

**WHITBREAD TABLE
TENNIS NATIONALS
TOURNAMENT —**

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EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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Mr. Personality-That's Derek



Photo by courtesy of the Stockport Express

T.T. equipment — best b(u)y

Jaques

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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BON VOYAGE

Although not everyone would have subscribed to the selection, it would be churlish not to wish England's team all possible success in the forthcoming 35th World Championships in Pyongyang, North Korea.

One has only to cast back twelve months when the same English male quartet finished runners-up to Hungary in the team championships in the 11th European Championships in Duisburg.

That feat alone should have guaranteed an unchanged side and doubtless the members of the National Selection Committee took this into consideration when deliberating over their selections.

One can express sympathy for Linda Howard but at the time the team was selected the Surrey girl's form was far removed from what we know she is capable of and has since proved.

Perhaps this may result in Linda winning the 5th Commonwealth Championships title in Edinburgh although Carole Knight will be equally anxious to do well, for she too, like Miss Howard, has tasted life in the higher competitive sphere.

But let's face it England, at the present time, possesses only two world-class players in the persons of Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley.

If individual success is to be achieved then one can really only look to these two. But that is not to say the others might surprise us and the hope is that they will. Good luck and bon voyage to one and all.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR



THE ROAD TO PYONGYANG

Players from some 59 countries will contest the men's team championship for the Swaythling Cup in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang from April 26/30 and only four less (54) will have representation in the counterpart women's event for the Marcel Corbillon Cup, both trophies being held by the People's Republic of China. In Birmingham 56 men's teams and 48 women's competed.

From Wednesday, May 2, until Sunday, May 6, the battles for the five individual events will be fought with the men's singles title, undefended by Japan's Mitsuru Kohno, claiming the greatest attention worldwide. But, in going for her third consecutive title in the women's singles, the host nation's Pak Yung Sun, will doubtless have the greatest nationalistic following. And what a feat it would be if she were to bring it off in her own country.

In Birmingham, it will be recalled, England, in the men's team event, finished 10th, two places in front of their finishing position in Calcutta and the women dropped two places from India in finishing 7th at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre in 1977.

Both teams are, of course, still in the first category which, for the men in Pyongyang, has been increased from 16 teams to 18, the latter number still applying to the women, as in Birmingham.

Newcomers in the men's first category are Hong Kong and the United States, spearheaded by the Seemiller brothers, both countries on promotion, plus North Korea who were not represented at Birmingham, and Denmark who last finished in 15th position and might otherwise have joined Indonesia in a drop to the second category.

On the distaff side, the newcomers to the top category are the Netherlands, with their up-and-coming star, Bettine Vriesekoop, and the United States, both on promotion, taking over from demotees Belgium and Indonesia who finished 17th and 18th in Birmingham.

Categories in Pyongyang (previous positions in brackets) are:-

MEN

CATEGORY ONE

Group A	Group B
CHINA (1)	Japan (2)
Hungary (4)	Sweden (3)
Federal Germany (5)	Czechoslovakia (6)
Yugoslavia (8)	U.S.S.R. (7)
France (9)	England (10)
Poland (12)	Korea R (11)
Rumania (13)	Australia (14)
U.S.A. (18)	Hong Kong (17)
Korea DPR (—)	Denmark (15)

CATEGORY TWO

Group A	Group B
Indonesia (16)	Bulgaria (19)
India (21)	Italy (20)
Greece (22)	Canada (23)
Netherlands (25)	Austria (24)
Israel (26)	Luxembourg (27)
Egypt (29)	Scotland (28)
Switzerland (30)	Finland (35)
Malaysia (33)	Norway (36)

CATEGORY THREE

Group A	Group B
Singapore (34)	New Zealand (37)
Palastine (54)	Cyprus (53)
Nigeria	Vietnam
Iraq	Macao
Peru	Togo
Philippines	Syria
Sudan	
Group C	Group D
Wales (39)	Spain (41)
Mexico	Trinidad & Tobago (45)
Pakistan	Cuba
Ghana	Thailand
Mongolia	Kenya
Uganda	Jordan

WOMEN

CATEGORY ONE

Group A	Group B
CHINA (1)	Korea R (2)
Japan (4)	Korea DPR (3)
Hungary (5)	U.S.S.R. (6)
Hong Kong (8)	England (7)
Sweden (9)	Czechoslovakia (10)
France (12)	Federal Germany (11)
Rumania (16)	Yugoslavia (14)
Netherlands (19)	Bulgaria (15)
	U.S.A. (20)

CATEGORY TWO

Group A	Group B
Belgium (17)	Indonesia (18)
Malaysia (22)	Luxembourg (21)
India (23)	Austria (24)
New Zealand (26)	Canada (25)
Australia (27)	Switzerland (28)
Greece (30)	Singapore (29)
Denmark (33)	Ireland (34)
Spain (37)	Finland (35)

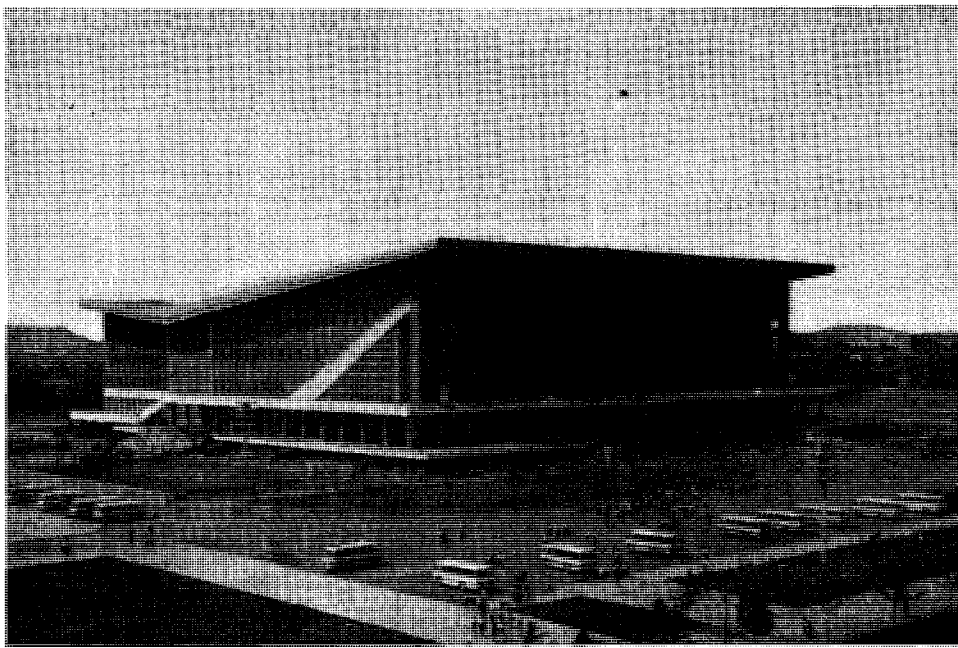
CATEGORY THREE

Group A	Group B
Trinidad & Tobago (39)	Italy (41)
Vietnam	Egypt (45)
Ghana	Nigeria
Thailand	Cuba
Mexico	Macao
Peru	Kenya
Iraq	Philippines
Colombia	Mongolia
Syria	Jordan
Malta	Uganda

As in the Norwich Union International Championships in Brighton, China's Guo Yuehua (Kuo Yao-hua) and Liang Geliang (Liang Ke-liang) occupy the top seeded positions in the men's singles draw with England's Desmond Douglas, seeded No. 8, being located in the same quarter as Liang Geliang, and in the same eighth as Lu Qiwei (Lu Chi-wei).

Nicky Jarvis meets a qualifier but is not far removed from Milan Orlovski, the No. 7 seed, with perhaps a more immediate meeting with Danny Seemiller of the United States. Paul Day with a first round meeting with D. L'Homme of Belgium could have his path barred by Jacques Secretin of France not to mention either H. Goto of Japan or Yun Chol of North Korea.

John Hilton, England's fourth male representative, must fight his way out of a qualifying group of six before coming perilously near Tibor Klampar of Hungary.



THE PYONGYANG GYMNASIUM, VENUE OF THE 35th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

In the women's singles Jill Hammersley, seeded No. 6, has a first round engagement with Kim Chang Ai of North Korea with a likely meeting with China's Huang Xiping (Huang Hsi-ping) in the next round should she succeed. In the same quarter Jill will have Ge Xinai (Ke Hsin-ai) of China also to contend with if she is to make the semis and a probable meeting with Pak Yung Sun, the holder, to whom she lost in Calcutta but only over five games.

Karen Witt will have to be on top form if she is to get past the first hurdle in the person of Yugoslavia's Erzebet Palatinus and then there is Yang Ying of China to contend with!

Like Hilton, Anita Stevenson has first to qualify, from a group of nine, and then a meeting with Miss Vriesekoop of Holland!

In the men's doubles, Douglas and Jarvis have been drawn to meet Camille Putz and Andre Hartmann of Luxembourg in a quarter in which Istvan Jonyer and Klampar of Hungary, and Jochen Leiss and Peter Stellwag of Federal Germany are the seeds. Hilton and Day have Engelbert Hucing (GFR) and Igor Solopov (USSR) as first round opponents, the seeds in their quarter being Orlovski and Gabor Gergely and Li Zhenshi and Wang Huiyuan of China.

Jill and Karen, in the women's doubles, have a first round meeting with qualifiers with Judit Magos and Gabriella Szabo of Hungary lying in wait. Anita has been paired with Monika Kneip-Stumpe of Federal Germany and they will have to qualify to meet Ranguelova and Guerguelcheva of Bulgaria.

Nicky and Anita in the mixed have been drawn to play Grubba and Nowacka of Poland in the top half whilst in the bottom half Hilton and Jill meet qualifiers, their on-going opponents being likely to be Stellan Bengtsson and Eva Stromvall of Sweden.

In the qualifying groups, Des and Karen should be a safe bet to come through but Paul, paired with Karen Senior of Ireland, will have it harder with the likes of Sweden's Lars Franklin and Marie-France Germinat of Belgium to contend with.

The singles draws are:-

35th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS DRAW
MEN'S SINGLES

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
GUO YUEHUA (CHN)	LI ZHENSHI (CHN)
Bye	Bye
P. Renverse (FRA)	G. Ezz (EGY)
Z. Bohm (RUM)	Q8
U. Carlsson (SWE)	B. van der Helm (NET)
Q1	Q9
M. Autio (FIN)	S. Knapp (AUS)
J. Leiss (GFR)	E. Hucing (GFR)
T. Kreis (HUN)	Yun Chol (PRK)
Li Kuang Tsu (HGK)	H. Goto (JAP)

Q2	D. L'homme (BEL)
E. Amplatz (AUS)	P. Day (ENG)
Q3	P. Rud (DEN)
Q4	Q10
Bye	Bye
D. SURBEK (YUG)	J. SECRETIN (FRA)
N. TAKASHIMA (JAP)	SHI ZHIHAO (CHN)
Bye	Bye
Q5	Q11
Wang Huiyuan (CHN)	R. Hatem (FRA)
Q6	Q12
Kim Wan (KRR)	Q13
E. Wuisan (INS)	Z. Popisil (CZE)
J. Takacs (HUN)	H. Abe (JAP)
D. Seemiller (USA)	U. Thorsell (SWE)
Hong Chol (PRK)	A. Stipancic (YUG)
N. Jarvis (ENG)	A. Grubba (POL)
Q7	V. Shenchenko (USS)
R. Yule (SCO)	S. Bosi (ITA)
K. Priftis (GRE)	Q14
Bye	Bye
M. ORLOWSKI (CZE)	G. GERGELY (HUN)
3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
T. KLAMPAR (HUN)	D. DOUGLAS (ENG)
Bye	Bye
Q15	D. Polak (ISR)
Q16	Q23
Q17	Z. Kriston (HUN)
H. J. Nolten (GFR)	Q24
I. Stoianov (BUL)	T. Johnson (NOR)
P. Birocheau (FRA)	C. Martin (FRA)

J. Pansky (CZE)	J. Dvoracek (CZE)
S. Dobosi (RUM)	Kim Chang Am (PRK)
Vong Iu Veng (HKG)	L. Kucharski (POL)
K. Sakamoto (JAP)	Q25
Lu Yaohua (CHN)	M. Dua (IND)
Q18	C. Pedersen (DEN)
Bye	Bye
S. BENGTSSON (SWE)	LU QIWEI (CHN)
P. STELLWAG (GFR)	I. JONYER (HUN)
Bye	Bye
E. Boggan (USA)	L. Franklin (SWE)
Q19	Q26
P. Pinkewich (AUS)	Q27
Q20	Q28
Q21	J. Ezz (CZE)
S. Ono (JAP)	M. Maehara (JAP)
Cho Yong Ho (PRK)	Z. Kalinic (YUG)
T. Busin (SWI)	R. Wosik (GFR)
E. Caetano (CAN)	R. Seemiller (USA)
Q22	Q29
Z. Kosanovic (YUG)	Yoo Si Heung (KRR)
C. Putz (LUX)	I. Solopov (USS)
Bye	Bye
HUANG LIANG (CHN)	LIANG GELIANG (CHN)

WOMEN'S SINGLES

1st Half	2nd Half
PAK YUNG SUN (PRK)	ZHANG DEYING (CHN)
L. Wibisono (INS)	Q8
D. Dubinova (CZE)	M. Lindblad (SWE)
M. Domonkos (CAN)	L. Mihut (RUM)
Wei Lijie (CHN)	M-F. Germinat (BEL)
Q1	E. Urban (HUN)
D. Fetter (AUT)	Q9
M. Alexandru (RUM)	K. Kawahigashi (JAP)
Z. Olah (HUN)	Pak Yong Ok (PRK)
J. Dom (LUX)	Q10
Q2	B. Vriesekoop (NET)
A. Ranguelova (BUL)	Q11
Q3	E. Palatinus (YUG)
Lee Ki Won (KRR)	K. Witt (ENG)
In Sook Bhushan (USA)	V. Popova (USS)
TONG LING (CHN)	YANG YING (CHN)
J. HAMMERSLEY (ENG)	J. MAGOS (HUN)
Kim Chang Ai (PRK)	Q12
Q4	Cao Yanhua (CHN)
Huang Xiping (CHN)	Q13
Q5	B. Batinic (YUG)
J. Szatko (POL)	Tan Sok Hong (MAA)
S. Sailaja (IND)	C. Bergeret (FRA)
G. Szabo (HUN)	Li Song Suk (PRK)
A-C. Hellman (SWE)	I. Uhlíkova (CZE)
L. Bakshutova (USS)	Chang Siu Ying (HGK)
B. Silhanova (CZE)	E. Ferenczi (RUM)
Q6	U. Hirschmuller (GFR)
G. Perkucin (YUG)	Q14
K. Sugaya (JAP)	Q15
Q7	E. Stromvall (SWE)
GE XINAI (CHN)	ZHANG LI (CHN)



The People's Palace of Culture, Pyongyang.



A gymnastic display inside the Pyongyang Gymnasium.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

CZECHO CHAMPIONS, ENGLAND THIRD

Czechoslovakia, in maintaining their unbeaten record, duly won the Super Division championship title of the European League when, in Komarno on March 8 they defeated Yugoslavia 5-2. The Czechs take over from France and bridged a gap of six years since last they won the title back in season 1971/72.

Both Milan Orlowski and Josef Dvoracek won both their singles in Komarno with Ilona Uhlíkova also successful against Erzebet Palatinus.

Individual scores:-

M. Orlowski bt Z. Kosanovic 16, 22;
 J. Dvoracek bt Z. Kalinic 12, 14;
 I. Uhlíkova bt E. Palatinus 17, 16;
 Orlowski/J. Pansky lost to Kalinic/Kosanovic -14, -13;
 Orlowski/Uhlíkova lost to Kosanovic/Palatinus -20, -19;
 Orlowski bt Kalinic 19, -16, 14;
 Dvoracek bt Kosanovic -20, 19, 18.

As reported elsewhere England finished off their campaign with a resounding 6-1 victory over the Soviet Union at Southend which placed them third in the final reckoning — their best-ever finishing position in the top flight. It was also a victory that brought relegation for the Russians who, in the halcyon days of Gomozkov and Zoya Rudnova, thrice won the championship, in seasons 1967/68, 68/69 and 72/73.

Hungary, the runners-up this season, concluded their fixtures beating Sweden, in Borlange, 5-2 with Tibor Klampar figuring in three wins. Stellan Bengtsson, with a victory over Tibor Kreis, and Ann-Christin Hellman, who beat Gabriella Szabo, scored for the home side.

Scores:-
 U. Carlsson lost to T. Krisz -13, 8, -19;
 S. Bengtsson lost to T. Klampar -13, -15;
 A-C. Hellman bt G. Szabo -14, 13, 15;
 Bengtsson/Carlsson lost to G. Gergely/Klampar -18, -19;
 Bengtsson/E. Stromvall lost to Gergely/Szabo -16, -11;
 Carlsson lost to Klampar -14, -13;
 Bengtsson bt Kriesz 15, -19, 18.

Jochen Leiss was the star man for Federal Germany in their meeting with former champions, France, in Valence for not only did he beat Jacques Secretin and Christian Martin but also shared in a doubles success with Peter Stellwag.

It was only after the Germans had taken a 4-0 lead that France came into the picture when their world mixed doubles champions, Secretin and Claude Bergeret, beat Stellwag and Ursula Hirschmuller. Their only other success came in the last set of the evening when Secretin beat Engelbert Hugging. Scores:-

C. Martin lost to E. Hugging 17, -12, -19;
 J. Secretin lost to J. Leiss -16, 17, -13;
 C. Bergeret lost to U. Hirschmuller -9, -12;
 P. Birocheau/Secretin lost to Leiss/P. Stellwag -25, -14;
 Secretin/Bergeret bt Stellwag/Hirschmuller 14, -19, 14;
 Martin lost to Leiss -18, -21;
 Secretin bt Hugging 20, 20.

Poland, in beating the Netherlands 6-1 in Huizen on Mar. 8, championed Division 1 without loss and, next season, will replace the Soviet Union in the Super Division. Brigitte Kooter of the Avanti club was the only Dutch winner beating Malgorzata Urbanska. Scores:-
 B. v.d. Helm lost to A. Grubba -18, -15;
 H. Gootzen lost to S. Fraczyk -15, -16;
 B. Kooter bt M. Urbanska 12, 14;
 v.d. Helm/N. v. Slobbe lost to Grubba/R. Zochanski -5, -17;
 Gootzen/Kooter lost to Zochanski/Urbanska -18, -8;
 v.d. Helm lost to Fraczyk -22, -26;
 Gootzen lost to Grubba -17, -16.

Ireland, as reported by Willie Walsh in his Irish Notes, took their departure from this division when beaten 6-1 in Belfast by Bulgaria, the runners-up. Ireland will be replaced by Turkey next season.

In Langenlois, Austria had a fine 4-3 win over Italy with Massimo Constantini doing his best in the absence of Stefano Bosi for the Italians who had Paolo Cangelosi making his debut.

Scores (note the women's singles):-
 E. Amplatz bt P. Cangelosi 15, 17;
 F. Waldhausl lost to M. Constantini 13, -19, -17;
 B. Gropper bt S. Milic 26, -30, 11;
 Amplatz/G. Muller bt Constantini/Cangelosi 19, -19, 12;
 Amplatz/Gropper lost to Constantini/Milic -20, 16, -17;
 Amplatz lost to Constantini -19, -20;
 Waldhausl bt Cangelosi 19, 15.

Luxembourg, in Remlich, also did well to beat Greece 5-2 with Camille Putz figuring in three of the home wins. Scores:-
 C. Putz bt K. Priftis 13, 18;
 G. Stebens bt N. Kostopoulos 14, 6;
 C. Risch bt D. Joannidou 18, 20;
 A. Hartmann/Putz lost to Mandilas/Priftis -21, 16, -17;
 Putz/Risch bt Priftis/Joannidou 20, 12;
 Putz bt Kostopoulos 14, 15;
 Stebens lost to Priftis 17, -21, -16.

Scotland are not at all happy about their demotion from Division 2 with four teams — Denmark, Wales, Norway and Switzerland — being moved up from Division 3 making a complement of eight. The Scots are maintaining there should be some kind of play-off.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE — FINAL TABLES

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Czechoslovakia	7	7	0	33	16	7
Hungary	7	6	1	35	14	6
England	7	4	3	24	25	4
Federal Germany	7	3	4	27	22	3
France	7	3	4	22	27	3
Sweden	7	2	5	21	28	2
Yugoslavia	7	2	5	21	28	2
Soviet Union	7	1	6	13	36	1

DIVISION ONE

Poland	7	7	0	44	5	7
Bulgaria	7	5	2	33	16	5
Italy	7	4	3	23	26	4
Austria	7	3	4	24	25	3
Netherlands	7	3	4	20	29	3
Luxembourg	7	3	4	19	30	3
Greece	7	2	5	18	31	2
Ireland	7	1	6	15	34	1

DIVISION TWO

Turkey	4	4	0	21	7	4
Finland	4	3	1	16	12	3
Belgium	4	2	2	13	15	2
Spain	4	1	3	11	17	1
Scotland	4	0	4	9	19	0

DIVISION THREE

Denmark	8	8	0	48	8	8
Wales	8	7	1	49	7	7
Norway	8	6	2	43	13	6
Switzerland	8	5	3	41	15	5
Portugal	8	4	4	25	31	4
Guernsey	8	3	5	16	40	3
Jersey	8	2	6	16	40	2
Iceland	8	1	7	11	45	1
Malta	8	0	8	3	53	0

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Derek Schofield was named as Sports Personality of the Year at the Stockport Sports Council annual dinner at the Deanwater in February. Joe Mercer, O.B.E., was the other glittering star for a brilliant speech which brought a standing ovation and a unanimous claim for "More!"

Indeed, it is difficult to separate the two for the main honours of a highly successful and thoroughly enjoyable evening which received a generous acclaim as the best of the Sports Council dinners to date.

For these two top-class stars in their respective fields outshone a fully representative assembly of 200 people supporting their respective sports and a number of civic dignitaries.

For Derek Schofield, the outstanding table tennis player in Stockport for a number of years, it was a personal triumph at the third nomination. And, as our Table Tennis correspondent, Dave Harrop said "The trophy couldn't have gone to a nicer chap!" A statement with which we all heartily agree.

For Derek has been a model sportsman; a tremendous competitive opponent, but a gracious winner and an equally gracious loser. He is also ever-ready to pass on his extensive knowledge and expertise to any of the younger generation who may seek assistance.

The presentation was made by B.B.C. Commentator Eddie Waring and there was tremendous applause when Derek's name was called out . . . although as Peter Howarth, Sports Council Secretary, remarked he wasn't at all sure that the nomination shouldn't have gone to Derek's wife, Doreen.

So it was third time lucky for this immensely talented and popular table tennis player as he was in the last six on the two previous occasions the award was made. Gleelessly accepting the trophy Derek said he was sorry he hadn't prepared a speech. "I didn't honestly think I'd win", he said, "to be truthful I thought I had a bit of a chance the first time and I had prepared a little speech then, but I haven't done so this time.

"But I'm delighted. Although I have won hundreds of trophies throughout the years, none of them will mean as much to me as will the possession of this trophy for the next twelve months".

Pictured on the front page (from l to r) are:- Peter Howarth, Doreen and Derek Schofield, Eddie Waring, Joe Mercer and Miss Lyn Schofield.

Story and Picture by courtesy of the Stockport Express.

GLOBAL OPEN TOURNAMENT

INTO ORBIT

by JOHN WOODFORD

Global Table Tennis climbed into orbit at Greenwich Baths on March 3/4 with as much style as possible at the venue which clearly has its limitations. Whether Barry Meisel's team will in due course attain the much higher objectives of world promotion remains to be seen. I can only report the event as I saw, trying to be as unbiased as possible and not knowing which hat to wear.

To receive entries from the top twenty men was a definite achievement, although there were several abstentions on the day, it was crystal-clear that the players enjoyed themselves fighting for the balance of the prize money, after Desmond Douglas had taken his £1,000 and Jill Hammersley secured her £310 for winning the A and B events.

The conditions were good for the players with Stiga tables (six on the Saturday and five on the Sunday), plenty of light etc. There was a shortage of light-blue blazered umpires at times. Had it been possible to provide two officials for the Open event for each game, the presence of scoring machines would have brought the scene close to, say, the English championships.

On the control there were enough experienced hands available, Mike Ellis, Lou Hoffman and Mike Johns to make sure that the events ran smoothly. At 4 p.m. on Sunday it was pointed out to me that things were right on time.

The spectators seemed to enjoy themselves, there were about 250 at the finals session that included a table tennis cabaret and even Bunny girls! The crowd enjoyed all of the ballyhoo of the cabaret which I am told, runs successfully in parts of the north.

Press men of course, with the inevitable deadlines to meet, will never really appreciate tom-

foolery, professional though most of it was, especially the efforts of Brian Kean, whilst waiting for the serious business to start.

Global's biggest victory came the morning after the finals when the "Daily Mail" carried Jill Hammersley's picture on the front page and a feature story with the sort of errors that are bound to occur when written by a journalist not familiar with the table tennis world. However, the novelty, of a woman beating 14 men in top class table tennis appealed to the media. Regrettably of course, and with respect to the rest of the leading England players, Jill is the only player who can live with the men.

There was no abundance of shocks at Greenwich, unless the fourteen men who fell to the Hammersley defences can be counted in that vein. Paul Day was a John Hilton victim whilst Douggie Johnson, the surprise finalist at Woking fell in Round 2 of the Open to Simon Heaps.

Douglas made the easiest £1,000 of his career. In the final Nicky Jarvis made some brave efforts especially in the second game, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that apart from the odd shock result as when Thorsell beat the "magic touch" at Cardiff, there are only three men in Europe and none in England, who are in the same class as the Birmingham professional — they are of course, Klampar, Gergely and Surbek.

THE TIMES THEY ARE-A-CHANGING

by KEN BAKER

At last a tournament with big prize money and plenty of razzamataz actually got off the ground when the Global Table Tennis Promotions National Tournament took place recently at Greenwich.

LARGEST PRIZE MONEY EVER

The old idea of graded events was given a new meaning by the awarding of £2,195, being the largest ever prize money for a tournament. There were only 3 events — all singles. The "Open" event was open to all players of all standards — the "A Grade" barred all England ranked players — the "B Grade" barred players of County First Team standard and above. All 3 events were open to women, regardless of their standard.

HUGE SUCCESS

Above all else the tournament proved to be a huge success and should by now have silenced those pessimistic critics that were around before

it all got under way. The so-called "amateurs" trying to run a tournament on 6 tables" did actually that. What is more, at no time was the tournament ever running more than a mere 6 minutes behind schedule — not bad for "amateurs".

Conditions, according to comments from the players, were excellent — waiting between games minimised and no complaints about the Stiga tables and Nittaku balls.

REALISTIC ENTRY FEES

Global (Barry Meisel) and G.P.D. Freight Services Ltd. (Danny Kinnard) combined forces and took the bull by the horns by making the entry fees realistic in today's inflation-hit climate with the cost for all three events being £9.

Five foreign entries were refused so as to keep it very much a National event, and the overall entry of 140 players was most gratifying. If entries were not over-high in quantity then at least the quality was not in doubt — all 20 of the top 20 men, plus our number one lady — Jill Hammersley, were drawn to Greenwich by the £1,000 prize money for the "Open" event.

BLOW FOR WOMENS LIB

It could be said that a blow was struck for the Womens Lib cause since Jill walked off with both the 'B' event (which was not altogether surprising) AND the 'A' event which was quite amazing. She was simply magnificent and looked virtually unstoppable until she met Desmond Douglas and lost comfortably in the "Open". The media quickly picked this up and Jill made front-page news in the next mornings Daily Mail.

Before Desmond, the nearest she came to actually losing was to veteran rubber bat player Lionel Koutikoff, whom she beat only by a whisker at 18 in the third. Doubtless Lionel will claim he weakened Jill to allow Desmond to finish the job.

Still, with a cool £300 for her weekend's efforts Jill went away quite happily. Desmond took the big £1,000 prize with consummate ease beating Nicky Jarvis in the "Open" final. So poor Nicky only had £250 to console him — ah shame!

TABLE TOPPERS AND BUNNY GIRLS

As so often happens, the actual finals were somewhat disappointing — all played over best of 5 — all won in straight games with Jill beating Ian Collins in the 'B' and Brian Kean in the 'A' events respectively. Desmond looked lightning fast against Nicky, who is no slouch either.

However, the events preceding the finals were anything but disappointing, and can only be described as a sheer joy.

A cabaret act, the "Table Toppers" was provided to entertain the 600 strong audience and entertain they did! The act included John Hilton, Phil Bowen and the unbelievable Brian Kean, who combined playing with a frying pan with some quickfire impressions of Benny Hill, Harold Wilson, Margaret Thatcher and Columbo.

Come to think of it, the frying pan might have come in handy when he played Jill. Hilarious is the word that springs to mind to describe the antics of the Table Toppers, who were nobly assisted by two gorgeous Bunny Girls, whose lack of table tennis prowess did not somehow seem to matter at all.

For sheer style the tournament couldn't be faulted — even the programme was in full colour.

WHAT NEXT?

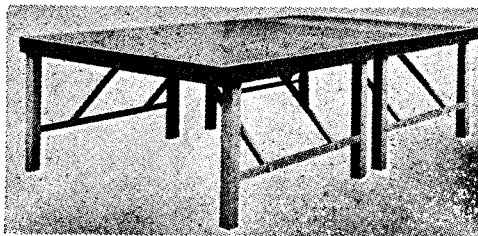
Who knows? Already some 10 separate concerns have expressed an interest in providing substantial sponsorship. Global intend to produce bigger and better events and some far-reaching groundwork has already been laid. The next scheduled event takes place in the City of London from August 31st to September 2nd.

The money is around — it just needs people with drive and a little flair to go out and get it.

THANKS

Global would like to thank all their helpers — in particular Barry's secretary Ruth Miller, Mike Johns, Lou Hoffman, Jim Pemberton, Marian Ellerman and perhaps most of all Geoff Owens and Mike Ellis whose expertise in scheduling and running the control table ensured the tournament's smooth running.

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KERRY PACKER

Naturally the media have pounced on the very newsworthy "Kerry Packer" theme but Global would prefer to be compared, if comparisons must be made, to Jack Kramer and what he did for lawn tennis.

Global have no wish to alienate the E.T.T.A. and would indeed very much prefer to have the blessing of the National body with all future plans. They sincerely hope that a format can be worked out where both sides can quickly and decisively agree to get on with the job of at last getting some real promotional effort into our sport — not next year — not even next month — but NOW! — For in the words of Bob Dylan's famous song:—"Your old road is rapidly ageing, so get out of the new one if you can't lend a hand, for the times they are-a-changing".

OPEN SINGLES

Quarter-finals:

J. Hilton bt P. Day 16, 19;
N. Jarvis bt D. Constance 10, 19;
D. Douglas bt C. Wilson 7, 6;
J. Walker bt K. Jackson 20, -15, 18.

Semi-finals:

Jarvis bt Hilton 12, -17, 8;
Douglas bt Walker 14, 15.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt N. Jarvis 12, 16, 12.

'A' SINGLES

Quarter-finals:

D. Wells bt S. Heaps 24, 14;
Mrs. J. Hammersley bt I. Robertson 17, 17;
B. Keane bt G. Blomfield 7, 13;
M. Johns bt J. Kennedy -17, 14, 19.

Semi-finals:

Mrs. Hammersley bt Wells 21, -17, 16;
Kean bt Johns 15, -14, 15.

Final:

Mrs. HAMMERSLEY bt Kean 18, 18, 7.

'B' SINGLES

Quarter-finals:

Mrs. Hammersley bt T. Fujioka 12, -19, 14;
J. Payne bt T. Campbell 11, 20;
I. Collins bt R. Tilling -11, 15, 14;
B. Mitchell bt G. Blomfield -20, 18, 13.

Semi-finals:

Mrs. Hammersley bt Payne 18, 13;
Collins bt Mitchell 14, 21.

Final:

Mrs. HAMMERSLEY bt Collins 14, 9, 5.

AND A BIRD'S EYE VIEW from EILEEN KOUTIKOFF

The promoters of the first Global Tournament, Barry Meisel and Danny Kinnard ably assisted by Ruth Miller should be delighted with the immense approval given them by players, spectators and the National media on their first professional competition.

It really was a most spectacular event, which had everything, good Table Tennis, wonderful entertainment, glamour, precision organisation and most important of all atmosphere.

The enthusiasm of the 600 spectators was in evidence right to the end.

In the Open event the scintillating Desmond Douglas wooed the crowd with his brilliance and they responded, showing their overriding approval when he won the main event, beating Nicky Jarvis.

Jill had the crowd on their feet with adoration when she won not only the 'A', beating Brian Kean, but also the 'B' event beating Kent's Ian Collins and considering all Jill's opponents were men she has made her superb talent unquestionable.

Ian must be congratulated on reaching the final, knocking out much higher ranked players in the process. However in the final, Ian, admitted to me before he went on the table, that he was completely overwhelmed by the occasion. Ian was visibly very nervous in playing a player of Jill's calibre.

The only player that gave Jill any trouble at all (with the exception of Douglas), was Kent's Lionel Koutikoff, in the first round of the 'Open'. Jill lost the first game to the Kent Veteran -20. Then she won the second. The third game had the press and crowd spellbound when the score

reached 16-all in the decider. However, Jill did manage to overcome the troublesome rubber bat player winning the game -18.

Jill then trounced her second round opponent Watson from Surrey. Then history was made when the Men's England No. 1 met the Ladies' England No. 1 in competition, predictably Desmond knocked out England's first lady.

It is fair to say Douglas cruised through his matches with ease and at no point was he stretched, the magic this man projects is outstanding, he is undoubtedly a player with a special talent but it's also a visual talent. Everyone likes to see the underdog win, except when he's playing Douglas! The ovation the spectators and players gave him was bordering on riotous.

John Dabin lost in the first round to Ian Horsham, which was not only disappointing but surprising, considering John beat him comfortably the day previous in the Bromley Invitation Tournament.

The Cabaret was very well received, so much so it was allowed to overrun an extra 15 minutes. 'The Table Toppers' are a professional act made up of International T.T. players, the star of which for my money were the antics of Brian Kean. The Mini mixed doubles included the London Playboy Club Bunnies, who were in attendance, proved popular, their partners being England's John Hilton and Phil Bowen. The score was of little importance, the audience were more amused by the girls tails falling off!!

The presentations were of course the highlight of the evening, after a letter was read out from HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN wishing the tournament well, the Mayor of Greenwich presented Douglas with his prize of £1,000 and the beautiful trophy was presented to him by an even more beautiful bunny girl. West Ham's striker Bryan (Pop) Robson was on hand to present Jill with her cheque for £300 for her two events and Jill's old friend and ex-International T.T. player Maureen (Heppell) Robson handed her the trophy.

The whole event was a roaring success and Barry managed to pull off the biggest shot in the arm Table Tennis has had in some time, with a little help from his friends, who were Geoff Owen, Mike Ellis, Mike Johns, Ken Baker and Marion Ellerman, who ran her legs off all day. Barry affectionately refers to her as his 'Chief Goffer' (Goffer the coffee, Goffer the lunches etc.), but along with Ruth, Marion is one of Barry's three 'Angels' (no prizes for guessing the third!).

The tournament referee was Lou Hoffman who alongside the 8 E.T.T.A. official umpires was delighted to report the whole event was completely without incident. Where were you Clive?!

I was fortunate enough to have a chat with Desmond Douglas at the end of the evening and he willingly gave me his opinion of the event, which I believe was echoed by Jill Hammersley and the majority of the players, so I'll give the last word to Desmond Douglas, and I quote, "This was the best organised tournament I've played in — and it was fun!!" You said it Des!

YORKSHIRE 2 star OPEN

by Geoff Scruton

HILTON "CHAMPION"

"Champion" is a favourite word much used in Yorkshire, and Lancashire's John Hilton proved a worthy and favourable champion at the Richard Dunn Centre, Bradford on Mar. 3.

True also to say that he was THE class player in a field deprived of the top players by the Junior Ranking Tournament and the Global but nevertheless he had to fight his way through the best of Yorks, Lancs and Cheshire before stepping up to receive from "Miss A.T.V." Michelle Hobson, the winner's prize.

The No. 2 seed Tony Clayton lost in the quarters to Derek Schofield. Kevin Beadsley had a good run but lost to Schofield in the semis.

The only seeds who failed to reach their allotted places were Norman Lovie of Scotland beaten by Derrick Marples, and Tony Bottomley who lost to Keith Dodd of York.

Brian Johns had a good win over Malcolm Green while Mark Hankey was beating John McNe.

The popularity of Class 2 Singles was again highlighted by an entry of 163, and produced some tremendous battles. Clem Lo reached the final beating on route Schofield, Green and Mick Stephenson. Steve Mills, who Lo lost to in the final had wins over D. Roberts, M. Sheader and Maurice Billington, and in fact came through from the preliminary round to win.

Melody Ludi had to fight hard to beat Cheryl Buttery in the women's final being a game down and losing 14-16 in the second.

Mat Sheader had a good day and finished up winning the Veterans' from Schofield.

A long day at this event which finished at 10 p.m. with over 400 sets played. Thanks are due to the hard working Yorks Committee of Harry Flinton, Frank Briggs, Rea Balmford, David Atkinson, Ernie Holstead, Owen Atkinson and wife Sheila, Ron and Evelyn Hart, Umpires George Turton, Alan Gardner, John Holmes, Bill Moran, not forgetting Organiser Richard Scruton and the very helpful staff of the Centre.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Hilton (La) bt S. Mills (Y) 16, 18;
B. Johns (Ch) bt M. Hankey (Ch) 16, -18, 17;
K. Beadsley (Y) bt N. R. Marples (Dy) 14, 12;
D. Schofield (Ch) bt L. A. Clayton (Y) -19, 14, 10.

Semi-finals:

Hilton bt Johns 15, 16;
Schofield bt Beadsley 12, 9.

Final:

HILTON bt Schofield 13, 16.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Ludi (Y) bt H. Shields (Y) 15, -18, 9;
C. Buttery (Li) bt J. Todd (Y) 14, 20.

Final:

LUDI bt Buttery -16, 18, 10.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hilton/Hankey bt Beadsley/K. Guy (Y) 18, 13;
A. Bottomley/C. Lo (Y) bt R. Shutt/A. Hill (Y) 14, 16.

Final:

HILTON/HANKEY bt Bottomley/Lo 16, -13, 12.

Women's Doubles Final:

LUDI/BUTTERY bt Shields/J. McLean (Y) -18, 8, 17.

Veteran Singles Final:

M. SHEADER (L) bt Schofield 13, 19.

Class 2 Mixed Singles Semi-finals:

Lo bt M. Stephenson (Y) 15, 16;
Mills bt M. Billington (Dy) 16, -18, 12.

Final:

MILLS bt C. Lo 11, 16.

PING COMMENTARY

by JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"

WHITER SHADE OF PALE IN 1978?

I wonder if a few of the members of the National Council felt the blood drain from their cheeks when it was announced on January 27th in London that the E.T.T.A. had applied to the I.T.T.F. for the option of running the world championships in 1987?

It was also interesting to note that the Sports Council need a gap of a decade before it could brace itself for the impact. I wonder how many other organisations will need?

Presumably, the thinking is that a small army of heroes and heroines who will never forget Birmingham 1977, might with the experience gained be willing to do it all again!

No doubt, there are some who will and some who will decline and those places will be taken by younger enthusiasts looking for a challenge.

Bearing in mind the financial outcome in 1977, I cannot see any possibility of a Birmingham venue, but I may be wrong.

ON THE COACHING FRONT

by DONALD PARKER

E.T.T.A. National Coach North

A PEAK PERFORMANCE TONIGHT

Last month's article examined the role of the coach and the various areas he should be concentrating on at different stages in order to produce technical improvement and a peak performance. The role of a non-playing captain is slightly different in that his job is to make sure his players play well, realise their full potential, on the night.

Indeed this was the subject of an article I was asked to write in the programme of the European League match between England and Federal Germany. Under the heading "A Peak Performance Tonight" it read:-

"It goes without saying that with there being so much at stake this evening, both teams will be hoping to do well. Over the last few years most of these players have played each other several times and have both beaten and lost to each other. With this being the case it is a reasonable theory to assume that it is not necessarily the best player who will win this evening but the best prepared player.

An individual may have a high skill level and yet lose to a player with a lower skill level who performs well. A player producing his optimum performance, playing at his best, is said to be 'peaking'. One of the classical examples in recent sporting history were the achievements of Lasse Virien in the last Olympics. When it really mattered Virien was able to produce his best performance. Tonight is one of those occasions and all the players will be hoping to produce a peak performance. If this match were to be replayed in four weeks' time there would almost

certainly be a different result but it is tonight that counts.

Undoubtedly the most important factor affecting performance in table tennis is skill. However, as already mentioned, all these players are capable of beating each other, and, therefore, at this level perhaps skill is not as decisive a factor as is often considered. To reiterate and emphasise the above-mentioned point, it is not always the best player who wins but the best prepared player.

The main task for Peter Simpson and Christer Johansson, the two respective non-playing captains, has been to prepare their players to 'peak' at the right time, i.e. this evening. Training for a peak performance requires much more than natural ability in a player. It requires organised technical practice, physical and psychological work combined with rest. Reaching peak performance will not happen by chance, but happens as a result of a well-planned programme of hard-work and rest. It will have been up to the two captains to structure a training programme which takes into account the technical, psychological, physical and tactical aspects of the game that will give their players the maximum possible chance of producing a peak performance.

You will see this evening the players receiving advice from their captains during the games and to the spectator there is a tendency to understandably believe that this is the only responsibility of the captain. Whilst this tactical advice given by the captain can be, and often is, of the utmost importance it is only part of his job, the second part being the preparation of his players technically, psychologically, physically and tactically so that they are able to play well. A player who is playing well but is given the incorrect tactical advice will not produce a peak performance. Likewise, a player given the correct tactical advice but who has had a poor preparation for the game will also not produce a peak performance.

It would therefore seem that the captain's job is more complex than it appears to the spectators' eye. However, to keep things in perspective it is the players who have had to prepare themselves, albeit directed by the captain, the players who have to cope with the various psychological pressures on them and ultimately it is the players who decide the result at the end of the evening. The point I have attempted to get over in this relatively short article is that the captain's job is two-fold, firstly the visually obvious tactical one and secondly, the preparation of his players for hopefully a 'peak performance', the latter being the one that is often overlooked".



Welsh Corner

H. ROY EVANS

ADDED CONFIDENCE

Our much improved performance in the European League, and a recent good performance against the strong Middlesex team in the County Championships give the Welsh team an added confidence for the long trip to Pyongyang for the World Championships.

The draw made in Pyongyang on March 14/15 shows Wales at the head of Group C in the 3rd Category. With us we have Mexico, Pakistan, Ghana, Mongolia and Uganda, and we ought to be able to survive those tests. We should then figure in a four team play-off for promotion to Category 2, and although it is hard to prophecy, one could expect Nigeria or Singapore to head Group A, New Zealand should be the best in Group B, and Spain should come through in Group D. With two teams to be promoted we thus have a good chance to move up into Category 2.

With such a strong entry in the individual events, it is hardly surprising that none of our men are in the first round proper of the men's singles. There are 29 groups of up to 8 players in a group. Alan Griffiths is in a group of seven, along with players from Nigeria and Spain to name the strongest, but he should come through this first test.

David Welsman finds himself with a North Korean to contend with and that could be very difficult — the winner should qualify. Graham Davies meets a Thailand player in the first round, and there are strong Egyptian and Austrian players also in his group. George Evans has Egyptian and Mexican players in his section, but Hansen from Denmark is probably the strongest here.

In the Doubles, David and George have a bye in the first qualifying round, but have an excellent chance of being one of the 8 qualifiers — that is if they can take care of a North Korean pair!

Griffiths and Davies have a hard group, which includes pairs from North Korea, New Zealand, Spain and the Soviet Union. They would do very well to come through here.

Before the World Championships, the same team, under the Captaincy of Brian Eyerson, will play in the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh, and we have every hope of improving on our results in Guernsey two years ago. Our girls — Stephania Jones and Cathryn Jones, with Betty Gray as their non-playing captain, are also scheduled for Edinburgh, but are not coming on to Pyongyang.

Our World Championship party, accompanied by Chairman Eddie Thomas, will join the English and other Commonwealth teams on the charter flight from Geneva on April 21.

Although I believe the exploit will be reported in the account of the Lancashire Junior Open, we must record with great pleasure that our Rhyl junior star Mark Thomas took the singles title at that event, whilst he and Mark Byles were runners-up in the doubles. Well done, indeed.

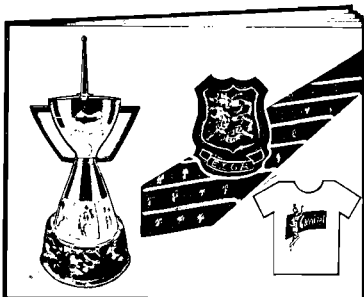
The Welsh Association has arranged a holiday training course in Guernsey from August 19/26 using the facilities provided by the Guernsey Lions club. Sixteen places are available and no difficulty is expected in filling them.

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CLEVELAND JUNIOR 'SELECT'

RANKINGS CONFIRMED

by Alan Ransome

England Champions Graham Sandley of Middlesex and Mandy Smith of Berkshire confirmed their national rankings in the Cleveland Junior 'Select' Championships at Eston Leisure Centre on March 23/24 by winning the boys' and girls' singles respectively.

Sandley never looked in trouble throughout the event, being coached by former English champion, Denis Neale. He beat Andrew Bellingham in the semi-final and the England No. 5 John Souter, also of Middlesex, in the final. Both victories were in straight games. Colin Wilson was a non-starter.

Sandley also won the boys' doubles partnered by his Ellenborough club colleague, Philip Bradbury.

The girls' singles was a different affair with the England No. 1, Mandy Smith, having to struggle all the way to win the title. In the final she beat Mandy Reeves 22-20 in the decider and also dropped a game in the semi-final against another Middlesex starlet, Helen Williams.

Miss Smith did well in the doubles events winning both titles, so ending up with a triple crown. Partnered by her England colleague Alison Gordon, she scored a further victory over Miss Reeves and Miss Williams in the final of the girls' doubles, then in the mixed, partnered by Skylet Andrew beating Mark Oakley and Lorraine Garbet of Surrey.

The only upset to form in the finals was when Andrew Dixon of Staffordshire beat Adrian Moore of Sussex in the cadet boys' event. Dixon played particularly well in the deciding game to run out a 21-8 winner.

After a slow start, Jackie Bellingham of Bedfordshire beat her 11-year-old sister, Lisa, in the cadet girls' final. They combined to take the cadet doubles event.

The Championships, sponsored by Cleveland County Leisure Services, received a massive entry of almost 400 competitors which included virtually every England-ranked player. The prizes were presented by County Councillor Jim Tatchell, the Chairman of Cleveland County Council and Councillor Mrs. Pat Zoryk, the Mayor of Langbaugh.

'Select' Results:-

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

G. Sandley (Mi) bt G. Gillett (Sx) 16, 12;
A. Bellingham (St) bt M. Oakley (Sy) 13, -19, 18;
J. Souter (Mi) bt S. Moore (Sx) 19, 8;
D. Barr (Bk) bt M. Smith (Av) -19, 11, 13.

Semi-finals:

Sandley bt Bellingham 12, 19;
Souter bt Barr 13, 22.

Final:

SANDLEY bt Souter 11, 19.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Smith (Bk) bt A. Gordon (Bk) -18, 18, 9;
H. Williams (Mi) bt E. Bolton (K) 22, 16;
J. Harris (St) bt S. Gilson (Do) 9, 7;
M. Reeves (Mi) bt C. Maisey (Wi) 11, 11.

Semi-finals:

Smith bt Williams 16, -21, 13;
Reeves bt Harris 19, -19, 13.

Final:

SMITH bt Reeves -16, 14, 20.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Andrew/D. Charlery (E) bt Barr/D. Hughes (Cv) 20, 18;
P. Bradbury (Mi)/Sandley bt Oakley/Souter 16, 8.

Final:

BRADBURY/SANDLEY bt Andrew/Charlery 7, -18, 8.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Gordon/Smith bt C. Butler (Dv)/J. Myers (La) 16, 18;
Reeves/Williams bt L. Garbet/S. Cresswell (Sy) 11, -16, 20.

Final:

GORDON/SMITH bt Reeves/Williams -21, 15, 16.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Andrew/Smith bt Sandley/Gordon 18, -17, 15;
Oakley/Garbet bt Smith/Williams -19, 17, 15.

Final:

ANDREW/SMITH bt Oakley/Garbet 11, 23.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Moore (Sx) bt P. Jackson (Sp) 18, 13;
D. Sharpe (Bd) bt G. Lambert (Dv) 16, 9;
J. Duffield (Wo) bt P. Sayer 15, 14;
A. Dixon (St) bt S. Dixon 13, 20.

Semi-finals:

Moore bt Sharpe 11, 17;
Dixon bt Duffield 14, -9, 23.

Final:

DIXON bt Moore 8 in the 3rd.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Bellinger (Bd) bt A. Judd (Ca) 18, 12;
L. Broomhead (Y) bt H. Bardwell (He) 17, 13;
L. Bellinger (Bd) bt M. Seaton (Y) 15, 14;
N. Hamilton (Bu) bt Y. Hall (Le) -17, 11, 16.

Semi-finals:

J. Bellinger bt Broomhead 14, 11;
L. Bellinger bt Hamilton 16, -11, 18.

Final:

J. BELLINGER bt L. Bellinger 19, 14.

Cadet Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

A. Dixon/Duffield bt Lambert/L. Taylor (Dv) 13, -18, 18;
P. Ashcroft/M. Mercer (La) bt J. Chan/G. Skipp (Cv) 12, 17.

Final:

DIXON/DUFFIELD bt Ashcroft/Mercer -18, 18, 13.

Cadet Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Bellinger/Bellinger bt L. Goldsmith (Mi)/Hardwell 8, 19;
C. Creasey (Do)/Cresswell bt R. Hunter (Ca)/Judd 16, -15, 12.

Final:

BELLINGER/BELLINGER bt Creasey/Cresswell 13, 19.

Boys' U-11 Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Henry (Dy) bt C. Prean (Ha) 2, 9;
T. Turner (Ch) bt M. Chilcott (Y) 11, 14;
J. Stokes (Bk) bt M. Firth (Y) -19, 16, 8;
A. Dixon (St) bt P. Wood (Y) -16, 16, 13.

Semi-finals:

Henry bt Turner 17, 11;
Stokes bt Dixon 19, 10.

Final:

HENRY bt Stokes 17, 15.

Girls' U-11 Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Speight (Y) bt A. Evans (Y) 9, 14;
A. Barker (Sp) w.o. J. Roberts (Y);
R. Midgley (Y) bt A. Bonas (Y) 14, 16;
R. Baxter (Y) bt J. Drapkin (Nd) 17, 9.

Semi-finals:

Barker bt Speight 9, 6;
Midgley bt Baxter (No scores).

Final:

BARKER bt Midgley 6, 5.

LANCASHIRE 2 STAR JUNIOR OPEN

THOMAS MAKES HIS MARK by Geo. R. Yates

Lancashire had an interest in four of the six titles in the Lancashire 2-Star Junior Open played at Bolton Institute of Technology on Mar. 4 and this was mainly due to the successes of two girls, **Joy Grundy** of Lytham and **Jean Parker** of Preston.

Miss Grundy took the girls' singles title and the doubles with Janet Deakin of Cheshire, while Miss Parker, sister of the E.T.T.A.'s Northern Staff Coach Donald, was the winner of the Cadet girls' singles at the expense of Fiona Elliot of Wolverhampton.

Preston's Paul Rainford, the top seed in the boys' singles was beaten in a thrilling final by **Mark Thomas** of Rhyll who, with his Welsh compatriot, Alun Williams, were beaten in the final of the boys' doubles by Rainford and Sean Madden of Hull.

This success afforded young Rainford a unique double for he was also a doubles winner in the senior Lancashire Open with Donald Parker.

The tournament was much supported by a party

of 25 players from Leinster and this Irish contingent in the charge of Tommy Rowsome and Larry Wilmott lent a deal of colour to the day. So too did David Pemberton who gave Thomas a few anxious moments in a gripping semi-final encounter.

Big shock in the cadet boys' singles won by **David Illingsworth** of Barnsley, was the ousting of the No. 1 seed Andrew Dixon of Staffs by Ian McLoughlin of Bury who, in turn, was beaten by David Polasek of Ormesby in the semis. The Wolverhampton boy, in the boys' singles, was removed in the fourth round by Pemberton, the Dublin boy winning 17 and 14.

Results:-

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

P. Rainford (La) bt A. Worthington (Ch) 16, 17;
S. Madden (Y) bt A. Williams (Wal) 14, 20;
D. Pemberton (Ire) bt D. Crowley (Ire) 19, -19, 12;
M. Thomas (Wal) bt G. Walker (Cv) 6, 12.

Semi-finals:

Rainford bt Madden 13, 17;
Thomas bt Pemberton 14, -18, 19.

Final:

THOMAS bt Rainford -11, 18, 21.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Grundy (La) bt F. Elliot (St) 13, 10;
J. Parker (La) bt M. Gleeson (Ire) 17, 14;
L. Degg (Sp) bt H. Frost (La) 13, 17;
J. Deakin (Ch) bt C. Scowcroft (La) 14, 14.

Semi-finals:

Grundy bt Parker 5, 12;
Deakin bt Degg 8, 8.

Final:

GRUNDY bt Deakin 13, 18.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Madden/Rainford bt D. Illingsworth/R. Marshall (Y) 13, 10;
Thomas/Williams bt A. Turner (Ch)/Worthington 14, 15.

Final:

MADDEN/RAINFORD bt Thomas/Williams -18, 20, 19.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Deakin/Grundy bt S. Hadley (St)/K. Harris (Sp) 15, 10;
Parker/Scowcroft bt J. Cheetham (Sp)/Degg 12, 11.

Final:

DEAKIN/GRUNDY bt Parker/Scowcroft 11, 14.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

I. McLoughlin (La) bt A. Dixon (St) 15, 19;
D. Polasek (Cv) bt C. Hardman (La) -14, 21, 7;
A. Walsh (Ire) bt J. Wright (Bd) 6, 13;
Illingsworth bt F. McEwan (La) 16, -17, 18.

Semi-finals:

Polasek bt McLoughlin 18, -16, 13;
Illingsworth bt Walsh 5, 18.

Final:

ILLINGSWORTH bt Polasek 15, 11.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Parker bt Harris 14, 11;
Hadley bt C. Soan (Sp) -18, 18, 21;
Elliot bt A. Reilly (Ire) 11, 7;
S. Powell (Wal) bt Viv Wilson (La) 13, 15.

Semi-finals:

Parker bt Hadley 13, 18;
Elliot bt Powell 20, 15.

Final:

PARKER bt Elliot 18, -19, 13.

MIDDLESEX JUNIOR AUTHORISED

by IRIS MOSS

The Middlesex Junior Authorised Championships, which were the second Junior National Ranking Tournament of the season, took place at South Ruislip Leisure Centre on Saturday, March 3. The general plan was that the E.T.T.A. Selection Committee would nominate the players to be invited and that they would play in groups of 8, with winners and runners-up of the groups coming forward into the knock-out competition.

Despite the importance of the event to any player wishing to be considered for junior ranking, three junior boys failed to report and one junior girl arrived 2 hours late having had car trouble on the way. As additional players had been invited to come along on the chance of getting in, we were, however, able to fill all group vacancies although through pressure of time the odd match did not get played.

In the Junior Boys' some group results did not go according to ranking. In Group A, Graham Sandley of Middlesex won as expected (without losing a game); Andrew Bellingham of Staffs lost to both Graham and Alan Borowczyk of Kent but still managed to hold the runners-up position. In Group B, Colin Wilson of Middlesex had to fight hard to obtain the winning place, while Skylet Andrew of Essex pushed Graham Gillett of Sussex into third place. In Group C, David Barr of Berks only managed to achieve 3rd position with John

Souter of Middlesex winning the group and Desmond Charlery of Essex finishing as runner-up.

Paul Whiting of Devon proved to be the "dark horse" in Group D, with Kevin Satchell of Wilts taking 2nd place and Costas Papantoniou of Middlesex only managing to come 3rd. Paul Whiting did well to beat Andrew Bellingham in the quarter-final, but could not quite manage to do the same to Colin Wilson in the semi-final. In the other half, Skylet Andrew ousted John Souter but despite being the first to win a game from Graham Sandley could not manage to beat him. So the final was all-Middlesex with Graham getting his revenge over Colin for beating him in the Northern Ranking Tournament.

Apart from the scratching of Alison Gordon of Berks, the results in the Junior Girls' event were almost as expected. The surprises were Sarah Gilson of Dorset pushing Gina Pritchard of Devon into 3rd place in their group and Joy Grundy of Lancs taking 1st place in the group from which Alison had been scratched. Possibly the only quarter-final result which was unexpected was Helen Williams of Middlesex beating Sally Midgley of Yorks; and the semi-finals went according to ranking. The final between Mandy Smith of Berks and Mandy Reeves of Middlesex was a delight to watch, with Berkshire Mandy having the edge on her Middlesex name-sake.

When Andrew Dixon of Staffs beat Adrian Moore of Sussex in the final of the Cadet Boys' event and Jackie Bellingier of Beds beat Cherry Creasey of Dorset in the Cadet Girls' final, not one of the Northern Tournament winners had retained the position they won. No doubt this will give the E.T.T.A. Selectors something to ponder over.

All the players in the knock-out stages received gift vouchers from Currys to whom we are indebted for their continued support of our Junior events.

Junior Boys' Quarter-finals:

C. Wilson (Mi) bt D. Charlery (E) 10, -23, 19;
P. Whiting (Dv) bt A. Bellingham (St) 19, 14;
G. Sandley (Mi) bt K. Satchell (Wi) 12, 19;
S. Andrew (E) bt J. Souter (Mi) -18, 17, 16.

Semi-finals:

Wilson bt Whiting 17, 21;
Sandley bt Andrew -8, 13, 13.

Final:

SANDLEY bt Wilson -15, 17, 15.

Junior Girls' Quarter-finals:

L. Garbet (Sy) bt J. Grundy (La) 15, -17, 20;
M. Smith (Bk) bt E. Bolton (K) 10, 17;
M. Reeves (Mi) bt S. Gilson (Do) 13, 10;
H. Williams (Mi) bt S. Midgley (Y) -17, 18, 21.

Semi-finals:

Smith bt Garbet 15, 14;
Reeves bt Williams 16, 10.

Final:

SMITH bt Reeves 17, 18.

Cadet Boys' Semi-finals:

A. Moore (Sx) bt C. Preat (Ha) 15, 16;
A. Dixon (St) bt G. Lambert (Dv) 13, -20, 16.

Final:

DIXON bt Moore -19, 23, 10.

Cadet Girls' Semi-finals:

C. Creasey (Do) bt J. Parker (La) 20, 11;
J. Bellingier (Bd) bt L. Broomhead (Y) -19, 13, 9.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Creasey -13, 18, 18.

Group Results

Junior Boys

Group A
G. Sandley (Mi) 7-0
A. Bellingham (St) 5-2
S. Harmer (Bu) 4-3
S. Moore (Sx) 4-3
P. Brownlow (He) 3-4
M. Smith (Av) 2-5
G. Baker (Sy) 2-5
A. Borowczyk (K) 1-6

Group C
J. Souter (Mi) 6-1
D. Charlery (E) 6-1
D. Barr (Bk) 5-2
M. Oakley (Sy) 4-3
I. Reed (Cu) 3-4
P. Rainford (La) 2-5
P. Stratton (Mi) 2-5
K. Green (Cv) 0-7

Junior Girls

Group G
M. Smith (Bk) 7-0
S. Gilson (Do) 5-2
G. Pritchard (Dv) 5-2
G. Sharpe (Li) 4-3
S. Cain (St) 3-4
K. Mudge (E) 2-5
C. Scowcroft (La) 2-5
J. Saphron (Cu) 0-7

Group J
M. Reeves (Mi) 7-0
E. Bolton (K) 6-1
C. Butler (Dv) 5-2
L. Fennah (Ch) 4-3
J. Purslow (Bk) 3-4
T. Robertshaw (Y) 2-5
S. Sandley (Mi) 1-6
C. Belcher (Ox) 0-7

Group B
C. Wilson (Mi) 7-0
S. Andrew (E) 6-1
G. Gillett (Sx) 5-2
S. Holloway (Sy) 4-3
P. Bradbury (Bu) 2-5
J. Hall (Sk) 2-5
M. Illingsworth (Y) 1-6
A. Withers (Ca) 1-6

Group D
P. Whiting (Dv) 6-0
K. Satchell (Wi) 5-2
C. Papantoniou (Mi) 5-2
P. Puddock (Sx) 4-3
S. Palmer (Sk) 3-4
D. Gray (Cu) 2-4
R. Swift (Ca) 1-5
A. Golding (Gs) 0-6

Group H
S. Midgley (Y) 7-0
L. Garbet (Sy) 6-1
J. Revell (Le) 5-2
C. Maisey (Wi) 4-3
P. Cameron (Ng) 3-4
H. Cottier (Nh) 2-5
L. Tyler (Mi) 1-6
B. Gray (Cu) 0-7

Group K
J. Grundy (La) 7-0
H. Williams (Mi) 5-2
J. Deakin (Ch) 5-2
J. Harris (St) 4-3
J. Speight (Y) 3-4
P. Townsend (Wi) 2-5
E. Hughes (Ox) 1-6
J. Woodcock (Cv) 1-6

Cadet Boys

Group E
A. Moore (Sx) 6-1
A. Dixon (St) 6-1
J. Duffield (Wo) 5-2
C. Bryan (Li) 4-3
L. Taylor (Cv) 3-4
D. Sharpe (Bd) 3-4
B. Collingwood (Mi) 1-6
P. Ashcroft (La) 0-7

Cadet Girls

Group L
C. Creasey (Do) 7-0
L. Broomhead (Y) 5-2
L. Bellingier (Bd) 5-2
M. Seaton (Y) 4-3
S. Cresswell (Sy) 3-4
A. Judd (Ca) 2-5
J. Myers (La) 1-6
M. Williams (Mi) 1-6

Group F

G. Lambert (Dv) 6-1
C. Preat (Ha) 5-2
D. Illingsworth (Y) 4-3
E. Gorniak (Mi) 4-3
G. Russell (Sy) 4-3
R. Namdjou (K) 2-5
J. Sparks (E) 2-5
D. Griffin (Gs) 1-6

Group M

J. Bellingier (Bd) 7-0
J. Parker (La) 5-2
H. Bardwell (He) 5-2
M. Denbow (Ox) 3-4
J. Ryalls (Y) 3-4
L. Goldsmith (Mi) 3-4
V. Hall (Le) 5-2
V. Bellingham (St) 0-7

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

HILTON BOWS TO LO

Lancashire's Division 2 (North) campaign came to a miserable end at Lytham St. Annes on March 31 when they were beaten 6-4 by Yorkshire II. Once again the team had to be changed from the original selection but, even so, the loss by John Hilton to Clem Lo and his subsequent defeat in the doubles, when partnered by Nigel Hallows, was not in keeping with a world championships player.

Donald Parker who was captaining a Junior international team in Holland was the chief absentee the substitute being another Preston player in Steve Turner who, believe it or not, accounted for Bradfordian Lo 10 and 12! Joy Grundy took over from the absent Wendy Shaw but, although successful in the doubles with Di Johnson, was just beaten by Hull's Julie McLean.

It was 6-1 in the Tykes' favour before the Red Rose county added a little more respectability to the scoreline by winning the last three sets.

Scores were:-

J. Hilton lost to C. Lo -18, 18, -19;
bt A. Metcalfe -16, 13, 18.
N. Hallows lost to Metcalfe -16, -8;
lost to M. Harrison 20, -15, -19.
S. Turner lost to Harrison -13, 15, -14;
bt Lo 10, 12.
D. Johnson bt H. Shields -10, 17, 17.
J. Grundy lost to J. McLean -13, -22.
Hilton/Hallows lost to Lo/Harrison -15, -19.
Johnson/Grundy bt Shields/McLean 15, -14, 16.

Away to Cumbria in Division 3 (North) Lancashire accounted for their hosts 9-1 with Roy Frankland and Brian Carney of Blackpool unbeaten as were Jean Parker and Jackie Myers. Keith Williams of Liverpool was the only loser.

Cumbria, in Junior 2 (North) were beaten for the first time this season, when Lancashire triumphed 6-4, again at Lytham. Paul Rainford beat both Diccon Gray and Ian Reed whilst Stephen Scowcroft obtained the scalp of Andrew Pachul. The other Lancastrian wins came from the two girls Carolyn Scowcroft and Miss Grundy, singly and together in the doubles, against Gail Smith and Bella Gray. Now Lancashire await the outcome of Cumbria's outstanding home match against Derbyshire for on the outcome will depend the championship and the right to challenge.

Scores at Lytham were:-

P. Rainford bt I. Reed -18, 16, 12;
bt D. Gray 19, 16.
S. Scowcroft lost to Gray -8, 18, -12;
bt A. Pachul 17, 11.
P. Brabwood lost to Pachul -16, -14;
lost to Reed -12, 20, -10.
C. Scowcroft bt G. Smith 10, 11.
J. Grundy bt B. Gray 15, 18.
Rainford/Scowcroft lost to D. Gray/Reed -15, -19.
C. Scowcroft/Grundy bt Smith/Gray 19, 12.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

April
12/18—5th COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Meadowbank Sports Centre, London Road, Edinburgh).
14/15—34th Yorkshire Junior 'Select' (Y.P.I. Ferens Recreation Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North, Hull). Commencing at 9 a.m. each day. Cadet and U-11 Finals 7 p.m. Saturday. Junior Finals at 6 p.m. Sunday.

21/22—Essex 3-Star Open (Wanstead).
21/22—E.T.T.A. U-14 Regional Championships.
22—Cheshire Junior 1-Star Open (Birkenhead).
25/May 6—35th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Pyongyang, North Korea).
28/29—Trustee Savings Bank Tunbridge Wells Junior Open. (Sandown Court School, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent) Commencing at 9.30 a.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday. Finals U-12 and U-14 7.30 p.m. Saturday. Junior Finals at 7.30 p.m. Sunday.
28/29—County Championships Senior Challenge matches. (Hinckley Leisure Centre).
May
5/6—County Championships Junior Challenge matches. (St. Neots).
6—Cheshunt 1-Star Open (Waltham Abbey).
12/13—ENGLISH JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Worthing).
19—E.T.T.A. Under-14 Championship Finals.
20—E.T.T.A. National Leagues Championships Finals.
20—E.S.T.T.A. A.G.M. (Leicester).
26/27—THE ROCK UNDER-21 ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS, Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Norwood, London S.E.19. Finals on Sunday, May 27/79. Entries close on May 1 to Miss I. Moss, 49 Okehampton Road, Kensal Rise, London N.W.10.

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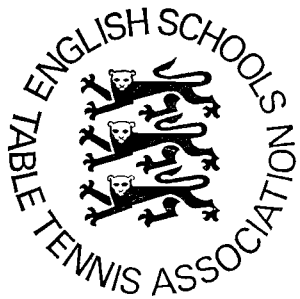
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by DAVID LOMAS

National School Team Championships Finals 1979

Schools from Cornwall and Dorset were amongst the winners for the first time when the Finals of the National School Team Championships took place at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, on March 10.

It was a good day for the Midlands and West Region for four of the seven winners came from that Region whilst the North's only victors were Millom and the South and East's winners came from the well-established London Borough of Newham (Lister Comprehensive) and the new faces from Merton (Hillcross Middle, Morden).

Close results came in the Girls' and Boys' Under-13 events. The three Girls' teams drew 4-all with each other and out came the slide rules and the verdict that Callington School, Cornwall came out on top on "games ratio". In the Boys' event a "sudden-death" doubles meant victory for Hillcross over Idsall (Salop).

Results:-

Boys' Under-19

(The Norman Cook Cup)

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
(Diccon Gray, Ian Reed, Andrew Pachul, Tim Pachul).

2. Swanley (Kent County)
(Raymond Haynes, Ian Gramston, Russell McCree, Chris Prietzel).
 3. Penlee, Plymouth (Devon)
(Paul Waldron, Tony Sweet, Neil Wilson, Paul Farrell).
- Penlee 2 Swanley 6
Millom 8 Penlee 0
Swanley 2 Millom 6

Millom cruised to a convincing win. Their leading players, Diccon Gray and Ian Reed were making their fifth consecutive appearance in National Team Finals.

Girls' Under-19

(The Claud Kichenside Cup)

1. BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (Dorset)
(Rachel Mackriell, Sally New, Joanna Bush, Judith Fairhall).
2. Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan).

(Maxine Abbott, Sharon Deal, Linda Crawford, Deborah Scott).

3. Millom (Cumbria)
(Gail Smith, Jan Sephton, Bella Gray, Pam Bickerdike).

Bournemouth 6 Brampton Manor 2

Brampton Manor 5 Millom 3

Bournemouth 5 Millom 3

Millom's shock defeat by old campaigners Brampton Manor gave Bournemouth their chance of a first-ever Dorset number one place; in seizing their opportunity they relegated Millom to third place.

Boys' Under-16

(The Leach-Carrington Cup)

1. TAMAR SECONDARY, PLYMOUTH (Devon)
(Paul Whiting, Colin Bunch, Gary Wiltshire, Ian Holman).
2. Riley High, Hull (Humberside)
(Sean Madden, Neil Barley, Alan Platten, Steven Waterson).
3. Hereward, March (Cambridgeshire)
(Robert Swift, Gary Jordan, Michael Jackman, Neil Parsley).

Riley 5 Hereward 3

Hereward 2 Tamar 6

Tamar 5 Riley 3

Paul Whiting and Gary Wiltshire were unbeaten for Tamar who only needed a draw against Riley to ensure victory.

Girls' Under-16

(The Mick Betts Memorial Cup)

1. LISTER COMPREHENSIVE, NEWHAM (Essex Metropolitan)
(Julie Askem, Deborah Taylor, Margaret Wilson, Tina Cook).
2. Callington (Cornwall)
(Shirley Collins, Alison Hancock, Tracey Mutton, Pat Green).
3. Thornes House, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)
(Julie Forbes, Gail Watson, Janet Oxer, Susan Gill).

Thornes House 3 Callington 5

Lister 4 Thornes House 4

Callington 3 Lister 5

Some close results in this event. Deborah Taylor unbeaten for Lister whose win is Newham's 23rd title in 13 years — not a bad record!



Boys' U-16 winners — no doubt where the boys come from Tamar School, Plymouth (l to r): Colin Bunch, Ian Holman, Paul Whiting and Gary Wiltshire with E.S.T.T.A. Chairman, John Arnold.



First-ever winners from Dorset. Girls' U-19 Bournemouth School for Girls (l to r): Rachel Mackriell, Sally New, Judith Fairhall and Joanne Bush with Martin Foulser (Stiga AB).

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 12)

Boys' Under-13

(The T. Austin Harrison Cup)

1. HILLCROSS MIDDLE, MORDEN (Surrey Metropolitan)
(Andrew Sexton, Martin Jones, Neil Sutton, Trevor Quinton).
2. Idsall, Telford (Salop)
(Martin Tuft, Jamie Rea, Mark Perkins, Simon Dyson).
3. Southcoates Junior High, Hull (Humberside)
(Graham Morris, Gary Clixby, Stuart Welburn, Trevor Brant).

Southcoates 2 Idsall 6

Hillcross 6 Southcoates 2

Idsall 4 Hillcross 4

Graham Morris (Southcoates) and Neil Sutton (Hillcross) were the only unbeaten players in this event. Andrew Sexton frittered away a 19-12 lead in his game against Martin Tuft (Idsall) but the

Surrey pair of Sexton and Jones made no mistake in the deciding doubles against Tuft and Rea, winning 21-17, 21-9.

Girls' Under-13

(The Hartshill Cup)

1. CALLINGTON (Cornwall)
(Sarah Perry, Kay Barriball, Anita Heath, Julia Redwood).
2. Conyngham, Ramsgate (Kent County)
(Sharon Clark, Claire Snowden, Dawn Williams, Dennise Whalen).
3. Sandal Endowed C.E. Middle, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)
(Karen Arnold, Debra Tomlin, Bridget Leggetter, Kathryn Dickinson).

Sandal 4 Callington 4

Conyngham 4 Sandal 4

Callington 4 Conyngham 4

Not only were the match scores close but several of the sets and games were also. A

missed chance meant all the difference. The ratios were: Callington 20-19, Conyngham 19-19, Sandal Endowed 20-21.

Under-11

(The Irene Elliott Cup)

1. MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR (Salop)
(Sean Groom, David Williams, Adrian Bloore, Graham Walwyn).
2. Holmgate Primary, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
(Andrew Henry, Julian Rapkins, Russell Irwin, Jonathan Irwin).
3. Old Buckenham Hall, Ipswich (Suffolk)
(Simon Reid, Charles Erith, Philip Turner, James Meacock).

Old Buckenham Hall 2 Market Drayton 6

Holmgate 6 Old Buckenham Hall 2

Market Drayton 5 Holmgate 3

Old Buckenham were no match for their two opponents. Holmgate sped into a 2-0 lead against Market Drayton but an all-round team effort gave the Shropshire boys a 5-3 victory. Andrew Henry outstanding for Holmgate.

"Best Performance Awards"

The Stiga Trophy was presented to Rachel Mackriell (Bournemouth School for Girls) by Mr. Martin Foulser of Stiga AB, and the Gerald Gurney Trophy was presented to Paul Whiting (Tamar Secondary) by David Lomas. Both these leading players were unbeaten and led their schools to victory.

The Stiga English Schools Individual Championships are scheduled to take place at Gloucester Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 28, 1979. Competitions Secretary Eddie Mitchell tells me that he expects the final entry to be 300.

Photographic coverage by
JOHN O'SULLIVAN of Liverpool.

Durham 1-star Open

HEADACHE FOR ORGANISERS

by Don Charlton

The first Durham 1-Star Open to be held for 3 years, was held on Feb. 25 at Easington Leisure Centre. A large entry was received consisting of 180 M.S., 112 B.S. and 89 M.D. pairs, which indeed was a headache for the organising committee.

After many meetings at a time of atrocious weather conditions, the draw was completed, but due to the large entry our Referee, Richard Scruton, advised a 9 a.m. start.

Due to the efforts of Mr. G. Purvis, Manager of the Leisure Centre, and of course his staff, some of whom were working until 2 a.m. to have the venue ready, we of the County Association are indebted to them and of course the Easington District Council for their contribution.

The first sets were played at 9.10 a.m. on 12 tables in ideal conditions and continued without a break for 13 hours, the finals finishing at 11 p.m.

The smooth running of the tournament was due to the efforts of the organising committee, referee Richard Scruton and, of course, all our helpers at control, umpires, and table stewards, who worked non stop.

Results:-

Girls' Singles:

J. Woodcock (Cv) bt A. Smith (Du) -16, 17, 8.

Boys' Singles:

J. Weatherby (Ch) bt N. Edgecock (Y) -15, 15, 16.

Veteran Singles:

A. Warents (Nd) bt D. Lawrence (Du) 14, -15, 15.

Women's Doubles:

J. Williams/K. Powton (Cv) bt L. Bainbridge/S. Gelder 20, -17, 10.

Men's Doubles:

C. Lo/S. Kosmowsky (Y) bt D. Svenson/I. Svenson (Du) -9, 10, 14.

Women's Singles:

Williams bt L. Holmes (Dy) -18, 21, 16.

Men's Singles:

A. Gelder (Du) bt W. Reay (Du) 23, 19.



Callington (Girls' U-13 winners) First-ever winners from Cornwall (l to r): Anita Heath, Sarah Perry, Kay Barriball and Julia Redwood with Tony Micheal, Assistant Principal — Lea Green Centre.



Boys' U-13 winners Merton on the map. Hillcross Middle School, Morden (l to r): Neil Sutton, Andrew Sexton, Martin Jones, Trevor Quinton with E.T.T.A. Staff Coach, Bryan Merrett.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

RECORD EQUALLED

Two main events have been staged this month, with the Wellingborough League Closed coming first on the calendar. Now established as the largest in the County, the inevitable price was paid, with a well after midnight finish causing many Cinderellas to miss the final proceedings, as they were brought to a close, with Gary Alden winning his fourth consecutive Men's Singles, thereby equalling their record of Rod Marchant.

Alden's opponent in the final was Keith Nicholl, who made no more impact on Alden, than his six previous opponents, all of whom were economically despatched in straight games. However in the corresponding women's event, Anne Wallis's long reign was brought to an end by her younger sister Mandy in a tense encounter.

As anticipated, the Wallis sisters took the Women's Doubles for the fifth year in succession — the seventh for Anne — but their customary final opponents Christine Price and Glennis Hooper fought hard to keep the result in doubt right to the end.

The Men's Doubles was far less predictable, with the top three seeded pairs falling in the quarter-finals, Alden and Graham Feakin to Steve West and Mark Cole; Nicoll and Dave Marsh to Geoff Atkinson and Brian Dangerfield, and John Palmer and Dennis Millman to John Sanders and Neil Knatt, with Sanders and Knatt marching on to beat Tim Chamberlain and David Gallo in the final.

Top-seeded Alden and Christine Price made an early exit from the Mixed at the hands of Chamberlain and Mandy Wallis, who went on to beat Marsh and Glennis Hooper in a close final, after Marsh and Miss Hooper had ousted Palmer and Anne Wallis in the semis.

As always Tournament Organiser, David Byrom, officiated over the proceedings with his customary efficiency and good humour, but this was the last time for the Wellingborough League to have the benefit of his services. Congratulations are in order on David's promotion, and our good wishes go with him as he moves south. A search for an adequate successor will prove difficult, if not impossible, for officials of such integrity and enthusiasm are hard to find.

Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

G. Alden bt D. Marsh 16, 17.
K. Nicholl bt J. Sanders 14, 14.

Final:

Alden bt Nicholl 15, 16.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

A. Wallis bt Dorothy Marsh 15, 7.
M. Wallis bt C. Price 10, 13.

Final:

M. Wallis bt A. Wallis 18, -12, 16.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Sanders/N. Knatt bt S. West/M. Cole 15, 18.
T. Chamberlain/D. Gallo bt G. Atkinson/
B. Dangerfield 15, 8.

Final:

Sanders/Knatt bt Chamberlain/Gallo 15, -22, 6.

Women's Doubles:

Wallis/Wallis bt G. Hooper/Price 11, -18, 15.

Mixed Doubles:

Chamberlain/M. Wallis bt Marsh/Hooper 13, 21.

Veteran Singles:

J. Palmer bt D. Millman 10, 12.

Junior Singles:

Nicholl bt Chamberlain 18, 15.

Junior Doubles:

Chamberlain/Nicholl bt S. and R. Galkowski
11, 10.

The winners of the Divisional Handicap Singles were Chamberlain, Alan Edmonds, D. Bradbury, Louis Mann, C. Mayers, A. Edmonds (Jnr.), and R. Boreham.

The final chapters were written on this season's TSB County League, when at Kettering Recreation Centre, Kettering faced Towcester, and Northampton met Wellingborough in the final series of matches, with all except Towcester capable of taking the title at the eleventh hour.

With the teams at full strength, Kettering would have been favourites, but when Palmer and Anne Wallis withdrew, and Mandy Wallis became an absentee from the Wellingborough side, Northampton was left with a comfortable task, which they duly executed, despite some stern opposition from Alden, Mick Hawes and Stan Galkowski. Steve Lyon gave Northampton an early lead, when he beat Marsh, but Wellingborough fought back as first Alden beat Keith Jones, and Hawes gained a splendid 29, -11, 19 win over Romano Gallo.

However from this point onwards, Northampton took a firm grip on the match, by winning seven of the remaining eight sets, with Chamberlain and Margaret Maltby unbeaten, and Jones hanging on to beat Hawes 13, -11, 26, and Gallo upsetting the County rankings by accounting for Marsh 20, and 19. Wellingborough's only other success came from the incomparable Alden who beat Lyon 18, 13.

So Northampton completed a hat-trick of County League Championships, at the expense of a Kettering side which just failed to complete a clean sweep against Towcester, when Joyce Porter salvaged a solitary point by beating Ann Lenton in a close third game. In the remaining encounters, Keith Nicoll, Steve West, Ken Nicoll and Dennis Millman swept aside the Towcester challenge with a series of confident wins in straight games.

Final League Table

	P	W	L	P
Northampton	4	4	0	35
Kettering	4	3	1	32
Wellingborough	4	2	2	27
Towcester	4	1	3	10
Daventry	4	0	4	6

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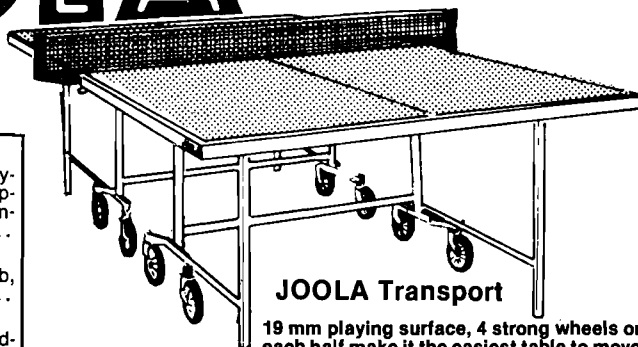
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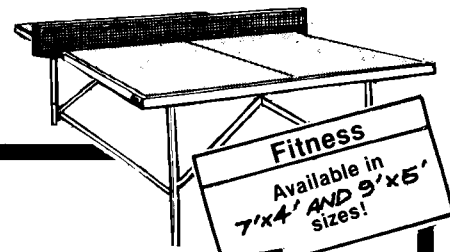
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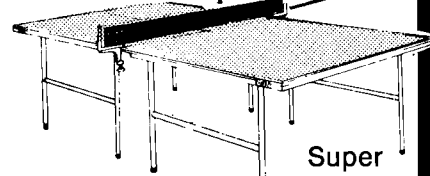


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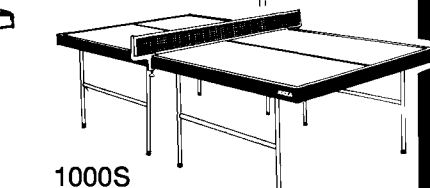
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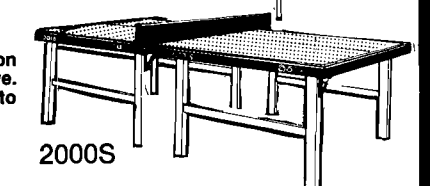
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EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Best ever campaign

by JOHN WOODFORD

England rounded off their best-ever European League campaign at the splendid Cliffs Pavilion, Southend on March 8 with a tidy 6-1 victory over the Soviet Union.

As few people seem to know, the Russians have now been relegated almost certainly because of the season-long suspension of Strokotov and Sarkhojan. So the Soviet Union clearly decided there was only one course open — to blood one of the youngest teams ever seen in Europe.

England opened with Desmond Douglas in typically electric form stopping Michail Ovcharov. No further details of that encounter here because of the E.T.T.A.'s policy of allowing the time of the match start to be decided according to the arrival of the Mayor — consequently, play started at nearly 7.45 p.m. forcing journalists to write over 300 words for the early editions of the national dailies on this one set!

The Soviet youngsters, a quiet but talented bunch, hit back in scoring terms only once when Valery Shevchenko proved too strong for Nicky Jarvis.

From then until the end it was England all the way, all in straight games. Jill Hammersley had some trouble with the tall Ludmila Bakschutova who had ideas about taking Jill to expedite rules. But Jill is too good against this type of plot and ended by hitting through her opponent.

There was yet another fine mixed doubles win by Desmond and Linda Howard, whose return to the No. 3 ranking seems to suggest that the selectors are admitting their errors. The last two singles were mere ten-minute formalities, Douglas beating Shevchenko and Jarvis making amends by stopping Ovcharov.

Southend Cliffs Pavilion as Ron Crayden said afterwards, "is the best venue of its kind (800 sell-out) in the country" and Mike Watts must be England's most reliable and persuasive organiser.

Russia seem sure to spend only one season in

Division 1, but it was still a magnificent season for England who have finished in third place.

Individual results:-

D. Douglas bt M. Ovcharov 12, 18;
N. Jarvis lost to V. Shevchenko -18, 17, -16;
J. Hammersley bt L. Bakschutova 19, 12;
Douglas/Jarvis bt M. Kreeris/Ovcharov 19, 12;
Douglas/L. Howard bt Shevchenko/V. Popova 12, 23;
Douglas bt Shevchenko 18, 7;
Jarvis bt Ovcharov 18, 14.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Gerald Green

NATIONAL TITLE FOR MARKET DRAYTON SCHOOL

Congratulations to the boys of Alexandra Road Junior School, Market Drayton (Sean Groom, David Williams, Graham Walwyn, Adrian Bloor) who became U-11 schools champions of England when competing in the E.S.T.T.A. Team Championships National Finals on Mar. 10. They are all ten-years-old and in the various rounds Sean, David and Adrian won 19/20 and Graham 17/20.

Whilst Market Drayton obviously take pride of place I must also mention Idsall School, Shifnal (Martin Tuft, Jamie Rea, Mark Perkins, Simon Dyson) who came so close in the U-13 boys' section losing only after a sudden death doubles play-off following a 4-4 draw with the eventual winners, Hillcross, Surrey.

Another Market Drayton success — this time in the Cleveland Junior 'Select' when Alison Barker won the U-11 girls' title. A very creditable performance from a girl who has not been playing very long, and it must augur well for the future.

At the same tournament Paul Jackson of Shrewsbury reached the quarter-finals of the Cadet boys' and if he can keep up this sort of form must be in line for a National ranking at that level.

Record entries for the Shropshire T.T.A.'s Junior Closed Championships meant that they took almost ten hours to complete. The boys' singles went as expected, with No. 1 ranked Mark Pugh easily beating No. 2 ranked Nicky Roberts in the final. The Cadet boys' also saw a clash between the No.'s 1 and 2 but this time much closer, with Paul Jackson just getting home in the most exciting final of the day against Ivan Smith. In the girls'

event Linda Degg, who is ranked, and was seeded No. 3, added the Junior title to the Senior which she won in December last year. There is no doubt that since she started using pimped rubber Linda has completely confused our other women and girls, although Jane Cheetham fought very hard in the final.

Final results:-

Boys' Singles:
M. Pugh (Sh) bt N. Roberts (Sh) 14, 14.
Girls' Singles:
L. Degg (Sh) bt J. Cheetham (Sh) 14, -17, 23.

Cadet Boys' Singles:
P. Jackson (Sh) bt I. Smith (Sh) -14, 18, 21.

Cadet Girls Singles:
Kate Harris (Sh) bt Alison Barker (MD) 14, 13.

Boys' Doubles:
Roberts/Jackson bt Pugh/Geoff Lupton (Sh) -19, 19, 13.

Girls' Doubles:
Cheetham/Degg bt Alison Bayliss/Collette Soan (MD) 13, -18, 16.

Mixed Doubles:
Pugh/Cheetham bt Lupton/Tracey Powell (Tel) -6, 12, 18.

As usual the tournament was very well run by Bill Harris and Barry Taylor but it is a pity the local authority will not let us have Sundorne Games Hall for the full day — instead of a 2 p.m. start, so that the finals can be played at a reasonable time in front of a decent crowd.

Not much success to report on the County Championships scene, but at least the Junior seconds beat Herefordshire 8-2 with Paul Jackson, Tony Cheetham and Alison Lowe all unbeaten in singles and doubles.

The Seniors, with one or two players not available (an all too common occurrence this season), and others giving below par performances, struggled in both their matches.

The seconds were overwhelmed by Cheshire II, and the firsts lost 3-7 at Wolverhampton against Staffordshire despite Malcolm Green beating Andrew Bellingham and Tony Isaac then teaming up with a below form Nigel Thomas to win the doubles.

This latter defeat undoubtedly spells relegation, which is a pity because I feel that we are a better team than results have shown.

Letters to the Editor

WIDEST AGE RANGE

I was interested to read Mr. K. Green's letter about the 14-year-old Richard Wells who has become a qualified county umpire. It is good to see somebody so young taking such an interest in the "running" of table tennis.

In a previous issue we had a letter about Mr. K. Woodward of South London still playing table tennis at the age of 71 years. I thought we were doing quite well at our club where we have a 66 and a 68-year-old respectively playing regularly. Any advance on 71 years and who will be the first to run a competition for Senior Citizens?

With primary school children now doing so well table tennis must be the game with the widest age range of all and now that it is played in more countries than any other sport let us sort out the service troubles and the types of bats and surfaces allowed.

H. I. WILLIAMS,

54 Victoria Road,
Trowbridge, Wilts.

MUCH APPRECIATED

May I take this opportunity of thanking all my friends who enquired after my health, and those who sent cards of good wishes or telephoned. This was very much appreciated in the circumstances.

I have now returned to my new home, with a little difficulty in walking and, for the moment, a useless right arm and a new voice. No doubt matters will improve in time, meantime I hope to see you all in the near future.

CHARLES M. WYLES,

5 Orchard Close,
Littlebourne,
Nr. Canterbury, Kent.

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

SURREY NOTES by Ted Simpkin

COUNTY RANKING LISTS 1st March, 1979

The March rankings produced interesting reading and some controversy, not least when the lower placings amongst the girls were considered. Such controversy is not a bad thing if it inspires the effort necessary to change the rankers' mind when the next review comes round.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Men | Women |
| 1. Max Crimmins | 1. Linda Howard |
| 2. David Welsman | 2. Lorraine Garbet |
| 3. David Hannah | 3. Jayne Mitchell |
| 4. Terry Haley | 4. Nicola Hayward |
| 5. Stephen Boxall | 5. Avril McMahon |
| 6. Stephen Holloway | 6. Kerry Merritt |
| 7. David Harding | 7. Sarah Cresswell |
| 8. Gordon Chapman | 8. Jenny Webster |
| 9. Alan Watson | 9. Susan Walker |
| 10. Connie Warren | 10. Michele Hams |
| 11. Mark Oakley | 11. Claire Gibbs |
| 12. Glenn Baker | 12. Sally Conway |
| 13. John Payne | 13. Kim Merritt |
| 14. Gary Cameron | 14. Michele Bland |
| 15. Adrian Higgs | |
| 16. Gary Stewart | |
| 17. Terry Smith | |
| 18. Steve Woodgate | |
| 19. Peter Simmonds | |
| 20. John Chamberlain | |
| 21. Brian Garroway | |
| 22. Bill Holder | |
| 23. Paul Smith | |
| 24. Peter Brennan | |

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Junior Boys | Junior Girls |
| 1. Holloway | 1. Garbet |
| 2. Oakley | 2. McMahon |
| 3. Baker | 3. Merritt |
| 4. Stephen Woodgate | 4. Cresswell |
| 5. Graham Russell | 5. Hams |
| 6. Peter Bruntnell | 6. Gibbs |
| 7. Peter Simmonds | 7. Conway |
| 8. Paul Holloway | 8. Bland |
| 9. Peter Venables | 9. Gaynor Kelly |
| 10. Steven Baggott | 10. Nicola Teague |
| 11. Andrew Crammond | 11. Delia Jenkins |
| 12. Christopher Bailey | 12. Michele Baker |
| 13. Neville Miller | 13. Paulina Kathuria |
| 14. Nicholas Hoare | 14. Lesley Popkiewicz |
| 15. Andrew Sexton | |
| 16. Gavin Kemp | |

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Cadet Boys | Cadet Girls |
| 1. Russell | 1. Cresswell |
| 2. Hoare | 2. Hams |
| 3. Sexton | 3. Popkiewicz |
| 4. Kemp | 4. Deborah Simmonds |
| 5. Michael Hammond | 5. Jane Mills |
| 6. Paul Gibbs | 6. Lynn Bennett |
| 7. Andrew Warner | 7. Karen Heasman |
| 8. Neil Sutton | 8. Nicky Taylor |
| 9. Anthony Haggerty | 9. Linda West |
| 10. David Dewsbury | 10. Debbie Richardson |
| 11. Martin Jones | 11. Sally Taylor |
| 12. Mark Hancock | 12. Jennifer Deeks |

JIM FORREST AWARD

This trophy is traditionally presented at the County Junior Closed although it is awarded in retrospect to the previous season's performances. Jim Forrest for many years was the Secretary of the Wandsworth League and one of his many jobs for the County was that of Press Officer. The very handsome trophy depicts that last role, representing a parchment, scroll and pen. The trophy was donated by the County, the Wandsworth League and Jim's family. Jim did a tremendous amount of work for table tennis and was particularly keen to see the young players given every encouragement. The inscription on the trophy states that it is awarded to the Surrey Junior showing "outstanding improvement, dedication and sportsmanship".

The list below shows the recipients of the coveted award and it is worth noting that while the winners have all been top players, beginning with my favourite, Susan Howard, now Henderson, the qualities required for that honour include significant improvement in standard and consistent sportsmanship, and that the latter attribute does not always accompany the former.

- 1967-68 Susan Howard
- 1968-69 Susan Howard
- 1969-70 Paul Bishop

- 1970-71 Linda Howard
- 1971-72 Steve Lyons
- 1972-73 Martin Shuttle
- 1973-74 Martin Shuttle
- 1974-75 Steve Boxall
- 1975-76 Martin Shuttle
- 1976-77 Steve Boxall



Mark Oakley, who also won the Surrey under-17 Boys' Singles title, receives the Jim Forrest Memorial Trophy from County Chairman Ron Crayden.

Photo by Allan Batchelor, Ewhurst, Surrey.

CUMBRIA COMMENT by John Taylor

EIGHTH TITLE IN FIVE YEARS

Millom School reinforced their claim to be England's most successful school club in recent years when their senior boys' team won the U-19 team championship (the Norman Cook Cup) at the recent E.S.T.T.A. National Finals at Lea Green. The boys, Diccon Gray, Ian Reed, Andrew Pachul and Tim Pachul, defeated Penlee School, Plymouth 8-0 and Swanley School, Kent 6-2 with Tim losing the only two sets. Comfortable wins therefore which gave Millom their eighth National title in the past five years.

The girls' U-19 team also qualified for the finals but could only finish third in their group after losing 3-5 to both Brampton Manor, Essex and Bournemouth School, Bournemouth. Bella Gray had a good day however and she remained undefeated with two good wins in each match, the other successes coming from Gail Smith and Pam Bickerdike with one win each.

Congratulations are also due to Diccon and Ian on their inclusion in the latest England ranking list for Juniors. Diccon comes into the list at No. 20 and he is the second Cumbrian to do so, following Chris Reed's footsteps of recent years. Ian hasn't made the top twenty but is included in the "A" Group players. Both players should have one more chance to improve their standing before their junior days are over and both are certainly well capable of it.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The County Senior team are still looking for their first win of the season after crashing 0-10 to Cheshire III in their latest match played at Millom. None of the team, comprising Jimmy Cummings (Whitehaven), Eddie O'Hara and Bill Robinson (Barrow), Jennifer Willis (Carlisle) and Mary McPortland (Barrow), were disgraced, but it was only the two females who came close to scoring a

win. Not a very happy occasion therefore for debutants O'Hara and McPortland although both produced creditable performances. Better fortunes are hoped for in the remaining two fixtures against Lancs II and Derbyshire II.

INTER-LEAGUE COMPETITION

Westmorland completed their fixtures with a comfortable 12-0 win over Millom. Stephen Dixon, David Archer, Charles Usher and Clarice Rose were the unbeaten players for Westmorland and only one set went to three when Archer just got the better of Derek Brown 15, -20, 19. Both Brown and David Bell, the latter on his debut for the side, played well for Millom and one of the main features of the match was the 19, 17 win for Usher over Bell with the second game just ten seconds short of going into expedite. Westmorland must now wait for the outcome of the Barrow v Carlisle match although it would need a big Barrow win to give Westmorland the Championship on sets for and against.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Carlisle	3	3	0	0	29	7	6
Westmorland	4	3	0	1	32	16	6
Barrow	3	2	0	1	20	16	4
Whitehaven	4	1	0	3	24	24	2
Millom	4	0	0	4	3	45	0

WESTMORLAND NOTES

Westmorland's annual closed championships were held at Heversham School on Mar. 17 and although the entry of 62 was slightly down on last year the junior entry of 42 illustrates the growth of the sport in the local schools. The main feature of the day was the very high standard of play evident in the three encounters between the league's two leading players Dixon and Archer (of the Netherfield and Heron Hill clubs respectively). Dixon beat Archer twice, both over three games, in the Men's and Boys' singles finals with Archer replying with a 2-0 win off level terms in the Handicap which he later went on to win.

Men's singles title holder Geoff Baines (Netherfield) went out to Dixon in the semi-final but when partnered by Kelvin Myers (Netherfield) had the compensation of winning the Open Doubles final against Archer and Dixon and thus preventing a clean sweep by the two 14-year-olds. Debbie Soothill (Melling) and Bob Gale (Natland) both retained their respective Girls' Singles and Veterans' Singles titles.

Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

- S. Dixon bt G. Baines 17, -16, 15;
- D. Archer bt A. Dawson (Natland) 15, 19.

Final:

DIXON bt Archer 18, -21, 16.

Open Doubles Semi-finals:

- Archer/Dixon bt Dawson/Hilbeck (Heron Hill) 14, -14, 24;
- Baines/Myers bt Gale/Usher (Natland) 18, 18.

Final:

BAINES/MYERS bt Archer/Dixon 13, -11, 18.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

- Dixon bt S. Ellison (Heron Hill) 12, 12;
- Archer bt Dawson 10, 18.

Final:

DIXON bt Archer 16, -19, 19.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

- C. Cason (Natland) bt J. Atkinson (Melling) 14, 18;
- D. Soothill bt J. Stephenson (West County Hospital) 8, 10.

Final:

SOOTHILL bt Carson 3, 10.

Handicap Singles Semi-finals:

- Archer bt C. Usher 17, 14;
- D. Uren (Heversham School) bt R. Gale 9, 17.

Final:

ARCHER bt Uren 15, 20.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

- R. Gale bt G. Phillips (Hawkshead) 11, 9;
- C. Usher bt J. Barker (West County Hospital) 9, 16.

Final:

GALE bt Usher 10, -19, 17.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Smith

FIRST-EVER

The first-ever Gloucestershire Schools Individual Championships has drawn an entry of over 120 players, and Gloucestershire will be represented in

all 8 events at the National Finals for the first time.

The Schools' activities have been organised by the Gloucestershire Association under their Tournament Sec., Ray Westbury, in an effort to encourage Table Tennis in Schools as the Education Authorities said there was no call for Table Tennis in Schools.

It is hoped this first year's entry and the interest it generates will encourage a Schools Association to be formed in Gloucestershire.

The County Senior Team have lost the services of Dave Harvey, but it is hoped his absence will only be temporary.

The weather caused the matches arranged for Feb. 17 to be postponed. On the rearranged date, the Seniors lost away to Glamorgan 9-1, with Martin Lane being Gloucestershire's only winner. They have also lost to Wiltshire away 8-2 with Lane and Vanessa Cruwys winning a singles each. On the umpiring scene, John Bunn and Trevor Golding have become County Umpires and Jack Greening has passed his written paper and awaits his practical test. The Cheltenham League are proposing to hold a course to instruct potential umpires of all ages if there is sufficient interest.

The Stroud League were the first League to hold their Closed Championships on Mar. 11 with Junior, Andrew Golding retaining his Senior and Junior titles. The big shock was the defeat of Sylvia Giles by her daughter Susan in the women's semi-final. The Gloucester Championships are on April 1 and the Cheltenham over the weekend of April 21/22. Progress is being made on sponsorship, through the hard work of Jack Reeves, and it is hoped to announce shortly that the Cotswold Junior Open Tournament will be sponsored next season. More details in next month's notes.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by P. Taylor

DOUBLE FOR WYBERTON

Wyberton won both the Haigh and Butcher Cup when they defeated their nearest rivals Grimsby in their last match of the season. In the Haigh Cup, Grimsby got off to a great start when Steve Morley beat Brian Hill 18, 18, his first defeat in this competition for many years. However, Mick East levelled the match score by beating Mark Newbould and then Jim Brewster put Wyberton in the lead with a fine win over Geoff Plaskitt. This win proved the turning point in the match for Grimsby only won two more singles, both against Brewster, and Wyberton had won 7-3.

In the Butcher Cup, Wyberton beat Grimsby 6-4. Dave Skerratt won all three singles for Wyberton and it was fine play that proved to be the deciding factor and win the Cup for Wyberton. The Butlin Cup is still undecided as yet and the final league tables will be published next month when all the outstanding matches have been played and score-sheets posted.

On the county scene, congratulations must go to our Junior 2nd team who ensured promotion with a 7-3 win over Norfolk 2nds. A major factor in this success has been the performance of our boys, especially Chris Bryan and Simon Pullen who each have won 7 out of their 8 singles. The Junior 1st team drew 5-5 with Durham despite having at one stage a 4-1 lead. The veterans continued their winning ways with a very comfortable 9-0 victory over Hertfordshire, only two matches requiring a deciding game. The senior team travelled to Lancashire and had to face a very strong side, containing John Hilton and Donald Parker. Not surprisingly they lost 9-1, Brian Allison beating Nigel Hallows in the last rubber of the night. Hill had a very good game against Hilton and only lost -21, 20, -18. Gillian Sharpe made her senior debut in this match taking the place of Suzanne Hunt who was unavailable. The 15-year-old junior played well taking Wendy Shaw to the third game as Wendy this year is unbeaten as county level.

When one takes into consideration the fact that the senior county team did not arrive home until about 4 a.m. in the morning, their results in the East of England that day were very good. Both Hill and Allison reached the 4th round of the men's singles with Hill also reaching the men's doubles final with Alan Croome. Gillian Sharpe

reached the quarters in the women's singles, narrowly losing to Gloria Stocks (Yorkshire) 19 in the third. Mrs. Stocks had in the previous round beaten Sally Midgley. Angela Gunthorpe partnered by Carol Judson reached the semi-final of the women's doubles.

Other notable performances by local players in this tournament were Cheryl Buttery reaching the semi-final of the women's and Matt Sheader reaching the semis in the veterans. In the junior events Bryan and Pullen were defeated in the quarters of the boys', Simon losing to the eventual winner Adrian Hill 17 in the third. These two also reached the quarters in the men's doubles, losing to the Welsh pair Alan Griffiths and George Evans. Debra Brown once again beat her Caister teammate Gillian Sharpe to meet Sally Midgley in the semis of the girls'.

Finally congratulations must go to Chris Bryan and Gillian Sharpe on getting into the junior rankings. Both have recently obtained sponsorship from Jaques and the latest rankings place Chris at No. 7 in the cadets and Gillian in the A squad in the girls.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Malcolm Allsop

TITLES RETAINED

A record entry competed in the Derby League's Closed Championships played over two days at the Derby Headquarters, with Derbyshire champions Philip Vickers and Linda Holmes retaining their men's and women's singles titles.

Brian Bennett and Karen Payne won the under-17 boys' and girls' singles titles, and the Championships aroused considerable interest with the Derby Evening Telegraph running six articles in four days.

The competition in Derbyshire has been fought out between Chesterfield and Derby for too long, but that could change if the Burton League continue with their policies which have been bringing younger players into the League for coaching and match play. Peter Hirst attended an evening for student and club coaches at Hill Street P.E. Centre, and this has increased interest.

Burton champion Tony Bird went unbeaten through the first half season of League matches, but suffered a surprise defeat by Pat Hall in the second half.

Squash Club and Wirksworth 1st are fighting out the first division championship of the Matlock League, with County Officers "A" their closest challengers.

County Offices "B" are running away with Div. 2, whilst Wirksworth 3rd and Cromford "C" are close competitors in Div. 3.

Congratulations to Frank O'Sullivan and Marilyn Deakin who were married in February on the eve of the Derby Championships — and did not defend their mixed doubles title!

We wish a speedy recovery after illness to Chesterfield League Chairman Derek Moore.

The Table Toppers made a return visit to Derbyshire and enthralled the Derby audience with their brand of comedy and play. With the spectators wanting more when they finished, President Terry Carlisle put up a £20 challenge with the Table Toppers playing a knock-out competition ending with John Hilton beating Brian Kean for the unexpected bonus.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Brian Halliday

EXAMPLE TO COPY

The absence of Karen Witt probably cost Berkshire the away match against Cheshire. Karen who had played in Plymouth against the USSR the preceding evening was not available for a match where a good result was vital if the County are to compete in the Premier Division next season. With our other top women players not available the selectors gave an unexpected chance to Alison Burke who was drafted in at very short notice from a junior 2nd team match. Alison lacks top class experience at present and she failed to open her account in this match, but it is worth recording that her manner and approach to the game is an example that even some of her senior colleagues could copy with advantage. The County went down 1-9, our only win coming from Dave Reeves.

The second team went down 4-6 to Bucks. This was an unexpected result but all credit to our visitors for a shock victory. Jim Stokes beat Sam Harmer but "match of the day" saw Harmer beat Clive Payne with some breathtaking rallies. The set that cost us the match was the quite inexplicable defeat of current England No. 7 Mandy Smith by Sue Lines.

The Junior 2nd team completed a black Saturday for the county by losing 3-7 at Milton Keynes to Bucks. The wins came from Taryn Vallis and Jenny Collins who took their singles comfortably and then combined well to win the doubles. The Selectors have taken the chance to blood several youngsters this season. Simon Rowland was playing his third county match, and Paul Halliday, who was making his debut, both show promise of better things to come.



Some of the competitors in the Derby Junior Championships.

Photo by Terry Phillips of the Derby Evening Telegraph.

There are no alterations to the last published lists of county rankings although there are two additions to the boys junior list. Shane Kirton and Andrew Nash, both products of the Bracknell Leagues Coaching set up are listed at Nos. 10 and 11. The member leagues in Berkshire have received requests for nominations for the regional under-14 tournament and the absence of a county cadets ranking list has caused some embarrassment. It is understood that the rankings committee is to rectify the situation in the near future.

The league season has now ended and at the time of writing it looks as if Omega will win the Reading Championship with Woodland and Ibis following them home. The Maidenhead League should see in Div. 1 title success for Springfield Kestrels with Legion Tigers in second position. The Bracknell Championship has still to be resolved and the title now lies between Wokingham 'A' and Woodley 'A', with the odds in favour of the former.

Judy Heaps, the ex-international and Berkshire County star got married recently. All her many friends wish her and her husband every happiness in the future.

Four of the Maidenhead teams competing in the Bucks inter-league competition have the opportunity to win their respective divisions.

In Men's Div. I Maidenhead are a point behind Wycombe, with a game in hand. They meet Wycombe in their next match which could decide the title, and also have to play bottom side Chiltern.

In Div. 2 Maidenhead move above Slough following their 7-3 victory over Chiltern. John Venables was undefeated, with Chris Webb winning two singles and Pat Mahar one. Webb and Venables combined to win the doubles.

Both the junior boys' and girls' teams at present trail the leaders in their divisions, but with matches in hand cannot be ruled out of the title chase.

The girls' side improved their chances when they beat present leaders High Wycombe 5-0. Susan Blackburn and Susan Collier represented Maidenhead.

Bucks League tables:-

Division 1						
Men						
	P	W	D	L	P	
High Wycombe	3	2	1	0	5	
Maidenhead	2	2	0	0	4	
Aylesbury	3	1	0	2	2	
Slough	2	0	1	1	1	
Chiltern	2	0	0	0	0	
Boys						
Aylesbury	3	3		0	3	
High Wycombe	3	1		2	1	
Maidenhead	2	1		1	1	
Slough	2	0		2	0	
Girls						
High Wycombe	4	3		1	3	
Maidenhead	3	2		1	2	
Milton Keynes	3	2		1	2	
Slough	3	1		2	1	
Aylesbury	3	0		3	0	

Finally the thoughts of all Berkshire players will be with Karen Witt this month as she makes the long journey to Korea to represent her country at the highest level in the game. Her new partnership with the brilliant Desmond Douglas must give Karen an outside chance of a world title. If Secretin and Bergeret could win the title at Birmingham all Berkshire feel that Des and Karen could emulate this feat in Pyongyang.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

TITLE IN SIGHT

Cambs. went to the top of Div. II East of the County Championships with a comfortable 8-2 victory over Norfolk at Wisbech. The home county were never in trouble and were leading 7-0 before Duggie Bennett had a shock win over Keith Richardson. Then in the final set Mick Musson added respectability to the score with a narrow three-game win over Geoff Davies. Previously Richardson had beaten Musson and Mick Harper

had beaten Bennett in straight games and went on to beat Bunn fairly comfortably.

Joanne Palmer and Jane Hunter won their singles over Miss Hogg and Miss Hales respectively. This victory enabled Cambs. to have the opportunity of winning the division if they beat Herts. in their last match on Mar. 31st.

Cambs. Juniors were deprived of three of their top five boys who were playing for Hereward School, March, in the National Schools' Championships at Matlock and were thus weakened for their two matches with Glamorgan and Hunts. The first team's chance of winning Midland Div. Two disappeared when they went down 3-7 to the Welsh County at Cardiff. Andy Withers and Tracy Fisher both had successes in singles while Cambridgeshire's third victory came from a walk-over when Glamorgan's Debbie Coulthard was late in arriving.

The Junior second team fought back well from 0-4 down to 3-5 against Hunts, at March but finally lost 3-7 after a 3½ hour marathon. The cadet pair Jamie Frost and Julian Wheel started the revival when they won the boys' doubles and Frost also had a singles win against Hunts. No. 1 Philip Cole. Rachel Norris completed the score with a win over Sandra Randall.

New Chesterton Institute II eased their relegation worries in Div. I of the Cambs. League with a convincing 9-1 win over comrades in distress Telephones. Keith Lloyd won the opening set for Telephones over Stuart Marsdon but this was to be their sole success.

This win brought N.C.I. level on points with Telephones at nine each, five ahead of bottom club University. Y.M.C.A. on 10 points failed to pull further ahead of the bottom three by losing 6-4 to Guildhall. At one stage Y.M.C.A. led 3-1, but despite three wins from Reg Wain they failed to gain even one point.

Torchbearers, top of Div. II, took a step nearer Div. I with a 7-3 win over bottom club Y.M.C.A. II, but second-placed Impington II faltered by dropping a point against their first team. The Impington "derby" was a see-saw affair with the first leading 3-1 and then trailing 3-5 but honours were even in the end. Torchbearers II in Div. IIIA are trying to emulate their first team with a promotion challenge and they kept up their neck-and-neck struggle with University III by beating Sawston I 9-1. University went one better, however, against Ely Fire Service. University II, leaders in 3B dropped a point to Soham V who are well placed themselves for a promotion bid. Thackray won his usual three for the Varsity including a win over John Ashman. In their other match University were hard-pressed to beat lowly Press III 6-4 with Alan Spilman pulling off a great win against Thackray.

Soham are dominating the Cambridge League Handicap K.O. competition. Two of their teams are through to the semi-final and their first team are likely to become the third by the time these notes are in print. Soham IV had an easy passage against General Accident winning the first 5 sets before finishing 6-3 winners. Guildhall were never in with a chance against Soham VI and they had to settle for two sets when Albert Jackson and Gerald Coteman beat Alan Everitt. In the quarter-final match that did not involve a Soham team Saffron Walden I beat Torchbearers IV 6-3. Torchbearers were without their popular Secretary Ralph Rust who was sick but did not concede the match until the eighth set. Parsons was unbeaten for Saffron Walden. In their fourth round tie Soham I beat St. Ives 5-1. Alan Smith gained St. Ives' solitary success with a win over Withers. With the season nearing its end Soham are certain of being League champions yet again and it will take a very good team to depose them next season.

In the S.E.M. League, Cambridge are at the top of the Veterans' Division and are almost certain of the title and Ely are at the head of the Men's Section and again are almost certain of the title. In recent games Wisbech drew 5-5 with Cambridge in the Men's Section and Cambridge beat Northampton 8-2 in the Veterans'.

Cambs. Closed Championships are being held at Hudson Recreation Centre, Wisbech on May 6. Twelve tables will be in operation with Keith Richardson defending his singles title.

After the successful running of the Fenland 2-Star on March 4, the Wisbech T.T.A. can have

a slight rest before they organise the East Anglian and Cambs. Closed next month. In the First Division of the Wisbech League Paliminos still hold the top spot even though they lost to Bury Cars 1-9, Tydd and Bury Cars are now pushing Paliminos very hard at the top and it should be a very close thing at the end of the season. Wisbech Juniors lost in the Zone Finals in both of the National Competitions. The Boys' lost to a strong Dagenham team 1-7 with Frost winning the one and the Girls' lost in the Bromfield Trophy 3-6 to Cheshunt with Jane Hunter winning two and her sister Ruth one. Georgia Calvert was the third player.

PROFILE

The name of Geoff Waters in Cambs. Table Tennis Circles is highly rated. He joined the Cambridge League in the 1963-64 season and played for the Cambridge Evening News in Div. 7. He originally played in the Sheffield League before coming to Cambridge and helped the "Cambridge Evening News" to get to the 1st division of the Cambs. League. On the closing of that club in 1976 he then joined Impington and still plays for them with success in Div. II. But these are mere incidentals compared with the vast amount of work he has done for the Cambs. Association. Since 1969 he has been Chairman and also from that period he has been Match Secretary with enormous success. Nothing has been too much trouble for him such as transporting teams to their various destinations, attending selection committee and Executive meetings with regularity and promptness. His very presence at any function makes it a success and being a County Umpire he also excels in this field at many matches. His "straight talking" has been the feature of his success and Cambs. will be so much poorer when he decides to relinquish his offices — may that be in the far distant future. Truly a man of the hour!

Obituary

KEITH PUDDICK

Cambs. table tennis players and fans will have learned with regret of the death, at the age of 40, of Keith Puddick. In his younger days he played for the Y.M.C.A. and Torchbearers and he also represented Cambridge in the South East Midlands League. He was probably better known, however, as a player and official of the Cambridge University Press teams of the last decade. Over the last five years he had become more concerned with the administration of the game rather than playing. Right up to his death he was match secretary of Cambridgeshire's second team and last season his enthusiasm had led them to their most successful season. He was also a member of the County Selection Committee. Our thoughts at this time go out to his wife Ruth who at one time was Cambs. County Secretary and also a useful club player. Keith will be greatly missed, especially by those who were closely in contact with him.

Leslie Constable.

Leading positions:-

Division 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
Soham 1	13	13	0	0	122	8	26			
NCI 1	16	12	2	2	107	53	26			
St. Ives	13	7	3	3	73	57	17			
Guildhall	15	7	2	6	72	78	16			
Press 1	15	7	1	7	76	74	15			
Soham 3	13	5	3	5	60	70	13			
Division 2										
Torchbearers 1	15	12	2	1	97	53	26			
Impington 2	15	9	4	2	88	62	22			
Swaves 1	13	9	2	2	84	46	20			
Westley 1	15	7	4	4	82	68	18			
Press 2	15	8	2	5	81	69	18			
Division 3A										
Univ 3	16	13	1	2	131	29	27			
Torchbearers 2	14	10	3	1	103	37	23			
Fisons 2	14	10	2	2	87	53	22			
NCI 3	14	7	5	2	76	64	19			

S.E. MIDLANDS NOTES

by Leslie Constable

Ely are at the head of the Men's section and at the present time they hold a lead over their nearest rivals Milton Keynes. Bedford are in a perilous position at the foot of the table with Cambridge just above them. Wellingborough are in a good position at the top in Div. II with R.A.F. and Bedford II several points behind them. Kettering easily lead Div. III and had a resounding win over Towcester 10-0 in a recent match. Wellingborough are romping away in the Women's Division with a ten point lead over Northampton. Dunstable, Bedford and March are in the three bottom positions with the latter team in deep trouble for the "wooden spoon". There is a great fight in the Junior Div. I where Milton Keynes, March and Kettering are all in the running and in Div. II Peterborough are in the lead with St. Neots and North Herts challenging strongly. Cambridge are well in the lead in the Veterans' Division and Peterborough look like runners-up. St. Neots are at the head of the Girls' Division and at this stage are in a very strong position.

Leading positions:-

Men					
Division 1					
	P	W	D	L	P
Ely	4	4	0	0	31
Milton Keynes	4	4	0	0	29
Northampton	6	3	0	3	28
North Herts	5	2	0	3	23
Division 2					
Wellingboro	6	5	0	1	44
R.A.F.	6	4	0	2	37
Bedford	5	4	0	1	32
Hunts Central	4	2	0	2	22
Women					
Wellingboro	6	6	0	0	54
Northampton	6	5	0	1	44
Kettering	6	4	0	2	39
North Herts	5	2	0	3	21
Juniors					
Division 1					
Milton Keynes	4	3	0	1	30
March	4	3	0	1	29
Kettering	4	3	0	1	26
Northampton	3	2	0	1	19
Veterans					
Division 1					
Cambridge	6	5	1	0	43
Peterboro	6	4	1	1	38
St. Neots	8	2	4	2	38
Northampton	6	1	2	3	28
Girls					
St. Neots	3	2	1	0	22
March	2	1	0	1	8
Northampton	1	0	1	0	5

KENT NOTES

by Eileen Koutikoff

TOURNAMENT FEVER

The intensity in Kent to give Table Tennis a new coat of paint is now at fever pitch! Individuals are taking tournaments by the scruff of the neck and shaking away the out-of-date traditions of finding the most economical four walls to house the necessary amount of tables. Much more thought is being given to the wishes of the players and spectators.

The availability of refreshments for an all-day event used to be a luxury that too few venues could offer but now the players are demanding reasonable playing conditions and facilities that a lot of other sports have been taking for granted for years.

The problem in the past has always been cost, and, yes, extra money is needed but the players are willing to pay a larger entry fee, providing the facilities are better. I have not yet heard one complaint from any player on the £4 entry fee required in the Global Tournament, because the players got their money's worth. The capacity entry proves the tournament was worth £4 to enter.

There is of course sponsorship and it is avail-

able, but it becomes more available if you offer a sponsor a tournament that they feel proud to be associated with.

The Beckenham League are organising such a tournament, in fact, two in one, the Beckenham Closed and a brand new tournament to Beckenham, a restricted Open. These two events are to be held on April 22 at the new Lewisham Leisure Centre. This luxury venue offers refreshments all day long, a 3 course lunch if required, (although this is an extra cost of £1.30p) a licenced bar and comfortable seating.

To be eligible for the Restricted Open event, you must be a registered Beckenham player who has played at least one league match.

The Beckenham league have a galaxy of players eligible such as:- John Dabin, Andy Mitchell, Paul Guttormsen, David Tan, Bob Potton, Mike Johns, Joey Kennedy and Max Crimmins, even the great Mr. Douglas is registered, but he still has a match to play to qualify for this event.

With such top class players the spectators have some top class matches to look forward to.

This tournament is the brainchild of Jim Bromley who along with Graham Langrish and Ted Roberts are determined to make this event an enjoyable one for the Beckenham players. I take my hat off to you Jim, and the Beckenham Committee for supporting you.

The Beckenham League can also congratulate themselves on beating Leatherhead 5-3 to win their Zone in the 'Wilmott Cup'. Beckenham's team, against Shuttle, Hanner, and Hayley, was Guttormsen, Ian Horsham and John Burleton, and their heads are well up for the final play-offs, with good reason. For, as well as the strong team mentioned, Beckenham have almost a telephone directory of top players in their squad including the Kent and England player Dabin. Good luck Beckenham!

To conclude on a light note, Clive Morris of Kent and Melvin Waldman of Middlesex had a most extraordinary game, in the Kent v Middlesex County match. Both players have an almost identical style of play, all-out-attack. But in this clash the rallies went on so long 'Expedit' was called at 20-20 in the third game. Melvin won 22-20 but Kent won the match 9-1, Clive is still recovering from shock!!

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. Moran

WHAT A YEAR!

Duggie! Duggie! Duggie! — oi! oi! oi! With apologies to Max Boyce, what a year 1979 is turning out to be for Duggie Johnson. First of all came that all-Warwickshire men's final in the English Closed and honourable defeat at the hands of Super Des (is it true that Kevin Keegan is known as the Desmond Douglas of German football?). This shot the cheeky chappie up to No. 5 in the English Senior Rankings and when Max Crimmins had to drop out of the recent friendly v Russia at Plymouth who stepped into the breach? That's right, Johnson Junior. Two magnificent singles wins by our hero, and England "B" scored a famous 5-4 victory.

Back onto his bike, and off to Nuneaton went Duggie for the following night's County Premier Division match v Surrey.

Both sides fielded reserves, Surrey having Steve Boxall in for Crimmins (coincidence is a funny thing!) and Pat Glynn stepped in for Warwickshire in the absence of 'flu victim Simon Claxton. Somewhat travel-weary Duggie won one singles and, paired with Derek Munt, won the Men's Doubles. Derek also won one singles, both Warwickshire defenders falling to Dave Welsman who's style proved very efficient against them.

The real stars of the match proved to be "Pat the Penholder" and Karen Groves not content with winning the Mixed Doubles with Pat, Karen went on to win her second successive Premier Division Women's Singles. Karen, fresh from victory in the Coventry 1-Star Open, showed once again that outside the top ten ranked women she is a force to be reckoned with.

And so to the volatile Mr. Glynn, plainly not overawed by the occasion, Pat won both his singles

to repeat the success of his last Premier Division appearance five years previously!

It all added up to a 7-2 victory which exactly reversed the result of the previous match v Cheshire when the league leaders in favourable conditions (though we were at home!) proved too strong. We had the consolation of winning the best game of the night when D. and D. beat Eckersley and Mike Johns in three sets to take the men's doubles. Karen Groves had the only singles success to herald her good form to come.

Non-playing captain Phil Burwell unabashed after the defeat v Cheshire was bouncing after Surrey's demise. With matches against Yorkshire, Glamorgan and Essex to come Phil is confident of a final position at the top end of the table, which will put the pre-season forecasters of relegation firmly in their place.

The Coventry Open should be reported elsewhere in the magazine and the Warwickshire closed has been re-arranged for the 8th of April so should appear in next month's issue.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

SAME AGAIN

For the second year running the star of the Staffs. Closed Tournament was England junior-ranked Andrew Bellingham, again winning all four of the events in which he entered — almost certainly a record in the County, but I will await with interest any claims to the contrary. Tournament play demands all-round fitness, especially to achieve this sort of performance which entailed playing 21 sets throughout a long day of over 12 hours. Once or twice he nearly slipped up, as when he was 20-19 down in the third against Paul Barnett in the semi-final of the Intermediates and 11-5 down against Andrew Dixon in the Junior final. Three other players, Eddie Wilkes, Greg Hallam and young Steve Willshire took a game off Andrew in the singles and in the doubles with his partner, Andrew ('Mr. A.C.T.')

Rich, only one game was dropped. Rich also had a successful day, reaching three finals and a semi (Mark Evans beat him in the Intermediates) and winning two trophies, but the other achievement of the day was by Shirley Cain who reached four finals — although she had to take second place in three of them.

Janet Carr took the Women's Singles for the third year in succession, but not without some nervous moments in the final against Shirley Cain, who was the only one to extend her. It was also three years in a row for Janet and her partner, Joanne Chubb, in the Women's Doubles.

Steve Rowe took advantage of an off-form Tony Isaac (who admits to always being in difficulty against Steve) to reach the Men's semi, but he could make little impression on Rich and the final was a repeat of last year with Bellingham winning in two.

In the Under-14 events, Dixon proved far too strong for any of the other juniors, but Fiona Elliot upset the seeding by defeating Vicki Bellingham in the semi and giving Stephanie Hadley an easy win in the final. Despite not being ranked nationally, Jill Harris justified the County ranking by a straight games win over Shirley Cain, No. 12 in England.

Results:-

Men's Singles:

A. Bellingham bt A. Rich 17, 14.

Women's Singles:

J. Carr bt S. Cain 12, -18, 16.

Boys' Singles:

Bellingham bt A. Dixon 14, -11, 15.

Girls' Singles:

J. Harris bt S. Cain 9, 19.

Cons. Boys' Singles:

Dixon bt J. Ford 9, 11.

Individual Singles:

Bellingham bt M. Evans 18, 14.

Veteran Singles:

R. Wain bt R. Booth -15, -9.

Men's Doubles:

Rich/Bellingham bt S. Dunning/K. Fellows 10, 12.

Women's Doubles:

Carr/J. Chubb bt Harris/Cain 12, -15, 19.

Mixed Doubles:

Cain/Rich bt Carr/Dunning 9, 14.

The County Closed is run one week after the Potteries Closed at the Northwood Centre and the previous week, I am told, saw a men's final of rare merit between Bellingham and Isaac. Their styles match to provide real entertainment and excitement for the spectators, something which is not always achieved in the higher circles such as the matches shown on television. Bellingham was the winner by 16, -18, 12, and he also took the Boys' and the Mixed Doubles partnered by J. Callaghan. Mrs. Pat Brookes won the Women's Singles and the other doubles events were won by Mark Evans and Phil Anderson (Men's) and K. Wass and M. Turner (Women's).

In the Beattie Trophy, Potteries unfortunately conceded the semi-final to Wolverhampton, and the final is now between Wolverhampton and Walsall. Both leagues are represented by teams from the Moseley Park Club and you can't have a more local derby than that.

In my reference to the top placings in the Stoke League last month, I was in error in omitting Steve Willis as being unbeaten in the Meaford "A" side. With his colleague Emyln Williams and Doulton's Tom Ball also undefeated, the second half clash between these two contenders for top honours will include battles for personal honours as well. Only two other players are undefeated in Stone. Willie Bridgeman is leading the young Alleynes side to the Div. 2 title, and Clive Bailey (Meaford "D") in Div. 3 has yet to be toppled.

At the recent County meeting, the committee received notice of several resignations at the end of the season. Tom Finney, our President over several years, has unfortunately decided that his other interests prevent him from giving proper attention to County table tennis, and Geoff Williamson, who has worked hard over recent years running the County League and, more lately, the Selection Committee, has decided to give up County work. Ray Dixon, whose family is so closely connected with table tennis in Staffordshire, has found his involvement with the County "B" and Junior "B" sides too much to cope with in addition to his many other activities, and has intimated his intention to resign at the end of the playing season. Presumably Staffordshire readers of this column must be table tennis enthusiasts so that it is not too much to ask them to come along to the A.G.M. of the County, held on a Sunday in June, to see whether a helping hand is needed. We are currently without a secretary and it may well be that the committee needs to be revitalised with an infusion of new blood to get us back on the right road. Certainly we cannot operate with the current shrinking numbers without some curtailment of County activities which cover coaching, County teams, tournaments, County League, umpiring and general administrative duties.

Sorry to end on rather a depressing note, but those of us with an interest in the County will hope that this apparent trend can be reversed.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Iris Moss

SIX OUT OF SIX

The week-end of March 10/11 proved a good one for our teams in the County Championships, with Middlesex winning all six of the matches in which they were involved. Our Veterans' team has now won their Division and will be taking part in the play-off on April 7 at the Barnets Table Tennis Centre. The fate of our Senior and Junior 1st teams still hangs in the balance until the week-end of March 31/April 1 but we are hoping that at least one of them will gain the title.

The Middlesex Junior Authorised (a report of which appears elsewhere in this edition) proved to be a hard, full day's work for the Referees and Organisers as well as the players. Once again we finished later than we hoped, but this event as well as our U-15 and U-13 Championships will be played on 2 days next season so this **should** not happen again.

The next event in Middlesex will be our Closed Championships and I will report on the results of that next month. Unfortunately some of our best players consider that the Closed is "beneath" them,

but this will give an opportunity to the "lesser" lights to prove their worth.

I hear on the grape-vine that two of our Leagues are having trouble finding General Secretaries. While accepting that some of the younger players would not be able to fill such an important post, it surprises me that the many people who enjoy playing the game are unwilling to accept some of the responsibility for organising it. Personally I thoroughly enjoyed my years on the Committee of the London Civil Service League and still enjoy being on the Committee of the Middlesex Association and would strongly recommend this work to anyone, particularly those approaching retirement. It is a pleasant way to keep occupied and in touch with people when competitive table tennis becomes a bit too much for you.

SUFFOLK SCENE

by Steve Richards

SHOW GOES ON

Despite the terrible weather in East Anglia this winter many matches have still been played. On the County scene Suffolk Seniors "A" have played and lost to Cambs. (4-6) and Essex (3-7). The players have been John Kitchener, Mick Palmer (Capt.), Julian Hall, Sue Welham and Janet Faiers.

Suffolk Seniors "B" have played and lost to Cambs. (4-6), Hunts (3-7) and Herts (1-9). Several youngsters have been blooded and the team has included Bob Milne, Terry Kirby, Stuart Palmer, Anthony Booth, Dan Henderson, Debbie Wootton, Kathy Brierley, Jane Richards and Jane Newton.

The Juniors have beaten Norfolk and Herts but losing to Beds. Several of the side have never played for the County before and all will be available next season. Team members were Hall, Booth, Stuart Palmer, Debbie Wootton, Jane Richards and Jane Leonard.

Julian Hall thrilled all Suffolk by being ranked No. 18 in England while congratulations are due to Stuart Palmer who won the Boys' Singles at the Fenland 2-Star.

In the Suffolk Schools championships the youngsters from Bury swept the board for the first time in many years and go on to play at Gloucester in April. Winners were:-

Boys'

- U-19: Julian Hall
- U-16: Andrew Bentinck

- U-13: Kevin Scott
- U-11: Dale Gibson

Girls'

- U-19: Jane Cross
- U-16: Jane Richards
- U-13: Clare Richards

Much progress has been made by the Juniors and much credit is due to Mick Palmer who has coached all over the County and especially in the Bury St. Edmunds area. The Bury League entertain a team from Compiegne over Easter and a disco/dinner is a sell out for late this month.

COUNTY RANKINGS

Men

1. John Kitchener (Ip)
2. Mick Palmer (B)
3. Julian Hall (B)
4. Stuart Palmer (B)
5. Russell King (L)
6. Richard Hellaby (Ip)
7. Ron Milne (L)
8. David Henderson (L)
9. Terry Kirby (B)
10. Andy Schooler (Ip)
11. Anthony Booth (B)
12. Clive Woollard (B)

Women

1. Sue Welham (Ip)
2. Janet Faiers (B)
3. Linda Cunnell (Ip)
4. Debbie Wootton (Ip)
5. Kathy Brierley (Ip)
6. Debra Hubble (L)
7. Jane Richards (B)
8. Jane Newton (Ip)
9. Jane Leonard (B)
10. Janet Matthews (B)

Key:-

B—Bury St. Edmunds, Ip—Ipswich, L—Lowestoft.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

TREBLE FOR ANDREW

The T.S.B. Norfolk Junior Closed Championships were held at Neatherd High School, Dereham on Sunday, Feb. 11. These resulted in a treble for 17-year-old Andrew Buckingham, who beat the County No. 1 Junior, David Unwin, 24-22 in the third to take the U-17 title, and, as expected, took the boys' doubles with David. Then he



Four go to All-England Schools in April from Newmarket. (From l to r): Andrew Bentinck, Clare Richards, Jane Richards and Dale Gibson (centre front).

Photo by Nigel Bloxham, Newmarket by courtesy of Newmarket Journal.

teamed with Zoe Nichols to win the Mixed. Headlines in the local press went, however, to 14-year-old Sarah Bignell, described as "Golden Girl Sarah", who appeared in four finals, and won the Girls' U-15. It was good to see Ruth Harrowven, back again after illness and with a completely changed grip, successful in the Girls' U-17 event. This final, against Sarah, was the highlight of the day.

Results:-

Boys' Singles:

U-17: A. Buckingham bt D. Unwin 20, -13, 22.

U-15: M. Stevenson bt R. Stevenson -16, 20, 16.

U-13: G. McKim bt C. Rayment 15, 12.

Girls' Singles:

U-17: R. Harrowven bt S. Bignell -13, 7, 17.

U-15: Rignell bt Z. Nichols -14, 12, 17.

U-13: Leslie Crisp bt Sarah Croucher 17, 18.

Doubles:

Boys': Unwin/Buckingham bt Stevenson/Stevenson 16, 18.

Girls': Harrowven/Nichols bt Ann Bowers/Bignell -18, 17, 15.

Mixed: Buckingham/Nichols bt D. Pundt/Bignell 12, 15.

Readers of these Notes may have missed what is a very rare event indeed, a Norfolk win in an Open 2-star Junior Tournament. A party of five from Theford travelled to Lincoln, where Unwin and Buckingham won the U-17 Boys' Doubles. Details are on page 24 of the February issue of T.T. News. Also in the party were Graeme McKim and Chris Rayment, finalists in the U-13 event above, who have obviously profited from the experience and are repaying the efforts of County Coach Les Rayment.

All county matches scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 17, two days after the great blizzard, had to be postponed. One of these, TSB Junior I v Herts II (away) has been played since, and resulted in Norfolk's first Junior victory of the season by 8-2.

In the March county matches, Norfolk Senior I went down 2-8 to Cambridgeshire at Wisbech. Senior II had their match conceded by Bedfordshire II, who found themselves unable to travel to Norwich. In the third and last match, TSB Junior II (Robert and Martyn Stevenson, Roger Margetson, Sarah Bignell and Linda Baker) lost to Lincolnshire Junior II (Chris Bryan, Marcus Emmerson, Simon Pullen, Jane Wingard and Jacqueline Barnett) by 3-7 at Norwich CEYMS. This match was a pleasure to watch, with both sides very well turned out and some very promising young players.

Norfolk players did quite well in the Fenland Open at Wisbech, several reaching semi-finals. I am told that the entry was disappointing, being affected by the Global tournament on the same day.

Yarmouth League have held a Junior tournament at the Power Station. Sarah Bignell appears again!

Results:-

Boys:

U-13 Singles: Simon Brown bt Richard Dexter -12, 13, 12.

U-13 Doubles: Brown/Paul Smith bt Dexter/Andrew Leggett 20, 16.

U-11 Singles: T. Bishop bt C. Heard 6, 12.

Girls'

Singles: Sarah Bignell bt Ann Bowers 14, -11, 13.

In the E. Anglian League, Div. I, Norwich beat Dereham 7-3 to retain their unbeaten record and take the title too. Dereham "B" won their division when they drubbed Yarmouth "B" 8-2.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

ANNUAL TOURNAMENTS

The past month has seen all three member leagues staging their annual tournaments. Response in entries from all three look to be good with none more so than at Peterborough.

Played on the second Saturday in March the Peterborough tournament, staged at the Focus Youth Club, had its' highest-ever entry. The men's singles saw the County captain Alan Gray lifting his second successive title beating Graham Dale (15) in the final by a 21-19, 21-8 scoreline. Graham had played particularly well to reach this stage

beating his father Colin at the quarter-final stage and Peter Berna in the semis. Sylvia Upton repeated her County success by taking the women's solo title in three games against Shelly Holland.

Alan Gray partnered former men's winner Gregg Baker to win the men's doubles in a closely-fought final against the Dale father and son combination. Shelly Holland and Pip Baker retained the women's doubles trophy. Graham Dale beat Tom Lawler to win the boys' singles to add to his County Junior triumph. Jo Murphy won the girls' singles title for the first time whilst George Wismewski took the lower division title. Alan Gray finished a successful day with a mixed title with Pip Baker.

The previous weekend saw the St. Neots League in action at their De Luxe Centre. Alan Albon, the County champion, won the men's singles title for the eighth time. This ever-consistent player had to combat the expedite rule in the final to run out a three game winner over Ray Norton. The women's final saw the fast-improving Randall sisters at opposite ends of the table for a final in which Janet defeated her sister Sandra in the 3rd leg.

Sandra, partnered by Alison Hillard won the women's duo with Stan Roberts and Eddy Haslop winning the corresponding men's event. Mark Lakin and Janet Randall were the successful junior event winners.

The Hunts Central tournament changed venues from St. Ives to Huntingdon and in turn found a much improved entry. Here Les Wooding took the men's singles title for the second successive year. Les was taken the distance in the final by No. 5 seed Alan Smith. Biggest upset of the day was the first round demolition of the No. 2 seed Tim Speller by junior Richard Wells. The women's title was taken by Kath Hubbard who overcame Sylvia Williams at the final hurdle. The two women finalists teamed up to win the women's doubles whilst Speller and Mark Fisher took the men's doubles title.

Richard Wells won the boys' title with Clare Jackson gaining her first title in the girls' singles. Ron Nunn retained his veterans' title with a final win over Ken Hubbard. 15-years-old Melanie Ringrose (St. Ives) won her first open title when she won the girls' singles title at the Fenland Open in early March. Melanie, unseeded, defeated Pauline Cameron (Notts) in the final to gain this result.

AVON NOTES

by Robert Oldfield

SET FOR STRUGGLE

Despite the return of Chris Sewell for an experimental work-out, Avon I (Sewell, Martyn Smith, Robert Oldfield, Helen Gore and Andrea Seager) were unable to prevent Wiltshire taking both points thanks to the visitors' women, and their Nos. 1 and 2, Kevin Satchell and Bruce Moulding. The match was played at very short notice after the Bristol Closed championships had to be postponed and the result means that Avon will really struggle to avoid finishing in last position, particularly after Devon's victory over Somerset.

However, better news from our other teams in a combined fixture against Cornwall, the day after the Western Counties team competition had been held in Bristol. Avon II (Lloyd Stewart, Ray Sewell, Phil Riley, Muriel Hooker and Tina Shortman) had an excellent match and the new policy of fielding our junior players certainly paid off when Riley had a magnificent win in the last set of the afternoon enabling Avon to win 6-4.

Earlier in the day, Avon's Juniors (Riley, Andy Creed, Nick Baldwin, T. Shortman and Geraldine Sandford), also gained a 6-4 result in their favour to improve their challenge on the division title.

As mentioned, the previous day, Mar. 3, Bristol had been the venue for the annual Western Counties Team Championships. With Avon, Gloucester, Somerset, Dorset, Cornwall and Devon competing it was the strong Dorset contingent that left with most of the trophies, winning the overall team championship by a handsome margin and providing both finalists in the women's and men's events.

Considering our weakened strength Avon did

well to finish runners-up but it was a different story in the Junior event where both Creed and Riley did the county proud in an all-Avon final, to clinch the points for the Tempest Trophy. It was, in fact, an excellent day for Creed who also reached the semi-final of the senior event beating Graham Green (Somerset) and Heath Robinson (Dorset) in his path. Results in brief were:-

Men's Singles:

Abbott (Do) bt Smith (Do).

Women's Singles:

New (Do) bt Mackriell (Do).

Boys' Singles:

Creed (Av) bt Riley (Av).

Also, that day, Martyn Smith was away playing at the 'Select' ranking tournament and whilst losing to one lower ranked player he can reasonably expect to remain in the top 20 of the Junior List.

February is the time for closed championships in this area and it was also the time for Bath to put their computerised ranking system into operation. At the championships the punched cards ran true to form whilst one of the features was the emergence of Julie Cruse who took home both the singles and doubles titles.

Although the crowd attendance at the finals was disappointing the number of entrants rose again to 181, which is reaching saturation level if the current venue continues to be used. Among the competitors was Birmingham University student Jeremy Musselwhite whose home is in Bath and who is at present working on his 'year out' in Bournemouth. Jerry showed that he can still take the local talent, beating John Chandler in emphatic style in the final of the Chronicle Cup.

Results:-

Men's Singles:

K. Satchell bt John Higgs.

Women's Singles:

J. Cruse bt Shirley O'Brien.

Men's Doubles:

Satchell/Smith bt Riley/Paul Hewitt.

Women's Doubles:

Cruse/Judy Pillinger bt O'Brien/Sally Hartley.

Mixed Doubles:

Clive Ellison/Jill Beer bt George and S. O'Brien.

Veteran Singles:

Mike Baker bt John Cleveland.

Boys' Singles:

Neil Walker bt John Kershaw.

Next in my report of events is the Avon Schools Individual Championships which were held at St. George's School, rapidly becoming a popular venue, on Mar. 10. Although the total number of entries was high it was disappointing to see few girls participating, particularly at U-19 and U-13 level. Featuring high in providing finalists was Ridings High School, Winterbourne, whilst the two best finals were the U-16 boys' and girls'.

Results (winners only):-

Boys

U-19: Nick Baldwin.

U-16: Simon Fletcher.

U-13: Ben Allen.

Girls

U-19: Andrea Purchase.

U-16: Tina Shortman.

U-13: Dawn Whittaker.

These players will now go forward to the National Finals at Gloucester on Apl. 28.

Meantime, the league programmes draw to a close with Failand (Brian Reeves, Colin Feltham and Rob Oldfield) set for the Bristol League championship, six points clear with six matches remaining. Failand are also 'odds-on' to keep the Belsten Cup although the team they are due to meet in the final, Totterdown Y.M.C.A. "C", has been strengthened by the arrival of ex-Kent player, Charlie Mason.

In the Bath League, Frys "A" (K. Satchell, M. Smith, M. Baker, Colin Tincknell) are set for the League/K.O. cup double with no serious threat of opposition.

LATE NEWS

Bristol thrash Plymouth 5-0 in the Zone final of the Carter Cup. Bristol (Satchell, Smith and Riley) now meet Hastings in the national quarter-finals. Both Smith and Riley beat Paul Whiting (current England No. 11 Junior).

Avon veterans take division title from Hampshire in convincing 8-1 victory. Ray Lush (Hants) defeated for the first time in two years. Winners

for Avon — M. Baker (2), K. Watts (2), K. House (1) and June Watts (1) plus both doubles.

Avon Juniors share the lead in Junior 3 (West) after 7-3 home victory over Devon II but it looks as if the Devon side will be promoted due to a superior set average.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

REVENGE WIN — AT LAST!

The County first team at last gained their first win of the season on Mar. 10, when they scored a great victory over Durham at Darlington, thus obtaining ample revenge for the previous season's defeat.

Fortunes swung first one way and then the other in a highly absorbing match, with Northumberland taking an early 2-0 lead and Durham squaring accounts to even the match score 2-2. The men's doubles then went to Northumberland, but Durham took the next two singles for a 4-3 lead. However, at that point, Northumberland really turned on the power, and won the last three singles to take the match 6-4. Andrew Clark returned to form with a vengeance, winning both his singles and the doubles with Frank Mitchinson. Mitchinson and Malcolm McMaster each won a singles, and Barbara Kearney also had a comfortable win in the top women's singles event.

A magnificent performance in every way that hopefully will ease relegation worries for another season — although they still have to visit Lincolnshire in a previously postponed game now scheduled for Mar. 31. Results (Northumberland names first):-

A. Clark bt A. Gelder 19, 19;
by J. Crawford 14, -21, 15.
F. Mitchinson lost to Gelder 11, -13, -12;
bt W. Reay 12, -23, 13.
M. McMaster lost to Crawford -17, -15;
bt Reay 15, -14, 17.
Clark/Mitchinson bt Gelder/Crawford -20, 8, 15.
Barbara Kearney bt Julie Smith 18, 11.
Judy Davies lost to Shirley Gelder -16, -8.
Miss Kearney/Miss Davies lost to Miss Smith/
Mrs. Gelder -14, -19.

The second team lost 2-8 to the very young but very good Derbyshire II side at Byker Community Centre, but Peter Whiteman gained an excellent -19, 20, 20 win over Neil Marples after being 17-20 down in the third game. Nancy Kirsop followed this up with an equally notable -13, 12, 19 victory over Alison Marples, but of the remaining sets, only the women's doubles (lost 18, -18, -15) came within anywhere near striking distance.

The junior match against Cheshire II should have been played at the same venue earlier in the day, but a telegram was received by our County Secretary on the morning of the match stating that transport could not be provided for the Cheshire team. At the time of writing, it is not known what the outcome of this will be, but obviously the late notification can hardly be regarded as satisfactory, especially as weather conditions during that weekend were quite favourable. The promotion issue would, of course, be involved, as Cheshire II are currently top of Junior Div. 3 (North).

SENIOR RANKINGS

New senior men's County rankings were recently issued, and these are as follows (Previous ranking in brackets):-

1. A. Clark (1); 2. F. Mitchinson (2); 3. M. McMaster (4); 4. P. Whiteman (5); 5. A. Jones (3); 6. F. Short (8); 7. D. Armstrong (7); 8. J. Scope (6); 9. C. Shepherd (11); 10. A. Warents (9); 11. E. Thomas (12); 12. W. Dial (10); 13. R. Dodds (14); 14. M. Young (13); 15. J. Burke (16); 16. D. McAllister (-).

Group A (alphabetical order):-

R. Appleby, J. Donnelly, P. Gorman, D. Lucas, S. Robinson and R. Svott.

Arnold Warents took the County's first senior open title of the season in the recent Durham Open tournament at Peterlee when he beat Washington's Doug Lawrence in the final of the Veterans' singles event. Pauline Jackson, who recently received her second representative selection for the national Civil Service side against Combined Services at Stanmore, reached the semi-

final of the women's doubles in partnership with Julia Woodcock of Cleveland.

Peter Whiteman and Kit Cheung reached the quarters of the men's and women's singles respectively, and Susan Norris, Susan Yeung and Karen Buglass all reached the same stage in the girls' singles event. Brothers Malcolm and Neil McMaster got to the quarter-final of the men's doubles. Several players had also planned to enter the Hartlepool 1-Star Open, but the appalling weather conditions during the weekend of Mar. 17/18 prevented most of them from travelling.

The Newcastle Schools League season was recently completed, and the leading positions in the five divisions are shown below. As can be seen from the final tables, the Royal Grammar School just about swept the board, winning the senior, intermediate "A" and junior boys' sections, and were placed second in the intermediate alpha section to Slatyford. Heaton won the girls' section.

Leading positions:-

	P	W	D	F	A	P
Senior						
R.G.S.	11	10	1	101	9	21
Benfield	11	9	2	90	20	20
Manor Park	11	8	1	82	28	17
Heaton	11	7	3	78	32	17
Intermediate Alpha						
Slatyford	7	7	0	70	0	14
R.G.S. "B"	7	6	0	56	14	12
Benfield	7	5	0	41	29	10
St. Mary's	7	4	0	35	35	8
Intermediate "A"						
R.G.S. "A"	7	7	0	70	0	14
Heaton	7	6	0	57	13	12
West Denton	7	5	0	41	29	10
Manor Park	7	4	0	35	35	8
Girls						
Heaton	8	8	0	69	11	16
Manor Park	8	7	0	58	22	14
Gosforth	8	6	0	56	24	12
Benfield "A"	8	5	0	58	22	10
Junior Boys						
R.G.S. "A"	11	11	0	95	15	22
Dame Allan's	11	10	0	85	25	20
Gosforth	11	9	0	80	30	18
Rutherford	11	8	0	73	37	16

The Tyneside Summer League season will commence on Apr. 30, and will run for 14 weeks until the middle of August. The League will as usual be divided into divisions of eight teams, and promotion and relegation will operate. There will also be a handicap Knock-Out Cup competition. For the first time, a Cadets' Division (or Divisions, depending upon number of applications) will be in operation, featuring teams of two-a-side playing two singles each and a doubles, and this should give the younger junior players even more valuable experience of match play.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

CHAMPIONS ONCE AGAIN

Leicestershire have once again topped the 2nd Division (Midland) of the County Championships winning their final match against Northamptonshire. Since the play-offs for the Premier Division are to be in Leicestershire (Lutterworth) there should be no shortage of support. The hunting shire have dropped only seven sets the whole season.

Paul Randell has had another magnificent season and has emerged unbeaten. In women's singles, women's doubles and men's doubles here again there is a 100% record. Chris Rogers has had only one defeat (Malcolm Green) and it is David Gannon who has lost the other six. David has taken time to settle in the team but the selectors have persevered with him and may reap the benefits. Certainly his results have improved throughout the season.

The 2nd team after losing to the strong Cheshire side have been unbeaten since and Grahame Hall has played particularly well at No. 1. The Juniors beset by injuries and other claims have had a fair season with a number of good results.

Bryan Mayfield has given some inspiring displays for the veterans and with only the re-arranged Lincolnshire match to play is still unbeaten.

The Leicester League first division looks certain to be won by Barwell Liberal Club. They won their vital match with Great Glen despite an inspiring maximum by Gary Alden for Glen. Steve Kenney's team Broomleys look certain to top Div. 2. Kenney has had a good season and is the Loughborough League men's singles champion.

From Loughborough comes news that Dick Johnson is again unwell — take things easy and get well Dick! Mike Holt (Hinckley) had recently qualified as a County Umpire. We are not very well off in this direction and Mike's inclusion in the ranks will certainly be welcomed.

Anita Stevenson's inclusion in the team for the World Championships in North Korea has of course been warmly welcomed in Leicestershire. A totally dedicated player Anita plays or trains every day and is still as modest as when she first took up table tennis.

A new face has recently appeared at representative matches in Leicester. Dean Jordan — unofficial chairman of the Dave Gannon Supporters Club — turned up in successive matches with bright ginger hair, snow white hair and jet black hair. Bet that livens up Division 12 where he plays with modest success! Still at sixteen he's got time to reach Division 1.

CHESHIRE CHAT

by Dick Turner

NIGEL A WINNER IN PORTUGAL

Cheshire continued on their route to the Premier Division championship with a convincing 8-1 win over Berkshire, in spite of the absence of Nigel Eckersley who was busy defeating another Cheshire player Mark Hankey in the final of the Portuguese Open. Cheshire have just two more hurdles to surmount, Surrey and Glamorgan, to give them the coveted prize.

Cheshire's second senior team made sure of the Div. 3 (North Midland) title with a 10-0 win over Shropshire whilst the third team finished the season undefeated in Div. 3 (North) following their 10-0 defeat of Cumbria.

The Juniors have had mixed fortunes with the first team fighting to retain their place in the Premier and the second striving for promotion from Div. 3 (North). Peter Flint, Warrington, took over the No. 1 spot in defeating the rest of the field in the Junior ranking, and subsequently took the Cheshire Schools U-16 and U-19 titles. Lynne Fennah, Wirral, Cheshire's England-ranked young lady won the Cheshire Schools U-16 and U-19 Girls' titles defeating 13-years-old up-and-coming Vivian Wilson of Wilmslow.

In the leagues tournaments Derek Schofield retained his Sale title as did Derek Abbott in Macclesfield. Paul Steele, last year's runner-up became Crewe champion, whilst Terry Taylor stood firm in Hyde. Full details of the County results and League tournaments will be given in the next issue.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

SELL SAVES 'WHITEWASH'

Newport, at home to Exmouth at Littleham School, had Graham Sell to thank from the indignity of a total defeat when in the fifth set he beat Paul Stone 18 and 11. Otherwise it was all very much Exmouth whose Gary Lambert and Paddy Shepherd registered trebles and the efforts of Ray Goulding and Bob Swain went unrewarded.

Bristol, away to Weston-super-Mare, had to come back from a 2-4 deficit to win 5-4. John Crabtree, with a win over Tony Brown, and Graham Green, likewise victorious over Chris Curl, got Weston off to a great start but the match score was equated when Andy Creed beat Joe Garland over three games and Brown held his colour better than Green.

But away went Weston again in the next two sets with Crabtree beating Creed (14, -24, 18) and Garland accounting for Curl (17, 11). Against such odds one would not have given Bristol much hope of making a second comeback.

How wrong can you be for young Creed got the better of Green and Brown had a similar 2-straight victory over Garland leaving the stage set for the grand finale between Crabtree and Curl.

And this was a corker with Curl taking the first game, at 18, losing the second -13 but winning the decider 29-27 to give Bristol the victory. What a finish!

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

TERRIER TRIO

Bexhill's terrier-trio of Graham Gillett, Stephen Moore and Adrian Moore continue to strike fear into all classes of opposition. Their latest triumphs are an amazing win in the Sussex inter-league championships over Brighton and a 5-4 scorcher at home to Bristol in the quarter-finals of the Carter Cup.

Brighton fielded three senior Sussex county players of considerable experience — John Clarke, Robin Stace and "Cosmo" Graham. These three were smashed 9-0! Only one set went to three games, recording the biggest surprise scoreline ever in the history of the inter-town championships.

The three lads struck again when they overcame the menace of a Kevin Satchell maximum and reached the semi-finals of the Carter Cup. Who would be a Sussex senior selector faced with the task of compiling a new ranking list — they might well leave that task until the start of next season.

It now looks as though Kent will win Division 2 (South) relieving Sussex of the expensive and usually fruitless business of attending the senior challenge matches.

Meanwhile, another cloud on the administrative horizon — John Goss, the Sussex secretary for the last four years is putting the covers on his typewriter after the July A.G.M., so the search is on for a successor.

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by Laurie Selby

JUNIOR TAKE-OVER

The teenage take-over of Wiltshire table tennis titles was the headline story from the senior closed county championships.

The youngsters toddled away with every title — apart from the veterans' and consolation singles.

Heading the juniors' blitz was Kevin Satchell who chalked up a hat-trick of victories. He disposed of two former champions on his way to the singles crown.

Kevin teamed up with Johnathan Chandler to win the men's doubles and with Pauline Townsend to win the mixed.

This took Kevin's total of Wiltshire titles to six in two weeks — he notched up another three championships in the junior tournament.

Claire Maisey took both the senior and junior singles titles and partnered Pauline Townsend to victory in the girls' and women's doubles.

John Cleveland battled through to retain his veterans' singles crown.

Steve McBean won the Under-15 boys' singles and Tracey Watkins the U-15 girls' singles. Under-13 boys' singles winner was Jon Hook and Helen Wilson won the girls' title.

BUCKS. CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday/Sunday, February 10/11, 1979
at Montem Sports Centre, Slough

Results:-

Men's Singles:

R. HARMAN (Milton Keynes) bt A. Watson (High Wycombe) 19, 17.

Women's Singles:

Miss A. LONG (Milton Keynes) bt Miss D. Risby (Milton Keynes) 7, -20, 18.

Men's Doubles:

F. EARIS (Slough)/WATSON bt S. Brindle (Slough)/B. Busbridge (High Wycombe) 19, 19.

Women's Doubles:

Miss A. FINLAY (Slough)/Miss S. LINES (Milton Keynes) bt Long/Risby 21, -19, 18.

Mixed Doubles:

HARMAN/LINES bt I. Haines (Milton Keynes)/Risby 17, 16.

Boys' Singles:

HAINES bt P. Bradbury (Milton Keynes) -19, 9, 17.

Girls' Singles:

RISBY bt Long 15, 18.

Junior Doubles:

BRADBURY/HAINES bt Lines/A. Pratt (Aylesbury) 19, 18.

Veteran Singles:

J. DAVEY (Chiltern) bt L. Pratt (Aylesbury) 16, 20.

R.S.:

V. McCarthy (Slough) bt A. Maude (Slough) 18, -14, 16.

FENLAND 2-STAR

JERMYN SUPREME

by David Brammer

Richard Jermyn took the £75 first-prize money in the men's singles at the Fenland 2-Star on March 4. With top players missing to play at the Global tournament, we missed a lot of real top-class competition, but the men's singles semi-finals and final were really a joy to watch.

Jermyn accounted for Les Eadie (No. 1 seed), and local hero Keith Richardson who had a thrilling encounter with Paul Randall, with Keith coming out on top in overall strength. Jermyn played magnificent table tennis in the final, leaving an on-form Richardson rather shocked by Jermyn's consistency.

Cheryl Buttery ran true to form as No. 1 seed by defeating her county teammate Pauline Cameron in the final of the women's singles. The men's doubles was won by the No. 3 seeds Randall/Newman beating last year's holders Jermyn/Nilam in the final comfortably.

In the women's doubles, Cambs took the honours with Joanne Palmer and Jane Hunter beating Norris/Wallis in the final. The mixed saw a title go to Keith Richardson who, with Mandy Wallis, defeated Geoff Davies and Anthea Rudd, the surprising finalists, in the third leg.

The boys' singles saw two unseeded players making good, with Stuart Palmer beating Robert Swift in a close final. The girls' singles had a shock winner when Melanie Ringrose of Hunts played excellently to defeat women's singles finalist Cameron in the final. Overall the tournament was as successful as ever, and the Wisbech T.T.A. would like to thank Stan Ford, the Hon. Referee; John McGowan, the tournament organiser and secretary; the King's Lynn T.T.A. and finally, the March T.T.A. for all the work they did in making the tournament a successful one.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

L. Eadie (E) bt S. Barby (Bd) 20, 15;
R. Jermyn (He) bt D. Bennett (Nk) 16, -18, 13;
R. Jermyn (He) bt D. Bennett (Nk) 16,
K. Richardson (Ca) bt F. Nilam (He) 17, -12, 16;
P. Randall (Le) bt P. Taylor (He) 9, 13.

Semi-finals:

Jermyn bt Eadie 21, 15;
Richardson bt Randall 22, -20, 10.

Final:

JERMYN bt Richardson 12, 11.

Women's Singles Final:

C. BUTTERY (Ng) bt P. Cameron (Ng) 17, 11.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Jermyn/Nilam bt Eadie/Turner (Nk) 19, 8;
M. Newman (Le)/Randall bt C. Bensley/M. Broughton (Nk) 16, 12.

Final:

NEWMAN/RANDALL bt Jermyn/Nilam 13, 15.

Women's Doubles Final:

J. HUNTER/J. PALMER (Ca) bt R. Norris (Ca)/M. Wallis (Np) 15, 17.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Richardson/Wallis bt P. Durrant/W. Hogg (Nk) 12, 15;

G. Davies/A. Rudd (Ca) bt M. Jackman/A. Edge (Ca) 14, 13.

Final:

RICHARDSON/WALLIS bt Davies/Rudd -14, 11, 14.

Boys' Singles Final:

S. PALMER (Sk) bt R. Swift (Ca) -17, 14, 11.

Girls' Singles Final:

M. RINGROSE (Hu) bt Cameron 18, -12, 18.

SALFORD, ECCLES & DISTRICT LEAGUE

TIDE STEMMED

by R. Bradburn

Derek Schofield, the veteran star of Flixton T.T. Club, stemmed the tide of youth when he retained the Men's Singles title of the Salford, Eccles and District League.

The Championships were held at the Charles-town Centre headquarters and 49-years-old Derek overcame the youthful challenge of 17-years-old Ross McFarlane who took the first game, but eventually folded to superb defensive play. Derek also came from behind to win his quarter and semi-final to beat 15-years-old John Weatherby and 21-years-old Eccles Y.C. player Ron Vose who suffered the same fate.

In the women's events a new name will appear in the record books, that of young Janet Deakin, the up-and-coming Urmston player. 16-years-old Janet defeated Kath Hulmes in the singles final and then teamed up with Derek Sadler to win the mixed against Kath and Dave Hulmes.

McFarlane gained some consolation for his singles defeat by winning the youth final against Nigel Hallows. John Weatherby won the junior singles against Craig Johnson and then joined brother Ron to win the men's doubles. Schofield also retained his veterans' title by beating his team-mate Terry Donlan in the final.

The standard of play was tremendous, especially from the young players who showed skills and temperament beyond their years. It is however refreshing to know that with players like Derek Schofield still winning, table tennis is not necessarily only a young man's sport.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Schofield bt J. Weatherby -18, 12, 14;
R. Vose bt B. Clements 16, 17;
R. McFarlane bt G. Hoy 24, 16;
D. Hulme bt N. Hallows 18, 19.

Semi-finals:

Schofield bt Vose -16, 15, 8;
McFarlane bt Hulme 13, 18.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt McFarlane -13, 17, 15.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

J. Deakin bt E. Banister 9, 13;
K. Hulmes bt J. Wells 6, 8.

Final:

DEAKIN bt Hulmes 13, 9.

Youth Singles Semi-finals:

Hallows bt R. Weatherby -17, 6, 16;
McFarlane bt J. Weatherby 19, -11, 20.

Final:

McFARLANE bt Hallows 13, 19.

Junior Singles Semi-finals:

J. Weatherby bt T. Worthington 15, 25;
C. Johnson bt P. Brandwood 11, 6.

Final:

WEATHERBY bt Johnson 14, 10.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

Schofield bt L. Hardman 12, 12;
T. Donlan bt R. Rollinson 19, -11, 13.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt Donlan 14, -19, 11.

Men's Doubles Final:

J. WEATHERBY/R. WEATHERBY bt Hulme/McFarlane 13, 19.

Mixed Doubles Final:

D. SADLER/DEAKIN bt D. Hulmes/Hulmes 16, 16.

£50,000 SPONSORSHIP

Mr. Julius Darham, a Gibraltar businessman who is Managing Director of Rock Motor Parts Limited, announced on Wednesday, 7th March, 1979 that his company would be sponsoring for three years the English Under-21 Championships and the English International Under-21 Championships.

These are new types of tournament as market research has shown a discernable gap between the Junior and Senior Championships.

Mr. Michael Melgarejo, a Fleet table tennis player, commented that "This new class is just what the sport needs as many players who make the junior ranking list do not possess the experience and skill to transfer to the senior list. As a result, they lost interest and are lost to the sport. These competitions could be the answer to breed a new generation of World Champions".

The English Under-21 Championships will be held on May 26/27 at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

The English International Under-21 Championships will be held during the autumn.

These two championships will offer players very substantial prize money. This generous sponsorship begs the question — Who is Julius Darham? and why has Rock Motor Parts chosen to help the sport of table tennis?

Julius was a prominent Gibraltar sportsman — runner-up to the Sportsman of the Year in 1958 when he was amateur boxing Champion of Gibraltar; he also played football, billiards, table tennis and water polo.

Ten years ago he left the Rock of Gibraltar to seek his fortune in the Mother Country where he set up Rock Motor Parts Limited. He now lives with his wife and four sons in Staines, Middlesex. The headquarters of Rock Motor Parts is located some five miles away on the island of Runnymede where King John signed the Magna Carta.

Julius Darham explained how Rock Motor Parts came to sponsor table tennis.

"As a family man I became attracted to table tennis as it is a sport which bridges both the generation gap and does not discriminate between sexes. This became even more apparent when members of my family began to beat me at table tennis.

I consider that the revival of interest in table tennis within the United Kingdom could help combat boredom amongst the youth of this country and attract them to this sport.

One of its many advantages is that it can be played with a minimum of equipment and expense.

I am of the opinion that more Sports Centres should be built to provide a wider range of sports facilities to cater for the growing requirements of the youth of this country.

Rock Motor Parts could have sponsored an individual sports person in any sport, but the Board elected to use the available funds to promote a sport that would be within the capabilities, both physical and financial, of the youth of this wonderful country.

My ambition is to have once again a Briton, either male or female, as table tennis champion of the world".

INFORMATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Saturday, 26th May, 1979, a brand new Championship will start at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in South London. An enormous entry is expected to compete for a very large prize fund which is detailed below:

U-21 Men's Singles: Winner £500, Runner-up £200, LSF £50, LQF £10, L 4th Round £5.
U-21 Women's Singles: Winner £250, Runner-up £100, LSF £20, LQF £8.



Julius Darham prepares to hand over £50,000 to E.T.T.A. Chairman, Tom Blunn at the Reception.

Photo by D. Edmund-Jones, Photosport, Chobham, Surrey.

U-21 Men's Doubles: Winners £50 each, Runners-up £25 each, LSF £5 each.

U-21 Women's Doubles: Winners £50 each, Runners-up £25 each, LSF £5 each.

U-21 Mixed Doubles: Winners £50 each, Runners-up £25 each, LSF £5 each.

Restricted Men's Singles: Winner £50, Runner-up £25, LSF £5.

Restricted Women's Singles: Winner £30, Runner-up £15, LSF £5.

Another first for this Championship will be the inclusion of restricted Under-21 Men's and Women's Singles which will be open only to those players who have not appeared on the senior national ranking list or in the top ten of the junior national ranking list in the last three years. Not only is it hoped that this will encourage more players to take part, but it also fits in with the sponsors wish to encourage good quality table tennis for worthwhile prizes in the intermediate age range.

But this is just the first of two Championships which will be held each year. This tournament, the Under-21 English Championships will be open to national players but in the autumn the first ever Under-21 International Championships will be staged and it is hoped to attract a very large overseas entry to a tournament which is intended to emerge as one of the most prestigious in the International calendar.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

For many years now the English Table Tennis Association has been aware of a gap in the competitive play provided for the players who are no longer eligible for the junior tournaments and not yet good enough to make much progress in the senior tournaments. They have been called the intermediates and consist mainly of the under-21's. It is very gratifying therefore that the ROCK MOTOR PARTS events are directed towards this particular group who have for so long now been the cinderellas of table tennis. The first event, the closed, will be very much welcomed by the younger players who have been climbing steadily in the ranking list but not quite ready for senior status.

Those players who are still at school or at college find it particularly difficult to finance themselves in their endeavours to progress up the ladder and the substantial prize money now on offer will be a great incentive to them. In fact these Under-

21 events will offer players more prize money than any previous championships organised by the English Table Tennis Association.

The introduction of this middle range of tournament between the existing junior and senior events now provides a progressive range of national and international competition straight through from the cadets (under 14 years) to the top international players.

The English Table Tennis Association is very grateful to Julius Darham for his interest in the sport and for the practical way in which he has shown it.

Tom Blunn,
Chairman.

REGULATIONS FOR THE 1979 UNDER-21 ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. The tournament will be held under E.T.T.A. and I.T.T.F. regulations and the current laws of table tennis for international competitions. All players must be registered with, or members of, a club affiliated to the E.T.T.A. Entrants affiliated to the E.T.T.A. must give details of their affiliation on their entry forms.

2. All events will be the best of three games. Each match will be controlled by an umpire whose decision will be final on point of fact. The referee's decision shall be final on point of law.

3. All events are open to all men and women, as indicated in each case, who are under the age of 21 prior to the 1st of July, 1978. Events 6 and 7 are restricted to those players who have not been ranked on the senior or in the top ten of the junior ranking list since the 1st of September, 1976.

4. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to restrict or refuse entries and to hold a qualifying competition, or competitions, as may be necessary. The right is also reserved not to hold any event for which fewer than 8 entries are received. Entries will be ignored without notification unless they are accompanied by the full amount of fees due.

5. Entries will be automatically acknowledged. A player not receiving such acknowledgement by Thursday the 3rd May should telephone the Hon. Referee at 01-445 6512.

6. The draw will take place at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London on Friday, 4th May commencing at 9.30 a.m.

7. The scheduled time for each match for every round of each event in which a player may be

concerned, will be given to him before the tournament commences, but the referee reserves the right to alter the scheduled time of any match. Players absent at any time when called upon to play will render themselves liable to disqualification.

8. Nittaku 3-star balls (white) will be used and Stiga tables, each in a court not less than 40 feet by 20 feet.

9. A players' number will be issued and must be worn at all times during play. A deposit of £1 will be required for each number, repayable upon the safe return of the number prior to the end of the tournament.

10. A player's clothing must conform to the regulations applicable to international competitions. A copy of these regulations will be sent to each player upon request. No track suit (or part) shall be worn during play except with the specific permission of the referee.

11. Play will commence at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday and 9.00 a.m. on Sunday.

INFORMATION ON ROCK MOTOR PARTS LIMITED

At a time when it is fashionable to denigrate both the United Kingdom and sterling, it is refreshing to find a Briton who is adamant that his business must be connected with the Union Jack. Such has been the success of this partnership that the gross turnover of this business will have grown in six years from £50,000 to one million pounds.

In 1969 Mr. Julius Darham as a result of the Spanish Government's economic blockade of the crown colony of Gibraltar, had been forced to leave the Rock because it had affected his livelihood as a taxi driver.

In Gibraltar Julius had become a local character both as an entrepreneur and sportsman. He had been one of the first to see the Rock's potential as a tourist resort and had introduced commercial water skiing to Gibraltar waters. Indeed such was the fame of his conducted tours in his taxi that many tourists on arrival asked for him by name. He learnt from practical experience the benefits of personal recommendations. He represented Gibraltar on many occasions as a middleweight boxer.

Mr. Darham had no hesitation in choosing to emigrate to the United Kingdom where he soon



Making sure all the money is there Tom Blunn begins to count.

Photo by D. Edmund-Jones, Photosport, Chobham, Surrey.

found an opportunity to capitalise upon his talents as a salesman. He joined the sales staff of Williams supermarkets and by 1970 had become its top salesman.

Although he enjoyed the challenge of selling in this competitive area his latent entrepreneurial talents sought an opportunity to start his own business.

This arrived early in 1971 and from the first day he was determined to link his products with both the 'Union Jack, representing the Mother Country, and the Rock on which he had been

born and had spent the years of his youth and early manhood.

He was able to achieve this ambition by registering the Company as Rock Motor Parts Ltd., and incorporating a Union Jack into the Company logo.

Today every piece of equipment leaves the warehouse with either the word Rock stamped on it or in a packet on which is printed the Company logo which includes the Union Jack.

Mr. Darham provides his sales force with the opportunity to win two competitions a year — the prizes are a holiday for two at the luxury Rock Hotel in Gibraltar.

Needless to say all Rock Motor Parts' promotional material is geared to displaying the Union Jack and the Rock.

Even the Company's cheque books are personalised as each cheque contains an etching of the Rock of Gibraltar.

Mr. Darham said "I am proud to be both British and a Gibraltarian and take pleasure in displaying the Union Jack".

WHAT DOES ROCK MOTOR PARTS DO?

Rock Motor Parts supplies the Motor and Engineering trades with all maintenance parts. These range from a packet of nuts and bolts (£5) to a set of sophisticated tools (£300).

HOW DOES ROCK MOTORS SELL?

A fleet of 46 mobile shops, carrying almost the total range of some 1,000 parts, maintains a regular service — fortnightly or monthly — to all clients. All of England and Wales is covered and part of Scotland.

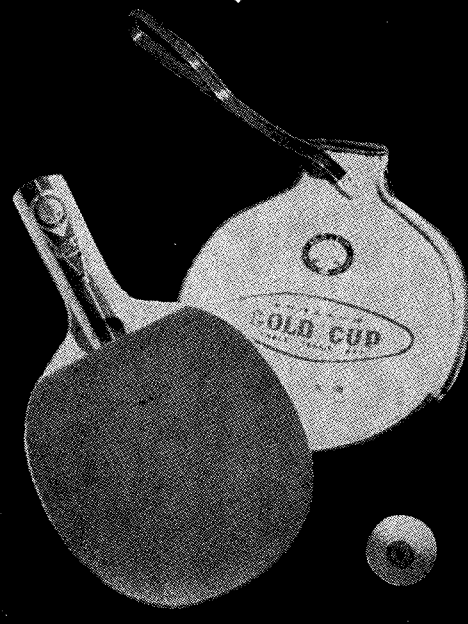
The prime advantage of a mobile shop calling on a client is that there is no delay. The order is fulfilled on the spot but the client does not have to pay for his purchase there and then. He is invoiced in the normal way and enjoys the customary credit facilities.

In the simple concept of the mobile shop can be found the key to the dramatic growth of Rock Motor Parts Limited. Mr. Darham said, "In Gibraltar, as it is so small, no one has to wait for anything. Any order is fulfilled whilst one waits. When I arrived in England I was both amazed and appalled by the delays in delivering the most fundamental products.

I saw that the way to provide a service to the motor and engineering trades would be to buy in bulk, repackage at home and then offer for sale in a mobile shop. As the Company grew I was



GOLD CUP TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT FROM CHINA



Officially recognised by the Table Tennis Association of the Peoples Republic of China, and used by leading Chinese players. Reasonably priced range. Everyone can now own a bat used by world-ranked players. Available from leading sports shops or enquire direct.

Model 550 NB

- Special 7-ply laminated blade.
- Unique TIENTSIN 72 rubber sandwich.
- Every bat provided with Gold Cup case.

Other products available include: Model 580 S and Model 527 P bats. Gold Cup bat cases. Gold Cup balls No. 816. Chromed Steel heavy-duty TT posts, automatic, with spring grips.

Actif

Actif Sports Co.
6 Mill Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire



Linda Howard (extreme left) and, on the right, Douggie Johnson and Karen Witt offer their assistance.

Photo by D. Edmund-Jones, Photosport, Chobham, Surrey.

NOTES FOR THE COMPETITOR

1. The following provisional table of play is intended for the guidance of competitors. The Referee reserves the right to modify or alter drastically any or all of these times as circumstances dictate.

Saturday, May 26th

MORNING -
U-21 Men's Doubles
U-21 Women's Doubles

AFTERNOON -
U-21 Men's Singles
U-21 Women's Singles

EVENING -
U-21 Restricted Men's Singles
U-21 Restricted Women's Singles

Sunday, May 27th

MORNING -
U-21 Mixed Doubles
Continuation of Singles Events

AFTERNOON -
Continuation of Singles Events

3.00 p.m. FINALS

2. There is a large number of small hotels and guest houses in the area. Players requiring details should write to the organiser, R. D. Tammadge at the E.T.T.A. office.

3. There is ample car parking at the Centre, and within the Centre, changing rooms, showers and meals or light refreshments are available.

4. Crystal Palace Sports Centre is well signposted on all the approach roads. It lies off Anerley Hill and backs on to Crystal Palace Park. Regular trains run from London Bridge or Victoria and from the station it is a short walk up the hill to the centre.

FRIENDLY WIN OVER U.S.S.R.

England, represented by Donald Parker, Douggie Johnson, Graham Sandley, Karen Witt and Anita Stevenson, turned in an excellent performance in a friendly match against the Soviet Union at the Mayflower Sports Centre, Plymouth on Mar. 9.

The young Russian team were out to win, but were out-played by an equally young English team in front of a crowd of 1,200.

Individual scores:-

G. Sandley bt Ovcharov 13, 10;
D. Parker bt Shevchenko 18, -17, 19;
K. Witt bt Bakshutova 18, 19;
D. Johnson bt Kreeris 17, 9;
Sandley lost to Shevchenko -17, -19;
A. Stevenson lost to Popova -13, -12;
Parker/Sandley lost to Kreeris/Shevchenko
19, -12, -18;
Johnson bt Ovcharov 16, -19, 21;
Parker lost to Kreeris -12, -19.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SUMMER PRACTICE

As Organiser of table tennis in Pontesbury, a very attractive country village situated eight miles south west of Shrewsbury, I am finding great difficulty in obtaining some variety in practice for our best junior player, 12-years-old Ivan Smith, during the summer months.

I am sure that other youngsters are in a similar position. In an effort to improve the situation Ivan's parents are prepared to offer free accommodation at their home to any suitable applicant for a weekend of table tennis during May, June, July or September.

Any interested youngster should address his reply to John Morris, Pontesbury T.T. Club, 2 School Bank, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury (Phone: Pontesbury 303) giving details of age, playing ability and possible dates.

1977

This was a year of consolidation linked to controlled expansion. The staff was increased to 50 and a greater penetration was achieved of the United Kingdom.

1978

The expansion continued. Negotiations were entered into with a view to arranging a reverse takeover to alter the status of the holding company into that of a public company with a stock market quotation. The staff increased to 76. Penetration of the whole of England and Wales was achieved. Subsidiary companies were established in Malta and Gibraltar.

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

presents

THE ROCK UNDER 21 ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

at

CRYSTAL PALACE NATIONAL
SPORTS CENTRE, NORWOOD,
LONDON SE19

on

May 26th - 27th, 1979

FINALS

Sunday, May 27th, 1979

Tournament Committee:

Referee: L. C. PILDITCH (NR)
Asst. Referee: Mrs. A. P. ARCHDALE (NR)
Organiser: R. D. TAMMADGE
Members: G. M. DANIELS, Mrs. J. D. LOVE,
Miss I. MOSS, J. A. PACITTO,
Mrs. D. M. STANNARD, M. D. WATTS, H. WEBB,
J. M. WRIGHT.

Last date for receipt of entries —

TUESDAY, 1st MAY, 1979

Sponsored by: ROCK Motor Parts Ltd.

able to introduce a more efficient stock control and to rationalise the range of products offered for sale".

HOW DOES ROCK MOTORS SELL ITSELF TO THE MOTOR AND ENGINEERING TRADES

The initiative of the sales forces who are a highly motivated team of individuals. This is not a contradiction in terms as everyone in Rock Motors forms part of the team but at the same time is an individual. Salesmen do not sell according to a Rock Motors manual but, within certain guide lines, use their own abilities to make sales and to obtain new customers.

Perhaps the best introduction to new clients is as a result of personal recommendations of highly satisfied existing customers.

HISTORY OF ROCK MOTOR PARTS LIMITED

February 1971

The company was incorporated in February 1971 to sell motor component parts to the Motor and allied trades.

It was a one man business operating out of Mr. Darham's home in Twickenham. The small third bedroom was the office with the garage as the storeroom. But with the help of his wife who operated as packer, secretary and telephonist, Mr. Darham was able to process purchases of 3-6 tons of component parts at a time.

August 1971

The volume of sales was such that the business had to move to bigger premises in St. Margaret's, Twickenham. This consisted of rented three linked garages. One person was employed and 26 tons of component parts were ordered at a time.

February 1972

Growth necessitated another move — to Teddington where the stores and offices were merged into a single building. Another person joined and so the total work force numbered three.

September 1972

Sales exceeded the most optimistic forecast and precipitated another move to larger premises at Spring Grove, Isleworth. By now the staff had increased to about 20.

September 1976

A dramatic and steady increase in turnover over the four years resulted in a move to the new Headquarters at Englefield Green. This is a freehold building of some 17000 square feet.

5th COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

EDINBURGH HOSTS 15 COUNTRIES

Fifteen countries will participate in the 5th Commonwealth Championships being played at Meadowbank, Edinburgh over the period April 12-18.

They have been split into two groups, for both men and women, in the team championships which will start the proceedings over the three days Thursday, Apl. 12 to Saturday, Apl. 14. The groupings are (previous positions in brackets):-

MEN	
Group A	Group B
1 Hong Kong (1)	1 England (2)
2 India (—)	2 Australia (3)
3 Canada (4)	3 Nigeria (—)
4 Scotland (7)	4 Wales (6)
5 Trinidad/Tobago (8)	5 N. Ireland (10)
6 Guernsey (11)	6 Ghana (—)
7 Jersey (12)	7 Uganda (—)
	8 Grenada (—)

Match Programme

Thursday, Apl. 12
 09.00 1 v 7, 2 v 5, 3 v 6 1 v 8, 2 v 5, 4 v 7, 3 v 6
 13.30 1 v 4, 2 v 3, 5 v 6 1 v 7, 3 v 5, 4 v 6, 2 v 8
 20.00 1 v 3, 2 v 4, 5 v 7 1 v 3, 2 v 4, 5 v 7, 6 v 8

Friday, Apl. 13
 09.00 1 v 5, 3 v 7, 4 v 6 1 v 6, 2 v 7, 3 v 8, 4 v 5
 13.20 2 v 6, 3 v 5, 4 v 7 1 v 4, 2 v 3, 5 v 8, 6 v 7
 18.00 1 v 6, 2 v 7, 4 v 5 1 v 5, 2 v 6, 3 v 7, 4 v 8
 21.00 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 6 v 7 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v 6, 7 v 8

Saturday, Apl. 14
 09.00 Classification play-offs — A2 v B2, A3 v B3 etc.
 13.00 FINAL — Winner Group A v Winner Group B.

WOMEN	
Group A	Group B
1 Hong Kong (1)	1 England (2)
2 India (4)	2 Canada (3)
3 Australia (5)	3 Scotland (7)
4 Nigeria (—)	4 N. Ireland (8)
5 Ghana (—)	5 Trinidad/Tobago (8)
6 Wales (12)	6 Guernsey (11)
7 Uganda (—)	

Thursday, Apl. 12
 11.00 1 v 7, 2 v 5, 3 v 6 1 v 6, 2 v 3, 5 v 4
 15.30 1 v 4, 2 v 3, 6 v 7 1 v 4, 2 v 6, 5 v 3
 22.00 1 v 3, 2 v 4, 5 v 7 1 v 3, 2 v 5, 4 v 6

Friday, Apl. 13
 11.00 1 v 5, 3 v 7, 4 v 6 1 v 5, 2 v 4, 3 v 6
 15.30 2 v 6, 3 v 5, 4 v 7 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v 6
 19.00 1 v 6, 2 v 7, 4 v 5
 21.30 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v 6

Saturday, Apl. 14
 09.00 Classification play-offs — A2 v B2, A3 v B3 etc.
 15.30 FINAL — Winner Group A v Winner Group B.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Both holders of the singles titles, Li Kuang Tsu and Chang Siu Ying of Hong Kong will be defending their crowns, the seeds in draw order being:-

MEN
 Li Kuang Tsu (HGK)
 S. Phadke (IND)

P. Pinkewich (AUS)
 J. Walker (ENG)

Vong Iu Veng (HGK)
 R. Yule (SCO)

S. Knapp (AUS)
 Chen Scheng Shien (HGK)

WOMEN
 Chang Siu Ying (HGK)
 M. Ludi (ENG)

K. Senior (IRE)
 C. Knight (ENG)

Hui So Hung (HGK)
 M. Domonkos (CAN)

S. Salokhe (IND)
 L. Howard (ENG)

The individual events will cover the period Apl. 16-18, Sunday, Apl. 15 being the Free Day.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men Quarter-final Draw

Unity T.T.C. (Bradford) v Billingham C.C. (Stockton)
 or Ormesby (Ormesby)
 Chesterfield Y.M.C.A. v South Yardley (Birmingham)
 Omega (Bracknell) v A.H.W. (Bletchley) (Milton Keynes)
 Ellenborough (Nth. Middx.) v Trinity (Bridgwater)
 or British Rail (Plymouth)

Women Semi-final Draw

Omega (Bracknell) v Ormesby or Colonsay (Liverpool)
 Merton (Bournemouth) v Fellows Cranleigh (Barking)

THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

The following advertisement was found in an old Church Magazine — the "NORTH WILTS CHURCH MAGAZINE", dated March, 1902.

— THE NEW SOCIETY GAME —

PING PONG

or PARLOUR TENNIS

A large stock now in
 Prices:- 1/-, 2/6, 5/-, 7/6, 10/6, 16/6 and 1/

Best XYLONITE BALLS - 1½d each
 Best VELLUM RACQUETS 5/6 and 7/6

C. H. WOODWARD,
 (Bookseller, Printer, Stationer)
 4 St. John Street, Devizes

Arthur Catchpole of Netheravon, Salisbury, the finder of this gem from the past, informs me that C. M. Woodward are still in business at Devizes although in different premises.

Ed.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE I.T.T.F. AND THE E.T.T.U. WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE E.T.T.A.

PRESENTED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



MIDDLETON HALL
CENTRAL
MILTON KEYNES

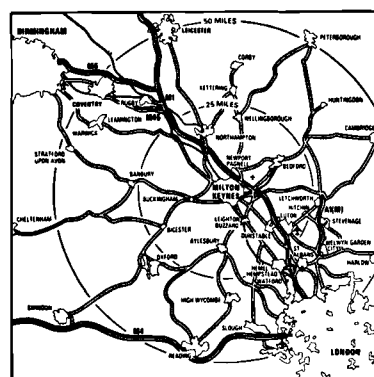
TUESDAY 29TH
WEDNESDAY 30TH
AND THURSDAY 31ST
MAY 1979

NORWICH UNION MASTERS

Fourteen players who have qualified by their success in the 1978/79 NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX, the new WORLD CHAMPION and the reigning EUROPEAN CHAMPION, Gabor Gergely, will be invited to compete for the title of

NORWICH UNION MASTER

and over £5000 prize money



Among the leading players in this season's Norwich Union Grand Prix are:-

TIBOR KLAMPAR Winner Norwich Union Grand Prix 1979	KUO YAO HUA World Ranked No 2
MILAN ORLOWSKI European Champion 1974	STELLAN BENGTSOON World Champion 1971
SHIH CHIH HAO Chinese National Champion 1978	JACQUES SECRETIN European Champion 1976
HUANG LIANG World Ranked No 3	LIANG KE LIANG World Ranked No 4
DESMOND DOUGLAS World Ranked No 7	ISTVAN JONYER World Champion 1975
TIBOR KREISZ World Ranked No 13	DRAGUTIN SURBEK European Champion 1968
PETER STELLWAG German Champion 1977	ENGELBERT HUGING German Champion 1978

THREE-DAY TICKETS £7.25 £10.00	MORNING SESSION (09.30-12.00) Tues } 75p £1.25 Wed } Thurs }	TICKETS OBTAINABLE ONLY FROM: City Information Centre Milton Keynes Development Corporation PO Box 166 Central Milton Keynes MK9 3BR (From where information on Hotels and Boarding Houses can also be obtained)
WHOLE-DAY TICKETS Tues } £2.75 £4.00 Wed } Thurs }	AFTERNOON SESSION (14.00-18.00) Tues } £1.25 £1.75 Wed } Thurs }	
GROUP DISCOUNTS One free ticket for every ten whole-day or three-day tickets purchased	EVENING SESSION (19.00-23.00) Tues } £1.50 £2.00 Wed } Thurs } £2.00 £2.50	

The higher priced tickets are for individual numbered seats in Blocks B and D. The lower priced are for numbered bench seating in Blocks A and C.



Approximately nine hours of international table tennis daily. All players will play one match in each session except obviously the final night.



ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

STRIKE HALTS CLOSED

Our Closed Championships had to be cancelled at a late hour owing to the NUPE industrial dispute much to organiser Vic Russell's chagrin. Happily the Halex Essex Senior Open with support from BAIRSTOW EVES and BARCLAYS BANK LTD. which is scheduled for Apl. 21/22 at Wanstead Sports Centre should escape such a fate and everyone is looking forward to an excellent tournament.

Our Association is indebted to **HALEX SPORT, BAIRSTOW EVES** and **BARCLAYS BANK LTD.** for their sponsorship of our Open Championships for without it this tournament would be impossible to run and our members much appreciate the help from these companies.

A change in tournament policy by the E.T.T.A. for next season, involving major alterations to the Tournament Calendar, certainly seems to have favoured Essex. Both our open tournaments move in the much more advantageous positions. The "Junior Open" moves from September to May 1980 and the "Senior Open" from April to March '80. The moves not only mean that Essex tournaments will be held when the season is in full swing, but will give the Tournament Committee a chance to seek better venues and to improve present standards of administration. In fact the Harlow Sports Centre has already been booked for the "Junior Open", which I am sure will be a relief for potential competitors, it being the only venue in our county that can cope with the large entry which can be expected.

Next season's Closed will be taking place earlier in the season, probably in November, should it be impossible to stage this season's cancelled event. Then, fortunately, we will not have too long a wait.

In the County Championships we have at least started to get really under way, since last month the Senior Premier team has had two very exciting matches. A 5-4 home win at Chelmsford over Yorkshire and an away defeat to Middlesex by a similar margin.

Both matches had very high standard table tennis, particularly in the Middlesex game. Our men did all the scoring for us, Bob Potton, back to his best, did not concede a game defeating Alan Fletcher, Tony Clayton, Mark Mitchell and Graham Sandley all in straight games — a superb performance. Kenny Jackson had two close wins in the Yorkshire match, but a blank sheet at Middlesex, while Dave Newman netted a win in each match.

It is very pleasing to all of us in Essex to see these three figuring in the current national Senior ranking list.

Our Senior second team had a poor day at Hertfordshire and we were well and truly trounced. Tony Penney was our only singles winner.

Scores:-

L. Smith lost to R. Jermyn -19, -8;
T. Penney bt J. Proffitt 14, 17;
I. Robertson lost to F. Nilam -16, -18;
Elaine Sayer/Jane Glassock lost to Tina Pickard/
Linda Towler -10, -16;
Robertson/Smith bt A. and J. Proffitt 17, 17;
Penney lost to Jermyn -19, -16;
Glassock lost to Towler -14, -16;
Smith lost to Nilam -17, -18;
Sayer lost to Pickard -18, -8;
Robertson lost to J. Proffitt 21, -13, -19.

The Senior thirds also visited Hertfordshire II and we just managed to draw thanks mainly to the efforts of our girls Yvette Brown and the much-improved Linda Thacker who has been turning out some fighting performances for the County and young Des Charlery who seems to be settling in the Senior sphere much quicker than his junior teammate Skylet Andrew. Des is unbeaten so far this season for the Senior III team.

On the subject of Des and Skylet many congratulations on your very high national Junior rankings. Skylet is at No. 3 and Des No. 4. Well done the pair of you. Details of the Herts match:-
S. Kimm lost to S. Ogle -13, -10;
D. Charlery bt D. Seaholme 9, 15;

S. Andrew lost to T. Pleasance -17, 18, -19;
Yvette Brown/Linda Thacker bt H. Bardwell/S.

Tyler 14, 17;
Andrew/Charlery lost to Pleasance/Ogle
14, -17, -23;
Charlery bt Ogle 7, -19, 15;
Thacker bt Bardwell -12, 8, 16;
Kimm lost to Pleasance -19, -15;
Brown bt Tyler 12, 17;
Andrew lost to Seaholme -18, 15, -16.

On the Junior front our second team have met both Surrey II and Middlesex II. Unfortunately both matches were lost 3-7 but there was plenty of fight from our teams particularly the girls Karen Buckledee, Debbie Taylor and Tricia Taylor. On the boys' side Jeffrey Field, Douglas Henry and Kevin Gard all won a singles. The Junior third team have had two excellent victories over Herts II (8-2) and an even better success (7-3) over the stronger Suffolk side.

Gregory Clement, John Sparkes and Robin Lang all secured some very noteworthy wins while our girls Karen Buckledee, Ruth Adleman and Linda Crawford were unbeaten in both these matches. Details of the Suffolk match were:-

G. Clement bt J. Hall 19, 20;
J. Sparks lost to S. Palmer -18, -16;
R. Lang bt A. Booth -16, 15, 19;
Linda Crawford/Karen Buckledee bt J. Richards/
J. Leonard 15, 14;
Sparks/Lang bt Palmer/Hall 14, -12, 18;
Buckledee bt Leonard 9, 19;
Sparks bt Hall -16, 18, 21;
Crawford bt Richards 19, 15;
Lang lost to Palmer -9, -19;
Clement lost to Booth -17, -18.

The Veterans have also returned to winning ways with the first team defeating Leicestershire 6-3 while the second team won by the maximum route over Sussex.

Our vast inter-league programme is in its final stages and positions in the top divisions are:-

	Played	Points
Men's One		
Dagenham	4	28
Harlow	5	26
Chelmsford	4	21
Southend	5	21
Walthamstow	4	20
Romford	4	15
Women's One		
Colchester	4	21
Chelmsford	3	20
Southend	3	18
Basildon	3	18
Walthamstow	3	3
Mixed One		
Chelmsford	4	31
Romford	4	23
Dagenham	4	21
Walthamstow	4	14
Ilford	4	11
Veterans' One		
Dagenham	4	31
Billericay	5	24
Colchester	3	16
Romford	3	15
Southend	4	11
Thurrock	5	11
Juniors' One		
Dagenham	4	34
Barking	3	23
Chelmsford	3	17
Basildon	4	14
Silvertown	5	14
Romford	5	6

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

CHANGES AHEAD

With the impending retirement of our long-serving Chairman Harry Flinton, who is also currently acting as Hon. Treasurer, and the news that Tournaments Secretary Richard Scruton and Competition Secretary Graham Carr will not be seeking re-election, there are certain to be changes in the County's administrative personnel next season. So — local league administrators with

ideas to sell and ambitious for the sport — step forward please!

The result of only two local league closed tournaments have reached me so far. In Hull, county player Mike Harrison lost his men's singles title to Joe Naser and together they regained the men's doubles title. Julie McLean took 3 titles — the women's singles and Grade "A" singles and the mixed doubles. Steve Tracey proved again that he is York's best player when the former Irish international won the men's singles title for the third year in succession and also won the men's doubles (with Rod Lowery) and mixed (with Betty Norman).

Results:-

HULL

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Harrison bt M. D. Wright;
J. Naser bt D. N. Bartlett.

Final:

Naser bt Harrison 10, -18, 16.

Women's Singles:

J. McLean bt C. Cowell 16, 10.

Men's Doubles:

Harrison/Naser bt Bartlett/C. Pollard 18, -19, 15.

Women's Doubles:

Cowell/J. Kinnersley bt B. Hudson/McLean 17, 14.

Mixed Doubles:

Bartlett/McLean bt Naser/Kinnersley 18, 16.

Boys' Singles:

S. Madden bt N. Barley 17, 17.

Girls' Singles:

A. Hudson bt J. Evans 14, 13.

Veteran Singles:

Bartlett bt Pollard -16, 11, 11 (on expedite).

YORK

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

S. Tracey bt R. Lowery 17, 16;
K. Bejas bt D. Bartle 8, -22, 19.

Final:

Tracey bt Bejas 13, 18.

Women's Singles:

M. Gott bt B. Norman 13, 18.

Men's Doubles:

Lowery/Tracey bt D. Rawley/T. Sanderson 19, 16.

Women's Doubles:

M. Broadbent/Gott bt Norman/L. Bradley -19, 15, 11.

Mixed Doubles:

Tracey/Norman bt Bartle/Broadbent 15, 13.

Junior Singles:

Sanderson bt A. Fletcher 9, -8, 15.

Individual Singles:

Sanderson bt Rawley 11, 17.

Veteran Singles:

D. Bell bt D. Cram 21, 9.

GWENT NEWS

by Stephen Gibbs

UNBEATEN SEASON

With an 8-2 win over Cornwall, Gwent's senior side concluded an unbeaten season in Division 3 West of the County Championships. This means that the Gwent team are promoted to Div. 2 after only twelve months in the third. For the match versus Cornwall, team Manager Basil Evans recalled Michael Nocivelli, who replaced the unavailable Kevin Boalch. Nocivelli, who has indicated only mild interest in County selection in recent seasons, showed that he was equal to the occasion and easily won his two events. Andrew Evans suffered his only defeat of the season in County matches when he succumbed to a hard bat player. Cornwall's only other win came in the women's doubles when Sandra Pickering and Brenda Annand were beaten. However, both won their singles and again both have managed to win three of their five singles events throughout the season. This is a considerable improvement on past seasons when unfortunately the women's play left an intolerable burden upon the men.

By entrusting the captaincy of the side to John Bloomer, Basil has ensured that every player has given a 100% effort. Bloomer, victor in 8 of his 10 singles, has teamed up with Andrew Evans to win all five doubles.

With a 9-1 over Avon, 6-4 over Dorset, 9-1 over Somerset, 7-3 over Glamorgan, plus the fine win at St. Austell, the Gwent side has amassed a total of 39 sets out of 50. Basil's main concern now

rests with the future. Can he succeed where others have barely survived in the past? The answer probably lies with the performances of Ex-Welsh International Sandra Pickering and the ever-improving Brenda Annand. In past seasons the men have always held their own at least in the higher grade, very often winning five or more of the seven men's sets in order to scrape a draw or on odd occasions to squeeze a win. A better performance from Gwent's women next season could be the platform for even further success.

Meanwhile, Gerald Watkins, manager of the Junior side, can feel well pleased with his side's performance in Div. 3 Midland. At one time it looked as if the team would also win their section but an 8-2 defeat at the hands of Worcestershire meant that they and not Gwent go into the second division. If Gwent can beat Staffordshire in an outstanding fixture then the Junior side will be runners-up.

With one match to go Gwent's leading Junior, Brian Jeanes, has only been beaten once while No. 2, Gary Wilkins of Abergavenny, has lost twice. Jonathan Hobbs of Tredegar has established himself as the Gwent No. 3 but has only managed a 50% win rate so far. For the Junior Girls Brenda Annand remains unbeaten but has only played in two of the four matches due to her senior commitments. Janet Helps has played in all four matches so far and holds a fifty per cent success rate.

**THE SPORTS COUNCIL
DECLARATION OF DISCRIMINATION
OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SPORT**

The Sports Council has been asked by the Minister of State for Sport and Recreation to draw the attention of governing bodies of sport and composite sports organisations to a Declaration of discrimination of various kinds in sport, which was adopted at the 7th Meeting of the Informal Working Party of Council of Europe Ministers Responsible for Sport, which was held in Athens on the 12th and 13th March, 1979. A copy of the Declaration is attached.

I understand that the Scottish Sports Council, Sports Council for Wales, and Sports Council for Northern Ireland are being asked to send a copy of the Declaration to their governing bodies of sport.

Yours sincerely,

EMLYN JONES,
Director.

**Informal Meeting of Ministers Responsible
for Sport
DECLARATION**

The Ministers, meeting in Athens for their 7th Informal Meeting, recall the resolution on Sport in Society adopted in London and in particular that part in which they

"emphasise their opposition to discrimination in sport which is based on race, religion, politics or any other criterion in contradiction to the Olympic Charter and draw the attention of the governing bodies of sport to the International Declaration against Apartheid in Sports adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations".

They consider that sporting contacts with countries practising apartheid, in so far as it is reflected in the composition of teams or sporting delegations should be actively discouraged.

They draw the attention of sportsmen and the various parts of the sports movement to the risks involved in international sports in particular the Olympic Games, if they continue to have contacts with representative teams from countries which exclude themselves from the Olympic Movement by not respecting the principles of the Olympic Charter. Neither sports organisations nor sportsmen should allow themselves to be used by countries which practise racial or other forms of discrimination in order to give respectability to an unacceptable sporting situation.

Similarly, they deplore any discrimination in sport based on anti-semitism against sportsmen teams and officials.

Lastly, they condemn any attempts to split duly constituted national teams for international or bilateral competitions.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE LEAGUE

by George R. Yates

Beating Farnworth 10-0 in their final match Preston won the Division 1 title of the Lancashire and Cheshire League taking it over from their victims at Bamber Bridge on Mar. 16.

A much depleted Farnworth, lacking the services of 'flu victim Clive Heap and Brian Clements, proved no match for the home trio of Donald Parker, Steve Turner and Paul Rainford.

Manchester, represented by Phil Bowen, Mark Hankey and Brian Kean, had a 9-1 win over St. Helens which gave them the runners-up position. Kean was the Mancunian to shed a set when beaten by Brian Johns. Top positions (Final):-

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Preston	7	6	1	0	54	16	13
Manchester	7	5	2	0	55	15	12
Farnworth	7	4	1	2	33	37	9

Next Month's Issue

Owing to the Editor's attendance at the World Championships in Pyongyang, the next issue of T.T. News will be published late May/early June.

● **STOP PRESS**

Global Table Tennis Promotions Ltd., are pleased to announce that due to Chester Barnes withdrawing from his £1,000 winner-take-all challenge match against Jill Hammersley (see page 35), Denis Neale, England's former No. 1 has confirmed he will take up this challenge at Whitbread and Co. Sports and Banqueting Hall, Chiswell Street, Moorgate, London E.C.1. Tickets at £1.50 are available from Global Table Tennis Promotions Ltd., 50 Green Lane, Chislehurst, Kent.

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LETTERS . . . TO THE EDITOR

LET DOWN

Having helped for many seasons in the Fenland 2-Star Open with the Kings Lynn T.T.A. and the Wisbech T.T.A., I would like to say how disgusted I am with the attitude of the E.T.T.A. concerning the Global National Tournament organised by Mr. Barry Meisel. All Open Tournament organisers are aware of the amount of hard work, time and money involved in making a successful Tournament and one of the attractions for local leagues is the chance to see and play against some of the country's top players. But this season Mr. Meisel arranged his Tournament on the same weekend as the Yorkshire 2-Star and Fenland 2-Star with the approval of the E.T.T.A.! Straight away you lose the top players and the Tournament loses much of its appeal to both spectators and players.

Sponsorship keeps these Tournaments alive but what chance do we have when the main attraction is removed? Part of the last paragraph of the E.T.T.A. guide to Sponsorship states — "Make sure you deliver what you promise". How can we promise top class players, knowing that they may be attracted elsewhere.

The Tournament Calendar is compiled more than 12 months in advance, but Mr. Meisel's Tournament was approved by the E.T.T.A. at their Council meeting at the end of January — 6 weeks before it was held! Why does he not have to conform like the rest of us? Next season's provisional calendar has been issued already with no mention of the Global National Tournament. Does this mean that the same thing will happen next season? I have nothing against Mr. Meisel or the top players. Good luck to them! What I am concerned about is the way the E.T.T.A. have let the local leagues down by their attitude over this matter.

Tournament Organisers beware! If this arrangement with Mr. Meisel is allowed to continue, it may be the Fenland 2-Star Open that is hit again, on the other hand, it may be any one of you!

RAY DREW,
General Secretary,
King's Lynn and Dist. T.T.A.

21 Meadow Way,
West Lynn,
King's Lynn, PE34 3JZ.

UNFAIR COMPETITION

With regard to the Global tournament held on the weekend of Mar. 4/5 I must first point out that I personally feel that cash being put into Table Tennis must be a good thing for the game. I hope that it was a success in all its aspects and hopefully the event will become a regular fixture in the tournament calendar.

Having said that I and my Association's committee are utterly disappointed of the allowance of the foregoing tournament to take place on that weekend. The Fenland 2-Star and the Yorkshire 2-Star the day before had been planned some twelve months before the actual playing date.

I am interested to know how at such a late stage the Global Organisers picked the weekend they did, knowing full well of the fixture clash, with even more interest of the E.T.T.A.'s approval for the go-ahead. It was quite obvious once I knew of the fixture clash — we offering far less prize money — that our entry would suffer.

Whatever the reasons were of which I feel an explanation is necessary from both parties, it is totally unacceptable for the Fenland to try and compete with the Global. If an alternative arrangement cannot be found, it is possible that the only open tournament in East Anglia may fall by the wayside. I can tell all who read this letter, the Wisbech Association have taken a great pride in running the Fenland these last two years, as did

the King's Lynn League before them. I think we offer a first class tournament from the entry form to the finish of the finals.

It would be so sad to lose a tournament through mismanagement at H.Q. It isn't very easy trying to explain to sponsors that all the best players have gone to another tournament. Finally, we have received the 1979/80 draft copy of tournaments. Please note the Fenland is scheduled for March 9/80 and the Global — well it is not to be found!

HOWARD LUPTON,
Chairman, Wisbech T.T.A.

Rokewood Bungalow,
Walton Road,
Wisbech, Cambs.

Sympathetic to the fully-justified grouses expressed by Mr. Lupton an agreement has been reached with Barry Meisel that future Global tournaments (and there is to be a number next season) will be scheduled by the E.T.T.A.'s Calendar Working Party so as to prevent such clashes as much as possible.

Ed.

CRITICISM INVITED

Global would like to thank all the players for co-operating with them and making the recent Global Table Tennis Promotions National Tournament at Greenwich, London, S.E.10, such a success. We have only received to date praise from all spectators, players and officials.

As it is our intention to hold further events of this nature, we would appreciate any constructive criticisms from the players. If you have any please write to Barry Meisel at Global Table Tennis Promotions Ltd., 50 Green Lane, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6AQ.

BARRY MEISEL,
Director.

HOLLOW LAUGHTER

With the greatest of respect to Mrs. O'Carroll and Mr. Dyke, is it not a bit of a joke to talk about players faulted for illegal services having their concentration destroyed or broken? The point which escapes these good folk is that players must be taken to know the Laws, and if they choose to ignore them they deserve no sympathy.

The "statement" by Tony Wickens about junior "Select" tournaments has caused much hollow laughter among the regulars on the circuit. What Tony is saying is that, although the Selection Committee has decreed that all results other than those obtained in the Select Tournaments plus the "Open" and "Closed" will virtually be ignored. His Committee is quite happy to accord "Select" status to events graded as "2-Star" irrespective of their merit.

Everybody knows that the Essex and Cleveland Junior events have a very high standard, equivalent to the senior "3-Star" rating, but that few others come anywhere near to this. Incredibly enough, "Select" status goes to those two tournaments only in alternate years (purportedly on geographical grounds) while in between our top juniors are forced to lay their ranking positions on the line in tournaments which, although called "Select", sometimes would hardly justify "One Star" grading.

ALAN SHEPHERD,
National Referee,
International Umpire.

62 Ardmore Lane,
Buckhurst Hill,
Essex.

THE STIGA WELSH OPEN

Did he really mean it? John Woodford I'm talking about, in his article in your March issue dealing with the Welsh Open, John made an acknowledgement of the efforts of my wife and I in promoting this event to its present high level, then spoils it all with a reference to our lack of tournament organisers of the calibre of those who operate at the English Open. By inference this means that the Stiga Welsh suffers by comparison with the English, a statement I am not prepared to accept.

It seems that John's complaint stems from a

difficulty in getting results quickly. It also seems that he has no problems in this respect at the "more sophisticated" English tournaments. John and other Pressmen were accommodated right next to the referee and the results section, and although there might have been a weakness, not entirely our fault, it was put right as soon as reported. Incidentally we have had no problem in this department before. It is regrettable that John should have concentrated on this aspect to the exclusion of any comment on other features which we, and many of our foreign visitors, believe puts our tournament in the top class in Europe.

I regret having to make comparisons by inference, but I have seldom seen in your columns a more implied criticism of a tournament, and I would be a poor Welshman if I did not spring to the defence of all those helpers who, although apparently not endowed with the qualities possessed by those whom John names nevertheless contrived to make our Stiga Welsh Open one of the best tournaments of the present season. It is an irony that John Wright, Mike Watts and their colleagues have probably had to wait for criticism of an event not under their control in order to get the praise they surely deserve. I hope they can accept that I could hardly be expected to suffer John Woodford's barbs in silence.

The next time John Woodford comes to Wales he is going to find a horde of angry heavily-armed Welshmen and Welshwomen waiting for him at the border.

H. ROY EVANS,
Table Tennis Assn. of Wales.

198 Cyncoed Road,
Cardiff, CF2 6BQ.

FOR INFORMATION

I have thought for some time that it would be useful if the minutes of Council Meetings were published in TABLE TENNIS NEWS. As you know, at the present time copies go to Councillors and County Secretaries and additional copies are sent to counties if requested. As you know the complete minutes of Council meetings in the U.S.A. are published in full detail in their magazine — "TABLE TENNIS TOPICS" and I can't see any reason why we should not do it. In the case of confirming minutes of sub-committees extracts could be made for information.

I feel that this would enable clubs and individuals to know what is happening in the country and greatly assist in the Development. Often wondered why the Development Committee had not considered it as it would be of great value. It would not be necessary to send copies to counties for their distribution. In brief it is a way of letting clubs and players know quite a lot and that is really what the magazine is issued for. Also this could apply to the Annual General Meeting Minutes.

HARRY WALKER,
Hon. Life Member.

14 Braybrooke Road,
Hastings, TN34 1TA.

NOT UNDERSTOOD!

I would refer to the articles written in the magazine every month by Donald Parker on PERIODISATION and to ask the reason for them at all.

I am not a player but I have tried to understand them — with the aid of dictionaries — and do not understand a word. If they are intended for our younger player — I am sorry for them.

A colleague of mine finds the articles quite incredible and suggests that if Donald was to write an article each month on different aspects of coaching in easily understood language together with action photos it would be more useful.

At the present moment I cannot see any reason to continue printing them.

HARRY WALKER,
Hon. Life Member.

4 Braybrooke Road,
Hastings,
East Sussex,
TN34 1TA.

THE NOT SO MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION

BOMI AMALSADVALA,
Bombay, India.

I often wonder if Table Tennis players take technical articles on the game sufficiently seriously. Yet realism demands that they should. No one is perfect and there is room for improvement, and enlightenment can often come from the most unexpected quarters. Players therefore have nothing to lose and something to gain by taking note of such articles, wherever and whenever they appear, not only for acquisition of theoretical knowledge but for practical follow-up also. And since these observations are based on actual experiences of top players in the world, there is no justification for the players to hesitate in taking advantage of them.

It is ironic that when physical fitness is becoming a fetish with a modern table tennis player, Indu Puri a long sufferer from asthmatic attacks, should have beaten the reigning World Champion Pak-Yung of North Korea in the recent Asian T.T. at Kaula Lampur. Almost a fortnight after that sensational, blood warming triumph of India in November 1978, came the devastating test debut of Australian fast bowler Rodney Hogg, also an asthmatic, against Brearly's boys. And to cap it all, England's Derek Randall, a chronic sufferer of hay fever, also scored 149 runs in that first test at Brisbane. If further proof is necessary that physical fitness is not the ONLY thing in a champion, readers would like to note that Tony Grieg, the ex-captain of English cricket is prone to epileptic attacks.

Hence, I personally am quite perturbed to find that, now-a-days, there is a lot of talk and emphasis on physical training by officials and governing bodies at the cost of harder 'over-the-table' organised training. For the players also, it is supposed to be the 'in' thing to do while playing this game. Quite a few of our budding players now, are so carried away by the emphasis on physical training that some of them devote the entire off-season to just doing that, without touching the racket. While this trend could be a hang-over of their eternal complaint of the paucity of practice partners available at all levels of play, during off-season, in reality, to the keen competitor, the off-season should be "the time" to take stock of the previous years' effort to make suitable changes with increased 'on-the-table' training.

The result, therefore, has been disastrous for many, as they not only increased their weight considerably, but when they started playing again, they found that their movements were even slower than what they used to be, before they took to extra physical training.

Two factors which such players do not reckon with, are the problem of weight control which they have to carry while moving and the realisation that physical training cannot possibly replace or take second place to the hard 'table-training' that is a must to reach the high class in the game.

Firstly, what they do not still understand is that the body weight that each player is required to control during play is more than 3 times his body weight at standing position. Which means, that, if you have 2 kg. weight more than the weight with which you normally train, then you have to control 6 kg. of over weight for each stroke, in each rally and for each game, which at critical moments, becomes a real wastage of energy. And it is this extra weight, that slows their movements down and reduces their stamina.

Secondly, what they fail to realise is that, by no stretch of imagination, can physical training replace the required quota of concentrated practice that each of them must put in to improve their game to the required high level. Hard practice comes first and then physical training not vice versa. Neglect of this aspect indeed turns their effort into frustration, to say the least. Therefore, it must be quickly realised, that while long hours of serious practice can make them better players, mere physical fitness cannot. At best physical fitness can help them to put on muscles in the

arms, thighs and make them look fitter and improve their stamina. But what is the use of all this physical improvement, if it cannot help a player to win matches and titles! And to win matches, one has to practise first, very hard and then do physical fitness training afterwards.

Simultaneously what should also be understood is that because of the tremendous increase in the speed of the ball due to use of sandwich bats, there is a limit to their improvement by practice alone, without physical fitness. It is then and only thereafter that special physical training assumes great importance and not before. If the physical training is done at this stage, then it helps them to concentrate better for long hours, which in turn helps them to make their practice more fruitful. It then helps them to move faster and it then helps them to improve their stamina.

And in addition to this there is one more very important factor of physical training which has been lost sight of, or possibly not even known to many of these players. And that is, even after they put in the required efforts practice-wise, and then to their physical training, they still do not become quick so to say, automatically. It is a wrong notion that physical training and quickness is missing. And that is, the will of the player to move and try to reach each and every ball during his practice. The secret of becoming quick is in understanding this aspect of the game. Unless, therefore, a player cultivates an intense desire, from deep down within his heart, to move and reach each and every ball that comes to him, no amount of physical training can make a player quick. And what is required in present day T.T. is super-quick reflexes and quick-silver feet movements. Therefore, their approach to become quick should be like, rather die of shame than let go a ball past them, without reaching it or even touching it.

And talking of quickness, one regrets to notice that even today after so much international experience, so many of our top players do not still believe that flat-footed stance considerably hamper their movements and thereby their total progress. Let me explain. Some of them do stand on their toes or on the ball of their feet at the start of a rally or during the early stages of game. But then, as the rally progresses, or the game advances towards the closing stages, you will notice that, they tend to move flat-footed when it really matters. This is because, while moving, their thighs are not strong enough to carry their body weight forward all the time on their toes and with their knees bent, for longer periods. This is mainly due to lack of awareness of the importance of this aspect of training! It is only when these players understand what an important part this 'will-to move' and 'playing-on-toes' plays in improving their quickness, that they will reap the benefit of physical training backed up by the hard 'over-the-table' practice. It is only then, that the road to success will be opened for them to enter that high class of T.T. which they dream to play.

And in the wake of the success of our women's players in the last Asian at Kaula Lampur, if our other players get inspired and try to understand and realise the importance of these few observations, I am sure, our progress will then be much faster. And if they earnestly desire to achieve the greatness which goes with such type of training, then they cannot possibly afford to neglect it any further, because for the top-ranked players, three major T.T. events viz. the National Championships the Commonwealth Championships and the World T.T. Championships at Pyongyang, North Korea, are round the corner.

EAST OF ENGLAND 2 STAR OPEN

TITLES RETAINED

by P. Taylor

Kevin Beadsley retained the Men's Singles at the East of England without the loss of a single game. His opponent in the final was Alan Griffiths who had, in the semi-final against countryman George Evans, come back from 17-14 down in the third to win 21-17! The other losing semi-finalist was Derek Schofield. Derek, in fact, must have been well pleased with his play for besides reaching the semi-final in the Men's he also won both the Veterans and the Men's Doubles, his partner in this event being Terry Donlon.

Melody Ludi also retained the Women's Singles without the loss of a single game, beating Linda Holmes in the final. The big surprise was the defeat in this event of Sally Midgley, recently ranked No. 13 nationally, by Gloria Stocks in the second round, Mrs. Stocks winning -14, 13, 11. Her quarter-final against Lincs junior Gillian Sharpe proved to be a long pushing game with Mrs. Stocks winning 19 in the third.

Besides the singles, Melody also won the Women's Doubles, with Sally Midgley, and the Mixed with Steve Cowley. The Boys' title was won by Adrian Hill who beat Mark Thomas and the Girls' by Sally Midgley who beat Pauline Cameron.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y) bt M. Kinsella (Ng) 15, 14;
D. Schofield (Ch) bt D. Hulme (Ch) -15, 14, 8;
G. Evans (Wal) bt P. Smith (Le) 4, 11;
A. Griffiths (Wal) bt G. Hall (Le) 16, 12.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Schofield 9, 17;
Griffiths bt Evans -20, 20, 17.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Griffiths 14, 18.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Ludi (Y) bt K. Lindley (Ng) 10, 10;
C. Buttery (Ng) bt K. Fisher (Li) 12, 12;
L. Holmes (Dy) bt M. Seaton (Y) 11, 17;
G. Stocks (Y) bt G. Sharpe (Li) 16, -19, 19.

Semi-finals:

Ludi bt Buttery 22, 11;
Holmes bt Stocks 17, 17.

Final:

LUDI bt Holmes 20, 13.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

Evans bt M. Shearer (Li) 10, 18;
Schofield bt J. Walton (Y) 16, 18.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt Evans 16, 16.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

A. Hill (Y) bt A. Phillips (Ng) 15, 19;
M. Thomas (Wal) bt R. Watson (Ng) 14, 12.

Final:

HILL bt Thomas 21, 20.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

S. Midgley (Y) bt D. Brown (Li) 19, 11;
P. Cameron (Ng) bt L. Broomhead (Y) 21, 17.

Final:

MIDGLEY bt Cameron 16, 20.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Schofield/T. Donlon (Ch) bt Griffiths/Evans
-14, 14, 11;

B. Hill (Li)/A. Croome (Ng) bt Thomas/D.
Roberts (Wal) 13, -20, 16.

Final:

SCHOFIELD/DONLON bt Hill/Croome
20, -12, 20.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Ludi/Midgley (Y) bt A. Gunthorpe (Li)/C. Judson
(Ng) 22, 17;

Holmes/A. Marples (Dy) bt Broomhead/Stocks
-17, 13, 11.

Final:

LUDI/MIDGLEY bt Holmes/Marples 18, 17.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Cowley (La)/Ludi bt G. Hall/Y. Hall (Le)
19, 10;

Croome/Stocks bt K. Adlington (Li)/Judson
16, 15.

Final:

COWLEY/LUDI bt Croome/Stocks -13, 15, 17.

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Norwich Union English Championships

SHOCKS IN MEN'S SINGLES

by John Woodford

A stunning display of power driving and counter-hitting gave England No. 1 Desmond Douglas his second men's singles title in the Norwich Union English Championships at Woking Leisure Centre on Feb. 24.

A record-equalling sixth England crown for Mrs. Jill Hammersley completed the expected double for England's two world-class stars.

But there were shocks in abundance in the later rounds of the men's singles. Biggest surprise of all was a tremendous performance by 21-year-old Dougie Johnson, the losing finalist who, like Douglas, hails from Birmingham.

Johnson headed a list of shockmakers as he moved through to the final with John Hilton and Mark Mitchell among his victims. In the 24-minute final, however, Johnson's defences finally crumpled under an onslaught of sheer power from Douglas who triumphed 14, 8, 7. Among earlier shocks which worried the England selectors was the defeat of Paul Day, the holder, to Mitchell.

NEALE FAILS

Little known Tottenham player David Wells was the shock quarter-finalist as he stopped Denis Neale.

E.T.T.A. selectors were satisfied with the results of the women's singles, Karen Witt, 17, tried hard in the final but Mrs. Hammersley's defences have reached a new peak of perfection and there never seemed to be a way through for Miss Witt, who has, for the moment, secured her England No. 2 ranking.

The doubles events provided more successes for Douglas. He won the Triple Crown lifting the men's doubles title with Jimmy Walker and the mixed with Linda Howard who also took the women's doubles with Mrs. Hammersley.

Results:-

Men's Singles Round 3:

D. Douglas (Wa) bt L. A. Clayton (Y) 19, 10, 12;
J. Walker (Cv) bt K. Paxton (Cv) 20, 14, 12;
D. Wells (Sy) bt D. Neale (Cv) 18, -14, 17, 21;
D. Parker (La) bt K. Jackson (E) 12, 9, 10;
P. Day (Ca) bt D. Tan (Mi) 20, 19, 17;
M. Mitchell (Mi) bt A. Barden (Mi) 10, 16, 18;
J. Hilton (La) bt P. Randell (Le) 15, 6, 17;
D. Johnson (Wa) bt B. Barr (Bk) 17, -17, 17, -17, 9.

Quarter-finals:

Douglas bt Walker -16, 12, 18, 20;
Parker bt Wells 15, -13, 19, 15;
Mitchell bt Day 16, 12, -21, 11;
Johnson bt Hilton 14, 16, 18.

Semi-finals:

Douglas bt Parker -18, 14, 16, 12;
Johnson bt Mitchell 20, -20, 13, 14.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Johnson 14, 8, 7.

Women's Singles Round 2:

J. Hammersley (Bu) bt S. Conway (Sy) 7, 7, 6;
A. Mitchell (Mi) bt H. Williams (Mi) -15, 16, 12, 20;
K. Rogers (Le) bt G. Pritchard (Dv) 15, 7, 12;
C. Knight (Cv) bt M. Ludi (Y) -19, 14, -20, 12, 16;
A. Stevenson (Le) bt L. Holmes (Dy) 10, -23, 21, 17;
S. Midgley (Y) bt M. Reeves (Mi) 10, 14, 9;
L. Howard (Sy) bt S. Hunt (Li) 13, -15, 15, 15;
K. Witt (Bk) bt M. Smith (Bk) 17, -17, 20, 10.

Quarter-finals:

Hammersley bt Mitchell 13, 13, 9;
Rogers bt Knight 16, -11, 12, 17;
Stevenson bt Midgley 10, 14, 9;
Witt bt Howard 17, -17, 20, 10.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley bt Rogers 13, 18, 11;
Witt bt Stevenson 17, 12, 12.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY bt Witt 11, 14, 15.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Douglas/Walker bt Clayton/M. Johns (Ch) 9, 20, 16;
Mitchell/G. Sandley (Mi) bt Hilton/C. Rogers (Le) 18, 15, 21;

B. Johnson (Wa)/Johnson bt J. Kennedy (K)/R. Potton (E) 11, 14, -17, -16, 16;
M. Crimmins (Sy)/Wells bt K. Caldron/L. Eadie (E) 10, 11, -11, 18.

Semi-finals:

Douglas/Walker bt Mitchell/Sandley 14, 14, 14;
Crimmins/Wells bt Johnson/Johnson 8, 21, 16.

Final:

DOUGLAS/WALKER bt Crimmins/Wells -20, 16, 9, 15.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:

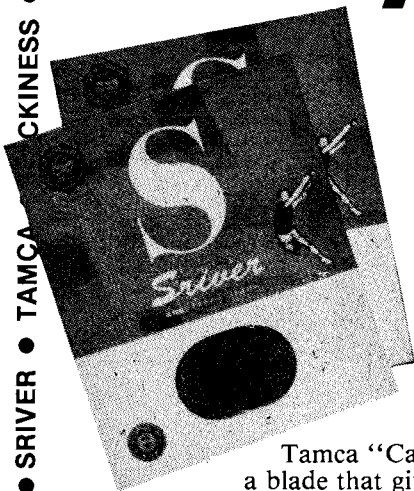
Hammersley/Howard bt Midgley/Reeves 17, 10, 14;
Hunt/Rogers walk-over L. Barrow (E)/C. Hilton (La) scr;
Mitchell/Williams bt M. Elliman (K)/K. Mashford (Mi)

16, 13, -15, -18, 8;
Ludi/Witt walk-over J. Vass/T. Watson (Sy) scr.
Semi-finals:
Hammersley/Howard bt Hunt/Rogers 13, 15, 16;
Ludi/Witt bt Mitchell/Williams -16, 9, 17, 14.
Final:
HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Ludi/Witt 15, 14, -20, 16.
Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:
Douglas/Howard bt I. Horsham (E)/Knight 19, 17, 18;
Johns/Ludi bt C. Wilson (Mi)/Williams 17, 17, 19;
Mitchell/Rogers bt S. Andrew (E)/Smith -19, 11, 19, 18;
Hilton/Hammersley bt Crimmins/Stevenson -20, 12, 10, 9.
Semi-finals:
Douglas/Howard bt Johns/Ludi 17, 14, -17, -19, 9;
Hilton/Hammersley bt Mitchell/Rogers 10, 19, 14.
Final:
DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Hilton/Hammersley 12, 16, -16, 19.

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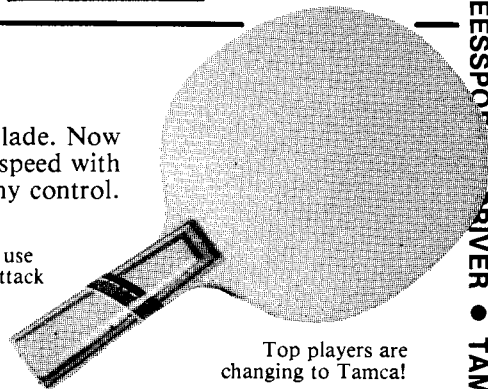
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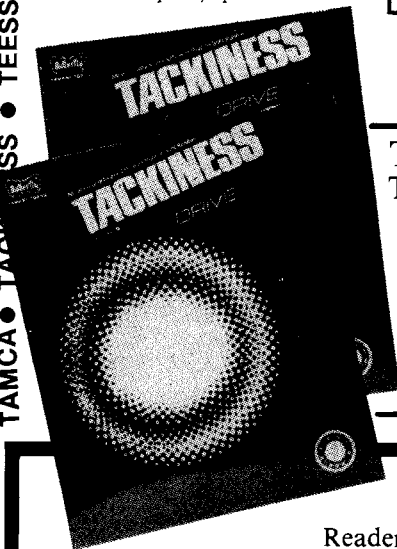


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IRISH NOTES

by WILLIE WALSH

IRISH DROP

Ireland dropped down to the second division without a whimper, when they lost ignominiously without winning a set in a non-event against Bulgaria in the Maysfield Complex, Belfast. The large crowd were stunned to a 'deafening' silence as the superbly fit visitors won the first three sets without dropping a game and won the other four sets in the third game.

This was the first European 1st Division match ever played in Belfast, and great credit is due to Eddie Limberg, Chairman of the Ulster Branch, Mrs. Pat Hunter, their hard working Hon. Secretary and the other members of the organising committee for the excellent arrangements, before, during and after the match. It was sponsored by the Ulster Milk Marketing Board and received tremendous coverage by the B.B.C., U.T.V., Radio and Press. Both teams were accorded a civic reception by His Worship the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Ald. Cooke, and taken on a tour of the historic City Hall which made a tremendous impression on the Bulgarians.

B. Gentchev started the rout when he beat Colum Slevin, 18, 12, in a rather tame encounter. In the second game Slevin looked promising when he was only two points down at 11-13, but of the remaining 9 points in the set, Gentchev won 8.

In the Keane - Stoinov set, they were level at 8-all in the 1st game when Keane hit a very bad patch losing 7 points in a row. From then on it was 9-16, and 11-19 before Stoinov won 21-14. In the 2nd game Stoinov won the first 5 points before Keane scored a point. Stoinov then went on to win another 6 points and after that it was a 'procession' — 1-10, 6-14, 8-17, 11-19 and ended 11-21. The biggest shock of the night was the unexpected and rare defeat of local heroine Karen Senior by the 14-year-old Miss D. Gergeltcheva 20, and 15. In the 1st game they were level at 19-all when the Bulgarian got an edge ball. Senior won the next

point to level but Miss Gergeltcheva won the next two points. In the 2nd game they were 'neck and neck' to 15-all when Miss Senior started to make mistakes and Miss Gergeltcheva couldn't do anything wrong and went on to win the next six points.

Ireland won the first game of the Men's Doubles — 18, but lost the next two.

The mixed was another 3 gamer, Ireland again losing in the 3rd.

Although the reverse singles also went to three, Slevin and Keane had to bow to two better players.

Looking back over Ireland's 7 matches in the 1st Division, we must not forget we lost 3 matches 3-4 and when one remembers the ages of the team — 22 yrs., 19 yrs. and 14 yrs., we did not do all that badly. This was Slevin's first year in this category, Keane has only been recently a regular and Karen Senior had an excellent record in both the Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles.

Results (Irish names first):-
C. Slevin lost to B. Gentchev -18, -12.
K. Keane lost to I. Stoinov -14, -11.
K. Senior lost to D. Gergeltcheva -20, -15.
Slevin/Keane lost to Gentchev/Stoinov 18, -7, -14.
Keane/Senior lost to Stoinov/Gergeltcheva 20, -6, -18.
Slevin lost to Stoinov 19, -12, -16.
Keane lost to B. Bentchev 19, -16, -16.
Bulgaria 7 Ireland 0

IRISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Colum Slevin consolidated his position as Ireland's No. 1, when he won the Men's Singles and Doubles at the Irish Closed Championships in the Community Centre, Tallaght, Co. Dublin. In the Men's Singles final he beat Newtownards Irish International, Derek Weir. Weir caused an upset in the semi-final when he beat Kevin Keane. In the 3rd game Keane led 6-0, 7-1, 11-8, but Weir levelled at 11-all. They were level again at 15-all but Weir proved the steadier in the 'run-in'.

Slevin got a rare fright in his semi-final against Alistair Cairns winning the first 23 and losing the 2nd -17. The 3rd was a classic before Slevin eventually triumphed 21-15.

The long awaited clash between Ireland's top women players Karen Senior and Anne Leonard was peculiar to say the least. Karen won the first 10 points in the first game and went on to win it

comfortably 21-7. The second seemed to be going the same way as Miss Senior led 9-6, 13-7, 15-10 and then Miss Leonard hit a purple patch to level at 17-all. They were still level at 19-all, 21-all and 22-all, before Leonard won the last two points. In the 3rd Senior led all the way to win 11.

Karen Senior and Anne Leonard had no difficulty in winning the women's doubles, beating Deirdre Kilpatrick and Liz Cash.

Slevin and Keane had to fight all the way in the men's doubles final against Joe Hickey and England-domiciled Pat Glynn. Hickey and Glynn won the first 19, and only lost the second -20. Slevin and Keane won the 3rd 16. An unusual feature of the championships was a team event of 2 men and 1 woman. This replaced the Mixed Doubles event and proved very popular among the competitors. The winning team was Alistair Cairns, Derek Weir and Karen Senior. Runners-up were Colum Slevin, Kevin Keane and Anne Leonard.

Results:-
Men's Singles Semi-finals:
C. Slevin bt A. Cairns 23, -17, 15.
D. Weir bt K. Keane -12, 13, 17.
Final:
C. Slevin bt D. Weir 15, 15.
Women's Singles Final:
K. Senior bt A. Leonard 7, -21, 11.
Men's Doubles Final:
Slevin/Keane bt Hickey/Glynn -19, 20, 16.
Women's Doubles Final:
Senior/Leonard bt Cash/Kilpatrick 8, 16.

IRISH RANKINGS

The selectors in drawing up a new Irish Ranking list did not consider Jim Langan, who recently announced his retirement, or Karen Senior or Deirdre Kilpatrick who did not play in at least 4 of the 7 listed tournaments.

- Men**
1. Colum Slevin
 2. Derek Weir
 3. Kevin Keane
 4. Tommie Caffrey
 5. Alistair Cairns
 6. Joe Hickey
 7. Martin Kinsella
 8. Tom Heasley
 9. Freddie Brown
- Women**
1. Anne Leonard
 2. Dolores Keller
 3. Mary Sheehan
 4. Liz Cash
 5. Kathleen Murray
 6. Marjorie McNeill

COVENTRY 1-Star OPEN

MAX JUSTIFIES HIS SEEDING

by K. J. Moran

After experiencing various troubles during their first venture into open tournaments last year, the Coventry and District T.T.A. showed how quickly they can learn by staging an excellent 2nd Coventry Open. Played once again in the first class surroundings of Ernsford Grange Community College, Referee Geoff Taylor I.U., Chairman Jack Elliott and their loyal followers provided the organisation, and local industry again came up trumps to provide a very tempting prize fund.

The G.C. Phillips Group sponsored men's singles saw Max Crimmins justify his top seeding when he overcame David Welsman, his county teammate, seeded No. 4, in an exciting three game final. Ranked No. 4 in England at the time of the tournament, Crimmins dropped only one game, to David Wells in the quarters, on his way to a scheduled meeting with Nigel Eckersley in the semis. Unhappily Cheshire's pocket-Hercules had to withdraw, with a pulled muscle, after looking really impressive beating No. 8 seed Andrew Bellingham in his quarter-final.

In the other half of the draw Mike Johns, seeded No. 5, put out second seed Graham Sandley, the previous year's runner-up, 15 in the third. Sandley had previously put out Warwickshire's top junior Lester Bertie in straight games. Welsman made the last semi-final place by beating Feroz Nilam who was responsible for the departure of last year's



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champion Paul Randall of Leicestershire in Round 4.

With Eckersley withdrawn Crimmins had a walk-over into the final where he met Welsman. Despite a lapse of concentration in the second game, Crimmins powered his way to the title with some fine attacking shots played away from the table.

The weather defeated defending champion Cheryl Buttery before the start of the Coventry Industrial Pipework women's singles, and left the way open for local favourite Eileen Shaler to progress to the final. Eileen, Leicester No. 3, and seeded No. 3, had a good semi-final win over Jackie Harper Warwickshire's No. 2. Top Warwickshire women Karen Groves, seeded No. 4, played superbly to beat No. 2 seed Janet Carr in the other semi and avenged her county colleague beating Mrs. Shaler in the final after a very close second game.

Further success for Crimmins came in the R.S.T. men's doubles when with Wells they overcame Welsman and Johns in another close run final. Crimmins/Wells came through the hard way just beating Tony Isaac/Andy Bellingham 18 in the 3rd of their semi-final.

Another three game final saw Joanne Chubb and Janet Carr beat Jackie Harper and Karen Groves (again!) in the Lenton and Sons women's doubles and the busy Miss Groves stepped up again to partner Sandley to victory in the mixed over Johns and Kara Mashford.

This brought to an end an exciting and smoothly-run tournament. Requests for entry forms for next year were proof enough of the popularity of this event and gave adequate reward for all the organisational hard work.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

M.Crimmins (Sy) bt D. Wells (Sy) -13, 19, 8;
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt A. Bellingham (St) 18, 16;
D. Welsman (Sy) bt F. Nilam (He) 18, 10;
M. Johns (Ch) bt G. Sandley (Mi) -13, 22, 15.

Semi-finals:

Crimmins w.o. Eckersley scr;
Welsman bt Johns 16, 19.

Final:

CRIMMINS bt Welsman 11, -18, 16.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Harper (Wa) bt M. Turner (Ch) -13, 17, 14;
E. Shaler (Le) bt N. Hamilton (Bu) 19, -16, 15;
K. Groves (Wa) bt S. Peakman (Wa) 11, 15;
J. Carr (St) bt J. Chubb (St) 14, 16.

Semi-finals:

Shaler bt Harper 19, 18;
Groves bt Carr 15, 16.

Final:

GROVES bt Shaler 13, 20.

Men's Doubles Final:

CRIMMINS/WELLS bt Johns/Welsman 22, 19.

Women's Doubles Final:

CARR/CHUBB bt Groves/Harper 19, -19, 14.

Mixed Doubles Final:

SANDLEY/GROVES bt Johns/K. Mashford (Mi) 11, -15, 14.

4. Desmond Charlery (E) (5)
5. John Souter (Mi) (9)
6. David Barr (Bk) (3)
7. Andrew Bellingham (St) (6)
8. Graham Gillett (Sx) (8)
9. Paul Whiting (Dv) (11)
10. Kevin Satchell (Wi) (4)
11. Costas Papantoniou (Mi) (7)
12. Stephen Holloway (Sy) (10)
13. Peter Pudduck (Sx) (14)
14. Sam Harmer (Bu) (12)
15. Mark Oakley (Sy) (A)
16. Stephen Moore (Sx) (20)
17. Peter Brownlow (He) (A)
18. Martyn Smith (Av) (15)
19. Paul Rainford (La) (13)
20. Diccon Gray (Cu) (A)

4. Sally Midgley (Y) (2)
5. Lorraine Garbet (Sy) (7)
6. Alison Gordon (Bk) (4)
7. Joy Grundy (La) (10)
8. Gina Pritchard (Dv) (6)
9. Elaine Bolton (K) (8)
10. Julie Revill (Le) (11)
11. Carol Bulet (Dv) (9)
12. Shirley Cain (St) (12)
13. Lynne Fennah (Ch) (A)
14. Claire Maisey (Wi) (A)
15. Sarah Gilson (Do) (A)
16. Janet Deakin (Ch) (—)

GROUP A
(Alphabetical order)

Boys

- Glen Baker (Sy) (A)
Lester Bertie (Wa) (17)
Philip Bradbury (Bu) (A)
Andrew Golding (Gs) (—)
Julian Hall (Sk) (18)
Adrian Hill (Y) (19)
Mark Illingsworth (Y) (—)
Gary Lambert (Dv) (A)
Martin Les (Mi) (A)
Adrian Moore (Sx) (A)
Stuart Palmer (Sk) (A)
Ian Reed (Cu) (—)
Paul Stratton (Mi) (A)
Robert Swift (Ca) (A)
Alan Withers (Sk) (A)

Girls

- Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (—)
Pauline Cameron (Ng) (A)
Cherry Creasey (Do) (A)
Jill Harris (St) (—)
Eleanor Hughes (Ox) (A)
Kim Mudge (E) (—)
Jean Parker (La) (A)
Jill Purslow (Bk) (A)
Carolyn Scowcroft (La) (A)
Gillian Sharp (Bd) (—)

No longer listed are Alan Borowczyk (K), Paul Hindle (Cv) and David Hughes (Cv), of the boys, and Julie Dowsett (E) of the girls.

CADETS

Boys

1. Adrian Moore (Sx) (1)
2. Andrew Dixon (St) (3)
3. Gary Lambert (Dv) (2)
4. Eddie Gorniak (Mi) (4)
5. Carl Prean (Ha) (6)
6. Jeremy Duffield (Wo) (5)
7. Christopher Bryan (Li) (12)
8. David Sharpe (Bd) (7)
9. David Illingsworth (Y) (10)
10. Graham Russell (Sy) (—)
11. John Sparks (E) (11)
12. Ray Namdjou (K) (8)
13. Darren Griffin (Gs) (—)
14. Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (—)
15. Bruce Collingwood (Mi) (9)

Girls

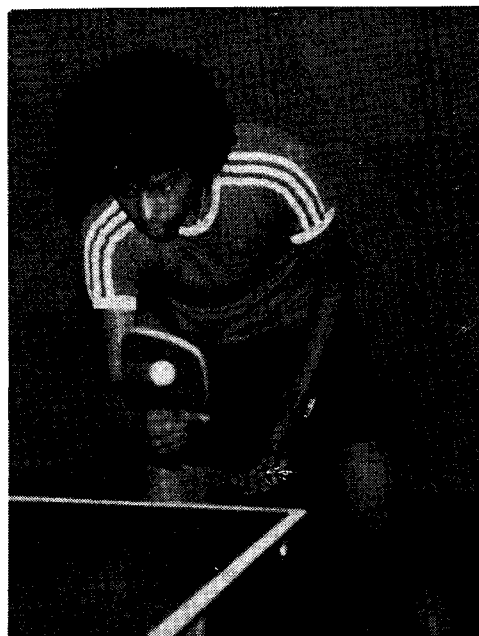
1. Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (2)
2. Cherry Creasey (Do) (1)
3. Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (4)
4. Lesley Broomhead (Y) (6)
5. Sarah Cresswell (Sy) (9)
6. Jean Parker (La) (3)
7. Helen Bardwell (He) (5)
8. Amanda Judd (Ca) (—)
9. Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (11)
10. Melanie Seaton (Y) (10)
11. Michelle Williams (Mi) (—)
12. Josette Ryalls (Y) (7)
13. Mary Denbow (Ox) (—)
14. Yvonne Hall (Le) (12)
15. Jackie Myers (La) (8)

The National Selection Committee have taken the opportunity to give International experience to players not quite at the top of the ranking lists, but their proven ability means the selectors have chosen a team to win in a Junior International match against Holland in Alkmaar on Mar. 31/'79.

Team:-

Skylet Andrew (E), Andrew Bellingham (St), John Souter (Mi), Alison Gordon (Bk) and Sally Midgley (Y). N.P.C.: Donald Parker.

The team should also benefit from an Anglo-Dutch Training Camp on the following day.



Desmond Charlery up one position behind his Essex team-mate Skylet Andrew.

Photo by Geoff Newman, Maldon.



Gina Pritchard of Devon down two places in the Girls' Rankings.

Photo by Leo Black, London.

REVISED JUNIOR AND CADET RANKINGS

DRAMATIC JUMP FOR SKYLET

The National Selection Committee have issued a revised ranking list both in respect of Juniors and Cadets. In the Junior Boys', Skylet Andrew of Essex has made a dramatic jump to No. 3 from No. 16 following his success in the Cotswold Junior 'Select' plus a win over the top Junior Graham Sandley in a County Championships match.

The ever fluctuating form of young players is reflected in the more modest changes amongst the girls and Cadet rankings.

New positions (previous places in brackets):-

Boys

1. Graham Sandley (Mi) (1)
2. Colin Wilson (Mi) (2)
3. Skylet Andrew (E) (16)

Girls

1. Mandy Smith (Bk) (1)
2. Mandy Reeves (Mi) (3)
3. Helen Williams (Mi) (5)

Shropshire 8 Herefordshire 2
Staffordshire II 9 Clwyd II 1
JUNIOR 3 EAST
Cambridgeshire II 3 Huntingdonshire 7
Norfolk II 3 Lincolnshire II 7
Warwickshire II 4 Leicestershire 6
JUNIOR 3 WEST
Somerset 0 Devon II 10
Avon 6 Cornwall 4
Cornwall 6 Wiltshire 4
Devon II 3 Avon 7
Somerset 0 Hampshire 10
Devon II 6 Wiltshire II 4
VETERAN SOUTH
Hampshire II 2 Sussex 7
Hampshire II 1 Middlesex 8
Kent 6 Hertfordshire 3
Sussex 0 Essex II 9
VETERAN MIDLAND
Clwyd 1 Nottinghamshire 8
Cheshire 6 Clwyd 3
VETERAN EAST
Essex 6 Leicestershire 3
Lincolnshire 9 Hertfordshire 0
VETERAN WEST
Avon 8 Hampshire 1
Oxfordshire 6 Dorset 3
Wiltshire 7 Dorset II 2

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

PREMIER
Cheshire 5 5 0 0 33 12 10
Middlesex 6 5 0 1 37 17 10
Essex 4 2 0 2 17 19 4
Warwickshire 4 2 0 2 15 21 4
Surrey 5 2 0 3 18 27 4
Glamorgan 3 1 0 2 11 16 2
Berkshire 4 0 0 4 13 23 0
Yorkshire 3 0 0 3 9 18 0
2 SOUTH
Kent 4 3 1 0 31 9 7
Sussex 5 3 1 1 30 20 7
Middlesex II 5 3 0 2 22 28 6
Berkshire II 5 2 0 3 24 26 4
Dorset 6 2 0 4 24 36 4
Surrey II 3 1 0 2 13 17 2
Buckinghamshire 4 1 0 3 17 23 2
2 NORTH
Cleveland 4 3 1 0 26 14 7
Yorkshire II 4 3 0 1 29 11 6
Lancashire 4 3 0 1 28 12 6
Lincolnshire 4 1 1 2 13 27 3
Durham 3 0 0 3 8 22 0
Northumberland 3 0 0 3 6 24 0
2 MIDLAND
Leicestershire 5 5 0 0 42 8 10
Staffordshire 5 2 2 1 26 24 6
Warwickshire II 5 2 2 1 25 25 6
Derbyshire 4 1 2 1 21 19 4
Northamptonshire 5 1 0 4 11 29 2
Shropshire 4 0 0 4 14 26 0
2 EAST
Cambridgeshire 4 3 1 0 27 13 7
Hertfordshire 3 3 0 0 24 6 6
Essex II 4 2 1 1 23 17 5
Bedfordshire 4 1 0 3 16 24 2
Norfolk 4 1 0 3 9 31 2
Suffolk 3 0 0 3 11 19 0
2 WEST
Wiltshire 5 5 0 0 35 15 10
Glamorgan II 5 4 0 1 33 17 8
Devon 3 2 0 1 19 11 4
Somerset 5 2 0 3 26 24 4
Gloucestershire 5 2 0 3 17 33 4
Avon 4 0 1 3 14 26 1
Worcestershire 5 0 1 4 16 34 1
3 SOUTH (Final Table)
Kent II 4 3 1 0 27 13 7
Essex III 4 1 3 0 24 16 5
Hampshire 4 2 0 2 18 22 4
Sussex II 4 1 1 2 18 22 3
Hertfordshire III 4 0 1 3 13 27 1

3 NORTH
Cheshire III 5 2 3 0 32 18 7
Cleveland II 3 2 1 0 18 12 6
Derbyshire II 3 1 2 0 18 12 4
Lancashire II 4 1 2 1 21 19 4
Northumberland II 4 1 0 3 13 27 2
Cumbria 3 0 0 3 8 22 0
3 NORTH MIDLAND
Cheshire II 5 5 0 0 42 8 10
Leicestershire II 4 3 0 1 24 16 6
Nottinghamshire 5 2 1 2 27 23 5
Clwyd 4 2 0 2 19 21 4
Staffordshire II 5 1 1 3 21 29 3
Shropshire II 5 0 0 5 7 43 0
3 SOUTH MIDLAND
Hampshire II 5 5 0 0 37 13 10
Worcestershire 3 2 0 1 19 11 4
Oxfordshire 5 1 2 2 24 26 4
Herefordshire 4 1 2 1 19 21 4
Northamptonshire II 4 1 2 1 17 23 4
Buckinghamshire II 5 0 0 5 14 36 0
3 EAST
Hertfordshire II 5 5 0 0 40 10 10
Cambridgeshire II 4 3 0 1 23 17 6
Huntingdonshire 4 2 0 2 18 22 4
Norfolk II 4 2 0 2 21 19 4
Suffolk II 3 0 0 3 8 22 0
Bedfordshire II 4 0 0 4 10 30 0
3 WEST
Gwent 4 4 0 0 31 9 8
Dorset II 5 2 2 1 28 22 6
Cornwall 4 1 1 2 20 20 3
Glamorgan III 4 1 1 2 18 22 3
Avon II 4 1 1 2 15 25 3
Somerset II 5 1 1 3 18 32 3
JUNIOR PREMIER
Middlesex 3 3 0 0 25 5 6
Staffordshire 3 3 0 0 22 8 6
Yorkshire 3 2 0 1 22 8 4
Berkshire 3 1 1 1 12 18 3
Cheshire 3 1 0 2 13 17 2
Surrey 3 0 2 1 13 17 2
Essex 3 0 1 2 10 20 1
Cleveland 3 0 0 3 3 27 0
JUNIOR 2 SOUTH
Devon 5 5 0 0 38 12 10
Middlesex II 6 3 1 2 35 25 7
Surrey II 5 2 1 2 20 30 5
Sussex 4 2 0 2 24 16 4
Wiltshire 4 2 0 2 24 16 4
Essex II 5 1 0 4 17 33 2
Dorset 5 1 0 4 12 38 2
JUNIOR 2 NORTH
Cumbria 4 4 0 0 29 11 8
Lancashire 5 4 0 1 35 15 8
Clwyd 4 3 0 1 26 14 6
Yorkshire II 4 2 0 2 19 21 4
Nottinghamshire 4 1 0 3 20 20 2
Derbyshire 5 1 0 4 16 34 2
Shropshire 4 0 0 4 5 35 0
JUNIOR 2 MIDLAND
Warwickshire 4 3 1 0 28 12 7
Glamorgan 5 3 1 1 32 18 7
Buckinghamshire 4 3 0 1 26 14 6
Cambridgeshire 4 2 0 2 17 33 4
Hertfordshire 3 1 0 2 16 14 2
Gloucestershire 4 1 0 3 13 27 2
Northamptonshire 6 1 0 5 18 42 2
JUNIOR 3 SOUTH
Kent 4 4 0 0 30 10 8
Oxfordshire 4 3 1 0 24 16 7
Sussex II 5 2 0 3 29 21 4
Berkshire II 5 1 1 3 22 28 3
Hampshire II 5 1 1 3 18 32 3
Buckinghamshire II 5 1 1 3 17 33 3
JUNIOR 3 SOUTH EAST
Bedfordshire 4 4 0 0 32 8 8
Suffolk 3 2 0 1 17 13 4
Essex III 3 2 0 1 16 14 4
Norfolk 4 1 0 3 18 22 2
Hertfordshire II 4 0 0 4 7 33 0
JUNIOR 3 NORTH
Cheshire II 4 2 2 0 23 17 6
Lincolnshire 4 2 1 1 24 16 5
Durham 3 1 1 1 16 14 3
Cumbria II 4 1 1 2 18 22 3
Cleveland II 4 1 1 2 17 23 3
Northumberland 3 1 0 2 12 18 2

JUNIOR 3 MIDLAND
Worcestershire 5 4 1 0 39 11 9
Gwent 4 3 0 1 26 14 6
Shropshire II 4 2 0 2 22 18 4
Staffordshire II 2 1 1 0 14 6 3
Herefordshire 4 1 0 3 13 27 2
Clwyd II 5 0 0 5 6 14 0
JUNIOR 3 EAST
Lincolnshire II 4 4 0 0 29 11 8
Leicestershire 4 2 1 1 20 20 5
Warwickshire II 4 2 0 2 23 17 4
Huntingdonshire 4 2 0 2 20 20 4
Cambridgeshire II 4 1 1 2 18 22 3
Norfolk II 4 0 0 4 10 30 0
JUNIOR 3 WEST
Avon 5 4 0 1 34 16 8
Devon II 5 4 0 1 34 16 8
Hampshire 3 2 0 1 19 11 4
Cornwall 4 1 1 2 17 23 3
Somerset 5 1 1 3 12 38 3
Wiltshire II 4 0 0 4 14 26 0
VETERAN SOUTH (Final Table)
Middlesex 5 5 0 0 42 3 10
Essex II 5 3 0 2 24 21 6
Sussex 5 3 0 2 17 28 6
Kent 5 2 0 3 21 25 4
Hertfordshire 5 1 0 4 19 26 2
Hampshire II 5 1 0 4 12 33 2
VETERAN MIDLAND
Nottinghamshire 3 3 0 0 21 6 6
Cheshire 4 3 0 1 24 12 6
Cheshire II 4 1 0 3 14 22 2
Worcestershire 3 1 0 2 10 17 2
Clwyd 4 1 0 3 12 24 2
VETERAN EAST
Lincolnshire 3 3 0 0 23 4 6
Essex 4 3 0 1 24 12 6
Leicestershire 3 1 0 2 15 12 2
Hertfordshire II 4 1 0 3 10 26 2
Huntingdonshire 4 1 0 3 9 27 2
VETERAN WEST (Final Table)
Avon 5 4 0 1 34 11 8
Hampshire 5 4 0 1 29 16 8
Oxfordshire 5 3 0 2 21 24 6
Dorset 5 2 0 3 19 26 4
Wiltshire 5 1 0 4 18 27 2
Dorset II 5 1 0 4 14 31 2

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

POINT OVERLOOKED

How nice to see a letter from my old Basildon team mate and Southend League committee colleague Stan Thacker in Table Tennis News.

Certainly services have attained an importance which clearly is not in the best interests of the sport.

However, one point seems to be overlooked by many umpires. It is the duty of the umpire to satisfy himself that the service is good. If the ball has been correctly projected upwards (in the view of the umpire) and the latter has seen that the ball is falling what happens thereafter, as far as the umpire is concerned, is irrelevant. Once falling the ball cannot be struck 'on the up' and whether the umpire sees it struck does not matter providing he is certain that the ball has been hit with the bat fairly. (He could not be certain if for example one side of the bat was covered with a surface not legal for striking the ball). If the umpire is in any doubt he can take the appropriate action.

Colin Clemett made this point well in the January 1979 edition of Table Tennis News when he wrote "non-visibility of the service action, or of the ball during service, is not of itself a fault".

One other point on the high services. Sometimes the ball is not projected to the satisfaction of the server, whereupon he catches the ball. This is a lost point. Service commences with the server projecting the ball by the hand, and the ball is in play from that moment.

PETER EDWARDS, C.U.

Stoughton Meadows, Southmeads Road, Oadby, Leicester.

County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

LITTERED BATTLE GROUND

As I prepare these notes, the end of the County Championships season is only a few short weeks away and the battleground is littered with many matches abandoned by the severe travelling conditions to which the large band of faithful and hard-working voluntary officials have succumbed.

By the time these notes are read many more matches will have been completed (hopefully) with only the Promotion Challenges to Senior and Junior Premier Divisions to be completed. The Veteran Challenge is the first to be completed, breaking from tradition and being finalised on April 7 at the Barnet Centre — one month ahead of its regular spot, at the request of regular contenders who had to compete with the F.A. Cup final. This season's line-up sees two new Counties playing for Veteran honours — Avon and Lincolnshire — against Nottinghamshire and reigning Champions Middlesex (who have dropped only three sets from 45 all season). Now the suggestion being bandied around is: "Is it time to form a Veteran Premier Division?"

Wiltshire are almost certain contenders for promotion to the Premier Division with Kent and Leicestershire (certain to participate) while Cleveland look set to take the championship of 2 North. From 2 East, Hertfordshire look set for another try for promotion.

In the Junior section, Devon are strong enough to return to the Junior Premier but opposition at the junior challenge will be tough. Any two from Cumbria, Clwyd or Lancashire will qualify from Junior 2 North; Junior 2 Midland is also wide open.

While half of the Championships divisions have been decided, Junior 3 West has produced the tightest finish. Avon and Devon II ended level on points and sets but games ratio (Avon 75-38; Devon 71-43) gave Avon the advantage. However, Hampshire are two matches behind and could overtake both, or just as easily join them in calculating games ratio.

Divisional champions decided:-

- 2 Midland — Leicestershire
- 3 South — Kent II
- 3 North Midland — Cheshire II
- 3 South Midland — Hampshire II
- 3 East — Hertfordshire II
- 3 West — Gwent
- Junior 2 South — Devon
- Junior 3 South East — Bedfordshire
- Junior 3 Midland — Worcestershire
- Junior 3 East — Lincolnshire II
- Veteran South — Middlesex
- Veteran West — Avon

International calls on a band of top junior players threatened to badly affect the final round of the Junior Premier Division on March 31st/April 1st.

The players, Skylet Andrew (Essex), Andy Bellingham (Staffs), John Souter (Middlesex), Alison Gordon (Berkshire) and Sally Midgeley (Yorkshire), are to be congratulated on their selection for the International in the Netherlands on the same weekend.

Is it not time for selectors to act responsibly towards member Counties? Staffordshire's first season in the Junior Premier looks good for them, but what are their chances without Andy Bellingham, their number 1 and only unbeaten Junior Premier boy after the first three matches in the whole of the division. It might be argued that his omission from the Junior Premier event is offset by the absence of John Souter (Middlesex No. 3). But what are the chances of Essex — denied the services of Skylet Andrew and in danger of relegation.

Relations with other Nations are important, but a domestic competition that brings together the resources of eight Counties, coupled with the back-stage arrangements (suitable venue with sufficient tables in acceptable conditions, umpires etc.) must rate equally, if not higher, than an event which was not on the calendar.

PREMIER DIVISION

Cheshire 8 Berkshire 1

Leaders of the division, Cheshire, had been concerned by the absence of Nigel Eckersley (at the Portugese Championships) for this clash, but without him they stormed into a 6-0 lead before David Reeves beat John McNee.

D. Constance bt A. Wellman 17, 19;

bt D. Barr 15, 15.

J. McNee bt Wellman 10, 18;

lost to D. Reeves -20, -18.

M. Johns bt Barr 19, 13;

bt Reeves 18, 12.

Constance/McNee bt Barr/Reeves -20, -18.

Sue Lisle bt Miss A. Burke 9, 12.

Johns/Miss Lisle bt Wellman/Miss Burke 10, 20.

Essex 5 Yorkshire 4

Yorkshire pulled back a 3-0 deficit but the home Men scored an Essex victory before Tony Clayton beat Dave Newman for Yorks' only M.S. success, in the final set.

R. Potton bt A. Fletcher 19, 16;

bt A. Clayton 17, 11.

K. Jackson bt Fletcher 10, -18, 20;

bt C. Lo -14, 19, 16.

D. Newman lost to Clayton -17, 18, -21;

bt Lo 19, 16.

Jackson/Potton lost to Clayton/Fletcher

-16, 14, -21.

Linda Barrow lost to Melody Ludi -17, -14.

Newman/Miss Barrow lost to Lo/Miss Ludi

12, -18, -19.

Middlesex 6 Glamorgan 3

Visitors led 2-1 before Middlesex pulled their socks up and stormed into a winning 5-2 lead. Doubles apart, Alan Griffiths unbeaten and an unusually blank scoresheet for Mark Mitchell.

M. Mitchell lost to A. Griffiths -13, -13;

lost to G. Evans -15, -20.

G. Sandley lost to Griffiths -14, -12;

bt G. Davies 20, 18.

P. Guttormsen bt Evans -17, 26, 13;

bt Davies 21, 14.

Mitchell/Sandley bt Griffiths/Davies 16, -17, 18.

Angela Mitchell bt Miss S. Jones 22, 20.

Guttormsen/Miss Mitchell bt Evans/Miss Jones

20, 8.

Middlesex 5 Essex 4

The shortest 5-4 on record! All sets two-straight with Essex holding the lead at 3-4. Graham Sandley and Paul Guttormsen (in possibly his last match for Middlesex before returning to Norway) swung the result for the hosts.

M. Mitchell lost to R. Potton -17, -20;

bt K. Jackson 11, 7.

G. Sandley lost to Potton -14, -14;

bt D. Newman 12, 18.

P. Guttormsen bt Jackson 19, 13;

lost to Newman -21, -10.

Mitchell/Sandley lost to Jackson/Potton -16, -17.

Angela Mitchell bt Linda Barrow 9, 12.

Guttormsen/Miss Mitchell bt Newman/Mrs.

Barrow 19, 17.

Warwickshire 7 Surrey 2

Pat Glynn in for Simon Claxton (flu) and Steve Boxall for Max Crimmins (shoulder injury); from the start the odds seemed to favour the home side but Surrey led 1-0 before Warwickshire rattled off the next six. Dave Welsman in sparkling form.

D. Johnson lost to D. Welsman -23, 19, -21;

bt D. Hannah 14, 18.

D. Munt lost to Welsman 18, -13, -14;

bt S. Boxall 6, 5.

P. Glynn bt Hannah 16, 13;

bt Boxall 12, -19, 9.

Johnson/Munt bt Hannah/Welsman 20, 17.

Karen Groves bt Lorraine Garbet 17, 11.

Glynn/Miss Groves bt Boxall/Miss Garbet

17, -17, 17.

2 SOUTH

Berkshire II 4 Buckinghamshire 6

Bucks first win of the season — took lead for first time at 4-5.

Dorset 4 Middlesex II 6

Kent 5 Sussex 5

John Dabin outstanding for Kent, but Sussex ladies — Carol Hewitt and Diane Griggs — exploited the home weakness.

2 NORTH

Lancashire 9 Lincolnshire 1

Yorkshire III 3 Cleveland 7

2 MIDLAND

Leicestershire 9 Staffordshire 1

Derbyshire 5 Warwickshire II 5

Leicestershire 10 Northamptonshire 0

Staffordshire 7 Shropshire 3

2 EAST

Bedfordshire 6 Suffolk 4

Hertfordshire 8 Essex II 2

Cambridgeshire 8 Norfolk 2

2 WEST

Somerset 4 Devon 6

Glamorgan II 9 Gloucestershire 1

Glamorgan II 7 Somerset 3

Wiltshire 8 Gloucestershire 2

Worcestershire 1 Devon 9

3 SOUTH

Hertfordshire III 5 Essex III 5

Sussex II 3 Kent II 7

3 NORTH

Cumbria 0 Cheshire III 10

Northumberland II 2 Derbyshire II 8

Cleveland II 7 Lancashire II 3

3 NORTH MIDLAND

Clwyd 8 Shropshire 2

Leicestershire II 6 Nottinghamshire 4

Nottinghamshire 7 Clwyd 3

Shropshire II 0 Cheshire II 10

Staffordshire II 3 Leicestershire II 7

3 SOUTH MIDLAND

Buckinghamshire II 4 Northamptonshire II 6

Hampshire II 7 Oxfordshire 3

Needing only to draw to win the division, Hampshire produced a good team effort to win 7-3. Best set saw Dave Large beat Arther Chilvers 22-20 in decider.

3 EAST

Huntingdonshire 1 Hertfordshire II 9

3 WEST

Somerset II 1 Gwent 9

Avon 6 Cornwall 4

Dorset II 4 Gwent 6

Somerset II 5 Glamorgan III 5

JUNIOR 2 SOUTH

Essex II 3 Surrey II 7

Middlesex II 10 Dorset 0

Wiltshire 4 Devon 6

Middlesex II 7 Essex II 3

JUNIOR 2 NORTH

Derbyshire 4 Yorkshire II 6

Nottinghamshire 3 Lancashire 7

JUNIOR 2 MIDLAND

Glamorgan 7 Cambridgeshire 3

Northamptonshire 2 Warwickshire 8

This match saw Warwickshire to the play-offs and Northants into the 3rd division! Visitors took the first seven sets before Keith Nicoll unexpectedly beat Lester Bertie.

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH

Buckinghamshire II 7 Berkshire II 3

Sussex 10 Hampshire II 0

Walk-over!

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH EAST

Hertfordshire II 2 Norfolk 8

Bedfordshire 7 Suffolk 3

Essex III 8 Hertfordshire II 2

JUNIOR 3 NORTH

Cheshire II 5 Cumbria II 5

Lincolnshire 5 Durham 5

JUNIOR 3 MIDLAND

Gwent 2 Worcestershire 8

(continued on page 38)