 1978. A sub committee has been formed with Paul Jackson being the Promoter and John McCowen, Tom Graham, Keith Rudland, Terry Rudd, Howard Lupton, Paul Loughlin and David Hodson assisting on the committee.

Wisbech have entered teams in the following Leagues:— South East Midlands League (Div. 2) — East Anglian (Div. 2) — North Norfolk League. The Juniors have entered the S.E.M. League (Divs. 1 and 2) also the East Anglian League (Divs. A and B).

At the A.G.M. of the Wisbech League the following were elected to office:— President — Leslie Sleight
Chairman — Howard Lupton
Vice-Chairman — Cyril Halstead
Treasurer — Tom Graham
Gen. Secretary — Miss Diana Tooke
Tournament Sec. — Paul Laughlin.

Memo to Leslie Constable

Final paragraph of Leslie Constable's "The Cambridgeshire Scene" (TTN Oct 77) may have misled readers into believing that all County Matches must now be overseen by a Referee.

The statement is true enough, and for as long as I can remember, the home County has always been required to appoint a Match Referee; all the Championships Committee have done is to put slightly more emphasis on an event which some (most?) Counties were ignoring by asking Counties to nominate the Referee beforehand and, most important, prepare, in conjunction with NURC, a document entitled 'Duties of a Match Referee', which

can be used just as well by Leagues staging Town and National team matches.

BOB BRIDGES,
Championships Administrator.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE GALLERY

by DAVE FOULSER

ENTHRALLING WEEKS

Well, another season has begun, and I apologise for not having had County notes in last month's issue. It still seems to me that last season has only just ended with the 34th World Championships still fresh in my mind. It was encouraging to see so many local people present, such as Les Smith and Brian Karn umpiring, Don Sweeney stewarding, and Dave Courtney, Dave Harvey, Bob Attwood and Pete Denley on one of the stands in the Sportacus exhibition. Both Jan and I, as Team Liaison Officers, for Australia and Canada respectively, had an enthralling 3 weeks which will never be forgotten.

During the close season there was quite a bit of activity on the coaching scene in Cheltenham. The C.T.T.A. ran a junior coaching course every Wednesday at the Y.M.C.A. which was well attended and has caused the Y.M.C.A. to re-enter the Cheltenham league with two young teams in Div. 6. The course was run by Peter Cruwys and Dave Harvey with valuable assistance from Terry Coates, Dick Tarling, June Hall and others. I understand that Norman Preece ran a course for juniors at Whitbread's which has also produced two young teams for that club in Divs. 5 and 6 respectively. The writer also coached eight girls at his own club (Chelsea Building Society) who have also formed two teams of four both now playing in the sixth division. Indeed, six of the girls (Denise Broly, Carol Chard, Julie Murphy, Kathy Coe, Sharon Higginbotham and Fay McLaren) all passed the Halex bronze proficiency award.

Y.M.C.A. won the 1st division of the Summer League with Saracens 'A' being runners-up. For the champions Martin Lane, Derrick Morgan and Leroy Callum, all from Gloucester, played consistently well. Martin lost only two sets out of 48 both to the County No. 1 Dave Harvey. Saracens 'C' took the 2nd division with Paul Glead, Cliff Wakefield, Nigel Probert and Jack Greening forming the nucleus of their team, and Smiths finishing in second place. The 3rd division was won with infinite ease by Dowty Ashchurch 'B' who were Alan Cook, Stuart Greene, Graham Neale and Dave Emms.

Div. 1 in Gloucester looks to be the strongest in years with Taynton 'B', last season's 2nd division champions including Graham Bonser in their ranks. My own team, runners-up in Div. 2 last season, includes Adrian Vale, Clive Little, and county juniors Adam Berry and John Turner. Taynton 'A' have lost Guy Greening but still boast Harvey, Steve Moreman and Mike Prosser whilst Gordon League 'A' have Bill Dawe, Mick Collier, Alan Goode, and on occasions Bryan Merrett and Dennis Holland. The new Newent team is the three Owens from Hereford who many think will take the title, and in fact the division looks to be an intriguing contest. The Cheltenham 1st division is a lot less unpredictable as I anticipate Innsworth repeating last season's victory. Despite losing Bernie Clements (who has left the area) and Harvey and Vale (transferred to Colts 'A' and Aluminium 'A' respectively) they still have Moreman and Don Sweeney together with Ray Dillon and Malcolm Boyd. I think there are only two serious challengers:—Colts 'A' with Harvey, Adam Berry, John Turner, Mark Turner and Peter Cruwys, and Winchcombe 'A' who field Mike Hodgetts, Alan Williams, Sam Ewens and Roy Fowler. Former town player

John Marshall is making a return to the game for Saracens 'C' as is Roger Malvern for St. Mark's 'A'. The two promoted teams, Health Service led by Clive Little, and my team Chelsea 'A' will both have to fight to avoid relegation.

Both Cheltenham and Gloucester (at the time of writing no information available from Stroud) have increased the number of teams playing in their leagues. They both still have 6 and 8 divisions respectively but almost all divisions have increased from twelve to fourteen teams thus extending the length of the season by at least a fortnight.

The County received an application from Steve Moreman to be released by Gloucestershire in order that he could be eligible for selection for Worcestershire. The County Association were obviously disappointed to lose Steve but it would not benefit by having an unsettled player and if it was his wish to play for another County the Association felt it unfair to stand in his way. It should be understood that no approaches were made by Worcestershire and that the move was initiated by Steve. The County team travelled the long journey to St. Austell to play Cornwall where they reversed last season's defeat by beating them 7-3. Both Harvey and Lane won their singles and also paired to take the doubles. Dawe also won one but losing the last set of the match to R. G. Bunt. Cathy Robb battled away to beat Miss W. Mayers after losing the first game but Jan Foulser (originally the second reserve) found no way to master the sound defence and sudden hits from Miss B. Rapsey.

Cheltenham 'A' men's team beat Poteries 'B' 7-3 away with Harvey and Moreman unbeaten but Sweeney had a bad match losing all three. Cheltenham juniors also won their first match away to Chesterfield 7-3.

The Cotswold Ladies League has now been formed and a report will be found upon it elsewhere in this issue but the first match in the league was between Cheltenham and Gloucester which the latter won 6-4 thanks to a maximum from Lesley Hawkins who teamed up with Shelley Creighton to take the doubles. Barbara Davies also won two for the City but Dot Marriott lost all three despite some brilliant counter-hitting. For Cheltenham 'B' Julie Bearcroft won two whilst Joyce Weatherall and Rosemary Bayley, on her town debut, each won one. The venue was the splendid gymnasium within the cricket pavilion at Cheltenham College in Thirstaine Road which Cheltenham will have for practise and coaching on eight tables every Wednesday evening from 6-30 to 9-30; and this would be a suitable occasion on which to thank the College, on behalf of the C.T.T.A. for supplying us with this wonderful venue.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by ANNE FEARNEHOUGH

SPIRIT LACKING

The first Junior County match of the season was played on Oct 8 away to Clwyd at Rhyl. Unfortunately, the team, lacking in spirit and practice lost 3-7, the three sets being won by the female members of the team! Karen Smart beat S. Bennett -21, 14, 19, Anne Fearnehough beat S. Powell -19, 10, 10 and Karen and Anne beat Sandra and Sue 16, -15, 18.

In the Midland League, Derby men's "A" team of D. and S. Yallop and S. Sidhu, had a good 6-4 win over Shrewsbury. David got a maximum and paired with Stephen to win the doubles and Div played well to win his two singles.

Results affecting the Junior teams were very mixed to say the least! Derby "A" were beaten 10-0 by Shrewsbury (revenge

for the Salop side) then, to reverse the scores, Derby "C" beat Walsall 10-0 and, finally, Chesterfield accounted for Derby "B" 7-3.

Linda Holmes, recently ranked No. 4a nationally, had some good results in the recent Newbury Junior 1-Star Open. Seeded No. 4 in the Girls' Singles, she had a good run up to the semis where she met the No. 1 seed Alison Gordon losing -16 in the third.

Then, to follow on, seeded No. 3 with yours truly in the doubles, had a very good three-gamer in the semis against the top seeds Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith only losing -18 in the decider! Another Derbyshire player, Stephen McCarthy, gave a good account of himself in this tournament.

S.E.M. LEAGUE CHATTER

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

Membership of the S.E.M. League is now confined to clubs within 30 miles of St. Neots as the number of leagues applying for membership is increasing and a radius has to be fixed. It is now 16 years since the formation of the League and since that date many leagues have joined and have enjoyed the standard of play and the opportunity of meeting many other players. Many good players have emerged from this league and I am sure that many more will be forthcoming in the future.

It seems such a long time since the league was formed in that month of May in 1961 when Huntingdon, Cambridge and Kettering decided to form the league which would cater for the South East Midlands area.

Officers of the League for the ensuing season were elected at the A.G.M. as follows:—

Chairman: M. H. Webb.
Vice-Chairman: R. Harper.
Hon. Sec./Treasurer: H. Fox.
Hon. Tournament Sec.: D. Rawlinson.
Hon. Press Officer: L. R. J. Constable.
Tournament Committee: Messrs. L. Saywell, R. Harper, J. Jeffs, R. Whiffin, G. Hammond and K. Beddall, and the Chairman, Secretary and Tournament Secretary ex-officio.

The Annual Tournament will be held at St. Neot's Club and the next A.G.M. will be held at St. Neots.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by JOAN ROBINSON

SKEGNESS DOUBTFUL

Entry into the inter-town matches is one down on last season with the Haigh 9 teams, Butlin 6 and the Butcher 11. No entry has been received from Skegness, and their affiliation to the County is doubtful.

Holdes of the Men's Team (Haigh) Competition will have the services of ex-Boston player Jimmy Brewster, who will no doubt replace Gary King in the team, who has returned to the Boston League. Whether Jimmy, who last season lost 4 more sets than Gary in the Haigh Cup, will be in the League Winner's Team at the end of the season, only matches will tell. Last year's runners-up Grimsby, who had identical rubber average, will certainly stretch them all the way.

The Butlin Cup welcome Mablethorpe, who have County Player Beryl Voss and ex-Junior County Player Marie Green available.

Congratulations to Bill Moran (Grimsby) who has qualified as an International Umpire and to 13-years-old Gillian Galloway (Lincoln) who is ranked No. 10 in the E.T.T.A. U-17 Girls' Ranking List.

It is with regret that I have to report

the death of Mr. Sam Harrop, who was a founder member of the Grantham League in 1937, and became a Committee Member in 1940. He was Chairman for 12 years until 1974 when he retired and became Vice-Chairman for two years. Mr. Harrop was also a Vice-President of the Grantham League. In addition to this he was also Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Table Tennis Association, at the time Grantham were affiliated to Notts. His long and involved service to the game will be sadly missed.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by PAULINE JACKSON

COUNTY TRIALS

The Junior and Senior County trials were held at Eldon Square Recreation Centre on Oct 13 and 15 respectively. Unfortunately, not everyone was able to attend on the appropriate day for various reasons, and in addition the limited time allocated meant that the men's matches were rather restricted in proportion to the number present. However, other factors, including League results to date, were also taken into account, and the Executive Committee has issued the first ranking lists of the season as follows:—

Men:

1 Andrew Clark; 2 Frank Mitchinson; 3 Chris Shepherd; 4 Peter Whiteman; 5 Fred Short; 6 Malcolm McMaster; 7 Alan Jones; 8 Bill Dial; 9 Tom Peel; 10 Arnold Warents; 11 Peter Gorman; 12 Eddie Thomas.

Group "A" (alphabetical order):— Frank Buck; Bob Dodds; Dave Lucas; Glenn McCardle; Ray Neal and Steve Robinson.

Women:

1 Valerie Smith; 2 Kit Cheung; 3 Pauline Jackson; 4 Julie Hobson; 5 Lily Aust; 6 Joan Leslie; 7 Christine Joyce; 8 Joan Harland; 9 Susan Norris; 10 Alison Brown.

Boys:

1 John Burke; 2 John Anderson; 3 Philip Kolvin; 4 Henderson Yeung; 5 Bernard McCardle; 6 Steve Hawthorne; 7 Chris McLane; 8 Alan Johnson; 9 Ian Bonner; 10 Neil McMaster; 11 Tony Ramage.

Girls:

1 Susan Norris; 2 Christine Tweddle; 3 Carolyn Morton; 4 Averil Laver; 5 Susan Yeung; 6 Valerie Elsdon; 7 Janet Aust; 8 Christine Burke; 9 Helen Caldrow.

It is encouraging to note the increase in length of the ranking lists, especially among the women and girls. However, the availability of Valerie Smith (now at Leicester Polytechnic) and Kit Cheung (in France until at least December) is uncertain at present, and neither player is available for the first team's match away to Cheshire on Nov 5.

In addition, Pat Small has indicated that she does not wish to be considered for selection at the present time, which seriously depletes the strength of the women available. Roger Bambrough and Bernard Clark are also missing from the boys' list for the same reason.

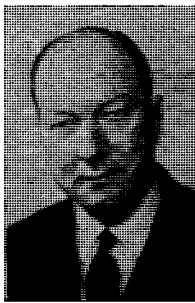
The following teams have therefore been selected, subject to availability, for the first County matches of the season on Nov. 5:—

1st team v Cheshire (away):—A. Clark, F. Mitchinson, C. Shepherd, Miss P. Jackson and Miss J. Hobson. Reserves — P. Whiteman, A. Warents and Mrs. L. Aust. NPC: A. Warents.

2nd team v Cumbria (Millom):—P. Whiteman, F. Short, M. McMaster, Mrs. L. Aust and Mrs. J. Leslie. Reserves: A. Jones, W. Dial and Miss S. Norris. NPC: T. A. Morpeth.

Junior team v Cumbria II (Millom):—J. Burke, J. Anderson, P. Kolvin, Miss S. Norris and Miss C. Tweddle. Reserves: H. Yeung, B. McCardle, Miss C. Morton NPC: To be announced.

TABLE TENNIS AND THE I.O.C.



retrograde step — putting the clock back 42 years.”

To evaluate the rightness or wrongness of the decision one needs not only to have an awareness of the tremendous spread of our sport and the problems that such growth brings, but also to acknowledge the circumstances in which a momentous decision was taken in 1935. Then, only nine years after its birth, the ITTF, having taken a long hard look at the problems of “shamateurism” in other sports, notably in lawn tennis, very confidently decided to delete from its Constitution all references to the words “amateur” and “professional”, and to regard all who took part as “players”. National Associations were left free to make their own rules regarding payment to players within their own jurisdiction, subject to no payment, other than travel expenses and “broken time” being paid to a player for playing in the World Championships.

Let it be said here and now that this decision has stood us in good stead throughout 42 years. We have been praised for an attitude of honesty when so much hypocrisy has seemed to be in evidence in other sports, and we have also, because of this attitude of liberality in respect to paid players, been able to contain the attacks of the would-be professional promoters.

Associations which wish to give their players the opportunity to earn some money welcomed the move, whilst those who had no reason to do this accepted the rights of others — thus was the spirit of the decision interpreted, and we have never had cause to regret what will always be seen as a statesmanlike policy.

Why then are we making this reversal of a well proved decision?

In 1935 when the decision was taken, we had less than 30 Associations in membership, and activity was predominantly

within Europe. Then, the number of Associations wishing to take advantage of the liberality of our Laws constituted a very large proportion of our total membership. To-day we have 125 member Associations, a very small part of the growth being within Europe, and an enormous part being in Asia, Africa, and the American Continent. And, what is more significant is that the game amongst nearly all of these ‘new’ members is played in an amateur concept, and in terms of proportions, more than 95% of our membership would now measure up to the requirements of the I.O.C. Eligibility Rule!

We pride ourselves on being one of the largest of all international sports — certainly the biggest among the racket games. But the irony is that the growth of table tennis, which is universally acclaimed as being one of the most democratic of sports, is actually inhibited in many countries because it is acknowledged by the National Olympic Committees as a non-Olympic sport, and not therefore of sufficient prestige to qualify for financial assistance!

The I.T.T.F. has been under pressure for many years to investigate the possibility of recognition in its constitutional form by the I.O.C. Negotiations by correspondence and personal contact have regularly taken place, and it was only when the I.O.C. itself became more liberal in its attitude that the fact of recognising us became a possibility. Even then, it remained clear that such recognition would not be forthcoming until our Constitution contained the definition of an amateur.

These were the facts presented to the Biennial General Meeting in Birmingham, and although there was predictable opposition from some quarters, the overwhelming majority of those present gave the Executive authority to proceed with the amendment to our Constitution, taking

by H. ROY EVANS, President
International Table Tennis Federation

At the Biennial General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, in the Great Hall of Birmingham University, on 28th March, 1977, a proposal was approved by 65 of the 77 National Associations present, to amend the Constitution in such a way as would allow recognition by the International Olympic Committee.

Effectively, this was to define an “amateur” in accordance with the requirements of Article 26 of the I.O.C. Constitution, and its bye-laws, and to delineate the restraints imposed upon an Amateur by these Regulations. It was further decided to be guided by the Constitution of F.I.F.A. which had also faced the complication of embracing both amateurs and professionals within its control.

The decision, although clearly very much a majority one, attracted varying comment from the world’s sports pressmen. “An inspired move in the right direction at last” was the verdict of some, but equally dogmatic was “A monumental error!”. For many it was “A turning point from which the ITTF will climb to still greater heights”, but to others it was “a

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what was relevant from the F.I.F.A. Regulations. The consequent amended Constitution was eventually submitted to the I.O.C. and approved by them.

Now let me try to explain the effect of the changes.

In the first place I should hasten to point out that we have not, in the course of our negotiations, discussed participation in the Olympic Games. To many people, recognition as an Olympic Sport means playing in the Olympic Games, but this matter is entirely in the hands of the I.O.C. Programme Commission, who have often declared that they are trying to decrease the number of Sports in the Olympics and not add to them. It would be wrong, therefore, to expect table tennis to be in the Games in Moscow in 1980. What can be expected in the future is not yet clear.

But there are many other multi-sport activities coming under the authority of the I.O.C. through National Olympic Committees, or Regional groupings of such Committees. Such meetings as Asian Games, Pan-American Games, Mediterranean Games are all events in which table tennis could appear, and in which the new Regulations would apply.

Let us therefore examine these Regulations, which appear in the I.T.T.F. Year Book for 1977.

Payments

An amateur player may accept during the period of preparation and actual competition, which shall be limited by the rules of the I.T.T.F., the following:—

Assistance administered through his National Olympic Committee or national Association for travelling, subsistence, pocket money for incidental expenses, personal sports equipment and clothing, cost of medical treatment, physiotherapy, and authorised coaching and insurance cover in respect of accident, illness, disability and loss of personal property;

Compensation authorised by his National Olympic Committee or national Association, in case of necessity, for financial loss resulting from his absence from work or other basic occupation in order to take part in any competition held under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee or the I.T.T.F. provided that in no circumstances does the amount of compensation exceed the amount which the player would have earned during the same period, and — Prizes won in competition within the limits already laid down by the I.T.T.F.

Status of Players

A player who is classified as amateur may not

Be, or ever have been a professional coach or trainer in any sport, or have entered into a contract to that end before the closure of any competition which he has entered as an amateur;

Be, or ever have been, a professional coach or trainer in any sport, although he may be a physical education or sports teacher who gives elementary training;

Have allowed his person, name, picture or sports performance to be used for advertising, except under any contract for sponsorship or equipment which the I.T.T.F., his National Olympic Committee or his National Association enters into, any payment under such contract being made to the contracting organisation and not to the individual.

He may not carry advertising material on his person or clothing in any competition held under the auspices of the I.O.C., other than trade marks on technical equipment or clothing as agreed between the I.O.C.

and the I.T.T.F.

He may not accept payment, reward, benefit or allowances for playing, except as provided under "Payments" above.

A player shall be classified as professional if he accepts any payment, reward, benefit or allowances other than those specified above either directly or by means of a fictitious, apparent or sham profession.

An amateur player who at any time fails to comply with the requirements set out above shall immediately and henceforward be classified as a professional player.

Each Association shall compile and 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.

No professional player may take part in any competition held under the auspices of the I.O.C. or the I.T.T.F. which is limited to amateur players only.

These then are the Regulations which constitute the change necessary for recognition by the International Olympic Committee.

It will be seen that they really do not affect any but a very small minority of players. It will also be seen that problems of interpretation will arise. But all the other Olympic sports have had and are still having such problems, and we must learn by experience how they are to be handled.

If, as has been suggested, this is "a turning point from which the I.T.T.F. will climb to still greater heights", let us hope that we can all be ready to make that a true statement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MORE

In reply to Mr. Derek Wilkinson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Southbourne Table Tennis Club, I am the Table Tennis Secretary of the Plymouth Area Civil Service Sports Club. This reason and last, we have entered 20 teams in the 14 divisions of the Plymouth & District TT League.

We first entered the P. & D. League in 1971/72 and have increased to the present 20 teams. We have three tables five nights a week and we play between 500 and 600 league and cup matches each season.

Last month, on Oct. 2, we had an Exhibition organised by the ETTA at our club to celebrate our area club's golden jubilee (Plymouth Area was formed in 1927).

The Plymouth Area Civil Service with 16,000 members caters for most popular indoor and outdoor sports of which Table Tennis is one of the most active sports in the club.

JOHN KELLY,
Table Tennis Sec., PACSSA.
29 St. George's Avenue,
Peverell, Plymouth PL2 3PW

AND MORE!

In reply to Derek Wilkinson's letter in the October edition of the Table Tennis News, Millom School have 21 three man (boy!!) teams playing competitive league table tennis.

JOHN REED.

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FOUR T's ONE STAR TOURNAMENT

70 ENTRIES RETURNED

by David Cosway

Once again this Tournament beat all previous records and although almost 200 entries were accepted, over 70 were returned. In fact the event has almost outgrown its University venue and it must be decided before next season whether the Tournament is kept at its present level or an alternative, but less economic, venue found to enable all entries to be accepted.

Early surprises in the Men's Singles were the exit of No. 2 Seed David Tan, beaten by Tony Isaac; Graham Pugh, beaten by A. Lamprell; Steve Lyons, beaten by Kevin Edwards; and Welshman George Evans knocked out by Colin Wilson 29, -19, 19. At the quarter-final stage Isaac beat Joe Kennedy 19, -17, 18; Gordon Chapman beat Edwards 14, 16; Mark Mitchell beat John Clarke 17, 14; and Graham Sandley, having disposed of his young rival Wilson -14, 13, 20, went on to knock out the No. 1 Seed, Martin Shuttle 19, -18, 21.

Isaac, a regular in this Tournament for many seasons, had his most successful day with a semi-final victory over Chapman. Mitchell reached the final with a win over Sandley, by then somewhat out of steam. Mitchell went on to win the final over Isaac.

England Junior, Mandy Smith dominated the Women's events and really looked in a class of her own. In the Women's Singles she knocked out No. 1 Seed, and England Junior Champion, Janet New in the semi. In the other half, the staging club's Jane Whitcher had a fine day, beating No. 2 seed Joyce Coop 13, 19 (after expedite) in the quarters and No. 3 seed, Wendy Parker, in the semis. But the final went to Mandy.

Not a good day for the seeders in the Men's Doubles with none of the seeded pairs reaching the semis. At that stage Colin and Steve Wilson beat Lamprell and

Mitchell whilst Lyons and David Wellsman beat Clarke and Graham Pugh. Lyons and Wellsman went on to win the final. However, in the Women's Doubles the top two seeded pairs reached the final with Mandy Smith and Wendy Parker beating the holders Joyce Coop and Janet New.

Bryn Tyler and Mandy Smith had good wins in the quarters and semis over Edwards/Wendy Parker and Mitchell/K. Mashford to reach the Mixed final but there lost to John Robinson and Janet New. Sandley beat Kevin Satchell while Tyler beat Colin Wilson before contesting the Boys' final which Sandley won. The Girls' final was a repeat of the Women's: Jane Whitcher had a win over her Hampshire rival, Serina Sinanan, before being again outplayed by Mandy Smith in the final.

Once again, this Tournament proved a financial success due to generous sponsorship. Thanks go to Snow's Office Supplies, Elkins Engineering, Anthony Forfar & Co., and John Jaques.

RESULTS

Men's Singles — Semi-finals

M. Mitchell (Mi) bt G. Sandley (Mi)
12, 16

A. Isaac (St) bt G. Chapman (Sy) 13, 17.

Final:

Mitchell bt Isaac 17, 23

Women's Singles — Semi-finals:

M. Smith (Bk) bt J. New (Do) 7, 7

Jane Whitcher (Ha) bt W. Parker (Wi)
19, 15

Final:

Smith bt Whitcher 11, 8

Men's Doubles — Final:

S. Lyons/D. Wellsman (Sy) bt C/S. Wilson
(Ha) 13, 17

Women's Doubles — Final:

Parker/Smith bt J. Coop (Do)/New
-12, 17, 18

Mixed Doubles — Final:

J. Robinson/New bt B. Tyler (Mi)/Smith
-17, 17, 18

Boys' Singles — Final:

Sandley bt Tyler 18, 18

Girls' Singles — Final:

Smith bt Whitcher 9, 16

COACHING REPORT

by Doreen Henderson

REGIONAL STRUCTURE

The National Coaching Scheme is now based on a Regional Structure, each Region has a Chairman and an Hon. Secretary, and a representative from each County.

Region 1 based on Regions S. West and South.

Region 2 Greater London and S. East.

Region 3 East and East Midlands.

Region 4 W. Midlands (excluding Wales) and N. West.

Region 5 North, Yorkshire and Humber-side.

The Chairmen appointed are: A. Wettstein, M. Kersher, K. Marchant, J. Hayward, A. Ransome.

There are the three Staff Coaches covering Midlands and South West. North and East, and South and South East, plus a Trainer/Coach.

It is hoped to have a Centre of Excellence in each Region, the Coaching at these Centres will be the responsibility of the Staff Coaches. It is hoped that the Regional Squad players will attend these centres two evenings a week plus one full day a month. The Staff Coaches and other Coaches chosen will be asked to assist at these Centres.

The Centres of Excellence will not only cater for Juniors, they will cater for a standard of play, not an age group.

There will be Coaches Courses at all Grades. It is hoped throughout to improve the standard of Coaching, in order that our young players will not come to a standstill, but be able to develop to their full potential.

There is a Panel of 24 Approved Instructors to run Coaches Courses, and it is hoped to add the next stage to the Coaching Manual.

The Fees for the Booking of National Coaches have been increased to:—

Evening Visit £10; Week-day visit (Morning and Afternoon) £15; Week-end Day Visit (Morning and Afternoon) £20; Week-end visit (Friday evening to Sunday) £40. These prices include travel costs.

Discretionary rates available for Affiliated Bodies.

The Coaching Scheme will continue to promote the Proficiency and School Awards.

JACK AND ELSIE MOVE

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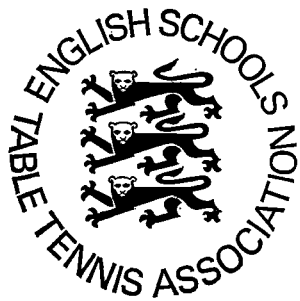
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MARK MITCHELL
(Middlesex)



MANDY SMITH
(Berkshire)



by David Lomas

Competitions Secretary Eddie Mitchell has moved to:

18 Farnborough Close, Matchborough East, Redditch, Worcs. B98 0BQ

and his new telephone number is: Redditch (0527) 29339.

At the September meeting of the ESTTA Executive Council one of the items on the agenda was the new "Schools Table Tennis Award" and Mr. Jack Carrington who is the organiser for the ETTA was invited to give a progress report on the new award which is organised jointly by the ETTA and ESTTA.

A pilot scheme was organised in West Yorkshire and Essex County and it has been decided to launch the scheme nationwide and all county schools Associations have been sent details.

The selectors for the Stiga International Championships in July 1978 were re-elected en bloc and are Messrs. R. Wood (Chairman), E. J. Mitchell, J. E. Barber, R. Balmford and P. H. Burwell. It is hoped that it will be possible to invite opposition from the Continent.

In an effort to improve communications with counties the Association is planning to produce a series of newsletters. If you have any news, comments or constructive criticisms for inclusion in this column or the newsletters please write to:

D. A. Lomas, Shirley High School, Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5EF



Competitions Secretary: EDDIE MITCHELL

CLEVELAND JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN

KEVIN AND ANGELA SHINE

by Alan Ransome

Kevin Beadsley from Halifax and Ormesby's Angela Tierney were the outstanding players in the Cleveland Junior Open held at Thornaby Pavilion over the weekend of Sept 17/18.

Beadsley won the Boys' Singles and the Mixed with his Yorkshire team mate Linda Hryszko. Beadsley's toughest set in the championships came in the third round against Ron Weatherby of Cheshire which he won 18 in the decider. From that stage he had little difficulty beating D. McIlroy of Scotland; his Yorkshire team-mate Tony Bottomley; with the most comfortable set of all in his thrashing of Joe Naser 6 and 8 in the final!

Bottomley did well to beat John Souter at deuce in the third, and Naser excelled to beat Lancashire's Tony O'Connor in the semi. However, his performance in the final could only be described as poor. O'Connor had another close one to beat Bedford's Sam Harmer in the quarter-final.

Angela Tierney appeared in a class of her own in the Girls' Singles event, making some amends for her poor showing at the Final Assessment Camp. To win the title she beat Gillian Galloway in the quarters, Linda Hryszko in the semis and Sally Midgley 12 and 8 in the final! Angela's second title came in the Girls' Doubles in which she partnered Helen Robinson to beat Linda and Sally in three close games.

The Boys' Doubles was won by O'Connor and Harmer who beat cadets Souter and Mark Oakley in the final. Souter and Oakley produced the biggest surprise of this event in ousting the top seeds Beadsley and Naser at deuce in the third in the semi-final.

The Cadet events were dominated by Souter in the boys' and Gillian Galloway in the girls'. Souter won his title with a loss of only one game to Philip Bradbury in Rd. 3. In the final he beat Lancashire's Paul Rainford who had earlier accounted for Oakley.

One of the best finals of the championships was the Cadet Girls' Singles in which Lynn Fennah came extremely close to beating Gillian Galloway. This match was on a knife edge until the latter part of the deciding game.

In the Under-11 Boys' Singles Martin Schapira of Northumberland, playing in his first Open Championship, took the title from Cleveland's Peter Judson, again narrowly in the decider.

The main talking point of the weekend centred on the reasons why the Cleveland Junior Open, which offers excellent facilities, top prize money and organisation well up to standard, was not given the "Select" status. To the average competitor and supporter who attends junior tournaments regularly this decision by the E.T.T.A. appeared ludicrous. However, it was pointed out that this had been taken up strongly by the Cleveland officials with the E.T.T.A. Tournaments Committee and it was hoped that suitable amends will be made in future seasons.

The Championships, sponsored by the Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department, received a record entry which was 25% up on any previous year. Due to this size it was decided to cancel the team event rather than restrict entries.

The prizes were presented by Mr. Bill Sykes, the Cleveland County Events and Promotion Officer and the President of the Cleveland County Table Tennis Association, Mr. R. E. Ransome.

RESULTS:—

U-17 EVENTS

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y) bt D. McIlroy (Sc) 13, 14;
A. Bottomley (Y) bt J. Souter (Mi) 15, -20, 20;
J. Naser (Y) bt M. Laird (Cv) 13, 15;
A. O'Connor (La) bt S. Harmer (Bd) 13, -14, 19.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Bottomley 16, 11;

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Naser bt O'Connor -15, 16, 12.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Naser 6, 8.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:

A. Tierney (Cv) bt G. Galloway (Li) 13, 12;

L. Hryszko (Y) bt T. Wenn (Y) 9, 8;

S. Midgley (Y) bt H. Robinson (Cv) 17, 9;

L. Holmes (Dy) bt S. Cain (St) 11, 14.

Semi-finals:

Tierney bt Hryszko 15, 7;

Midgley bt Holmes -10, 19, 14.

Final:

TIERNEY bt Midgley 12, 8.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

M. Oakley (Sy)/Souter bt Beadsley/Naser 15, -17, 20;

Harmer/O'Connor bt J. Clifford/M. Lowe (Cv) 16, 16.

Final:

HARMER/O'CONNOR bt Oakley/Souter 16, 16.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

Robinson/Tierney bt L. Fennah (Ch)/Galloway 18, 16;

Hryszko/Midgley bt E. Mathie/G. Smith (Cu) 6, 10.

Final:

ROBINSON/TIERNEY bt Hryszko/Midgley -11, 15, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

Beadsley/Hryszko bt Souter/Galloway 14, 13;

I. Plummer (Cv)/Tierney bt K. Rodger/C. Dalrymple

(Sc) 16, 11.

Final:

BEADSLEY/HRYSZKO bt Plummer/Tierney 11, 20.

U-14 EVENTS

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Souter bt P. Bradbury (Bu) -15, 18, 15;

D. Pilling (Mi) bt D. Sharpe (Ed) -15, 15, 16;

P. Rainford (La) bt A. Dixon (St) 16, 14;

Oakley bt N. Edgecock (Y) 20, 14.

Semi-finals:

Souter bt Pilling 17, 11;

Rainford bt Oakley 18, 14.

Final:

SOUTER bt Rainford 20, 13.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Galloway bt L. Bellinger (Ed) 9, 18;

J. Bellinger (Ed) bt J. Grundy (La) -16, 18, 10;

Wenn bt J. Woodcock (Cv) 16, 15;

Fennah bt S. Hadley (St) 17, 10.

Semi-finals:

Galloway bt Bellinger 20, 16;

Fennah bt Wenn 17, 10.

Final:

GALLOWAY bt Fennah -20, 12, 18.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

Oakley/Souter bt M. Heppenstall/R. Palfreman (Y)

17, 17;

Bradbury/Sharpe bt I. Chappell/M. Polkinhorn (Du)

14, 21.

Final:

OAKLEY/SOUTER bt Bradbury/Sharpe 8, 8.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

Fennah/Galloway bt Bellinger/Bellinger 9, 15;

Hadley/J. Parker (La) bt Grundy/A. Holden (Cv)

-18, 18, 19.

Final:

FENNAH/GALLOWAY bt Hadley/Parker 9, 17.

U-11 EVENTS

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Slack (Dy) bt Dixon -13, 19, 16;

M. Schapira (Nd) bt A. Drapkin (Nd) 8, 8;

P. Judson (Cv) bt M. Firth (Y) 15, 11;

K. Weatherby (Ch) bt Bradbury 15, 15.

Semi-finals:

Schapira bt Slack 19, 14;

Judson bt Weatherby -17, 14, 17.

Final:

SCHAPIRA bt Judson -12, 18, 20.

Girls' Singles (Round Robin):

1st **L. BELLINGER**; 2nd L. Goldsmith (Mi).



Mr. Len McKenzie, Managing Director of Lenval Insulations Ltd. meets the Essex team at the match v Cleveland. Lenval Insulations Ltd. are sponsoring the Essex Senior Premier team this season.

game and his improvements have been considerable.

Both these matches were excellently staged by the Thurrock League and the County are indebted to Ken Dodd (Chairman), Andrew Jarvis and their merry band of helpers who really did Essex proud. Our Junior second team was transported to Littlehampton to meet Sussex by the Junior Supremo Alan Shepherd, and despite some spirited play were pipped 6-4. Skylet Andrew retrieved a 4-16 deficit in the third to win against England No. 10 Graham Gillett in this game. But, unfortunately, the magic didn't last in his other set, Tony Penney and Maxine Abbott also showed up well in this match.

Our third Junior team entertained Bucks II at Maldon and in an exceptionally high standard game for this division we won 7-3. Terry Dowsett, Richard Veale, and debutants Kim Mudge and Julie Askem all performed well.

Our Essex Tournament of League Champions will now be staged by the Colchester League on Saturday, Nov 19 at the Colchester Sports Centre with aid from the Colchester Sports Council.

The Southend League have just completed their 50th Anniversary with a complete week of celebrations that included a Dinner/Dance, a match against the International Club and a successful invitation Club competition plus a visit from their German friends TTC 31 Neiligenhaus.

I am told that everything went with a swing and that the whole week was a great success. Congratulations Southend and best wishes for the next 50! Congratulations too, to our players who have had a lot of success at the various open tournaments. Kenny Jackson in the Junior field while Ian Horsham, Dave Newman, Dace Iszatt, Lesley Radford, Gill Donaldson and Fred Lockwood all found the Sussex air bracing.

We have been very lucky on the sponsorship front so far this season with help coming from many quarters and the recent publicity from the Worlds and our own magazine has greatly helped in spreading the word. To date Trulon Ltd. sponsored the Essex Junior "Select", Lenval Ltd. sponsor our Senior Premier team, Bairstow Eves Ltd. sponsor the Essex Senior Open, while the Southend Open will be assisted by the Midland Bank Ltd., and the newly

proposed South East Essex League has support from Clifford, Bonetti and Marks. All in all a very promising picture.

Essex Junior Rankings are:—

Boys:

1 Kenny Jackson; 2 Stuart Kimm; 3 Desmond Charlery; equal 4 Tony Penney and Skylet Andrew; 6 Stephen Low; 7 Terry Dowsett; 8 Kevin Gard; 9 Richard Veale; 10 Ian Attridge; 11 Gary Turner; 12 Wade Campbell; 13 George Reeves; 14 Terry Carr; 15 Stephen Edwards.

Girls:

1 Julie Dowsett; equal 2 Helen Gore and Yvette Brown; 4 Maxine Abbott; 5 Kay Tillyer; 6 Julie Askem; 7 Kim Mudge; 8 Gillian Travers; 9 Sharon Deal; 10 Ruth Adleman; 11 Karen Buckledge.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE Super Division

DESMOND THE STAR

by John Taylor

Desmond Douglas, Warwickshire's England No. 1, was the undoubted star of the English side which scored a tremendous 4-3 victory over France in their opening European League — Super Division match played at Millom on Sept. 29. Desmond had a hand in three of those four wins and he opened England's account in the first set of the match with a 21-18, 21-5 (!) win over Patrick Birocheau, victor over the then World Champion, Istvan Jonyer, at the N.E.C., Birmingham.

The French quickly replied however and their European Champion, Jacques Secretin, levelled the match with a 2-straight win over Paul Day. Secretin took the first game 21-11 and whittled away a good Day lead in the second, eventually winning at 21-17. Jill Hammersley then restored the English lead with a win over Claude Bergeret, but she needed almost the whole of one hour to do so. Even when the expedite system was called into use with the score at 12-8 to Miss Bergeret after 15 minutes play in the first game the set still proved to be a marathon affair. Jill lost that first game 14-21 but took the next two 18 and 19.

Continued on page 28

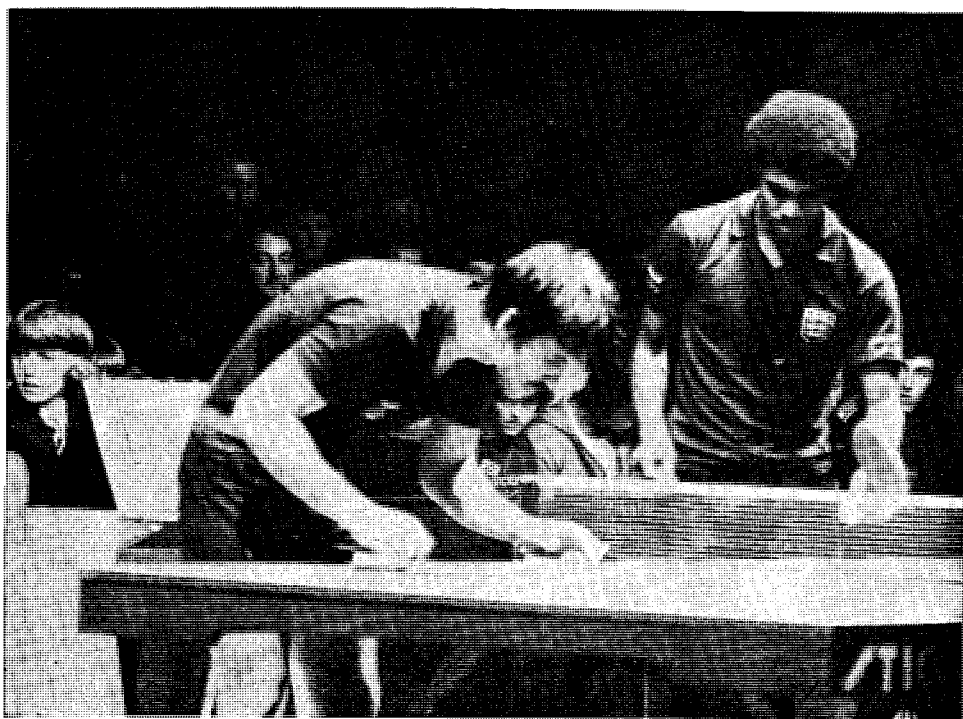
ESSEX NOTES

by GEOFF NEWMAN

FLYING START

Our Premier teams have got off to a flying start in the County Championships. Entertaining Cleveland at Tilbury our Senior team were full value for a convincing 7-2 win. Cleveland depleted by the loss of Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale were no match for a rampant home side of Bob Potton, Ian Horsham, Dave Newman and Lesley Radford. Carole Knight was the main thorn in the Essex side but she had to pull out all the stops to thwart Lesley Radford. Mr. Len McKenzie, Managing Director of Lenval Insulations Ltd., the Essex teams sponsors this season was delighted with the performance and met the team during the evening. Prior to the match Dave Newman was awarded his County Senior Badge and Gordon Lightfoot made the presentation deputising for Chairman Pat Dukes.

The Junior Premier match against Cleveland was also won 6-4 thanks mainly to the boys Kenny Jackson, Stuart Kimm and Desmond Charlery, Julie Dowsett, Helen Gore and Yvette Brown being outscored by their Cleveland counterparts. Charlery was really outstanding in this



Making sure the ball is to his satisfaction did not help Patrick Birocheau in his opening encounter with Desmond Douglas.

Photo by P. Creighton Jones, Birkdale, Southport.

Once again the French replied quickly and Douglas and Andy Barden went down -18, -13 to Secretin and Birocheau in the men's doubles without really getting into their game at all. The next set however, the mixed, was to prove the turning point of the match when Douglas and Linda Howard pulled out all the stops after a nervous start and defeated the new holders of the World Mixed Doubles title, Secretin and Bergeret -12, 13, 13.

Douglas then stepped up to the table for the third successive time and clinched the match for England with an incredible 21-19, 21-5 (!) win over Secretin. Just as in the first set against Birocheau honours were pretty even in the first game with Douglas completely overwhelming his opponent in the second, at one stage he held a 17-3 lead! France had the final say however and Birocheau pulled one back for his side with a worthy 13 and 10 win over Day.

ENGLAND BEATEN

by Geo R. Yates

England failed to improve on their fine beginning in the Super Division of the European League when, at Bracknell Sports Centre on Oct. 13, they were beaten 4-3 by Yugoslavia. As in the opening encounter against France, it was the Jamaica-born left hander, Desmond Douglas, now a Birmingham resident, who took the opposition by storm in putting England in front.

England ranked at No. 1 (and No. 11 in Europe), Douglas followed up his victories over the Frenchmen, Birocheau and Secretin, with a convincing win over Zoran Kosanovic in the opening set. But from then on the road became hard with Paul Day losing a gruelling struggle against a fellow left-hander, Anton Stipancic, and Jill Hammersley a disappointing loser to Erzebet Palatinus, a player ranked eight places below her in the classifications of the E.T.T.U.

Only slightly better than against the French pairing in Cumbria, Douglas and Andy Barden failed to outlast Kosanovic — whose partner was the pen holder, Milivoy Karakasevic — in the men's doubles at which stage the Yugoslavs led 3-1.

A win by Douglas and Linda Howard

over Stipancic and Miss Palatinus brought England back into the picture and, by beating Stipancic again convincingly in the penultimate set Douglas brought the match score level.

All then rested on the shoulders of Day, now a Cambridge University graduate reading mathematics, whose loss to Kosanovic in the final set simply emphasised the tremendous gap that Douglas has created between himself and the rest of the team and indeed, to date, the rest of Europe.

Individual scores:—

v France (won 4-3)
 D. Douglas bt P. Birocheau 18, 5;
 P. Day lost to J. Secretin -11, -17;
 J. Hammersley bt C. Bergeret -14, 18, 19;
 Douglas/A. Barden lost to Secretin/
 Birocheau -18, -13;
 Douglas/L. Howard bt Secretin/Bergeret
 -12, 13, 13;
 Douglas bt Secretin 19, 5;
 Day lost to Birocheau -13, -10.
 v Yugoslavia (lost 3-4)
 Douglas bt Z. Kosanovic 12, 14;
 Day lost to A. Stipancic 20, -14, -20;
 Mrs. Hammersley lost to E. Palatinus
 -18, -17;
 Douglas/Barden lost to Kosanovic/M.
 Karakasevic -18, 13, -19;
 Douglas/Miss Howard bt Stipancic/
 Palatinus 12, 17;
 Douglas bt Stipancic 15, 15;
 Day lost to Kosanovic -15, -12.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by KERRY MORAN

NEW RANKINGS

As promised last issue I can now tell you the outcome of the County trials; first the lists then the comments;

Men: 1 Douglas; 2 Johnson, D.; 3 Munt; 4 Judd; 5 Claxton; 6 Gunnion; 7 Glynn; 8 Hayward; 9 Johnson, B.; 10 Hon Kin NG; 11 Kinsey; 12 Dexter; 13 Pilgrim; 14 Martin. **Women:** 1 Macriell; 2 St. Ledger; 3 Groves; 4 Hemming; 5 Harper; 6 Hazard; 7 Lloyd; 8 Green; 9 Saywell; 10 Denver. **Boys:** 1 Hon Kin NG; 2 Grundy; 3 Ward; 4 Tanner; 5 Samuda; 6 Cockerill; 7 Bertie; 8 Dobbins; 9 Ruston; 10 Smith;

S.; 11 Wootton; 12 Brain. **Girls:** 1 Macriell; 2 Hemming; 3 Harper; 4 Wardle; 5 Williams; 6 Brison; 7 Gibson; 8 Rainbow; 9 Peakman; 10 Sharp.

High on the men's list is Simon Claxton amicably transferred from Worcester in the close season and a giant young man with talent to match his size. Rachael Macriell of Leamington has forced her way to the top of the Senior and Junior rankings while Hon Kin NG has improved from No. 2 Junior last season ranking No. 10 at Senior level and convincing leader of the Junior list.

In the absence of Des Douglas and Derek Munt the County "A" team v Middlesex at Coventry for the opening Premier Division fixture was Dougie Johnson, Claxton, Barry Hayward and Rachel Macriell with Paul Judd featuring in both doubles. This horses-for-courses team vindicated the selectors' choice by winning 6-3. Claxton made a sparkling debut blocking off England No. 14 David Tan in straight games.

He went on to win both his singles as did Dougie and Barry. The anti-loop of "Happy" Hayward proved too much for the young Middlesex players David Wells and David Jemmett, much to his delight! The Junior team beat Buckinghamshire 6-3 to open their account, David Ward starring with two fine wins.

To help find the stars of the future Stan Parr will be organising a series of U-14 trials to assess the County's potential at Cadet level. All league Secretaries are asked to give every assistance to this scheme.

Dates for your diary:—

Midland 3-Star Open, Nov 19/20 at The Alumwell Centre, Walsall.

County Premier Division v Glamorgan, Dec 3 (7 p.m.) at Congregational Hall, Rother St., Stratford-on-Avon.



by DENIS GEORGE

CAVALCADE OF SPORT 1977

The SCOTTISH DAIRY INDUSTRY in conjunction with GRAMPIAN TV invited the STTA to provide an international event for Grampian's popular autumn SPORTS-CALL television programme. The four home countries provided two top players who participated in the tournament held at Bell's Sports Centre, Perth, on Saturday, Sept. 3. Only surprise of the Quarter-final round was Eric Sutherland's 17 and 13 win over Welshman Alan Griffiths in a fast counter-hitting game. The Final saw Andy Barden edge home 21/19 in the first game after uncharacteristic unforced errors by Denis Neale. Neale recovered and in high speed exchanges was rarely at fault and in spite of all Barden's efforts won the next two games 18 and 16.

Quarter-finals:

D. Neale (En) bt Archie McCulloch (Sc) 9, 10.
 Jim Langan (Ir) bt Graham Davies (Wa) 6, -15, 8.
 E. Sutherland (Sc) bt A. Griffiths (Wa) 17, 13.
 A. Barden (En) bt Kevin Keane (Ir) 12, 10.

Semi-finals:

Neale bt Langan 14, 23.
 Barden bt Sutherland 19, 15.

Final:

NEALE bt Barden -19, 18, 16.

CLEVELAND JUNIOR OPEN

A small party of our top juniors went down to Thornaby over the Sept. 16/18 weekend for this popular tournament. Our best performances were by David McIlroy who lost to Kevin Beadsley in the Boys' quarter-finals, Keith Rodger and Carole Dalrymple defeating seeded pair Tony O'Connor and Linda Holmes to reach the Mixed semi-final (losing at this stage to Ian Plummer and Angela Tierney), and Cadet Tom Reid — playing with Tony Bottomley (Yorks) — reached the quarter-finals of the Junior Boys' Doubles.

LANARKSHIRE YOUTH AND JUNIOR OPEN, Oct. 2

The four Weatherby brothers from Cheshire had a field day at the first open tournament of the Scottish season; Ron Weatherby beat David McIlroy (Glasgow) in the U17 Singles Final, Anwar Majid (Edinburgh) in the U21 Singles Final, and with brother John won the U17 Doubles.

RESULTS:

Under-17 Doubles:

J. & R. Weatherby bt Lowie/K. Rodger 19, 17.

Under-17 Singles:

R. Weatherby bt D. McIlroy 13, -18, 18.

Under-21 Men's Singles:

R. Weatherby bt A. Majid 16, -14, 12.

Under-21 Men's Doubles:

D. McIlroy/F. Stewart bt W. Lochhead/R. Brown 15, 18.

Under-17 Girls' Singles:

C. Dalrymple bt K. Mackay 15, 10.

Under-21 Ladies' Singles:

C. Dalrymple bt J. Hannah 17, 15.

Open Cadet Singles:

T. Reid bt D. Lewis 19, 17.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Division II

SCOTLAND v SWITZERLAND

The first match of the 1977/78 European League season, played at Coatbridge on Oct 13, was sponsored by the Leisure and Recreation Dept., MONKLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL. Richard Yule got SCOTLAND off to a good start with a competent win over Jurek Barcikowski and Eric Sutherland attacked throughout to defeat Thomas Busin. Grace McKay dropped the first game to Renate Wyder — a forceful forehand attacker — but in the end Grace's steady game of chop, push and hit paid off to put the Scots 3-0 up. Yule and Sutherland stole the Men's Doubles from 14/17 down in the 3rd to give Scotland the victory.

Scores:

R. Yule bt J. Barcikowski 20, 17.

E. Sutherland bt T. Busin 12, 6.

G. McKay bt R. Wyder -18, 13, 14.

Yule/Sutherland bt Barcikowski/Busin

12, -11, 17.

Yule/McKay bt Busin/Wyder -14, -13.

R. Yule bt T. Busin 20, 9.

E. Sutherland bt J. Barcikowski -17, -19.

Result:

SCOTLAND 5, SWITZERLAND 2.

SCOTTISH TOURNAMENT

The usual calendar of open tournaments will be held again this year, most events being in Edinburgh and Glasgow but not forgetting the BENEAGLES OPEN with increased prize money in Perth on April 8 (see the ETTA Diary for details). A cordial welcome is extended to enthusiasts from south of the border to come up and see us sometime. It should be noted that the GLASGOW OPEN will be held on Saturday, 26 November and not Sunday, 27, as shown in the Diary.



Welsh Corner

H. Roy Evans

VICTORY ESSENTIAL

Top Welsh players have a "swings and roundabouts" situation in their competitive play this season. After a very disappointing visit to Division 2 of the European League last season, Wales finds itself back again in Division 3, with a struggle to achieve promotion once more into the grade it should certainly occupy.

At this moment, the venue for the Third Division group is not yet decided, but victory over Norway is essential. And it was Norway who denied us Category Two competition in the World Championships in Birmingham!

But what players like Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies have lost in the European League, is certainly replaced by the stronger competition which Glamorgan have earned by their promotion to the Premier Division of the County Championship.

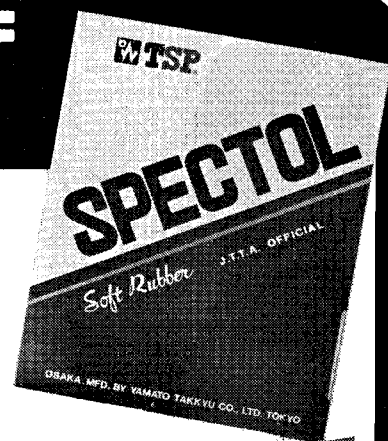


TEES SPORT

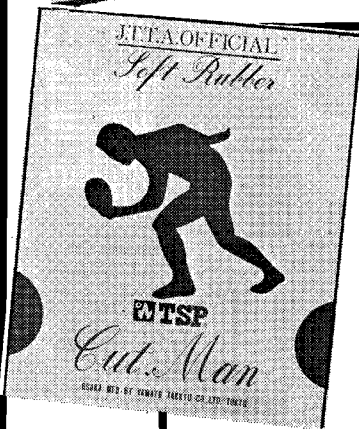
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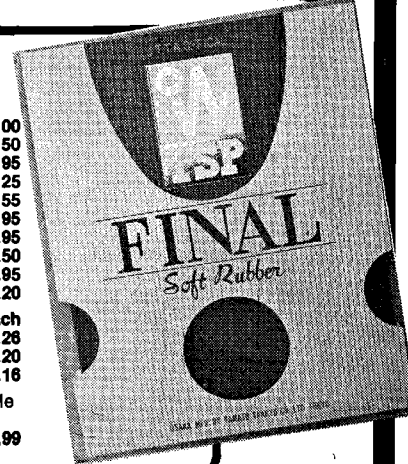
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Judging by past results, there is only a small nucleus of Counties whose place here is assured, and relegation threatens more than half the teams throughout the season. Glamorgan will be one of these, and some early victories are essential to breed confidence.

It's a bit too early yet to expect any of our juniors to take over the mantle of our seniors, but it is fair to say that the portents for the future are brighter than for a long time.

The form shown by our juniors and cadets at the two Assessment Courses held in September was most encouraging, and although they have yet to overcome the very top Internationals, our youngsters are already accounting for our second line of seniors.

The form of our juniors in the European Youth Championships was less than we had expected, but our two cadets — Mark Thomas and Brian Jeanes, were most encouraging, and it is these two, and others like them who have the best chance of really impressive improvement.

In saying our juniors' form has been disappointing, it is also true that although they are still far short of their true potential, players like Jeff Morgan and Alun Williams, after ups and downs in results, may yet get that maturity in their game which we looked for perhaps too soon.

Improvement amongst our female players is still a long time coming, and at the moment there is no-one really good enough to bring some long overdue success. Rumour has it that Julie Ralphs, after a cartilage operation in the summer, has started to play again. It is to be hoped that she will find greater dedication at this second attempt, for she is much better than the others, and must know she owes Wales some success now.

To our very successful Welsh Open, we are now adding the new Welsh Junior Open as a regular event. After the staggering success of the Jubilee Junior Open back in June, when players from twenty-two Welsh and English Counties competed, it was a foregone conclusion that the event would become a fixture in our annual activities, and we are encouraged by so many plaudits that we expect its success to be continued.

Results in the Welsh Junior Open were:

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
D. Newman (E) bt K. Edwards (Wi) 16, 13;
K. Jackson (E) bt G. Sandley (Mi)
12, -19, 20.

Final:
JACKSON bt Newman 19, 7.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
J. New (Do) bt A. Gordon (Bk) -20, 18, 12;
M. Smith (Bk) bt E. Lamb (Dv) 16, 15.

Final:
NEW bt Smith 19, 21.

Boys' Doubles:
EDWARDS/B. TYLER (Mi) bt Sandley/
C. Wilson (Ha) 14, 17.

Girls' Doubles:
S. JONES (St)/NEW bt W. Parker (Bk)/
Smith 12, 13.

Mixed Doubles:
SANDLEY/GORDON bt Wilson/M. Reeves
(Mi) -20, 19, 13.

Cadet Boys:
SANDLEY bt Wilson 17, 17.

Cadet Girls:
GORDON bt Reeves -19, 10, 17.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. PENNY

LOCALS ABROAD

It was encouraging to learn that, with the season hardly started, Norfolk players were travelling far afield to improve their prowess by tournament play. First, on Sept 17, there was the Berkshire Invitation at Reading, attended by Chris Bensley, Bob

Thornton, Douglas Bennett and Trevor Bunn amongst others. The next day saw 14 players going to the Four T's 1-Star at Southampton, and the week after about six tried their hand in the North of England 2-star at Manchester.

The first local event of the season was the American Tournament at Great Yarmouth Power Station, which was won by Bensley, the Norfolk champion, followed by Mick Broughton, Russell King and Tony Archer.

League play is now in full swing. Dereham were quickly off the mark. Here the Div. 1 title looks likely to go to Costessey (pronounced Cossy) who have Neville Graver, Trevor Bunn, Paul Pegg and Ron Annison. Wymondham now have 33 teams, 10 in Div. 1, 11 in Div. 2, and 12 in Div. 3, as opposed to 30 last season. Cromer are also under way, with Cromer Juniors successful in their debut, beating Roughton "B" 7-3. Norwich league are bigger than ever, with 164 teams in 12 divisions. Here one of the two CEYMS teams will continue supreme in the Premier Division, almost certainly.

I have to thank Len Miller, their energetic secretary, for Norwich league's handbook. This contains the news that, after many years, some progress has been made in the project to provide a Table Tennis Centre in Norwich and that the City Amenities Officer has shown an interest in the scheme. A plan shows a building 95ft. x 30ft. and 14ft. high on the ground floor. It will contain eight tables separated by soundproof moveable partitions which will allow isolation when league matches are in progress and a large area for tournament play when the partitions are folded back. Toilets, changing rooms and a rest room are included at one end. I hope Len has read of the realisation of St. Neots' similar project on page 24 of the October issue.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by DENNIS MILLMAN

CORRIDORS OF POWER

At this point in time, when these notes should be covering the initial successes and set-backs of a new season, it is perhaps unfortunate that the most significant action has been confined to the committee rooms, or more accurately, the corridors of power.

The issuing of the new County ranking lists brought about the main confrontation, but this had earlier been engendered by the strict rules laid down for attendance at the TSB Junior Squad training sessions. For talented juniors accustomed to travelling regularly to tournaments all over the country, these training sessions have come as an unnecessary inconvenience, yet for those just embarking on the road to success, they are an essential ingredient of county table tennis and future sponsorship.

With Connie Bane also absent, the result is the loss of three of the best ladies to represent Northants during the last twenty-five years, — not perhaps the way in which we wished to celebrate the County Jubilee, —and also rumbles of discontent from currently ranked players who find it difficult to understand how some of these rankings were arrived at. In disputes of this kind everyone loses. Let us hope that it is not long before those likeable and talented sisters Anne and Mandy Wallis are able to represent their county again.

Ranking Lists

Men:

1 Gary Alden (W); 2 Tony Clark (N); 3 Steve Lyon (N); 4 Phil Snelling (N); 5 Romano Gallo (N); 6 John Palmer (K); 7 Brian Dangerfield (W); 8 Alan Print (D); 9 Graham Feakin (W); 10 Geoff Atkinson (W).

Boys:

1 Keith Nicoll (K); 2 Ian Morris (N); 3 David Gallo (N); equal 4 Ken Nicoll (K); Neil Knatt (N); 6 Tim Forster (N); 7 Stuart Rollings (K); 8 Richard Malfait (K); 9 Alan Hawes (W); 10 Gary Smith (K).

Women:

1 Ann Wilson (N); 2 Christine Price (K); 3 Valerie Feakin (W); 4 Margaret Maltby (N); 5 Glennis Hooper (K); 6 Joyce Porter (N); 7 Dorothy Marsh (W).

Girls:

1 Helen Cottier (N); 2 Joanne Cutler (N); 3 Julie Robinson (N); 4 Jane Nicoll (K); 5 Belinda Clapp (D); 6 Jane Wallis (W).

Cadet Boys:

1 Richard Malfait (K); 2 Terry Cardwell (K); 3 Owen Bishop (D); 4 Robin Pipe (K); 5 Keith D'Arcy (N); 6 Ian Hawes (W).

Cadet Girls:

1 Jane Nicoll (K); 2 Jane Wallis (W); 3 Jill Morris (N); 4 Isobel Hedley (N).

Corby is another area hit by problems. For many years Stewarts and Lloyds flew a solitary flag for table tennis, but of late the outlook has been brighter. Rising Sports Centre prices and the lack of a positive administration brought the Corby Town Table Tennis Club to its knees during the close season, and now the Corby Junior League is experiencing difficulties. It would be a pity if this thriving, well-run and very necessary organisation should fall victim to a clash of opinions.

On the playing side, the first County Junior match with Hertfordshire was not a successful one. With Mandy Wallis not selected, Helen Cottier and Joanne Cutler, well though they played, were not able to contain their opponents, and the boys, now bereft of Gary Alden, were unable to redress the balance, and the team went down to an 8-2 defeat, after holding an early lead.

Elsewhere things are brighter, with Daventry winning the first County League match of the season, with a 6-5 win over Towcester, the latter's best performance to date in this competition, thanks to Alan Shouler and Ron Dunkley, while Daventry's John Bishop at last produced his true form.

In the South East Midlands League, Kettering Juniors got off to a fine start, beating North Herts at both First and Second Team level, the first time any team has achieved this distinction, while a subsequent draw with Hunts Central I and a decisive 10-0 win over Ely shows some reward for the extensive coaching activities of recent years. At Wellingborough the Men and Juniors could again be in for a lean season, but both the Women and the Veterans started with devastating 10-0 wins over March and Hunts Central respectively.

In the Wellingborough League, Rothborough 'A' has started in the usual vein with 7-3 successes against Mears Ashby and Kettering Town. The team of Gary Alden, Keith Nicoll and Graham Feakin should again hold off the challenge from Mears Ashby (formerly Compton Nomads) and Chapman's 'A' now strengthened by the inclusion of former County player Geoff Atkinson, but Kettering Town without a replacement for Terry Sutton look likely to fall further behind. However in the Kettering League with Chris Handshaw re-placing Sutton, Town 'A' could just hold on to the title for the third successive year, with Wellingborough Town, Burton Britannia and Rothborough the main challengers.

A final reminder that with the County Jubilee Tournament being staged on Nov 26, it is now time to be sending in your entry forms.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by JOHN TAYLOR

COMFORTABLE RETENTION

As expected Chris Reed comfortably retained his No. 1 position in the Senior rankings at the recent trials held at Millom School and with last season's No. 2 Brian Towell leaving to work out of the district, after I had said much about our improved prospects in last month's "Comment", it was very much a case of who would fill the following two places. They would have ensured almost automatic selection for the first county championships match of the season.

None of the more established seniors were able to gain that vacant No. 2 spot however and it was Millom School's Diccon Gray who upset quite a few of the hopefuls on the way to finishing a clear second with only two defeats against Chris Reed and Neil Smith. Bill Robinson provided the other major surprise of the day by finishing in 3rd place, just reward perhaps for the close season training and practice put in by the Barrow man who was ranked at No. 11 last season.

David Kirkpatrick headed the Carlisle contingent, as last year and comes next on the list followed by Ian Reed and Andrew Pachul. Andrew did very well to finish at No. 6 after competing for the first time at the senior trial and he had some impressive wins. Robinson was in fact the only non-Millom player to defeat Andrew. Jennifer Pachul retained her No. 1 spot in the women's list and is followed by the No. 1 junior Gail Smith. Elaine Mathie has gained a place in the junior first team as a result of her win over former No. 2 Miranda Gray. Full lists are:—

Men:

1 C. Reed (M); 2 D. Gray (M); 3 W. Robinson (B); 4 D. Kirkpatrick (C); 5 I. Reed (M); 6 A. Pachul (M); 7 S. O'Neil (C); 8 J. Willis (C); 9 N. Smith (M); 10 S. Halesworth (B); 11 E. O'Hara (B); 12 R. Stewart (C).

Boys:

1 Gray; 2 I. Reed; 3 Pachul; 4 S. Sharp (M); 5 P. Watson (C); 6 M. Cairns (M); 7 S. Becker (C); 8 M. Butcher (M); 9 T. Pachul (M); 10 M. Carr (M); 11 A. Tague (K); 12 T. Huddleston (M); 13 S. Dickson (K).

Women:

1 J. Pachul (C); 2 G. Smith (M); 3 E. Mathie (M); 4 M. Gray (M); 5 J. Sephton (M); 6 B. Gray (M); 7 M. McPortland (B); 8 V. Heggie (C); 9 C. Tyson (M); 10 P. Bickerdike (M).

Girls:

1 Smith; 2 Mathie; 3 M. Gray; 4 Sephton; 5 B. Gray; 6 McPortland; 7 Bickerdike.

KEY: B — Barrow; C — Carlisle; K — Kendal; M — Millom.

England's opening European League — Super Division match against France at Millom on Sept 29 proved to be a tremendous success in every way possible. Most important was that England won the match and secondly that the match was played before a full house in Millom School's Alexandre Hall, a point that will go a long way to ensuring the financial success of the venture. Thanks must go to all the local and not so local sponsors who helped make the event possible and also to a hardworking committee most of which can be seen rubbing shoulders with the victorious England team after the afternoon practice session — see photograph. Team (l to r):—Linda Howard, Jill Hammersley, Andy Barden, Paul Day and Desmond Douglas. Committee (l to r) John Reed, Bob Gale, Mike Coldwell, John Taylor and Clarice Rose (the organising secretary). After the match both teams and officials attended a buffet reception, by



courtesy of the local council, and both teams were presented with souvenirs which consisted of a desk penholder made from the local slate and a slab of Kendal Mint Cake, by courtesy of Mr. Gale.

Ian Reed carried Cumbria's colours the furthest in the Cumbria 2-Star Open, held in Carlisle's Market Hall on Oct 1, but just failed in his bid for the Junior Boys' title which brother Chris won last year. In the final against David Hughes of Cleveland, Ian won the first game 21-18 but lost the next two -13, -18. Thanks must again go to our joint sponsors for the tournament, Carlisle United AFSC, J. Pirt & Co., Wm. Coulthard & Co. Ltd., Ontime Ltd. and John Roper Ltd., and a special mention for tournament organiser Ron Rigg, the man behind the continued success and smooth running of this annual event.

THE RACKET

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE RULES

At its Biennial General Meeting in Birmingham last April, the International Table Tennis Federation made an important change in the rules governing the racket. The new wordings are:—

1.—The racket may be of any size, shape or weight.

2.—The blade shall be of wood, continuous, of even thickness, flat and rigid.

3.—The visible surface of each side of the blade, whether used for striking the ball or not, shall be uniformly dark coloured and matt; any trimming or binding round the edge shall not be, either wholly or partly, white or brightly reflecting.

4.—A side of the blade used for striking the ball may be completely uncovered or covered over the whole of the striking surface with one of the permitted cover-

ing materials, each layer of covering being of uniform thickness.

5.—An uncovered side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be either naturally dark coloured or shall be darkened in such a way as not to alter the frictional characteristics of the surface — for example, by staining and not by painting.

6.—The covering material for a side of the blade used for striking the ball may be either ordinary pimped rubber, with pimples outwards, having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 2 millimetres, or sandwich rubber, with pimples inwards or outwards, having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 4 mm.

NOTE. The definition of "sandwich rubber" is as follows—

"Sandwich rubber" is a layer of cellular rubber (what we call "sponge") surfaced with a layer of pimped rubber, the total thickness of the pimped rubber being not more than 2 millimetres.

The other important new rule in this matter is as follows—

Before using a racket for the first time in a match a player shall, if so requested, show both sides of the blade to his opponent.

These rules will not be enforced until 1st January, 1978.

BUT — it is known that some rubber with very long pimples is finding its way to players in Britain. In many cases this rubber exceeds the permitted 2 millimetres in thickness. It should be noted that the thickness includes the backing piece to which the pimples are attached. Players using this pimped rubber will certainly enjoy some advantage, but it will only be until 31st December, after which an opponent has the right to see the racket, and if he suspects that the pimples are too long, call for an investigation. Players are therefore advised against using pimped rubber which will only give a short termed advantage.

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ILLINGWORTH CARPETS AID TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS

"Illingworth the Invincible" — that's something Yorkshire Carpet Manufacturer Graham Mallinson tells all his customers.

But Mr. Mallinson, the Managing Director of Illingworth Carpets at Shelf, whose trading symbol is the Invincible Knight in shining armour, admitted defeat when up against three champion table tennis players the company is sponsoring.

"I'm an enthusiastic player and have turned out for the Company", he said. "But I'm not in the same league as these three", said Mr. Mallinson at West Yorkshire Table Tennis Championships. He is pictured congratulating the trio. (left to right) Kevin Beadsley and Linda Hryszko, both 16, who each carried off four titles, and 26-year-old Mick Stephenson who won the Men's Doubles title with Beadsley. Beadsley also won the Men's Singles, Junior Singles and Mixed Doubles. Linda won the Girls' Singles, Women's Singles, Women's and Mixed Doubles. The three are pictured with their trophies.

Kevin is currently ranked England No. 1 Junior, Linda is England No. 5 Junior and Bradford No. 2, while Mick is rated Bradford No. 1 and Yorkshire 10th.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by PHILIP REID

UNCONVINCING START

Leicester have made an unconvincing start to their Midland League fixtures this season. The first team could only muster three sets from a very good Birmingham II side with Chris Rogers gaining a good maximum.

The second team lost 3-7 to Nottingham I but this was nothing to be ashamed of — the Nottingham I team should bounce straight back to the first division with Alan Croomie in such great form.

Colin Truman won three for the third team and also did his share in winning the doubles in the match against Shrewsbury but nobody else could manage anything. Well, it's early days but we could have made a better start.

In the Leicestershire Towns League, Leicester regained the senior trophy from Hinckley, holders for the previous two seasons. A double shock here for Paul Randell who not only lost to Chris Rogers but Karen as well! It looks as though Paul — for the first time in seven years — will be pushed to retain his No. 1 spot. Playing well in the Inter-Towns League was the evergreen John Iliffe who is still a threat to the best.

The Junior Inter-Towns League was resurrected after a gap of ten years and was an outstanding success. Nine teams entered and they were kept busy throughout the day. Loughborough had been the

only previous holders but this time it was Leicester who triumphed with Simon Hall and the much-improved Steven Want unbeaten all day.

Entries in the Rose Johnson Bowl competition — a handicap trophy for teams affiliated to the L.T.T.A. increased in number again with 78 teams and over 350 players registered. The Hinckley League are again to run a dance for the County Association. They have never failed to make a success of it yet and there is no reason to suspect a change this time!

What's on and where

November

- 12—(Sat.) National Council (London).
- 12/13—Southend 2-Star Open (Rayleigh).
- 12/13—Woodfield 1-Star Open (Wolverhampton).
- 12/13—Swansea 2-Star Open (Aberavon).
- 13—(Sun.) Edinburgh 2-Star Open (Meadowbank).
- 19/20—Midland 3-Star Open (Walsall).
- 20—(Sun.) Hastings Tigers 1-Star Open.
- 26/27—Kent Junior 2-Star Open (Folkestone).
- 27—(Sun.) Salford 2-Star Open (Stretford).
- 27—(Sun.) Glasgow 2-Star Open (Bellahouston).
- 29/30—(Tu./Wed.) ETTA International Television Tournament (Birmingham).

December

- 3—(Sat.) County Championships (3).
- 4—(Sun.) North Yorkshire 1-Star Open (Harrogate).
- 9—(Fri.) Nissen Invitation Tournament (Hemel Hempstead).
- 10/11—Middlesex 3-Star Open (Edmonton).
- 10/11—Cardiff Open Championships.
- 15—(Th.) European League — Super Division.
- ENGLAND v SWEDEN (Gloucester).
- 15/16—Ulster Open (Newtownards).
- 17—(Sat.) ETTA INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT. (Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds).
- 17/18—WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED (Loughborough).

County Championships Fixtures in December

PREMIER

- Dec. 3—Cleveland v Middlesex.
- Essex v Berkshire — Braysgrove School, Traceys Road, Harlow, 7-00 p.m.
- Surrey v Yorkshire.
- Warwickshire v Glamorgan.

2nd SOUTH

- Dec. 3—Dorset v Hampshire.
- Kent v Surrey II — Milton Barracks, Gravesend, 7-00 p.m.
- Middlesex II v Sussex.

2nd NORTH

- Dec. 3—Cheshire v Cleveland II.
- Durham v Lancashire.

2nd MIDLAND

- Dec. 3—Leicestershire v Bedfordshire.
- Staffordshire v Derbyshire.
- Warwickshire v Northamptonshire.

2nd EAST

- Dec. 3—Buckinghamshire v Essex II.
- Cambridgeshire v Hertfordshire.
- Suffolk v Norfolk.

2nd WEST

- Dec. 3—Avon v Glamorgan II.
- Somerset v Gwent.
- Wiltshire v Worcestershire.

3rd SOUTH

- Dec. 3—Buckinghamshire II v Kent II.
- Sussex II v Essex III.

3rd NORTH

- Dec. 3—Derbyshire II v Northumberland.
- Lancashire II v Cumbria.
- Lincolnshire v Nottinghamshire.

3rd MIDLAND

- Dec. 3—Herefordshire v Staffordshire II.
- Shropshire v Clwyd.
- Worcestershire II v Cheshire II.

3rd EAST

- Dec. 3—Norfolk II v Huntingdonshire.
- Northamptonshire v Cambridgeshire II — Deanshanger School, Deanshanger, Towcester, 7-00 p.m.
- Dec. 4—Bedfordshire II v Leicestershire II.

3rd WEST

- Dec. 3—Berkshire II v Dorset — Woodlands TTC, Woodlands Ave., Tilehurst, 7-00 p.m.
- Glamorgan III v Cornwall.
- Gloucestershire v Avon II.

JUNIOR PREMIER

- Dec. 3—Cleveland v Middlesex.
- Devon v Lancashire — Devonport Guildhall, Ker Street, Plymouth.
- Essex v Berkshire — Braysgrove School, Traceys Road, Harlow, 2-30 p.m.
- Surrey v Yorkshire.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

- Dec. 3—Essex II v Middlesex II — Braysgrove School, Traceys Road, Harlow, 2-30 p.m.
- Hampshire v Surrey II.
- Middlesex II v Sussex.

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

- Dec. 3—Cheshire v Clwyd.
- Staffordshire v Derbyshire.
- Yorkshire II v Cumbria — Prince Philip Centre, Scotts Hall Avenue, Leeds 10, 2-30 p.m.
- Dec. 10—Cumbria v Cheshire.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

- Dec. 3—Leicestershire v Warwickshire.
- Norfolk v Buckinghamshire.
- Northamptonshire v Shropshire — Deanshanger School, Deanshanger, Towcester, 3-00 p.m.

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

- Dec. 3—Berkshire II v Buckinghamshire II — South of England Building Society, Maidenhead, 2-30 p.m.
- Dorset II v Hampshire II.
- Sussex II v Essex III.

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

- Dec. 3—Cleveland III v Northumberland.
- Lincolnshire v Nottinghamshire.

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

- Dec. 3—Gloucestershire v Staffordshire II.
- Shropshire II v Oxfordshire.
- Dec. 4—Herefordshire v Worcestershire.

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

- Dec. 3—Hertfordshire II v Lincolnshire II — Goffs Oak TTC, St. James Road, Goffs Oak, Cheshunt, 2-30 p.m.
- Huntingdonshire v Suffolk.

- Dec. 4—Bedfordshire v Cambridgeshire.

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

- Dec. 3—Glamorgan v Cornwall.
- Gwent v Somerset.
- Dec. 4—Wiltshire II v Devon II.

VETERAN SOUTH

- Dec. 3—Oxfordshire v Essex.
- Sussex v Kent.

VETERAN MIDLAND

- Dec. 3—Clwyd v Leicestershire.
- Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire.

VETERAN EAST

- Dec. 3—Essex II v Hertfordshire.
- Middlesex v Suffolk.

VETERAN WEST

- Dec. 3—Dorset II v Wiltshire.
- Hampshire v Avon.

CANCELLED

The Polish Open championships, scheduled for Oct 21/23 were cancelled and henceforward will only take place biennially.

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

SUPREMACY HALTED

After the Northern end of the Country has maintained its superiority in the Premier Division for a couple of years (viz Cleveland), Premier title looks like returning to the South. Essex look most likely candidates after whipping Cleveland 7-2, but Surrey, having eliminated their problems, are lurking around, and even with "Connie" Warren making his County comeback, inflicted an 8-1 sounding on promoted Glamorgan.

Yorkshire's 5-4 win over Berkshire, the other newly promoted County, could have been easier if Kevin Beadsley had lived up to expectations, but perhaps too much is being expected!

Beadsley, had however, been unbeaten in the previous encounter between the two Counties in the Junior Premier, including victory over top-ranked boy David Barr while Yorks were cruising to an 8-2 win. Both promoted counties went down by the same score, Devon 2-8 to Surrey and Lancashire 2-8 to Middlesex, for whom ex-Hampshire Colin Wilson is listed at Number 2 behind Graham Sandley.

PREMIER

Essex 7, Cleveland 2

R. Potton bt R. Wiley 14, 20; bt P. McQueen 17, -17, 18.

I. Horsham bt Wiley 16, 13; bt A. Martin 19, 18.

D. Newman bt McQueen 9, -17, 18; bt Martin 17, 15.

Newman/Potton bt McQueen/Wiley 12, -15, 11.

Lesley Radford lost to Carole Knight -18, -14.

Horsham/Mrs. Radford lost to Martin/Miss Knight -17, -16.

Cleveland struggling without their stars — Denis Neale away on business and Nicky Jarvis victim of shoulder injury.

Glamorgan 1, Surrey 8

A. Griffiths lost to M. Crimmins 19, -15, -19; lost to D. Wellsman -18, -22.

G. Davies lost to Crimmins 17, -13, -19; bt C. Warren 15, 12.

M. Owen lost to Wellsman -16, -18; lost to Warren -17, 16, -18.

Davies/Griffiths lost to Crimmins/Wellsman -19, -16.

Debbie Coulthard lost to Linda Howard -9, -7.

Owen/Miss Coulthard lost to Warren/Miss Howard -16, -13.

Not the best of starts to the season that Glamorgan could have hoped for; three very close sets went the wrong way, two of them early on which would have made quite a difference.

Warwickshire 6, Middlesex 3

D. Johnson bt D. Tan 12, -19, 11; bt D. Wells -19, 13, 11.

S. Claxton bt Tan 20, 15; bt D. Jemmett 18, 17.

B. Hayward bt Wells -20, 7, 13; bt Jemmett 18, 20.

Johnson/P. Judd lost to Jemmett/Wells 15, -15, -15.

Rachel Mackriell lost to Angela Mitchell -8, -15.

Judd/Miss Mackriell lost to Tan/Miss Mitchell -20, -15.

Several new faces on show with Simon Claxton gaining very creditable results in his debut for Warwickshire and at Premier Division level.

Yorkshire 5, Berkshire 4

L. A. Clayton bt D. Reeves 14, 16; bt S. Heaps 24, 19.

A. Fletcher bt Reeves -16, 16, 18; lost to A. Welman -18, -17.

K. Beadsley lost to Heaps -15, -22; lost

to Welman -16, 13, -18.

Beadsley/Fletcher bt Heaps/Welman -18, 11, 23.

Melody Ludi lost to Karen Witt -16, 23, -17.

Clayton/Miss Ludi bt Reeves/Caroline Reeves -19, 17, 18.

If Yorkshire stay up and Berkshire go down, look back to the Men's Doubles, won by the home pair 25-23 in the decider giving them the lead, at the time, of 4-1.

2nd EAST

Cambridgeshire 6, Suffolk 4

Cambs. led 6-1 over a Suffolk side without John Kitchener, but Linda Woodcock back with her home County started the revival that added respectability to the score line.

2nd WEST

Devon 4, Wiltshire 6

Gwent 4, Glamorgan II 6

Somerset 6, Avon 4

Chris Sewell grabbed three of Avon's four with no trouble.

JUNIOR PREMIER

Essex 6, Cleveland 4

K. Jackson bt P. Hindle 15, 14; bt I. Plummer 17, 10.

S. Kim bt Hindle 17, 17; lost to D. Hughes -12, -16.

D. Charlery bt Plummer 17, 13; bt Hughes 17, -17, 15.

Jackson/Kimm bt Plummer/Hughes 14, 19.

Julie Dowsett lost to Angela Tierney -11, -10.

Helen Gore lost to Helen Robinson 19, -19, -15.

Yvette Brown/Miss Gore lost to Miss Robinson/Miss Tierney -16, -15.

Lancashire 2, Middlesex 8

A. O'Connor lost to G. Sandley -19, 17, -18; bt C. Wilson 14, -17, 19.

B. Carney lost to Sandley -10, -17; lost to A. Proffitt -18, -15.

P. Rainford lost to Wilson 18, -15, -12; bt Proffitt 9, -17, 12.

O'Connor/Rainford lost to Sandley/Wilson -19, 19, -18.

Miss Joy Grundy lost to Mandy Reeves -16, -9.

Miss Carolyn Scowcroft lost to Helen Williams -16, -10.

Miss Grundy/Miss Scowcroft lost to Miss Reeves/Miss Williams -8, -5.

Surrey 8, Devon 2

S. Holloway lost to P. Whiting 11, -17, -18; bt M. Shearman -18, 18, 15.

S. Woodgate bt Whiting -20, 11, 19; bt S. Gwynne -13, 13, 17.

M. Oakley lost to Shearman -15, 19, -10; bt Gwynne 19, 17.

Holloway/Woodgate bt Shearman/Whiting 14, -15, 19.

Sarah Cresswell bt Gina Pritchard 16, 19.

Lorraine Garbet bt Carol Butler 14, -23, 20.

Miss Cresswell/Miss Garbet bt Miss Butler/Miss Pritchard 11, -17, 19.

A great start to Surrey's season although the end result does not bely to real battle that took place — lasting nearly four hours.

Yorkshire 8, Berkshire 2

K. Beadsley bt D. Barr -18, 18, 13; bt R. Johnston 10, 12.

J. Naser lost to Barr -12, -10; bt Gloster 11, 6.

A. Bottomley bt Johnston -17, 10, 9; bt Gloster 20, 23.

Beadsley/Naser bt Barr Johnston 18, 17.

Linda Hryzsko lost to Karen Witt -16, -13.

Sally Midgley bt Alison Gordon 20, 15.

Miss Hryzsko/Miss Midgley bt Miss Gordon/Miss Witt 11, -18, 18.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Middlesex II 6, Wiltshire 4

Surrey II 7, Kent 3

Unfortunate error by Kent playing their girls out of order cost them Elaine Bolton's win over Avril McMahon.

Sussex 6, Essex II 4

Unbelievable pull up by Skylet Andrew (4-16 down in decider) to beat Graham Gillett put Essex 2-0 ahead, but home side recovered from 3-1 in arrears to win match.

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Cleveland II 2, Cheshire 8

Clwyd 7, Derbyshire 3

Fine result for Clwyd whose Alun Williams and Mark Thomas scored good wins over Stephen Yallop.

Staffordshire 6, Yorkshire II 4

A cracking BD win put Staffs ahead, but with visitors pulling back to 4-11, 12-years-old Andrew Dixon and Andy Bellingham clinched last two singles to give Staffs their first ever win over any Yorkshire team.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Hertfordshire 8, Northamptonshire 2

Jittery start by relegated Hertfordshire gave Northants the lead after three sets, but increasing confidence by the home side gave them the remaining seven sets.

Shropshire 8, Norfolk 2

Warwickshire 6, Buckinghamshire 4

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Berkshire II 6, Kent II 4

Essex III 7, Buckinghamshire II 3

Hampshire II 2, Sussex II 8

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Devon II 5, Cornwall 5

Fine recovery from Devon's new junior side, 1-5 down after some close finishes, but recovered to pick up a point.

Somerset 0, Avon 10

Wiltshire II 1, Glamorgan 9

CLEVELAND VIEW

by ALAN RANSOME

ON THE INCREASE

Following the World Championships held in Birmingham last April and the accompanying thirty-three hours of television coverage, interest in table tennis in Cleveland is up by at least ten per cent this season.

All four leagues in the County, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool and Ormesby report an increase in team membership, in fact the Middlesbrough and Hartlepool leagues have both started an extra division. The various coaching schemes dotted around the county are flourishing with attendances and applications well up on last year. But the biggest increase seems to be in the number of players wishing to play in tournaments, both within the county and to travel afar. The Doyen Cleveland Closed received a record entry this year and indications are that the Yuills Hartlepool tournament in November will do likewise.

The County Association itself is in the process of arranging a number of trips in a 50-seater bus to tournaments around the North of England and it would appear that every seat will be sold well in advance.

Another gratifying factor is that not all the interest is coming from one area. In particular, Hartlepool which was comparatively inactive is now sending just as many players to these events as other more established areas in the County.