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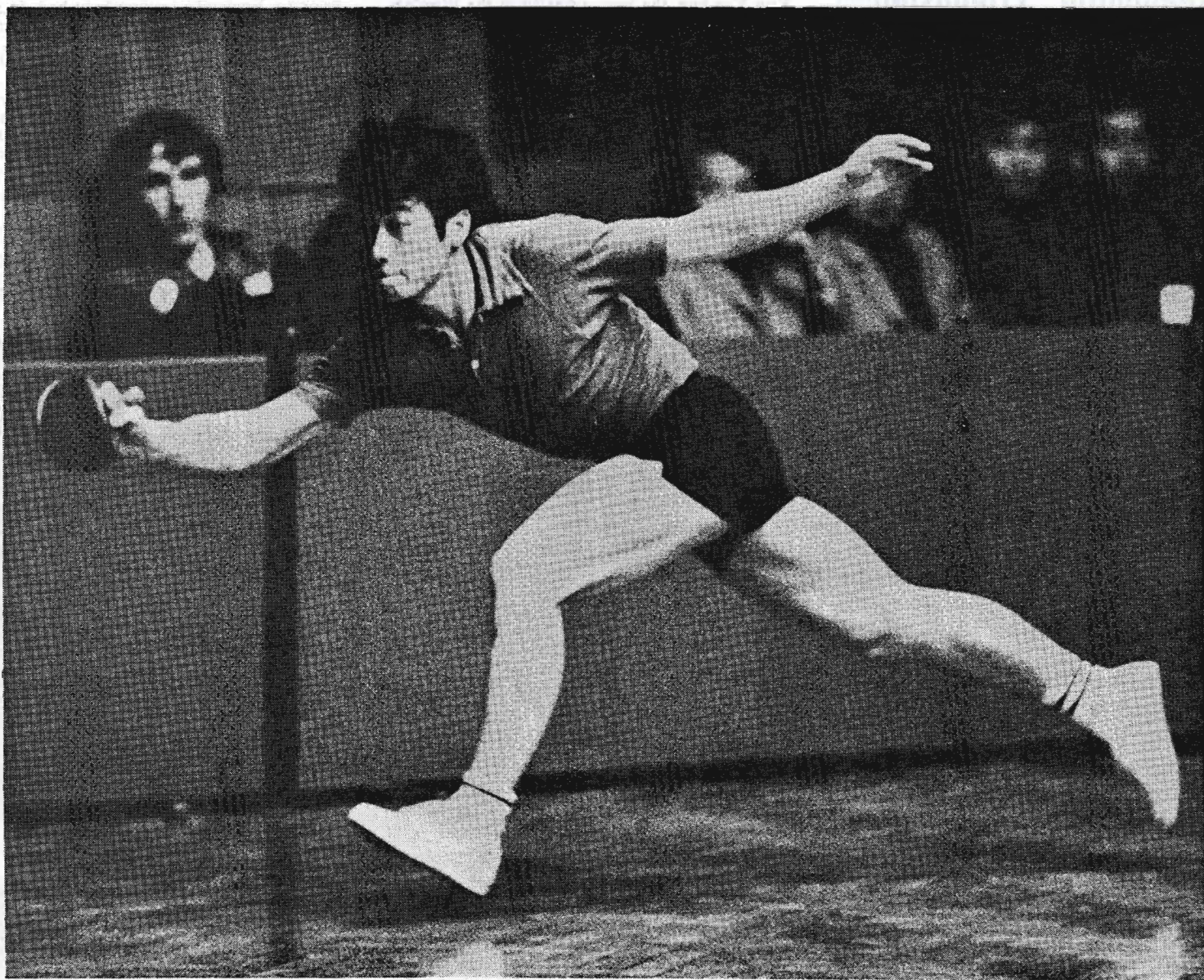


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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Meaningful 'Friendship'

There could not have been a better advertisement for the game of table tennis than the men's singles final of the Norwich Union International Championships in the Dome at Brighton last month.

How refreshing it was to see these two exponents, Kuo Yao-hua and Liang Ke-liang, underlining their seeded positions as the Nos. 1 and 2 in this event with a display that rightfully earned them a standing ovation.

Only one game was dropped by these two masters — by Liang to Milan Orlovski in the semis — and again in the men's team event one game only escaped them in a doubles set against Desmond Douglas and Nicky Jarvis of England.

But in carrying all before them to the ultimate in both events, and the men's doubles in the individuals, 'friendship' was far more evident than hitherto when one was aware that crumbs had been dropped from a table of plenty.

Gladly the BBC took the opportunity of filming the encore when Kuo and Liang put on yet another spectacular to complete an unforgettable occasion which had the audience, both in the Dome and via the medium of the box, in raptures . . . to say nothing of our sponsors NORWICH UNION INSURANCE.

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Norwich Union International Championships



Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton, January 11th-13th, 1979

— by *GEORGE YATES* —

CHINA'S DYNAMIC DUO

If proof was called for as to why the People's Republic of China have three of their men contained in the top four world-ranked positions then it was amply demonstrated in the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton over the period Jan. 11-13.

Kuo Yao-hua, the beaten finalist in the Birmingham world championships, shed not a game in winning the men's singles title disposing of England's Paul Day, Jindrich Pansky of Czechoslovakia, Christian Martin of France, Tibor Klampar of Hungary and his two compatriots Wang Hui-yuan and, in the final, **Liang Ke-liang**.

Without doubt the final clash between the world's second and fourth-ranked players was a veritable feast of table tennis which evoked a standing ovation and a lap of honour in the form of an exhibition game to round off a memorable afternoon.

These same two exponents, again without dropping a game, annexed the men's doubles title with a final win over European champion Gabor Gergely of Hungary paired with Milan Orlovski of Czechoslovakia, after putting down the challenge

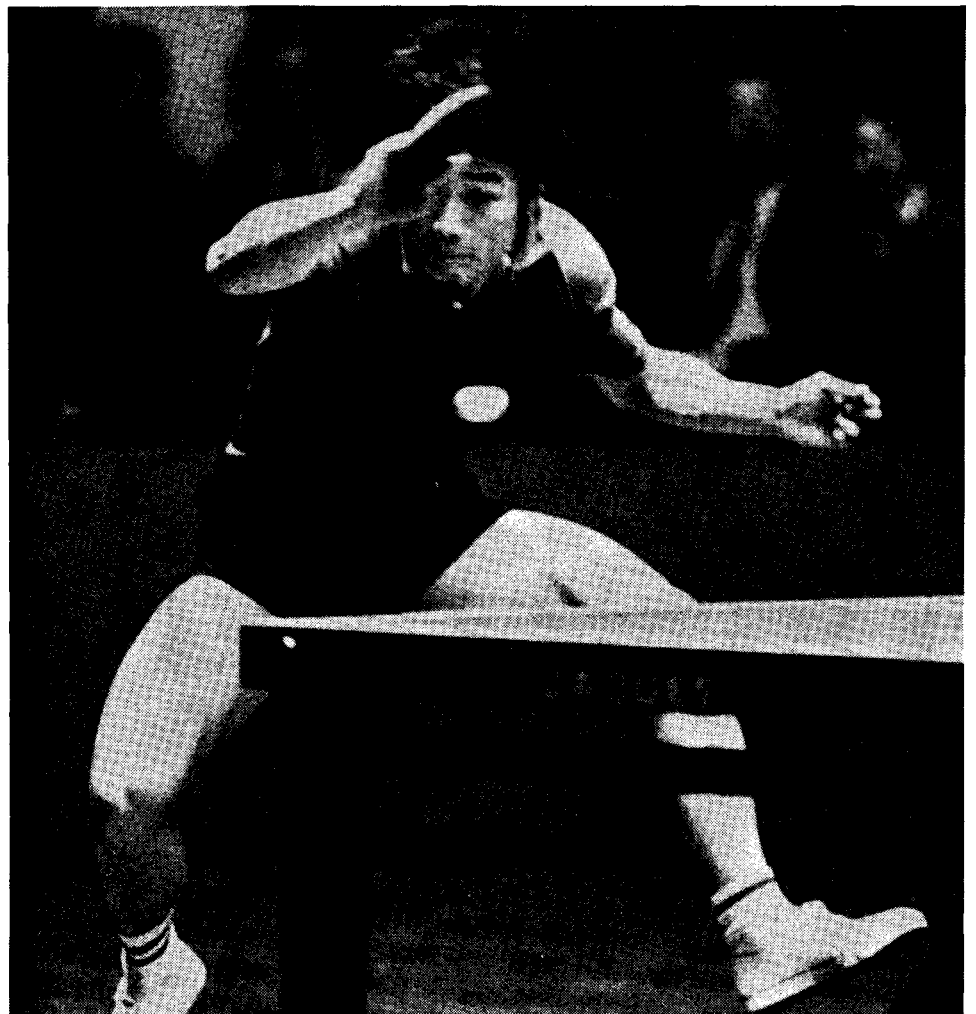
of that formidable Hungarian combination of Klampar and Istvan Jonyer, world champions in Nagoya in 1971.

Jill Hammersley, for the second time in her illustrious career, captured the women's singles title, reversing her Duisburg European Championships defeat by Judit Magos of Hungary in the final.

Prior to, England's leading lady had, in straight games, ousted such personalities as Eva Stromvall of Sweden, Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union, Zsuzsa Olah of Hungary and, in the semis, — surprisingly — Brigitte Thiriet of France.

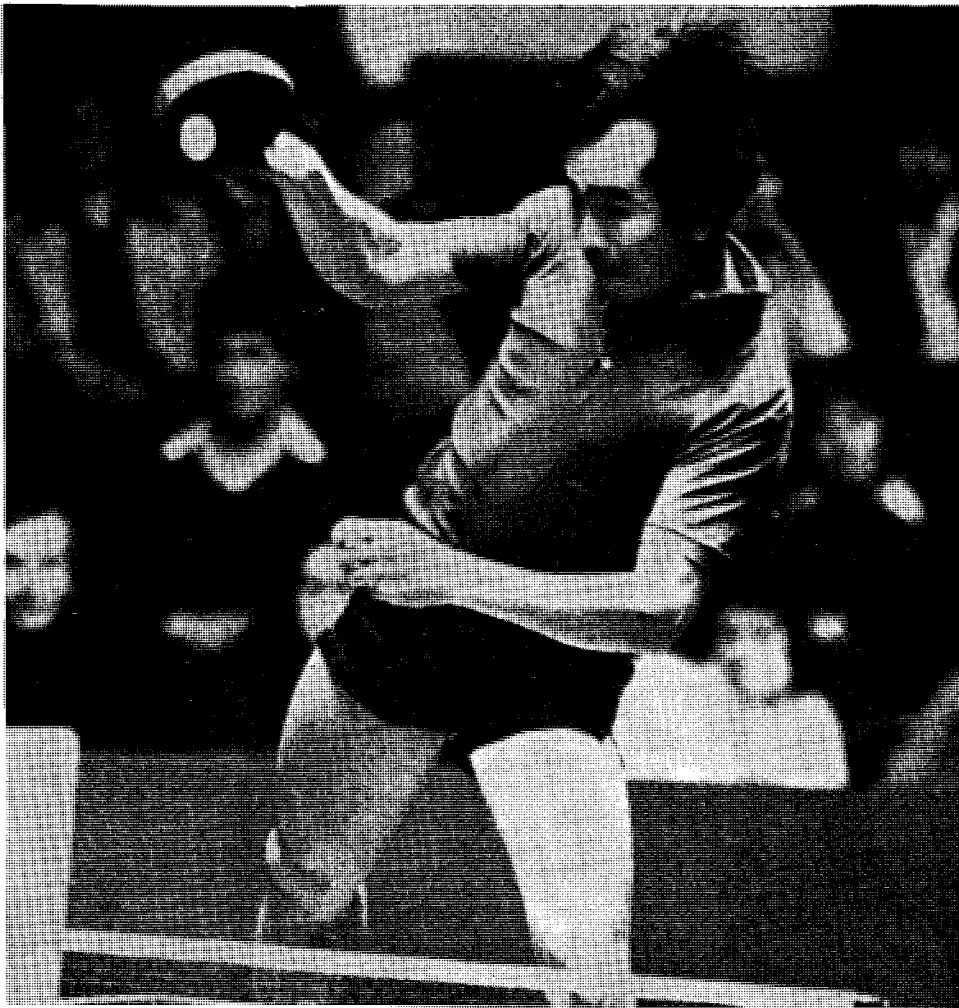
Desmond Douglas and **Linda Howard** retained their mixed doubles title in an all-English final against John Hilton and Mrs. Hammersley the latter being adjudged to have given the best performance by an English player at Brighton and become the recipient of a special trophy and a cheque for £150 from the hands of John McDonnell the Public Relations Manager of the Norwich Union Insurance Group.

Judit Magos and **Gabriella Szabo** of Hungary won the women's doubles event their final victims, over five games, being Dana Dubinova and Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia.



Kuo Yao-hua who with his compatriot, **Liang Ke-liang**, gave such a tremendous performance at Brighton.

Photo by Paul France, Telford, Salop.



Liang Ke-liang the loser in a very entertaining men's final at Brighton.

Photo by Paul France, Telford, Salop.

Bidding for a hat-trick of successes in the men's veteran singles Derek Schofield of Cheshire fame failed at the last hurdle when beaten in the final by Hans Bolena of Austria.

DOMINATED

Reverting back to the men's singles, dominated as it was by the Chinese, it must be with forlorn hope that Europe's men will start out for Pyongyang for, at Brighton, only Orlovski furthered the European cause by reaching the semi-final stage.

But there were deeds of note performed by Europeans, mainly against each other and notably that of Patrick Renverse of France, who beat the seeded Jonyer, and by Orlovski whose victims included Wang Chien-chiang of China and Gergely.

Douglas was untroubled in reaching the quarters with 3-straight wins over David Newman (Essex), Gunter Muller (Austria) and Lars Franklin (Sweden). But there it ended in his meeting with Liang Ke-liang who reversed the scoreline in like fashion.

Nicky Jarvis had an opening round success over Ulf Cronquist of Sweden to be followed by exit at the hands of Orlovski. John Hilton also began with a win, over Hopman of the Netherlands, subsequently to be taken out by the Russian No. 1 Valery Shevchenko who went on to beat Renverse.

In addition to Douglas only Kenny Jackson, a qualifier, succeeded in reaching the third round, the Essex player losing to Liang Ke-liang after beating Tom Johansen of Norway and Anne Vlieg of the Netherlands.

Alan Fletcher had a good win over the Dutchman Hans Gootzen and carried the fight to -18 in the fifth with the Frenchman Martin. John Dabin beat the Nigerian Kasali Lasasi before losing to Franklin, Jimmy Walker succumbing to Josef Dvoracek of Czechoslovakia having initially beaten Steve Knapp of Australia.

Graham Sandley, the English Junior champion, emerged from the qualifying groups to go under to Ivan Solopov of the Soviet Union while his Middle-

sex teammate Colin Wilson failed to emerge from a qualifying group dominated by Nigel Eckersley.

The Cheshire man made further progress at the expense of Claus Pedersen of Denmark losing over four games in Round 2 to Erich Amplatz of Austria, victor also over Welsh No. 1 Alan Griffiths.

One of the hardest-contested sets was that between Donald Parker, the E.T.T.A.'s Northern Staff Coach and Duggie Johnson of Warwickshire which the Lancastrian won 18 in the fifth only to lose in the subsequent round to Patrick Gernot of France.

UPSETS

Dana Dubinova having put paid to such celebrities as Ann-Christin Hellman and Marie Lindblad of Sweden, Jill Hammersley and Carole Knight of England and Valentina Popova and Ludmilla Bakshutova of the Soviet Union in the team event, continued to produce upsets in the singles.

The Czech girl had repeat wins over both Knight and Hellman and also accounted for Hungary's Edit Urban before losing to Magos in the semis. Jill Hammersley apart, only two other English girls made the second round, Karen Witt beating Christiane Ferren of France, and Elaine Lamb of Devon getting the better of Tone Folke-son of Norway and losing -20 in the fifth to Beatrice Abgrall of France who had previously beaten Linda Howard. This latter set also went to a fifth game after Linda had taken the first two. Miss Witt was a second round victim of Hungary's Olah.

Mandy Smith disappointed in losing to Marianne Domanos of Canada as did Anita Stevenson when beaten over five games by Lindblad. But there was no denying the superiority of Hrachova over Melody Ludi.

Little went right for English pairs in the men's doubles with Douglas and Jarvis ill-drawn against Jonyer and Klampar in the first round. Day and

Walker fell to Ulf Bengtsson and Franklin in Rd. 2, as did David Constance and Peter McQueen to Gergely and Orlovski, and Hilton/Jackson to Jean-Denis Constant/Martin. And there the home interest ended.

Carole Knight and Anita Stevenson carried England's colours into the semi-final stage of the women's doubles there to lose to Magos/Szabo, the eventual winners. Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard, after beating Olah/Urban, were seen off by Dubinova/Hrachova, the beaten finalists.

But spare a thought for Melody Ludi and Karen Witt who went to -15 in the fifth with Magos/Szabo in Round 2. Miss Ludi partnered by Cheshire's Mike Johns, had a good win over Pansky/Dubinova in the mixed but lost to Gergely/Magos in the subsequent round as did Miss Stevenson with Jarvis to Shevchenko/Popova after beating U. Bengtsson/Lindblad.

Undoubtedly the championships, probably the last in the Corn Exchange — though not in Brighton — reached a peak in popularity and for that we must accord due thanks to that dynamic duo Kuo Yao-hua and Liang Ke-liang of the People's Republic of China. What sponsor could wish for more? What an insurance for the future!

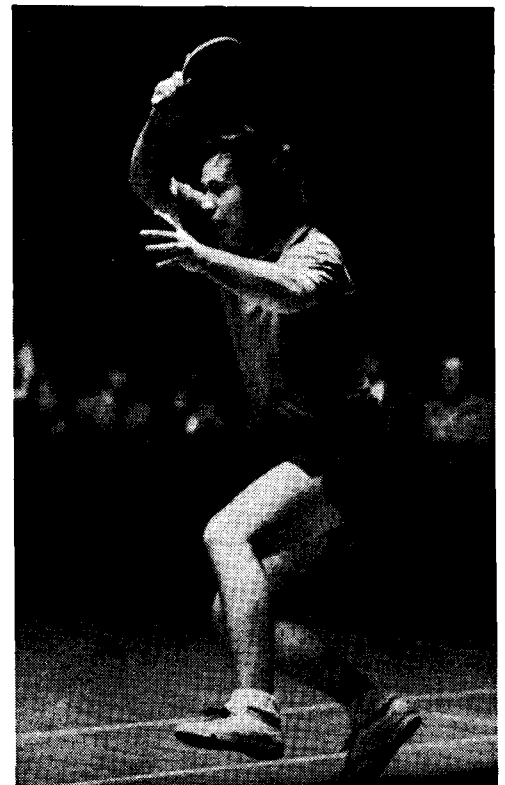
TEAM EVENTS

MEN

Two teams from China plus the major European countries Hungary and Czechoslovakia meant that England I were bound to face very strong opposition by the quarter-finals and as it turned out, they were unlucky enough to be drawn against China I, without question the strongest pair in the world. (writes John Woodford).

It was therefore no surprise to see England defeat Austria, gain a walk-over against the absent Poles and then fall heavily to China who fielded Kuo and Liang throughout. As reports began to filter through that these two were hammering players like Klampar, Gergely and Jonyer to the extent that the Hungarians were getting no more than 11 or 12 points it became obvious that the Chinese were as near invincible as makes no difference.

The word "outclassed" has been used in a number of press reports and unusually, it was justified in that it was no disgrace to anyone to lose to the Chinese players because they were so brilliant, in fact, just how good are they?



Remember him as a player with a lethal backhand? He was at Brighton as non-playing captain of the Soviet team . . . Stanislav Gomozkov.

I asked Alan Hydes and the answer went something like this, "There is no doubt that since the world championships in Birmingham, the top Chinese players Kuo and Liang have developed their techniques against the top European players. The two men are something between three and six points better than at Birmingham".

As England I slid to defeat by China, the scores were very familiar, 21-12, 21-10. Douglas had no answer to Liang as the Chinaman raced into the lead and held it. Nicky Jarvis fought well — always does — but could make nothing at all of Kuo, and lost -13, -9.

In the same way that many people think it is nonsense for a county to field five teams in the County Championships, I believe the idea of putting in four England teams is also a mistake. However, England II represented by Paul Day and Jimmy Walker did well to take out the Dutch second strings 3-0 although they lost 1-3 to the Russians represented by Shevchenko and Solopov the young chopper who seems to have made very little progress in the last twelve months. Day had a close shave with Shevchenko only losing -19, -20, but there was a fine doubles consolation win, 19 in the third, for the England pair.

England juniors offered strong resistance before they lost 1-3 to the Sweden II side, who fielded Carlsson and Ulf Bengtsson. It was Colin Wilson, one of England's finest prospects of the decade, who scored the England win -16, 23, 19 against Bengtsson.

England's third string team of Graham Sandley and Kenny Jackson proved no match for Sweden I whose Franklin and Thorsell hammered their way to a 3-0 win in the first round.

Scotland, without the services of Richard Yule, fell 3-0 to the Netherlands with John McNee and Keith Rodger giving very much second best to Gootzen and Vlieg. Wales performed only slightly better when losing 1-3 to Australia their success being obtained in the doubles won by Alan Griffiths and David Welsman over Steve Knapp and Rodney Carlyle. Otherwise Griffiths was twice a loser in singles combat and Welsman fell to Knapp. But in fairness, Griffiths went down -20 in the third in both his singles sets.

WOMEN

Dana Dubinova of Czechoslovakia was the player who almost dominated the women's team event. Her victory over Jill Hammersley and in the opening set against Carole Knight, led to England's 3-1 defeat in the semi-finals.

In the other half, it was really a bit of a mystery how the top seeds Hungary with Szabo and Magos lost 1-3 to Russia. The scoresheet shows that Popova stopped Magos 18, 15, Bakshutova beat Szabo and then Magos crashed -13, -8 to

Bakshutova, all of which must have been humiliating for the two Hungarian girls and proves that neither of them were playing as well as they did in Duisburg last March.

Valentina Popova started in the final by hammering Hrachova 13, 14, but again it was Dubinova who continued her unbeaten run with a 19, -20, 18 victory against Bakshutova and then a doubles victory for the Czechs. The final crunch came when Dubinova beat Popova 19, 20. At that point in time it looked as though Dubinova had become the favourite for the women's singles especially as the Hungarians had been demolished.

But, as so often occurs, what happened in the women's team event, apart from the fading Hungarians, was not reflected in the women's events during the two days following.

England II represented by Karen Witt and Anita Stevenson had a romp home against the Jones girls, Stephanie and Cathryn, of Wales but then succumbed by a like 3-0 margin to the Russians although Karen did take the middle game of three off Bakshutova and all scores were in the teens.

An English third team comprising Mandy Smith and Sally Midgley made a fight of it against France II with Mandy scoring an opening set win over Beatrice Abgrall who was later to oust Linda Howard from the singles event. Sally proved no match for Brigitte Thiriet but in partnership with Mandy took the French girls to a third game decider in the doubles as did Mandy in the subsequent singles against Thiriet.

Scotland, in losing 1-3 to Austria, had winners in the doubles set when Patrice Fleming and Mabel Neish beat Dolores Fetter and Brigitte Gropper.

RESULTS:-

Men's Singles Round 1:

Kuo Yao-hua (CHN) bt P. Day (ENG) 9, 14, 14;
 J. Pansky (CZE) bt D. Constance (Ch) 10, 14, 7;
 A. Fleicher (Y) bt H. Gootzen (NET) 19, -17, -20, 19;
 C. Martin (FRA) bt U. Carlsson (SWE) 16, 19, 18;
 N. Eckersley (Ch) bt C. Pedersen (DEN) -16, 18, 16, 20;
 E. Amplatz (AUT) bt A. Griffiths (WAL) 18, 19, 19;
 P. Joe (CAN) bt A. Wellman (Bk) 19, 20, -18, 10;
 T. Klampar (HUN) w.o. A. Grubba (POL) scr;
 U. Thorsell (SWE) bt J. Gierloff (NOR) 14, 8, 16;
 Wang Hui-yuan (CHN) bt G. Chapman (Sy) 14, 10, 7;
 J. Dvoracek (CZE) bt J. McNee (SCO) 10, 14, 12;
 J. Walker (ENG) bt S. Knapp (AUS) 6, -18, -17, 13, 19;
 J. Hilton (ENG) bt H. Hopman (NED) 7, 22, 15;
 V. Shevchenko (USS) bt B. Johnson (Wa) 15, 11, 17;
 P. Renverse (FRA) w.o. Lu Yao-hua (CHN) scr;
 I. Jonyer (HUN) bt U. Bengtsson (SWE) 19, 19, 19;
 G. Gergely (HUN) w.o. Yang Chuan-ning (CHN) scr;
 P. McQueen (Cv) w.o. L. Kucharski (POL) scr;
 D. Parker (ENG) bt D. Johnson (Wa) -19, 18, -19, 12, 18;
 P. Gernot (FRA) bt P. Swier (NET) 13, 13, 11;
 Wang Chien-chiang (CHN) bt F. Waldhausl (AUT) 11, 11, 18;
 I. Solopov (USS) bt G. Sandley (ENG) 14, 12, 6;
 N. Jarvis (ENG) bt U. Cronquist (SWE) -15, 19, 16, 15;
 M. Orlovski (CZE) bt M. Johns (Ch) 9, 8, 14;
 D. Douglas (ENG) bt D. Newman (E) 11, 12, 13;
 G. Muller (AUT) bt B. Grimstrup (DEN) 16, 16, 20;
 L. Franklin (SWE) bt M. Ovcharov (USS) 12, 14, 17;

J. Dabin (K) bt K. Lasisi (NIG) 14, 10, 19;
 K. Jackson (ENG) bt T. Johansen (NOR) 16, 15, 15;
 A. Vlieg (NET) bt R. Carlyle (AUS) 15, 18, 22;
 J. Takacs (HUN) bt J.D. Constant (FRA) 15, 12, 20;
 Liang Ke-liang (CHN) bt L. Eadie (E) 5, 6, 9.



Russia's Igor Solopov of the Soviet Union, victor over England's Graham Sandley in the men's singles.

Photo by T. Edenden, Blandford Forum.

Round 2:

Kuo Yao-hua bt Pansky 19, 15, 18;
 Martin bt Fletcher -19, 12, -20, 20, 18;
 Amplatz bt Eckersley 11, 8, -12, 21;
 Klampar bt Joe 16, 17, -17, 8;
 Wang Hui-yuan bt Thorsell 11, 14, 9;
 Dvoracek bt Walker 11, 15, 19;
 Shevchenko bt Hilton 20, 10, 11;
 Renverse bt Jonyer 18, 18, -14, -7, 18;
 Gergely bt McQueen 15, 18, 18;
 Gernot bt Parker 18, -10, 19, 12;
 Wang Chien-chiang bt Solopov 15, 15, 18;
 Orlovski bt Jarvis 15, 14, 12;
 Douglas bt Muller 20, 15, 12;
 Franklin bt Dabin -16, 19, 8, 15;
 Jackson bt Vlieg 17, -19, 17, 21;
 Liang Ke-liang bt Takacs 13, 8, 6.

Round 3:

Kuo Yao-hua bt Martin 7, 6, 13;
 Klampar bt Amplatz 13, 9, 6;
 Wang Hui-yuan bt Dvoracek 20, 16, 17;
 Shevchenko bt Renverse 9, 19, 20;
 Gergely bt Gernot 13, 6, 18;
 Orlovski bt Wang Chien-chiang -19, 17, -13, 15, 19;
 Douglas bt Franklin 11, 21, 15;
 Liang Ke-liang bt Jackson 5, 9, 12.

Quarter-finals:

Kuo Yao-hua bt Klampar 15, 20, 13;
 Wang Hui-yuan bt Shevchenko 14, -15, 22, 18;
 Orlovski bt Gergely 9, 19, -10, 10;
 Liang Ke-liang bt Douglas 16, 17, 17.

Semi-finals:

Kuo Yao-Hua bt Wang Hui-yuan 13, 17, 11;
 Liang Ke-liang bt Orlovski -15, 19, 10, 9.

Final:

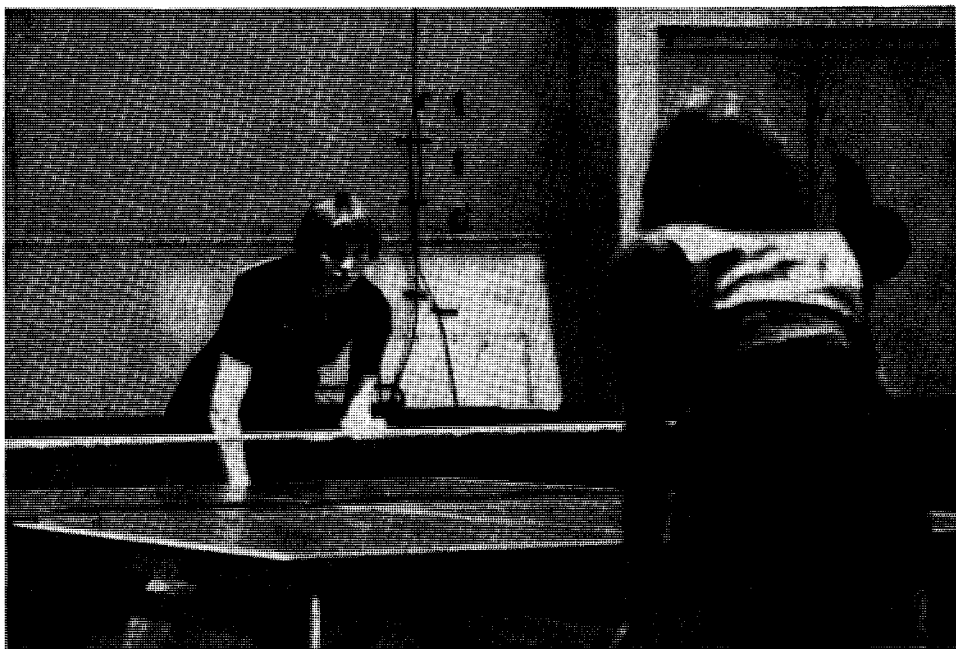
KUO YAO-HUA bt Liang Ke-liang 18, 18, 18.

Women's Singles Round 1:

J. Magos (HUN) bt B. Gropper (AUT) -11, 11, 19, 5;
 L. Bakshutova (USS) bt A. Hernvall (SWE) 16, 15, 19;
 B. Abgrall (FRA) bt L. Howard (ENG) -6, -15, 16, 17, 15;
 E. Lamb (Dv) bt T. Folkeson (NOR) -18, 18, 6, 14;
 M. Domonkos (CAN) bt M. Smith (ENG) 11, 17, -21, -7, 15;
 E. Urban (HUN) bt H. Lindvall (SWE) 19, 14, 16;
 D. Dubinova (CZE) bt C. Knight (ENG) 16, -19, 15, 10;
 A-C. Hellman (SWE) bt H. Williams (ENG) 19, 15, 12;
 G. Szabo (HUN) bt D. Fetter (AUT) 13, 9, 17;
 M. Hrachova (CZE) bt M. Ludi (Y) 11, 13, 17;
 M. Lindblad (SWE) bt A. Stevenson (ENG) -18, -18, 14, 18, 12;
 B. Thiriet (FRA) bt C. Forgo (CAN) 16, 13, 16;
 Z. Olah (HUN) bt J. Navarova (CZE) 16, -18, 19, 14;
 K. Witt (ENG) bt C. Ferren (FRA) 12, 14, 10;
 V. Popova (USS) bt D. Griggs (SX) 6, 16, 13;
 J. Hammersley (ENG) bt E. Stromvall (SWE) 9, 5, 6.

Round 2:

Magos bt Bakshutova 16, -14, 15, 14;
 Abgrall bt Lamb -15, 13, -20, 14, 20;
 Urban bt Domonkos 8, 15, 15;
 Dubinova bt Hellman 12, -20, -9, 16, 19;
 Hrachova bt Szabo 13, -17, 17, 19;
 Thiriet bt Lindblad 11, -17, -7, 16, 16;
 Olah bt Witt -16, 14, 13, 19;
 Hammersley bt Popova 14, 19, 11.



Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union prepares to serve to Diane Griggs (Sussex) in a quiet corner of the Corn Exchange.

Photo by P. J. Griggs, Hailsham, Sussex.

(continued on page 6)

ON THE COACHING FRONT

MORE ON PERIODISATION
by DONALD PARKER
E.T.T.A. National Coach North

When considering performance in any sport, training must be carried out in four basic areas, Physical, Technical, Tactical and Psychological. There is not time within this particular article to examine each one of the areas and how the emphasis shifts as one of the targets draws near. This month it will be the Physical preparation that will be examined in more detail.

Figure 1 shows how the training year is divided into the three major phases, preparation, competition and rest and also how the emphasis on physical preparation for the competitive phase is adjusted as this phase draws near. Physical condition is not neglected during the competitive phase and enough exercise is carried out to maintain status quo.

Aerobic and anaerobic processes are utilized to various degrees in different sports and therefore the demands upon the cardio-vascular system vary. However there is a basic general level of fitness that all international sportspeople, whatever their sport, should possess. Once these basic foundations have been laid then the specific fitness can be built on top of it.

A game of Table Tennis consists of alternating efforts of various intensity, where periods of intense activity are followed by periods of comparatively low activity or rest, the problem of rate of repayment of the anaerobic debt is of considerable importance. In this case both aerobic and anaerobic processes are used according to the varying grades of effort which can be maximum for relatively short bursts. A player who, after producing maximum effort, can return rapidly toward the resting state has an advantage, since he can pay the debt contracted anaerobically during the maximum effort, and will be ready to produce another maximum effort sooner than one requiring longer to recover.

The level at which aerobic metabolism is partially or totally replaced to anaerobic processes depends on the degree of activity for which the individual can maintain a steady state of oxygen supply. The more exercise that can be performed aerobically the less "borrowing" from the anaerobic phase and the less time needed to pay that oxygen debt during reduced activity or rest. Consequently, an athlete who is able to reach a high steady state of oxygen consumption and to recover quickly from repeated efforts involving anaerobic contractions will achieve a high level of psychological efficiency.

The emphasis at the beginning of the preparation phase when physical work is at a maximum is on endurance, improving the aerobic capacity of the players. Anaerobic work, short sprints etc., is also introduced during this period although as the competitive phase draws nearer the emphasis goes from endurance to speed. Flexibility work is maintained throughout the whole year concentrating on increasing mobility in the shoulder, waist, back and leg regions. General dynamic strength for increasing speed of movement is increased by sprints, weights and bounding exercises. General muscular strength and endurance are built up using weight training (working with $\frac{2}{3}$ maximum), and circuit training.

From common observation, individuals require different general preparation and 'tapering-off' programmes to reach their peak, at which time the combination of circulatory efficiency and nervous repletion is at an optimum. Unfortunately achieving this optimum is only one of the many problems the table tennis coach faces. All the other

physiological factors, muscular strength and endurance, dynamic strength etc., must also be to an optimum. If the coach can achieve this optimum physiological state then he has also to coincide it with the technical, psychological and tactical optimum states.

Periodisation is only in its early days and very few sports in England follow Matveyev's principles. A lot more research needs to be done in the area of applying the theory to other sports than just athletics. Next month's article will look at how a player should prepare technically for a competitive phase.

Fig. 1

It is important to realise the percentages given are based on the Yugoslavian Table Tennis Team and not the English Table Tennis Team.

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------------------------|
| JUNE | 1 | |
| | 2 | |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | No contact with |
| JULY | 1) | Table Tennis ACTIVE REST |
| | 2) | |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | 100% Physical |
| AUGUST | 1) | |
| | 2) | 75% Physical |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | 50% Physical |
| | | PREPARATION |
| SEPTEMBER | 1) | |
| | 2) | 25% Physical |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | 10% Physical |
| OCTOBER | 1) | |
| | 2) | 10% Physical |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | |
| NOVEMBER | 1) | |
| | 2) | Just enough |
| | 3) | to maintain COMPETITION |
| | 4) | Status Quo |
| DECEMBER | 1) | |
| | 2) | |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | 100% Physical |
| JANUARY | 1) | |
| | 2) | 75% Physical |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | 50% Physical PREPARATION |
| FEBRUARY | 1) | |
| | 2) | 25% Physical |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | 10% Physical |
| | | COMPETITION |
| MARCH | 1) | |
| | 2) | |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | |
| APRIL | 1) | |
| | 2) | |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | |
| MAY | 1) | |
| | 2) | |
| | 3) | |
| | 4) | |

Shead, showing us all how the game used to be played with his artistic returns. In the very first round young John Souter took a game from Peter but after that he never looked back. Stuart Gibbs had a very good run to reach the final which was extremely good in the second game. Betty Bird, back for a while from Australia, was far too steady for all her opponents but it was good to see Junior international Mandy Smith do so well against her in the semis.

The men's doubles was a win for a young pair David Wells and John Payne who won an exciting final against Len Adams and Peter Shead. Such was the progress of the young players with rubber bats that the writer lost both his doubles titles with Terry Densham and Marjorie Walker. Marjorie got some consolation in the women's doubles with Betty Bird. The mixed was also an exciting event with surprise winners Cliff Carder and Mandy Smith, who played some first class doubles.

As organiser and former player, I was really impressed by some excellent play at the Rubber Bat Open and it was good to see some new winners.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

P. Shead (Sx) bt P. McQueen (Cv) 10, 16;
D. Tan (Mi) bt S. Battrick (E) 11, -17, 20;
S. Gibbs (E) bt T. Campbell (Sy) 10, -14, 5;
M. Johns (Ch) bt D. Somers (Mi) 11, 14.

Semi-finals:

Shead bt Tan 17, 13;
Gibbs bt Johns -16, 18, 15.

Final:

SHEAD bt Gibbs 7, 17.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

G. Locke (E) bt J. Purslow (Bk) 9, 20;
B. Bird (K) bt M. Smith (Bk) -17, 12, 12.

Final:

BIRD bt Locke 13, 13.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

L. Adams (Mi)/Shead bt L. Smith (E)/J. Souter (Mi) 17, 17;

J. Payne (Sy)/D. Wells (Mi) bt P. Vanderwijk/J. Kennedy (K) 16, 16.

Final:

PAYNE/WELLS bt Adams/Shead 22, -11, 18.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

E. Foulds (E)/Locke bt J. Askem/D. Taylor (E) 17, 17.

Bird/M. Walker (Mi) bt M. Elliman (K)/M. Reeves (Mi) 12, 14.

Final:

BIRD/WALKER bt Foulds/Locke 14, 11.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Gibbs/L. Moscrop (Mi) bt L. Fountain (E)/Foulds 18, 19;

C. Carder (Mi)/Smith bt Kennedy/E. Ireton (Mi) 15, 24.

Final:

CARDER/SMITH bt Gibbs/Moscrop 14, 12.

Men's Consolation Singles Semi-finals:

Kennedy bt Payne 2-1;
Smith bt D. Charley (E) 2-0.

Final:

KENNEDY bt Smith 2-0.

Women's Consolation Singles Semi-finals:

Askem bt M. Williams (Mi) 14, 14;
G. Pirson (E) bt S. Sandley (Mi) 13, 15.

Final:

PIRSON bt Askem 13, 18.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

YOUNGEST UMPIRE?

On the 6th January, 1979, Richard D. Wells of 14 Tithe Close, Hilton, Huntingdonshire, Cambs. qualified as a Junior County Umpire, thus becoming the youngest County Umpire in the County of Huntingdonshire.

The County make the claim that perhaps Richard is the youngest qualified Umpire in the Country — that is unless anyone knows better.

Richard was born on the 13th May, 1964.

KEN GREEN,
County Umpires' Secretary.

83 Headlands,
Fenstanton,
Huntingdon,
Cambs.
PE18 9LP.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB OF ENGLAND

PETER SHEAD AND BETTY BIRD
SHOW PAST GLORIES IN
RUBBER BAT OPEN

by Laurie Landry

The 8th Rubber Bat Open at Barnet on Jan. 14 gave us the biggest entry ever. Our Referee, Bernard Chatterley, managed to get everything through by just past 10 p.m.

Hero of the day was former international Peter

Obituary

✠ MARIA MEDNYANSZKY ✠

Early in the New Year the sad news was received from Dr. Gyorgy Lakatos of the Hungarian Table Tennis Association that Maria Mednyanszky, the greatest woman table tennis player of all time, had died on the 22nd December last (1978) in Budapest Sport Hospital at the age of 77.

Maria Mednyanszky's record was quite unsurpassable. It is safe to say that — with the present scale of the world game and the nowadays biennial instead of annual world championships, it will never be equalled. She was the first woman world champion and the greatest.

Altogether she was 18 times World Champion (five times in singles), 18 times Hungarian Champion (five times in singles) and 19 times Budapest Champion (six times in singles).

In the World event she won all the first five singles titles in succession, in women's doubles seven titles (six in succession with Annus Sipos), in mixed doubles six titles (three times two in succession with three different partners — Z. Mechlovits, M. Szabados and I. Kelen).

Maria was born in 1901 of a working-class family. She began work herself in the Hungaro-Italian Bank in Budapest as a clerk at the age of 15. As she grew up she played table tennis for the M.T.K. Sports Club in Budapest, whose members included three other eventual world champions — Mechlovits, Szabados and Barna. Another member of the club was her future husband Jenő Klucsik, at one time a vice-president of the Hungarian T.T.A. and now highly placed in the management of the Hungarian Trade Co-operative. She leaves a son Laszlo Klucsik who, with his wife, hold responsible positions in the Hungarian Foreign Trade organisation.

Owing to premature deafness, Maria Mednyanszky retired on pension at the early age of 41. In her later years she lived comfortably with her family in a house overlooking the city from the hillside of Buda. Besides awards from the Hungarian T.T.A., she received in 1974 at a special ceremony and presented by the Hungarian Minister of Sport a gold medal with the title Life Honorary Champion, and, two years later, to celebrate simultaneously the 50th Anniversary of her first world title and her own 75th Birthday the Golden Sports Award of the Hungarian People's Republic.

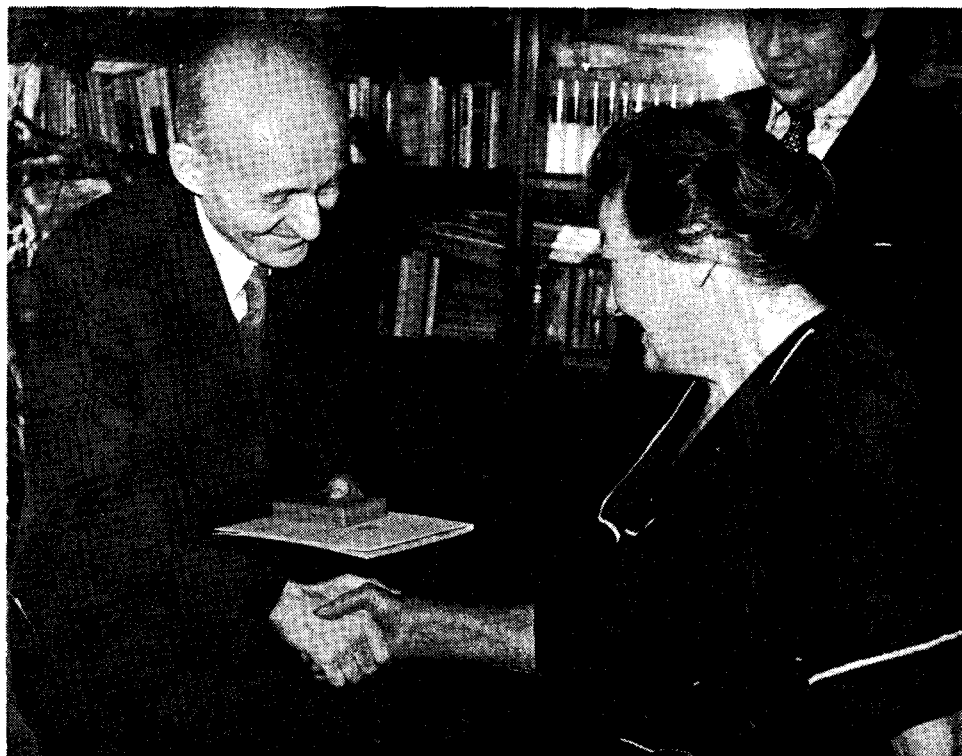
Her last three or four years were beset by serious illness; contraction of an important artery forced her recently to hospital, where, despite all care, she died after an operation. Many players of today knew this great player as a shy, modest and unobtrusive person. The Swaythling Club has had the honour of entertaining her as a special guest.

What manner of a player and a personality was Maria Mednyanszky? I remember her very vividly, first as a gentle, good-looking young woman in youth, later as quiet and handsome in old age. She was not a Lenglen but, as her record shows, a sort of table tennis combination of Helen Wills and Elisabeth Ryan. She had a powerful frame and at the table her style was firm aggression, driving the opponent continuously on the defensive and making counter-attack difficult by heavily spun blows to either side of the table, with a side-spin that carried the defender out of position.

The side-spin was sometimes imparted by lowering the racket (held in the ordinary Lawn Tennis grip) so that the blade was below the wrist. (The first male world champion, Dr. Roland Jacobi, occasionally used a similar stroke). She was fully capable of outclassing a manplayer of fairly prominent league standing.

Our sport is the poorer for the passing of a very great, indeed an almost venerated, figure and our sympathy goes out to her family and to the Hungarian sports world.

Ivor Montagu, Founder President, I.T.T.F.



Dr. Gyorgy Lakatos presents the Golden Sports Award of the Hungarian People's Republic to Maria Mednyanszky who, on her 75th birthday, also celebrated the 50th anniversary of her first world title.

STATEMENT by . .

A. J. H. WICKENS

E.T.T.A. Tournaments Committee Chairman

It is apparent from correspondence received and conversations reported or overheard that there is widespread misunderstanding as to what a "Select" Junior Tournament is. The first and most important point to register is that it is a 2-star Tournament, not 3-star, there being no such thing as a 3-star Junior Tournament. Before the "Select" was introduced, long and careful consideration was given to whether there should be 3-star Junior Tournaments, and views were sought from all Organisers running Junior Tournaments at the time. The matter arose because of the increasing pressure on Junior players; senior players were able to restrict their Tournament appearances to 3-star Tournaments without prejudicing their ranking chances, and it was felt that there should similarly be a small number of specified Tournaments which a Junior would be expected to enter to provide information for ranking purposes.

As a result of the views obtained it was decided that there should not be 3-star Junior Tournaments, but to meet the requirements of the Selection Committee three 2-star Tournaments should be designated each season which Junior players aspiring to ranking would be expected to enter. The intention was that the Tournaments selected should vary from season to season, and that they should if possible be spaced through the Calendar and also geographically over the country (if possible one North, one Midland and one South). These were, and are, the Select Junior Tournaments. Perhaps unwisely, it was open to Tournaments to apply for select status; it might have been wiser just to select three each season without inviting applications; as Select status does not impose any additional burden on an organiser, but can only be beneficial in attracting the top players, presumably no Organiser would object to his Tournament being designated. As it is, only a small number of Tournaments have been Select, although there are in this season's calendar seven 2-star Junior Tournaments. Geographical situation and date have played their part in influencing which Tournaments have been selected — the Memorandum also mentions "quality of administration" but this was intended to imply merely that the administration must be satisfactory. If a Tournament fulfils the requirements for being 2-star it is eligible for designation as a Select without meeting any additional standards; whether it is designated in any particular season is likely to depend upon where it is, when it is and when it was last a Select.

The Select Tournament remains a 2-star Tournament.

What's on and where

February

- 18—Coventry 1-Star Open, Ernesford Grange School, Princethorpe Way, Binley, Coventry. Start 9.00 a.m. Finals 6.30 p.m.
- 18—E.S.T.T.A. Team Championships — Regional Finals.
- 18—Lanarkshire 1-Star Open (Coatbridge).
- 23/25—**NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS** (Woking Leisure Centre, Woking, Surrey).
- 24—Strathclyde Region 1-Star Open (Glasgow).
- 24—North Yorkshire County Closed, Railway Institute, York (9.30 a.m.).
- 25—Durham 1-Star Open, Easington District Leisure Centre, St. Cuthberts Road, Peterlee, Co. Durham. Start 10.00 a.m. Finals 6.30 p.m.

March

- 3—Yorkshire 2-Star Open, Richard Dunn Sports Centre, Rooley Avenue, Odsal, Bradford. Start 9.00 a.m. Finals 7.30 p.m.
- 3—Junior Ranking Tournament (by invitation) (South Ruislip).
- 4—Fenland 2-Star Open (Wisbech).
- 4—Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open, Institute of Technology, Deane Road, Bolton. Start 9.30 a.m. Finals 6.30 p.m.
- 8—**EUROPEAN LEAGUE — SUPER DIVISION ENGLAND v SOVIET UNION** (Southend, Essex).
- 10—County Championships (6).
- 10—E.S.T.T.A. TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS — NATIONAL FINALS (Lea Green, Derbyshire).
- 11—East of England 2-Star Open (Scunthorpe).
- 17/18—Hartlepool 1-Star Open (Hartlepool, Cleveland).
- 18—Edinburgh Junior and Youth 2-Star, Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh.
- 24/25—Cleveland Junior 'Select' (Eston).
- 25—**SCOTTISH OPEN** (Meadowbank, Edinburgh).

LETTERS . . . TO THE EDITOR

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Trevor Channing's letter in the January issue shows that he, like many other people, has confused the responsibilities of a match referee and a tournament referee; it is, perhaps, unfortunate, that the same term is used for two different jobs.

A match referee's main and sometimes only duty is to act as the final arbiter on any question of rule interpretation, but this is just one aspect of the duties of a tournament referee. A tournament referee needs also to be familiar with the details of domestic tournament regulations, to be able to conduct a draw and to deal with subsequent alterations in accordance with defined procedure and, most important of all, to be able to plan and manage the schedule of play. The E.T.T.A. qualifying tests for referees take account of all these requirements and no candidate is qualified unless he reaches an adequate standard in each section of the examination.

While it is quite likely that anyone interested and knowledgeable enough to have acquired a referee qualification will make a satisfactory match referee, the qualification itself cannot, and is not intended to, guarantee it. There are personal qualities which may, especially for an international match, make someone who would be quite incapable of running a tournament especially suitable as a match referee and the referee tests make no attempt to measure such qualities.

I agree with Trevor's contention that it would be quite unreasonable for the match referee to be appreciably less well informed about the Laws

of Table Tennis than the umpires whom he is supposed to be supervising, although I doubt whether the extreme circumstances he postulates occur often. The system adopted for European League matches, whereby two umpires act alternately as umpire and referee, seems to work satisfactorily and to be a good practical arrangement. I would commend the system for County Championships matches, where there is still no requirement for the referee to have any kind of qualification, even in the Premier Division.

If it is not too late to refer to Trevor's earlier letter about administrators, I think that here also he has got his terms a little confused. The paragons whose job he envies seem to me to be in a rather special class of administrators, namely the members of the referee's organiser's committee who sit at the "top table" in tournaments. To me, the term "administrator" covers all those people who work hard behind the scenes doing the unglamorous but essential tasks that enable table tennis organisations to function properly. While I would certainly not wish to belittle the efforts of the people quoted, I feel sure that there are hundreds of officials at all levels — club, league, county and national — who are just as busily engaged on administrative work that may not bring them so much into public notice but which is equally valuable. I feel equally sure that there are plenty of vacancies in this area, especially when I think of the many A.G.M.s I have attended at which we tried to cajole, bully, shame or blackmail someone into taking over as, say, League Match Secretary or County Umpire Secretary. Admittedly the rewards from such a post are more likely to be in the satisfaction of a job well done than in any public acclaim, but isn't this, as David Coleman might say, "what it's all about"?

As General Secretary of the Surrey Association (a position in which he has had some very distinguished predecessors!), Trevor is already doing an important administrative job. If what he has now set his sights on is something different he needs to be quite clear what his objectives are, so that he has a better chance of achieving them. As

Trevor has worked his way successfully through most of the qualifications set by the National Umpires and Referees Committee, perhaps he feels that the E.T.T.A. should set up a parallel qualifying scheme for administrators. The only problem is: where should we find the "top administrators" to set it up and run it?

COLIN CLEMETT,

7 Brookmead Way,
Havant, Hants.,
PO9 1RT.

DETERIORATION

Having thoroughly enjoyed three days of fine Table Tennis at the recent Norwich Union Championships, topped off by that incredible, magnificent Men's final, I suppose it is a little churlish to sound a note of dissent, but I am concerned about the deterioration of "fair" serving (as defined by the Service Law).

Service has become such a vital part of a winning game these days (much too vital some would say) that players are more and more overstepping the rules in an effort to impart more spin, chop or whatever on the ball. There are now so many variations of services outside the letter of the law that for any umpire to single out one particular service as being a foul is ridiculous. One blatant fault is the "masked" service which will become more and more prevalent as players try to copy the high thrown service. I maintain that when a player has his back to the umpire and serves close to his body, whether the ball is thrown high or not, it is absolutely impossible for the umpire to see the ball make contact with the bat.

If, as I firmly believe, there are sections of the Service Law which are today impossible to enforce without stopping the game every two or three points, then let the rules be changed before we get another such incident as marred the World Championship final.

I am in no way knocking umpires, they do a very difficult job remarkably well, nor players, all I

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Back row from left to right: Bob Wiley, 3 Star Coach and approved assessor; Nicky Jarvis, England player and captain; Donald Parker, National Coach, England player and captain; Alan Hydes, ex-England player and captain. Front row: Carole Knight, England player; Alan Ransome, Course Director, 3 Star Coach, ex-England player and captain; Jose Tomkins, Administrator. (Inset): Brian Burn, ex-England Trainer-Coach, player and captain; Bryan Merrett, National Coach, ex-England player and captain.

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want to see is a service rule which is practical to apply to the game as it is currently being played at top level. If this is not possible then at least outlaw all services which entail the server having his back to the umpire.

What do other readers think?

S. W. THACKER

**6 Mount Close,
Rayleigh, Essex.**

BURNING AMBITION

Trevor Channing's letter about Umpires and Referees contains some misconceptions on which, as Surrey's C.U. Secretary, I ought to comment.

Firstly, I do not agree that a Tournament Referee is necessarily better qualified to officiate as a match referee than an International Umpire. This seems to be reflected in the current arrangements for European League matches, whereby 2 International Umpires share the duties of referee and umpire alternately.

Secondly, so far as County matches are concerned, I was unaware that Trevor had a burning ambition to officiate as referee at a Premier Division match. However, his cry will not go unheeded and I will ensure that he is given the next available opportunity of acting as referee at Premier Division level. Also, of course, at the next Junior Second match!

**SYD MORTON,
Vice-Chairman and
Hon. C.U. Secretary,
Surrey T.T.A.**

**27 Westway,
Raynes Park,
London, S.W.20 9LX.**

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Following the Norwich Union International Championships, I would like through your columns to express my thanks to the many people who over the years have assisted me in my capacity as Referee.

First and foremost the umpires who have (well, most of them!) worked hard and without complaint despite the congested schedule made necessary by the too-short time and a nine court venue. English umpiring rightly is well thought of internationally.

Then my assistants, this year Len Pilditch, Mike Watts and Doreen Stannard, and the organiser (Geoff Daniels) and his assistants (Harvey Webb and John Heritage) all of them reliable and willing to do whatever was necessary for the good of the Championships.

Finally the players and team captains, very few of the former complaining when a too-tight schedule (see above) meant they played later than anticipated; most of the latter, despite the pressure on them for results, appreciating my problem and willing to help.

Having refereed "The Open" for the past 13 years I am not going to do the first event of the 1980's. I am, however, not retiring and hope to do one of the other National Championships and return to "The Open" at Brighton or wherever in the not too distant future.

J. M. WRIGHT

**57 Cardinal Avenue,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey, KT2 5RY.
01-546 8772.**

CLASS 2 SINGLES

Through your columns may I make a number of observations regarding Class 2 Singles events in Open Tournaments.

As the following figures indicate this particular event is very popular with the players but as yet only four tournaments, all held in Northern England, have taken the plunge and altered their programme of events from the traditional MS, MD, WS, WD and XD.

1977-78 Humberside (152 entries)
Cleveland (149 entries)
1978-79 Humberside (156 entries)
Cleveland (172 entries)

North Yorkshire (183 entries)
Yorkshire (unknown at present)

Are other tournaments going to follow in the path of Tony Ross, Alan Ransome and myself or are four tournaments out on a limb?

My next plan is to hold a Grade 3 event but official approval and the establishment of a method to determine who is excluded from Grade 2 and eligible for Grade 3 are required. I would also suggest that the Elite Class (Class 1) list needs to be adjusted more frequently — the present list appears to me to be adrift.

Graded events are money spinners for tournaments and attractive for players who have little chance in the main singles events but if they are to continue a larger number of tournament organisers must show their support for the idea of graded events.

RICHARD SCRUTON

**79 Kingsley Road,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire,
HG1 4RD.**

MORE SUITABLE METHOD

I am dismayed at the way players are sometimes penalised on their service, in particular the Chinese. I noticed this whilst watching "Top Table" on B.B.C. and also at the World Championships at Birmingham. I appreciate that if the umpire cannot see the ball being served he cannot judge whether the service is legal or not. However when tennis is played there are about six officials and although I am not suggesting that there should be six umpires I do feel two umpires — one sitting on each side of the table would achieve a better result.

Penalising the players on services, not only destroys their concentration but also spoils the entertainment for the spectators. I am not condoning deliberate foul serving but do feel there should be a more suitable method of judging a good or bad service, than there exists at present.

S. O'CARROLL (Mr.).

**5 Blackbushe,
Bishops Stortford,
Herts.
CM23 2LB.**

"TEMPORA MUTANUR, ET NOS MUTAMUR IN ILLIS — (TIMES CHANGE, WE CHANGE WITH THEM)"

(Quotation Harrison, Description of
Britain - 1577)

We English are proud of our heritage, but in being so, let us not stifle any new thoughts and ideas, suggesting that only 'American nonsense' is a licence for change or imagination. Surely this attitude must be not only staid but negative!

It was with both wonder and amazement that I read the recent commentary in "Table Tennis News". Clearly, John Woodford has not studied the rules and regulations laid down by the E.T.T.A. and has also managed to misconstrue the intentions I have for Global Table Tennis Promotions. I personally have been involved for many years in the table tennis world and for a long time have felt the need to improve and reform the presentation of the game, in the interest of both players and spectators. Why should we acquiesce to conventional ideas accepted over the past 100 years? Is it really so outrageous to consider experimenting with the colour of the table, particularly as the rules state only that it must be dark in colour? A change in colour to red or blue would appeal more as a spectacle for television coverage. As yet, experimenting with the size of the table has not been considered, whilst all equipment has been changed continuously over the years. A slightly larger table would attract notice and bring a new slant to the game by creating longer rallies, which would make the game more appealing to the spectator. I have also heard from one of the top authorities in English table tennis that the Japanese have already produced a larger table — they obviously have ideas similar to those of my company.

Certainly, introducing these new ideas into the sport cannot arrogantly be dismissed as 'American nonsense', for as one of our greatest literary writers said, "What is now proved was once only imagined" (William Blake).

**BARRY MEISEL,
President,**

Global Table Tennis Promotions.

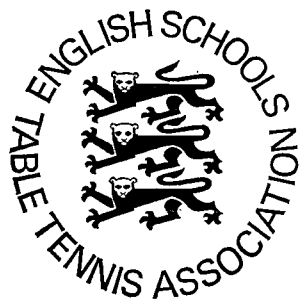
**50 Green Lane,
Chislehurst,
Kent, BR7 6AQ.**



SMILES ALL ROUND

A smiling Czechoslovakian team prior to their European Super Division match at Batley visited the International Sports Company Factory at Horbury, nr. Wakefield. Their host was Chris Gascoigne, Factory Manager, who took his guests to watch the manufacture of table tennis, golf, tennis and squash equipment.

Photo by courtesy of Alan Hydes, Dunlop Sports Company Ltd.



by DAVID LOMAS

The preliminary stages of the annual National School Team Championships — sponsored by Stiga AB and organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association — are well under way.

The twelve Area Finals of the Competition were completed by January 21 (with one or two exceptions) at venues throughout the country. There are some familiar names who have qualified — 12 of the 16 schools in last year's National Finals are still in the competition — as well as a quota of "unknowns" who will be hoping to go one stage further and qualify for the Grand Finals which are scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 10, 1979 at Lea Green Centre, Matlock, Derbyshire.

But to ensure a place at Lea Green teams must win one of three Regional Finals which take place at Leeds (Moor Grange School, Parkstone Avenue), Swindon (Park Sports Hall, Marlow Avenue) and Orpington (Walnut Sports Centre) on Sunday, February 18, commencing at 10 a.m.

Winners of the Area Finals were as follows:-

NORTH REGION

Area 1 (Bishop Auckland)

B19 Millom (Cumbria)
G19 Millom (Cumbria)
B16 Longlands, Kendal (Cumbria)
G16 Rythorpe, Sunderland (Tyne and Wear)
B13 Longlands, Kendal (Cumbria)
G13 Bishop Barrington (Durham)
U11 Woodhouse, Bishop Auckland (Durham)

Four teams from Cumbria have got through. A good 5-3 win by Ryhope over Millom (G16) means a "Geordie" interest at Leeds.

Area 2 (Leeds)

B19 Allerton Grange, Leeds (West Yorks)
G19 St. Mary's, Hull (Humberside)
B16 Riley High, Hull (Humberside)
G16 Thornes House, Wakefield (West Yorks)
B13 Southcoates (Humberside)
G13 Sandal Endowed, Wakefield (West Yorks)
U11 Sandal Endowed, Wakefield (West Yorks)

Organiser John Arnold reports smooth progress and even though Rea Balmford and Tom Matthews (President) kept experienced eyes on proceedings the E.S.T.T.A. Chairman managed to qualify his two Sandal Endowed teams which included daughter Karen (G13) and son Simon (U11).

Area 3 (Fleetwood)

B19 Culcheth High (Cheshire)
G19 Runshaw College, Leyland (Lancashire)
B16 Culcheth High (Cheshire)
G16 Parrenthorne (Greater Manchester)
B13 Little Moss (Greater Manchester)
G13 Fleetwood Hesketh (Lancashire)
U11 Melling-with-Wrayton (Lancashire)

There were some close results at Fleetwood. Good to see representatives from Greater Manchester through.

Area 4 (Nottingham)

B19 Frank Wheldon (Notts)
G19 Staveley Netherthorpe (Derbyshire)
B16 Henry Fanshawe (Derbyshire)
G16 Walton Girls (Lincolnshire)
B13 Tupton Hall, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
G13 Tupton Hall, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
U11 Holmgate, Clay Cross (Derbyshire)

A good day for Derbyshire with national holders Holmgate (U11) doing well against Caistor (Lincs), previous finalists.

MIDLANDS and WEST REGION

Area 5 (Wolverhampton)

B19 Oswestry Boys (Salop)
G19 Highfields, Wolverhampton (W. Midlands)
B16 Moseley Park, Wolverhampton (W. Midlands)
G16 Orleton Park (Salop)
B13 Idsall (Salop)
G13 Highfields, Wolverhampton (W. Midlands)
U11 Market Drayton (Salop)

Three Wolverhampton teams through — both national winners last year.

Area 6 (Stratford-on-Avon)

B19 Marling, Stroud (Gloucestershire) *
G19 Gosford Hill (Oxfordshire)
B16 Marling, Stroud (Gloucestershire) *
G16 North Leamington (Warwickshire)
B13 Gosford Hill (Oxfordshire)
G13 Bewdley High (Hereford and Worcester)
U11 Sladen (Hereford and Worcester)

* Bad weather caused the non-appearance of Leominster (B19) and Over Ross (B16) so although the Stroud boys won on the day arrangements were made for a play-off at a later date. Organiser Philip Holmes made the journey from Redditch behind two snow-ploughs!

Area 7 (Callington)

B19 Penlee, Plymouth (Devon)
G19 Yeovil Technical (Somerset)
B16 Tamar, Plymouth (Devon)
G16 Callington (Cornwall)
B13 Exmouth (Devon)
G13 Callington (Cornwall)
U11 Camborne C.E. (Cornwall)

Exmouth, with three members of the Littleham Junior School team that won the national U11 title in 1977, made an unnecessary journey because their opponents failed to appear. Tamar, led by Paul Whiting, look strong.

Area 8 (Swindon)

B19 Itchen College, Southampton (Hampshire)
G19 Bournemouth School for Girls (Dorset)
B16 Ifeld (West Sussex)
G16 Churchfields, Swindon (Wiltshire)
G13 Ferndale, Swindon (Wiltshire)

Gwen Hazell tells me that the Itchen team have strong players in S. White and J. Roberts. News of Boys' U13 and U11 winners awaited.

SOUTH and EAST REGION

Area 9 (St. Neots)

B19 Wisbech (Cams)
G19 St. Bernard's Convent (Essex County)
B16 Hereward, Cambridge (Cams)
G16 Thurleston Upper (Suffolk)
B13 Hereward, Cambridge (Cams)
G13 Clacton (Essex County)
U11 Old Buckenham Hall (Suffolk)

Excellent playing conditions at this purpose-built centre. None other than National Competitions Secretary, Eddie Mitchell, was the local organiser and he reports a very useful Wisbech Boys' U19 side led by 13-years-old James Frost.

Area 10 (Reading)

B19 Desborough, Maidenhead (Berkshire)
G19 Cedars Upper (Bedfordshire)
B16 Horsell, Woking (Surrey County)
G16 Bishop Reindorp, Guildford (Surrey County)
B13 Bedford Modern (Beds)
G13 Ramridge, Luton (Beds)
U11 Wallop, Weybridge (Surrey County)

Strong contenders from Bishop Reindorp (previously named Guildford C.E.) plus some new faces from Surrey County.

Area 11 (Barnet)

B19 Queen Elizabeth, Barnet (Middlesex)
G19 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metro.)
B16 Trinity, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
G16 Lister, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
B13 Hill House (Inner London)
G13 Plashet, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
U11 Hill House (Inner London)

Some very familiar names from Newham. Inner London's hopes rest on Ray Perrin's Hill House teams. Alan Shepherd took time off from writing letters to "Table Tennis News" to organise the proceedings at Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

Area 12 (Croydon)

B19 Swanley (Kent County)
G19 Tolworth Girls (Surrey Metropolitan)
B16 Harvey G.S., Folkestone (Kent County)

G16 Wyndgate, Folkestone (Kent County)
B13 Hillcross Middle, Morden (Surrey Metro.)
G13 Conyngham, Ramsgate (Kent County)
U11 Sweyne Primary (Kent County)

A very satisfactory day for Kent County teams who had long journeys to make from the coast to Monks Hill Sports Centre. Nice to see Harvey back in contention having won the Boys' Under-13 national title in 1976. Hillcross most noticeable for their parental support.

It is hoped to include reports and results from the Regional stages (Feb. 18) in the March issue. But why not go along to Leeds, Swindon or Orpington to see for yourself?

Other News

The Stiga English Schools Individual Championships are scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 1979 at Gloucester Sports Centre. Entry is via County Associations.

Congratulations to Executive Council member Phil Burwell who is co-author of a new book "Table Tennis Now" (Kaye and Ward, £4.25).

The Official E.S.T.T.A. tie is available (£1.50 plus postage) from the Association's Chairman: John Arnold, Sandal Endowed C.E. Middle School, Barnsley Road, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 6AS.

A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO SPORT

by Dr. DAVID RYDE,
M.B., B.S., M.R.C.G.P.,
Hon. Doctor, E.T.T.A.

At times Sportsmen and women, including Internationals, produce symptoms or problems which, intrinsically of limited significance, are due to the stress that sport imposes upon them. They seek escape by blaming their impaired performances upon these problems rather than appreciating or admitting to these causes. Let us take a brief look at some psychological factors in sport, now that the English team is about to leave for North Korea.

Sport is the social equivalent of combat and produces the reactions that combat produced in man's ancestors. The primitive form of competition is combat, perhaps mortal combat. The fear engendered causes a regression in character, the recently acquired behaviour patterns fading, the athlete being stripped to a primitive form of his own personality and becoming child-like at times.

It takes a mature mind to remain calm or controlled in a distressing situation, for the reaction to stress depends upon experience of stress. Simply, experience helps in overcoming 'nerves' but not wholly so because some experienced internationals show stress under competition. It has been said that stresses in spirit can lead to psychological upsets. I have seen such cases but in these people any stress confronting them be it domestic, business or study likewise was disturbing. The personality, not sport is faulty.

To athletes under stress, complaining becomes frequent. From my experience as a team doctor both at home and abroad, conditions which in normal circumstances evoke little response, become magnified. These concern accommodation, officials, washing and training facilities, time of arrival, lack of sleep, minor infections of the eyes, ears, nose, throat and skin, headaches, blisters, bruises, digestive upsets and personal problems.

These are best handled with the co-operation of the team doctor, coach and senior team members.

Concerning demands for pep-pills or food additives, I discuss but discourage these useless substances to avoid dependence upon them, but where demand exceeds reason a placebo is given.

Long Term

Whatever the ethics or possible benefits surrounding the use of anabolic steroids — the

biological implications of the long term use of large doses leaves me perturbed. So called stimulant (I think irritant is a better word) drugs, if they speed up reflexes only do so at the cost of accuracy, hardly of benefit to Table-Tennis.

Sometimes it is worth having a masseur or physio-therapist with the team, but it remains uncertain if the benefits of their treatment is always in the physical field; physiotherapists have told me how athletes relax and talk under treatment.

Personal morale depends on such factors as team morale, successes, quality of officials, food and accommodation. All these problems and others, including home sickness, sexual anxieties, diets, drinking and smoking, concern over injuries, fear of heart strain, heatstroke and more subtle reactions to stress form the bread and butter work of team physicians.

A responsibility of the doctor and coach is to understand the athlete and his attitude towards his problem — while remaining calm and objective themselves. My aphorism is that just as "anxious mothers have anxious children, so anxious coaches have anxious athletes" (and anxious doctors have anxious patients).

The art is to listen — the lesson for the doctors being that "silence is diagnostic and therapeutic".

Elaborating on athletic injuries, I consider there are broadly two types, major and minor.

Major injuries such as fractures, tendon and muscle ruptures are sent to hospital.

I believe that minor injuries, i.e. most injuries, get better largely irrespective of treatment.

Those who give treatment really support the athlete (and possibly themselves) until healing is completed.

The most important aspect of such an injury is not so much the condition but the athlete's attitude toward it.

If the therapist, instead of (or in addition to) massaging, strapping or prescribing for the affected part, helped the athlete to gain insight and face up to the reality of the problem, not only would he help his charge but also he would improve his own art as a therapist.

I suspect that when a minor injury does not get better in the time usually allotted by nature, then one has to look for a cause at an altitude of about six feet (excluding conditions of a long natural history, such as jumpers heel, Achilles tendon and tennis elbow).

The following cases may help to illustrate the need to understand attitudes among competitors:

An international miler had prolonged symptoms from a knee injury which impeded training in spite of two months' vigorous treatment at a teaching hospital. It was not appreciated that the athlete had equated his traumatic arthritis with his mother who was partially crippled with rheumatoid arthritis. It took no more than a few minutes to elicit this fear and within six weeks he was running very close to four-minute miles — (attitude to injury).

A tennis player developed severe earache before an international contest. She was indeed offensive when I found nothing wrong physically. Her coach confided later that she usually produced such symptoms especially if expected to lose. She lost — (attitude to competition). And I lost the diagnosis.

A long distance female runner of first class potential had severe "nerves" from 4-7 days before a race, making life a misery and never doing herself justice in competition. In confidence, it became apparent that this only child lived on the edge of a volcano with ever squabbling parents for whom she had conflicting feelings of love and hate. She was given insight into her problems and became calm. Taking sedatives did not solve her problem but blunted her mind to them even if they did calm her slightly — (attitude to life). Her performances promptly improved greatly.

Sport is a redirection of energy, it is a civilised form of combat which satisfies the instinct of self-preservation.

The reward of combat is physical security — the reward of sport is physical and social satisfaction.

NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX TROPHY MASTERS

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Organised under the patronage of the International Table Tennis Federation and the European Table Tennis Union

The Czechoslovak Open Championships (Jan. 26/28) will provide players with their last but one opportunity to earn enough points to qualify for the NORWICH UNION MASTERS, at Milton Keynes in May.

Milan Orlovski of Czechoslovakia, in reaching the semi-final of the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton brought himself to within 500 points of the Hungarian Tibor Klampar, who is the current leader and the destination of the £500 bonus to the player who tops the Grand Prix table at its close has still to be decided between these two.

The top 11 places are held by players who have accumulated 1,000 points or more, and these players could be said to have qualified for the MASTERS.

However, five of these positions are occupied by players from China, and one must consider that it is possible that not all five will make the journey to Milton Keynes; coupled with the fact that Gabor Gergely, current 3rd, qualifies automatically as reigning European champion, means that some extra places could be available.

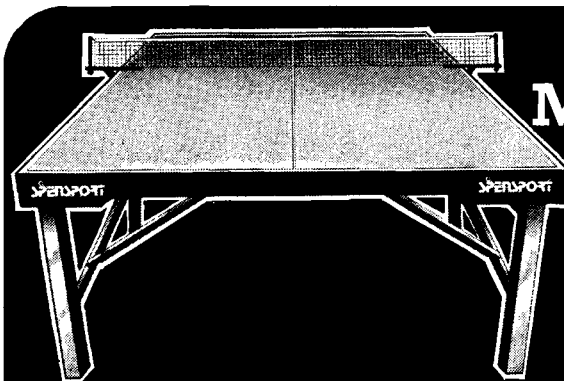
Among the leading players still battling for the remaining places, are, former World champion Stellan Bengtsson of Sweden, the 1976 European

champion Jacques Secretin, and his French compatriot Patrick Birocheau, three players from Germany, Peter Stellweg, Engelbert Hugging and Jochen Leiss, and still with an outside chance of qualification is Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia.

Desmond Douglas in 11th place is likely to be England's only representative in the MASTERS. Nicky Jarvis 34th, and John Hilton, 35th, are the next best placed English players, whereas another regular member of the England team Paul Day, has had a dismal season and has not yet earned any Grand Prix points.

Attached is a list showing the leading 32 players in the NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX.

| | Points |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 T. Klampar (Hun) | 3,300 |
| 2 M. Orlovski (Cze) | 2,800 |
| 3 G. Gergely (Hun) | 1,575 |
| 4 Li Chen-Shih (Chi) | 1,400 |
| 5 Shih Chih-Hao (Chi) | 1,325 |
| 6 Lu Chi Wei (Chi) | 1,300 |
| 7 Huang Liang (Chi) | 1,200 |
| 8 J. Takacs (Hun) | 1,175 |
| 9 J. Dvoracek (Cze) | 1,100 |
| 10 Kuo Yao-Hua (Chi) | 1,000 |
| 11 D. Douglas (Eng) | 1,000 |
| 12 S. Bengtsson (Swe) | 950 |
| 13 P. Stellweg (GFR) | 875 |
| 14 Liang Ke-liang (Chi) | 800 |
| 15 J. Secretin (Fra) | 750 |
| 16 V. Shevchenko (USS) | 600 |
| 17 Wang Hui-Yuan (Chi) | 600 |
| 18 E. Hugging (GFR) | 600 |
| 19 T. Kreis (Hun) | 550 |
| 20 J. Leiss (GFR) | 550 |
| 21 P. Birocheau (Fra) | 500 |
| 22 U. Thorsell (Swe) | 500 |
| 23 L. Franklin (Swe) | 500 |
| 24 J. Pansky (Cze) | 450 |
| 25 D. Surbek (Yug) | 400 |
| 26 C. Martin (Fra) | 400 |
| 27 R. Wosik (GFR) | 350 |
| 28 Z. Kalinic (Yug) | 350 |
| 29 P. Gernot (Fra) | 350 |
| 30 P. Renverse (Fra) | 350 |
| 31 Chen Yung (Chi) | 300 |
| 32 J-C. Decret (Fra) | 300 |



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8th ASIAN GAMES

CHINA MAKES CLEAN SWEEP OF ALL SEVEN TABLE TENNIS TITLES

by Liu Bingwen

China's domination in Asian table tennis proved unshakable as the Chinese paddlers made a clean sweep of all the seven titles of the table tennis tournament at the Bangkok Asian Games.

China won six out of the seven honours in table tennis at the 7th Asian Games at Tehran in 1974. The men's doubles title went to a Japanese pair.

The victory for the Chinese women's team looked all the more impressive since it defeated all the other six opponents without dropping a single match. Even Japan, formerly a strong challenger and title bidder, went down to China in three-straight sets. But another powerful contender, the women's team of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was conspicuously absent this time.

On the Chinese women's team, only 27-year-old Chang Li was an old-timer and the other three played at the Asian Games for the first time. Hard-hitting Chang Li won the women's singles honour at Tehran and retained her title at Bangkok.

The other three Chinese girls were Chang Teh-ying, who, like Chang Li, was a member of the Chinese Corbillon Cup team at the 34th world championships, Yang Ying, a co-winner of the women's doubles title at Birmingham, and 16-year-old Tsao Yen-hua, the new champion at the recent 4th Asian Table Tennis Championships.

Except for its 5-3 victory over the team from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Chinese men's team defeated all its opponents in straight sets.

The four players on the Chinese men's team represent four different playing styles in China. Liang Ke-liang plays a smooth game that places equal emphasis on attack and defence. Twenty-two-year-old Kuo Yao-hua is an all-out attacker with formidable forehand drives and backhand half-volleys. Eighteen-year-old Chen Hsin-hua is consistent with his flexible cutting strokes imparted with a great variety of spins. The other player is loop-expert Hung Tung-sheng who drives from both forehand and backhand with equal facility.

But in the encounter with the DPRK team, the Chinese trio of Ke-liang, Kuo Yao-hua, Chen Hsin-hua conceded a set to Korea's No. 2 player Jo Yung Ho.

The finals of the men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles were all-Chinese affairs.

Defending Asian champion Liang Ke-liang retained his title by defeating his compatriot Kuo Yao-hua who won the men's singles title at the fourth Asian table tennis championships at Kuala Lumpur a month earlier.

Liang, 28, is a veteran player. He made his international debut at Nagoya, Japan, where the Chinese table tennis team started the famous "ping pong diplomacy". A native of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Liang is now a worker at the Beijing (Peking) stadium. He has an ambition to train world top-class table tennis players when he retires some day.

The Liang-Kuo match was the most spectacular highlight of the entire table tennis tournament at Bangkok. The spectators uttered "ah, ah, ah" and "oh, oh, oh" and some rose to their feet to cheer when the two Chinese traded long drives or when one jumped into the air to hit back after a long rally of balloon defence. After the match both Liang and Kuo were instantly besieged by swarming autograph collectors.

Left-handed Chang Li also retained her Asian singles title. This 27-year-old player from central China province of Henan plays a fast attacking game, standing very close to the table.

Though twice women's singles champion at the 7th and 8th Asian Games and rated world No. 2 by the I.T.T.F., Chang Li confided to reporters

that she is sure to be overtaken very soon by her compatriots at home since so many promising youngsters are emerging in China every year.

Chang Teh-ying, the women's singles runner-up is a teachers' college student in the northernmost province of Heilongjiang. She is world No. 3 in the I.T.T.F. ratings.

Kuo Yao-hua and Hung Tung-sheng, both teachers' college students, had an easy win from Indonesia's Empie Wuisan and Sinyo Supit 5-0 in the men's doubles final.

Chang Li and Chang Teh-ying of China defeated Hong Kong's Hui So Hong and Chang Siu Ying 3-0 to clinch the women's doubles title.

In the mixed doubles final, Kuo Kao-hua and Chang Li of China beat their compatriots Liang Ke-liang and Chang Teh-ying 3-0.

Sports observers, including the coach and team manager of the Pakistan table tennis team Mr. Farooq Zaman, noted that China's table tennis prowess should be attributed to its vast mass foundation. No other nation in the world, they pointed out, has so many table tennis fans and ping pong tables as in China.

Lin Hui-ching, the Chinese team manager, however, observed that though China won all the seven titles, some of the matches were very close. She mentioned the contests with the teams from Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Li Fu-jung, coach of the Chinese team, said: "We find there is much for us to learn from other

Asian players, for instance, the admirable fighting will of the players of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the superb footwork and good forehand strokes among Japanese players".

He also attached importance to encouraging a diversification of styles of play at home. A player has to meet regularly players of different styles at home before he attains the capability of coping with opponents of entirely different styles of play in international competitions, he added.

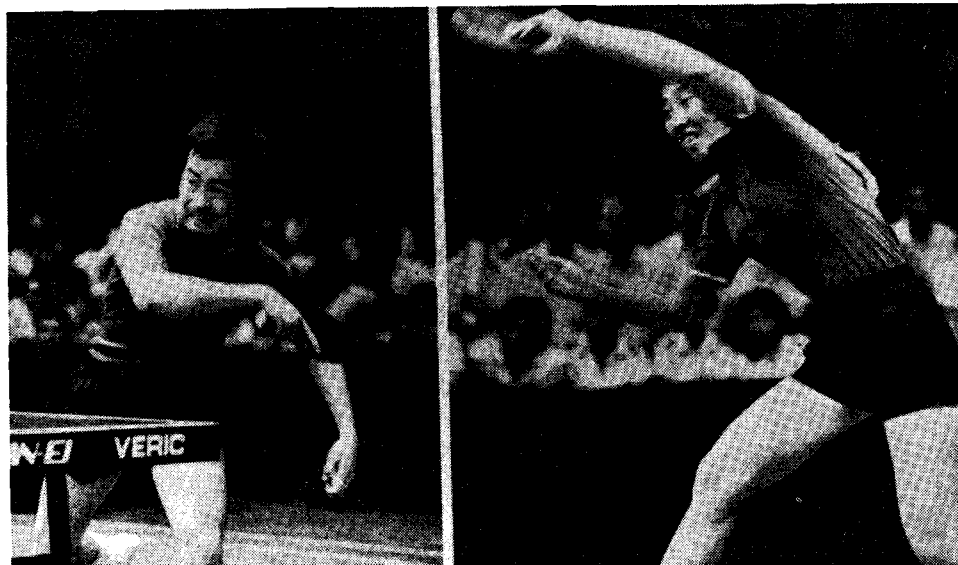
LANCASHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

Donald Parker continued his winning ways from Cleveland in winning the men's singles title in his native Lancashire his final victim being Mike Johns. Top seed Alan Fletcher was beaten in the quarters by Mark Hankey who lost to Johns in the semis. At that stage Parker beat Nigel Eckersley.

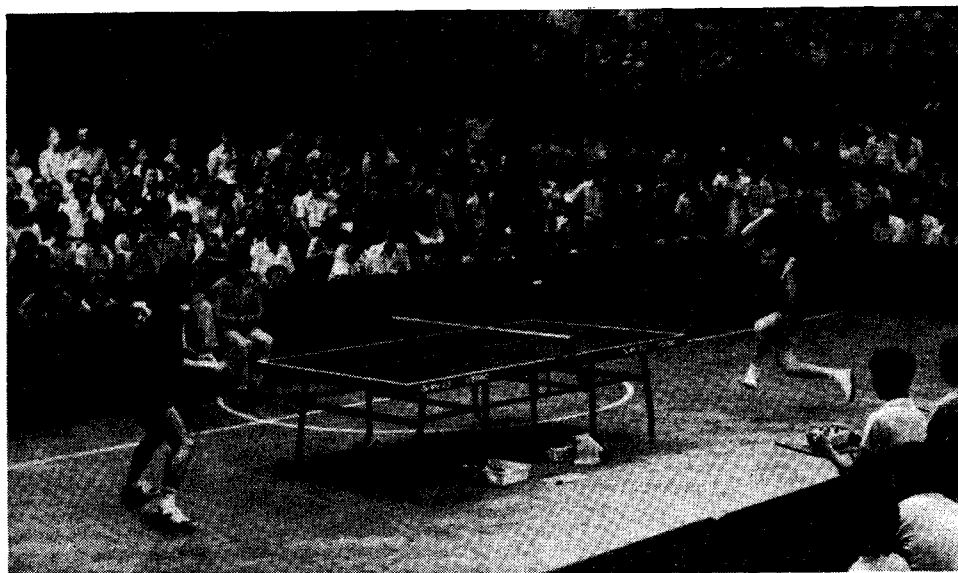
Susan Lisle won the women's singles beating Diane Johnson in the final after ousting the top seed, Melody Ludi, in the semis. Mrs. Johnson accounted for Sally Midgley. A full report with results will appear in the March issue.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH.

Kuo Yao-hua of the People's Republic of China and star of the show at Brighton in the Norwich Union International Championships.



At the recent 8th Asian Games Chinese table tennis team won seven titles. Photo shows men's singles champion Liang Ke-liang (left) and women's singles champion Chang Li (right).



Chinese player Liang Ke-liang (right) beats Norio Takashima from Japan in the men's singles final.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

ESSEX NOTES by Geoff Newman

BACK LOG MOUNTING

We have managed to play a few County Championships matches this month but the back log appears to be mounting and Messrs. Ron McKenzie and Alan Shepherd might well have a few problems before the season is out.

A much depleted senior second team dropped a point to Cambridgeshire but the late inclusions, Andy Bawden, Stuart Gibbs and Elaine Foulds, all played very well. Andy winning one singles while Stuart notched both. Elaine was a comfortable winner in her singles as was Elaine Sayer. Unfortunately Les Eadie chose this match to have a bad one and we inexplicably lost both doubles sets.

Match details (Essex players first):-

- L. Eadie lost to M. Harper -17, -11;
- lost to K. Richardson -11, -19.
- A. Bawden lost to K. Richardson -14, 24, -14;
- bt G. Davies 19, -20, 18.
- S. Gibbs bt Davies 15, 20;
- bt Harper 14, -16, 16.
- Miss E. Sayer bt Mrs. J. Palmer 12, 17.
- Mrs. E. Foulds bt Miss J. Hunter 15, 12.
- Eadie/Gibbs lost to Harper/Richardson -17, 18, -16.
- Foulds/Sayer lost to Hunter/Palmer -14, 21, -16.

Our Junior second team visited Dorset and were well beaten 8-2 although we lost most of the close games. Alan Shepherd was quite pleased with his team particularly the girls.

Details (Essex names first):-

- I. Attridge lost to R. Lee 13, -20, -22;
- lost to J. Creasey -10, -17.
- G. Turner bt R. Fairhall 11, 13;
- lost to Lee -15, 20, -16.
- D. Henry lost to Creasey -17, -16;
- bt Fairhall 12, 15.
- Julie Askem lost to C. Creasey 19, -12, -18.
- Tricia Taylor lost to S. Gilson -22, 19, -16.
- Attridge/Taylor lost to Creasey/Lee 17, -15, -14.
- Askem/Taylor lost to Creasey/Gilson -16, -20.

The Junior third team entertained Norfolk at the Colne Valley Club and n.p.c. Vic Russell was highly delighted with the 6-4 victory. Debut boy Robin Lang coming from behind 14-18 and 18-20 in the third to win 22-20 in the final set, Kev Gard, Ian Carson, Karen Buckledee and Linda Crawford all sharing in this good victory. Vic Russell was a little disappointed with the doubles sets however and it appears to be that overall this season's Essex pairings have not fared too well.

- Details:-
- K. Gard lost to D. Unwin 22, -20, -19;
 - bt P. Ninham 13, 17.



Ron Gore (left) Essex Coaching Officer, chats to County Treasurer Peter Radford and his wife Lesley.

- I. Carson bt A. Buckingham 14, 13;
- lost to Unwin -8, 13, -18.
- R. Lang bt Ninham 17, -20, 16;
- bt Buckingham -19, 16, 20.
- Miss L. Crawford bt Miss Z. Nicholls -15, 16, 12.
- Miss K. Buckledee bt Miss R. Harrowen 18, 18.
- Carson/Gard lost to Buckingham/Unwin -9, -19.
- Crawford/Buckledee lost to Nicholls/Harrowen 13, -20, -17.

Essex 'old boys' second team gained a fine victory over the Herts first team, mainly due to a fine duo performance from the Southend pair Mike Watts and Bobby Raybould who each won two singles and combined for a doubles success. Fred Lockwood was surprisingly beaten in both his sets as was Flo Birbeck.

Our Closed Championships will be held at the Cecil Jones School, Southend this year during the weekend of Mar. 3/4 and Vic Russell appears to have matters well in hand. The mammoth Essex Leagues programme is well under way and Dick Roffe must be congratulated on his efficient handling of the competition.

Hopefully our Junior Premier Team squad of Skylet Andrew, Desmond Charlery, Terry Dowsett, Ian Attridge, Gary Turner, Julie Dowsett, Kim Mudge, Julie Askem and Tricia Taylor will get under way this month with matches against Berkshire, Middlesex and Surrey.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

"WHITEWASH"

Lancashire's Junior team returned with a 10-0 win over Shropshire in Junior Division 2 (North) of the County Championships, their third win in four matches.

Three Bolton League players, Steven Scowcroft and his cousin Carolyn and Paul Brandwood — the latter on debut — shared in the triumph which put the Lancastrians within striking distance of leaders Cumbria who boast an unbeaten record but still have Lancashire to play on March 31 away.

In the absence of Preston's Paul Rainford who was seeking glory in the Cleveland 3-Star Lancaster's Kevin Walsh was also a debut boy for the Red Rose county. Individual scores (Lancashire names first):-

- S. Scowcroft bt G. Lupton 13, 15;
- bt N. Roberts 8, 9.
- K. Walsh bt Roberts 19, 13;
- bt P. Jackson 19, -12, 16.
- P. Brandwood bt Jackson 16, -16, 21;
- bt Lupton 14, 16.
- Miss J. Grundy bt Miss L. Degg 13, 11.
- Miss C. Scowcroft bt Miss T. Powell 16, 10.
- S. Scowcroft/Walsh bt Roberts/Lupton 22, 14.
- Miss Grundy/Miss J. Parker bt Miss Powell/Miss Degg 10, 16.

Still on the Junior front, in the Lancashire and Cheshire League's Junior Division 1, Preston with successive home wins over Rochdale (7-3) and Liverpool (6-4) are the front runners with Manchester lying second. In the Preston/Liverpool encounter Graeme Black registered a win over Rainford 20, -19, 17 yet failed to beat the home No. 3, Andrew Gray.

Leading positions:-

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Preston | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 30 | 20 | 9 |
| Manchester | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 32 | 18 | 7 |
| Salford | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 13 | 4 |
| Rochdale | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 15 | 4 |
| Barrow | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 3 |

In Div. 2 (N) Blackpool chalked up an 8-2 win over Manchester "A" with Roy Frankland and Brian Carney claiming three each in single combat. It was Manchester's first defeat, the leading positions being:-

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Preston "A" | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 11 | 8 |
| Bolton | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 24 | 16 | 6 |
| Manchester "A" | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 16 | 6 |
| Blackburn | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 14 | 5 |
| Blackpool | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 18 | 4 |

Stockport, recent conquerors of Oldham (9-1), are the pacesetters in Div. 2 (S) with five wins in a row to their name, the latter without the

services of ace veteran Derek Schofield who was flying his kite down on the Sussex coast and losing his veterans' crown to Hans Bolena of Austria in the Norwich Union International Champs.

Roger Hampson and Dave Hulme claimed a clean sheet in the Oldham match the leading positions being:-

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Stockport | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 7 | 10 |
| Burnley | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 26 | 14 | 6 |
| Wirral | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 29 | 21 | 6 |
| Oldham | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 21 | 5 |

Due to adverse road conditions in the area many matches have had to be postponed, not least the Division 3 (North) County Championships match away to Cumbria scheduled for Millom on Jan. 20. There was snow in them there Cumbrian hills! Too much in fact.

After seven years in the saddle as the Hon. Gen. Sec. of the Bolton Table Tennis League, Ken Mitchell will tender his resignation at the next meeting of the league's management committee on Feb. 5. Ken and his wife Mary are to leave the Bolton area and take up residence in the Isle of Man at Castletown.

Ken has rendered yeoman service on behalf of table tennis in Lancashire and this will doubtless be placed on record in the annals of the Bolton League which he has served so faithfully both as secretary, vice-chairman and committeeman. Likely successor is Howard Parr, the secretary of Bolton Colleges Athletic Club, of 1 Bowstone Hill Road, Harwood, Bolton, BL2 4LS. 'Phone Tottington 3303 (home).

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

INCREDIBLE NINTH

The 'Leicestershire Closed' — sponsored once more by The Town and Country Building Society, brought the biggest entry for some years. However, thanks to excellent work on the control desk by Paul Walker and Alan Bell things ran very smoothly.

Paul Randell won the men's singles for an incredible ninth year in succession and was never seriously troubled. His final opponent was Maurice Newman who with Graham Hughes could become the best players never to win the Leicestershire Closed.

Karen Rogers was successful in all her events winning the women's singles, doubles (with Christine Iacopi) and the mixed (with Phil Smith). With the two top ranked players Chris Rogers and Anita Stevenson away it seemed inevitable that Paul and Karen would dominate things but the mixed nearly went to the unseeded Grahame and Yvonne Hall. This brother and sister partnership first ousted Paul Randell and Eileen Shaler and lost -20 in the final against Phil Smith and Karen Rogers.

With Newman as his partner Randell won the men's doubles beating David Gannon and Philip Smith in the final. It was a disappointing tournament for No. 2 seed Gannon. He lost at the first attempt to Alan Philpott in the men's singles and lost -19, -15 to Steve Kenney in the intermediate singles, an event subsequently won by Philip Smith. There was a major shock in the boys' singles. Although eight boys were seeded it was the unseeded Glen Johnson who emerged victorious. Trevor Kerslake and Richard Hayes had little difficulty in winning the boys' doubles, but Trevor sadly has had an accident at school and he will be out of table tennis for the rest of the season.

Brian Mayfield predictably beat Geoff Aldwinckle in the veterans' final and — almost predictably — the match went to expedite.

The much improved Simon Griew beat Yvonne Hall in the final of the cadets singles — the best final of all. Yvonne however easily took the girls' singles. For three hours Yvonne was on non-stop but not once did she complain!

Great Glen continue to be the most talked about team in Division One, having duly established themselves as first division favourites they then went down to Magpie/Outlook not regarded as championship contenders. Star was Steven White who won all three — Grahame Hall,

Gary Alden and Suzanne Hunt. Not many people will do that. In the Hinckley League, Leisure Centre narrowly lead the first division with Kingscroft in hot pursuit. Playing well for Kingscroft is Ernie McLeish. It will perhaps come as a surprise to learn he last won the 'Leicestershire' fourteen years ago.

News of a different kind at Loughborough where the Sports Centre is to be used in a Job Creation project. The centre has been in constant use since 1968 and at present houses fifteen clubs and about 200 players. Clearly this is causing a great deal of alarm with the difficulties of finding premises for so many players obvious.

On the county scene, Leicestershire were without Karen Rogers and Anita Stevenson against Warwickshire II, but it made no difference, Leicestershire winning 9-1. Karen's mother, Jose, who retired from the veterans' team five years ago came into the county first team and won in straight games in both singles and doubles (with Eileen Shaler), some comeback! Paul Randell is still unbeaten and David Gannon got off the mark at last by beating Ralph Gunnion, but the wily Barry Hayward carried too many guns for him. Chris Rogers playing better than ever won easily.

The veterans lost 5-4 at Herts. despite two good wins by Brian Mayfield.

Lincolnshire II were too strong for our juniors, winning 8-2. Plenty of activity then in the county at the moment.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by P. Taylor

WELL BEATEN

The county teams had mixed fortunes in their last round of matches with only the Veterans and Junior 2nds winning. The senior team were well beaten by Yorkshire 2nds, our only rubber being Brian Allison's win over Mike Harrison. The Junior 1st team, away to Cheshire 2nds, suffered their first defeat of the season losing 3-7. Gillian Sharpe won her singles and the other 2 wins were in the doubles. The Junior 2nd team remain on maximum points after beating Leicestershire 8-2 and so still have an excellent chance of promotion.

The Lincs. Junior Open once again proved to be a tremendous success. From a local point of view, Chris Bryan was our most successful player, reaching the semi-final stage in 3 events, the boys' U-14, the U-14 and U-17 boys' doubles. Both Chris and Marcus Emmerson got to the last 16 in the boys' U-17 singles with Neil Parkin and David Johnson reaching the last 32 in a total entry of over 140. On the girls' side, Gillian Sharpe and Debra Brown were beaten at the quarter-final stage of the girls U-17 doubles and Rachel Pickwell, partnered by Yvonne Hall, also reached the quarters in the girls' U-14 doubles.

LATEST COUNTY RANKING LISTS FOR COUNTY MATCHES (November ranking in brackets)

Men

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. B. Hill (Wy) (1) | 6. S. Morley (Gri) (—) |
| 2. B. Allison (Lo) (2) | 7. M. Newbould (Gri) (6) |
| 3. M. East (Wy) (3) | 8. S. Cuthbertson (Sc) (7) |
| 4. M. Shearer (Lo) (4) | 9. C. Bryan (Gra) (—) |
| 5. P. Taylor (Gri) (5) | 10. N. Parkin (Wy) (—) |

Women

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. S. Hunt (Gra) (1) | 4. C. Moran (Gri) (3) |
| 2. J. White (Sp) (—) | 5. C. Exton (Gra) (4) |
| 3. A. Gunthorpe (Li) (2) | 6. G. Sharpe (Gri) (5) |

Boys

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. D. Skerratt (Wy) (1) | 8. R. Duke (Li) (8) |
| 2. D. Johnson (Li) (2) | 9. P. Eyles (Lo) (9) |
| 3. N. Parkin (Wy) (3) | 10. P. Barnes (Wy) (—) |
| 4. C. Bryan (Gra) (5) | 11. S. Read (Li) (11) |
| 5. M. Emmerson (Lo) (4) | 12. R. Harper (Li) (—) |
| 6. S. Pullen (Gra) (6) | 13. G. Ashton (Ga) (—) |
| 7. S. Worrell (Li) (7) | 14. J. Whitfield (Gri) (—) |

Girls

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Exton (1) | 5. S. Worrell (Li) (4) |
| 2. Sharpe (2) | 6. J. Barnett (Gri) (6) |
| 3. D. Brown (Lo) (3) | 7. S. Dawson (MR) (8) |
| 4. J. Wingad (Gra) (5) | |

Cadet Boys

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bryan | 4. Ashton |
| 2. Worrell | 5. E. Flanagan (Gri) |
| 3. Read | 6. R. Sandham (Gri) |

Veteran Men

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. P. Skerratt (Sc) (1) | 5. J. Beaumont (Sp) (5) |
| 2. Shearer (2) | 6. W. Moran (Gri) (6) |
| 3. B. Edlington (Ga) (3) | 7. C. Pickwell (Li) (7) |
| 4. A. Patrick (Ga) (4) | 8. N. Slater (Ga) (8) |

Veteran Women

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Moran (1) | 3. K. Fisher (Lo) (3) |
| 2. White (2) | 4. P. Hale (Gri) (4) |

Key: Ga—Gainsborough, Gra—Grantham, Gri—Grimsby, Li—Lincoln, Lo—Louth, MR—Market Rasen, Sc—Scunthorpe, Sp—Spalding, Wy—Wytherton.

The Grimsby Closed men's singles was one of the most open for many years and the final was the best seen for a long time. Mark Newbould became one of the youngest players to win this event when he beat Matt Shearer in a nail-biting 24-22 in the third. Mark, to reach the final, defeated Brian Allison in the quarters and Peter Taylor in the semis. Gillian Sharpe became the youngest lady to win the women's singles by beating Connie Moran in the final. This was the first time Connie has ever been defeated in this event in over 20 years.

Results:-

- M.S.: M. Newbould bt M. Shearer -13, 20, 22.
 W.S.: G. Sharpe bt C. Moran 18, 15.
 V.S.: Shearer bt D. Smith 20, 17.
 B.S.: M. Emmerson bt J. Sandham 17, 15.
 G.S.: D. Brown bt Sharpe 14, -16, 17.
 M.D.: Shearer/Allison bt Plaskitt/Edmonds 8, 18.
 W.D.: Moran/Fisher bt Sharpe/Brown 12, 19.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

PATTERN SET

In a month, when the playing aspect also gave a little to enthuse over, it is pleasing to report successes elsewhere, with our new County Umpires Secretary, Arthur Palmer, qualifying as a Tournament Referee, and Dick Cole, Ian Nicoll and Tom Tye passing their County Umpires examination. It is perhaps even more encouraging that a junior, Keith Nicoll, having dealt successfully with the written paper, could soon join them, and so set the pattern for other young players to follow.

Four County Championships matches during the month, produced two narrow victories, and two heavy defeats, with the Firsts and the Juniors gaining their initial wins of the season.

Against Shropshire, Dave Marsh and Gary Alden, both unbeaten on the night, produced their best performances in the County ranks, and Alden's sensational win over Malcolm Green in a superb encounter, was the highlight of the season. Steve Lyon also opened his account, while the County No. 5 Joyce Porter, a late deputy, won her set at the first time of asking.

The T.S.B. Juniors finished the month all square, for having fallen from grace at the hands of Bucks, with only Keith Nicholl and Helen Cottier preventing a clean sweep, the T.S.B. youngsters returned to the fray with more enthusiasm at Gloucester, and in a strong rearguard action, came from behind to win, thanks mainly to Miss Cottier, the most successful player to date, and Joanne Cutler who shared three wins between them, and to Keith Nicoll and Tim Chamberlain, who did likewise.

Northants Seconds fielded an experienced team for the fixture with the successful Hampshire Seconds, but while Romano Gallo, Keith Jones and John Palmer prolonged the match to a marathon four hours, the only win came from the unbeaten Women's Doubles pairing of Christine Price and Dorothy Marsh.

The County League situation suddenly became more complex, when a Wellingborough side without Alden, were quickly put to the sword by a Kettering side still good enough to take the title, if Alden returns to the Wellingborough ranks for their vital match with Northampton, scheduled for March 25 at Kettering's Recreation Centre, when the hosts will also play, with Towcester as opponents.

In the latest series of matches, Ken Nicoll was again undefeated, on this occasion being joined by John Palmer, who beat Dave Marsh and Mick Hawes in straight games. Keith Nicoll and Steve West also made no mistake in their singles, but went down narrowly in the doubles to Marsh and Brian Dangerfield, while Wellingborough's only other success came when Mandy Wallis repeated her County Singles win over sister Anne.

Towcester also appear to be on the upgrade, and registered a first in this competition, when beating Daventry 7-4. David Gallo was the match winner here, with three successes, but Brian Wooding, Rod Barr, Joyce Porter and Andrew Payne all contributed to a fine win. Daventry's points came from Cliff Bull, John Bishop and Owen Bishop, with

Alan Print joining Bull to take the Men's Doubles.

The Tournament season is again approaching, with Kettering staging theirs at the Recreation Centre, on Feb. 24, and Wellingborough following a week later on March 3. However for the time being, the chase for league honours takes precedence, with Rothborough 'A', thanks to 100% records from Alden and Keith Nicoll, comfortably holding off Chapman's 'A' at Wellingborough, while at Kettering, Town 'A's' experienced trio of John Palmer, Dennis Millman and Dick Cole, occasionally supplemented by John Sanders, are being very hard pressed by the much younger Town 'B', represented by Dave Simmons, Mick Hawes and Chris Handshaw.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Gerald Green

NOT A HAPPY MONTH!

The last month has not been a happy one for Shropshire table tennis, and a season which started on such an optimistic note has gone sour on us. This is not so much from a playing point of view — although results have not been good — but mainly on the administrative side where internal committee matters have resulted in the resignations of County Secretary Peter Parkhurst and County Coaching Secretary Paddy Jackson. I obviously do not wish to go into details, but it does seem to me that with a bit more give and take things could have been sorted out more amicably without the necessity of such drastic action.

Shrewsbury Table Tennis Association has also suffered a blow by last week's intimation to his Management Committee by Neville Birch that he intends to resign as league secretary at the annual meeting. This is not due to any 'problems' — other than pressures of his own work.

All these officers have earned respect for efficiency and devotion to their tasks and will be badly missed as well as being difficult to replace.

On the playing side things have also been difficult. A re-arranged County match with Northants clashed with Shrewsbury's Wilmott Cup date with Bradford, and when the obvious replacements for original selections were not available for various reasons — some not very convincing — they had no alternative other than concede on the grounds that they could not field a team strong enough to compete at that level.

The Shropshire Senior first team — without Nigel Thomas who opted to help out with a Welsh Junior Training Session rather than play for his County — then played badly at Northants, losing a game which they were capable of winning, and now stand more than a fair chance of being relegated after only one season in the second division.

The only other County match played was by the Junior firsts (Nicky Roberts, Geoff Lupton, Paul Jackson, Tracey Powell, Linda Degg) who lost all their games against Lancashire with only Paul making a reasonable showing. Then the lads, playing as Shrewsbury in the Carter Cup, lost 2-5 to Liverpool.

Other County matches, and some more local, have been postponed due to bad travelling conditions.

The only Senior team to have any success was Shrewsbury 'A' in the Midland League, with the full strength team of Malcolm Green, Nigel Thomas and Mike Beaman beating Potteries 7-3 and Bromsgrove 9-1 with Malcolm and Nigel maintaining their unbeaten records in singles and doubles in this league.

Otherwise the only good news was on the Schools front where Oswestry Boys High (Hugh Dalton, Jon Roberts, Paul Ralphs, Roger Jones) U19 boys, Orleton Park, Wellington (Alison Lowe, Julie Wakeley, Gillian Hartley, Delyth Jones) U16 girls, Idsall, Shifnal (Martin Tuft, Jamie Rea, Mark Perkins, Simon Dyson) U13 boys, and Market Drayton Junior (Shaun Groom, David Williams, Adrian Bloore, Graham Walwyn) U11 boys, have won through to the Regional Schools Team finals as a result of good performances in the Area competition at Wolverhampton. Good luck to them — let's hope someone can emulate the feat of Meole Brace U16 boys two years ago in winning a National title.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

UP WITH THE LEADERS

Cams. Juniors kept up with the leaders in the Midland Division of the County Championships when they beat Hertfordshire 6-4 at Harpenden. The win was a fine team effort with every player scoring. Andy Withers beat both Brownlow and Ogle and Robert Swift beat Brownlow but lost to Ogle. Garry Jordan also chipped in with a singles victory and young Tracey Fisher had a dream debut by winning her singles match and then with Jane Hunter captured the Girls' doubles. This was a very important victory and bodes well for future matches.

Cams. Seniors second team lost 3-7 to Herts. II and so lost their first match of the season. Brian Richardson beat Terry Pleasance and Valerie Scripps defeated Janet Rogers in this encounter. In the Cams. League Soham are still continuing on their winning way and it looks as if they are again in line for the Championship which has become almost commonplace with them. In Div. 2 there are several teams who are in line for promotion honours and competition is most intense with all teams supplying hard encounters with the others — a most interesting state of affairs! Torchbearers are the current leaders but were recently held to a draw by Wesley who have been creeping up the table. Impington I, Swavesey I and Haverhill I are also in contention.

In the S.E.M. League Cambridge recently defeated North Herts. 6-4 and Wisbech defeated Northampton 8-2 and then drew with Bradford 5-5. Ely kept up the good work by defeating North Herts. 9-1 and so, with Wisbech, are leading the Men's Division with something to spare.

In the Junior Division of the S.E.M. League, Cambridge beat Northampton 6-4 but lost to North Herts and Peterborough 2-8 and 3-7 respectively. This, however, is an improvement and no doubt we shall see a further improvement in the future.

In the Carter Cup Cambridge lost 1-5 to Milton Keynes but the games were very close and the majority could have gone either way. In the Bromfield Trophy Cambridge defeated March 7-2 with Mandy Judd and Rachel Norris giving a good account of themselves. In the Kent Junior "under-13" Open Championships, Mandy Judd and Ruth Hunter reached the final of the Girls' doubles and in the Lincoln "2-Star" (Junior) the same two players reached the semi-final before going out to the Bellinger sisters — a very commendable performance in both cases.

In the Cams. Knock-Out Handicap Trophy, the fourth round has now been reached with five 1st Division teams still in the competition. Soham I have clashed with St. Ives so can almost be assured of reaching the quarter-finals but Guildhall who have been drawn against South Cams. Rural District Council have a much harder task and will find the going maybe too much for them.

WISBECH LEAGUE

With half of the season completed, Paliminos still hang on to the first spot in Div. I with Tydd in close contention. Robert Swift ended Geoff Davies's unbeaten run in this division by beating him in a recent match. King's Lynn Sports and Social Club lead Div. II with White Hart and Institute "B" second and third respectively.

The Wisbech "Closed" will be held at Hudsons Sports Centre on Sunday, Feb. 11, and a very high entry is expected. The Men's Singles makes interesting reading with players like Geoff Davies, Chris Brewer, Brian Richardson, Robert Swift and Steve Barrett all in search of the coveted Trophy. In the Women's Singles, the holder, Jane Hunter, must be the hot favourite to retain her title but Anthea Rudd, who sometimes is very under-rated will have more than an outside chance of gaining the trophy. The Boys' Singles will almost certainly be retained by Bob Swift, but youngsters Gary Jordan, Paul Stacey and James Frost will be wanting to make a great impact. Altogether a great tournament is expected.

Urgent Notice —

The Secretary for the "Fenland" is now Mr. J. McGowan, 7 Stirling Close, Downham Market, Norfolk. He takes the place of Mr. P. Jackson.

PROFILE — ALBERT JACKSON

I have known Albert Jackson for some 25 years, ever since he was a Junior. During those 25 years he has succeeded in attaining a high standard of table tennis with his nagging defence, and has represented Cambridge on a number of occasions in both a Junior and Senior capacity. He won the South East Midlands League Singles title when it was first introduced and now in his 41st year he still plays a very good game and recently reached the final of the "Ely League" Veterans' Singles before losing to John Ashman. Nobody can be safe when playing Albert and his "honest-to-goodness" approach to the game endears him to everybody!

ELY and DISTRICT CLOSED

The Finals of the Ely League Tournament were held on Jan. 4 and some exciting matches were witnessed. In the Men's Singles Keith Richardson beat Stuart Palmer after Palmer took the first game closely but then struggling manfully to keep in the match with Keith all out to win back his title. Young Palmer played very well and although losing the next three, surely his must be a name on the Shield before long. In the Women's Singles Joanne Palmer beat Kath Hubbard in a set that never lived up to its potential with both girls obviously nervous. Joanne just deserved to win but neither girl could be pleased with their form in this encounter.

Brian and Keith Richardson beat Brian Jones and Anthony Booth in the Men's Doubles but young Booth proved that he will be a force in the Junior sphere in the not too distant future. John Ashman beat Albert Jackson in the Veterans' Final. This was a final between two previous holders and John's attack was always in command over Albert's defence. John has now won this title for the past three years.

Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Richardson (Soham) bt B. Richardson (Soham) 17, 15;

S. Palmer (Lakenheath) bt M. Palmer (Lakenheath) 17, 13.

Final:

Richardson bt Palmer -19, 8, 17, 16.

Women's Singles Final:

J. Palmer (Soham) bt K. Hubbard (BMC) 17, 19.

Men's Doubles Final:

Richardson/Richardson bt B. Jones (Soham)/A. Booth (Newmarket) 14, 10.

Mixed Doubles Final:

B. Richardson/Hubbard bt K. Richardson/P. Everitt (Soham) 12, -17, 16.

Veteran Singles Final:

J. Ashman (Soham) bt A. Jackson (Impington) 17, 14.

Women's Doubles Final:

Everitt/S. Williams (Mepal) bt Palmer/C. Judd (Impington).

Handicap Singles Final:

R. Hammond (Soham Baptists) (+20) bt

P. Brotherton (Mepal) (+10).

Men's Plate Final:

C. Woollard (Lakenheath) bt Ashman.

the mixed where Karen was completely out of touch and our pair were well beaten in a set they really should have won.

The Reading League have appointed a sub-committee to investigate the possibility of building a table tennis centre. Reading is undoubtedly the centre for the game in Berkshire and provided everyone can pull together the league feel that they can provide facilities of which the whole of Berkshire can take a pride. Numerous schemes and ideas have been formulated by many people over many years but the present Reading League committee are determined that the fresh impetus given to the project should not be allowed to die.

Berkshire have already made their intentions quite clear in respect of the experiments being conducted at present in holding county matches at a central venue on given weekends. The recent decision to re-arrange the Junior Premier weekend seems to have lent added force to our argument as certain players in the Maidenhead League were put in an invidious position. The junior county matches clash with that league's own Championships and as no fewer than 6 out of the top 7 of our top junior boys come from that league they have been placed in an unenviable situation. Maidenhead have a progressive set up, and have completed negotiations for their own championships to be sponsored by the South of England Building Society. The choice facing our top juniors was therefore a difficult one, especially for David Gloster, who as reigning Maidenhead Men's Singles Champion, would have been No. 1 seed. It is to his credit that he has put the County and the furtherance of his own table tennis career first, but regrettably what is the County's gain is Maidenhead's loss. The situation is most unfair on Maidenhead, their players and supporters, who will be deprived of their star player, as well as the sponsors who have so generously provided the financial backing for the event. Perhaps the County Championships Committee will re-think the matter through for next season, for the benefit of all our players.

The race for local honours is hotting up. Omega 'A' look to be set for the championship of the Reading League. The signing of ex-Surrey star Barry Hill has added considerably to the strength of Woodland 'A' and although they have provided the challenge at the top, it may not be enough to deprive Omega of the title. In the Bracknell League Wokingham 'A' and Woodley 'A' contest top position closely followed by Omega 'A'. The Bracknell-represented side put up a tremendous fight in the Willmott Cup before going down to High Wycombe 4-5. David Gilham, Graham Outrim and Steve Hodder only just failed to clinch victory. Better luck for Reading who saw off Oxford 6-0 and then disposed of St. Albans by 5-3. The last match was a personal triumph for County No. 1 Wellman who won his three sets, including a 27-25 in the third game win over Firoz Nilam. Simon Heaps won the other two sets. Reading meet either Newbury or Staines next and with both local and personal rivalries at stake this match promises to be something special.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Brian Halliday

HIGHEST YET

Congratulations to Karen Witt on her England No. 2 ranking, the highest position yet attained by a Berkshire player, and on her selection to represent her country in the Worlds in Korea. Karen's dramatic breakthrough, together with the improvement shown by Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith, who have also made significant progress in the rankings, reflects great credit on their own dedication and application as well as the advice and coaching provided by Peter Charters.

The County's poor record in the Premier Division continued at Bracknell recently with yet another 5-4 defeat, this time to Surrey. Berkshire fought back well from a 1-4 deficit to level at 4-4 only for Dave Wellman, who played some very sharp table tennis and was quite definitely man of the match, to crush Dave Barr in two-straight games. Andy Wellman had another of his wins over Max Crimmins 27-25 in the third to give local fans something to cheer. Failure to win the two doubles cost Berkshire victory especially in

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Malcolm Allsop

MARATHON SESSION

An improved entry for the Derbyshire Closed Championships resulted in a packed day's play, and a marathon finale as the Finals were evenly contested.

The Men's Singles champion has failed to retain his Crown for many seasons, and this season was no exception — although the circumstances were different. Martin Kinsella did not enter as he felt he had nothing to prove in Derbyshire, whilst concentrating upon his Irish exploits. This left the remaining players to contest the title and reputations were left in tatters as shocks abounded.

Ivor Warner took on the position of No. 1 seed, and the 1976 Champion lasted until the 3rd round before going down to Robert Allen.

The No. 2 seed David Raynor played well to reach the final for the second consecutive season, but No. 3 seed Neil Marples went out to Philip Vickers who was fighting hard to regain his place in the County teams.

Maurice Billington was the favourite of many to regain the title he won in 1975, and looked impressive especially in a win over Doug Foulds, but bowed out in the semi-final to Raynor by 16, -16, -11.

The 1977 Champion David Yallop was another strong contender yet not feeling very well on the day, and became a victim of his brother Stephen at 18, -25, -20 in a fiercely fought set where family reputation was at stake.

Stephen reached the semi-final, only to be outplayed by his clubmate Philip Vickers 14, 14, to make the final Chesterfield versus Derby.

Raynor started impressively dominating with his backhand to win the first game; Philip changed the point of attack with the opening hit wide of Raynor's forehand, and then moving the ball using all the table to take the second game; David put the pressure right on at the start of the third game to lead 9-5, and just when the fight seemed settled he relaxed slightly as Philip started his recovery. The battle on the table was also being contested between the vocal supporters of both players, and Philip fought his way back to level at 17-17 and go into a 20-17 lead, taking the title for the first time, -16, 14, 18.

Raynor will be hoping that next season it will be third time lucky, but there cannot possibly be more seeding upsets next time, or can there? Possibly 16 seeds are too many when there are so many players of equal ability about.

In contrast the Women's Singles went in accordance with the seedings, the top four reaching the semi-finals and top-seeded Linda Holmes just getting the title from No. 2 seed Jackie Billington -8, 13, 20 in a long drawn out battle of control and patience.

In the Men's Doubles, the No. 1 seeds Vickers and David Yallop exited -13, -19 at the hands of former Champions John Wallhead and Tony Hunt, who were the victims of 4th seeded Billington and Mick Askham. The No. 3 seeds Neil Marples and Warner won their semi-final 21, -18, 16 against the No. 2 seeds Allen and Raynor.

This was Billington/Askham's fifth men's doubles final appearance and for the fifth time they had to be content with runners-up spot as the younger pair combined to win 15, 12.

The women once again showed more consistency for the Seedings Committee when the top 4 pairs reached the semi-finals, but the final proved a success for the more-experienced No. 2 seeded combination of Jackie Billington and Alyson Marples in beating the top-seeds in a well contested final -17, 13, 20 despite allowing a big lead in the opening game to be countered by Linda Holmes and Marilyn Deakin.

The Mixed proved a family affair with No. 2 seeds Jackie and Maurice Billington getting the better of the holders Neil, and sister Alyson, Marples -18, 18, 14.

Hunt retained his title in the Veterans' Singles with a 16, -17, 18 win over Derrick Marples in a repeat of last season's final; although this did not look possible when Derrick stopped suddenly in his semi-final with Dave Stills and repairs had to be made to his bionic leg!

In the Boys' Singles, No. 2 seed Stephen Young made his exit in the 1st round to A. Cooke, who then lost in the next round to I. Burton. Robert Albutt beat Paul Wilson in the semis, and then proved too strong for Jens Andersen 6, 21 despite relaxing and faltering in the later stages.

G.S.: K. Payne bt D. Padley 14, 13.
C.B.S.: A. Cooke bt P. Druce 14, 13.
C.G.S.: A. Mason bt D. Padley -18, 9, 11.

The Eastwood and District League has an increase of 7 teams in the senior section, and a new junior division of 14 teams.

In Div. 1, Cresswell Supermarkets "A" and Hallam "A" are again battling for top position. New teams, Aldercar Y.C. and Eastwood Comets lead Div. 2. New team Horsley Woodhouse Y.C. lead Birnam Sports "B" in Div. 3, with Bennerley "A" and St. Andrews leading the Junior division.

S.E. MIDLANDS NOTES

by Leslie Constable

Ely still lead the Men's Division in the S.E.M. League and recently had a 9-1 victory over North

Herts. Wisbech are level with them on points but Ely have a game in hand despite Wisbech's 8-2 victory over Northampton. In the Junior Div. 1 Kettering are well in the lead despite a 6-4 defeat by March who could spring a surprise in the Division. In the Ladies' Division Northampton are top but are closely followed by Wellingborough who look the likely winners as they have a game in hand and are only two points behind. In the Veterans' Division Cambridge are still in the lead and had a recent 6-4 victory over North Herts who are the current runners-up. In the Junior Girls' Division St. Neots lead from March from the only four teams in the Division.

The new Secretary for Northampton in Men's Div. III is:- Mr. J. Horne, 29 West Oval, King's Heath, Northampton (Tel. 54369).

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

CADET RANKINGS

The first Cadet boys' and girls' ranking lists of the season were recently issued, and these are:-

Boys:

1. N. McMaster, 2. M. Schapira, 3. N. Jeffreys, 4. M. Patterson, 5. J. Coorsh, 6. G. Watson, 7. N. Cameron, 8. G. Parker, 9. P. Morton, 10. P. Harrison, 11. D. Clark, 12. A. T. Drapkin.

Girls:

1. C. Burke, 2. S. Yeung, 3. C. Mouzon, 4. D. Wilkinson, 5. K. Wilkinson, 6. H. Pattison, 7. J. Hindmarsh, 8. K. Austin, 9. D. Wright, 10. J. Drapkin, 11. B. Mann, 12. D. Campbell, 13. S. Shukla.

The junior boys' ranking list has been substantially extended to include a Group "A" ranking list in order of merit, and Max Johnson and Trevor Tinlin (previously ranked at No. 14 and 16 respectively) occupy the first two places. They are followed by: D. Graham, D. Maugham, D. Brown, K. Robson, D. McAdam, D. Hastie, K. McAllister, A. Ramage, M. Patterson, N. Hedley, T. Esplin, G. Watson and C. Scott, thus increasing the number of ranked junior boys to 31.

N. Jeffreys, M. Aitchison and N. Ringrose are newcomers to the list at Nos. 12, 13 and 15 respectively; while in the junior girls' list, there are also three new additions in H. Caldrow (No. 7), P. Dalglish (No. 10) and T. Jameson (No. 11).

The men's ranking list has been increased from 12 to 16 players, and names not previously included are Arnold Warents (No. 9); Martin Young (No. 13), Bob Dodds (No. 14) and top junior John Burke (No. 16). The Group "A" list (alphabetical order) is:- Bob Appleby, John Donnelly, Dave Lucas, Dave McAllister, Steve Robinson, Ronnie Scott and Henderson Yeung. In the women's list, Barbara Kearney, who has returned to this country from Australia for an extended holiday, regains her old No. 1 position, while an interesting addition at No. 6 is Brenda Potts (nee Murtaugh), the former Durham County player, Julie Roberts is the only other newcomer, and she is included at No. 11.

The January County matches resulted in defeats for all three teams, but there were some individual successes which are worth mentioning. The first team had scant reward for a stirring performance against Cleveland at Byker Community Centre, and although 2-8 was the final result, they might well have drawn 5-5. Frank Mitchinson beat Tony Martin, and Malcolm McMaster was successful against Malcolm Corking, but Andrew Clark (unusually) had a blank day, losing to both Corking and Keith Paxton at 18 in the third. Barbara Kearney, playing in her first match since her temporary return from Australia, took England-ranked Angela Tierney all the way before finally succumbing at 20 in the third.

The second team travelled to Hyde for the match away to Cheshire III, but after leading 2-0 with wins by Peter Whiteman over Ron Weatherby and Fred Short over Ross McFarlane, eventually lost 3-7. The only other win was in the women's singles, where Judy Davies scored an extremely hard-fought win (three 19's) over Ann Hepple in only her second county match.

The Juniors were hosts to the Cleveland II Junior team at Byker on the following day (Sunday), and although the boys had an unusually lean

time of it — Neil McMaster was the only one to win a singles, easily beating D. Polasek — Christine Burke emerged undefeated, winning her singles and the girls' doubles with Susan Norris to make the final score 3-7.

The Carter Cup match against Ormesby immediately followed this fixture, and the Northumberland side came very near to achieving what would have been the first victory over an Ormesby team for many years. With John Burke playing magnificently to win his three sets, including a victory over England Group "A" — ranked David Hughes and also S. Brunskill (to whom he had lost earlier in the Junior County match), the home side held a 4-3 lead at one stage.

However, Ormesby's Paul Hindle reduced the arrears by edging out Neil McMaster 22 in the third, and then Brunskill finished it off by convincingly beating Henderson Yeung.

Results (Northumberland names first):-

Northumberland League 4 Ormesby League 5

- J. Burke bt D. Hughes 18, 21;
bt P. Hindle -12, 13, 17;
bt S. Brunskill -17, 15, 19.
H. Yeung lost to Hughes -14, -9;
bt Hindle 11, -16, 19;
lost to Brunskill -10, -11.
N. McMaster lost to Hughes -17, -10;
lost to Hindle 22, -18, -22;
lost to Brunskill -15, -19.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order to Sally Midgley on her senior international debut at the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton and to Alan Fletcher on his selection for the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh. Alan's selection for England at senior level comes 10 years after his first junior international appearance. But it is surprising that no place could be found for Melody Ludi in either the World or Commonwealth Championships squads.

The fortunes of Yorkshire leagues in the National League Championships have been as follows:-

Wilmott Cup

- Round 1:
North Yorkshire 1 Blackpool 5
Huddersfield 1 Bradford 5
Bury 1 Harrogate 5
Leeds 2 Preston 5

- Round 2:
Harrogate 1 Stockport 8
Bradford w.o. Shrewsbury
Hull w.o. Peterborough
In Round 3, Bradford are at home to Stockport and Hull away to Mansfield or Wyberton.

Rose Bowl

- Round 1:
Bradford w.o. Harrogate

- Round 2:
Ormesby 5 Hull 1
Blackpool 2 Bradford 5
Manchester w.o. Leeds
In Round 3, Bradford are at home to Stockport.

Carter Cup

- Round 1:
Huddersfield 4 Harrogate 5
Hull 3 Liverpool 5
Manchester 5 Leeds 4
Stockport 0 Bradford 6

- Round 2:
Shrewsbury 5 Harrogate 2
Bradford 7 Farnworth 2
In Round 3, Bradford are away to Manchester.

Bromfield Trophy

With Yorkshire teams having byes in the first and second rounds, Round 3 sees Hull at home versus Leeds.

It's rather surprising to see that there were no entries in any of the competitions from Sheffield or Barnsley.

At the beginning of January, the leading positions in the Yorkshire League were as follows:-

| Division One | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Doncaster I | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 29 | 21 | 6 |
| Sheffield I | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 7 | 6 |
| Bradford I | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 12 | 5 |

| Division Two | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Barnsley I | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 36 | 14 | 8 |
| York III | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 11 | 8 |
| York II | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 19 | 7 |
| Division Three | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
| Bradford IV | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 10 | 6 |
| Castleford and P. I | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 16 | 6 |
| Wakefield I | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 19 | 11 | 5 |
| Division Four | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
| Rotherham II | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 10 | 10 |
| Barnsley III | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 5 | 8 |
| Wakefield II | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 17 | 8 |
| Division Five | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
| Harrogate IV | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 10 | 6 |
| Sheffield III | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 7 | 5 |
| Northallerton | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 17 | 6 |
| Women's Division | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
| Bradford | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 2 | 8 |
| Hull I | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 4 | 8 |
| Hull II | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 11 | 6 |
| Veterans' Division | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
| Barnsley I | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 38 | 12 | 9 |
| Halifax | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 13 | 6 |
| Wharfedale and A. | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 27 | 23 | 6 |
| Junior Division One | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
| Barnsley I | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 21 | 10 |
| Sheffield I | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 37 | 17 | 8 |
| Hull I | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 17 | 8 |
| Junior Division Two | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
| Huddersfield I | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 13 | 6 |
| York | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 7 | 6 |
| Wakefield II | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 10 | 4 |
| Junior Division Two | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
| Doncaster II | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 3 | 6 |
| Dewsbury I | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 17 | 4 |
| Harrogate II | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 17 | 4 |

Because of business commitments, County Treasurer Mike Jarvis has handed over the books for the remainder of the season to Chairman Harry Flinton, and Wakefield's Sheila Atkinson has filled the vacancy in the office of Coaching Secretary.

A date for your diaries — the county dinner dance will be held on Friday, 18th May, 1979, at the Aire Leisure Centre, Horsforth, Leeds, at 7.15 p.m. for 7.45 p.m. Tickets will cost £4.50 each.

We are pleased to welcome back into county affiliation the Ryedale League, covering a rural area of North Yorkshire, based centrally on Malton and Pickering, but extending from Ampleforth and Hushwaite in the west to Scarborough and Filey in the east, a distance of no less than 36 miles. The name of North Yorkshire, formerly that of the Ormesby League in the days of their Yorkshire affiliation, has been revived as both a League and a Club, by County Tournaments Secretary Richard Scruton, to promote the game in this part of the county. However, the idea is still very much in its infancy and the main activity of the new league has been to run the North Yorkshire 2-Star Open at Bingley.

Finally, we regret to report the death in December of a Life Member of the Y.T.T.A., Mr. F. A. Amies, of Woking, Surrey. Mr. Amies formerly came from Pontefract and made one pre-war county appearance for Yorkshire. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

KENT NOTES

by Eileen Koutikoff

HERE WE GO AGAIN!!

As it is some time since anything has appeared in "Table Tennis News" on Kent Table Tennis, it's a little difficult to know where to begin. The Kent first team's news seems a good place to start.

Kent's first team are still in Div. 2 South but with 2 wins behind them the last being a 10-0 win away to Dorset, justifies a certain amount of optimism in looking forward to this being our last season in the second division.

The standard of players has certainly improved considerably in the past few years and the first team must be described as very strong by any standards. With John Dabin, the England No. 9, leading the squad of Joey Kennedy — a good prospect for a future England ranking — and Clive Morris, the team has class, youth, skill, experience and continuity.

The women's section has been greatly strengthened by the return of Betty Bird from Australia and the 'In Form' Elaine Bolton who has recently been ranked England Junior No. 9.

Andy Mitchell, the Kent No. 5, has already been called in for 1 match and had no trouble in winning both his sets — so we have no worries in depth.

I could (and probably will in the future), enlarge on Dabin's brilliance, Kennedy's potential, Betty Bird's experience or Elaine Bolton's sizzling form, but in my opinion the player who deserves a special mention is Clive Morris.

It probably hasn't occurred to many people, with the exception of his team-mates, just how much Clive has contributed to Kent successes and might surprise a few to know that Clive has held his first team place for over 8 years! It is a fact that there is not a more consistent player in the County. Including his early appearances for the County 2nd team Clive has represented his County about 100 times.

In an article I wrote about 5 years ago I summarised my opinion of him by saying "Clive can play brilliantly or play well but he never plays badly". That 5-year-old comment still holds true today.

Having spoken to most of the team the emphasis on team spirit kept cropping up time and time again. Our 32-year-old veteran Clive Morris said "I have never known the team spirit to be so good" and gave a great deal of credit for this to the skipper John Dabin for being so instrumental in achieving such a happy and enthusiastic team. Anybody who goes along to see any of the home matches, I think I can safely promise, will not be disappointed.

There are a few top players who are noticeably missing from the scene. Ian Kenyon who has turned professional and is so far having a successful season in Holland. Mick Ellis who has retired, through pressure of work, had to decide between T.T. and Golf, that Tony Jacklin has a lot to answer for! However, Mick hopes to return to local league table tennis and hopes to enter internal tournaments soon. Dennis Whittaker has been out with a back injury for a couple of seasons, but I am glad to report he has now fully recovered and plans to start playing again next season. Carol Payne and Janet Dunkin have the nicest reason for absence, they are both having babies. Then of course there's my old friend (I use the term loosely) Ken ("Mr. Top Spin") Baker or "Mr. Bottom Flat" as he is now known. Well in Ken's own words "Rumours of my death have been greatly exaggerated" even Ken is threatening to pick up a bat again . . . Take note Veteran selectors.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

TRIPLE SUCCESS

Triple success for all of Cumbria's entries in the National League competitions when in the last round of matches Carlisle and the two Barrow sides won their respective Wilmott Cup, Carter Cup and Bromfield Trophy matches.

The inclusion of former England-ranked Tony Clayton in the Carlisle team probably took their Ormesby opponents by surprise and three wins for him, plus two good wins for David Kirkpatrick over Tony Martin and David Hughes, were enough to clinch victory. Ian Wallace and Paul Hindle were the third members of the respective Carlisle and Ormesby teams.

Both of the Barrow teams faced Sunderland opposition and both took comfortable victories with the Carter Cup side, Diccon Gray, Ian Reed and Andrew Pachul, winning 8-1 and the Bromfield Trophy side, Gail Smith, Janet Sephton and Bella Gray, winning 9-0. The next round matches for the three sides are Sunderland, Lancaster and Morecambe and Ormesby respectively.

E.S.T.T.A. TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The E.S.T.T.A. Area Finals for Area 1 played at Bishop Auckland on Jan. 13 saw both Millom School and Longlands Boys' School, Kendal get two teams through to the Regional Finals to be played at Leeds on Feb. 18.

Millom's two are the U-19 Boys' and Girls' teams which are basically last year's U-16 winning sides and both therefore have a wealth of experience behind them, with most of the players having played in the school championships since their U-13 days. The boys' team, the same as Barrow's Carter Cup side plus David Round, beat Newcastle Royal Grammar 6-2 and Gilesgate (Durham) 8-0, with Reed and Round going unbeaten. The girls' team, the same as the Bromfield Trophy side plus Pam Bickerdike, had two comfortable 8-0 wins over Heaton Grammar (Newcastle) and Framwellgate Moor (Durham).

Longlands Boys' School continue their rise to prominence in schools table tennis and their two teams through are the U-16 Boys and U-13 Boys. The U-16 Boys, victors over Millom School in the earlier area qualifying rounds, David Archer, Steven Dixon, Andrew Dawson and Peter Moore, had two comfortable wins over St. Leonards (Durham) and Slatyford (Newcastle) with scores of 8-0 and 7-1. The U-13 Boys, Shaun Ellison, Lee Miller, Paul Gosling and Stuart Halliwell, had equally comfortable wins over Ryhope (Tyne and Wear) and King James (Bishop Auckland) with similar 8-0 and 7-1 scorelines.

INTER-LEAGUE

Barrow fielded one of their strongest sides against Millom and consequently earned their second win of the season with a comfortable 10-2 success. Alan Manson, Bill Robinson and Stan Halesworth won three singles each for Barrow plus a doubles for Manson and Robinson which confined the Millom successes to a women's singles win for Carol Tyson over Ruth Waring and a mixed win for Carol and Derek Brown over Ruth and Halesworth. The rest of the Millom team were not disgraced however and Brown, John Taylor and Keith Sheldon all played well to take Manson to a decider.

EDDIE O'HARA

Congratulations to Eddie O'Hara on becoming a 2-Star Coach. Eddie passed his "exam" at York recently and I am sure that anyone who knows him will feel it a well deserved honour. He is always busy on the coaching front and is always willing to give help and advice over the wide range of table tennis topics.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Iris Moss

GRATIFIED

Having never been on a Ranking Committee, it always intrigues me how differently the merits of players are viewed. The E.T.T.A. Senior Ranking List was issued later than that compiled by the Middlesex selectors and contains 3 of our first 4 men (they could not include the fourth as he is a "foreigner") but in a completely different order. Similarly the women's list includes our No. 1 and No. 3 but not our No. 2. Nevertheless we are gratified to see Colin Wilson, Graham Sandley and Helen Williams included in the E.T.T.A. Senior Ranking List for the first time with Colin included in the Commonwealth Championships Squad and send them our congratulations.

Our Umpires' Secretary, Jack Randall, has held some "chat" sessions with prospective umpires, as a result of which we have had a nice influx of new County umpires, and have a number waiting to complete their practical tests. The main hold-up seems to be in trying to arrange expedite matches, but we are hoping to arrange expedite "exhibitions" at our forthcoming Middlesex Closed Championships.

30th December did not seem to me to be an ideal date for County Championships matches with players (and officials) recovering from celebrating Christmas and/or preparing to bring in the New Year in style, but the weather decided to play its part and all the Middlesex matches due to be played had to be called off. I should imagine this was the case throughout the country. There is not much any Calendar Committee can do when the famous English climate decides to take a hand.

The Inter-League Competitions are now practically half finished. Last year's winners of the Victor Barna Competition (North Middlesex I), the Norman Pegg Competition (also North Middlesex) and the Ted Connell (Veterans) Competition (South West Middlesex) are still unbeaten but the North

Middlesex I team in the D.W. Birmingham (Junior) Competition surprisingly lost 1-8 to Wembley II. Whatever the final outcome of this latter competition this was a very good result for the young Wembley second string.

I should like to point out that the Middlesex Junior Authorised which is due to take place on 3rd March as the E.T.T.A. Junior Ranking Tournament — Southern Venue — is by invitation only. So if you have not been invited there is no point in asking for entry forms.

AVON NOTES

by Robert Oldfield

NO IMPROVEMENT

It is with great regret that I am unable to report an improvement in the news regarding our No. 1, Chris Sewell, struck down since November by severe sinus trouble, Chris has suffered a complete curtailment of his playing activities from league to national level. This, at a time when he had reached his highest-ever position of No. 7 in the England rankings, was bad luck in the extreme and it is only hoped that the necessary operation can be speedily and successfully effected.

However, league teammate, Martyn Smith, Avon's No. 2 provided some cheer for the New Year with his first ever national ranking, coming in at No. 15 in the Junior list. Should he show the rapid improvement of the last two years in the future he will be a very fine player indeed.

Before I mention the 'local derby' match that was played on Jan. 14 I feel that an apology is in order to Somerset and particularly to their captain Brian Reeves. Playing on a slippery floor against Martyn Smith, Brian came in for a drop shot to knock himself out on the table and end up in hospital with concussion and two black eyes. The incident marred what had been a very hard fought match despite the 2-straight score line — mostly in Somerset's favour. I might add, Somerset raced to a 5-0 lead before Avon got into the mach.

The visitors then won the second string women's singles to clinch the two points before the ill fated men's singles when the match was abandoned with an agreed scoreline of 8-2. It illustrates, once again, the need for a continual upgrading of table tennis venues.

Meanwhile an interesting development in the Bath League has been brought to my attention. Approaching the month of the Closed Championships (February). Ian Lindsay, a Bath University player, set his mind to the problem of accurate seeding on the basis of league results, realising the deficiencies of relying purely on simple averages. He compiled an experimental computer programme to analyse all of the season's results and has now sold the scheme to the Bath League committee for this year's tournament. Congratulations to both Ian and the Bath League for a brave and progressive move.

Finally, a 'thank you' to the Sports Council for the County's allocation of money for administrative purposes. Part of it bought a 'new' typewriter which has already been put to good effect in the production of the first County Newsletter, which, it is hoped, will become regular reading for the table tennis fraternity of this area. Any articles, comments, etc., are welcome to myself or any other member of the Avon Committee.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

FIRST DECADE

Congratulations to the Norwich League magazine on reaching its first decade: "Monthly Mardle" is now an established part of the local Table Tennis scene. As everyone in Norfolk knows, "Mardle" means "a good gossip", and alternating editors Ken Edwards and Vic Bennett both give us plenty to talk about.

Norwich League has become a very big one these days, and consists of 174 teams, graded into a Premier and twelve other divisions, each with their Divisional Secretary. Teams in Divs. 1 to 12 consist of four players with an optional fifth, and

play each other once at home and once away. The Premier, however, play three in a team and meet each other three times on a home and away basis, the committee to decide the venue of the third match.

It comes as something of a bombshell that Len Miller, who has seen the league almost double in size since he succeeded Harold Betts as Hon. Secretary in 1970, announces in the present issue that business commitments which take him from home a great deal mean that he will not be seeking re-election at the next A.G.M. He hopes, however, to remain on the committee as he is still very much involved with the proposed Table Tennis Centre, which before he took over as League Secretary was his first aim.

Will Len's successor be one of the Divisional Secretaries? These are:-

Premier: Dick Morley, 1: Ken Edwards, 2: Derek Johnson, 3: Vernon Howlett, 4: Ernie Dunnell, 5: Les Branson, 6: Eric Thornton, 7: Ray Hogg, 8: Stan Munn, 9: David Brown, 10: Dennis Calver, 11: Don Arnold and 12: Mrs. Margaret Calver.

Moreover, there are others on the committee of great experience.

Norwich Juniors have reached the zone final of the Carter Cup once again, Martyn Stevenson beating R. Jermyn in the ninth set to give them a 5-4 win over North Herts. Others in the Norwich side were Martyn's twin, Richard, who also won two, and Mark Cook, who beat A. Cracknell.

Norwich Seniors retained their unbeaten record in the East Anglian league, Div. 1, when they defeated Lowestoft 7-3.

Norfolk selectors have published a revised senior ranking list for January, which shows some switching of places at the top of the Men's list. Trevor Bunn rises to No. 6, after a fine victory against John Kitchener. The list now reads:-

1. D. Bennett, 2. M. Musson, 3. R. Thornton, 4. C. Bensley, 5. S. Howlett, 6. T. Bunn, 7. M. Broughton, 8. J. Turner, 9. D. Smith, 10. P. Durrant, 11. P. Tye, 12. R. Mitcham, 13. D. Hardy, 14. A. Cooper and 15. N. Graver.

Women:-

1. W. Hogg, 2. J. Brown, 3. M. Hales, 4. J. Dixon, 5. S. Allen, 6. R. Hogg, 7. S. Hazel, 8. P. Ribbans, 9. G. Pearson, 10. H. Pearce, 11. S. Browne, 12. L. Nelson, 13. S. Hayes, 14. L. Kowalski and 15. J. Moore.

From the above lists, I am trying to estimate the winners of the Norfolk Closed at King's Lynn Corn Exchange, which it would have been very much more convenient to have reported this month, but which unfortunately is just beyond my deadline.

Then, of course, there are the King's Lynn Closed Championships the following day. With these two events and four County Championship matches to come, my March notes are now almost written!

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

UNLUCKY 13 FOR ROGER!

At last, Roger Chandler's long run as Sussex table tennis champion has been broken. At Brighton Corn Exchange on Jan. 14, after play had been in progress 14 hours, in the LOMBARD Sussex championships, the spell was finally broken by the 20-year-old Sussex University student Andy Wellman, who, as most readers will know, plays for Berkshire in the Premier Division of the County Championships.

So, Sussex supporters are now saying, when do we fall in line with most other counties and refuse to accept entries from people playing for other counties? But that's a story for another day.

Wellman, a young man with fine table manners, played a canny match with four edge balls in the final game to win 17, -9, 17 against Chandler.

Carol Hewett has done it at last! After ten years of trying the former Derbyshire girl captured the Sussex title, giving the former champion Diane Gard such a hard time with the soft pimples. Mrs. Griggs was completely at sea and was unable to get her attacking armoury together and was therefore crushed 11, 10.

Nothing against the "grass", it looks like a case of if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, meanwhile those that are holding back are losing out.

For the first time in its history the tournament was sponsored. Lombard North Central Ltd., broke new ground for them with over £300 prize money, hence the huge entry and the late finish, just after midnight.

The Sussex and England juniors Graham Gillett and Stephen Moore made their mark. Gillett went through to the semi-finals and lost in three to Chandler, whilst Moore, recent winner in the Wilmott over Stuart Gibbs, lost to the wily Keith Horton, who reached his first semi-final in 16 years.

The Final Results:-

M.S.: A. Wellman bt R. Chandler 17, -9, 17.
W.S.: C. Hewett bt D. Griggs 11, 10.
M.D.: J. Proffitt/Wellman bt Chandler/J. Clarke -19, 14, 16.
W.D.: L. Budd/J. Reading bt Hewett/C. Randall 14, 18.
X.D.: P. Smith/Budd bt K. Horton/H. O'Brien 13, 12.
V.S.: E. Emezc bt R. Bradstreet 14, 16.
I.M.S.: S. Moore bt A. Moore 9, 8.
C.M.S.: R. Williams bt A. Moore 9, 10, 13.
C.W.S.: T. Moore bt P. Steel 10, 11.
I.W.S.: J. Williams bt O'Brien -16, 16, 11.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

REVENGE WIN

The County was delighted with the revenge win against Berkshire recently, in view of last year's fixture when Surrey missed their chance of clinching the County Championship. The continually reliable David Welsman was again the star, and it was his win with Jayne Mitchell which probably gave the away team the edge. 'Flu affected the juniors against a very good Sussex side who were worthy 8-1 winners, but honour goes to Kerry Merritt for the lone win, to Steve Woodgate for two close encounters, and to Delia Jenkins, who was a late substitute, on her debut.

John Garland, of the Thames Valley League, is angry on behalf of his League that the County Inter-league competition will not be run this season, and is anxious that all efforts are made to resurrect it for next season. He is, however, delighted that the entry for Thames Valley Handicap Cup is up from 36 last season to 60 this. Their Junior Tournament winners were:-
Under-17 Neville Miller bt Andrew Sexton
Under-15 Andrew Sexton bt Daniel Rosenberg
Under-13 Andrew Sexton bt Nicky Hoare
and the Hard Bat Trophy went to veteran Zenon Schramm over Frank Hams.

Guildford had an entry of over 130 in their Handicap Pairs and Singles, which was played on a group basis in the early rounds. This is a "fun" competition, at least that is the official view, and takes place over 2 days at Surrey University. The "Pairs" Trophy was captured by Rosemary Wilkinson and Ian Harris who triumphed by 1 point over Michael Cook and Manuel Sanchez, and Rosemary completed a great day when she took the Allison Trophy by outlasting Janet Guess in the final.

Guildford also has its Handicap Cup competition, which this year has a new Secretary in Peter Williamson, a talented fund raiser, and now rapidly gaining the experience of dealing with eloquent complaints about handicaps he is awarding. A result against expectations occurred when this correspondent and two similarly talented colleagues had a target of 178 points to overcome and failed by 204!

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. Moran

I TOLD YOU SO

Gossip columnists often say "Remember I told you first" and I had the same feeling on reading the latest National Junior Rankings Lists. Appearing for the first time, at No. 17, is Lester Bertie, County Junior No. 1, gaining just reward for the

vast improvement in his game this season — as noted in a previous Warwickshire report! Dougie Johnson moves down 1 place in the Senior List to No. 10 but remains our only ranked senior player. Of interest is the appearance of National Junior No. 1 Graham Sandley of Middlesex, at No. 13 in the Senior List. Graham of course was runner-up in the men's singles at last season's Coventry Open.

Warwickshire's hopes for the future were boosted by the results from the recent Lincolnshire 2-Star tournament. 11-years-old Michael Thomas of Rugby, a member of Coventry's powerful Phoenix Club, took the U-12 singles crown in a 3-game final after beating Richard Markion also of Phoenix, in the semis. Michael, son of Dave Thomas, Secretary of the Rugby and District T.T.A., thus became the first Coventry junior to win a national open title. In the U-14 group Colin Higgins of Birmingham progressed furthest beating David Earl of Coventry to reach the quarters.

In the U-17 event outright success eluded County No. 2 Junior, Richard Tanner of Birmingham. Richard was runner-up in a close-fought final having eliminated Adrian Pilgrim of Coventry at the quarter-final stage. Pilgrim and Andrew Woodcock reached the semis of the doubles event to round off a very successful tournament for our up-and-coming youngsters.

Staying with the Juniors the latest Cadet Ranking Lists have been announced as follows:-

Boys

1. C. Higgins, 2. S. Young (B'gham), 3. D. Earl, 4. D. Rudge (B'gham), 5. I. Shaw (Cov.), 6. J. Froom (B'gham), 7. C. Stevens (B'gham), 8. N. Tucker (Cov.), 9. S. Bertie (B'gham), (Yes, Lester has a brother on his way up as well), 10. C. Chambers (B'gham).

Girls

1. C. Hastings (Leam.), 2. F. Sutton (B'gham), 3. S. Copson (B'gham), 4. C. Vanes (B'gham), 5. J. Green (Leam.), 6. E. Martin (Cov.), 7. E. Reader (Leam.), 8. A. Florence (Leam.).

Now if only Leamington could produce some Junior Boys . . . ? Next month I hope to bring you news of the 3rd round of the County Championships and report whether the "A" team's new track suits continue to inspire the side.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Dimmock

JUNIORS RULE O.K.

The County Closed Tournament held in the spacious Vauxhall Motors Canteen was a tremendous success, both from the standard of play and organisation. Congratulations to all.

The men's final was contested by junior Stephen Barby and veteran Ron Chambers. This was played in a wonderful spirit with fortunes swinging both ways. Stephen with his fast top spin and Ron with his control over flight and position, from the use of his "Killer" rubber, kept the appreciative audience on its toes right to the end. With youth just winning out.

In the women's final it was again a battle of experience against youth. Barbara Hammond, the County No. 1, who has contested and won the final on numerous occasions, against up-and-coming Lisa Bellinger (11-years-old) who had beaten her older sister Jackie in the semi-final. Barbara with her wonderful control and tactical "know-how" took the first. Lisa the second often tremendous effort and patience for such a young person. In the third Lisa decided to go more for her shots and in the end it just paid off, making her the youngest ever women's champion — well done.

In the veterans' final David Frost after disposing of yours truly in the semi-final 13, -17, 18, had no problems with Ron Chambers in the final, his good defence coupled with a very consistent backhand "flick" did the trick.

In the junior competitions the standard of play was very high, illustrating just how far the county have moved. Thanks must go to our few coaches who have concentrated, in recent years, on introducing youngsters into the game and giving them a sound base to work from — including J.R. who is now residing further north.

Stephen Barby who was in excellent form

throughout the day defeated David Sharpe in the boys' final. But, David quickly bounced back to win the U-14 title.

Julie Dimmock won the girls' U-14 and U-17 titles in closely contested matches against Julie Miles, and they teamed up to win the U-14 doubles title.

County Closed Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

Barby bt Sharpe 18, -18, 16;
Chambers bt McConnell 17, -22, 19.

Final:

Barby bt Chambers -17, 25, 18.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

B. Hammond bt D. Campbell 12, 13;
L. Bellinger bt J. Bellinger 20, 18.

Final:

L. Bellinger bt B. Hammond -18, 21, 17.

Veterans' Singles Final:

D. Frost bt R. Chambers 18, 15.

Men's Doubles Final:

S. Barby/P. Birch bt D. Rawlinson/D. Hyde
-16, 18, 12.

Women's Doubles Final:

J. and L. Bellinger bt J. Dimmock/B. Hammond
16, 18.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Barbara Hammond/D. Rawlinson bt J. Bellinger/
D. Sharpe 19, -20, 16.

Junior Events U-17

Boys' Singles Final:

S. Barby bt D. Sharpe 15, 13.

Girls' Singles Final:

J. Dimmock bt J. Miles 13, 15.

Boys' Doubles Final:

R. Beard/S. Barby bt C. Luscombe/ M. Luscombe
6, 9.

Girls' Doubles Final:

J. Miles/K. Phillips bt L. Parker/K. Johnson
23, 12.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Julie Dimmock/M. Luscombe bt Karen Phillips/
L. Scarbrow 17, 10.

Junior Events U-14

Boys' Singles Final:

D. Sharpe bt A. Fordham 9, 10.

Girls' Singles Final:

J. Dimmock bt J. Miles 18, 14.

Boys' Doubles Final:

A. Conquest/M. Hussey bt A. Fordham/A. James
-11, 15, 18.

Girls' Doubles Final:

J. Miles/J. Dimmock bt S. Shaw/T. Reeves 10, 20.

The County junior team have made a tremendous start to their challenge for top honours in the 3rd Division South East. The team of Stephen Barby, David Sharpe, David Cartwright, Jackie and Lisa Bellinger have won their first three matches

8-2 against Essex III

7-3 against Norfolk

10-0 against Hertfordshire II

S. Barby and the Bellinger girls remaining unbeaten in singles and doubles. David Sharpe is Stephen Barby's doubles partner.

The big test however will be against Suffolk, who are also having a good season. The match is scheduled to take place on March 10th, 2.30 p.m. at AC-Delco. Come along and watch what I am sure will be a very entertaining and competitive match.

The County senior teams are not having such a good time, there has been plenty of effort from the players but the results have just gone against them.

Revised County Rankings:-

| Men | Women |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. D. Rawlinson (1) | 1. B. Hammond (1) |
| 2. S. Barby (2) | 2. J. Bellinger (2) |
| 3. M. Walters (6) | 3. L. Bellinger (3) |
| 4. D. Holden (4) | 4. J. Dimmock (5) |
| 5. D. Sharpe (3) | 5. A. Robinson (4) |
| 6. R. Chambers (—) | 6. J. Roberts (6) |
| 7. D. Hyde (9) | 7. D. Campbell (7) |
| 8. K. McConnell (10) | 8. J. North (—) |
| 9. D. Cartwright (—) | 9. J. Miles (8) |
| 10. P. Birch (5) | 10. M. Jarratt (9) |
| 11. J. Wooliscroft (—) | 11. S. Shaw (11) |
| 12. D. Beddall (8) | 12. J. Ford (12) |
| 13. G. White (—) | |
| 14. C. Luscombe (—) | |

Boys

1. S. Barby (1)
2. D. Sharpe (2)
3. D. Cartwright (3)
4. C. Luscombe (4)
5. D. Foster (5)
6. A. Conquest (11)
7. M. Luscombe (6)
8. C. McNish (7)
9. A. Shah (8)
10. I. Doughty (10)
11. I. Beard (—)
12. A. Fordham (—)
13. L. Scarbrow (9)
14. G. Shorely (12)

Girls

1. J. Bellinger (1)
2. L. Bellinger (2)
3. J. Dimmock (3)
4. J. Miles (4)
5. M. Jarratt (5)
6. K. Phillips (6)
7. S. Shaw (7)
8. T. Jackson (8)

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight falls on Exmouth who, having lapsed their membership, are back in full force with recent wins over Bath (9-0) at home and against Weston (7-2) away.

At home to Bath in December the "whitewash" was administered by Gary Lambert, Paul Stone and Paddy Shepherd over Steve Gregory, Phil Riley and John Higgs who only succeeded in winning one game each in the nine contested sets. But there was some good table tennis although Exmouth always had that little bit extra in reserve.

Away to Weston-Super-Mare on Jan. 13 and opposed by John Crabtree, Roger Morris and Graham Green, Exmouth triumphed 7-2, the two to escape them being wins for Mr. "Evergreen" Morris over Shepherd and Stone. This left Lambert as the only undefeated player his win over Roger being by scores of 18 and 18, whereas, against Green, Lambert was taken to the brink before winning -19, 18 and 20.

Closing date for the Gwent Open on March 17 is Saturday, March 3 to me at 29 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Gwent, NPT 8NX (Phone: Newport 71964).

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

FINE MONTH

January proved a fine month for our Junior girls Alison Hillard, Janet and Sandra Randall, the St. Neots girls appear to be improving with each visit to the table.

Alison and Janet recently reached the final of the Cadet doubles at the Lincolnshire Junior Open where they finally found the Bellinger sisters of Luton too strong. At the South East Midland League's Junior Tournament the same pairing were in action again, going one better this time and winning the title.

13-years-old Alison also achieved a notable solo performance in winning the Junior Girls' title and added the divisional competition to her collection. The three girls together just lost 4-5 narrowly to Cheshunt in the Bromfield Trophy. These performances can all be seen as very encouraging for the St. Neots club and the County as a whole.

EAST MIDLANDS CADETS LEAGUE

by Philip Reid

The second set of fixtures in the East Midlands Cadets League produced a number of interesting matches and by the end of the day Chesterfield and Leicester I remained with maximum points although Chesterfield have a slightly superior sets average. Neither team has been seriously extended yet but only Leicester's Simon Griew remains unbeaten. Yvonne Hall — the only girl player to make any real impact — has won 16 of her 18 sets and is clearly a very promising prospect.

Chesterfield's three players are all in the top seven in the averages. Darren Burton and Alan Cooke have had only one reversal each although the extremely promising Andrew Henry is not far behind.

Coventry, seemingly sailing into third place nearly came unstuck in a very fine match against Nottingham which they eventually won 6-4. In a really great match nobody on either side won all

three and nobody lost all three. It was Nigel Tucker who clinched it for Coventry in the final set. Ian Peck was Nottingham's most successful player. Hinckley are in fourth spot with virtually all their sets coming from Colin Jones and Andy Allen. This duo collected all their wins against Derby I. Derby in fact lost all three matches in this set of matches despite some good play by Paul Druce and David Slack.

Leicester II beat Derby II in an exciting game with David Aldwinckle recording a fine maximum for the winners. Andrew Moor starred for Derby with two wins but Michael Schofield clinched it for Leicester in the tenth set beating Matthew Montague 26-24, 26-24!

An enthusiastic but still pointless Loughborough team failed to add to their three sets although Gary Kerslake took Coventry's Ian Shaw to a 17, -18, -20 finish in the very first set.

Scores:-

Leicester I 8 Hinckley 2
 Chesterfield 10 Loughborough 0
 Derby II 4 Leicester II 6
 Derby I 2 Chesterfield 8
 Nottingham 4 Coventry 6
 Leicester I 9 Derby II 1
 Hinckley 2 Nottingham 8
 Coventry 7 Derby I 3
 Leicester II 0 Chesterfield 10
 Loughborough 0 Coventry 10
 Derby I 4 Hinckley 6
 Nottingham 3 Leicester I 7

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Chesterfield | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 6 | 12 |
| Leicester I | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 10 | 12 |
| Coventry | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 41 | 19 | 10 |
| Hinckley | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 29 | 31 | 7 |
| Nottingham | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 34 | 26 | 6 |
| Derby I | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 30 | 30 | 4 |
| Leicester II | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 40 | 2 |
| Nuneaton | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 1 |
| Derby II | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 41 | 0 |
| Loughborough | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 47 | 0 |

Leading Averages:-

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| Simon Griew (Le) | 18 | 18 | 100 |
| Darren Burton (Ch) | 18 | 17 | 94 |
| Alan Cooke (Ch) | 18 | 17 | 94 |
| Yvonne Hall (Le) | 18 | 16 | 89 |
| Colin Jones (Hi) | 18 | 15 | 83 |

LINCOLNSHIRE JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN

LESSER LIGHTS SHINE

by P. Taylor

The Lincs. Junior 2-Star Open once again proved to be a very popular tournament. To accommodate the expected large entry, this year it was held over 2 days with the U-14 and U-12 events on the Saturday and the U-17 on the Sunday. This decision was fully justified as there were over 130 entries in both the boys' U-17 and U-14 singles, over 60 in the girls' U-17 singles and 40 in the boys' U-12. Play was on a group basis with all winners going in to the first round proper.

The absence of the top juniors from the U-17 boys' singles gave the lesser lights far more chance to shine and the standard of play was very good. One of the best matches involved local boy Chris Bryan (Grantham) who met Julian Hall (Suffolk) in the 2nd round. This match was always in the balance and it was Chris who finally emerged the victor winning 19, -19, 21. The eventual finalists both had fairly easy semi-final wins with Richard Tanner (Birmingham) defeating Andrew Dixon (Wolverhampton) and Mark Illingsworth (Barnsley) beating I. Duxbury (Leeds). The final produced some fine table tennis and it was Illingsworth who won in the deciding game.

Both the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds reached the final of the U-17 girls' singles. Julie Revill (Leicester) was in fine form and had little difficulty in getting to the final. Pauline Cameron (Nottingham) had to play Katherine Lindley (Nottingham) in what turned out to be a very entertaining and exciting semi-final. Pauline finally winning 20, 18. In the final, Julie's defence proved far too consistent for Pauline and she won fairly comfortably.

The boys' U-14 singles was won by Dixon who

beat Bryan in the semi-final and Eddie Gorniak (Acton) in the final, the other semi-finalist being G. Roberts (Doncaster). The girls' events on Saturday were more of a Bellinger takeaway as Lisa won both the U-14 and U-12 singles, beating Jackie in the U-14 final and Laura Goldsmith (Middlesex) in the U-12. The U-14 girls' doubles was also won by Lisa and Jackie. The boys' U-12 final was won by M. Thomas (Coventry) who defeated A. Henry (Chesterfield) in a very close match.

Results:-

Boys' U-17 Semi-finals:

R. Tanner (Wa) bt A. Dixon (St) 19, 12;
 M. Illingsworth (Y) bt I. Duxbury (Y) 11, 14.

Final:

ILLINGSWORTH bt Tanner 14, -17, 14.

Girls' U-17 Semi-finals:

J. Revill (Le) bt S. Peakman (Wa) 12, 17;
 P. Cameron (Ng) bt K. Lindley (Ng) 20, 18.

Final:

REVILL bt Cameron 18, 12.

Boys' U-14 Semi-finals:

Dixon bt C. Bryan (Li) 17, -17, 7;
 E. Gorniak (Mi) bt G. Roberts (Y) 12, 12.

Final:

DIXON bt Gorniak 19, 18.

Girls' U-14 Semi-finals:

J. Bellinger (Bd) bt M. Hams (Mi) 9, 14.
 L. Bellinger (Bd) bt Y. Hall (Le) 11, 12.

Final:

L. BELLINGER bt J. Bellinger 19, 19.

Boys' U-12 Semi-finals:

M. Thomas (Wa) bt R. Marklow (Wa) 14, 22;
 A. Henry (Dy) bt M. Jukes (St) 15, 9.

Final:

THOMAS bt Henry -21, 19, 19.

Girls' U-12 Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt L. Forster (Le) 8, 7;
 L. Goldsmith (Mi) bt K. Harris (Sp) 18, 11.

Final:

L. BELLINGER bt Goldsmith 11, 12.

Boys' Doubles U-17 Semi-finals:

D. Unwin/A. Buckingham (Nk) bt A. Pilgrim/
 A. Woodcock (Wa) 15, -22, 15;

S. Madden/T. Sanderson (Y) bt Bryan/S. Pullen
 (Li) -14, 16, 18.

Final:

UNWIN/BUCKINGHAM bt Madden/Sanderson
 -20, 16, 19.

Boys' Doubles U-14 Semi-finals:

Gorniak/B. Collingwood (Mi) bt C. Higgins/
 J. Froom (Wa) 12, 18;

D. Sharp/C. Luscombe (Dunstable) (Bd) bt Bryan/
 I. Fullerton (Bk) -12, 18, 10.

Final:

GORNIK/COLLINGWOOD bt Sharp/
 Luscombe 19, -17, 17.

Girls' Doubles U-17 Semi-finals:

Revill/J. Speight (Y) bt Cameron/Lindley
 17, -19, 18;

M. Seaton/J. Ryalls (Y) bt Peakman/J. Harper
 (Wa) 21, 14.

Final:

REVILL/SPEIGHT bt Seaton/Ryalls 20, 18.

Girls' Doubles U-14 Semi-finals:

J. and L. Bellinger bt R. Hunter/A. Judd (Ca)
 14, 10;

J. Randall/A. Hillard (Hu) bt Hall/R. Pickwell (Li)
 13, 17.

Final:

J. and L. BELLINGER bt Randall/Hillard 12, 14.

improve our players and develop true Internationals for the 1981 World Championships.

Perhaps the answer is in Graded Tournaments. Grade 1 being the present 3-Star tournaments (men and women)

Grade 2 being the present 2-Star tournaments (men and women)

Grade 3 being the present 1-Star tournaments (men and women)

Grade 3 men and women would endeavour to progress by results into Grade 2 and then to Grade 1.

From Grade 1 players, the selection committee would be able to Rank men, women, juniors and cadets.

The Top of Grade 2 players would be able to enter Grade 1 Tournaments in order to experience and earn the right to stay there.

Grade 1 players who are not being successful would come down to Grade 2, and so on making it fairer for all players.

The Juniors would still compete at Junior level in all School competitions in the necessary age groups, but at the same time competing in the National Graded Tournaments. This would close the gap between Juniors and Seniors, encouraging the Juniors to compete fairly for the senior positions.

This could also be looked into at County level.

Many of the Counties are experiencing difficulties in running Junior County teams. Some have even given up Junior teams, because they are expensive, and the difficulty in finding someone to Captain and transport the team.

The County could have 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams with Juniors playing together with Seniors in order of merit, this would give the Juniors incentive at County level.

There are many promising Juniors at the moment, but it is no good being a promising 13-year-old, and still playing as a promising 13-year-old at the age of 20! When players do not make the grade at 17, if they are still progressing they should not be discarded; late developers often make very good Seniors.

STIGA CLUB WEEKEND

Dec. 28/30, 1978

One hundred and twenty players and forty Coaches invaded York. It was a weekend to be remembered when York experienced the worst floods since 1947. The River rose fifteen feet above normal. We were staying at the Viking Hotel which soon became surrounded by water. The only way out of the Hotel was from the first floor, through the kitchens and across a walk-way a little above the water to the main road. With water in the cellar of the Hotel it was feared we might be using candle light, but it didn't come to that and the Hotel staff looked after us very well, especially as they were short staffed owing to the floods.

Having learnt some very valuable lessons at the Birmingham weekend, the Coaching Committee took over the organisation of this one. They have the machinery and the experience for this type of weekend. For the more recent coaches who had not been previously involved in the large Coaching Rallies, this gave them an insight into what can be arranged when money is available.

Two venues were used, St. Peters Sports Centre with twenty-five tables, and York University with fifteen tables.

The aim was to have part of the weekend for Coaching and part for Competition. Thursday evening started with a Coaching programme at both venues. The full day Friday was also taken up with a coaching programme at both venues.

Saturday was Regional Competition with the five regions representative teams competing at St. Peters on sixteen tables, and the players not chosen for their Region's team, playing in an individual competition at the University.

The reports on the players taking part in the weekend will be sent to the Regional Chairman for consideration when planning further training. There are two more such weekends planned.

A 2-Star Coaches assessment took place at the same time as the Team Competition, taking full advantage of the time and venue available.

CONCERN OF COACHES

by DOREEN HENDERSON

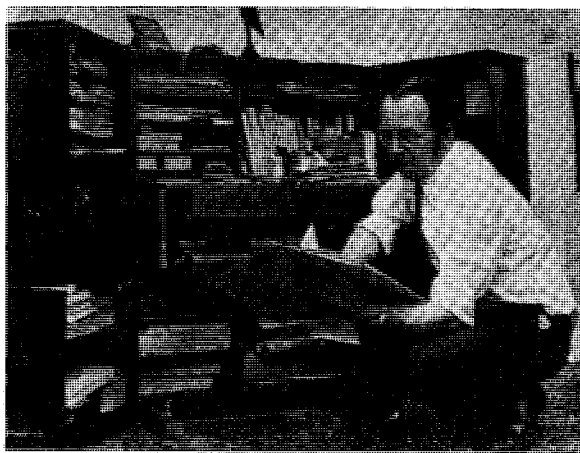
While attending the Norwich Union International Championships, uppermost in my mind was who would be in the English party of four men and three women at the World Championships in North Korea in April.

When Jill Hammersley and Desmond Douglas are no longer available who will follow on, the gap is so great. The ones who were expected to take their place are already fading away.

The concern of the Coaches is how can we

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR



CZECHS LEAD, ENGLAND THIRD

After competing in the Norwich Union International Championships, in Brighton, and against the People's Republic of China in a friendly international, in Birmingham on the following Monday, England had just cause to be proud of their 4-3 victory over Sweden in Karlskrona on Wednesday, Jan. 17.

It was a victory that placed England in their highest ever position in the top flight of European table tennis and although the victory over Sweden could be tempered by the absence of Stellan Bengtsson, the likes of Ulf Thorsell, Ulf Carlsson, Ann-Christin Hellman and Eva Stromvall on their home ground still need a bit of beating.

Thorsell got his country off to a good start with a hard-won victory over Nicky Jarvis but this was countered by two England wins, by Desmond Douglas over Carlsson and by Jill Hammersley over Miss Hellman. But back came the Swedes to take both doubles and a 3-2 lead. Douglas equated the match score with a workmanlike performance against Thorsell leaving Jarvis with the task of beating Carlsson for the match.

And for once Jarvis earned his place with a fighting display coming from behind in the third and final game to win at 19.

Individual scores:-

U. Thorsell bt N. Jarvis 9, -18, 19.
U. Carlsson lost to D. Douglas -20, 14, -13.
A-C. Hellman lost to J. Hammersley 16, -6, -13.
Carlsson/Thorsell bt Douglas/Jarvis 15, 16.
Thorsell/E. Stromvall bt Douglas/L. Howard 16, -21, 16.

Thorsell lost to Douglas -13, -20.
Carlsson lost to Jarvis -20, 15, -19.

Meantime in Miskolc on the same night the clash of the undefeated giants, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, rightfully received the billing 'match of the day'. But what an upset for the Hungarians who despite winning the first set, and the third, never took another with the gleeful Czechs getting home 5-2!

'Man of the Match' was undoubtedly Josef Dvoracek who accounted for both Istvan Jonyer and Tibor Klampar, Milan Orlowski beating only the former but partnering Jindrich Pansky and Iona Uhlakova to two doubles successes. It was a win that took the visitors into a clear lead and with two home matches left, against Federal Germany and Yugoslavia, the title would appear to be bound from Paris to Prague.

Individual scores in Miskolc were:-

T. Klampar bt M. Orlowski 14, 21.
I. Jonyer lost to J. Dvoracek 16, -17, -14.
Z. Olah bt I. Uhlakova 17, -12, 11.
Jonyer/Klampar lost to Orlowski/J. Pansky 17, -16, -17.
Jonyer/Klampar lost to Orlowski/J. Pansky 17, -16, -17.
Jonyer/G. Szabo lost to Orlowski/Uhlakova -13, -19.
Klampar lost to Dvoracek -19, 12, -20.
Jonyer lost to Orlowski -13, -11.

Yugoslavia, at home to France, the defending champions, had their 'big gun' Dragutin Surbek brought home from Germany but quick to spike it was Jacques Secretin, in the second set, after Zoran Kosanovic had beaten Patrick Birocheau in the opening encounter.

And it was Secretin again who triumphed in the penultimate set, against Kosanovic, to give his country a winning 4-2 lead after he, together with his world mixed doubles title holder, had gone down to Surbek and Miss Perkucin. But in single combat Claude Bergeret proved too experienced a campaigner for the young Yugoslav lass.

Scores:-

Z. Kosanovic bt P. Birocheau 20, 19.
D. Surbek lost to J. Secretin -10, 17, -12.
G. Perkucin lost to C. Bergeret -16, -15.
Kosanovic/Surbek lost to Birocheau/Secretin 18, -18, -11.
Surbek/Perkucin bt Secretin/Bergeret 14, 17.
Kosanovic lost to Secretin -18, 19, -10.
Surbek bt Birocheau 17, 11.

Federal Germany, at home to the Soviet Union, really tore the hammer and sickle to shreds with an astonishing 7-0 triumph in which Jochen Leiss, Engelbert Hucing, Peter Stellweg and Ursula Hirschmuller all played their part. Only two of the seven sets needed a deciding game — the mixed and the final set between Hucing and Igor Solopov.

Scores:-

J. Leiss bt I. Solopov 17, 14.
E. Hucing bt V. Shevchenko 12, 10.
U. Hirschmuller bt L. Bakshutova 18, 13.
Leiss/P. Stellweg bt Shevchenko/Solopov 16, 18.
Stellweg/Hirschmuller bt Shevchenko/V. Popova -19, 22, 18.
Leiss bt Shevchenko 20, 9.
Hucing bt Solopov -17, 18, 14.

DIVISION ONE

Poland maintained their supremacy at the head of affairs in **Division 1** of the **European League** by defeating Bulgaria 5-2 in Gliwice the two to escape them being the men's doubles and a loss by Andrzej Grubba to Ivan Stoianov.

Scores:-

A. Grubba bt B. Guenchev 16, 6.
L. Kucharski bt I. Stoianov -18, 18, 16.
Nowacka bt A. Rangelova 18, 9.
S. Drysel/Kucharski lost to S. Stefanov/Stoianov 16, -20, -19.
Kucharski/M. Urbanska bt Stoianov/Rangelova 19, 17.
Grubba lost to Stoianov -15, -15.
Kucharski bt Guenchev 16, 19.

Netherlands, at home to Greece in Oud Beyerland, won 4-3 with both Bert van der Helm and Nico van Slobbe beating Y. Mandilas, and Bettine Vriesekoop, taking time off from studies, accounting for D. Goannidou and partnering v.d. Helm to a mixed success.

Scores:-

B. v.d. Helm lost to K. Priftis -16, -17.
N. v. Slobbe bt Y. Mandilas -19, 21, 13.
B. Vriesekoop bt D. Goannidou 7, 11.
A. Vlieg/H. Gootzen lost to A. Makris/K. Priftis 16, -17, -12.
v.d. Helm/Vriesekoop bt Priftis/Goannidou 13, 10.
v.d. Helm bt Mandilas 11, 10.
v. Slobbe lost to Priftis -16, -8.

Ireland, at last broke the ice with a 4-3 win over Austria in Dublin (as reported elsewhere) and by the same margin Italy got home against Luxembourg in Messina. The winning lead was established in the fifth set after Stefano Bosi had beaten Guy Stebens; Giovanni Bisi had beaten Camille Putz; and the two Italian men had won

their doubles, Bisi and Sonia Milic securing the win in the mixed.

Scores:-

S. Bosi bt G. Stebens 7, 8.
G. Bisi bt C. Putz -25, 16, 13.
S. Milic lost to C. Risch -16, -12.
Bisi/Bosi bt Putz/Stebens 9, 9.
Bisi/Milic bt Putz/Risch 16, 18.
Bosi lost to Putz 17, -18, -24.
Bisi lost to Stebens -13, 19, -17.

DIVISION TWO

Scotland with only one match to play, at home to Turkey, would appear doomed to finish as the wooden spoonists following their 4-3 defeat by Spain in Valladolid. After establishing a 3-2 lead Richard Yule, of all people, lost to Jose Maria Pales and, in the final set, John McNee went down to Salvador Moles 15 in the third.

In establishing their lead the Scots had winners in Yule beating Moles; Yule and Keith Rodger winning their doubles; and Yule, with Patrice Fleming, coming out on top in the mixed.

Scores:-

J. M. Pales bt J. McNee 14, 10.
S. Moles lost to R. Yule -9, -20.
M. Sanahuja bt P. Fleming 14, 14.
J. Feliu/Pales lost to K. Rodger/Yule -15, -19.
Pales/Sanahuja lost to Yule/Fleming -20, 16, -15.
Pales bt Yule 14, 21.
Moles bt McNee -18, 14, 15.

In Istanbul, Turkey maintained their 100% record in beating Belgium 5-2 with Vasil Aleksandiridis and Oktay Cimen winning their four singles between them, the other set being won by the same pair in the men's doubles.

Scores:-

V. Aleksandiridis bt L. Belien 13, 19.
O. Cimen bt N. v.d. Walle 7, 15.
K. Poyrazoglu lost to M-F. Germiot -19, -9.
Aleksandiridis/Cimen bt Belien/v.d. Walle -15, 17, 10.
Cimen/Poyrazoglu lost to v.d. Walle/Germiot 17, -18, -17.
Aleksandiridis bt v.d. Walle 10, 11.
Cimen bt Belien -16, 10, 15.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE TABLES

SUPER DIVISION

| | P | W | L | F | A | P |
|-----------------|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Czechoslovakia | 5 | 5 | 0 | 24 | 11 | 5 |
| Hungary | 5 | 4 | 1 | 25 | 10 | 4 |
| England | 5 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 19 | 3 |
| Federal Germany | 5 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 16 | 2 |
| Sweden | 5 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 17 | 2 |
| France | 5 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 21 | 2 |
| Yugoslavia | 5 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 20 | 1 |
| Soviet Union | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 26 | 1 |

DIVISION ONE

| | P | W | L | F | A | P |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Poland | 5 | 5 | 0 | 32 | 3 | 5 |
| Italy | 5 | 4 | 1 | 19 | 16 | 4 |
| Bulgaria | 5 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 16 | 3 |
| Netherlands | 5 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 16 | 3 |
| Luxembourg | 5 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 22 | 2 |
| Austria | 5 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 23 | 1 |
| Ireland | 5 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 23 | 1 |
| Greece | 5 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 23 | 1 |

DIVISION TWO

| | P | W | L | F | A | P |
|----------|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Turkey | 3 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 6 | 3 |
| Finland | 3 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 2 |
| Belgium | 4 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 15 | 2 |
| Spain | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 1 |
| Scotland | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 0 |

FIXTURES FOR MARCH 8/79

Super Division

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

Division One

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

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 22nd European Youth Championships will be held in Rome over the period July 21-29. The championships will take place in the Palazzo dello Sport EUR, one of the most modern sport facilities in Italy. It is situated in an elegant residential

quarter of the city surrounded by green parks and an artificial lake. The Palasport has a capacity for 18,000 people.

All participants and officials will be housed in selected hotels, and a continuous bus service will be in operation between the hall and the hotels. President of the Organising Committee is Fernando Monatti, the Vice-President is Sante Mochi with Francesco Sturlesi as Secretary. All correspondence should be addressed to:- 00192 ROME - Via Fornovo, 3 — and telephone numbers are:- 06-3608748 or 3608749.

CZECH OPEN (USTI NAD LABEM)

Tibor Klampar of Hungary won his third major open men's singles title in the Czech Open a full report of which will appear in the next issue of the magazine. England's Desmond Douglas, snow-bound in Birmingham, followed his teammates 24 hours later but, in the men's singles went out to Andrzej Grubba of Poland.

U.S.S.R. TRADE UNION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Igor Solopov (Trud) was the winner of the men's singles title in U.S.S.R. Trades Union Championships his final victim being Sarkis Sarkhojan (Spartak) (9, 7, 7)!! Winner of the women's singles was Eremenko who beat Evstiveeva (21, 13, 15).

Sarkhojan and Strelnikov won the men's doubles; Eremenko/Alekssenko the womens; and Sarkhojan/Zacharyan the mixed.

ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

China's **Kuo Yao-hua** was the winner of the men's singles title in the Asian Championships, played in Kuala Lumpur over the period Nov. 21 - Dec. 1, '78. The final was the classic confrontation (as witnessed at Brighton) between two players of contrasting styles and at the beginning and at the end of their respective careers. (writes **John Hanson of Australia**).

Kuo, at 22, on his way towards a possible world crown played an aggressive quick-kill game from the onset and Liang Ke-liang, after a shaky start, fought back in scintillating rallies to demonstrate why he is considered as perhaps the finest stroke player in the world . . . in the end the quicker reflexes of the young Kuo gave him an 8, -17, 15, 19 victory.

Semi-final results were:-

Kuo beat Jo Yong Ho (Korea DPR) 14, 10, 19.
Liang bt Chen Hsin-hua (CHN) -11, 24, 21, 16.

The main upset in the women's singles was the victory of India's left-handed Indu Puri who beat the reigning world champion Pak Yung Sun (Korea DPR) 19, 12 and 15. Kerry Thompson of Australia also made her significant mark by ousting China's Chang Li, world-ranked at No. 2 and runner-up in the last two world championships.

But it was China's 16-years-old Tsao Yen-hua who was duly crowned as champion with a final victory over her compatriot Yang Ying (13, 19 and 12).

Winners of the men's doubles were Jo Hong Ho and Yun Chol with Pak Yong Ok and Chang Ae, also of Korea DPR, winning the counterpart women's event.

Japan's Seiji/Kayo beat Kuo/Chang Li in the final of the mixed with the junior boys' title going to Toshinobu Nojiri of Japan and the girls' being won by Lin Chieh of China.

China won both team titles the leading positions being taken by:-

Men

- 1 China
- 2 Korea DPR
- 3 Japan
- 4 Australia
- 5 Indonesia
- 6 India
- 7 Hong Kong
- 8 Malaysia

Women

- 1 China
- 2 Korea DPR
- 3 Japan
- 4 India
- 5 Laos
- 6 Singapore
- 7 Indonesia
- 8 Malaysia

AUSTRALIA'S CHOICE

The Australian selectors have announced the following teams to represent their country in the 1979 World Championships in Pyongyang (Apl. 25 - May 5) and the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh (Apl. 11-18):-

Men:

Steve Knapp (Victoria), Paul Pinkewich (NSW), Bob Tuckett (Victoria), Robbie Javor (Victoria) and Neil Ward (Victoria).

Women:

Christine Little (SA), Kerry Thompson (Victoria), Denise Millikan (Tasmania) and Pam Whitehouse (Queensland).

French Affairs



by Jean Devys

In the 3rd Journee des Individuels 78/79 played over the weekend of Dec. 16/17 in the gymnase Diderot, Nimes, Jacques Secretin (CSA Kremlin Bicetre) again asserted his authority to top the affairs without loss although he was within two points of defeat by Patrick Birocheau (A.S. Messine Paris) — his third time victim — in the final.

Jacques, convalescing from injury, was 1-2 down in games and 19-20 down in the fourth before he recovered to win 22-20 and the decider at 14. In the semis Secretin accounted for Rene Hatem (CSA Kremlin Bicetre) 12, 18 and 8 whilst Birocheau disposed of Jean Claude Decret (E.S. Levallois) 12, 17 and 10. Final scores, in favour of Secretin were -17, 17, -18, 22 and 14. Hatem beat Decret -14, 18, 11, 17 for third place.

But it was not for the third time of asking for Claude Bergeret in the women's section who was surprised by Michele Gourmelon (VGA St Maur) who beat the ASPTT Annecy player -17, -13, 10, 12 and 17 (!) in the final.

In the semis Bergeret beat Nadine Daviaud (ASPTT Nantes) 16, 18, 11 whilst Gourmelon accounted for Patricia Germain -13, 16, 15, 18. Daviaud beat Germain 20, 15 and 13 for third place. It is of interest to note that in the groups Miss Bergeret beat Miss Gourmelon 11, 13 and 15!!

Francois Earout (AAE Brie) heads the Classement Juniors in front of Pascal Besnier (ACR Cleon) with Germain Soumbo (U.S. Level) third.

C.S.A. Kremlin Bicetre and A.S. Messine Paris both boast 20 points after seven rounds of the men's team championship. Teams are made up of six players with the top three playing their opposite numbers in one match and the other trios making up the second match the aggregate score prevailing. And when these two teams met on Dec. 10 the "A" trio of Kremlin Bicetre won 6-4 whilst their "B" trio lost by the same score for an overall 10-10 result.

Kremlin Bicetre were represented by Secretin, Hatem, Franck Vinitski (A) and Vincent Purkart, Dany Dhondt and Philippe Molodzoff (B) whilst for AS Messine the "A" team comprised Birocheau, Regis Canor and Guy Caussin and the "B" by Th. Roesch, Christian Roesch and Christian Adam.

A.S.P.T.T. Annecy lead A.S. Cabourg by 1 point at the head of affairs in the women's section 20 points to 19 being the margin. A.C. Boulogne Billancourt are placed third with 14 points.



Welsh Corner

H. ROY EVANS

THIRD TITLE FOR GRIFFITHS

Alan Griffiths added another Welsh title to his bag when he won the Glamorgan Open at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff. He was already Swansea and Cardiff Champion, and this time his final opponent was Simon Heaps who still appears to be playing cleverly if not forcefully.

Alan also beat Andy Barden on the way to victory, with an easy semi-final win over the ex-English international. George Evans gave Simon a close encounter in the other semi.

One of the best performances of the senior event was junior Mark Thomas's elimination of Brian Jeanes and then of David Welsman. Mark eventually lost to Heaps, but looked more convincing against him than he did in Swansea.

Stephanie Jones, who had been disappointing previously against Devon's Elaine Lamb, put her game together more, and won with more confidence in the third game of the final. Stephanie also featured in the Women's Doubles in which she and Elaine beat Cathryn and Susan Jones, and in the Mixed where she partnered George Evans to a convincing win over Nigel Thomas and Cathryn Jones.

Mark Thomas beat Andrew Jones in the Junior final, but Barry's John Louch again had a good day, reaching the semi, where he put up a good show against Thomas.

Cathryn Jones had to give best to Jill Harris of Staffs in the girls' event, but she and Susan beat Jill and Fiona Elliott in the doubles. Cathryn was also a winner in the junior mixed when she and David Kenefick beat I. Haines and D. Risby. Andrew Jones had another of his cadet battles with club mate Ceri Phillips, who continues to improve, although Andrew won in straight games. Jane Sully, also of Swansea, was no match for Fionna Elliott in the cadet girls.

After disappointing performances in the English Open, the Welsh teams must come up with something much better in the European Third Division matches prior to the Welsh Open this month. It's true that the top four will be promoted to the Second Division, but Denmark must be a certainty, so that Wales has to make sure they do better than Norway, Switzerland or Portugal.

Nor can much change be expected in the Stiga Welsh Open, for the thirty countries playing include all the top twelve European men, and seven out of the top twelve women, apart from challenges from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Israel and Nigeria.

Our top four men — Alan Griffiths, David Welsman, George Evans and Graham Davies have been chosen for the European League matches, the Commonwealth Championships, and the World Championships. We are not sending a women's team to Pyongyang, but Stephanie Jones and Cathryn Jones will figure in the teams in the European League matches, and at the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh.

BUSBY IN LITTLEBOURNE

Former E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles M. Wyles, residing at 5 Orchard Close, Littlebourne, near Canterbury, Kent, is now contactable on the phone the number being Littlebourne (022-778) 825.

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGE

Ever since the Chinese and their long pimples caused such a furore at Birmingham, the European manufacturers have been desperately competing to produce some equally impossible equipment. After a great deal of secret investigation, not to mention downright dishonesty and bribery our industrial spy Chester Bond, sent in the following report:

The first threat to the Asiatic domination of international events is the new Stiga revolving bat. A Blade of 6mm stainless steel is attached to a handle of carved goats foot by a clever clockwork motor which is wound up by a key inserted into the base of the handle. A trigger set into the handle allows the blade to spin either once in order to switch rubbers mid game, or continuously to provide a spring driven loop drive. Stiga are currently developing an even more powerful motor to enable the bat to operate on wind power alone, thus the competitors would not need to touch the ball at all leading to a type of blow table tennis.

Of course, a complete range of new rubbers have been developed for the bat including Slurp, a 6 inch pimple rubber which will not only grip the ball, but absorb it completely and refuse to let go, causing great consternation to opponents, umpires and audience alike, and Thrust, an amazing new compound of soap and glycerine which not only imparts an unpredictably slimy spin but also makes the ball so revoltingly greasy that the opponent refuses to pick it up, therefore losing the game by default.

Not to be outdone, Halex too have come up with a new rubber — or rather a new rock — a compound of special hardened Teflon and diamond, 3mm of crunch will smash any normal ball into little white bits. Halex are also providing a saw-toothed version which a chopper can use for carving lumps out of the table, the floor, the surrounds and the umpires etc.

To combat this Jaques have been investing their technology in balls. The new Jaques 3-star ball is constructed of granite with a specially beaten wrought iron pattern. Weighing slightly over 16 stones each of these balls have been tested on Stiga Expert tables with most exciting results. In three tests out of five, the tables were completely destroyed in three shots, in one test England International Nicky Jarvis' special high service was missed altogether and the ball went straight through the table, the floor and 14 feet of concrete underneath and in the final test the table collapsed altogether before the first shot was played.

Horrified at these results Stiga immediately instituted extensive research into new tables and three different versions have just been put on the market. The most expensive is of course the Tees Sport special weighing just over 2 tons. The table is decorated with early Odeon style gilt candelabra with a hand embroidered silk net. One quarter of the table surface area is covered with towelling to make for easy wiping of sweaty palms and the whole table is mounted on Dunlop G70 racing tyres for easy transportation — it can be towed by a truck. The second table in the range is the Youth Club Standard designed to meet the requirements of today's younger player. The table surface is pock marked and bent and covered with coffee stains made of araldite to trap the odd ball. The net is fifteen copies of the 1938 Readers Digest, all of different sizes, and the table legs are different heights, varying from 6 foot to 1 foot 4 inches.

Stiga are justifiably proud of the third table in the range — the Barry Meisel Novelty Special. Painted in an astonishing variety of garnish fluorescent colours, all of which clash, the table is approximately 12 foot square and features a miniature golf course at one end.

It is delightful to see how the European manufacturers have responded to the challenge of improving the game — now if only we can do something about the players!

SOUTH YORKSHIRE 2-STAR

Scheduled for Saturday, April 7, in Sheffield the South Yorkshire 2-Star Open will also include junior events not shown in the E.T.T.A. Tournament Diary.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL COACH

The English Table Tennis Association is considering the appointment of one or more National Coaches. Candidates should possess an E.T.T.A. Coaching Diploma of a high standard plus a practical knowledge of modern fitness training methods and be prepared to work in one of the following regions:

**Midlands
South/South West**

The duties of each National Coach will include organisation of general coaching within the E.T.T.A. Coaching Scheme and supervision of training for leading senior and junior players.

The salary scales of these posts are currently under review but starting salaries will be within the range £3,192 - £3,468. The present maximum of the commencing scale is £5,334.

Application forms are available from the E.T.T.A. Office and should be submitted to the General Secretary, E.T.T.A., 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA by 28th February, 1979. Envelopes to be marked "COACH".

ENGLAND v. THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

MAGICAL PULL

by John Herbert

(Editor, Birmingham Table Tennis News)

Despite an acute shortage of petrol, an imminent rail strike and the inevitability of the result, a good crowd turned up to see England play China at the Central Hall in Birmingham on Monday,

Jan. 15, such is the pull of these Oriental magicians. Looking around the crowd there could hardly have been a Chinese restaurant open in the city during the match. The 7-1 result to China is now history but the magic of the evening will live for a very long time to come.

We can almost take the brilliance of the Chinese for granted but, what about the match from England's point of view. I shall remember it particularly for the outstanding performance of Nicky Jarvis, the England No. 2. In his first singles against Kuo Yao-hua, the World's No. 1 player since the retirement of Mitsuru Kohno, it looked for a while as if Nicky might bring off the impossible. In the first game with the score standing at 10-all, there was the most incredible rally I have ever seen with Nicky taking the point. The crowd erupted and it was several minutes before the applause died down to leave us on the edge of our seats for the rest of the game. Nicky lost -17 and -12 but he had won the 'man of the match' vote from most of us.

His Cleveland team-mate Jimmy Walker who had stepped in at the last minute to replace John Hilton also put up a great performance and won the only set for England against Wang Hui-Yuan. Des Douglas, England's No. 1 seems to have shaken off his phobia about playing in front of his home crowd and produced some brilliant counter-hitting in his game against Kuo. Paul Day was strangely off colour and didn't produce anything like his usual form until his last game of the evening when he fought back from 10-20 down against Wang Hui-Yuan to level then lose -21.

After the match the Chinese put on a demonstration singles which left the crowd marvelling at their superb ball control and humorous rallies. I couldn't help but contrast the Chinese now with the same Chinese I saw in The World's. Gone were the military style uniforms and polite aloofness. We can now welcome a team of unequalled brilliance, great sportsmanship and friendship. They will no doubt enrich the game for many years to come.

Results:-

D. Douglas lost to Kuo Yao-Hua -12, -17.
D. Douglas lost to Liang Ke-liang -14, -10.
N. Jarvis lost to Kuo Yao-Hua -17, -12.
N. Jarvis lost to Liang Ke-liang -16, -16.
P. Day lost to Wang Chien-Chang -13, -9.
P. Day lost to Wang Hui-Yuan -13, -21.
J. Walker lost to Wang Chien-Chang -12, -14.
J. Walker bt Wang Hui-Yuan 22, -17, 18.



Mrs. Frances Jarvis, President of the Devon County Table Tennis Association receiving a cheque from Mr. Roger Rose, Branch Controller of Western Trust and Savings, sponsors of the County Association, surrounded by Senior and Junior players before an exhibition given to handicapped children at the Budoc Youth Club, Plymouth, on Monday, 4th December, 1978.

Photo by courtesy of County Photos, Plymouth.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DETRIMENTAL EFFECT

I have been concerned for some time over two particular aspects of our game which I am certain have a detrimental effect on its spectator appeal. I am prompted to commit these thoughts to paper after watching the Lu Chi-Wei v Gabor Gergely match on T.V. in "Top Table" on 31st January. Brian Webb, the umpire, warned the Chinese (and quite rightly under the present rules) about the visibility of his serve, several times during the second game, which appeared to totally break the concentration of the player. There has been much discussion on this point since the last World's Men's Singles final but when is something going to be done to resolve this ludicrous situation where a service can be legal from one end of the table but not from the other end! Can you imagine this situation being allowed to continue in any other sport?

Secondly, concerning bat rubbers, I have always been in favour of standardisation of these allowing the skills of the player to be the prime factor in performance. However I accept that there is also a reasonable argument that playing with and against different rubbers requires even more skill, but I would suggest that this is not in the interest of the spectator. Nevertheless, surely the whole thing has gone too far when a player using the long pimped rubber does not always know himself what spin he has imparted on the ball. If he doesn't know, what chance does his opponent have of reading it. The Lawn Tennis body quickly took action in banning the double strung racket in the interest of the spectator — let us do something quickly before the next monstrous innovation is introduced.

COLIN DYKE

45 Sadlers Lane,
Winnersh,
Wokingham,
Berks.

WORLD TEAMS AND COMMONWEALTH

The National Selection Committee announced on Jan. 15 the following teams to represent England in the 1979 World Championships in Pyongyang from Apl. 26 - May 5 and the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh from Apl. 12 - 18, 1979.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men
Desmond Douglas (Warwickshire)
Nicky Jarvis (Cleveland)
Paul Day (Cambridgeshire)
John Hilton (Lancashire)
Reserve: Jimmy Walker (Cleveland)

Women
Jill Hammersley (Buckinghamshire)
Karen Witt (Berkshire)
Anita Stevenson (Leicestershire)
Reserve: Carole Knight (Cleveland)
Captains: Peter Simpson and Bryan Merrett

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men
Jimmy Walker (Cleveland)
Alan Fletcher (Yorkshire)
John Dabin (Kent)
Colin Wilson (Middlesex)
Reserve: Graham Sandley (Middlesex)

Women
Carole Knight (Cleveland)
Linda Howard (Surrey)
Mandy Smith (Berkshire)
Reserve: Sally Midgley (Yorkshire)
Captains: Donald Parker, Bryan Merrett and Peter Hirst

The Selection Committee, in choosing these teams feel that they have picked those players with the best chance of securing titles for England in the World Championships. The Committee is

anxious to point out that ranking and selection are two very different concepts and that whereas ranking is based on facts, selection is a matter of opinion.

In the World team the selection of Desmond Douglas was obvious. The selectors were pleased with his performance in the recent Norwich Union International Championships, where he lost against Liang Ke-liang of China, World ranked at No. 4, in the quarter-finals. Although Nicky Jarvis and Paul Day are not currently playing at their best, the selectors feel that at their peak they could do very well indeed.

John Hilton earned his place mainly by his outstanding performance in last season's European Championships, and brings the additional advantage of his unorthodox style.

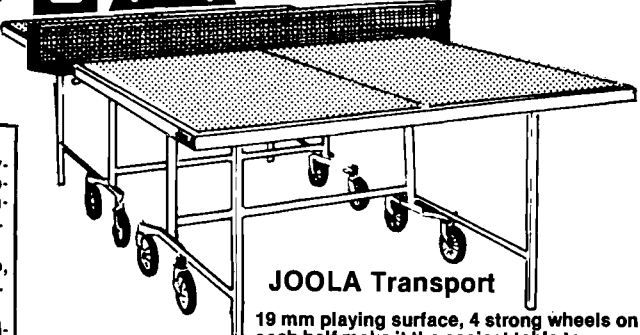
Again there was no question in Jill Hammersley's selection — she is a totally reliable player in top class competition. Both Karen Witt and Anita Stevenson were selected largely on their performance in the recent Polish Open.

In the Commonwealth team the selectors feel they have attained a combination of experience, youthful enthusiasm and reliability and although two Juniors, Colin Wilson and Mandy Smith have been chosen, the Selection Committee would point out that these Juniors are as good as Seniors and have been selected to win, not merely to obtain experience in International Competition.

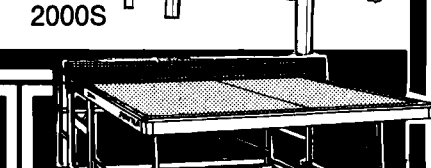
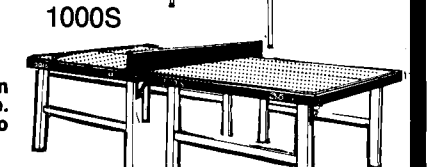
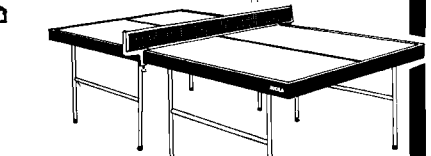
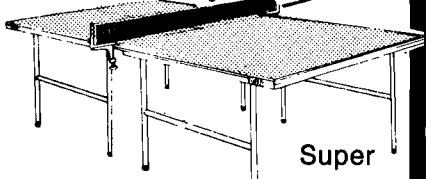
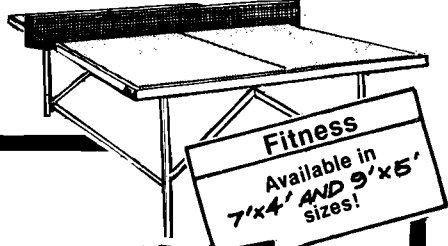
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Norwich Union English Championships

The draw for the Norwich Union English Championships took place on Monday, 22nd January with the biggest entry for seven years. The Championships which take place at the Woking Sports Centre from Friday, 23rd to Sunday, 25th February, features all of England's top players — some of which have been specially released by their German clubs to take part.

In the men's singles, Desmond Douglas has one difficult match in his quarter — against Kent's John Dabin in the second round. The second seed, Cleveland's Nicky Jarvis has a tougher task with four England ranked players in his quarter.

Jill Hammersley, who last year won the women's singles title from Carole Knight, is top seed this year, whilst Knight, following some poor results, is not even seeded! Second seed is the young Berkshire school-girl Karen Witt who faces a difficult second round match with her county team-mate Mandy Smith.

The Norwich Union English Championships will be televised by London Weekend Television on the Saturday's 'World of Sport' programme. Seeds in draw order are:-

| | Seeded |
|----------------------|--------|
| Men's Singles | |
| 1 D. Douglas (Wa) | 1 |
| 16 J. Walker (Cv) | 5 |
| 17 D. Neale (Cv) | 8 |
| 32 M. Crimmins (Sy) | 4 |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 33 P. Day (Ca) | 3 |
| 48 A. Fletcher (Y) | 7 |
| 49 J. Hilton (La) | 6 |
| 64 N. Jarvis (Cv) | 2 |

Women's Singles

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1 J. Hammersley (Bu) | 1 |
| 16 M. Ludi (Y) | 4 |
| 17 A. Stevenson (Le) | 3 |
| 32 K. Witt (Bk) | 2 |

Men's Doubles

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1 Douglas/Walker | 1 |
| 16 J. Kitchener (Sk)/D. Tan (Mi) | =5 |
| 17 G. Sandley/R. Mitchell (Mi) | =5 |
| 32 Hilton/C. Rogers (Le) | 3 |
| 33 N. Eckersley (Ch)/Fletcher | 4 |
| 48 J. Kennedy (K)/R. Potton (E) | =5 |
| 49 Crimmins/D. Wells (Sy) | =5 |
| 64 Day/Jarvis | 2 |

Women's Doubles

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 Hammersley/L. Howard (Sy) | 1 |
| 8 C. Knight (Cv)/Stevenson | 3 |
| 9 A. Gordon/M. Smith (Bk) | 4 |
| 16 Ludi/Witt | 2 |

Mixed Doubles

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 Douglas/Howard | 1 |
| 16 M. Johns (Ch)/Ludi | 3 |
| 17 Eckersley/Witt | 4 |
| 32 Hilton/Hammersley | 2 |

The title holders are:-

| |
|--------------------------------|
| MS: Paul Day |
| WS: Jill Hammersley |
| MD: Andrew Barden (Mi)/Day |
| WD: Hammersley/Linda Howard |
| XD: Nigel Eckersley/Karen Witt |

Official Opening of the Table Tennis Centre of Excellence Northern Region

Councillor Mrs. P. J. Zoryk, Mayor of Langbaugh, officially opened the Table Tennis Centre of Excellence, Northern Region, at Eston Leisure Centre, Normandy Road, Eston, on Jan. 19th.

The opening activities included a demonstration of the coaching programme by the coaches and young members, following which the local and visiting dignitaries, the members and some parents were treated to a first class exhibition match between two leading English players, Nicky Jarvis of Cleveland, ranked No. 2 in England and recently named to the English team for the forthcoming World Championships in North Korea, and Donald Parker of Lancashire, the National Coach for the North of England.

The Centre, which has been in operation since April, provides training facilities on two nights a week and one Sunday a month for the region's international players and future stars. Play takes place on 12 international tables, with a maximum membership of 30 players between the ages of 12 and 25.

The facilities at Eston Leisure Centre, which include special lighting for table tennis, are being provided by Langbaugh Council, while the Centre is being financed by a grant from the Sports Council, Northern Region. Also assisting with this project is the governing body of the sport, the English Table Tennis Association.

The coaching staff consists of Alan Ransome of Ormesby, a former English International and 3-Star Coach, Bob Wiley of Ormesby a 3-Star Coach, and Nicky Jarvis, a current English international.

Present members of the Centre of Excellence include:-

Stephen Brunskill, Kevin Green, Paul Hindle, Anne Holden, Nigel Jobling, Tony Martin, Roberto Oretti, David Polasek, Chris Reed, Angela Tierney, Stephen White, Julia Woodcock, Jevon Chan, Michael Heritage, Michael Hodgson, David Hughes, Carole Knight, Neil McMaster, Keith Paxton, Michael Powell, Lindsay Taylor, John Waive, June Williams, Michael Young.

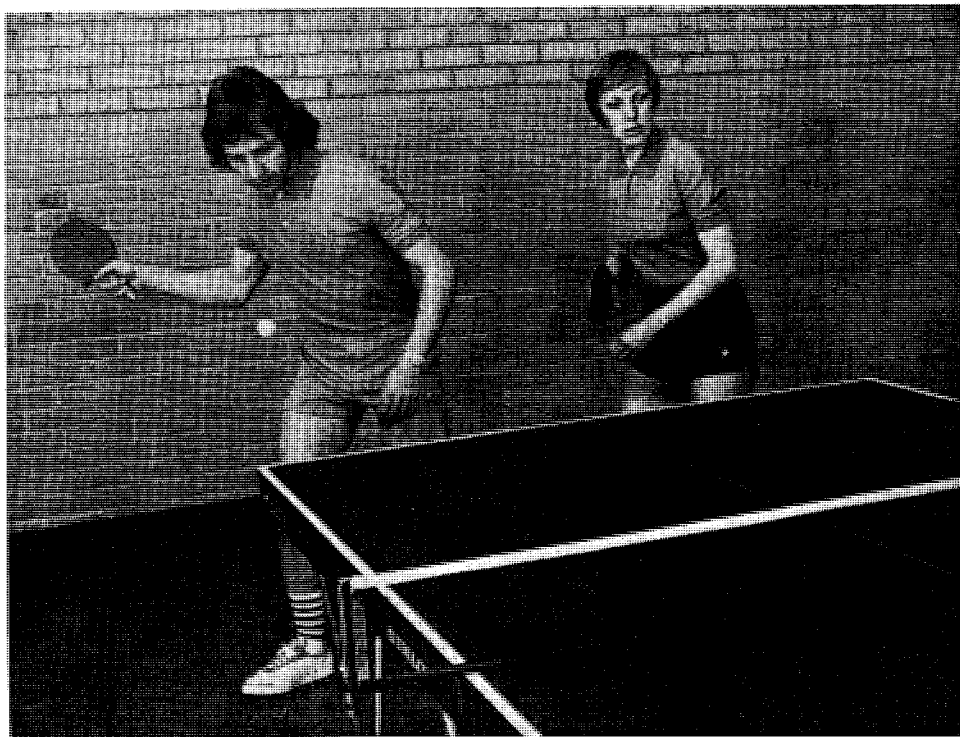
Acceptance into the Centre of Excellence comes through nomination by a player's county table tennis association, followed by a trial and recommendation by the coaches to the Management Committee. There are two such intakes per year.

In his comments at the Official Opening, Mr. Bill Saunders, the Principal Regional Officer of the Sports Council, Northern Region, paid tribute to the excellent co-operation between those organisations involved in the Centre, in particular to the considerable support by Langbaugh Council and the hard work put in by the youngsters and coaches themselves. Mr. Saunders commented that this is a very good example of broad co-operation in providing opportunities for youngsters in the Region to reach their top potential.

Councillor Doug Moore, the Chairman of the Management Committee of the Centre of Excellence, said that Langbaugh was deeply honoured that this Centre has been established at Eston Leisure Centre under the guidance of Mr. Alan Ransome and his fellow coaches. Councillor Moore believed it was a natural thing to do as the Ormesby Table Tennis Club has put the Cleveland area on the map with their successful players proving themselves both nationally and internationally.

Councillor Moore continued that the young players will now have the opportunity to meet other participants from the whole of the Northern Region. He hoped that there would be continued financial support from both the Sports Council and local authorities and a good response to the Sport Scholarship Scheme established by the Management Committee for the members so that the sporting future of our young players can be assured.

TRADE NEWS . . .



DUNLOP PLAYERS SELECTED FOR WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dunlop contracted players Jill Hammersley and John Hilton have been selected for the England team due to visit the World Table Tennis Championships in North Korea from 26th April to 5th May. They will be part of a four man and three woman team taking part in the most prestigious event in the 1979 table tennis calendar.

Jill Hammersley, currently ranked number one in England and three in Europe, recently won the Nicholls Cup at the Norwich Union International Championships in Brighton. In the final she defeated top European player Judit Magos of Hungary 3-1 to take what is effectively the English open crown. Jill Hammersley and John Hilton were also runners-up in the Mixed Doubles event to Desmond Douglas and Linda Howard.

Both Jill Hammersley and John Hilton are contracted to Dunlop Sports to use the Company's bats, sportswear and shoes on an exclusive worldwide basis.

IRISH NOTES

by WILLIE WALSH

IRELAND SPARKLE

Ireland kept their hopes alive of remaining in the European League First Division when they recorded their first win of the season in beating Austria 4-3. The match played before a packed house in the Rupert Guinness Hall, Dublin provided tremendous entertainment and sent the fans home happy.

The form of Kevin Keane was a revelation. The 19-year-old Dubliner was recalled to the Irish team due to Jim Langan's retirement and gave the display of his life. If he can continue to maintain the form in the remaining matches against Greece (away) and Bulgaria (home) then Ireland could be playing again next year in Division One.

Karen Senior gave her usual consistent display in beating Dolores Fetter in the women's singles and partnered Keane to success in the mixed.

The third member of the team, 14-year-old Colm Slevin should be very proud of his performance in the opening set he seemed very nervous against a very good defensive player — Franz Waldhausl and lost -19, -12. Keane's next match with Eric Amplatz was a classic. He won the first 17, due to a succession of consistent forehand topspin drives — Amplatz levelled by winning the second 21. In the 3rd Keane got a 'flier' to win the first 7 points. Amplatz levelled at 12-all and it was then point for point to 17-all. Keane won the next three points and the crowd waited anxiously for Keane to clinch the set. It certainly was an anxious time as Amplatz won the next three points to level. The next two points were a nail-biting time as both players threw caution to the winds hitting forehand and backhand drives at each other with reckless abandon. Keane won both bringing the crowd to their feet in jubilation. Karen Senior gave Ireland a 2-1 lead when she beat Dolores Fetter comfortably 10 and 13, and so avenged her defeat by Miss Fetter in Judenburg last year.

Slevin and Keane combined splendidly in the men's doubles in beating Amplatz and Gunter Muller. Slevin belied his youth and inexperience with a great consistent and clever display and

Keane's forehand proved too strong for the Austrians, as Ireland won 21 and 19.

Keane completed his 'hat trick' when winning the mixed with Karen Senior. Austria won the first 17 and lost the second -14. In the third Ireland went into a 5-0 lead. They subsequently led 12-2 and 18-8 before going on to win 21-11 and so give Ireland an unassailable 4-1 lead.

Austria won the remaining two sets — Amplatz beat Slevin and Waldhausl beat Keane.

All-in-all a great Irish display which can only help to restore morale after such a disastrous succession of International defeats. This is a very young team and I can't recall when Ireland last won a European League match without Jim Langan or Tommy Caffrey.

Results:-

C. Slevin bt F. Waldhausl -19, -12.
K. Keane bt E. Amplatz -17, -21, -20.
K. Senior bt D. Fetter -10, -13.
Keane/Slevin bt G. Muller/E. Amplatz -21, -19.
Keane/Senior bt G. Muller/D. Fetter -17, -14, -11.
Slevin lost to E. Amplatz -20, -22.
Keane lost to F. Waldhausl -19, -9.

IRISH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Annahilt of Belfast are the new Club Champions of Ireland, they beat Pioneers (Dublin) 7-4 in the Irish Rubies All-Ireland Club Championship. An exciting match of fluctuating fortunes was seen by too few spectators, the closeness of the competition and the quality of play made it a more interesting spectacle than the recent Inter-Pro's which were too one-sided.

The first match between Mick Rice and Freddie Brown set the scene, first game 18 to Rice, second 18 to Brown, Rice got away to a good lead in the third and at 18-12 looked to be home, 20-14 and it should have been all over, but Brown fought back point by point and at 20-20, the atmosphere was electric, 21-20 to Rice, 21-all, two tremendous points and Brown was the winner 23-21. Annahilt off to a great start. Joe Hickey (Pioneers) against Jimmy Hamill, substituting for Alistair Cairns, Ulster's international player. A terrific first game with Hickey struggling to keep in touch and finally fighting through to win 23-21, after Hamill had led all the way. With increased confidence Hickey took the second 21-8. One set all.

Pat O'Brien (Pioneers) versus Ray Copes had the Annahilt player back in the corners of the room defending, first game to Copes 17, controlled attack from O'Brien brought him the second 15, point-for-

point all the way in the third, neither player getting away, Copes finally ran out the winner of a very tense set 23-21. 2-1 to Annahilt. Hickey against Brown, the two No. 1's. Hickey got away to win the first 12, Brown fighting all the way won the second 19. Brown played well to get a lead in the third, but Hickey playing some brilliant shots pulled back and won the best set of the evening 24-22. 2-all. Rice v Copes, very even first two games 18 to Rice, 18 to Copes. Copes, playing very steadily, built up a commanding lead in the third and won 21-9. Annahilt 3-2. O'Brien's experience enabled him to control the speed of Hamill and won 17, 17. 3-all. Hickey got his hat trick by beating Copes 14, 16 and Pioneers were ahead for the first time 4-3. Brown then proved to be too good for O'Brien 19, 14 and Hamill played some very good table tennis to beat Rice 18, 8. The doubles sets proved to be an anti-climax when Brown and Copes beat Hickey and Rice 20, 12, and Brown and Hamill beat Hickey and O'Brien 11, 16 in a set where the Pioneers pair appeared to be at odds with one another, and never looked like winning. So ended an interesting match with Annahilt the winners 7-4.

ST. ANDREW'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The St. Andrew's Team Invitation Tournament held at Malahide resulted in a win for Glenalbion over Annahilt who recently won the Irish Rubies All-Ireland Club Championship. The main difference between the competitions is the inclusion of a women's singles and a mixed doubles into the St. Andrew's event, and here, Anne Leonard made all the difference. She was unbeaten throughout, although taken close in the final by Liz Cash of Annahilt, the score being 23, 18. Colum Slevin won both his singles in the final beating Roy Copes 17, 19 after a hard fought set, and Freddie Brown 9, 15. Earlier in the tournament Slevin was beaten by Joe Hickey but gained his revenge in the semi-final. Brown beat Kieran Leonard 19, -18, 17, and Copes beat Leonard 19, 23, again a tight one with Copes defending well and coming in with the occasional forehand kill. This was a very different game from the one against the left-handed Brown who was varying the pace continually and switching his attack from side to side to keep Leonard from settling down. Leonard played his best for some time, but the luck did not run for him at the crucial moment. Anne Leonard and Slevin just managed to beat Liz Cash and Brown 16, -11, 22, in a set which could easily have gone the other way. It was a similar story in the Men's doubles when Slevin and Leonard beat Copes and Brown 16, -6, 20. If these two sets had been won by Annahilt they would have won 4-3 instead of losing 2-5, which shows the closeness of the competition.

This was a very successful event but was marred in the early stages by the late and non-arrival of some teams, which upset all the planning put in by the hard-working organiser Bob Turner. Events of this nature give all competitors many games of a high standard which is much better for helping to raise the general level of play than in normal knock-out tournaments. It is to be hoped that this will become an annual event, and that other similar competitions will be organised.

YORKSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

This season's Yorkshire 2-Star Open is to be staged at the Richard Dunn Sports Centre, Rooley Avenue, Odsal, Bradford commencing at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 3 with the finals timed to commence at 7.30 p.m.

15 Butterfly tables will be in use with Peace 3-Star (white) balls. The floor is thermoplastic 'Tarket'. The cash prize fund totals £200 with £40 going to the winner of the men's singles and £20 to the winner of the counterpart women's event. Listed in the 8 events is a Class 2 Singles, Intermediate men's and women's singles and veterans' singles.

Entries close Feb. 14 to the tournament organiser Richard Scruton at 79 Kingsley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4RD (Phone Middlesbrough (0642) 242914 (Business). Tournament Referee is Geoff Scruton, and the show is sponsored by Mileta Sports.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

DRAW FOR ROUND 3 (MEN)

Completion Date 11/2/79

WILMOTT CUP

Zone 1

Carlisle v Northumberland
Stockton v Sunderland

Zone 2

Preston v Manchester
Bradford v Stockport

Zone 3

Chesterfield v Leicester
Mansfield or Wyberton v Hull

Zone 4

Ely v Wisbech
Birmingham v North Herts

Zone 5

Cheshunt v Bury St. Edmunds
Dagenham v Harlow

Zone 6

North Middlesex v Norwich
Reading v Staines

Zone 7

Hastings v Beckenham
Leatherhead v Crawley

Zone 8

Plymouth v Bristol
Basingstoke v Exmouth

2nd Round Results

Carlisle 5 Ormesby 2
Harrogate 1 Stockport 8
Bradford w.o. Shrewsbury scr
Farnworth 1 Preston 5
Manchester 5 Blackpool 2
Hinckley 4 Leicester 5
Hull w.o. Peterborough scr
Ely 5 Cambridge 2
Derby 0 Chesterfield 5
Beccles 0 North Herts 6
Northampton 2 Birmingham 7
Wisbech w.o. Luton scr
Bury St. Edmunds 5 Romford 4
Harlow 6 Braintree 0
Dagenham 5 Billericay 1
Ipswich 3 Cheshunt 5
High Wycombe 0 North Middlesex 5
Norwich 6 Maidenhead 0
Reading 5 St. Albans 3
Newbury 4 Staines 5
Southend 3 Hastings 5
Crawley 5 Tunbridge Wells 3
Leatherhead 6 East Grinstead 0
Beckenham 9 Worthing 0
Bristol 9 Bridgwater 0
Portsmouth 1 Basingstoke 5
Exmouth w.o. Bournemouth scr
Plymouth w.o. Cheltenham scr

DRAW FOR ROUND 3 (WOMEN)

Completion Date 11/2/79

J. M. ROSE BOWL

Zone 1

Northumberland v Ormesby
Sunderland v Carlisle

Zone 2

Bury or Preston v Manchester
Bradford v Stockport

Zone 3

Leicester v Peterborough
Chesterfield v Grimsby

Zone 4

Northampton v Birmingham
Kettering v Cambridge

Zone 5

Cheshunt v Basildon
Dagenham v Ipswich

Zone 6

Watford v London Civil Service
North Middlesex v Wembley

Zone 7

Gravesend v Leatherhead
Crawley v Romford

Zone 8

Exeter or Swindon v Bournemouth
Newbury v Plymouth

2nd Round Results

Ormesby 5 Hull 1
Blackpool 2 Bradford 5
Stockport 5 Liverpool 3
Manchester w.o. Leeds scr
Grimsby 6 Grantham 0
Leicester w.o. Derby scr
Chesterfield w.o. Nottingham scr
Northampton w.o. North Herts scr
Birmingham w.o. Luton scr
Dunstable 1 Kettering 8

March 1 Cambridge 8
Stowmarket 0 Ipswich 9
Cheshunt w.o. Billericay scr
Norwich 0 Dagenham 6
Lowestoft 0 Basildon 9
London C.S. 5 Slough 2
North Middlesex w.o. North Acton scr
Wembley 6 Bracknell 0
Watford 7 Maidenhead 2
Brighton 4 Gravesend 5
Beckenham 4 Leatherhead 5
Crawley w.o. Eastborne scr
Romford 8 Southend 1
Portsmouth 3 Bournemouth 6
Bristol 2 Plymouth 6
Newbury 8 Bridgwater 1

DRAW FOR ROUND 3 (BOYS)

Completion Date 11/2/79

CARTER CUP

Zone 1

Ormesby v Hartlepool
Barrow v Lancaster/Morecambe

Zone 2

Shrewsbury v Liverpool
Manchester v Bradford

Zone 3

Chesterfield or Potteries v Grantham
Leicester v Nottingham

Zone 4

Birmingham v Wolverhampton
Milton Keynes v Dunstable

Zone 5

Dagenham v March
Wisbech v Norwich

Zone 6

North Middlesex v Barking
Oxford v Wembley

Zone 7

Chelmsford v Hastings
Beckenham v Leatherhead

Zone 8

Maidenhead v Plymouth
Bristol v Cheltenham

2nd Round Results

Hartlepool 5 Stockton 4
Lancaster/Morecambe 5 Carlisle 4
Northumberland 4 Ormesby 5
Sunderland 1 Barrow 8
Shrewsbury 5 Harrogate 2
Salford/Eccles 2 Liverpool 5
Manchester 5 Preston 2
Bradford 7 Farnworth 2
Leicester 6 Hinckley 3
Mansfield 0 Nottingham 5
Grantham 6 Peterborough 2
Birmingham 9 Leamington 0
Milton Keynes 8 Luton 1
Northampton 4 Dunstable 5
Wolverhampton 6 West Bromwich 0
March w.o. Stowmarket scr
Wisbech 5 Lowestoft 1
Norwich 5 North Herts 4

Bury St. Edmunds 2 Dagenham 5
North Middlesex 8 Willesden 1
Barking 6 St. Albans 0
Oxford 5 Iford 1
Wembley 6 Guildford 3
Hastings 5 Brighton 0
Beckenham 5 Bromley 3
Leatherhead 5 Eastbourne 1
Gravesend 4 Chelmsford 5
Bracknell 0 Maidenhead 6
Southampton 2 Plymouth 7
Bristol 9 Exeter 0

DRAW FOR ROUND 3 (GIRLS)

Completion Date 11/2/79

BROMFIELD TROPHY

Zone 1

Sunderland v Barrow
Ormesby - Bye

Zone 2

Hull v Shrewsbury
Bradford v Leeds

Zone 3

Nottingham v Grimsby
Leicester v Grantham

Zone 4

Wolverhampton v Northampton
Dunstable v Cambridge

Zone 5

Cheshunt v Ipswich
Lowestoft v Wisbech

Zone 6

Barking v Becontree
North Middlesex v Oxford

Zone 7

Chelmsford v Guildford
Crawley v Worthing

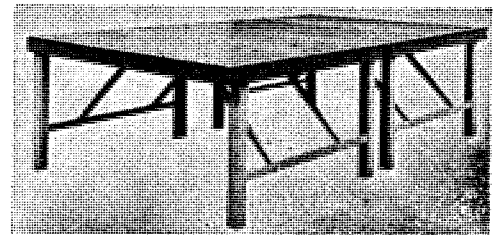
Zone 8

Swindon v Exeter
Bournemouth v Plymouth

2nd Round Results

Market Drayton 0 Shrewsbury 5
Grimsby 8 Lincoln 1
Grantham 5 Derby 0
Chesterfield 2 Leicester 7
Birmingham 4 Wolverhampton 5
Dunstable 9 Luton 0
March 2 Cambridge 7
Northampton 5 Kettering 0
Cheshunt 5 St. Neots 4
Ipswich 6 Basildon 3
Lowestoft w.o. North Herts scr
Wisbech w.o. Norwich scr
Becontree 8 High Wycombe 1
North Middlesex 5 Reading 4
Maidenhead 1 Oxford 5
Barking w.o. Bracknell scr
Chelmsford w.o. Southend scr
Exeter 9 Bridgwater 0
Swindon 9 Bristol 0

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NEWS FROM AMERICA

by MALCOLM ANDERSON

Eric Boggan is Youngest Ever U.S. Men's Champion!

The Men's Singles final of the 1978 U.S. Closed Championships, held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, saw our defending champion, Danny Seemiller, pitted against his protege, 15-year-old Eric Boggan. Both play the same style — "Seemiller grip" — but Eric reverses his racket to give an "anti spin" shot far more often than does Danny. Throughout the match, Eric generally stayed at the table, blocking and hitting; Danny did more moving and looping. Eric won the first game at 23-21, and the second 21-16. In the third game, Danny slipped twice (on an indoor tennis court) after it was 15-all, and was down 15-17. Then he went 20-17 ahead, and missed a turkey at 20-18, and Eric forged ahead, 21-20! Then Danny won the game at 23-21! However, in the fourth game Eric went ahead early and stayed there — and close to the table — and won the title 21-15.

At the award ceremony, Eric was generously applauded, but Danny received a standing ovation. The crowd, mostly players, were fully aware that Danny had helped Eric in every way he could, knowing this help was bringing this day nearer, and they really showed their appreciation for this fine sportsman.

In the semi-finals, Danny beat Scott Boggan. When Scott was behind 10-16 in the first game, he ran around his backhand and tried a big forehand — and hit the table with his thumb! After 15 minutes of ice packs and pressure bandages, Scott gallantly continued, but it was a lost cause for him — after losing the first two games at 10 and 13, the pain forced him to retire when down 11-16 in the third. Scott then went to a hospital, where they discovered that his thumb was broken! In the other semi, Eric beat Ray Guillen 17, 7, -22, 16. In the quarter-finals, Eric, who was seeded sixth, beat second seeded D. J. Lee 18, -19, 20, 15.

In the Women's Singles final, In Sook Bhushan beat He-ja Lee 19, -20, 15, 10. In Sook's toughest match was in the semi, where she came from behind to beat Kasia Dawidowicz, -18, -17, 14, 13, 8. He-ja Lee beat Angelita Sistrunk in the other semi, 17, 17, -19, 7.

In Men's Doubles, Dan and Rick Seemiller beat two youngsters from Washington, Dean Doyle and Quang Bui, 13, 12, 19.

In Women's Doubles, He-ja Lee and Angelita Sistrunk beat the defending champions, In Sook Bhushan and Kasia Dawidowicz, 19, -12, 16, -14, 18.

In Mixed Doubles, Danny and In Sook beat Ray Guillen and Judy Bochenki, 12, 17, 18.

Other results:-

Senior Singles (over 40):

Bill Sharpe bt Bohdan Dawidowicz 12, -18, -11, 21, 7.

Esquire Singles (over 50):

Bernie Bukiet bt Russ Thompson 4, 6, 13.

Senior Esquire Singles (over 60):

Bill Hornyak bt Frank Tharaldson 8, 6.

Veterans' Singles (over 70):

Dr. Alex McAllister bt Oliver Nicholas.

Senior Doubles:

Houshang Bozorgzadeh/Howard Grossman bt Tim Boggan/Bill Sharpe 3-2.

Esquire Doubles:

Mike Scott/Russ Thompson bt Carmen Rivevuto/Eugene Wilson 18, 11, -12, 12.

Boys' U-17:

Eric Boggan bt Dean Wong 13, 20, 15.

Girls' U-17:

Kasia Dawidowicz bt Cheryl Dadian 18, 20, 8.

Boys' U-15:

Eric Boggan bt Brian Masters 15, 8, 18.

Girls' U-15:

Cheryl Dadian bt Pam Simon 11, 11, 8.

Boys' U-13:

Brandon Olson bt Scott Butler 16, -11, 11, 14.

Girls' U-13:

Karin Thompson bt Lisa Gee 11, 11, 14.

Boys' U-11:

Scott Butler bt Sean O'Neill -18, 14, 20, -19, 16.

Boys' U-17 Doubles:

Jim Lane/Todd Petersen bt Quang Bui/John Stillions 19, -20, 17, 18.

Girls' U-17 Doubles:

Kasia Dawidowicz/Cheryl Dadian bt Marilyn Johnston/Pam Simon 15, 10, 9.

Boys' U-15 Doubles:

Brian Masters/John Stillions bt Brandon Olson/Dan Wiig 13, 11, 17.

Girls' U-15 Doubles:

Marilyn Johnston/Karin Thompson bt Cheryl Dadian/Caroline Schweinert 16, 18, 18.

Boys' U-13 Doubles:

Scott Butler/Sean O'Neill bt Brandon Olson/Khoa Nguyen -18, -14, 15, 16, 13.

Hard Rubber Singles:

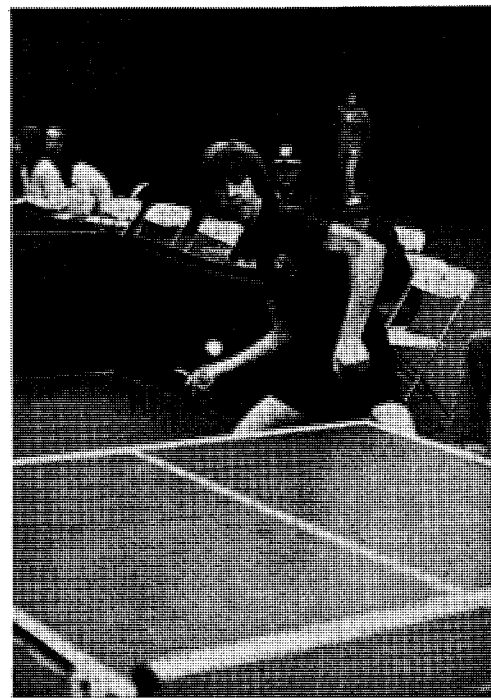
Lim Ming Chui bt Franz Huermann 20, 14, 16.

U.S. World Team Trials, Las Vegas, Nevada, December 20-22, 1978

Dan Seemiller, after losing his U.S. Title three days earlier, had something to prove at the team trials, and prove it he did — he had a perfect 11-0 record in the final round robin. This is the 4th time the U.S.T.T.A. used a trial to pick the U.S. Team, and the 4th time that Dan finished first in the trial; in the last 3 he was undefeated.

Other members of the Men's Team are Ricky Seemiller (8-3) — he lost to Danny, Eric Boggan and Perry Schwartzburg; Eric Boggan (7-4) lost to Danny, Roger Sverdlik, Apichart Sears and Dell Sweeris; Roger Sverdlik (6-5) lost to Danny, Ray Guillen, D. J. Lee, Ricky Seemiller and Dell Sweeris. Perry Schwartzburg and Dell Sweeris also finished 6-5 — Perry lost to Danny. Sverdlik, D. J. Lee, Eric Boggan and Mike Bush, and Dell lost to Danny, Schwartzburg, Lee, Rick Seemiller and Quang Bui. Bui's record was 1-10: his one win kept Dell off the team! Roger's 4th place finish was decided on game average; as he played the last day with the flu — 102 degree fever and all the trimmings — he is a deserving team member. The Selection Committee exercised their heretofore unused prerogative of electing one team member; they elected Scott Boggan to the team. Scott was unable to play because of his broken thumb, he sustained this injury while playing Dan Seemiller in the U.S. Closed semi-finals three days before. Thus, the alternatives are Perry and Dell. Other players in the final trial were Ray Guillen (5-6), Mike Lardon (2-9), Sears (5-6), D. J. Lee (5-6), and Mike Bush, who had a 4-7 record playing on a broken toe.

In the Women's Trials, In Sook Bhushan (11-0) didn't lose a game! He-ja Lee was 10-1, Alice Green was 8-3, losing also to Judy Bochenki, and Kasia Dawidowicz was 7-4, losing to In Sook, He-ja, Alice and Judy. The alternates are Carol Davidson (6-5), who lost to the team members and Takako Trenholme; Faan Yeen Liu (6-5) lost to the team members and Davidson, and Judy Bochenki (6-5) who was even against the team, but whose losses to Davidson, Liu and Louise Nieves kept her off the team. Other players in the final round robin were Connie Sweeris (3-8), Olga Soltész (2-9), Takako Trenholme (1-10), Cheryl Dadian (4-7) and Louise Nieves (2-9).



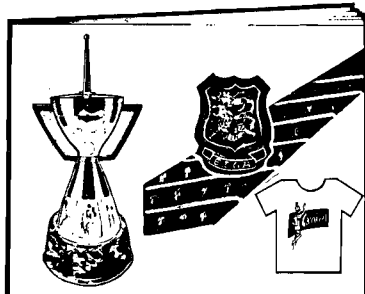
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C. M. WYLES, O.B.E.

News to hand as we go to press is that Charles M. Wyles, the former Chairman of the E.T.T.A., has suffered a heart attack but happily is reported comfortable in Kent and Canterbury Hospital in Belle Ward.



CHESHUNT & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Tesco Stores Ltd. sponsored their second Cheshunt League Handicap Singles Tournament in November.

Brian Adey (Cheshunt) won the main event for the Tesco Trophy beating Mike Lyddiatt (Haileybury), both players from Division 5 and starting from scratch.

Mrs. Jo Chapman (East Herts College) won the consolation event and the Tesco Shield from Peter Brownlow (Goffs Oak), who had to give 19 start up to 21 (no deuce)! Mrs. Chapman had learned from an earlier experience (her first round Trophy match saw defeat with 19 start against Alan Lamprell) and the young Brownlow could not afford too many fierce shots, just in case they came back. The final went the distance but Peter Brownlow's patience ran out.

Pictured (left to right): Mike Lyddiatt, Brian Adey (Trophy Winner), John Stenlake (Tesco Director), Mrs. Jo Chapman (Shield Winner) and Peter Brownlow.

Photo by Tony Dobbin (Tesco Stores Ltd., Cheshunt, Herts.).

4. Perth
5. Ayrshire

Women:

1. Stirlingshire
2. Edinburgh
3. Dundee
4. West of Scotland
5. Fife

Juniors:

Group 1

1. West of Scotland
2. Fife
3. Perth

Group 2

1. Edinburgh
2. West Dunbarton
3. Lanarkshire

Group 3

1. Aberdeen
2. Stirlingshire
3. Dundee

Final Group

1. Aberdeen
2. West of Scotland
3. Edinburgh

Cadets:

1. West of Scotland
2. Lanarkshire
3. Stirlingshire
4. Edinburgh
5. Aberdeen
6. West Dunbartonshire
7. Dundee
8. Fife

London Youth Games 1979

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NETBALL — BADMINTON — ARCHERY

The Second London Youth Games are for young people (under 21) living in Greater London. It is an Inter-Borough Competition and London Boroughs can only select their teams from people living in their Borough.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

In some sports there will be preliminary rounds prior to the finals. These will take place at venues in London during May, June and July, 1979.

FINALS

The finals of all sports will be held at:-
CRYSTAL PALACE NATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE

on
SATURDAY - SUNDAY, 4th - 5th AUGUST, 1979

HOW TO ENTER

Each London Borough has its own organiser and those people wishing to represent their borough in the games should contact the organiser, whose address and telephone number can be obtained from your Town Hall.

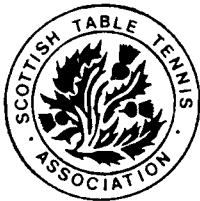
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SCOTTISH NEWS



by DENIS GEORGE

5th COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS Edinburgh — 12/18 April, 1979

Preparations are now well under way for the 5th Commonwealth Championships and Edinburgh is looking forward to welcoming players from all over the World who will converge on the Meadowbank Sports Centre in April. The Scottish squad for the event will be:-

Men's Team:

Richard Yule, John McNee, Keith Rodger, Archie McCulloch, John Moir.

David McLroy, Norman Lovie, John Proctor.

Women's Team:

Carole Dalrymple, Patrice Fleming, Grace McKay, Mabel Neish.

Kristie Hammond, Margaret Cuthbertson, Isobel Ferguson, Hilary Calder.

35th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Pyongyang, North Korea

SCOTLAND will be sending a full Men's team to Pyongyang; this will be the first time that Scotland have played in the Swaythling Cup out-

side of Europe. The team will be the same as for the Commonwealth Championships with Richard Yule as Captain and Denis George as Team Leader/Delegate.

COMMONWEALTH SQUAD TRAINING

The first of three weekend training camps for the 16 players nominated for the Commonwealth Championships was held at the National Recreation Centre, Inverclyde, Largs, 5-7 January, 1979. The camp was unexpectedly extended for two days when the Chinese team (for the English Open), which included Kuo Yao-Hua and Liang Ke-Liang, stayed at Inverclyde from 7-9 January. The Scottish players had ample opportunity to watch and play against the visitors and to listen to coach Li Fu-Jung expound his views on coaching, training and the game in general. Arrangements were made by S.T.T.A. Director of Coaching Eric Sutherland in conjunction with the Scottish Sports Council.

S.T.T.A. INTER-LEAGUE TOURNAMENT Edinburgh — 14 January, 1979

In spite of the arctic conditions teams from all affiliated leagues, except Renfrewshire, came to Meadowbank to compete in the annual team competition. EDINBURGH retained the Men's title, STIRLINGSHIRE took the Ladies' title, the Junior section was won by ABERDEEN and WEST OF SCOTLAND showed promise for the future when winning the Cadet title.

Final Positions:-

Men:

Division I

1. Edinburgh
2. Aberdeen
3. Lanarkshire
4. West of Scotland
5. Fife

Division II

1. Stirlingshire
2. West Dunbartonshire
3. Dundee

PING COMMENTARY

by JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"

MISSILES ON THE WAY?

No doubt there are quite a few people in the counties of Surrey and Cleveland preparing missiles to throw at the England selectors for their decisions to drop Linda Howard and Carole Knight from the England world team and replace them with the two younger girls Karen Witt and Anita Stevenson.

No one will deny that Linda Howard has in doubles events reached great heights. I have often noted her courage in mixed doubles when facing some of the world's greatest male players. When tempted to push against really difficult services she will often make courageous attacking strokes.

But the fact remains that successes in doubles is not enough. It may well be the case that for example, Desmond Douglas could do as well or even better with Karen Witt. In any case, the selectors have already said that they were extremely impressed with Karen and Anita at the Polish Open and that is one of the main reasons for their selection for Pyongyang.

The Scottish T.T.A. are understandably not happy that England have decided to send a second men's team to Edinburgh, but I applaud the selectors for this decision. It gives a neat boost to the players, who themselves must have been surprised and, it is just not on to expect our best men to play for nine days in Edinburgh when immediately facing such a strenuous world event at such a distance as North Korea.

Grass pimples outward on the reverse side is really beginning to take its toll at all levels. Even in local leagues, players who have never beaten a rival in their lives are suddenly breaking through. It seems that any player, except possibly the people who rely entirely on all-out attack would do well to consider the twin-face bat. It also appears that it takes a considerable time for players to become accustomed to the new surface.

PONTEFRAC 1-STAR OPEN

by GEOFF SCRUTON

All change at the Town Hall

Steven Mills of Sheffield won his first Open Title when he beat holder Kevin Beadsley of Bradford in the Men's Singles and ensured that all the titles changed hands at this year's competition held on 27th January at the Town Hall. An exciting match between two left handers provided the large crowd of spectators with a thrilling climax to a long but good day's sport. Earlier Mills beat Derek Schofield and Beadsley beat Ron Vose (Salford) in the Semis.

Two Lindas in the Women's with Holmes beating Hryszko rather easily in the second game.

Surprises in the Men's Doubles with veterans Schofield and Terry Donlon beating Mills and Graham Lynch. Said Terry "It's my first ever Open Title apart from an odd Veterans' win".

The mixed featured four players from the Unity Club Bradford when Beadsley and Hryszko beat Steve Worsman and Helen Shields. The two women teamed up in the doubles to win from Connie Moran and Linda Holmes.

Guess who won the Vets.? Schofield beat George Summerscales in a repeat of last year's final.

Trevor Watson, Wakefield and unranked in Yorkshire won the Boys' Singles from Derby No. 2 Steven Young whilst Samantha Kallianpur beat Julie Evans (both from Hull) in the Girls' Singles. A good homely Tournament this, played in difficult conditions but in a friendly spirit. Nice to see Eddie Brown of Stockport playing and umpiring and selling T.T. News. He told me it was his 25th consecutive appearance at Pontefract!

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
S. Mills (Y) bt T. Turner (Ch) 9, 6;
D. Schofield (Ch) bt J. Evans (La) 18, 20;
K. Beadsley (Y) bt A. Clarke (Nd) 10, -19, 20;
R. Vose (La) bt A. Fletcher (York) 18, 10.

Semi-finals:
Mills bt Schofield 12, -12, 18;
Beadsley bt Vose 8, 12.

Final:
MILLS bt Beadsley 17, 20.

Women's Singles Final:
L. HOLMES (Dy) bt L. Hryszko 19, 9.

Men's Doubles Final:
SCHOFIELD/T. DONLON (Ch) bt Mills/G. Lynch (Y) -15, 15, 16.

Women's Doubles Final:
H. SHIELDS (Y)/HRYSZKO bt C. Moran (Li)/Holmes 19, 18.

Mixed Doubles Final:
BEADSLEY/HRYSZKO bt S. Worsman (Y)/Shields 13, -14, 18.

Veteran Singles Final:
SCHOFIELD bt G. Summerscales (Y) 9, -18, 12.

Junior Boys' Singles Final:
T. WATSON (Y) bt S. Young (Dy) 19, 18.

Junior Girls' Singles Final:
S. KALLIANPUR (Y) bt J. Evans 14, -18, 17.

1st Israel Open Championships

by Alan Fletcher and John Dabin

These championships were held in a small sports centre in Tel Aviv over the period Dec. 27/28, 1978. One can only describe conditions in the Barbour Centre as being below par, not even up to the standard of a 1-star tournament at home.

Five tables were squeezed into a minimum playing arena with one weak light over each. White walls and windows formed the main background. Concentration was difficult; it was noisy and umpires had to frequently rebuke the very young boys who got bored with "twiddling".

It was difficult to believe, but dogs were barking during the final, scaffolding was being erected next to crucial games, and a fight developed in the sports centre because of a player disagreeing with the committee. Generally, although the Israeli Sports Federation did their best, they have a lot to learn.

In contrast, the hospitality could not be bettered. From stepping off the plane they could not do enough for us. They arranged a day out in Jerusalem on Christmas Eve, followed by a trip to Bethlehem in the evening. The food and hotel were both of a high standard.

In the Championships, John reached the quarter-final of the singles and Alan reached the semi-finals. John beat one of the top Israelis, B. Yosi, and Alan beat Rene Hatem, the French No. 4, 3-0 in the quarter-finals, before losing to Tommy Danielsson (Swedish No. 5) 19 in the fifth. John lost to Jean Claude Decret (French No. 3) 3-1.

In the team event, England beat Israel "D" (3-0) and lost to Israel "A" (2-3), and France (0-3). John did well to beat the top two Israeli players in the team event and Alan did well to take the Bronze Medal in the singles. Sweden provided the two men's finalists (Anders Bylund beat Danielsson 3-1), and won the team event; Israel "A" were second and France third.

GLOBAL APPROVED

Presented by Barry Meisel and Danny Kinnard the Global National £2,000 Tournament, to be held at Greenwich Baths on Mar. 3/4, has received the blessing of the E.T.T.A.

The National Council discussed the application at their last meeting and authorised the participation of E.T.T.A. members and granted them permission to accept the cash prizes listed within the entry form.

Prize money in the Open Singles: Winner - £1,000, Runner-up - £250. "A" Singles: Winner - £250, Runner-up - £75, "B" Singles: Winner - £100, Runner-up - £50.

"A" singles to exclude internationals or players England-ranked since Jan. 1/77. Exempt from the "B" singles, in addition to the foregoing, are players who have represented their county in any senior match since Jan. 1/77 together with current ranked juniors in the first ten positions.

Women will be eligible to compete in all events.

EAST OF ENGLAND 2-STAR

Entries for the East of England 2-Star Open, to be played on Sunday, March 11 at Yarborough Sports Centre, Riseholme Road, Lincoln, close on Wednesday, Feb. 21 to M. S. Brown, High St., Eagle, Lincoln LN6 9DG (Phone: Swinderby 291). Play commences at 9.45 a.m., the prize money being donated by Mr. R. Butlin and Mr. A. J. Biggadike.



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| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| JUNIOR 3 MIDLAND | | | | | | | |
| Worcestershire | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 7 | 3 |
| Gwent | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| Shropshire II | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 2 |
| Hereford | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 2 |
| Staffs II | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| Clwyd II | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 0 |

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| JUNIOR 3 EAST | | | | | | | |
| Lincs II | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 4 |
| Leicestershire | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 8 | 3 |
| Huntingdonshire | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 2 |
| Warwicks II | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 2 |
| Cambis II | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 12 | 1 |
| Norfolk II | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 0 |

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| JUNIOR 3 WEST | | | | | | | |
| Devon II | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 4 |
| Somerset | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 9 | 3 |
| Avon | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 2 |
| Hampshire | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 11 | 2 |
| Cornwall | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 13 | 1 |
| Wiltshire II | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 0 |

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| VETERAN SOUTH | | | | | | | |
| Middlesex | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 4 |
| Sussex | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 8 | 4 |
| Hertfordshire | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 2 |
| Hants II | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 2 |
| Essex II | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 0 |
| Kent | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 0 |

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| VETERAN MIDLAND | | | | | | | |
| Cheshire | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Cheshire II | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 2 |
| Clwyd | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 2 |
| Worcestershire | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 0 |

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| VETERAN EAST | | | | | | | |
| Leicestershire | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| Lincolnshire | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| Essex | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 2 |
| Huntingdonshire | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 2 |
| Herts II | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 0 |

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| VETERAN WEST | | | | | | | |
| Avon | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 4 |
| Hampshire | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 5 | 4 |
| Dorset | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 2 |
| Dorset II | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 2 |
| Wiltshire | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 0 |
| Oxfordshire | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 0 |

CLEVELAND 3-STAR OPEN

PARKER SPRINGS SURPRISE by The Editor

Lancashire's **Donald Parker**, the E.T.T.A.'s Northern National Staff Coach, was the surprise winner of the men's singles event in the Cleveland 3-Star Open played over the weekend of Jan. 20/21 at Thornaby Pavilion.

£250 was the prize money at stake in this event and, in the absence of Desmond Douglas and Jimmy Walker, Parker made his way through the top quarter to be opposed in the semis by Graham Sandley who had the No. 3 seed, Paul Day, missing from his section of the draw.

Nonetheless Parker, now figuring at No. 17 in the national rankings, had a good deal to feel proud about especially in his final beating of his higher-ranked county teammate John Hilton.

The weather played havoc with road conditions and because of this scratchings were inevitable and many were the big names missing when the starter's gun was fired. Not so pronounced in the bottom half of the men's singles in which Nicky Jarvis, seeded No. 2, fell to Kasili Lasisi (-11, -18) in the third round, the Nigerian falling in the next round to Peter McQueen.

Another seed to be toppled in the bottom half was Max Crimmins beaten on his second excursion to the tables by Kenny Jackson who went on to account for Joe Kennedy before falling to Hilton. Young Sandley had a -12, 7, 13 win over Denis Neale on his route to the semis, his Middlesex teammate, Colin Wilson, being another non-starter.

Of the Commonwealth challengers, Canada's Peter Joe, was beaten by Ian Horsham (11, 18) in Rd. 4 and Aussie Steve Knapp was taken out by Hilton, his compatriot Rodney Carlyle falling to David Constance.

Competing for a top prize of £150 in the women's singles **Jill Hammersley** could not have

had it easier in beating Suzanne Hunt (11, 12), Christine Little of Australia (5, 7), Cheryl Buttery (4, 7) and, in the final, Linda Howard (12 and 8). But Linda might have given the English selectors cause to ponder on her non-selection for Pyongyang when she took out Karen Witt in Rd. 3 and partnered her final conqueror to success in the women's doubles.

Biggest shock in the singles was the defeat of No. 3 seed Anita Stevenson by Nottingham University student Cheryl Buttery of Lincolnshire, who triumphed 18 and 15, over the Loughborough girl. No. 4 seed Melody Ludi was a non-starter being snowbound in Bradford.

Hilton took consolation for his singles defeat by teaming up with Lasisi to win the men's doubles, the second seeded Jarvis and Potton, the latter in place of Day, going out to the Australians Knapp and Carlyle. Top seeds, Douglas and Walker were, of course absentees.

Yorkshireman Alan Fletcher had Nigel Eckersley as his partner but they conceded to Tony Clayton and Johnathan Proffitt. In the Class 2 Mixed Singles Pat Glynn had a hard-fought encounter with Mark Hankey in the final winning at "deuce" in the third.

But, in the Intermediate men's singles, one of the down under boys' took the money when, in the final, Carlyle beat Keith Paxton after earlier victories over David Hughes (Cv), Ian Reed (Cu), Malcolm Green (Sp) and, in the semis, Stephen Cowley (La). Karen Witt was the winner of the counterpart women's event her final victim being Mandy Smith.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
D. Parker (La) bt R. Potton (E) 17, -23, 13;
G. Sandley (Mi) bt I. Horsham (E) 19, 18;
J. Hilton (La) bt K. Jackson (E) 15, 15;
A. Fletcher (Y) bt P. McQueen (Cv) 19, -18, 18.

Semi-finals:
Parker bt Sandley 16, 11;
Hilton bt Fletcher 17, 19.

Final:
PARKER bt Hilton 14, 15.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:
J. Hammersley (Bu) bt C. Little (Au) 5, 7;
C. Buttery (Li) bt A. Stevenson (Le) 18, 15;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt M. Smith (Bk) -13, 14, 13;
L. Howard (Sy) bt K. Witt (Bk) 18, -14, 11.

Semi-finals:
Hammersley bt Buttery 4, 7;
Howard bt Gordon -18, 15, 12.

Final:
HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 12, 8.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:
M. Mitchell (Mi)/Sandley bt S. Andrew/D. Charlery (E) 14, 17;
D. Neale (Cv)/Parker bt A. Clayton (Y)/J. Proffitt (Mi) 13, 16;
Hilton/K. Lasisi (Nig) bt D. Newman/L. Smith (E) 17, 10;
R. Carlyle/S. Knapp (Aut) 26, 14.

Semi-finals:
Mitchell/ Sandley bt Neale/Parker 25, 17;
Hilton/Lasisi bt Carlyle/Knapp 15, -19, 17.

Final:
HILTON/LASISI bt Mitchell/Sandley -19, 13, 13.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:
Hammersley/Howard bt A. Mitchell/H. Williams (Mi) 11, 14;
S. Hunt (Li)/Witt bt M. Reeves (Mi)/J. Skipp (Cv) 13 18;
Gordon/Smith bt M. Elliman/K. Mashford (Mi) 11, 12;
C. Knight (Cv)/Stevenson bt B. Kearney (Aut)/Little 11, 16.

Semi-finals:
Hammersley/Howard bt Hunt/Witt 16, 13;
Knight/Stevenson bt Gordon/Smith 12, 18.

Final:
HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Knight/Stevenson 14, 15.

Class 2 Singles (Mixed) Quarter-finals:
A. Clark (Nd) bt Proffitt 19, 19;
M. Hankey (Ch) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) 9, 16;
P. Glynn (Wa) bt J. Crawford (Du) 15, 10;
I. Svenson (Du) bt T. Haley (Mi) 15, 17.

Semi-finals:
Hankey bt Clark 15, 10;
Glynn bt Svenson 10, 9.

Final:
GLYNN bt Hankey 17, -16, 20.

Intermediate Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
S. Cowley (La) bt E. Minto (Du) 10, 11;
Carlyle bt M. Green (Sp) 19, 16;
K. Paxton (Cv) bt J. Green (Wa) 12, 15;
Sandley bt D. Wells (Sy) 9, 15.

Semi-finals:
Carlyle bt Cowley 15, 16;
Paxton bt Sandley 16, -12, 12.

Final:
CARLYLE bt Paxton 13, -16, 17.

Intermediate Women's Singles Quarter-finals:
Witt bt J. Williams (Cv) 8, 16;
Gordon bt L. Barwick (Cv) 12, 9;
Smith bt Skipp 16, 18;
A. Tierney (Cv) bt S. Laver (Cv) 8, 9.

Semi-finals:
Witt bt Gordon 7, 12;
Smith bt Tierney 19, 18.

Final:
WITT bt Smith -17, 15, 17.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:
D'Arcy bye;
G. Chapman (Sy) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 13, 12.

Final:
CHAPMAN bt D'Arcy -15, 20, 20.

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