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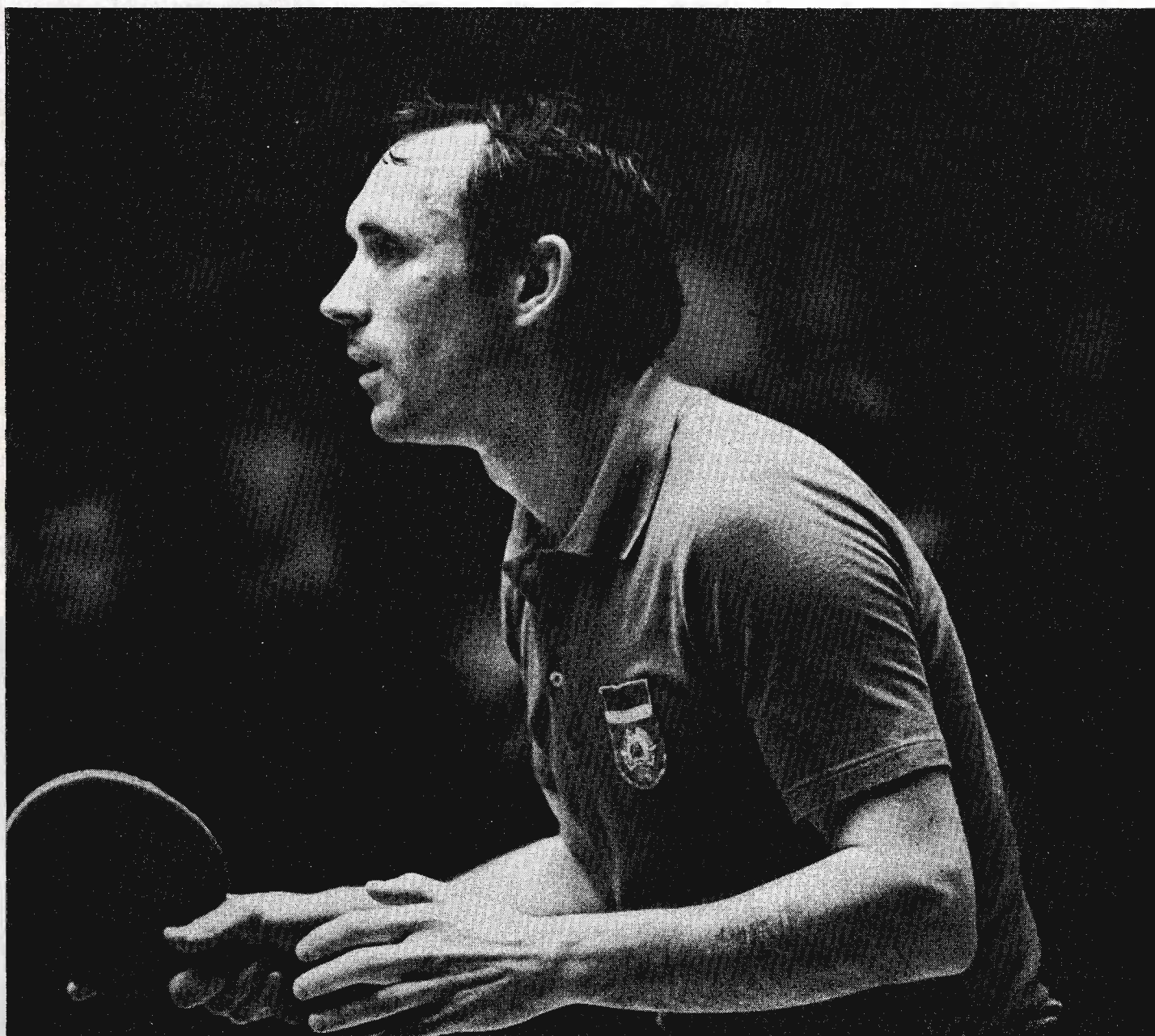


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 **Jaques**

- of course

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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TON UP

This issue of 'TABLE TENNIS NEWS' marks the 100th publication of a magazine that began its life back in October, 1966 — some twelve and a half years ago — rising Phoenix-like from the ashes of its predecessor 'TABLE TENNIS' under the Editorship of W. Harrison Edwards.

That it has survived, and indeed not been an encumbrance on the finances of the Association, speaks volumes for those who have supported it by becoming subscribers, and to those especially who, throughout the years, have supplied editorial matter and photographs free of charge.

The current Editor is much beholden to all such contributors whose numbers increase, season by season, and to his printers who, despite their commercial interest, have shared the rigours connected with such a publication in a spirit far beyond that which could reasonably be expected of them.

Not least forgotten are our advertisers whose support from the outset has been steadfast and it is to them we owe a further acknowledgement of gratitude for it is their support which alleviates the passing on of escalating costs to a readership which this season has surpassed all previous ones.

And, finally, to those connected with the distribution of the magazine and those with special responsibilities re advertisements and subscriptions a word of thanks from the Editor would not go amiss. Without their invaluable assistance the magazine would never see the light of day. Grateful thanks to one and all.

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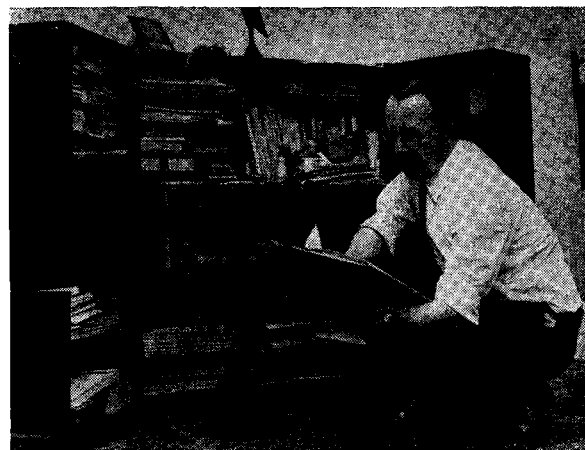
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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR



FRANCE "WHITEWASHED"

Thursday, Dec. 7, was a black day for France, the reigning **Super Division** champions of the **European League** who, devoid of the services of Jacques Secretin, crashed to a 7-0 defeat at the hands of all-conquering Hungary in Budapest.

Home super star Tibor Klampar had straight game wins over both Patrick Birocheau and Christian Martin and shared, with Istvan Jonyer, in an equally devastating men's doubles success. European champion, Gabor Gergely, was no less a thorn in the French side for he too registered two wins in single combat and partnered Judit Magos to a further win in the mixed. In the women's singles Claude Bergeret failed to stem the tide when going under to Magos.

Individual Scores:-

T. Klampar bt P. Birocheau 20, 7;

G. Gergely bt C. Martin 17, 20;

J. Magos bt C. Bergeret 19, 8;

I. Jonyer/Klampar bt Birocheau/Martin 16, 14;

Gergely/Magos bt Birocheau/Bergeret -17, 15, 16;

Klampar bt Martin 13, 14;

Gergely bt Birocheau 18, 18.

Czechoslovakia, the only other unbeaten team, also maintained their winning ways with a 5-2 win over England at Batley (as reported in the December issue) and England's position was further undermined by initial victories recorded by both Federal Germany and the Soviet Union.

Despite the presence of Dragutin Surbek in Trier the Yugoslavs were beaten 4-3 the winning lead

being established in the penultimate set when Wilfried Lieck beat Surbek who had earlier gone under to Jochen Leiss. The diminutive Ursula Hirschmuller had a good win over Erzebet Palatinus, the fourth home victory coming in the men's doubles when Leiss and Peter Stellwag had a comfortable win over Anton Stipanovic and a luckless Surbek. Zoran Kalinic had two wins for the Yugoslavs whose only other success was in the mixed.

Scores:-

W. Lieck lost to Z. Kalinic -18, 21, -14;

J. Leiss bt D. Surbek 14, -14, 17;

U. Hirschmuller bt E. Palatinus 18, -15, 18;

Leiss/P. Stellwag bt A. Stipanovic/Surbek 13, 18;

Stellwag/Hirschmuller lost to Stipanovic/Palatinus

-22, -19;

Lieck bt Surbek 18, -9, 19;

Leiss lost to Kalinic -17, -20.

Equally impressive was the victory of the Soviet Union over Sweden in Herson where Valery Shevchenko had an initial win over Tommy Danielsson and his second, over Ulf Carlsson, won the match for the Russians whose other wins came in the doubles when Shevchenko had Mironas Kreeris and Valentina Popova as his partners.

Scores:-

V. Shevchenko bt T. Danielsson 21, -9, 11;

M. Kreeris lost to U. Carlsson 13, -9, -17;

L. Bakshutova lost to A-C. Hellman 17, -15, -13;

Kreeris/Shevchenko bt Carlsson/Danielsson 17, 17;

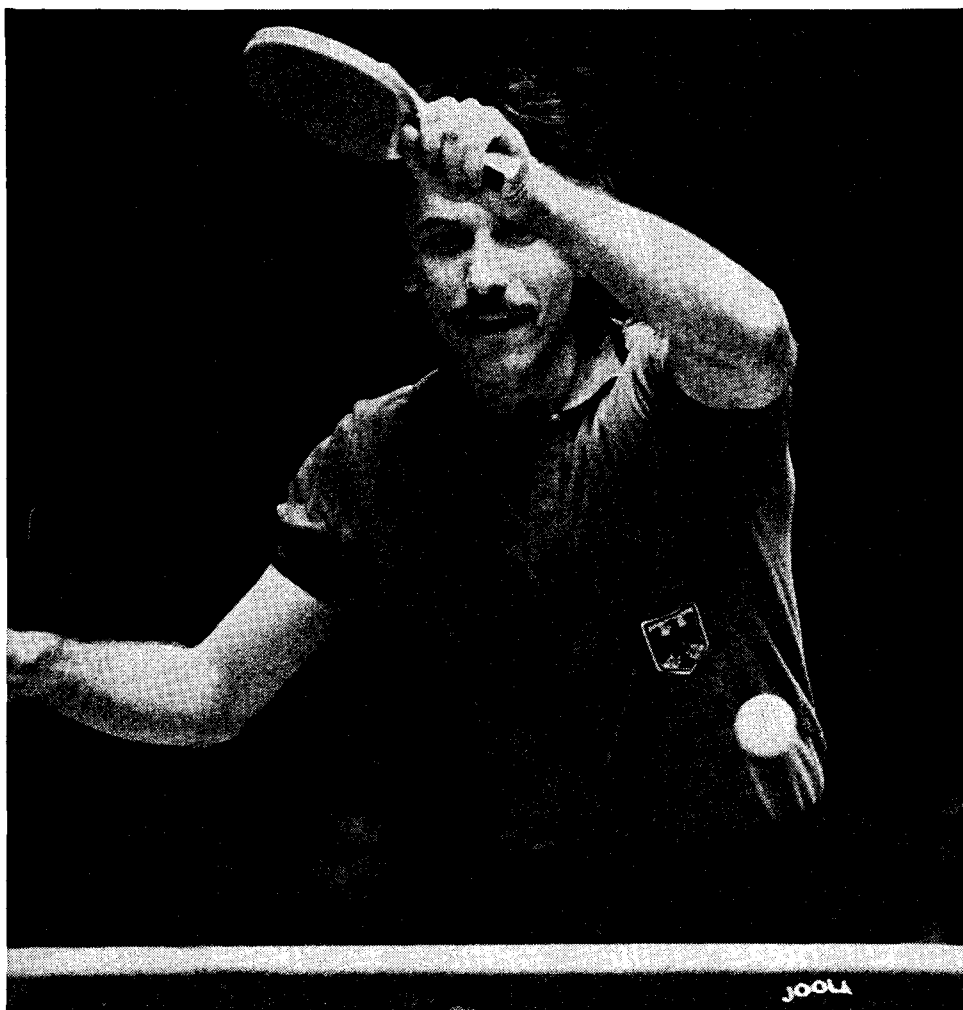
Shevchenko/V. Popova bt Carlsson/E. Stromvall

17, 16;



Wilfried Lieck who established a winning 4-2 lead for Federal Germany in Trier.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden.



Federal Germany's Jochen Leiss twice a victor over Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia in singles and doubles with Peter Stellwag.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden.

Shevchenko bt Carlsson 9, 12;
Kreeris lost to Danielsson -20, 18, -20.

DIVISION ONE

Away to Greece, in Athens, Poland stretched their unbeaten record to four matches in winning 6-1 the one to escape them being the men's doubles won by Konstantinos Priftis and Angelos Makris against Andrzej Grubba and Stefan Dryszel. Grubba and Stanislav Fraczyk carried all before them in the singles and Jolanta Szatko figured in the women's singles and a mixed success.

Scores:-
K. Priftis lost to S. Fraczyk -21, 13, -20;
N. Kostopoulos lost to A. Grubba 21, -16, -16;
D. Ioannidou lost to J. Szatko -11, -15;
A. Makris/Priftis bt S. Dryszel/Grubba 15, 19;
Priftis/S. Louca lost to Fraczyk/Szatko -10, -12;
Priftis lost to Grubba 17, -17, -17;
Kostopoulos lost to Fraczyk -13, -12.

Bulgaria, in Sofia, dented Italy's unbeaten record in winning 4-3 the winning lead coming in the last set but one when Ivan Stoianov added to his win over Giovanni Bisi by accounting for the Italian No. 1 Stefano Bosi. Stoianov also figured in two other successes, in the men's doubles, with Stefan Stefanov, and, in the mixed with Daniela Gergelcheva.

Scores:-
I. Stoianov bt G. Bisi -16, 17, -18;
S. Stefanov lost to S. Bosi -9, -20;
D. Gergelcheva lost to S. Milic 17, -17, -19;
Stefanov/Stoianov bt Bisi/Bosi 12, -9, 10;
Stoianov/Gergelcheva bt Bisi/Milic 15, 13;
Stoianov bt Bosi 19, -17, 13;
Stefanov lost to Bisi -17, -19.

Netherlands, away to Austria in Ybbsitz, left it until the last set before winning 4-3 Bert van der Helm beating Franz Proghhof to follow up his initial win over Franz Waldhausl and a men's doubles success when partnered by Hans Gootzen.

Scores:-
F. Waldhausl lost to B. v.d. Helm -14, -11;

F. Proghhof lost to H. Gootzen -14, 18, -18;
B. Gropper bt M. v.d. Vliet 20, 15;
H. Koller/Proghhof lost to v.d. Helm/Gootzen 20, -9, -9;
A. Pokorny/Gropper bt v.d. Helm/v.d. Vliet 19, 20;
Waldhausl bt Gootzen -20, 19, 17;
Proghhof lost to v.d. Helm -10, -11.

After establishing a 3-2 lead over Luxembourg in Strabane, Ireland still remain pointless and holders of the wooden spoon when in the last two sets Colum Slevin went down narrowly to Camille Putz and Jim Langan, after beating Putz fell to Andre Hartmann. Karen Senior was successful in her singles engagement against Carine Risch and also in the mixed, with Langan, against Putz/Risch.

Scores:-
C. Slevin lost to A. Hartmann -8, -20;
J. Langan bt C. Putz 9, 19;
K. Senior bt C. Risch 10, -18, 12;
Langan/Slevin lost to Hartmann/Putz -19, -17;
Langan/Senior bt Putz/Risch 8, 9;
Slevin lost to Putz -16, -23;
Langan lost to Hartmann -22, -14.

DIVISION TWO

As reported elsewhere Scotland slumped to their second defeat at home to Finland in Coatbridge (2-5) whilst, in Herve, Belgium recorded their second win in three matches beating Spain 5-2. Norbert van de Walle figured in four of the wins, beating Salvador Moles and Jose-Maria Pales in the singles, and sharing, with Lambert Bilien and Marie-France Germinat, in doubles successes. Marcel Eygemans was without success in his two singles.

Scores:-
N. v.d. Walle bt S. Moles -17, 13, 13;
M. Eygemans lost to J-M Pales -10, -19;
M-F. Germinat bt P. Lupton 10, 11;
L. Belian/v.d. Walle bt Lupton/Pales 8, 17;
v.d. Walle/Germinat bt Pales/M. Sanahuja 13, 12;
v.d. Walle bt Pales 20, 14;
Eygemans lost to Moles 15, -16, -16.

DOUBLE BRONZE IN LODZ

A youthful English team comprising Max Crimmins, Bob Potton, Karen Witt and Anita Stevenson represented their country in the Polish Open played in Lodz over the weekend of Dec. 15/17. And was the lasses Karen and Anita who returned with bronze medals being the beaten semi-finalists in both the women's team event and the women's doubles.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, spearheaded by their world women's singles champion, Pak Yung Sun, took the women's team event and Pak Yung Sun annexed the women's singles title. Again in the women's doubles it was Korea DPR with Kim Chang E and Kim Bok Yong as the winners.

Federal Germany took the men's team title but Josef Juhas of Yugoslavia was the winner of the men's singles. The host nation came into their own in both the men's and mixed doubles the former won by Fraczyk/Osimek and the latter by Kucharski and Jolanta Szatko.

In the women's singles Karen Witt lost in Rd. 2 to Kim Chang E of DPRK (0-3) but Anita Stevenson, in the same round, managed to take a game off the reigning world champion, Pak Yung Sun. Together in the women's doubles the English pair fell to Pak Yong Ok and Hong Kil Son (1-3). It was also Korea DPR who ousted England from the women's team event.

Potton reached the second round of the men's singles losing to Hans-Joachim Nolten (GFR) (2-3) whilst Crimmins fell to Stefan Dryssel of Poland (1-3) in Rd. 1.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Juhas (YUG) bt R. Czochanski (POL) 3-1;
A. Grubba (POL) bt H-J. Nolten (GFR) w.o.;
S. Fraczyk (POL) bt Kriston (HUN) 3-1;
T. Kreisz (HUN) bt A. Stefko (CZE) 3-2.

Semi-finals:

Juhas bt Grubba 3-1;
Kreisz bt Fraczyk 3-1.

Final:

JUHAS bt Kreisz 3-1.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

Pak Yung Sun (KDR) bt Kim Bok Yong (KDR) 3-0;

A. Pelikanova (CZE) bt J. Szatko (POL) 3-2;
Pak Yong Ok (KDR) bt W. Sikora (POL) 3-0;
Kim Chang E (KDR) bt Balogh (HUN) 3-1.

Semi-finals:

Pak Yung Sun bt Pelikanova 3-0;
Pak Yong Ok bt Kim Chang E 3-0.

Final:

PAK YUNG SUN bt Pak Yong Ok 3-1.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Dryszel/L. Kucharski (POL) bt Kriston/
J. Molnar (HUN) 3-2;

Fraczyk/Isimek (POL) bt M. Kreeris (USS)/
Zakariagar 3-2.

Final:

FRACZYK/OSIMEK bt Dryszel/Kucjarski 3-1.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Kim Chang E/Kim Bok Yong bt Haag/E. Wwtzel
(GFR) 3-1;

Hong Kil Son (KDR)/Pak Yong Ok bt
A. Stevenson/K. Witt (ENG) 3-1.

Final:

KIM CHANG E/KIM PAK YONG bt
Hong Kil Son/Pak Yong Ok 3-1.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Kriston/Balogh bt Molnar/E. Urban (HUN) 3-2;
Kucharski/Szatko bt T. Danielsson/E. Harnvall
(SWE) 3-1.

Final:

KUCHARSKI/SZATKO bt Molnar/Urban 3-1.

HONOUR

Congratulations to Gerard Lollier of France, a member of the I.T.T.F. Press and Publicity Committee, who on Nov. 17 became a Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de Merite.

CALENDAR

The 8th Pan-American Games will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 17-26, 1979.

SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Table Tennis Board has decided not to participate in the 35th World Championships in Pyongyang. The reasons are explained by their President, Mr. C. M. Bassa who, to quote, states:- "I should explain that the Board, which has pursued a firm policy of non-discrimination ever since its inception in 1948, is of the view that a Board team selected on merit

to participate in any international event could easily be confused with the many racially orientated teams which are presented abroad as national teams truly representing our country. We believe that the presence of our team in any international event could easily be construed as an acceptance of the South African Government's Sports Policy which entrenches racialism and ethnic divisions.

"For these reasons the Board has resolved to place a complete moratorium on tours in or out of our country until such time as the social and political conditions in our country guarantee every South African sportsman equal facilities, equal opportunities, equal coaching and therefore the right to represent his country in international events on merit".



Gabor Gergely back to winning ways in the Super Division of the European League, receiving advice from his N.P.C. Zoltan Berczik.

Photo by Don Morley, Norden.

JOOLA "BAMBOO SLASH" RUBBER

In the course of its normal surveillance of rubbers on sale the I.T.T.F. Equipment Committee has examined samples of this rubber and found that it had fewer pimples per square centimetre than the minimum of ten required under I.T.T.F. Rule 3.4.6.1. This has been brought to the attention of the manufacturers, who have ordered new production moulds and undertaken to ensure that future production will comply with the Rule.

E.T.T.U. MAGAZINE

The first issue has been well received, and work is proceeding on the publication of issue No. 2. It is intended to issue a small supply of the magazine free to all Associations, but additional copies will be available at 15 DM for four issues.

35th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Participation

The following Associations have announced their intention of participating, and Entry Forms have been sent to them as well as all other eligible Associations:

Africa — Ghana.

The Americas — Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, U.S.A.

Asia — Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, Hong Kong, India, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Korea DPR, Korea R, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine (Gaza), Singapore.

Europe — Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany DR (delegates only), Germany FR, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Scotland, Spain, Sweden,

Switzerland, Turkey, U.S.S.R., Wales, Yugoslavia.

Oceania — Australia, New Zealand.

TOTAL: 50.

Note: The following Associations have also indicated their wish to participate, but the I.T.T.F. had not, at the time of issuing their Bulletin No. 157 (at Nov. 27) received their remittance for arrears of subscriptions in some cases, or World Championships deposits in others, and Entry Forms had not therefore been sent to them.

Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia.

ALL ASSOCIATIONS ARE REMINDED THAT ENTRY FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE I.T.T.F. SECRETARIAT TO ARRIVE BEFORE JANUARY 26th, 1979.

International Umpires

In response to announcement A.17 (c) in Bulletin 155, the I.T.T.F. was advised that about 65 International Umpires from 16 Associations wished to travel to Pyongyang at their own expense to officiate at the World Championships. The I.T.T.F. strongly recommended that a substantial proportion of these should be accepted, but the Organising Committee has now stated that only 4 International Umpires from China, and 6 others, will be invited to participate. The I.T.T.F. does not consider this to be satisfactory, but there is no I.T.T.F. Rule on the matter and the Organising Committee's decision must therefore be accepted. The I.T.T.F. Secretariat will be in touch with all those Associations who have offered to send Umpires.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Hungary	4	4	0	23	5	4
Czechoslovakia	4	4	0	19	9	4
Sweden	4	2	2	15	13	2
England	4	2	2	12	16	2
Federal Germany	4	1	3	12	16	1
Yugoslavia	4	1	3	12	16	1
France	4	1	3	10	18	1
Soviet Union	4	1	3	9	19	1

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Poland	4	4	0	27	1	4
Bulgaria	4	3	1	17	11	3
Italy	4	3	1	15	13	3
Netherlands	4	2	2	15	13	2
Luxembourg	4	2	2	10	18	2
Austria	4	1	3	11	17	1
Greece	4	1	3	9	19	1
Ireland	4	0	4	8	20	0

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Turkey	2	2	0	10	4	2
Finland	3	2	1	12	9	2
Belgium	3	2	1	11	10	2
Scotland	2	0	2	5	9	0
Spain	2	0	2	4	10	0

FIXTURES FOR JAN. 17/79

Super Division

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

Division One

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

Division Two

Turkey v Belgium
Spain v Scotland

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Yugoslavia's Dragutin Surbek in aggressive action against England's No. 1 Desmond Douglas in the final of the Goddard Finance International tournament at Braintree, Essex on Sunday, December 3, 1978. Surbek won the £650 top prize with Douglas receiving £350 as the runner-up.

Obituary

S. G. BEARD

On 31st October last, Sydney G. Beard died suddenly in hospital at Stranraer. Sydney was another of that diminishing breed who came into the game in the thirties, initially in the Romford area.

He was a founder member of the Romford and District League in 1937, and was one of the few instrumental in reviving that League after the war in 1945-46. In those early years he combined the post of Assistant Secretary with player/coach activities, and was much in demand as a coach at the Red Triangle Club in Romford, where, I am told, one of his pupils was a lad named Johnny Leach. He was universally popular and respected both as a coach and as a person, his pleasant manner and amiability was a byword. The Romford League recognised his services by making him in 1951 a Vice President and in 1952 Life Vice President.

After moving to the Brentwood area he became involved with the Billericay and District League and the records show that he was then Vice Chairman from 1956 to 1959, Chairman in 1960 and President from 1960 to 1975, when he retired to Scotland.

He was also a founder member of the Essex County Association in July 1938 and served as a member of the Association on its reformation in 1946. Apart from serving as Umpires Secretary for some years, he was an active member of Tournament Committees over a long period, ever present when needed, and his home used for storage of equipment over an equally long period of time.

He was Vice Chairman of the County Association for several years and was made a Life Member in recognition of his great services over many years.

Sydney was a stalwart who gave unstintingly to table tennis in Essex, and the many who knew him are saddened by his loss.

I am sure that all his friends in Essex would wish to join me in expressing our deep sympathy to his wife in her great loss.

Pat Dukes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I.T.T. SUSSEX 2-STAR OPEN

Having read my November copy of Table Tennis News, I find that there are two items that I cannot let pass without comment. The first concerns the report of the I.T.T. Sussex under my name as the contributor with the Sub-heading in bold print, "Maximum prize fund". Now you can imagine after my correspondence of last season concerning a report of the Fenland Open, that I had carefully worded my report to refer to the maximum £125 prize for the winner of the Men's Singles title. A report in the official journal of the national association credited to me can only be an embarrassment should another reader take up this point.

The other article I refer to is that headed "Exodus of the English Elite" by Elmar Schneider, which quotes, "For 2 and 1-Star tournaments there is no sponsorship". I trust this can be corrected as it is most harmful to the image of 2-Star Tournaments when their Organisers have been successful in attracting sponsorship which produces a prize fund which compares favourably with some of the 3-Star events. Of the three 3-Star events before Christmas, the prize fund of the I.T.T. Sussex for the equivalent six events was £130 more than the Middlesex 3-Star and only £48 less than the Midland 3-Star.

Sorry to have to bother you on these matters but it is most disheartening to read such articles that give the wrong information for an unknowing reader.

COLIN T. HYLAND,

35 Newgate Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea,
Sussex, TN37 6SA.

NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX TROPHY MASTERS

POINTS CHART

Following the French, Yugoslavian and Scandinavian Open Championships, and the **NORWICH UNION TROPHY**, the players leading the **NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX** are:-

1	T. Klampar (HUN)	2,900
2	M. Orlovski (CZE)	2,200
3	L. Chen-shih (CHN)	1,400
4	Shih Chih-hao (CHN)	1,325
5	Lu Chi-wei (CHN)	1,300
6	Huang Liang (CHN)	1,200
7	G. Gergely (HUN)	1,175
8	J. Takacs (HUN)	1,025
9	S. Bengtsson (SWE)	950
10	J. Dvoracek (CZE)	900
11	P. Stellwag (GFR)	875
12	J. Secretin (FRA)	750
13	D. Douglas (ENG)	600
14	E. Hugging (GFR)	600
15	J. Leiss (GFR)	550
16	T. Kreis (HUN)	550
17	P. Birocheau (FRA)	500
18	D. Surbek (YUG)	400
19	R. Wosik (GFR)	350
20	Z. Kalinic (YUG)	350
21	U. Thorsell (SWE)	350
22	Chen Yung (CHN)	300
23	J. C. Decret (FRA)	300
24	J. Pansky (CZE)	300
25	U. Bengtsson (SWE)	300
26	L. Franklin (SWE)	300
27	A. Grubba (POL)	300
28	Z. Cordas (YUG)	200
29	I. Stoyanov (BUL)	200
30	A. Stipancic (YUG)	200
31	H. Goto (JAP)	200
32	V. Chevchenko (USS)	200

POINTS ALLOCATION

For the six Open Championships (French, Yugoslav, Scandinavian, English, Czech and Welsh), points will be awarded to the last 32 players in the men's singles competition as follows:-

Winner	1,000
Runner-up	800
Losing semi-finalists	600
Losing quarter-finalists	400
Losing eighths	200
Losing sixteenths	150

For the **NORWICH UNION TROPHY**, points were awarded to the eight players as follows:-

Winner	500
Runner-up	400
Losing semi-finalists	300
Fifth place	225
Sixth place	175
Seventh place	125
Eighth place	75

In the event of a number of players having an equal number of Grand Prix points the qualification to play in the **NORWICH UNION TROPHY** and the **NORWICH UNION MASTERS** will be decided by points difference in matches played in the events forming the **NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX**.

MASTERS

The 14 men leading the points table at the end of the **NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX**, together with the new world champion, and Gabor Gergely, as reigning European Champion to compete for the **NORWICH UNION MASTERS** on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 29th, 30th and 31st May, 1979 at the Middleton Hall, Milton Keynes. There will be extensive B.B.C. television coverage of this event for which the prize money will be:-

Winner	£1,000
Runner-up	£600
Losing semi-finalists	£425
Losing quarter-finalists	£325
Ninth and tenth place	£250
Eleventh and twelfth place	£200
Thirteenth and fourteenth place	£150
Fifteenth and sixteenth place	£125

A prize of £500 will be awarded to the player who accumulates most points in the **GRAND PRIX** tournaments.

The equipment used in the **NORWICH UNION TROPHY** and to be used in the **NORWICH UNION MASTERS** supplied by **DUNLOP**.

THE NEW KLAMPAR

by **HIHALY KOZAK** of Hungary

In the sport of Table Tennis few players gave their officials more worries than Tibor Klampar. Through the years he broke all the rules of discipline and was refused permission to play. For example he wasn't allowed to take part in two European Masters Tournaments in 1972 and 1976, and also in the World Championships of 1975.

Everyone forgot that he was still on the players' list until he started to change. He wasn't cheeky anymore and he behaved properly with his trainers. He commenced to discipline himself more and did not skip off when in training. He changed also in his private life — he got married. Now Tibor has two children and today his form is currently the best in Europe and in the Spring he is hoping to surprise everyone in the World Championships in Pyongyang.

After reading the foregoing dear readers let us go back to the past, to 1966 in fact when, in Szombathely, the European Youth Championships were held. There was a thin black-haired youth who came to be noticed with his hard-hitting skill beating much older players than his own 13 years.

Experts took due note as his play from year to year became better and he was one of the chosen for the World Championships in Nagoya when he partnered Istvan Jonyer to the men's doubles title. Tibor now confesses that he is sorry about the years he wasted in not conforming. But all that is now in the past. As a young man he was wild and used to race his car at high speeds through Budapest, often just escaping an accident by the skin of his teeth but always having to pay heavy fines.

But events changed his sporting career. He left the Budapest Postas team, where he was team leader, and joined the Spartacus Club whose trainer, the legendary Ferenc Sido, took him in hand making Tibor understand he had to behave or he was out. Tibor decided it was time he stood in line for with two children, a son and a daughter, he had their future to consider.

He lives on the outskirts of Budapest in a nice house, but hopes, as he trains twice a day, to move nearer the centre. The new Klampar has big plans for the future although he has often beaten his compatriot Gabor Gergely, the reigning European champion. Still he is not quite satisfied and would like to play even better. He trains hard for a medal in the forthcoming World Championships for he is paired with Jonyer in the men's doubles and Zsuzsa Olah in the mixed although in the Spring, in Duisberg, with Gabriella Szabo the pair won a silver. There is a bit of rivalry between Gabi and Zsuzsa!

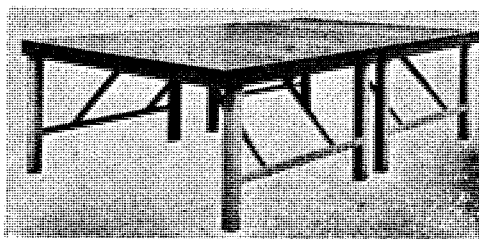
Who are the strongest contenders? I asked Tibor. He said the Chinese, because every year they seemed to have such good new players who we never seem to get to know. But Europe with top players like Klampar, especially the new Klampar, cannot be counted out.

Durham 1-Star Open

Entry forms for the Durham 1-Star Open to be held at Easington District Leisure Centre, St. Cuthbert's Road, Peterlee, Co. Durham on Saturday, Feb. 25/79 are now available. They can be obtained from the Tournament Organiser, Mr. D. Charlton at 17 North Road, Hetton-le-Hole, Tyne and Wear. Phone: 262380. The closing date is Feb. 10/79 but early application is advisable.

The tournament comprises seven events those above the norm being VS, BS and GS. Total prize money is £115. The tournament will be played with white TSP Astol 3-Star Balls using Jaques tables side by side. The draw will take place at Lowhills Road Sports Centre, Peterlee on Sunday, Feb. 11/79 at 3 p.m.

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

TREMENDOUS START

The County junior team have made a tremendous start to their challenge for top honours in the premier division of the County Championships this season. They splendidly surpassed their achievement of gaining promotion last year by winning their first three matches, avenging their defeat by Cheshire in the play-offs by 7-3 and emerging surprise victors over Yorkshire with a narrow 6-4 win. In the third match they easily overwhelmed Cleveland by 9-1.

Top performance was by Andrew Bellingham, who justified his 7th position in the national rankings by remaining unbeaten in his singles and also in the doubles partnered by Andrew Dixon. Dixon and Stuart Richards gave good support with four wins apiece, and our girls Jill Harris and Shirley Cain performed well in top company with Jill gaining an important singles win over Lesley Broomhead of Yorkshire and altogether collecting 5 wins out of 9.

These results must give tremendous encouragement to all those who have been promoting junior coaching in the County and sets an excellent example for the other up-and-coming juniors to follow.

Match Details:-

v. Cheshire

Bellingham bt John Weatherby 16, 17;

by Tony Taylor 15, -19, 18.

Dixon bt Weatherby 16, 19;

bt Tony Worthington 13, -11, 16.

Richards bt Worthington 9, 15;

lost to Taylor 10, -10, -15.

Bellingham/Dixon bt Weatherby/Worthington

14, -17, 19.

Jill Harris lost to Janet Deakin -15, -20.

Shirley Cain lost to Lynne Fennah -5, -9.

Harris/Cain bt Deakin/Fennah 12, 15.

v. Yorkshire

Bellingham bt Sean Madden 15, 17;

bt Adrian Hill 5, 14.

Dixon lost to Hill -16, -7;

bt Mark Illingsworth -13, 18, 14.

Richards bt Madden 15, 17;

lost to Illingsworth -13, -15.

Bellingham/Dixon bt Hill/Madden 12, 17.

Harris bt Lesley Broomhead 15, -18, 18.

Cain lost to Sally Midgley -13, -17.

Cain/Harris lost to Midgley/Broomhead

17, -10, -20.

v. Cleveland

Bellingham bt Kevan Green 15, 15;

bt David Hughes 17, 14.

Dixon bt Lindsay Taylor 7, 13;

lost to Hughes -20, -9.

Richards bt Green 14, -18, 16;

bt Taylor 19, -18, 15.

Bellingham/Dixon bt Green/Taylor 19, 15.

Cain bt Julie Woodcock 15, -18, 16.

Harris bt Ann Holden 16, 12.

Cain/Harris bt Woodcock/Holden 9, 17.

Staffs. senior "A" side also played well to gain an 8-2 victory over Northants. Newcomers to the team Andrew Rich, Eddie Wilkes and Joanne Chubb all had good wins which augurs well for the future.

Match Details:-

Tony Isaac bt S. Lyon 14, -18, 10;

bt G. Alden 15, 16.

Rich lost to Alden -18, -9;

bt D. Marsh 11, 21.

Wilkes bt Marsh -18, 14, 15;

bt Lyon 13, 20.

Rich/Isaac bt Alden/Lyon -13, 15, 16.

Joanne Chubb bt M. Maltby -20, 19, 17.

Janet Carr lost to C. Bane 16, -18, -13.
Carr/Chubb bt Bane/Maltby 21, 15.

In their previous match, the "A" team drew 5-all with Warwickshire. Juniors Bellingham and Jill Harris were able to join up with Isaac, Rich and Janet Carr to strengthen the senior side in accordance with the County ranking. The "B" side lost 4-6 to Clwyd with juniors Dixon, Vicky Bellingham and Stephanie Hadley in the team with Wilkes and Mark Evans, and in their second match they gained a point from Notts. with Potteries players Phil Anderson and Stan Deakin being mainly responsible with three singles and a doubles win between them. The junior "B" team gained a creditable draw against the Worcestershire first team, the girls Stephanie Hadley and Vicky Bellingham scoring a maximum of three wins and Paul Barnett and Paul Dilger contributing a singles win each.

The Malcolm Scott Restricted Tournament was staged at the Woodfield Club and provided an opportunity for Sid Hodgetts to demonstrate that his outstanding results in the Wolverhampton league are well justified. 68 men and 11 women contested the event, and quarter-final winners in the men's were Hodgetts, R. Dixon, P. Dilger, M. Devitt, T. Derbyshire, J. Hancock, P. Barnett and G. Hallam. Sid Hodgetts went through without losing a set, beating Paul Barnett in the final 15, 15. Section winners in the women's event were Janine Alderton, Vicky Bellingham and Mrs. Dawes, and in the play-off, Vicky took the title with Janine runner-up.

The Woodfield Open provided excellent entertainment with a final in which Cheshire's outstanding veteran Derek Schofield beat Andrew Bellingham 22-20, 21-18. This was certainly no disgrace for Bellingham who was playing well enough to beat Chris Rogers earlier in the day. The other notable result in the men's was Tony Isaac's defeat of Paul Randell, avenging last year's result in the County match against Leicestershire. In the other events, Staffs. players gave a good account of themselves, winning the junior boys' (Bellingham bt Weatherby), the boys' doubles (Bellingham and Dixon), the women's singles (Janet Carr bt Stephanie Jones) and the women's doubles (Janet and Joanne Chubb). Jill Harris partnered the junior girls' singles winner, Janet Deakin, in winning the girls' doubles. The event was well supported, and it was good to see Stephanie Jones turning in a sound performance even though she is not able to turn out for the County now that she has taken up her studies at Cardiff University.

The draw for the semi-finals of the Beattie Trophy brings together the two giants of the competition, Wolverhampton (Moseley Park) and Potteries (James Birk). It should be a cracker of a match with the 'three Andrews' (Bellingham, Rich and Dixon) facing Malcolm Green (No. 5 England ranked junior from Shrewsbury), Eddie Wilkes and Mark Evans. Walsall (Ray Dixon, Paul Draisey and Barry Dixon) meet Darlston (Norman Bloomer, T. Walton and E. Horton) in the other semi-final.

Alan Heath, press secretary for the Stone league, reports that last year's Div. 1 winners Meaford "A" are this year battling it out with Doulton "A". Meaford have their three stalwarts Brian Lockett, Steve Willis and Emyln Williams still unbeaten, but Doulton have young Gregg Hallam with a 100% record, having also won the Stone Tournament in November, beating Steve Willis in the final. In the second division, Stafford junior Willie Bridgeman is unbeaten and his current performances in the Stafford League Div. 1 indicate that he will shortly be joining the list of County-ranked juniors with little doubt. It is interesting to report on two family teams in the Stone 3rd Division, both with the father playing with two juniors. Clive Bailey plays with his sons, David and Andrew, and Morris Lloyd plays with his daughters Ann and Tracey. Good luck to both the teams.

Unfortunately Andrew Dixon will be out of action for a month due to an operation for an in-growing toe-nail, but he should be back in form for the second group of County junior matches.

One further comment, even though there will be a 'Letter to the Editor' on the subject. Really, John Woodford is way off the target with his remarks on the choice of venue for the junior play-off last year. I attended on both days at the prison and saw nothing untoward or embarrassing at any time, neither did I hear any adverse

comment from anyone else there. I agree that such a venue could cause difficulties, but surely Mr. Woodford should give some credit to the Staffs. officials in their ability to judge such matters. I wonder whether he has misunderstood the comment about the 'atmosphere' being unsuitable. One of our players told me that the air was very 'heavy' and this was affecting his play!!

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

MAX . . . AT LAST

Max Crimmins at last won the Surrey Closed title when in this season's tournament he beat David Hannah in the semi and David Welsman in the final. The holder, Martin Shuttle, went out in the quarters to Terry Haley, for which feat Terry was awarded the Fred Joyce Memorial Trophy. Crimmins and Welsman took the men's doubles by eclipsing Hannah and Glen Baker in the final. Lorraine Garbet was too good for Jayne Mitchell in the women's final but, in turn, with Sarah Cresswell, lost -20 in the third to the winners, Jennie Webster and Nicky Hayward. Not surprisingly Gordon Chapman again took the veterans' title, this time outlasting Bill Holder in straight games.

Andrew Sexton, still only 12 years old, was the star of the Thames Valley League Junior Championships when he won the under-13, under-15 and was runner-up in the under-17 singles, being narrowly beaten by his Graham Spicer club-mate, Neville Miller.

All events were run initially in groups of four players with the best two going into the knock-out stage. In the U-13 event the favourite, Nicky Hoare, had a hard semi-final against Neil Sutton, while Sexton beat Jeremy Gorden.

The final was an excellent match, in which Sexton beat Hoare 20, 15 to upset the Surrey rankings for their age group.

The U-15 event saw another good performance from Gorden, who again reached the semi-final and once more came up against Sexton who won with a little to spare. In the other half of the draw Daniel Rosenberg beat Hoare in the semi and then took the first game from Sexton, who was not to be denied and came back strongly to win -19, 14, 11.

In the U-17 event Sexton had to beat Rosenberg in the first round and Michele Hams, an excellent winner over Matthew Lang earlier, in the semi-finals.

However, in the other half of the draw Neville Miller came comfortably through to the final which he was expected to win. When Sexton won the first game 21-12 the grand slam seemed likely, but Miller came back, very strongly in the second to level at 21-7 and just hung on in the final to beat his young opponent 21-18.

It is very early days yet, but we must begin to wonder whether the Graham Spicer Club are grooming another England junior to follow in the steps of Martin Shuttle.

In addition, a hard bat tournament was held and the regular hard bat players were given a very tough time by their sponge bat colleagues.

The best performance was achieved by Frank Hams, who beat the seeded Bill Bendell comfortably before eventually going down in a hard fought defensive final against Zenor Schramm -15, 10, 14. Tony Gough lost to Schramm in the semi-final.

The Sutton and District League are holding the celebrations of their thirtieth anniversary in February at the Woodstock Hotel, North Cheam, and anyone connected with that organisation, past or present, who might be interested should contact the League President, Mr. F. Priest, M.B.E., at 31 Gander Green Lane, Cheam.

Sid Morton, Umpires Secretary, reports that he has three more County Umpires in Neil Mullarkey, Murray Corbin, and returning to the scene, Philip Cooper.

Against a bitter complaint from the Thames Valley league that laments the passing of the old inter-league competitions, and general apathy from

the rest of the county, Jack Wardle has been preparing for the organisation of this year's K.O. Cup competition, for which he has thirteen entries in all from nine of the leagues. The long suffering County Committee will be making yet another appeal to its constituent bodies for the re-animating of these once well supported competitions which, the committee thinks, did serve a worthwhile purpose in providing wider experience and keener rivalry for the league players below county standard.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. Moran

RESPLENDENT IN TWO-TONE GREEN

When you have nothing encouraging to say keep quiet is not a bad maxim, which is why the 8-1 hammering we received in the opening match of the 1978-79 County Championships Premier Division at the hands of Middlesex went unreported in this column. For the record we were without Dougie Johnson and the one success was gained inevitably by Derek Munt.

However, resplendent in their new two-tone green track suits and sparkling red shirts, the team, with Dougie returned to fitness, found winning form in their second fixture. Staged most admirably at the West Warwickshire Club, the match versus Berkshire saw Dougie win two singles and the doubles with Derek who, with Simon Claxton, won the other two singles in a 5-4 success. This reversed the score of the corresponding fixture last year. Before refreshments, which included baked potatoes in place of the inevitable bread, presentations on behalf of the County and the Birmingham and District Associations were made to Frank Soper for his many years of service, as reported last month.

This was followed by the presentation by Johnson junior, on behalf of the County team, of a sweet to his "Uncle" Frank. A nice finish to a successful evening.

The County "B" and Junior teams have both made a promising start to the season, and the outstanding form of Lester Bertie has earned him a place in both teams. Lester has really worked at his game and deserves his success. Let's hope that his example encourages his colleagues Andy Cockerill and Richard Tanner and our other aspiring youngsters.

It is a long time since one of our junior players has managed to bridge the gap to the senior teams without four or five years spent learning the difference. Perhaps Lester could follow Dougie on this route?

News of forthcoming events, on Sunday, Feb. 18 there is the second Coventry 1-Star Open. Entry forms from Jack Elliott, 53 Watercall Avenue, Coventry and a week later, on the 25th the Warwickshire Closed Championships take place. Entry forms from our Hon. Sec. Maurice Goldstein O.B.E., 31 Blenheim Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9TY. Two excellent events well worth your support either as a player or as a spectator.

Next month I hope to bring you Brian Lloyd's latest results for the Warwickshire League and news of our latest county triumphs!

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Iris Moss

RANKINGS REVIEWED

The Middlesex Committee were very sad to hear of the death of Leslie Bromfield. Although we have not seen anything of him in recent years and in consequence he was not known by many members of the Committee, he was one of the founders of the Middlesex Association and also did a lot of good work in the North Middlesex League area.

Our Inter-League competitions are continuing apace but it is too soon to forecast the eventual winners. With the programmes half completed by the end of the year it might be possible to have some inspired guesses by the next edition of Table Tennis News.

As you can imagine, the main task of the Middlesex Committee since I last wrote has been the organisation and running of the Middlesex 3-Star Open. The Championships went off well and our President, Sir Graham Rowlandson, held a small reception before the Finals which was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Enfield, together with our sponsors and various Middlesex VIPs. A full report of the Championships appear elsewhere in this publication.

The Selection Committee has reviewed our Ranking Lists, and following are the revised lists:-

SENIOR

Men	Women
1. M. Mitchell	A. Mitchell
2. G. Sandley	M. Reeves
3. P. Guttormsen	H. Williams
4. C. Wilson	M. Walker
5. J. Souter	B. Clayton
6. D. Jemmett	S. Dove
7. N. Richardson	L. Tyler
8. M. Waldman	S. Hamilton
9. A. Lindsay	M. Sangster
10. L. Landry	M. Symes
11. C. Papantoniou	
12. W. Mascarenhas	
13. M. Les	
14. C. Carder	
15. *B. Tyler	

JUNIOR

Boys	Girls
1. Sandley	Reeves
2. Wilson	H. Williams
3. Souter	Tyler
4. Papantoniou	J. Wilding
5. Les	M. Williams (U14)
6. N. Stratton	S. Sandley
7. P. Stratton	L. Kaplan
8. E. Gorniak (U14)	D. Devine
9. D. Pilling	L. Goldsmith (U14)
10. T. Stark	D. Chang
11. H. Meadows	M. John (U14)
12. P. Wells	E. Hickman (U14)
13. R. Spiegelhalter	Y. Knight (U14)
14. B. Collingwood	S. Jones
	(U14)
15. M. Dare	L. Souter (U14)
16. D. Than	
17. N. Ison	
18. A. Smith	
19. K. Kavanagh (U14)	
20. S. Smith	

VETERANS

Men	Women
1. Lindsay	M. Symes
2. I. Redfean	K. Nunn
3. D. Smith	M. Harris
4. D. Hope	M. Cherry
5. M. Close	M. Prowen
6. G. Ailward	M. Seilly
7. E. Snook	B. Blanch
8. B. Adedayo	D. Stannard
9. N. Slifkin	
10. P. Partos	
11. M. Isaacs	
12. A. Marshall	
13. J. Morris	
14. *D. Somers	
15. *G. Muranyi	

*Insufficient evidence to rank higher.

A. Barden, D. Tan and A. Proffitt have not been ranked as we have not been informed whether they are available to represent the County.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Gerald Green

MORE HARD WORK TO BE DONE

Not a happy month from a County results point of view, which tends to indicate that our 'strength in depth' leaves something to be desired at the moment.

The first Juniors suffered defeats at Cumbria and at home to Derby. In the former they were not disgraced and I understand a good audience appreciated some excellent table tennis (Geoff Lupton and Jane Cheetham won our sets) but the latter was a poor match with lack of application being evident.

The second Juniors lost at Worcester (Tony Cheetham and Ivan Smith winning one each) and the second Seniors were outclassed by Leicester Seconds (Mike Beaman winning one).

Our teenage first Seniors lost 4-6 at home to Warwickshire seconds, with Malcolm Green beating Barry Hayward and Barry Johnson, Nigel Thomas beating Hayward and the boys then teaming up to beat the two Warwick defenders (18 in the third after being 13-17 down). A hard fought match as was to be expected, and I think we were unlucky not to get a draw.

Success though for Shrewsbury in the Wilmott Cup (Green, Thomas and Beaman) beating Ellesmere Port 5-0 (and in the Carter Cup (Nicky Roberts, Lupton and Paul Jackson) beating Market Drayton 5-0.

Another success story belongs to Graham Cheetham the coach at Belmont Youth Centre, Shrewsbury, who attended a course at Lilleshall from Nov. 3-5 and qualified as a One-Star Coach. I understand only 5 or 6 qualified from the 18 who attended a course which dealt with the practical and theoretical aspects and included passing the Gold Award. Graham has been assisting with coaching Shropshire Cadets for some time now and will be working even harder in the New Year because he intends teaching 10-13 year-olds at the Youth Club. This will be from 6 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. on Friday evenings before his regular coaching sessions. It is hoped to deal with a group of about 16 children. The club is run by Shrewsbury Youth Service who will finance the new venture.

An apology from me to George Evans (Wales No. 4) who I saw recently at the Midland Open. I said in the November issue that Nigel Thomas took him the 'full distance' at the Welsh Trials. This was not correct — George won 'two straight' — sorry, but I was incorrectly informed. I was also wrong about Nigel's ranking — he is No. 6 not No. 5 in the men's list.

I am pleased to say that County Treasurer Dora Jackson is making a good recovery after an operation to sort out the 'back trouble' I mentioned in the last notes. Now Paddy can leave the housework to get on with his coaching!

In the Telford League Closed on Nov. 12 Albert Hiscock retained his title, but there is a new women's champion in Mrs. Joy Seagar (now ranked No. 5 in Salop). Joy also played her first County match this month when the second team went to Leicester.

Our County Closed Championships were due to be held at the Sundorne Games Hall, Shrewsbury on Dec. 3 with the Shrewsbury and District Championships at the same venue on Feb. 4, 1979. After my comments on 'offers' in the last issue I am pleased to report that the latter event is being sponsored up to £50 by 'Sportsland', 62 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Malcolm Allsop

NOT UNEXPECTED

Derbyshire 1st team's hopes of a good result against Leicestershire were hit by the absence of the No. 1 player Martin Kinsella, and the resultant 2-8 defeat was not unexpected; with Maurice Billington and David Rayner each winning a set, but the form of Linda Holmes was a bonus with a game being taken off Anita Stevenson.

This was the first County match played at Burton for 15 years, and they are to be congratulated upon their presentation of the match. The next 1st team fixture, against Staffordshire in January, will be held at Burton, who can be relied upon to make the visitors feel at home.

Derrick Marples, Karen Smart and Alison Marples won all their sets but Derbyshire 2nd had to be content with a 5-5 draw against Cheshire 3rd at Derby, where the home town's 1977 Derbyshire Men's Champion David Yallop was not even reserve for the team.

Yallop showed the Derbyshire selectors his opinion of their selections the following day when, in a Midland League match against Chesterfield, he

(continued on page 19)

EUROPEAN CLASSIFICATIONS

DES AND JILL DROP A PLACE ... PAUL, LINDA AND CAROLE OUT

by George R. Yates

In revised classification lists, to be used for Seeding purposes in all Open International Championships until further notice, issued by the Classification Committee of the **European Table Tennis Union** on Jan. 1/79, England's Desmond Douglas has been demoted from No. 4 to No. 5 whilst Jill Hammersley has lost her No. 2 spot to Ann-Christin Hellman of Sweden.

Both Gabor Gergely and Judit Magos, the reigning European champions, retain their No. 1 positions and nobody can quarrel with the elevation of Hungary's Tibor Klampar from No. 6 to No. 2. The Hungarian, with wins in the French and Yugoslav Opens, as well as the Norwich Union Trophy, is having a whale of a season.

Bengtsson, who comes up from No. 7 to No. 4, leads Douglas in the Norwich Union Grand Prix points chart but both have twice been beaten in European League engagements, the Swede by Milan Orlovski and Peter Stellwag, and Douglas by Orlovski and Dragutin Surbek.

Hungary's former world champion, Istvan Jonyer, suffers the biggest drop, from No. 2 to No. 12 whilst, of the newcomers to the men's list, Janos Takacs of Hungary comes in at No. 8 and Josef Dvoracek (Czechoslovakia) at No. 15. In addition to England's Paul Day, previously at No. 19, the other four to be omitted from the new classifications are Sarkis Sarkhojan and Anatoli Strokotov of the Soviet Union, previously at Nos. 11 and 12, as well as Jaroslav Kunz (Czech.) (17) and Milivoj Karakasevic of Yugoslavia (20).

Three Federal German players, Stellwag, Jochen Leiss and Engelbert Hugging have all been uplifted into the Top 12 bracket from which company Wilfried Lieck (GFR) and Tibor Kreis of Hungary depart.

It is difficult to understand the demotion of Jill Hammersley who has an unblemished record in the Super Division of the European League, but so too has Hellman although she has only played in two matches as against four by Mrs. Hammersley. Miss Hellman did reach the semi-final of the women's singles event in the Yugoslav Open and both players did likewise in the Scandinavian.

Hungary's Zsuzsa Olah has been unlifted from No. 21 to No. 5 in the women's list which underlines the strength of the Hungarian Association whose Magos and Gabriella Szabo also figure in the Top 12 bracket which now further embraces Erzebet Palatinus of Yugoslavia to the exclusion of Hungary's Beatrix Kishazi and Claude Bergeret of France. In addition to England's Linda Howard and Carole Knight, previously listed at Nos. 19 and 25, also omitted from the revised classifications are Miss Kishazi (9), Narine Antonian of the Soviet Union (18) and Kirsten Kruger of Federal Germany (24).

The revised lists (previous positions in brackets) are:-

Men

1. Gabor Gergely (HUN) (1)
2. Tibor Klampar (HUN) (6)
3. Milan Orlovski (CZE) (3)
4. Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) (7)
5. **Desmond Douglas (ENG) (4)**
6. Jacques Secretin (FRA) (5)
7. Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (9)
8. Janos Takacs (HUN) (—)
9. Peter Stellwag (GFR) (23)
10. Jochen Leiss (GFR) (21)
11. Engelbert Hugging (GFR) (18)
12. Istvan Jonyer (HUN)
13. Wilfried Lieck (GFR) (10)
14. Tibor Kreis (HUN) (8)

15. Josef Dvoracek (CZE) (—)
16. Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (20)
17. Ulf Thorsell (SWE) (14)
18. Patrick Birocheau (FRA) (15)
19. Christian Martin (FRA) (13)
20. Jindrich Pansky (CZE) (—)
21. Valery Shevchenko (USSR) (—)
22. Anton Stipanovic (YUG) (25)
23. Zoran Kosanovic (YUG) (16)
24. Ralf Wosik (GFR) (—)
25. Josef Juhas (YUG) (24)

Women

1. Judit Magos (HUN) (1)
2. Ann-Christin Hellman (SWE) (3)
3. **Jill Hammersley (ENG) (2)**
4. Ilona Uhlikova (CZE) (5)
5. Gabriella Szabo (HUN) (4)
6. Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) (21)
7. Maria Alexandru (RUM) (6)
8. Valentina Popova (USSR) (8)
9. Ludmila Bakschutova (USSR) (12)
10. Erzebet Palatinus (YUG) (14)
11. Blanka Silhanova (CZE) (10)
12. Bettine Vriesekoop (NED) (7)
13. Wiebke Hendriksen (GFR) (13)
14. Claude Bergeret (FRA) (11)
15. Branka Batinic (YUG) (20)
16. Ursula Hirschmuller (GFR) (15)
17. Gordana Perkucin (YUG) (17)
18. Dana Dubinova (CZE) (16)
19. Eva Stromvall (SWE) (—)
20. Eva Ferenczi (RUM) (—)
21. Liana Mihut (RUM) (23)
22. Anneli Hernvall (SWE) (—)
23. Dubravka Fabri (YUG) (22)
24. Marie Lindblad (SWE) (—)
25. Monika Kneip-Stumpe (GFR) (—)

The top twelve in each category (together with the No. 13 as reserve) will be invited to play in the Top 12 Tournament to be played in Christiansand, Sweden from Feb. 16/18.

VICTORIAN TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated with A.T.T.A.)

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A thorough knowledge of Table Tennis with an ability to organise and communicate. It is probable that the appointee will have had extensive experience at an international or national level. Applicants must be fluent in English, prepared to travel within Australia and be capable of driving a motor vehicle.

SALARY AND CONDITIONS:

A commencing salary of A\$13,000 is offered together with the opportunity to earn further income by private coaching and endorsements. Travelling and general out of pocket expenses will be repaid whilst relocation expenses are subject to negotiation. The initial appointment is for a term of three years with the possibility of a further appointment at the expiration of that period. The appointee would be expected to be a non-playing coach during the term of his or her appointment. The appointee would be expected to commence duties by May 1979.

SECURITY:

Applications are strictly confidential and should state age, qualifications, experience, and list two persons to whom enquiries could be made re the applicant.

All applications and/or enquiries should be addressed:-

State Director of Coaching,
c/o The Honorary Secretary,
Victorian Table Tennis Association,
P.O. Box 80,
South Melbourne, 3205, Victoria, Australia.

CLOSING DATE — 28th February, 1979.

NEWS FROM FAR & WIDE

JOOLA CUP FOR DES AND KAREN

Desmond Douglas, representing his Federal German club, Borussia Dusseldorf, was the winner of the Joola Cup (Men's section) played for on Dec. 10/78 at the Everswinkeler Sporthalle, Entrude. His final victim was Peter Stellwag of SSV Heinzelm Reutlingen.

Results:-

Group A

Round 1:

Douglas bt Heinrich Lammers (Frankfurt) 7, 13;
Ralf Wosik (Dusseldorf) bt Peter Engel (Reutlingen) 15, 19.

Round 2:

Douglas bt Wosik -17, 19, 11;
Engel bt Lammers 15, 10.

Round 3:

Wosik bt Lammers -22, 19, 11;
Douglas bt Engel -19, 10, 18.

Group B

Round 1:

Stellwag bt Jochen Leiss (Julich) 10, 10;
Wilfried Lieck (Altena) bt Hans Deutz (Dusseldorf) 14, -18, 12.

Round 2:

Stellwag bt Deutz 19, 15;
Lieck bt Leiss 7, 13.

Round 3:

Deutz bt Leiss 21, 13;
Stellwag bt Lieck 18, -14, 14.

Semi-finals:

Stellwag bt Wosik 19, 19;
Douglas bt Lieck 18, 6.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Stellwag 13, 9.

Karen Senior, the Irish international, now playing for TSV Kronshagen, was the winner of the women's section beating Ruth Deutz (Post SV Dusseldorf) in the final 17, -19, 12.

E.T.T.A. TIES

The official tie has been standardised with a single motif of the three leopards. Our stock is of the more modern style with a 4½ in. blade, navy blue or maroon, price £1.50 each plus 10p post/packing.

ON THE COACHING FRONT

PERIODISATION CONTINUED

by DONALD PARKER
E.T.T.A. National Coach North

The previous articles have looked briefly in relatively simple terms at the theory behind periodisation and it is clear that a strict control over a performer's practice, training and competition is required. The problem now is applying this theory to the training/coaching of table tennis players. This problem will be discussed in the next few articles.

Before looking at the structure of the training year it is necessary to look at the problems facing the Coach and indeed these problems are not unique to Table Tennis. Selecting for the major championships is based on performances in major domestic tournaments. These tournaments until recently were staged at dates which did not fit in with the Matveyev theory. Therefore players selected were the ones peaking for the domestic tournaments and when the major international tournaments arrived their performance level had dropped.

Of course the very skilful player has such a high skill level that he is still able to win when not peaking and therefore can peak for the big competitions and not necessarily for the competitions prior to it. However the other places in a team are often wide open and the wrong players are often selected. Surely the classical example in recent British Sporting history was the non-selection of marathon runner Ian Thompson for the Montreal Olympics. So the first problem which has to be overcome is the reorganisation of the tournament and competition calendar which indeed has already happened in other countries.

Once the tournament calendar is structured to fit in with the Matveyev theory then the targets for the forthcoming season have to be defined. The season 1977-78 the majority of the leading European forces (Hungary, Yugoslavia, Russia, etc.), had a double periodised year, peaking in November for the Yugoslavian, Scandinavian and Hungarian Opens and for the second time in March for the European Championships. This season, 1978-79, these countries will adopt a single periodised year peaking for the World Championships in North Korea. The Junior players always adopt a single periodised year, peaking for the European Youth Championships at the end of the season in June. The emphasis with this age group is technical and physical development and too much competition can be detrimental to long term improvement as has already been pointed out.

It is important to point out that periodisation cannot guarantee a peak performance nor indeed can other approaches to peaking for that matter. All it can do is to give the player the best possible chance to peak. Factors out of the coaches control such as social problems can affect a player's performance. However the coach can eliminate disagreements and problems on the levels of player/player, player/club, player/association, club/association, etc. By doing such the coach can help the player to form a stable, psychological foundation without which an optimal realisation of performance production is not possible.

The National Opens during November (Scandinavian, Hungarian, etc.) were considered as the main subsidiary target, while the European Championships considered the absolute main target. This main subsidiary target is valid as a decisive examination of the training quality for the whole season, since in the second half of the season the cycle was merely repeated, now albeit going out from a higher level. The second half of the season affords the opportunity of correcting the training, dependent on the results shown in the first half i.e. established form.

Sports Scholarships - University of Bath

At a time when more and more of our leading Table Tennis players are leaving the country in search of rewards elsewhere, your readers may be interested to hear of the "Sports Scholarships" awarded at the University of Bath.

The aim of the sport scholarship scheme is to give young players of international standard or potential the opportunity to develop their sporting prowess to a high level or attainment without in any way impeding their academic progress.

The scheme is designed to enable a student to extend his or her course of study at the University by one year to provide time to train and compete at a high level while undertaking a course of academic study. Candidates for the scholarships have to possess the normal academic qualifications

needed for admission to the University and have to maintain a satisfactory academic standard for the duration of their course.

Funds for the scholarships are provided by various industrial and commercial organisations and each scholarship is worth about £5,000. This amount is sufficient to provide a grant for the extra year and to pay for specialist coaching, travelling to matches and tournaments, equipment, clothing, etc.

This year we have five Sports Scholars at the University — two judo players, an archer, a golfer and a canoeist — but so far no applications have been received from table tennis players.

Interested persons should contact Mr. Michael Allen, Secretary of the Sports Committee, at the University, Claverton Down, Bath, BA7 7AY. Phone: Bath (0228) 6941.

JOOLA JOOLA JOOLA JOOLA JOOLA

NEW!

“ I'm changing to Joola Carbon Fibre because I find my loop is far faster and I can win a point more easily from the 3rd or 4th ball attack. My backhand control is better, too. ”



Joola Carbon Fibre ▲



Donald Parker wearing the Joola tournament shirt. ▶



JOOLA RUBBER CHANGING KIT

Comprising bat tape, cutting knife, glue and glue brush.



Bamboo Slash ▶

Bamboo Slash: The pimples are cut away at an angle, so giving a totally different effect.



Volt ◀

Volt: The latest straight long pimple development.



Thermo Bat Wallet ▲

“To gain the best grip from your rubber it's vital that it stays warm. My new Joola Thermo Wallet keeps it just right, as well as giving strong protection”

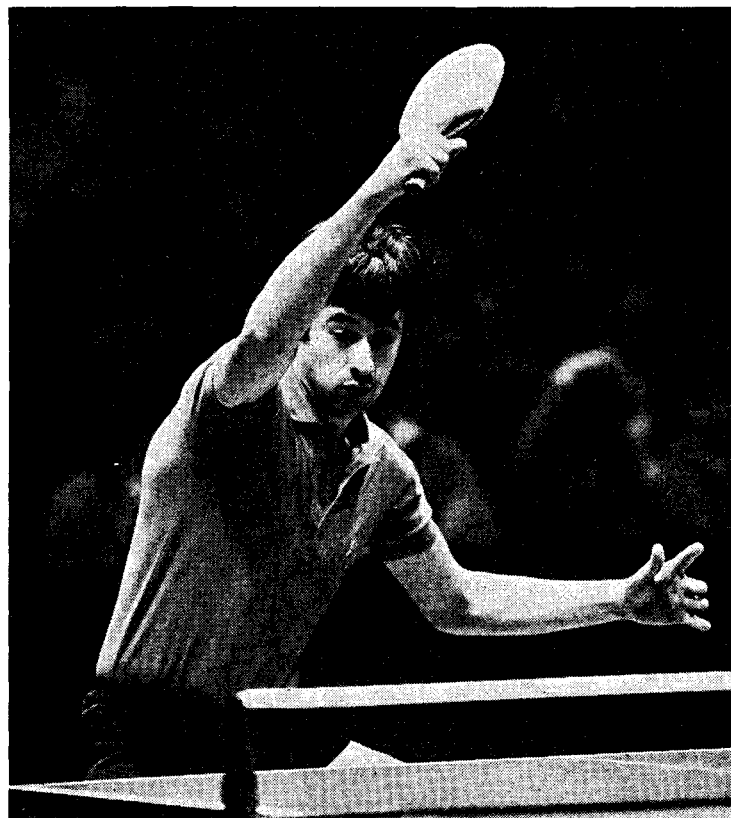
Donald Parker

JOOLA at TEES SPORT

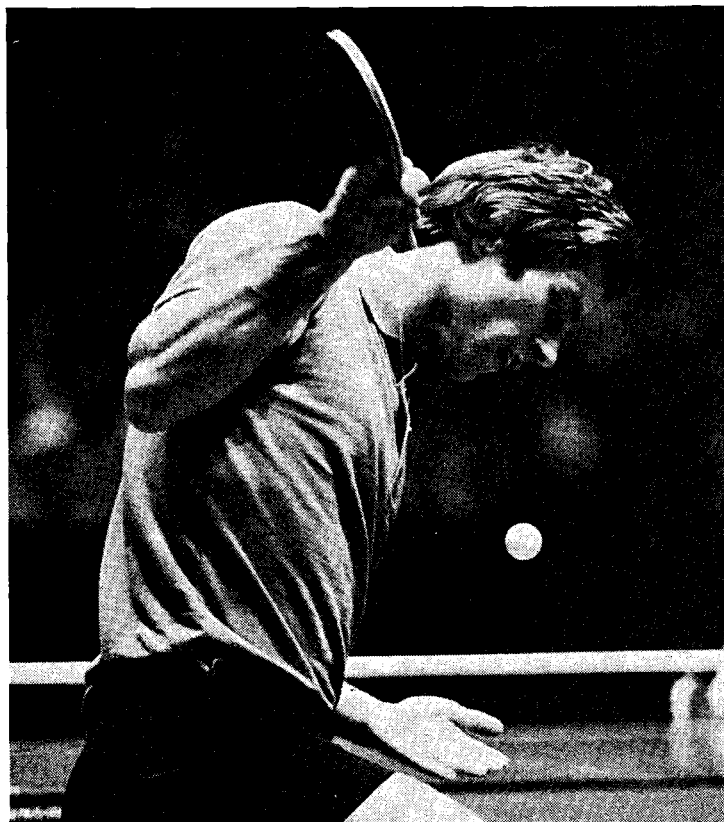
8 Baker Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland County, TS1 2LH. Telephone (0642) 217844/5, 249000 (24 hr. answering service) Specialists in Table Tennis

TOP TABLE PLAYERS AT BLETCHLEY

PHOTOS BY DON MORLEY
ALL-SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHIC LTD.,
MODEN, SURREY



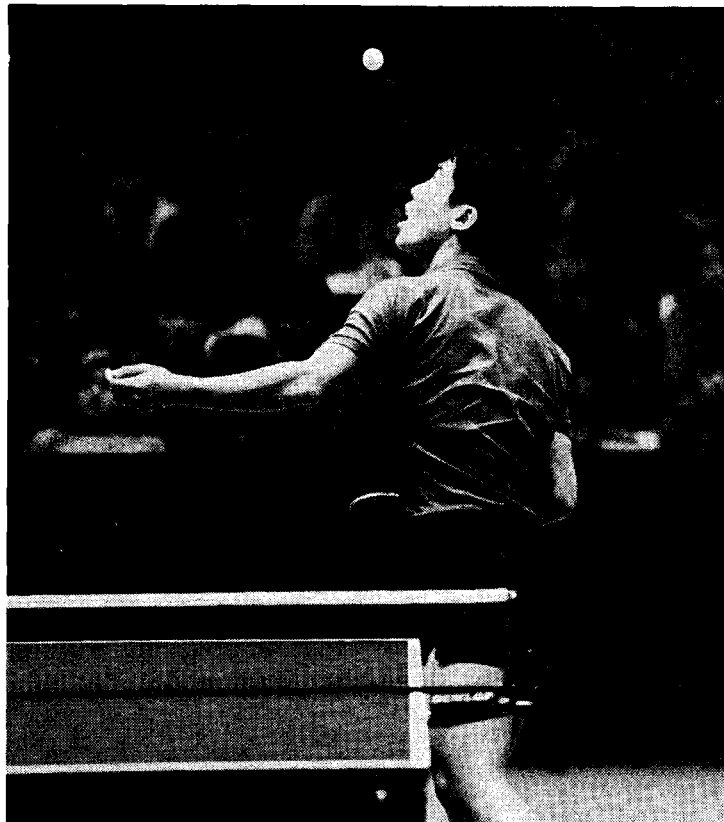
TIBOR KLAMPAR
(Hungary)



MILAN ORLOWSKI
(Czechoslovakia)



PETER STELLWAG
(Federal Germany)



LU CHI-WEI
(People's Republic of China)

★ The Goddard Finance International ★ Invitation Tournament

SURBEK EARNED HIS MONEY

by Ron Fosker

Press Officer, Braintree T.T. League

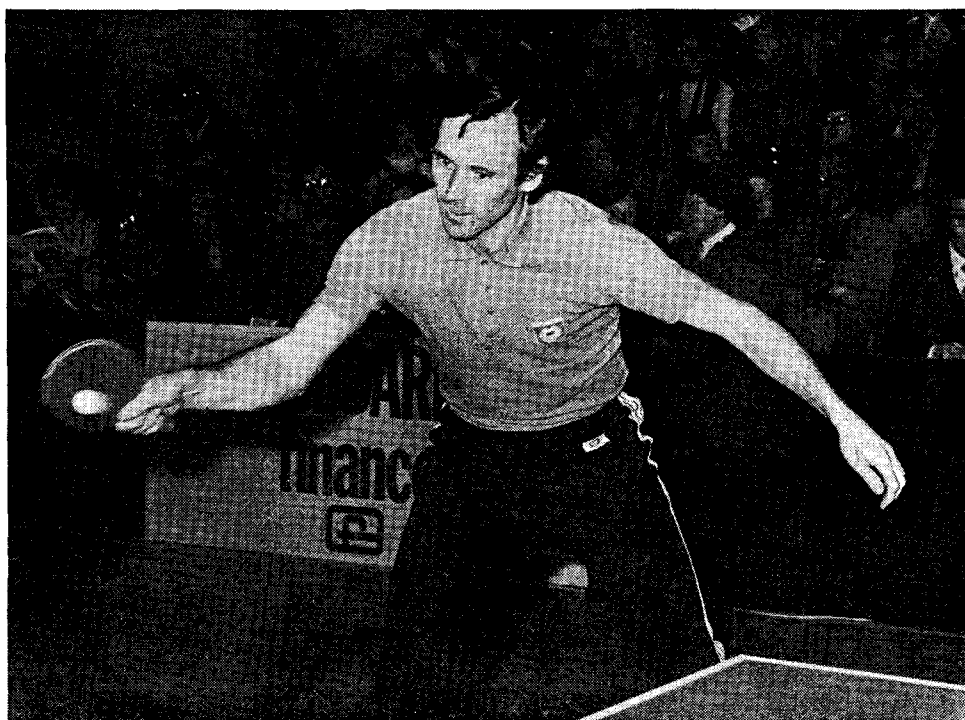
It may not have been the result the crowd wanted but there is little doubt that Dragutin Surbek earned his £650 at the Goddard Finance International Invitation Tournament held at Notley Sports Centre, Braintree, Essex, on December 3.

Despite the massive applause from an appreciative capacity crowd of 500, Surbek had brought a sense of anti-climax to the afternoon by beating England's No. 1 Desmond Douglas who had earlier looked so sharp in a stunning semi-final victory over Milan Orlovski.

And ironically, because of the group system on which the tournament was run, Douglas had already beaten Surbek 21-19, 21-9 earlier in the day.



Under the watching eye of the television camera, the players knock up before the start.
Left to right - Jarvis, Uhlíkova, Douglas, Orlovski.



Surbek - the winner.

Photos by Tony Tunbridge (courtesy of Braintree and Witham Times).

But on their second meeting the superbly fit Yugoslav slowed the game down and dictated the pace to prevent Douglas capitalising on his lightning reactions and speed about the table.

Though Douglas took the middle game he faded badly in the last and Surbek took the crown 18, -4, 11.

The opening sets mostly went according to the ranking lists. Douglas won his group by beating Surbek and Jindřich Pansky, the European youth champion from Czechoslovakia, while Surbek, won the other set to reach the semi-final.

Federal Germany's Jochen Leiss was the only one to upset the predictions by beating the Czech Orlovski, holder of the Goddard trophy, to win his group with Orlovski disposing of England's Nicky Jarvis to finish runner-up.

The women's challenge match was also a disappointment to those of a patriotic nature. England's Carole Knight led Czechoslovakia's Iлона Uhlíkova 11-2 in the third game but the world No. 13 stormed back spiritedly to win -16, 13, 16 and take the £100 award. Miss Knight received £50.

The awards were presented by Mr. Howard Goddard, managing director of Goddard Finance, and Mr. Tom Blunn, chairman of the E.T.T.A.

The event had been brought to Braintree by Ian Whiteside, Essex's national councillor who is the Braintree League's competition secretary. When he heard that Goddard wanted to stage the event within 50 miles of London he approached Braintree Council's community services officer Derek Taylor, himself a Braintree League player with a daughter currently ranked No. 4 in Essex junior girls.

With its ideal balcony for B.B.C.'s cameras — the event was recorded for Grandstand — Notley Sports Centre looked ideal. Except for a myriad of coloured lines on the floor.

The hall serves as badminton, netball and basketball courts, each of which has lines of a different colour that would not only distract the players but send B.B.C. cameras haywire.

Derek Taylor solved the problem by contacting a firm who had been offering to sell the council a lining machine. He got rid of the lines in the hall then asked this firm to demonstrate their machine the day after the tournament!

● The high spot of the evening for Peter Hill, secretary of the Hunter Colne club, came in the interval when it was announced that his club, the current Braintree League champions, had won the table being used for the event as a result of selling more tickets than any other club.

They had accounted for 110 tickets, with Chelmsford League club E.C.C. second with 85 and Notley High School third with 54.

Results:-

Group A

Orlovski bt Jarvis 14, 13;
Leiss bt Jarvis 13, 19;
Leiss bt Orlovski 17, 17.

Group B

Douglas bt Pansky 21, 8;
Surbek bt Pansky 9, 20;
Douglas bt Surbek 19, 9.

Semi-finals:

Surbek bt Leiss 20, 13;
Douglas bt Orlovski 10, 15.

Final:

SURBEK bt Douglas 18, -14, 11.

Ladies challenge:

Uhlíkova bt Knight -16, 13, 16.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

England's two remaining home matches in the Super Division of the European League are:-

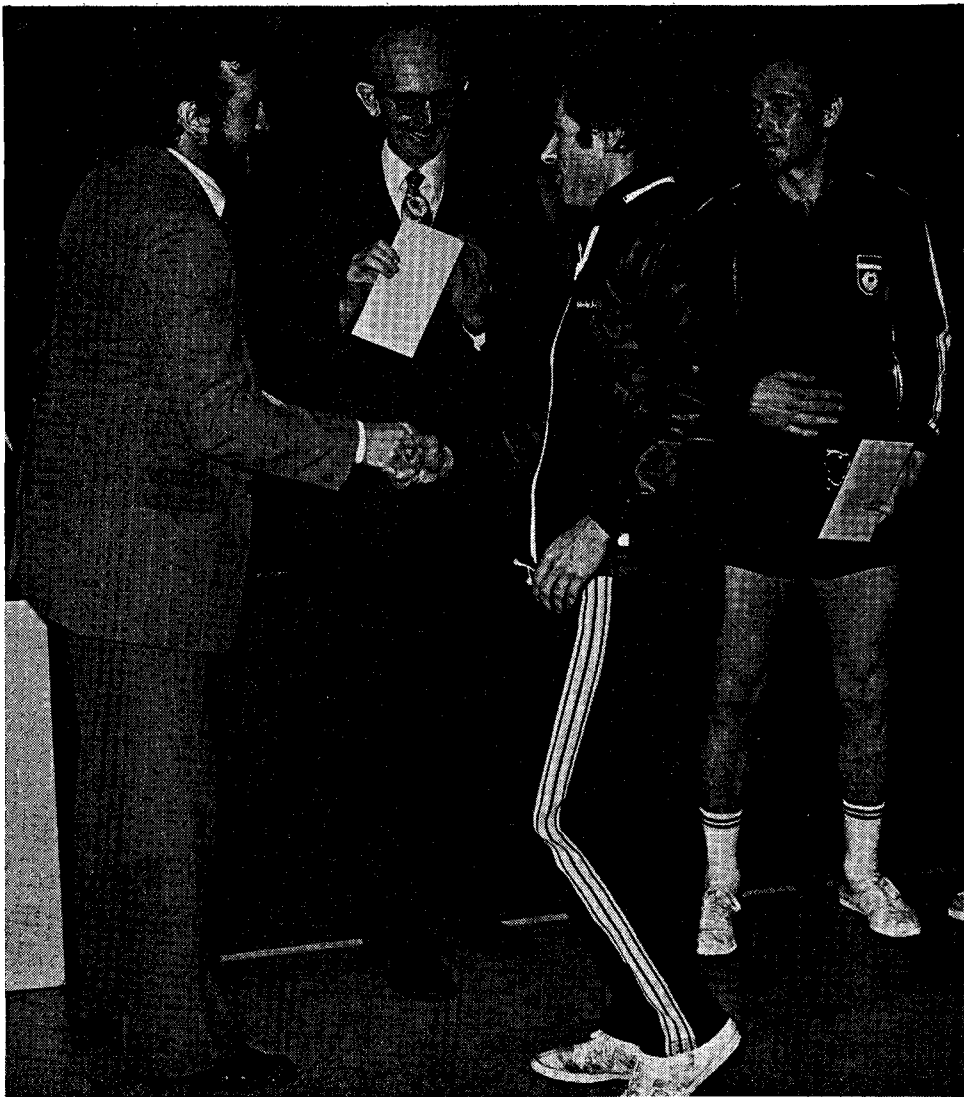
Wednesday, Feb. 7 v Hungary at Belper.

Thursday, Mar. 8 v Soviet Union at Southend.

Tickets and information may be obtained from the Organisers:

Mr. J. Hancock, Manager, Belper Sports Centre, Kilburn Road, Belper, Derbyshire.

Mr. M. D. Watts, 25 Church Green, Sycamore Way, Canewdon, Essex.



THE GODDARD FINANCE TOURNAMENT

Howard Goddard presents previous winner Milan Orlowski with a cheque for £200. Orlowski was knocked out in the semi-final by Desmond Douglas.

Norwich 8 Ipswich 1
 North Herts 6 Basildon 3
 March 5 Thetford 4
 Bury St. Edmunds 8 Braintree 1
 Dagenham 6 Billericay 0
 Zone 6
 Reigate, Redhill 1 North Middlesex 8
 Romford 0 Barking 5
 Oxford w.o. Watford scr
 High Wycombe 1 Wembley 8
 Guildford 9 Staines 0
 Zone 7
 Downham 3 Bromley 6
 Chelmsford 5 Southend 0
 Crawley 1 Gravesend 8
 Leatherhead 6 Worthing 0
 Hastings w.o. Tunbridge Wells scr
 Eastbourne 7 Ashford (Kent) 2
 Beckenham w.o. Harlow scr
 Brighton 5 East Grinstead 2
 Zone 8
 Reading 0 Maidenhead 6
 Southampton 5 Bournemouth 1
 Swindon 3 Cheltenham 5
 Plymouth w.o. Basingstoke scr
 Bristol 9 Bridgwater 0
Bromfield Trophy
 Zone 4
 Birmingham 7 Leamington 2
 Zone 5
 Cheshunt 8 Bury St. Edmunds 1
 Zone 6
 Billericay 4 Becontree 5
 High Wycombe w.o. St. Albans scr
 Newbury 3 North Middlesex 5

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

January

20/21—Cleveland 3-Star Open, Thornaby Pavilion, Teesside.
 20/21—E.S.T.T.A. Team Championships Area Finals.
 21—Edinburgh 2-Star Open (Meadowbank).
 21—Glamorgan Open (Cardiff).
 27—National Council Meeting (London).
 27—Pontefract 1-Star Open (Pontefract, Yorks).
 27/28—Kent 2-Star Open (Folkestone).
 27/28—Cotswold Junior 'Select' (Gloucester).
 27/29—Czechoslovak Open (Usti nad Lahem).

February

3—Lancashire 2-Star Open (Lostock, Bolton).
 3—Exeter Junior 1-Star Open (Exeter, Devon).
 4—North Bournemouth 1-Star Open (Bournemouth).
 4—Scottish Closed Championships (Meadowbank, Edinburgh).
 7—England v Hungary — European League Super Division (Belper, Derbyshire) (7.15 p.m.).
 9/11—STIGA WELSH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS
 National Recreation Centre for Wales, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.
 10—Sedgfield 2-Star Open (Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham).
 10/11—Reading Junior 2-Star Open (Reading, Berkshire).
 17—County Championships (5).
 18—Coventry 1-Star Open (Coventry, Warwicks).
 18—E.S.T.T.A. Team Championships — Regional Finals.
 18—Lanarkshire 1-Star Open (Coatbridge).
 23/25—NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Woking).

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS SEASON 1978-79

FIRST ROUND RESULTS

Wilmott Cup
 Zone 2
 Shrewsbury 5 Ellesmere Port 0
 North Yorkshire 1 Blackpool 5
 Farnworth w.o. Salford/Eccles scr
 Manchester 5 Liverpool 4
 Huddersfield 1 Bradford 5
 Bury 1 Harrogate 5
 Leeds 2 Preston 5
 Zone 3
 Leicester 5 Nottingham 3
 Peterborough 5 Grantham 4
 Wyberton 5 Grimsby 4
 Chesterfield 5 Potteries 4
 Zone 4
 March 4 Cambridge 5
 Hunts Central 4 Northampton 5
 Birmingham 6 Leamington 0
 Dunstable 1 North Herts 5
 Dereham 2 Ely 5
 Wisbech 7 St. Neots 2
 Zone 5
 Bury St. Edmunds 9 Stowmarket 0
 Lowestoft 4 Ipswich 5
 Billericay w.o. Central London scr
 Chelmsford 4 Cheshunt 5
 Harlow 5 London Banks 3
 Zone 6
 North Middlesex 6 Thames Valley 0
 St. Albans 5 Watford 2
 Staines 5 Slough 4
 Willesden 3 Newbury 5
 Bracknell 4 High Wycombe 5
 Reading 6 Oxford 0
 Zone 7
 Brighton 3 East Grinstead 5
 Beckenham w.o. London Civil Service scr
 Zone 8
 Basingstoke 5 Poole 3
 Southampton 0 Portsmouth 6
 Bridgwater 5 Exeter 4

Salisbury 2 Plymouth 5
 West Cornwall 0 Exmouth 6
 Cheltenham 6 Swindon 3
J.M. Rose Bowl
 Zone 2
 Bradford w.o. Harrogate scr
 Zone 4
 St. Neots 0 Northampton 9
 Zone 5
 Wisbech 4 Norwich 5
 Ipswich 8 Bury St. Edmunds 1
 Zone 6
 Central London 1 North Middlesex 5
 Maidenhead w.o. Willesden scr
 Wembley 5 St. Albans 3
 Zone 7
 Chelmsford 4 Southend 5
 Romford 9 Harlow 0
 Eastbourne 9 Worthing 0
 Hastings 1 Crawley 5
 Zone 8
 Cheltenham 3 Bristol 5
 Bridgwater 7 Reading 2
Carter Cup
 Zone 1
 Tyneside Summer 2 Northumberland 7
 Sunderland 7 Westmorland 2
 Zone 2
 Shrewsbury 6 Market Drayton 0
 Huddersfield 4 Harrogate 5
 Bury 4 Salford/Eccles 5
 Hull 3 Liverpool 5
 Manchester 5 Leeds 4
 Blackpool 2 Preston 5
 Stockport 0 Bradford 6
 Zone 3
 Grimsby 2 Grantham 5
 Derby 2 Chesterfield 7
 Nottingham w.o. Lincoln scr
 Zone 4
 Milton Keynes 6 Cambridge 0
 Zone 5
 Wisbech 5 St. Neots 4
 Cheshunt 4 Lowestoft 5

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT !

from JUBILEE SPORTS

8 THE BROADWAY,
 STRATFORD, E.15.

Due to certain circumstances beyond our control, we will no longer be actually advertising the discount prices that we have been offering to readers of T.T. News over the past two months.

However, should anyone wishing to purchase Table Tennis equipment like to contact us, we would be willing and able to offer prices that we think are probably the most competitive in the country.

So please, before buying elsewhere, write to the above address or phone 01-519-4910.

**YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE,
 BUT A LOT TO GAIN.**

The Service Law

by COLIN CLEMETT, Hon. Sec. N.U.R.C.

Over the years, the service law has probably led to more misunderstanding and controversy than any other law. As attempts have been made at almost every recent General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation to introduce modifications and refinements, it is not surprising that many people are not really sure of the current requirements of the law and how they should be applied; the purpose of these notes is to try to explain the basis of the law and to give guidance to players and officials on how it should be interpreted.

There can be few people who do not know what is required to happen to the ball after it has been struck — bouncing on the server's court or half court, passing over or around the net and then bouncing on the receiver's court or half court. Almost all the difficulties occur in the preceding stages of service, from the moment that the ball is first "in play" up to the point at which it is struck. Nearly all of the law changes over the past forty years or more have been made to this part of the service procedure and invariably the object has been to prevent the server from having an overwhelming advantage. The most common way of gaining such an advantage is by the use of excessive spin, produced either by finger spin before the ball is thrown upwards, by throwing the ball fast and at an angle on to the racket or by some combination or refinement of these techniques.

Let us now consider how the law attempts to control the service action. First, the free hand on which the ball rests must be open and flat, fingers together and thumb free, with the ball resting freely on the palm of the hand and not cupped or pinched by the fingers. The wording of this clause has been chosen carefully and deliberately, to eliminate the possibility of spin that some skilful players claimed they could produce if only they were allowed to rest the ball on the base of the fingers. Similarly, the hand is required to be flat so that there is no suspicion that the ball may be gripped and "squirted" upwards in such a way that spin is produced. Obviously it would be nonsense to expect the hand to be geometrically flat, but it must be flat enough for the ball to be clearly resting freely on it. Players sometimes profess to be unable to keep the ball on the palm of the free hand unless it is slightly cupped, but unless there is genuine disability it is most unlikely that anyone who really wanted to do so would find it impossible.

The second requirement is that the free hand with the ball on it must be stationary above the level of the playing surface immediately before the server throws the ball upwards. By definition, the ball is in play from the last moment that it is stationary on the free hand before being thrown upwards, so that a player who starts with his free hand stationary and above the level of the table surface but drops it below table level before throwing the ball up is not meeting the requirement of the law, unless he brings his hand to a standstill again above table level before beginning the throw. (It should be noted that the definition of being "in play" means that if the server, before he tries to throw the ball up, accidentally lets it roll off his free hand he does not lose a point, because the ball was not in play; if, however he throws the ball up and then catches it again he loses a point).

The third provision of the law is that the ball must be thrown upwards, within 45 degrees of the vertical, without imparting spin. Once again, it is not intended to impose a strict geometrical pattern and the directional requirement means simply that the ball must be thrown more upwards than forwards, backwards or to either side. It is worth remembering that while a ball thrown at an illegal angle may, from some directions, appear to be legal the converse is not true; a ball thrown upward within the specified angle can never appear to be illegal. To avoid any argument, therefore, it is

sensible for the player to throw the ball as nearly vertical upwards as he can, and not to take a chance that the umpire will give him the benefit of the doubt if the ball is thrown diagonally upwards in a direction that makes it difficult for the umpire to judge the angle. For similar reasons, it is wisest to throw the ball a reasonable height in the air, as it is far more difficult for the umpire to judge the angle of a short throw. The phrase "without imparting spin" means, for example, that the ball may not be rolled upwards across the hand as it is thrown, and that it must leave the palm cleanly.

Finally, under what is probably one of the most important of the recent additions to the law, the ball must not be struck until it is falling. In this way, the law tries to limit the speed at which the ball approaches the racket so that the speed of impact of the racket on the ball, and the corresponding degree of spin, is determined mainly by the motion of the server's racket hand. In the past few seasons a number of players have developed services in which the ball is thrown high in the air, so that it is falling rapidly when it is struck. The extra speed produced in this way is, however, limited by air resistance and does not give the server the advantage that he could formerly obtain by, for example, throwing the ball hard across the face of the racket.

Most of the service procedure described above is well understood both by players and by umpires, and the difficulties arise from the attempts of players to produce their most potent service without being penalised and from the efforts of umpires to ensure that the stated limits are not exceeded. It is by no means easy to give clear and unambiguous guidance on the interpretation of the law, and some of the wording used in the past has been confusing, if not self-contradictory. The wording used in the present law is intended to be simpler to understand, and tries to state only the basic principles which, it should be emphasised, have not changed for many years.

For the player, the most important principle to remember is that it is his responsibility to ensure that the umpire can be satisfied with the legality of the service; it is **not** the responsibility of the umpire to place himself in such a position that he can check any conceivable service action. Although this might sound rather as if the game is being regulated for the convenience of the officials rather than of the players, a little consideration will show that it is really the most practical way of working. In cricket, for example, it is quite easy for the bowler to tell the umpire that he will bowl from one side of the wicket or the other and for the umpire to move accordingly; it would be quite another matter for a player in a game as fast as table tennis to notify the umpire before each service that he intended to serve backhand or forehand so that the umpire could move or could delegate authority to another official at the other side of the table, even if such delegation were allowed. The player's objective should, therefore, be to serve fairly and in such a way that the umpire has no doubt about the legality of the service; it is the fact that players do not always follow this principle that complicates the task of the umpire.

The umpire may be faced with several different sets of conditions. He may be able to see the service action clearly, in which case he has only to decide whether or not it is correct. He may not be able to see the whole of the service but, acting on other information such as the movement of the ball, the reactions of the receiver or even advice in the form of a pre-arranged signal from another official, he may have no doubt about its legality. In the same circumstances, he may be quite sure that it is not legal or, most difficult of all, he may have some doubt whether it is good but cannot be certain enough to decide that it should be penalised. The wording of the law tries to guide the umpire in reaching his decision in all these situations.

If the umpire is quite sure that a service fails to satisfy all the provisions of the law he should have no hesitation in awarding a point against the server. Conversely, if he is quite satisfied that a service is good, even if he is unable to see the whole of the service action, he should allow play to continue; **non-visibility of the service action, or of the ball during service, is not of itself a fault.** If, however, owing to non-visibility the umpire has

any doubt about the fairness of a service he should call "let" and warn the player on the first occasion in a match. This warning is a reminder to the player of his responsibility to ensure that the umpire can check the legality of the service. If at any time later in the same match the same player serves so that the umpire has any doubt about the fairness of the service, the umpire must award a point against him.

In the major Championships a blue card is shown to the player to give a formal warning, and usually the nature of the possible offence is explained to him. A suitable form of warning might be: "I am warning you that, because you threw the ball upwards only a little way so that it was screened by your arm, I could not see it as you struck it and I thought you may have done so before it began falling". It is important to note that **only one warning is allowed to a player in a match, whether or not the cause of doubt is the same on each occasion;** it follows that the blue card, if used, may be shown only once to a player during a match, as its sole purpose is to warn of possible service faults. Thus a player may be warned because the umpire thinks that he may be striking the ball while it is still rising; if later in the same match the umpire suspects that the player is not throwing the ball upwards at an acceptable angle he may not give another warning but must penalise the server, although this duty is often not understood. Another mistaken idea held by some players is that each player is "entitled" to a warning the first time he makes an illegal service. This is true only where the umpire has some doubt about the legality; **if he has no doubt that the service is illegal he must penalise the server, on the first occasion just as on any other.**

Noting the requirements and procedure for a formal warning, it should always be remembered that an informal warning at the right time is usually far more effective and certainly less likely to cause contention. While players are practising before a match the umpire may notice some tendency to infringe one or other of the service requirements and a quiet reminder to the player before play starts may be all that is needed to ensure unquestionable services during the match. In international events it is advisable for the umpire, or preferably the referee, to make sure that the players and captains know how the law is to be applied so that there can be no misunderstanding at a critical stage of play.

Whilst there will, doubtless, be continuing efforts to make the wording of the law as clear and unambiguous as possible, its operation will remain, in one aspect or another, dependent on fallible human judgment. It is believed, however, that if players and officials try to follow the principles described above there will be less contentiousness and greater consistency in the application of the service law.

S.E. MIDLANDS NOTES by Leslie Constable

In a circular to all League Secretaries, Henry Fox the S.E.M. League Secretary states that the League will need a new Secretary next season if the League is to continue. This means, of course, that Henry is now definitely retiring after being "in harness" as Sec./Treasurer for the last 17 years, the League's inception.

I was at the first meeting of the League at St. Neot's in 1961 when the first Officers were elected and Henry was unanimously elected Secretary on that day. Since that time he has carried out his duties with the utmost efficiency and zest and all problems have been dealt with most efficiently. When I was elected Press Officer at the same time I little realised that 17 years later we would still be in office and that the league would have grown to such proportions.

This has been mainly through the efforts of Henry for whom I have great respect. His dedication has been all that could be desired and the League is losing a great Secretary when, as he says, he is retiring at the end of this season. I would earnestly request the various leagues in the competition to think about this matter and submit the name of a member for this post which is vital for the League's survival. Let the applicants roll in and relieve Henry of a headache at this juncture.

Top Spin Strokes- Backhand Drive

by Jim Peakman

The backhand top spin strokes are complicated by their variety, everyone seems to have his own version of even the basically simple drive stroke. The saving grace is, however, that it can be very simple, if it is accepted that on the B.H. side we are not trying to win points by spin or speed (many of my opponents don't seem to accept this) and the stroke is simply used to keep the point going or gain an advantage by wide angles or a sudden change of direction.

The disadvantage of the B.H. top spin is that swing is limited because our bodies are in the way, and we can't reach as far as on the F.H. side unless we turn our backs on the table, and this restricts our view. The advantages are that the ball is played in front of us and is thus easily watched, can be taken early, and not give our opponents time to play powerful shots; we can change direction quickly and easily; and because the wrist is completely 'free' we have a sensitive touch and can return even powerful shots very quickly.

The stroke should be played in front of the body with the bat starting below the flight of the ball and travelling forward and upward contacting the ball slightly before the top of the bounce. The upper arm should remain fairly close to the body and the forearm rotate about the elbow. After contact the upper arm should leave the body and the arm straighten. Practice is best carried out by players both performing drives from B.H. corner to B.H. corner. Consistency should be the aim and speed forgotten.

Important details are:-

1. Body and feet should be parallel to the baseline. This will give the correct angle for balls played B.H. to B.H.
2. The bat angle should be kept constant throughout the swing.
3. Timing — just before the top of the bounce.
4. The weight transfer is small but should be L. to R. foot.

Increased speed and spin can be achieved as in the F.H. strokes (see previous issue). General rules — knees bent, etc. also apply. Direction changes are easily obtained by wrist control and a sudden switch down the F.H. should be soon introduced into the simple B.H. to B.H. practice.

As soon as some consistency is acquired the stroke should be practiced against a strong F.H. top spin, a chop and simple block. Remember because of your limited reach and swing that footwork is important, particularly if you intend to win points with wide angles. Errors causing the ball to go into the net are corrected by a bat angle change.

If you consistently go off the end, determine if this is caused by clearing the net by too wide a margin, or hitting the ball too hard. If the former, change your bat angle, if the latter, reduce the forward movement in your swing.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by P. Taylor

HALFWAY STAGE

The Haigh, Butlin and Butcher Cup Competitions have almost reached the halfway stage and all are proving to be very competitive. In the Haigh Cup, 3 towns — Wyberton, Grimsby and Louth — have maximum points. Wyberton have won the Cup for the past few years, Grimsby being the runners-up each time, but now that Louth have come into the reckoning Wyberton will find it far more difficult than in previous seasons to retain the Haigh Cup this season. Louth's challenge is due to the excellent form of Brian Allison and Matt Shearer, who are having their best season for a long time. Both are undefeated in this competition, each having won 9 singles. Brian Hill (Wyberton) is of course also undefeated as is

Grantham junior Chris Bryan both with 6 singles victories.

The Butcher Cup is also being closely contested with at least 4 teams challenging for the trophy. At present only Wyberton are unbeaten but they have yet to play their 3 nearest rivals. Each of their 3 players — Tim Cook, David Skerratt and Paul Barnes — have won 8 out of 9 singles. Grantham, possibly their strongest rivals, unfortunately had to field 3 reserves against Boston and their 10-0 defeat might seriously affect their chances. For Grantham, Keith Eldred has won 10 out of 12 singles as have both Philip Eyles (Louth) and Peter Edmonds (Grimsby).

Grimsby and Spalding are the main contenders for the Butlin Cup and the result of the match between these two will probably decide the winner of this competition. Connie Moran (Grimsby) leads the individual results in this competition with 5 wins out of 6. League tables up to the end of December:-

Haigh

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Grimsby	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Louth	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Wyberton	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Lincoln	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Gainsborough	4	1	0	3	20	20	2
Grantham	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Scunthorpe	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Boston	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

Butcher

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wyberton	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Grimsby	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Louth	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Grantham	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Boston	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Lincoln	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Stamford	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Gainsborough	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Spalding	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Mablethorpe	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

Butlin

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Grimsby	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Spalding	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Lincoln	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Boston	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Grantham	3	0	1	2	11	19	1

The next issue of the News Report is now out. Copies have been sent to League Secretaries for distribution to clubs. If you wish a copy, send a S.A.E. (9 by 3) to me at 44 Edge Avenue, Grimsby, S. Humberside and I will send one by return of post.

The venue for the East of England has been changed to the Yarborough Sports Centre, Lincoln as the Scunthorpe venue is unavailable on that date. Entry forms are now available from your League Secretary or from Mick Brown at High Street, Eagle, Lincoln.

EXCHANGE VISIT

A table tennis Club in France wishes to arrange exchange visits this summer with an English Club and any Club interested is asked to make direct contact with the Club in France via:

Mr. Y. Roulard,
9 Route de Vannes,
56 700 Hennebont,
France.

Hennebont is in Brittany and lies on the coast at Loirent which is on the Atlantic side of the Brest peninsula.

NATIONAL SUSPENSIONS

All affiliated organisations are asked to note that the following members remain under national suspension by reason of being in breach of Permit Member regulations:- A. Boasman (La), M. Chinn (He), J. Jacobs (Y) and M. Turnidge (Dy).



HILL HOUSE PROSPER

Over the past four years Hill House International Junior School of Chelsea, under the direction of Mr. R. A. Perrin, has developed table tennis to a national sport situation. During school time throughout the week over 300 boys get the opportunity to be coached at the game. In conditions which would grace any European event (8 Joola Transport tables; perfect lighting and incredible playing arena) Hill House boys, aged between 8 and 13, have a fine track record.

I.L.E.A. U-12 League winners (3 times); Middlesex U-12 League winners (twice); E.S.T.T.A. Team Area Finals (3 times); E.S.T.T.A. Team Regional Finals (twice); E.S.T.T.A. National Finals in season 1977/78; I.L.E.A. Under-12 winner (3 times) and E.S.T.T.A. Individual Representative (3 times).

The school now has a club of its own meeting on Friday afternoons where fifty boys attend for coaching and training. Demonstrations, films and competitions all figure in the activities. It is intended for Hill House to travel abroad and play U-12 teams in other countries. The photograph shows Hill House coach, R. A. Perrin, with some of his charges for the new season.

(County Notes continued)

beat Ivor Warner (No. 2), Maurice Billington (No. 3) and Neil Marples (No. 5).

The Derby representation at the subsequent Derbyshire Committee Meeting were instrumental in the Committee decision to ask the selectors to revise the current rankings.

The Derbyshire Championships are being held on Jan. 7, when David will have further opportunity to further his claims.

Derbyshire Challenge Cup has started off with an increase in entries over last season, and organiser Malcolm Hearn is running the Competition to a tight schedule which is maintaining interest and ensuring the handicap knock-out tournament finishing on time.

The Derby T.T. Headquarters at Tobruk Hall has been used by the Post Office for sorting Christmas mail and the money will help the finances of the Derby League, but a blow to the teams using the H.Q. for their League matches. But the effect upon the players losing practice facilities prior to the Derbyshire Championships will not be known until the event.

The Belper News sponsored an Exhibition at the Belper Sports Centre from the "Table Toppers" who provided a wonderful evening's entertainment, and left even the non-playing spectators eagerly awaiting the next event at the Belper Sports Centre, which will be the European League match against Hungary on Feb. 7. The event is already expected to be a sell-out, with memories of the last European League match at Belper being recalled when Des Douglas beat Stellan Bengtsson of Sweden.

The Derby Lancaster club is the most-travelled in Derby with their youngsters visiting most of the Tournaments, and assistance from Breesport and T.S.P. can only speed their improvement.

The Derby and District League is being hotly-contested this season with matches being worth four points, instead of two, for the first time, but St. Andrew's 1st are showing that their fifth consecutive Division One title could be the most convincing.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Brian Halliday

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The current form of several of our top players gives cause for concern. Our Premier Division place could be in jeopardy after two defeats, albeit by the narrowest of margins, and the team will have to fight very hard if relegation is to be avoided.

While at present our men lack the consistency necessary at the highest level our women continue to set the English table tennis scene alight. Yet another marvellous win for Karen Witt when she overcame the wiles of the Federal German No. 1 in Paris and several superb wins by Mandy Smith have once again highlighted the department where Berkshire reign supreme. Various reasons have been submitted for our poor overall county record and without doubt the difficulties, both financial and administrative, with the Reading Centre of Excellence have contributed to a falling off of standard. Latest indications are that the situation has been resolved and a revitalised Centre should prove of tremendous benefit to all our top players ranging from cadets to seniors.

An unfortunate clash with their own closed championships prevented Newbury participating in this season's inter-town competition. Nevertheless the first half of this annual competition was well supported. There is added spice to the event this season as a Special trophy, the Barbara Peesley Cup, is to be presented to the town with the best overall record at the end of the tournament in January.

In most divisions results went according to the form book and at the end of the day Reading held a slender 2 point lead over local rivals Meadenhead.

Reading 20, Maidenhead 18, Bracknell 9, Slough 5, Didcot 1.

The Bracknell league held its own junior closed championships at Clark Eaton recently and results were:-

Boys' Singles:

I. Fullerton bt P. Halliday 16, 14.

Girls' Singles:

S. Blackburn bt A. Burke 15, 12.

Boys' Doubles:

Fullerton/S. Coulson bt Halliday/M. Childs 14, 20.

Girls' Doubles:

Burke/T. Vallis bt Blackburn/J. Ridley 15, 13.

Mixed Doubles:

Fullerton/Blackburn bt Halliday/Vallis 18, 15.

Consolation Boys' Singles:

Halliday bt Fullerton -20, 8, 13.

Consolation Girls' Singles:

R. Champion bt C. Harmer 19, -18, 17.

Consolation Boys' Doubles:

Halliday/Childs bt A. Nash/M. Ridley -20, 19, 20.

Consolation Girls' Doubles:

Champion/Harmer bt T. Brooking/S. Double 9, 7.

The Maidenhead league held their annual junior team event recently. Didcot, High Wycombe and Reading all sent teams but it was Maidenhead who dominated the competition. They won the boys' U-15 and U-13 and their girls' 'A' side beat Reading 'A' by a single point, High Wycombe sprang a surprise by taking the boys' under-17 event.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

100 UP

January, 1979 sees the publication of No. 100 of TABLE TENNIS NEWS, to the Editor and staff of which we offer our heartiest congratulations. Norfolk Notes appeared in the very first issue, in which I wrote: "NORFOLK have great pride in appearing in the first issue of TABLE TENNIS NEWS and must do all that they can to ensure its success. Our first call, then, is to all our leagues, NORWICH, GREAT YARMOUTH, KING'S LYNN, WYMONDHAM, DEREHAM, NORTH WALSHAM, CROMER and FAKENHAM, to appoint a Magazine Secretary to be responsible for seeing that the E.T.T.A.'s own official magazine is widely known and read. It will be remembered that, in 1962-63, Norfolk headed the whole country in support of the late magazine, TABLE TENNIS..."

That was in October, 1966, so this piece of news will be new to many readers of Norfolk Notes. Nevertheless, much the same message applies today.

I wish I had resounding successes to record in this special number, but in the late November County Championship matches Norfolk's two Senior and two Junior teams all met with defeat. Norfolk I were "whitewashed" by Hertfordshire at Waltham Cross, and their second side went down 3-7 to Herts II at May and Baker's canteen, Norwich, Junior I (without Sue Brown, absent with a knee injury) fell to Bedfordshire at King's Lynn Youth Centre, also by 3-7, and Junior II could scrape only one set from Hunts away. Both our Junior teams are being sponsored this season by the Trustee Savings Bank of Eastern England.

This brings me to the question of support and encouragement for our county teams. Neville Graver, our energetic county secretary, writes in *Monthly Mardle*, Norwich league's magazine: "So John Bond, Norwich City's manager, is worried about disappearing crowds. I've got news for him — I'd welcome any kind of crowd, however small, to watch county matches. The first matches of the season took place on Oct. 21 and the players exceeded the supporters 2-1, and many of these supporters were old faithfuls who turn out regularly". There were no county matches in December, but matches will be played on Jan. 20/21, Feb. 17 and Mar. 10. In addition, perhaps I should mention the Norfolk Closed at King's Lynn Corn Exchange on Saturday, Jan. 13, and the Junior Closed at Neatherd High School, Dereham on Sunday, Feb. 11.

Norwich Juniors hammered Ipswich 8-1 in the Carter Cup, an encouraging result for the Stevenson twins (Richard and Martyn) and Mark Cook.

In the Rose Bowl, Norwich Women (Mrs. J.

Dixon, Margaret Hales and Ruth Hogg) had a first round win over Wisbech by 5-4.

But the best win of all for Norwich was in the Wilmott Cup, when Mick Musson, Doug Bennett and Chris Bensley flattened Maidenhead 6-0 and go on to play North Middlesex in the next round.

Very many thanks to Ray Drew, King's Lynn's Gen. Sec./Treas., for sending me his Association's handbook. This is an excellent production which will be most helpful to me. Norwich have also sent me theirs, but there are other leagues I should like to follow suit.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

CONTRASTING STYLES AT BATH

From being 1-4 in arrears Weston-super-Mare staged a great recovery to beat Bath 5-4 in a match of contrasting styles at Bath. The set between Steve Gregory and Graham Green was a fast and furious affair while Joe Garland's sets with John Higgs and Don Morris both went to expedite.

Two wins for Higgs, over Garland and Green, plus one each for Morris (over John Crabtree) and Gregory over Green took Bath into their 4-1 lead the fourth set going to Weston's Garland (v Morris). But from then on it was the visitors who moved into the driving seat with wins for Crabtree, over Gregory and Higgs, Garland adding to his previous success by beating Gregory with Green chipping in with a vital solo against Morris.

Poole, at home to Newport, claimed a 'white-wash' with trebles for Martin Abbott, Trevor Smith and John Robinson at the expense of Graham Sell, Ray Goulding and Tony Watkins only two of the nine sets going into a deciding game with Goulding concerned in both.

Bob Swain came into the Newport side making his debut in place of Watkins for the away match against Weston but could only manage one win, against Garland who also bowed the knee to Goulding and Sell, the latter also winning against Crabtree in the opening set.

But it was another defeat for Newport who went down 5-4 the last set deciding when Crabtree beat Swain 13, -12, 14.

GWENT OPEN

Saturday, March 17/79 at Cwmbran Sports Stadium

Events: MS, WS, MD, WD, XD, BS and GS

Joint Secs.:

Mr. G. E. Motlow, 29 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Gwent. 'Phone: Newport 277964.

Mr. R. Groucott, 16 Birch Grove, Llanmartin. 'Phone: Llanwern 2139.

CHESHIRE CHAT

by Dick Turner

REASON TO GRIN

The County are looking forward to a happy new year. Having overcome three of the contenders for the Premier Division at the October weekend the senior team have a great opportunity to win the Premier in their first season back with the top counties. Glamorgan who lost narrowly to Cheshire in last season's Second Division Play-off will no doubt give Cheshire a great match, and Surrey who did not turn up for the October weekend match with Cheshire may be allowed a second chance by a visit to Cheshire. The remaining two counties Berkshire and Warwickshire will also provide stern opposition, but their flying start of wins over Middlesex, Essex and Yorkshire give the Cheshire 'Cats' reason to grin before they grind their teeth for the other vital matches.

Cheshire's Second Division side are also striving for the top spot in Div. 3 North Midland, having beaten Clywd and Leicestershire II, both by 8-2. The third team has provided a baptismal font for some of the younger players who should not be discouraged by those 5-5 draws against Cleveland II and Derbyshire II. Against Clywd the Second Senior side were pleased to have Sue Alexander, the new signing from Lancashire, making her debut.

The Junior First team found Premier Division play a bit tough losing to Staffordshire and Yorkshire in their December weekend. Some consolation for Cheshire was the great win over Sally Midgley by Lynn Fennah and Cheshire's defeat of Cleveland which gave some hope of holding on to their Premier place. The Junior Second team started off well in their hunt for the Junior 3 North title with a 6-4 win over Durham, but they were subsequently held to a 5-5 draw in Cleveland. The two Veterans' sides have so far won one and lost one between them so we await the new year for a better indication of their eventual destiny.

A number of Cheshire players have been busy getting around the tournaments at weekends and successes have included two runners-up spots for young John Weatherby in the Clwyd Junior Open and the Woodfield, whilst his young brother Keith won the Swansea Open U-12 title, and a win for veteran Derek Schofield in the Woodfield men's singles final.

Coaching of juniors has continued under the direction of Karen Tonge at Runcorn. Crewe Youth Centre met with great success in the Junior Restricted Tournament they recently organised with the help of sponsorship by the Trustee Savings Bank. They attracted 120 entries for an exciting day's play resulting:-

B.S. U-17: Peter Flint (Warrington) bt Wayne Birbeck (Manchester).

BS U-14: Ian Blewett (Hyde) bt Anthony Orrell (Hyde).

G.S. U-17: Tracey Lightfoot (Crewe) bt Vivian Wilson (Wilmslow).

G.S. U-14: Miss Lightfoot bt Miss Wilson.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

GOOD DOUBLE OVER BEDS.

In the County Championships, Cambs. had a good double over Beds. when the Senior team won 8-2 at March and the seconds triumphed 6-4 at Luton. In the Senior match Cambs. won all the Men's Singles when Keith Richardson disposed of Walters and Rawlinson with something to spare although Walters was able to take the second game at 16. Mick Harper had a harder struggle against Rawlinson and the score of -20, 21, 18 speaks for itself. He then beat Hyde more comfortably although here again the Beds. man took the second game only to lose at 7 in the third. Geoff Davies beat Walters and Hyde in 2-straight and is now playing very well.

Joanne Palmer lost to Barbara Hammond but Valerie Scripps beat Julie Dimmock. The Men's Doubles resulted in a win for the Cambs. pair of Richardson and Harper, who beat Rawlinson and Hyde in three. But the Beds. women's pair (Hammond and Dimmock) beat Scripps and Palmer which makes Barbara Hammond a bit of a headache for the Cambs. women.

Best performance from Cambs. second team came from Robert Swift the Cambs. Junior Champion who won both his singles on his Senior debut. Brian Richardson, Chris Brewer and Valerie Parkes each won a singles while Parkes teamed up with Valerie Scripps to win the Women's Doubles.

In the Junior East match against Leicestershire, at March, the Cambs. seconds did well to hold the Leicestershire first team to a 5-5 draw. Amanda Judd and Rachel Norris won all their singles and the doubles. It was a sparkling return to County duty for Norris back after an absence of almost two years.

In the Cambs. League Soham are going "great guns" in Div. 1 in the quest to retain their title. They are well ahead with a far better average over New Chesterton Institute followed by University Press. Guildhall and Soham IV are just behind the Press so that the fight for "runners-up" position is well and truly "on". University I and Telephones I are at the bottom and will have a struggle to maintain their position in this higher sphere.

In Div. 2 there is great tussle for honours and currently Swavesey I and Haverhill I top the division. But the first six teams all have a chance of promotion and into the New Year will make interesting reading! In this division Impington II

are above their first team who are in danger in the lower half.

University III and Fisons II head Div. 3A although Torchbearers II are in a good position to strike at any time. University II head Div. 3B with Impington III in second position. Cambridge Fire Station lie at the bottom without a point. In Div 4A Saffrons I lead without the loss of a point closely followed by Swavesey II who also are unbeaten. Wesley III are in third place and in two recent matches have altered the position somewhat. Haverhill III and General Accident are at the head of Div. 4B with the former having the better set average, both teams being unbeaten although Accident dropped a point to Shire Hall.

University Press IV head Div. 4A with Swavesey close behind, both teams being unbeaten. Wesley V are in third position after a good run of wins. Hauxton are at the foot of the table without a point but could overhaul Sawston II in the near future. In Div. 5C Great Ouse R.D. II head the table followed by Haslingfield but the former look like making the grade as they are a point in front with a game in hand. Telephones VI are at the bottom without a point and a poor set average.

In the Cambs. League K.O. Handicap Trophy all Wesley teams have been eliminated which is surprising as in the last three seasons they have reached the final twice and the semi-final once — such is table tennis! The competition has now reached the 3rd Round stage with Soham I (the holders) still there, having to play their 5th team who have a handicap of 12+. Soham III and VI are still in and there are also three Impington teams left, Guildhall, Y.M.C.A. I and St. Ives all of the 1st Division have reached the 3rd Round and all have hard matches to contend with. When the 4th Round is reached it will be interesting to see how many Div. I teams are still left.

Wisbech Juniors, after having a "sticky" start to the season have hit back in the S.E.M. League with a fine 7-3 win over Northampton when Robert Swift was unbeaten. After beating St. Neots 5-4 in the Carter Cup, the Juniors then beat Lowestoft 5-1 in the second round. Their opponents in the 3rd round will either be North Herts or Norwich and it is a home fixture! Wisbech beat St. Neots 7-2 in the Wilmott Cup (1st Round) with Geoff Davies unbeaten. In Div. I of the Wisbech League Paliminos still lead with Tydd in hot pursuit. In Div. II White Hart have taken a commanding lead after winning Div. 3 last season.

Cambridge defeated March 5-4 in the Wilmott Cup (1st Round) and in the Veterans' Division of the S.E.M. League Cambridge defeated Daventry 9-1 and Peterborough 6-4. Cambridge Veterans, last seasons champions, are all out to again capture the title.

PROFILE — In his comparatively short table tennis career KEITH RICHARDSON has achieved all sorts of successes including the beating of top class players and is now the automatic first choice for Cambs. now that Paul Day is unavailable. He is fast and mercurial and his footwork and speed should be a lesson to all young players who have thoughts of attaining the heights. He has represented the Soham Club (Champions of the Cambs. League for the past few seasons) with great success and has also led them to successes in the Knock-Out Handicap Trophy against odds. No player can be overture of beating Keith until the last point has been played as his scorching attack can leave the best of players in "tatters" as has been the lot of many. He is quiet and unassuming and is always willing to help the younger player with all his experience and knowledge. He always seemed to be out of the Junior rankings list when, to my mind, he should have been in but nevertheless he is now a player of immense talent and may he go from strength to strength.

Cambridge and District T.T. League

Leading Positions:-

	Division 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Soham I	6	6	0	0	55	5	12
N.C.I. I	7	5	0	2	41	29	10
Press I	7	4	1	2	43	27	9
Guildhall	6	3	2	1	35	25	8
Soham IV	6	2	2	2	31	29	6
St. Ives	7	2	2	3	29	41	6

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Swavesey I	8	6	1	1	53	27	13
Haverhill I	8	6	1	1	48	32	13
Press II	7	5	1	1	42	28	11
Torchbearers I	6	5	0	1	31	29	10
Impington II	7	4	1	2	38	32	9

Division 3A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
University III	7	5	1	1	55	15	11
Fisons II	7	4	2	1	41	29	10
Torchbearers II	5	4	1	0	39	11	9
Sawston I	7	4	0	3	28	42	8
St. George's II	5	3	1	1	28	22	7

Division 3B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
University II	11	9	1	1	75	35	19
Impington III	8	7	0	1	47	33	14
Police I	9	6	1	2	63	27	13
St. George's I	7	5	0	2	47	23	10
Soham V	7	4	1	2	44	26	9

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Moss

RECORD ENTRY

The Junior Closed Championships were recently held at the Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester. There was a record entry and it was quite obvious that the all-round standard had improved considerably being a tribute to all the coaching being undertaken.

Jeremy Duffield (Kidderminster), although only 14 years of age, won the Boys' Singles for the third consecutive season. Perhaps this was not so surprising considering he is No. 1 for the County I team. Mandy Mytton (Evesham), in her last year as a junior, appeared in her fifth consecutive final and won for the fourth time. Other players who did well in these championships were Andrew Russell (Evesham), as runner-up in the Boys' Singles and winning the Doubles event with Duffield, and Robert Jackson (Worcester) who came to the fore by being runner-up in the doubles and reaching the semi-final of the singles event. Murray Jukes (Kidderminster), at 10 years of age, reached the two semi-finals! He was most impressive and obviously has excellent potential. It is evident that more girls need to be encouraged — the situation looks difficult with Mandy Mytton not being available next season.

The County League, although on a smaller scale this season, is proving quite successful with a good standard of play. Fixtures are being kept up-to-date and the success is a tribute to Terry Round (County League Secretary). Dudley head the League Table at this stage having won 4 matches with average of 31 for and 9 against. Last year's Champions, (Halesowen) have lost one match. The clash between Dudley and Halesowen in February will be vital in deciding the 1978/9 championship. Mark Owen (Hereford) and Duffield are unbeaten and Mervyn Wood (Halesowen) and Mike Sykes (Dudley) have lost only one event each.

The first rounds of the County Team Competitions have been completed. In the Scratch competition Stourport Wesleyans brought off a surprise by beating the seeded Redthorne (Kidderminster) team — they now meet Lea and Perrins (Worcester). Village Farm (Hereford) must now be favourites but the Ledbury teams and Redditch Roamers will provide strong competition.

In the Handicap Team Event three of the strongest teams, namely Redditch Roamers, Redthorne and Ledbury T.T.C. have been eliminated. Stourport Wesleyans "B", with a Rec. 150 handicap, are again to the fore. Ledbury Lions, on rec. 20, are the strongest team left in the competition.

Junior Closed Results:-

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

J. Duffield bt M. Jukes 15, 7.

A. Russell bt R. Jackson 14, 28.

Final:

J. DUFFIELD bt A. Russell 16, 15.

Girls' Singles Final:

MANDY MYTTON bt Mandy Westwood 6, 11.

Doubles Semi-finals:

Jackson/P. Carroll bt Jukes/D. Newbould 12, 9.

Duffield/Russell bt M. Danks/D. Reynolds 12, 14.

Final:

DUFFIELD/RUSSELL bt Jackson/Carroll 10, 16.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

FIRST TITLE FOR SARAH



Sarah Gilson (Bournemouth) Hampshire Closed women's singles champion.

Both the senior and junior county closed tournaments have been held since my previous report.

In the senior event with Chris Shetler and Keith Summerfield having shared the men's singles title for the past four years it was logical that they should be the top seeds and despite a high quality entry they had little difficulty in making the semi-finals. At that stage they were opposed to Bill Moulding and Derek Holman, and these two matches played on adjoining tables produced some of the best table tennis I have witnessed at this level in the many years I have been associated with county table tennis. It was a pity one's interest was so divided between the two matches. However, the two top seeds rose to the occasion with Shetler beating Moulding and Summerfield getting the better of Holman. For once the final was not an anti climax after the excellent semis with both players at their best. Keith lost the first to the title holder but won the next two to gain his fourth championship.

Quite a few upsets in the women's singles. None greater than the quarter-final defeat of No. 1 seed Joyce Coop by the Isle of Wight player Rose Grimaldi. At that stage Rachel Mackriell, the No. 3 seed, went out to Angie Gilbert. Probably the best match in the event was the semi-final defeat of No. 2 seed and county No. 1, Serina Sinanin by Sarah Gilson. Angie Gilbert comfortably won the last two games after losing the first to Rose in the other semi. The final was this time a little of a let down for unfortunately Angie was out of touch and every shot was going right for Sarah to give her the title for the first time.

Shetler and Summerfield gained this fifth men's doubles title at the expense of Trevor Smith and Jason Creasey. Favourites to meet the winners in the final were their arch rivals Moulding and Terry Bruce but they went out to Basingstoke's D. Large and N. Minter.

Sarah Gilson gained her second title when she partnered Rachel Mackriell to beat Joyce Applin and Joyce Coop in the women's doubles. It is interesting to note that winners of the mixed doubles title, Smith and Joyce Coop won this event as far back as the 1964/65 season. This year they beat Creasey and Sarah Gilson in the final.

What a remarkable record Ray Lush has in the veterans' singles. His final win this year over Maurie Shave gave him his seventh championship on the trot. Shave has reached the final twice in the last three years and has won the Southampton Title for the last two years. Not bad for a player ranked No. 5 in Southampton!!

Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Summerfield (So) bt D. Holman (Bo) -20, 16, 17.
C. Shetler (So) bt W. Moulding (So) 10, -14, 15.

Final:

SUMMERFIELD bt Shetler -18, 19, 16.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

A. Gilbert (Po) bt R. Grimaldi (I.O.W.) -17, 11, 10.
S. Gilson (Bo) bt S. Sinanin (Po) -12, 17, 19.

Final:

GILSON bt Gilbert 8, 9.

Men's Doubles Final:

SUMMERFIELD/C. SHETLER bt T. Smith/
J. Creasey (Bo) 19, 16.

Women's Doubles Final:

GILSON/R. MACKRIEL (Bo) bt J. Applin/
J. Coop (Bo) 18, 22.

Mixed Doubles Final:

SMITH/COOP bt Creasey/Gilson 16, 20.

Veteran Singles Final:

R. LUSH (Po) bt M. Shave (So) 13, 17.

The tournament with organiser Harold Alberry doing his usual efficient job went through smoothly to an early finish at Redbridge Sports Hall, Southampton. This was due to extra tables and space being available and the absence of junior events.

The junior closed was held for the first time as a separate event and for the first time the Isle of Wight came into the organisation staging the event at Ryde. Access has always been the problem with any event in the Island and despite the excellent organisation and help with transport by the local league this could again have caused major headaches. Right up to the previous day ferry services to the Island were being curtailed by fog. Playing in their own area helped Island players



Keith Summerfield (Southampton) Hampshire Closed men's singles champion.

to their best ever results. In the boys' singles Carl Prean obviously the county's best prospect in years reached the semi only to lose to the more experienced Jason Creasey. In the other half John Summerbell beat David Oakley in a very tight set. The final saw Creasey home in two-straight to retain his title.

The girls' resulted in a comfortable win for the holder Cheryl Creasey over the Island's Janice Badcock.

The under-12 and U-14 singles were held as mixed events. Prean in his age group is in a class of his own and won both events comfortably although he lost the middle game against Cheryl Creasey in the U-14 final. Southampton's only success came in the open doubles when John Roberts and Summerbell beat Marcus Maure and Andrew Crammond.

Results:-

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

J. Creasey (Bo) bt C. Prean (I.O.W.) 15, 12.
J. Summerbell (So) bt D. Oakley (Ald) -20, 19, 11.

Final:

CREASEY bt Summerbell 17, 18.

Girls' Singles Final:

C. CREASEY (Bo) bt J. Badcock (I.O.W.) 13, 13.

U-14 Singles Final:

PREAN bt C. Creasey 18, -20, 11.

U-12 Singles Final:

PREAN bt M. Wilding (S.E.H.) 3, 8.

Open Doubles Final:

SUMMERBELL/J. ROBERTS (So) bt M.
Maure/A. Crammond (Ald) 20, 18.

I do not know whether it is an event to celebrate but Hampshire first senior team have won!! This is the first time this has happened in two seasons and they certainly needed a boost after their dismal performance against Essex III in their first match. The win was against Hertfordshire by 7-3 but I hasten to add it was Herts THIRD team so I don't think the champagne can be ordered yet. It was not that long ago I remember Hampshire beating their first team. Still we must be grateful for small mercies. Summerfield, Holman and Serina Sinanin were all unbeaten in singles while Summerfield/Holman won the men's doubles and Sinanin with Angie Gilbert the women's.

The second team despite my earlier doubts about its original entry have started well with an 8-2 win over Bucks II and a 6-4 win over Worcester II. David Large and Steve Kitcher have won all their singles.

After a good win over Avon by 6-4 the Junior "A" team went down 3-7 to Devon, although some very close games in this match all went the wrong way. In the Avon match Summerbell's win over Martyn Smith was the highlight with him and Prean both winning their two singles. Joanna Bush won her singles in this and the Devon match.

The Junior "B" team have started with a draw and a loss with Beverley Nicholson being the most consistent player with two singles wins. As usual the Veteran "A" team are the county's most successful team and have started with wins over Wiltshire and Oxford. The Portsmouth-based team have Ray Lush, Len Plant and Kathy Line all unbeaten in singles and again this team must have a chance of qualifying for the play-offs if they can beat Dorset in their next match.

The Southampton based Veterans' "B" team lost their first match but beat Essex II 6-3 with Dennis Sheppard, Shave, Danny and Mai Allen all contributing singles wins.

I still receive "21 UP" the excellent local magazine of the Bournemouth Association so I can keep up to date my notes on happenings in that area. Little is forthcoming from other leagues so my report is a little sketchy. I have not even received the Isle of Wight news sheet or other information from them this season. A familiar look to the top of the premier division in Bournemouth with Merton the unbeaten leaders. Good to see a small league come up with a single sponsor to the tune of £200 for their open tournament.

I see Harold Pearce is complaining about national press coverage of table-tennis. I agree but in Southampton we cannot even get local coverage as in the past. In the past table tennis warranted a full page in the Southern Evening Echo, once a week. Now it is a struggle to get a fraction of that despite the efforts of the match secretaries.

Bournemouth players have been asked for suggestions on what could be done with £500,000 if it was available for table-tennis. In Southampton there would be no question as to the expenditure of such a sum. The city is crying out for a table-tennis centre. There is no building specifically for the sport and no Club has their own premises. Most large clubs use school premises but this situation is far from ideal with closing time deadlines, school holidays, etc. to cope with apart from high rents.

In Southampton the John Jaques Premier Division reaches the half way stage with holders Lyndhurst "A" with most Bournemouth-based Hampshire and Dorset county players to call on, the leaders from Snow "A" and Four T's Eagles. The situation is however very tight at the top after

the leaders' surprise defeat to Marchwood "A" just before Christmas.

A close tussle at the top of the Winchester first division with Hursley "A" narrowly leading from Winnall "A" who beat them 6-4 at the end of the first half.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

GARY BACK ON SONG

A record entry for the Northamptonshire 1978-79 County Closed Championships, produced 15 hours of highly competitive play at Nene College, Northampton, on a day at the end of which, Gary Alden was again installed as Men's Singles Champion, after missing last year's event through illness.

Never seriously troubled throughout the day's play, Alden dropped just one game, the first in his semi-final against Romano Gallo, but Gallo was swiftly made to pay for his success, when the County No. 1 pulled out all the stops, to romp home in the remaining ends.

In the other semi, Dave Marsh and Keith Nicoll fought out a match of high tension and performance, before the more experienced Marsh, edged home a narrow winner.

The final saw Marsh get away to a fine start as he defended capably against the flair of Alden. Gradually however Alden made inroads into Marsh's six point lead, and when he eventually levelled the scores, he increased the tempo, and raced away with some brilliant attacking play, to score a resounding victory, and so take the title for the third time.

In the Women's Singles, the anticipated final between Anne and Mandy Wallis, did not have the customary ending, for on this occasion, the younger sister did, what she has threatened to do on many previous occasions. Anne, who has won the title twice before, was this time unable to contain the consistent attacking play of Mandy, who went on to take her first singles title in straight games.

Anne, in true sporting style, soon put her disappointment behind her, and joined Mandy in the final of the Women's Doubles, where this almost invincible pair swept to a third success, beating Joyce Porter and Margaret Maltby without being extended.

Further reward came Anne's way, when partnered by John Palmer, she supplied the power, as Palmer applied the control, a mixture which enabled them to beat Northampton's Keith Jones and Helen Cottier in a one-sided final. Earlier, Jones and Miss Cottier had proved the surprise packets of the competition, ousting first Nicoll and Mandy Wallis, and then previous winners in Alden and Christine Price.

However, Alden was not on the losing side in the Men's Doubles, in the final of which, he and Graham Feakin had little difficulty in despatching the young pairing of Tim Chamberlain and David Gallo, despite the obvious promise of the Northampton duo, who in earlier rounds had accounted for Steve Lyon and Phil Snelling, and Marsh and Brian Dangerfield. Alden and Feakin's real tests had however arrived at the semi-final stage, when in a titanic battle of ebb and flow, they had just got the better of defending champions Palmer and Dennis Millman, 19-21, 21-13, 21-19.

Palmer made up for this set-back, when he retained his Veterans' title in which both semi-finals and the final were decided under the expedite rule. Dick Ingle, ten times winner of this event, made the most of the expedite situation to beat Millman in one semi-final, while Palmer had a similar success against Northampton's Thompson. In the final, Palmer's steadiness proved too much for the unadventurous Ingle, and the Kettering player had a comfortable lead when expedite was called, a lead he steadily increased right up to the end.

In the Junior events, the Boys' Singles final produced a real needle match, which set the spectators alight, as first Kettering's Nicoll, and then Northampton's Chamberlain gained the initiative, but at the end in a tense finish, the County

rankings were upheld, as Nicoll eased home for his first title.

Not surprisingly with Nicoll and Chamberlain paired together for the Boys' Doubles, the result was almost a formality, although Neil Knatt and Tim Forster took them close in the final.

Three times unlucky for Jane Nicoll, who produced the top performance of the day, only to finish on the wrong end of three finals. In the Girls' Singles, Jane played at her very best to beat County No. 1 Joanne Cutler, but in the final she was unable to cope with the physical advantages of Helen Cottier, and went down in straight games.

In the Cadet Girls' Singles, the final was contested between those young rivals, Jane Wallis and Jane Nicoll, with the closest of games ensuing, before Miss Wallis just got home in the decider, to win the title and bring the score in her personal duel with Miss Nicoll to five matches all.

Finally the two Janes combined together in the Girls' Doubles, without quite being able to match the expertise of Joanne Cutler and Helen Cottier, but it should not be long before Jane Wallis and Jane Nicoll become the most successful young ladies on the local table tennis scene.

In the final event, the talented Ian, the third of the enthusiastic Hawes brothers, just proved to be the best of a quartet of County Cadets, as he won the Cadets Boys' title in the face of stern challenges from Neil Ridge, Paul Egan and Owen Bishop.

So ended the eventful 1978-79 Championships, which if lacking of the atmosphere of some of those of recent vintage, nevertheless proved a great credit to Tournament Organiser Phil Slade, and his assistant Bob Berridge, who ensured that the sponsorship of the Trustee Savings Bank was put to the best possible use.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Nicoll bt S. Lyon 14, -19, 14;

D. Marsh bt J. Palmer 14, 20;

R. Gallo bt K. Jones -17, 14, 17;

G. Alden bt D. Millman 10, 14.

Semi-finals:

Marsh bt Nicoll -17, 19, 20;

Alden bt Gallo -19, 7, 8.

Final:

ALDEN bt Marsh 14, 13.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Wallis bt C. Price 18, 11.

A. Wallis bt M. Maltby 13, 13.

Final:

M. WALLIS bt A. Wallis 13, 16.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

D. Gallo/Tim Chamberlain bt Marsh/B.

Dangerfield 15, -15, 17;

Alden/G. Feakin bt Palmer/Millman -19, 13, 19.

Final:

ALDEN/FEAKIN bt Gallo/Chamberlain 11, 18.

Women's Doubles Final:

WALLIS/WALLIS bt J. Porter/Maltby 12, 14.

Mixed Doubles Final:

PALMER/A. WALLIS bt Jones/H. Cottier 13, 16.

Veterans' Singles Final:

PALMER bt R. Ingle 10, 11.

Boys' Singles Final:

NICOLL bt Chamberlain -22, 13, 19.

Girls' Singles Final:

COTTIER bt J. Nicoll 18, 16.

Boys' Doubles Final:

NICOLL/CHAMBERLAIN bt N. Knatt/T.

Forster 16, 18.

Girls' Doubles Final:

COTTIER/J. CUTLER bt J. Wallis/Nicoll 19, 19.

Cadet Boys' Singles Final:

IAN HAWES bt Neil Ridge 14, 19.

Cadet Girls' Singles Final:

J. WALLIS bt Nicoll 20, -19, 15.

With the results in the Championships going very much to expectations, it is not surprising that there are few changes in the mid-season rankings. In the Men's list Jones moves up to No. 5, ahead of Nicoll, Palmer and Snelling, who following a disappointing season, drops from No. 6 to No. 8. Snelling also loses his County Seconds place to Jones, with Palmer replacing Nicoll in an experienced line-up, for the fixture with Hampshire Seconds.

The only change in the Women's rankings affects Joanne Cutler who drops from No. 5 to No. 8,

with Joyce Porter, Helen Cottier and Glennis Hooper all moving up one place. In the Girls' Miss Cottier takes over at No. 1 from Miss Cutler, and Jane Wallis also exchanges positions with Julie Robinson, who drops to No. 6. In the Cadet Girls', Miss Wallis changes places with Jane Nicoll, who loses the No. 1 spot to her close rival.

The minor changes in the Boys' section affect only the middle order, but in the Cadet Boys' Ian Hawes takes over at the top from Neil Ridge, while Andrew Kimbell makes a significant jump from No. 9 to No. 6. The strength of these cadets certainly augurs well for future T.S.B. Junior Squads, as all of those listed could well be knocking on the door next season.

The Northants County Junior Squad, who for the second season have been sponsored by the Trustee Savings Bank of Eastern England, had a different format for their November session, when they were hosts to a corresponding Lincolnshire Squad, who brought their top Under-17 and Under-14 Boys, together with their No. 2, 3, and 4 Under-17 Girls. These talented youngsters were accompanied by E.T.T.A. Approved Instructor — Dennis Worrell and Senior Team Manager — Peter Taylor.

The morning session consisted of training and working techniques under the supervision of the Northants Squad's Diploma Coach, Rod Marchant, and this was followed by mixed squad competitive play for the remainder of the day's activities. A very sporting and cordial relationship abounded between the rival camps, and they will be renewing their acquaintance when the Northants Squad journey to the Lincolnshire 2-Star Open on Jan. 7, in one of the tournament visits sponsored by the Trustee Savings Bank.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The County Junior 1st team continue to make the headlines and in the last round of the County Championships matches they gained a 6-4 win over Yorkshire II at Millom and apart from being their fourth win in succession, a tremendous achievement in its own, it was also the first ever Cumbria win over a Yorkshire side.

Diccon Gray and Ian Reed (both Millom), our No. 1 and 2 Juniors, are both having an outstanding championship season and the two are still unbeaten with only two matches, against Derbyshire and Lancashire, remaining. This latest win saw them gain two singles wins each plus a doubles between them, all with apparent ease, Gail Smith (Millom) chipped in with the vital 6th win.

The County Senior side were narrowly beaten 6-4, also at Millom, by a Cleveland II side which contained three former England-ranked juniors in Ian Plummer, Mark Murphy and Jane Skipp. A result similar to the one experienced against Northumberland in their first match of the season and as in that first match Chris Reed (Millom) and Jimmy Cummings (Whitehaven) were Cumbria's best servants.

Reed preserved his unbeaten record for the season with two singles wins over Plummer and T. Murphy and Cummings won one of his singles over M. Murphy with the two combining for a doubles win over Plummer and M. Murphy. Alan Manson (Barrow), playing his second match for the County, couldn't manage a win but in the last set of the match he came close to producing his best form when narrowly beaten -17, 12, -17 by T. Murphy. Cumbria's women, Jennifer Willis (Carlisle) and Carol Tyson (Millom) never really came close to winning a set but then neither was disgraced by their more experienced opposition.

The Junior 2nd team rather surprisingly went down 1-9 against Lincolnshire also at Millom with David Archer (Kendal) gaining our only success. The score is a little misleading however as a number of the sets were in fact very close. David Round (Millom) for example, lost his two singles 12, -12, -20 and 12, -20, -19 although in this case the player's fragile temperament seems to be as much to blame as his luck running out. Steven

(continued on page 33)

SHROPSHIRE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

— YOUNGEST FEMALE WINNER — HAT TRICK FOR MALCOLM by Gerald Green

Linda Degg (15) from Shrewsbury, ranked No. 3 in Salop and seeded No. 3 in the County Closed Championships held at Sundorne on the Dec. 3, 1978, became the youngest ever Women's Senior title holder when she beat County No. 1 Tracey Powell in the final, after disposing of No. 2 Jane Cheetham in the semis. This was the first time Linda had beaten either Tracey or Jane in competitive table tennis and she had to work hard. However 'twiddling' her bat and varying her basically defensive game effectively, she thoroughly deserved her success. Linda was also losing finalist in the Women's and Mixed Doubles events.

Even more successful was County No. 1 Malcolm Green who won the Men's Singles, Men's and Mixed Doubles without dropping a game in any event. This means that he has now won all these Senior Titles three times — and still only 17.

- Final Results:-
 M.S. Malcolm Green (Shrewsbury) bt Nigel Thomas (Shrewsbury) 17, 20.
 W.S. Linda Degg (Shrewsbury) bt Tracey Powell (Telford) -12, 14, 15.
 M.D. Green/Thomas bt Mark Pugh/Geoff Lupton (Shrewsbury) 14, 9.
 W.D. Powell/Joy Seager (Telford) bt Degg/Jane Cheetham (Shrewsbury) 20, 19.
 X.D. Green/Powell bt Thomas/Degg 13, 15.
 V.S. Graham Cheetham (Shrewsbury) bt Tony Smith (Shrewsbury) 9, 14.

The event was very well organised and run by the County Chairman Bill Harris ably assisted by Barry Taylor and County Secretary Peter Park-

hurst. Trophies were presented by Alan Cavell.

There was however one big disappointment and that was the poor entry in terms of numbers — only just over fifty in the men's singles and only FOUR in the veterans — being classic examples. When I look back on my November notes headed 'Increased Interest' — followed by quotes about record numbers of teams in Shrewsbury alone, then think about the number of leagues and teams in such places as Telford, Oswestry, Market Drayton and Whitchurch, I despair. Perhaps we can console ourselves by saying that the standard of play has never been higher!

Further progress in the Carter Cup for Shrewsbury (Nicky Roberts, Geoff Lupton, Paul Jackson) who beat Harrogate 5-2 and also for Shrewsbury (Jane Cheetham, Linda Degg, Kate Harris) in the Bromfield Trophy, beating Market Drayton 6-0.

Not so good in the Midland League where Shrewsbury "A" (weakened by the absence of Thomas) went down 4-6 at Leicester despite Green winning all his singles easily and also the doubles with Mike Beaman. This defeat has probably cost them the chance of promotion.

On the Schools front grateful thanks to Ian Cossor who continues to perform miracles of organisation. He arranged the team events, then ran the individuals 'single handed' — despite a record number of entries (at least the juniors are showing enthusiasm).

- Individual winners were as follows:-
 U-11 Girls: Julie Field (Harlescote School)
 U-11 Boys: David Williams (Market Drayton Junior School)
 U-13 Girls: Alyson Barker (The Grove School, Market Drayton)
 U-13 Boys: Ivan Smith (Mary Webb School, Pontesbury)
 U-16 Girls: Tracey Powell (Idsall School, Shifnal)
 U-16 Boys: Paul Jackson (Belvidere School)
 U-19 Girls: Jane Cheetham (Meole Brace Modern School)

U-19 Boys: Paul Jackson (Belvidere School)
 A triumph for Paul Jackson, still a Cadet (son of County Coach Paddy), which unfortunately did not get the local publicity it deserved because of industrial action by members of the National Union of Journalists. Incidentally in these events Jane Cheetham twice reversed the County Closed results against Linda Degg — such are the fortunes of table tennis.

Salop County Schools Team Champions are as follows:-

- U-11: Market Drayton Junior School
- U-13 Girls: The Grove School, Market Drayton
- U-13 Boys: Idsall School, Shifnal
- U-16 Girls: Orleton Park School, Telford
- U-16 Boys: Priory Boys School, Shrewsbury
- U-19 Girls: The Grove School, Market Drayton
- U-19 Boys: Oswestry Boys High School

Pontesbury Table Tennis Club continue to show initiative, and their latest venture is to invite Nicky Jarvis to conduct a junior players Training Camp over a three day period just before Christmas. In the novice section of this club many newcomers to table tennis have been practising hard for their Halex Bronze Awards with the following children completing the tests: Andrew Kennedy, Peter Thomas, Stephen Morris, David Morris, Ian Garratt, Joanne Smith, Mandy Cartwright, Ashley Wilmott, David Williams, Alison Stephens and Ian Suckley. All credit to John Morris, Bill Stephens and company for their efforts on behalf of the juniors — I hope they are appreciated in years to come.

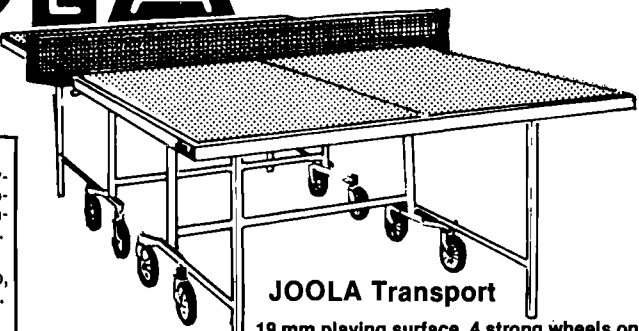
CHINESE VISIT

A small party of Chinese players arrived in this country on Saturday, Jan. 6 for a stay of ten days during which they were scheduled to visit Scotland, participate in the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton and play an international match against England in Birmingham.

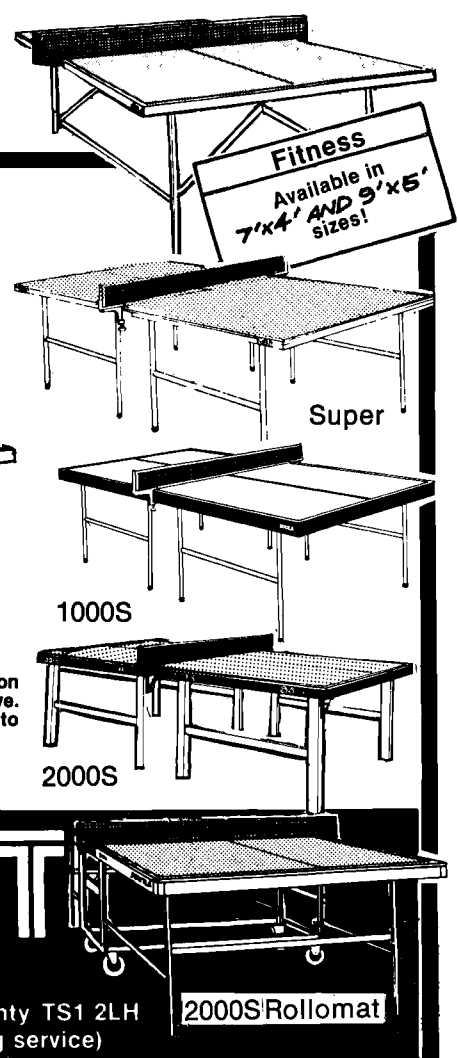
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SCOTTISH NEWS



by DENIS GEORGE

GLASGOW OPEN — 18/11/78

Bellahouston Sports Centre, Glasgow

John McNee won his second Men's Singles title of the season with a dominant display of hard hitting, only John Wilson, in the semi-final, taking him to 3; whilst in the Women's Singles **Patrice Fleming** also won her second singles title with a convincing win over Mabel Neish (Dundee). In the absence of David McIlroy (ill) and Norman Lovie (at the MIDLANDS 3-Star), our top juniors, the Boy's Singles was won by a confident **Alistair Davidson** from Keith McDougall — both of Aberdeen.

Open Singles Semi-finals:

J. McNee bt J. Wilson 17, -16, 16.

R. Bhalla bt J. Graham -17, 8, 9.

Final:

McNEE bt Bhalla 15, 16.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

P. Fleming bt I. Ferguson 20, -17, 11.

M. Neish bt S. Ferguson 16, 9.

Final:

FLEMING bt Neish 15, 20.

Junior Singles Semi-finals:

K. McDougall bt J. Broe -17, 13, 17.

A. Davidson bt T. Reid 18, -9, 13.

Final:

DAVIDSON bt McDougall 13, 13.

Cadet Singles Final:

DAVID FLETCHER bt Ian O'Neill 14, 17.

Men's Doubles Final:

WILSON/McNEE bt Graham/R. Lindsay 16, 15.

SCOTTISH YOUTH and JUNIOR CLOSED

26/11/78 — Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh

Exiled Scot **David Hannah**, of Surrey, staked his claim for Scottish selection by reaching the Final of the Under-21 Men's Singles where he lost a close set to Scots No. 3, Keith Rodger, 18 in the 3rd. In the Boy's Singles David McIlroy suffered a rare junior defeat at the hands of Edinburgh's **Norman Lovie** in the Final; **Kirstie Hammond** — from Grangemouth — showed increased maturity (having reached the NEWS OF THE WORLD/BUTLINS finals in 1977 and 1978) when winning both the Youth and Girls' titles. **Aileen Bennett** (Grangemouth) and **David Fletcher** (Glasgow) won the Cadet titles.

Under-21 Men's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Rodger bt A. Majid 20, 20.

D. Hannah bt N. Lovie 16, 16.

Final:

RODGER bt Hannah 16, -18, 18.

Under-21 Women's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Cuthbertson bt E. Robb 19, -19, 15.

K. Hammond bt S. Ferguson 17, 18.

Final:

HAMMOND bt Cuthbertson -13, 7, 19.

Junior Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

D. McIlroy bt D. Lee 17, -18, 14.

N. Lovie bt J. Broe 10, 18.

Final:

LOVIE bt McIlroy 23, 19.

Junior Girls' Singles Final:

HAMMOND bt Joyce Hannah 17, -21, 15.

Cadet Boys' Singles Final:

DAVID FLETCHER bt Gordon Nixon 21, 16.

Cadet Girls' Singles Final:

AILEEN BENNETT bt A. Breslin -15, 17, 22.

Under-21 Doubles Final:

McILROY/RODGER bt P. Akilade/J. Broe

11, 16.

Junior Doubles Final:

McILROY/LOVIE bt J. Leishman/R. Nixon 15, 11.



Norman Lovie (Edinburgh).

Photo by Denis George.



Kirstie Hammond (Grangemouth).

Photo by Denis George.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE, Division II

SCOTLAND v FINLAND — 7/12/78

This match was played in the new Monklands Leisure Centre in Coatbridge under the auspices of the Monklands District Council. Richard Yule had no difficulties in the first set against Jarmo Jokinen, winning 2-0; John McNee fought hard against Jukka Ikonen and his 'twirling bat', but after a fight back to level the score at 26-24 in the second, John plummeted from 0-9 to 9-21 in the 3rd! Patrice Fleming played well up to a point but young Sonja Grefberg showed more con-

sistency and good placing in the latter stages of each game to win 2-0. Both doubles slipped away and the match was lost. Yule had some consolation in beating Ikonen over 3 to avenge his defeat in Helsinki last season.

Scores:-

R. Yule bt J. Jokinen 11, 16.

J. McNee lost to J. Ikonen -16, 24, -9.

P. Fleming lost to S. Grefberg 13, 15.

McNee/Yule lost to Ikonen/Jokinen -18, -8.

Yule/Fleming lost to Jokinen/Grefberg -14, -14.

Yule bt Ikonen -18, 18, 16.

McNee lost to J. Jokinen -16, 20, -18.

Result:-

SCOTLAND 2 FINLAND 5

JUNIORS VISIT NORWAY

Following the participation of a number of Norwegian players in the recent EAST OF SCOTLAND OPEN an invitation had been received from the Norwegian T.T.A. to send a team of junior boys to Bergen over the weekend December 15/18 to play an International match and to participate in an invitation tournament. The selected party will be David McIlroy and John Broe from Glasgow and David Campbell and Norman Lovie from Edinburgh, with Richard Yule as Team Leader.

TABLE TENNIS DEVELOPMENTS IN ELLESMERE PORT AND CHESTER

David Hale, Coach and Chairman of the Ellesmere Port and District League will be taking the sport into two new avenues of development this year.

The first is the establishment of an adult coaching course at the Chester College of Further Education. Discussions with the Head of the P.E. Section, Keith Wilson, have now been finalised in this, the first course of its kind, being launched on Thursday evenings, beginning on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. The course will run for 10 consecutive Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. excluding Feb. 15 (Half-Term break). Fee: £6.

Initially, the course is for players of any standard. Assessment of standards of skill will be achieved on the first night and coaching will be progressive with enjoyment as the key factor: which comes with new skill construction.

Information on enrolment is obtainable from the Chester College of Further Education.

Success in this course will lead to a further extension of coaching. The requested opportunity to be coached is now possible. The nature and extent of the response by players will determine the future content and greater availability of coaching — at all levels.

The second course will be at the County "Polygon" Youth Centre, Ellesmere Port. Under the auspices of the Cheshire Adult Education Organiser, John Clare. Of a contrasting nature, this is essentially a "families" course: where adult parents/relatives, accompanied by an under-18 years of age boy or girl, can improve their skills and obtain first class coaching for the younger age group. Of ten evening sessions of two hours duration beginning Saturday, Jan. 20 — the commencement time of 6 p.m. on Saturday evenings, was chosen to allow attendance at the course followed by normal evening pursuits when the children are tucked up in bed after the course. Playing standard is irrelevant, as coaching will be progressive and individualised.

Fees: Adult - £4.50 (over 17 years of age)

Child - £1.00 (under 17 years of age)

Information on enrolment is obtainable from the Organiser, John Clare (Chester 314335).

or from the Youth Centre Leader, Mrs. Enid Hester, at the Youth Centre.

N.B. White or brightly coloured clothing should not be worn. Pimslolls must be worn.

Anyone requiring coaching but who cannot attend upon the above advised courses, should contact the Chester College of Further Education, Head of P.E. Section, Mr. Keith Wilson for the adult courses — and Cheshire County Council Adult Education Organiser, Mr. John Clare, on Chester 314335 for the Families type of course.

English Junior Closed

GRAHAM AND MANDY TAKE OVER
by Philip Reid

The English Junior Closed — this season sponsored by Club (Soft Drinks) Ltd. over the weekend of Dec. 16/17 drew a massive entry which included 197 in the Boys' Singles. All the preliminary rounds were played on the Saturday when umpires appeared to be working almost non-stop but as Tony Peacock (Peterborough) said to me 'We enjoy it so we are not really bothered'. Certainly without these willing umpires things could not possibly have gone so smoothly.

The most successful player was undoubtedly Middlesex boy Graham Sandley. True he had the benefit of Denis Neale's experience to help him but this would be to no avail unless the ability was there to achieve results.

There was one major shock in the Mixed Doubles. Three of the four seeds reached their appointed spot in the semi-finals but the fourth seeds Andrew Bellingham and Sally Midgley went out to qualifiers Des Charlery and Cheryl Creasey in the first round. The talented pair then proved this was no fluke as they went on to record two further wins before losing to eventual winners Sandley and Alison Gordon but not before they had taken them to three.

The Girls' Doubles was not helped by five withdrawals which meant only eleven of the sixteen first round matches were actually played. Top seeds Mandy Smith and Alison Gordon proceeded to the final without dropping a game whilst second seeds — Mandy Reeves and Helen Williams also reached the final stage though not with the same ease.

The Boys' Doubles saw Sandley having to change his partner but he proved that his 'Scratch' partner, Bellingham was more than useful although with five absentees here also it meant they reached the last eight without having to actually play! Charlery and Skylet Andrew, seeded two, lost to the unseeded pair of Sam Harmer and Costas Papantoniou in a most exciting match and the Bucks/Middlesex duo added further to their laurels by comfortably disposing of the number four seeds Mark Oakley and John Souter. The top seeds, David Barr and Colin Wilson — who played magnificently at singles, looked far less impressive as a doubles pair. They only just escaped a two-straight defeat from the Cumbria pair Diccon Gray and Ian Reed, losing the first and trailing 13-17 in the second when the Cumbrians missed a 'sitter'. Eventually Barr and Wilson won the third easily enough but in the semi-final they were no match for Sandley and Bellingham. My own theory is that Barr will need to attack a great deal more before this partnership will really get good results.

The Girls' Singles failed to produce any early shocks where only one of the four seeds was taken to three on the way to the semi-final. This occurred in the third round when Helen Williams took Mandy Smith to a deciding game but in contrast to the first two, the third was very one-sided. Mandy Smith and Alison Gordon, seeded one and two, were not however destined to meet each other in the final. Mandy Reeves, hitting well was too consistent for Miss Gordon winning in two-straight comfortably.

The Boys' Singles provided several excellent games but one player outshone all others for spectator value certainly as far as I am concerned. One of my friends, Mike Jackson, a well-known Cambridge umpire had just arrived and was expressing his disappointment at the lack of defensive players when into the arena stepped the elegant Barr. Barr has everything a good defensive player needs. He varies his chop plenty, is never afraid to give the ball plenty of air, has quicksilver-like footwork and has ideal temperament. He also has another year as a junior. Mr. Jackson could scarcely believe this rarity and never missed a point of any of Barr's games, singles or doubles. Five of the top six seeds reached the last eight but Graham Gillett (seeded No. 7) lost to Suffolk's Stuart Palmer whilst No. 8 seed Paul Whiting went down

to Suffolk's J. Hall who had reached round one by dint of the qualifying rounds and went on to record two more good wins before falling to Sandley in the quarter-finals. Sandley in fact was only really extended by Steve Holloway on his way to the final. Bellingham — later to perform with such distinction in the Boys' Doubles — went out to the unseeded Paul Rainford at the first hurdle but it was another unseeded player — Kevin Satchell — who advanced in this section, before becoming another Sandley victim.

Whilst number one seed Wilson was moving into the semi-final in the top quarter (though not with the ease one may have expected) Barr was chopping his way to a similar stage in the second quarter. The semi-final between Wilson and Barr was, for my money the best game of the tournament. The mere statistic of 'Wilson beat Barr 17, 18' means little. Here were two very talented players, both prepared to work for their points. The left-handed Wilson, able to control the ball better than most boys for his age, moved Barr about relentlessly, never giving him a moment's rest. Barr, for his part, gave a great display of footwork and some of his retrieving was little short of miraculous. If only Barr could have killed a few more to break up Wilson a little what a game that would have been! It was little wonder this game attracted so much attention. This was a true battle of defence v attack and it made one mourn the demise of the defender. Both these players, I would suggest could go right to the top. I have already mentioned Barr's temperament. Wilson's is just as good and his clever placements of the ball show some of the skills he is capable of. Although Wilson won two-straight it is a game many will cherish in the mind for years to come, myself amongst them.

Sandley started his assault on the 'treble' in the Mixed with Alison Gordon against Wilson and Helen Williams. At first the No. 1 seeds could make little impression with Wilson getting in some good angle shots and Miss Williams provided a few thundering kills of her own. In the second however both Wilson and Williams made a number of unforced errors and with Sandley looking more and more dangerous it came as no real surprise when they won the third with Miss Gordon playing her part notably. The Girls' Doubles went to the Berkshire pair, Smith and Gordon. They went through the tournament without dropping a single game and looked totally in control at all times.

The most exciting final was unquestionably the Boys' Doubles. The unseeded Papantoniou and Harmer reached the final in convincing style, dropping only one game on the way. Their opponents were Sandley and Bellingham. The first game was very close. Sandley — perhaps not at his best but fighting hard — had Bellingham looking a little nervous but they weathered the storm in the first to get home at 20. There was no stopping Harmer and Papantoniou in the second and the third developed into a tremendous tussle. One player looked head and shoulders above the others in this third game — Sam Harmer. Yet it was he who missed an easy winner towards the end of the third — about his only mistake in that game. When the pressure was really on though, Sandley's composure showed and truly it was a set nobody deserved to lose.

Mandy Smith's consistent hitting always looked to be good enough to keep her in command against Mandy Reeves and so it proved. Miss Reeves, however showed all the fight in the world and looked much more impressive when trying to pull back from behind.

It was then left to Sandley and Wilson to finish the proceedings which they did in fine style. Denis Neale was sitting there intently watching Sandley but it seemed as though it would be to no avail. Wilson's hitting and placing had Sandley in all sorts of trouble but the determined Sandley came back for the second, kept Wilson out and responded hit for hit. It was fascinating stuff to watch with both players showing impeccable manners. Having taken the second Sandley was clearly not going to let his challenge for the 'treble' slip and although Wilson came into the match more in the third he rarely looked like winning. A fine set contested by two real sportsmen. It was pleasing to see both Mr. Tom Blunn, E.T.T.A. Chairman and our sponsors present to present the trophies.

A fine tournament but before finishing I must

pay credit to the local organising committee led by Reg Billson and Dick Johnson who worked so hard on Friday night assembling the tables, surrounds etc. and were working all day Saturday and Sunday too. And to Mrs. Pam Pickles, involved in a National Tournament for the first time. Seeing you lifting tables, surrounds, that big dusty tarpaulin under the watchful eye of husband Tony (who did his share of work!). Hope you enjoyed it!



Graham Sandley — a triple winner at Leicester.

English Junior Closed Results:-

Boys' Singles Round 3:

C. Wilson (Mi) bt P. Stratton (Mi) 18, -16, 9;
D. Charlery (E) bt G. Lambert (Dv) 12, 11;
A. Hill (Y) bt A. Withers (Sk) 11, 17;
D. Barr (Bk) bt P. Brownlow (He) 17, 11;
K. Satchell (Wi) bt S. Harmer (Bu) -23, 15, 13;
J. Souter (Mi) bt S. Andrew (E) -21, 18, 14;
J. Hall (Sk) bt M. Les (Mi) 19, 14;
G. Sandley (Mi) bt S. Holloway (Sy) 19, 23.

Quarter-finals:

Wilson bt Charlery -14, 19, 13;
Barr bt Hill 14, 12;
Satchell bt Souter -21, 18, 14;
Sandley bt Hall 19, 23.

Semi-finals:

Wilson bt Barr 17, 18;
Sandley bt Satchell 14, 12.

Final:

SANDLEY bt Wilson -14, 12, 15.

Girls' Singles Round 2:

M. Smith (Bk) bt C. Butler (Dv) 11, 7;
H. Williams (Mi) bt S. Gilson (Do) 15, 14;
E. Hughes (Ox) bt J. Purslow (Bk) 18, -11, 17;
S. Midgley (Y) bt C. Maisey (Wi) 13, 15;
M. Reeves (Mi) bt J. Revill (Le) 12, 16;
J. Parker (La) bt J. Bellinger (Bd) 11, 13;
P. Cameron (Ng) bt Y. Hall (Le) 19, 17;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt E. Bolton (K) 19, 14.

Quarter-finals:

Smith bt Williams 19, -20, 10;
Midgley bt Hughes 14, 12;
Reeves bt Parker 8, 13;
Gordon bt Cameron 15, 13.

Semi-finals:

Smith bt Midgley 8, 17;
Reeves bt Gordon 14, 16.

Final:

SMITH bt Reeves 17, 17.

Boys' Doubles Quarter-finals:

Barr/Wilson bt D. Gray/I. Reed (Cu) -18, 19, 12;
A. Bellingham (St)/Sandley bt G. Baker (Sy)/
Les 15, 18;

M. Oakley (Sy)/Souter bt L. Bertie/R. Tanner
(Wa) 15, -18, 21;

Harmer/C. Papantoniou (Mi) bt Charlery/Andrew
-22, 20, 19.

Semi-finals:

Bellingham/Sandley bt Barr/Wilson 10, 10;
Harmer/Papantoniou bt Oakley/Souter 10, 18.

Final:

BELLINGHAM/SANDLEY bt Harmer/
Papantoniou 20, -18, 20.

Girls' Doubles Quarter-finals:
 Gordon/Smith bt J. Harper/S. Peakman (Wa) 14, 17;
 C. Creasey (Do)/Gilson bt Purslow/Revill 10, -14, 18;
 Midgley/G. Pritchard (Dv) bt A. Bellinger/J. Bellinger (Bd) 8, 10;
 Reeves/Williams bt J. Askew/K. Mudge (E) 15, -19, 11.

Semi-finals:
 Gordon/Smith bt Creasey/Gilson 12, 17;
 Reeves/Williams bt Midgley/Pritchard 22, 20.

Final:
 GORDON/SMITH bt Reeves/Williams 12, 18.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:
 Sandley/Gordon bt A. Borowczyk (Dv)/Bolton 11, 11;
 Charlery/Creasey bt Hill/S. Cain (St) -17, 14, 18;
 Andrew/Smith bt Souter/Reeves 12, 19;
 Wilson/Williams bt Barr/Purslow -20, 16, 7.

Semi-finals:
 Sandley/Gordon bt Charlery/Creasey -17, 14, 18;
 Wilson/Williams bt Andrew/Smith 14, -20, 21.

Final:
 SANDLEY/GORDON bt Wilson/Williams -12, 16, 12.

ELECTION OF PLAYERS' REPRESENTATIVE

A total of twenty votes were cast in the election of a Players' Representative, distributed as follows:
 Nicky Jarvis (8 votes)
 John Dabin (6 votes)
 John Hilton (2 votes)
 Jill Hammersley (2 votes)
 Donald Parker (1 vote)
 Denis Neale (1 vote)

Therefore Nicky Jarvis is duly elected as the Players' Representative for 1979.
 Albert Shipley,
 General Secretary.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANKS TO PAUL

I would like to thank Paul Day for the fine example he set other top players by finding time to travel and coach Cambridgeshire's top juniors, when he had just returned home, from Federal Germany, for Christmas.

J. FROST,

20 Westmead Avenue,
 Wisbech, Cambs.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

PLAYING RECORDS

Not a single male player can boast an unbeaten record in the Super Division of the European League but in the female category six players have yet to taste defeat. The playing records are:-

HUNGARY

	P	W	L
T. Klampar	8	7	1
(lost to Z. Kalinic)			
G. Gergely	8	6	2
(lost to J. Leiss and W. Lieck)			
Z. Olah	2	2	0
J. Magos	1	1	0
G. Szabo	1	1	0

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

M. Orlowski	8	7	1
(lost to U. Thorsell)			
J. Pansky	6	3	3
J. Dvoracek	2	1	1
I. Uhlíkova	4	2	2

SWEDEN

S. Bengtsson	6	4	2
(lost to M. Orlowski and P. Stellwag)			
U. Thorsell	6	3	3
U. Carlsson	2	1	1
T. Danielsson	2	1	1
A-C. Hellman	2	2	0
E. Stromvall	2	0	2

ENGLAND

D. Douglas	8	6	2
(lost to D. Surbek and Orlowski)			
N. Jarvis	4	0	4
P. Day	2	0	2
J. Hilton	1	0	1
J. Hammersley	4	4	0

FEDERAL GERMANY

J. Leiss	8	4	4
W. Lieck	4	2	2
P. Stellwag	2	1	1
E. Hugging	2	1	1
U. Hirschmuller	2	1	1
W. Hendriksen	1	1	0
K. Kruger	1	0	1

YUGOSLAVIA

Z. Kalinic	6	4	2
(lost to G. Gergely and S. Bengtsson)			
D. Surbek	4	2	2
(lost to Leiss and Lieck)			
A. Stipanovic	4	2	2
Z. Kosanovic	2	0	2
E. Palatinus	3	0	3
B. Batinic	1	0	1

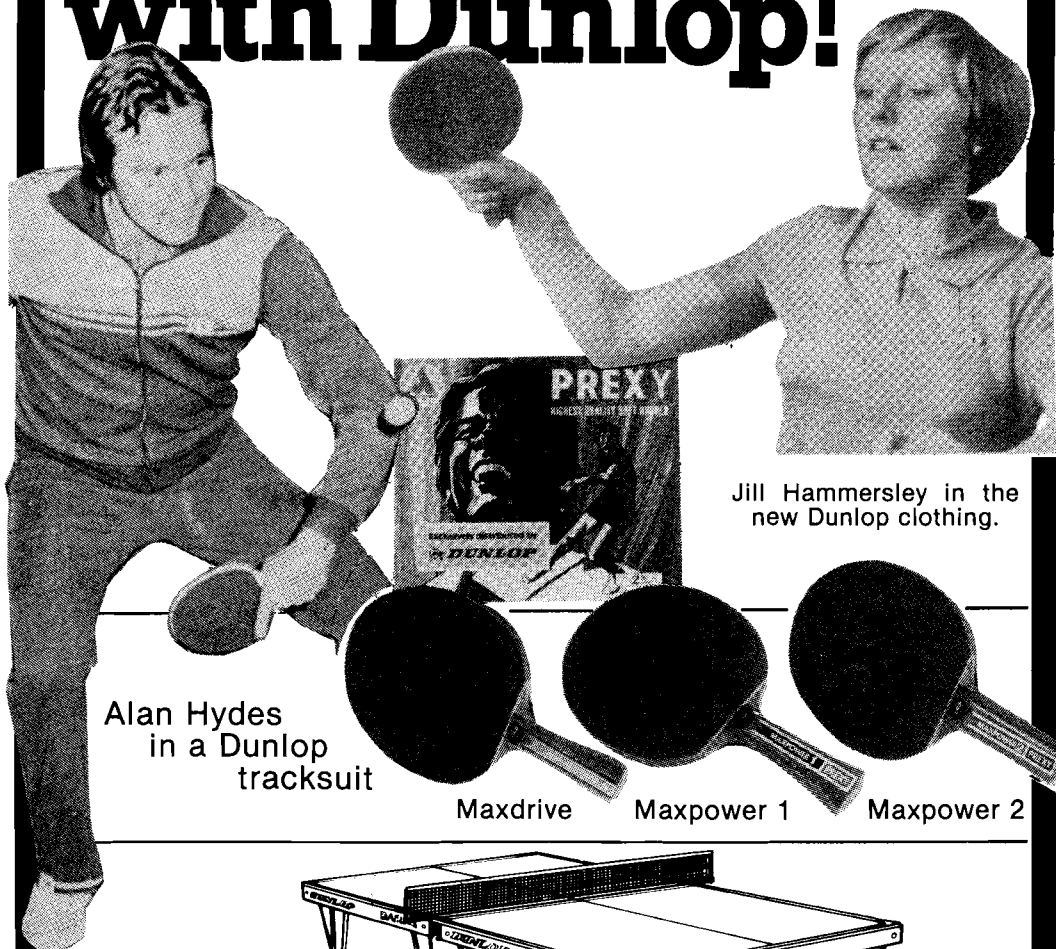
FRANCE

J. Secretin	6	3	3
P. Birocheau	6	1	5
C. Martin	4	1	3
C. Bergeret	4	0	4

SOVIET UNION

V. Shevchenko	8	4	4
M. Kreeris	6	0	6
I. Minkevich	2	0	2
V. Popova	2	1	1
L. Bakschutova	2	1	1

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Welsh Corner

H. ROY EVANS

BIGGER THAN EVER

This season's Stiga Welsh Open looks like being bigger than ever. Ten teams will compete in the European League Third Division matches, playing for the top four places for promotion to Division 2. These matches are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, February 5/7th.

Roumania, entering the competition for the first time, are probably the strongest, with Denmark, having to start again from the bottom after dropping out, their biggest challenge. The others are Norway, Switzerland, Portugal, Malta, Iceland, Guernsey, Jersey and Wales.

On Thursday, the other teams are due to arrive, and the international team event is on Friday, with the Finals in the evening. Qualifying matches will also be played on this day.

The tournament continues with the individuals on Saturday, the quarter-finals being on Saturday night. The mixed are on Sunday morning, with the whole Finals on Sunday afternoon.

The Stiga Welsh is of course the last tournament in the Norwich Union Grand Prix, and there will be keen competition to get the points necessary to feature in the Grand Prix Finals at the end of May.

Entries have been received from a record number of countries — Australia, Canada, Belgium, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, England, Finland, France, Federal Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nigeria, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia, together of course, with the ten countries already playing in the European League.

The "front runners" in the Norwich Union Grand Prix will already have played in the French, the Yugoslav, the Scandinavian, the English and the Czech Opens, and competition will surely be very keen indeed by February.

The Clwyd Junior Open, a new venture in our Calendar, was a big success, and looks like being a permanent feature at the Deeside Leisure Centre. Lancashire's Paul Rainford took the boys' title, beating David Kenefick in the semi, and John Weatherby of Cheshire in the final. Mark Thomas was disappointed to lose to Weatherby, not a result he expected.

Mark Byles teamed up with Rainford to take the doubles, Sue Powell was runner-up in the cadet girls, losing to Jean Parker of Lancashire, whilst Sue Jones took the consolation event. Not as successful an event for the Welsh youngsters as had been expected.

Alan Griffiths added another title to his bag, this time with a very convincing win over David Welsman in the Cardiff Open, but David got some revenge when he and Mike Johns (Cheshire) beat Alan and Graham Davies in the doubles.

Elaine Lamb of Devon eliminated Stephanie Jones, much to Welsh disappointment, and then beat Janet Carr in the final. Bob Bishop returned to mixed success when he partnered Jill Green to victory over Mike Johns and Elaine Lamb.

On the day before, the boys' singles produced an unexpected finalist in Barry's Jeremy Louch, but although he had played well to beat Kenefick and Andrew Jones, he was beaten quite convincingly by Mark Thomas in the Final.

Susan Jones at last beat Cathryn Jones in the

girls' Under-17 whilst the girls' Under-14 went to Vicky Bellingham of Staffs who beat Fiona Elliott, also of Staffs.

Predictably, Andrew Jones took the boys Under-14, beating Oxford's Richard Denbow two-straight.

There were a number of new combinations in the Junior Doubles, and Kenefick and Louch did well to take the event, with wins over Thomas and Byles and Andrew Jones and Gary Wilkins in the final.

Cathryn and Susan Jones were given a good run by the cadets Fiona Elliott and Vicky Bellingham in the girls' doubles final.

It was North v South again in the Mixed, with Mark Thomas and Sue Powell beating Andrew Jones and Susan Jones.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

DRAW FOR ROUND 2 MEN

The draw for National Club Championships second round (to be completed by Jan. 28/79) resulted:-

Zone 1
Storeys (Lancaster and Morecambe) v Briarside TTC (Northumberland)
Vickers Sports (Barrow) v Washington TTC (Tyneside Summer)

Byes:
Billingham Community Centre (Stockton) and Ormesby (Ormesby)

Zone 2
Hollands School (Bolton) v Brook Motors (Huddersfield)
Charnock Richard (Mid-Lancs) v Unity TTC (Bradford)

Daten (Warrington) v Little Lever Cricket Club (Bury)
Wavertree Labour (Liverpool) v E.C.R.C. (Ellesmere Port)

Zone 3
Swithland Motors (Loughboro) v Belle Vue and Dist. YC (Shrewsbury)
Chesterfield YMCA (Chesterfield) v Liberal Club "A" (Macclesfield)
Barwell Liberal (Hinckley) v James Birks TTC (Potteries)

Bye: Sovereign (Grantham)

Zone 4
Goodyear (Cannock) v Village Farm (Hereford)

Byes:
Moseley Park (Wolverhampton), Phoenix (Coventry) and South Yardley (Birmingham)

Zone 5
Rosary (Ipswich) v Soham (Cambridge)
Dunstable Young Peoples (Dunstable) v A.H.W. (Bletchley) (Milton Keynes)

A.P.C. Tiptree (Colchester) v C.E.Y.M.S. (Norwich)
Fulmerston School (Theftord) v B.M.C. Cars (March)

Zone 6
Ibis (Insurance Offices) v Omega (Bracknell)
Marlow (High Wycombe) v Ibis (Reading)
Thatcham Social (Newbury) v Navy (London Civil Service)

Goffs Oak TTC (Cheshunt) v Fullerians (Watford)

Zone 7
East Grinstead CC (E. Grinstead) v Lloyd's Register (Crawley, Horsham)
Drinkers Moth (Harlow) v Ellenborough (North Middlesex)

Billericay Sports (Billericay) v Fellows Cranleigh (Dagenham)
Denmark TTC (Beckenham) v Club 25 Larkhall (Central London)

Zone 8
Generation II (Gosport) v V.R.S. Ltd. (Portsmouth)
Saints (Exmouth) v British Rail (Plymouth)
Trinity (Bridgwater) v Heavitree (Exeter)
Dunkerton (Mendip) v Nailsworth (Stroud)

First Round results were:-
Savoy, Fleetwood (Blackpool) 3
Unity TTC (Bradford) 5
Little Lever CC (Bury) 5 Flixton (Sale) 2

Soham (Cambridge) 9
Gaywood Cons (Kings Lynn) 0
Omega (Bracknell) 5
Royal British Legion (Maidenhead) 1
Fullerians (Watford) 5
Cippenham TTC (Slough) 0
Satellite (Tunbridge Wells) 1
East Grinstead CC (E.G.) 7
Lloyd's Register (C/H) 8
Irving Sports (Southwark) 1
Club 25 Larkhall (C. London) 9
Gunnorsbury Triangle (Acton) 0
Almora TTC (Willesden) 2
Ellenborough (N. Middx) 5
Maldon Wanderers (Chelms) 3
Drinkers Moth (Harlow) 5
Billericay Sports (Bill) 5
Stiffod "A" (Thurrock) 4
Hunter Colne Valley (Braintree) 3
Denmark TTC (Beckenham) 5
V.R.S. Ltd. (Plymouth) 5 Lytchett (Poole) 4
British Rail (Plymouth) 7
Snows TTC (Southampton) 2

WOMEN'S COMPETITION - ROUND 1 DRAW (To be played by Jan. 28/79)

Unity (Bradford) v Ormesby (Ormesby)
East Lancs Paper Mills (Bury) v Colonsay (Liverpool)
Sovereign (Grantham) v B.M.C. Cars (March)
A.H.W. (Bletchley) (Milton Keynes) v Omega (Bracknell)
Ibis (Insurance Offices) v Fellows Cranleigh (Barking)
Ellenborough (Nth. Middlesex) v Maldon Wanderers (Chelmsford)
Merton (Bournemouth) v Pilgrims (Plymouth)
Bye: Exeter Community Centre (Exeter)

MANCUNIAN UNBEATEN

Manchester senior men's team finished 1978 on a high note, with victory in the National League Championships and retaining their unbeaten record in Division 1 of the Lancashire and Cheshire League (writes Les Jones).

Blackpool were the visitors to the Y.M.C.A. for the Round 2 clash in the Wilmott Cup. After Phil Bowen beat Brian Carney (15, 10) in the first set, Roy Frankland levelled the score with a win over Mark Hankey (9, 12). But then Manchester raced away to a 4-1 lead, and although the seaiders pulled one back, John Hilton beat Frankland (-19, 14, 16) for a 5-2 winning lead.

The Manchester trio had a much harder tussle when they travelled to Preston for the league engagement. Following three successive 9-1 victories, the Mancunians knew that the opposition, with Donald Parker, were stiff opponents. The home team duly won the first set, but Manchester replied by taking the next three. But Preston fought back and the teams were level at 4-4.

Bowen made no mistake in his set against Steve Turner winning 19 and 17. And in the final set between the two internationals, Parker just had the edge over Hilton, winning 18, -21, 15 for a 5-5 result.

The Manchester Closed Championships are to be played at Stretford Sports Centre on Sunday, Jan. 28/79. In addition to the men's, women's, junior and veteran singles, and men's, women's and mixed doubles events, there will be consolation singles for those defeated in their first match, giving a chance for all players to be in the prizes.

Club secretaries are reminded that entries must be forwarded to the League chairman, Harold Johnson at 458 Kingsway, Manchester, M19 1QJ, quickly, as there is sure to be a large entry.

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From the first issue of 'Table Tennis News' October, 1966

NEW SECRETARY

Mr. Derek Rupert Tremayne has been appointed the new Organising Secretary of the English Table Tennis Association and will take up duty on December 1.

OBITUARY — NORMAN COOK

It was with a very deep sense of personal loss that I received the news, on the evening of Monday, August 8, that Norman, who had been in poor health for some time, had passed away. (Ivor C. Eyles, Chairman E.T.T.A.)

D. PETER LOWEN SIGNS OFF

On August 21, 1966, just over ten years since he was appointed, Peter Lowen resigned from the post of Professional Secretary of the Association to pursue his business interests.

CHAMPIONS "WHITEWASHED"

Essex gave short notice of this match and the Rest were fortunate to be able to field their strongest team. Essex seemed to be in with a real chance of victory, but this evaporated when it was discovered that Chester Barnes was not available. The men of Essex were no match for Denis Neale, Ian Harrison and "Connie" Warren, although Stuart Gibbs hit top form to take the first game from Neale only to fade badly in the third.

Bobby Stevens came desperately close to taking the first from Warren, but the real triumph of the evening belonged to Pauline Martin. Coming in at 24 hours notice for 'flu victim Maureen Heppell (herself a substitute for Mary Wright) the Kent girl outgunned Lesley Bell to deservedly record her first win over the England No. 2. Some surprise was expressed that Brian Brumwell appeared at No. 3 for the Champions and that the opportunity to blood Keith Lawrence was not taken.

JUNIOR RANKINGS

Boys

Keith Lawrence (E)
Trevor Taylor (He)
Derek Munt (Wa)
Paul Judd (Wa)
Michael Wald (Bu)
Paul Harmer (He)
Pat Glynn (Wa)

Girls

Maureen Heppell (Nd)
Karenza Smith (Mi)
Judith Heaps (Ch)
Linda Henwood (E)
Jill Shirley (Bu)
Marjorie Walker (Mi)
Jeanne Youngs (Sk)
Linda Forkes (Y)

Group A

John Charles (Gs)
Alan Fletcher (Y)
Brian Keates (St)
Brian Mitchell (La)
Alan Nicholl (Bd)
Terry Riley (Sx)

E.T.T.U. RANKINGS

Men

1. K. Johansson (SWE)
2. J. Stanek (CZE)
3. V. Miko (CZE)
4. H. Alser (SWE)
5. D. Giurgiucu (RUM)
6. A. Amelin (USS)
= E. Scholer (GFR)
8. S. Kollarovits (CZE)
= I. Korpa (YUG)
10. P. Rozsas (HUN)
11. C. Barnes (ENG)
12. S. Gomozkov (USS)
13. S. Sarkhojan (USS)
= E. Vecko (YUG)

15. D. Neale (ENG)
= R. Negulescu (RUM)

Women

1. M. Alexandru (RUM)
2. S. Grinberg (USS)
3. E. Koczian (HUN)
4. M. Luzova (CZE)
5. M. Shannon-Wright (ENG)
6. D. Rowe-Scholer (ENG)
7. E. Jurik (HUN)
= Z. Rudnova (USS)
= A. Simon (GFR)
10. E. Buchholz (GFR)
= S. Paisjarv (USS)
12. I. Bosa-Mikocziova (CZE)
13. S. Likacs (HUN)
14. G. Geissler (GDR)
15. E. Constantinescu (RUM)
16. E. Mihalca (RUM)

NETHERLANDS OPEN, UTRECHT Oct. 15/16

We are sending Chester Barnes, Brian Burn, Mary Wright and Pauline Hemmings, with Johnny Leach as n.p.c.

AUSTRIA OPEN, VIENNA Oct. 29/30 YUGOSLAV OPEN, NOVI SAD Nov. 4/6

We shall be sending Chester Barnes, Brian Wright, Mary Wright and Karenza Smith with Ron Crayden as n.p.c.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Unlike the Federal German invitation the trip to Szombathely, Hungary, proved rather disappointing from the success point of view but Brian Burn came very near to it.

Results:-

Boys' Singles:

Gomozkov (USS) bt Vardenjan (USS) -12, 17, 10.

Girls' Singles:

Poor (HUN) bt Brazunajte (USS) 11, 13.

WELSH CORNER

Changes in the constitution of the Welsh Association are designed to remove some of the burden from the shoulders of Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans, now in her 21st year as the General Secretary.

THE ARCHITECT RETIRES — A TRIBUTE TO THE HON. I.G.S. MONTAGU from Ivor Eyles, Chairman of the E.T.T.A.

Although our President talked over the past few years that it was time he should retire from the presidency of the English Table Tennis Association, it came as rather a shock when we were compelled to accept this at our recent Annual General Meeting.

SURVIVAL BY CIRCULATION by LOUIS HOFFMAN

The success or failure of a magazine such as ours rests entirely on the amount of copies one can sell. It is with this in mind that I am appealing to each and every one of our readers, to coin a phrase, "Pull one's finger out" and endeavour to interest those that come up to you and ask to borrow your magazine into becoming regular subscribers. This I feel is one of those cruel-to-be-kind acts.

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

TRIPLE CROWN FOR MELODY

by IRIS MOSS

The 22nd Middlesex 3-Star Open Championships were held at Picketts Lock Centre, London N9 on December 9/10.

With an entry of 258 at the closing date and only seeded players excused groups, the Saturday programme was a very full one. Nevertheless we managed to accommodate a further 19 players who replaced those failing to arrive. The Veterans event, with our largest ever entry of 29, was also played on the Saturday, with Peter D'Arcy regaining the title he last won in 1974, beating last year's champion, Henry Buist, in the final.

On Sunday we started the competition proper and the fallacy of trying to "pick a winner" was amply demonstrated. With Desmond Douglas, as well as Paul Day and Nicky Jarvis, tied up with their Bundesliga commitments, John Hilton looked, on paper, to be an almost certain winner for the Men's Singles but Peter McQueen decided otherwise and John went out in the 3rd round. At the other end of the draw the number 2 seed, Donald Parker went out to John Kitchener in the same round. Chris Sewell failed to turn up and his place in the last 8 was won by Colin Wilson. In fact the only one of the first 8 seeds who survived to the quarter-finals was Max Crimmins of Surrey. By the semi-finals only 2 seeds, McQueen and Crimmins, had survived and were joined by 2 unseeded players Wilson and Les Eadie — the latter not only unseeded but accepted on a scratching! In the Semi-finals, which were staged in the evening, Colin did well to beat Peter, but Les could not hold out against Max. Whichever player won the Final, a new name was due to appear on our Roll of Honour and it would have been nice to have had a Middlesex player for the first time, but it was not to be and the new champion is Max Crimmins.

In the Women's Singles, too, things did not quite go according to the Ranking Lists. Linda Howard (No. 2 seed) and Anita Stevenson (No. 4 seed) went out in the second round to Mandy Smith and Alison Gordon respectively and in the eventual final, Carole Knight found herself unable to stand up against an inspired Melody Ludi.

With the Men's and Women's Doubles going to the No. 2 seeds and the Mixed going to the pair seeded 6th, no event was won by the "favourites". We hope this made it a more interesting tournament for those who are so often the "also rans".

I find that it often happens that one player stands out as having had a "good" tournament and this year it must be Melody Ludi. Not only did she win the "triple crown" but she was the only player to win more than one title. Congratulations Melody.

Finally I would like to express our thanks to our sponsors, Halexsport and Gillette Industries, without whom there could be no Middlesex Open; to the umpires who came from far and wide to help with the work; and to the management of Picketts Lock for their help and co-operation.

For those of you who like keeping records of results, they were:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

P. McQueen (Cv) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) -15, 19, 19;
C. Wilson (Mi) bt A. Fletcher (Y) -17, 11, 17;
M. Crimmins (Sy) bt J. Dabin (K) 16, 14;
L. Eadie (E) bt J. Kitchener (Sk) -10, 18, 20.

Semi-finals:

Wilson bt McQueen -14, 12, 22;
Crimmins bt Eadie 13, 15.

Final:

CRIMMINS bt Wilson 16, 19.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Knight (Cv) bt L. Radford (E) 20, 14;
K. Rogers (Le) bt A. Gorfon (Bk) 12, -12, 20;
M. Ludi (Y) bt K. Witt (Bk) -19, 18, 17;
M. Smith (Bk) bt M. Reeves (Mi) -14, 17, 17;

Semi-finals:

Knight bt Rogers 11, 16;
Ludi bt Smith 9, 17.

Women's Singles Final:

M. LUDI (Y) bt C. Knight (Cv) 9, 12.

Men's Doubles Final:

M. MITCHELL/G. SANDLEY (Mi) bt
M. Johns (Ch)/D. Welsman (Sy) -17, 12, 20.

Women's Doubles Final:

LUDI/K. WITT (Bk) bt A. Gordon/M. Smith (Bk) 18, 13.

Mixed Doubles Final:

JOHNS/LUDI bt R. Potton (E)/A. Mitchell (Mi) 15, 18.

Veterans' Singles Final:

P. D'ARCY (Ch) bt H. Buist (K) 5, 16.

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U.A.U./W.I.V.A.B. INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

NAMES OF CALIBRE by Derek Oldman

Once again the entries for these annual championships included new names of substantial calibre, county players, schools internationals and even senior internationals. Whilst adding much interest to the tournament the organiser's task of seeding these players correctly alongside the existing champions wasn't made any easier. Such is the continuing interest of table tennis at University level that over 150 entries were received for a tournament held at Durham, not the easiest place to get to. Twelve Butterfly tables were used in the Maiden Castle Sports Centre and with the aid of the Durham County Umpires Association play was kept on schedule over the weekend 11/12 Nov., 1978.

Two new names figuring in the men's singles were Chris Rogers and recent Schools International Bryn Tyler now studying at Sheffield and Warwick respectively. Rogers was given top spot, just ahead of Andy Wellman and John Proffitt while the Warwick player was seeded at number 5. With Cosmo Graham and Philip Vickers withdrawing and Ian Smith failing to reach the quarters there were three unseeded players amongst the last eight. Rogers, Wellman and Proffitt, who accounted for Tyler and unseeded P. Griffiths from Lancaster duly reached the Semis. Wellman comfortably beat Griffiths and Proffitt quietly and efficiently ended the hopes of Rogers after a marathon first game. Once again we had two Sussex University players contesting the final, with Wellman retaining his title although he needed three games to do it. It seems strange that a player of Proffitt's ability has yet to win a University title.

The defending champion in the women's event, Mandy Mellor, had further competition from newcomers Debbie Coulthard, the Welsh Closed Champion, and Cheryl Buttery, the Lincoln girl now representing Nottingham. Linda Clemett was an early seed to fall, losing to Miss A. May, a comparatively unknown from York University. Mandy, Cheryl and Debbie all comfortably reached the last four and were joined by Manchester's Anne Sweeney. In the first semi Mandy from Lough-

borough annihilated Cheryl and the result looked a formality. However, refusing to give in, the Notts student fought back bravely, just won the second and then completely reversed the form in the decider. In the second match Debbie was surprisingly outwitted by her Manchester colleague and succumbed in two.

The final was a keenly contested affair and good to watch. Although Miss Buttery always appeared to hold the ace card Anne Sweeney played as well as I have seen from her and was probably rather unfortunate to meet an opponent in top form. The title duly went back to Nottingham and I am sure that much more will be heard of Cheryl Buttery during her University career.

Wellman and Proffitt were top seeds in the men's doubles but with the Smith/Vickers combination from Aston not in attendance their main rivals were the number three seeded pair Tyler and Gary Stewart representing Warwick. These two pairs duly reached the final with the Loughborough pair P. Bathard and G. McAvoy and Ian Smith and M. Brown from Aston being the defeated semi-finalists. Once again the underdogs gave a sharp warning in the first game and it needed a decider before Wellman and Proffitt retained their title which they have now won on three consecutive occasions.

Debbie Coulthard and Anne Sweeney looked a formidable and almost unassailable duo. Past champions K. Saywell and J. Glover lost to the Bristol pair K. Garner and Swedish student B. Hageman who immediately succumbed to Mandy Mellor and Gillian Murphy in the semi-final. Sarah Jackson and Linda Bradburn from Sheffield duly met their masters in the other semi, Sweeney and Coulthard reaching the final without being extended. The top seeds saved the organiser's blushes by comfortably taking the title and it will need a good pair to knock them off their pedestal.

The reigning mixed doubles champions Andy and Sally Wellman were favourites to retain the title with the main opposition expected to come from the Sheffield pair Chris Rogers and Sarah Jackson. The holders however went out in the quarters to Manchester's Bolshaw and Coulthard but then this pair lost in the first semi to Paul Bathard, a former Devon Junior, and Mandy Mellor from Loughborough. Rogers and Sarah Jackson comfortably eased their way to the final, beating Aston University's Brown and Fox at the penultimate stage.

The final proved to be an interesting one and Mandy Mellor gained some consolation for earlier defeats by playing a very important part in the

eventual victory of the Loughborough P.E. students unlike other pairings there was no weaker partner and with the left-handed Bathard posing his own problems, the Sheffield pair had to take second place.

The British Universities Championships are eagerly awaited. I suspect that some students are eager to prove that their success at Durham was no fluke whilst others will be equally determined to show that perhaps they just had an 'off' day.

Results:-

Men's Singles:

A. Wellman (Sussex) bt J. Proffitt (Sussex)
-15, 17, 18.

Ladies' Singles:

C. Buttery (Nottingham) bt A. Sweeney
(Manchester) 16, 18.

Men's Doubles:

A. Wellman/J. Proffitt (Sussex) bt B. Tyler/G.
Stewart (Warwick) -16, 16, 16.

Ladies' Doubles:

D. Coulthard/A. Sweeney (Manchester) bt M.
Mellor/G. Murphy (Loughborough) 16, 14.

Mixed Doubles:

P. Bathard/M. Mellor (Loughborough) bt C.
Rogers/S. Jackson (Sheffield) 13, 20.

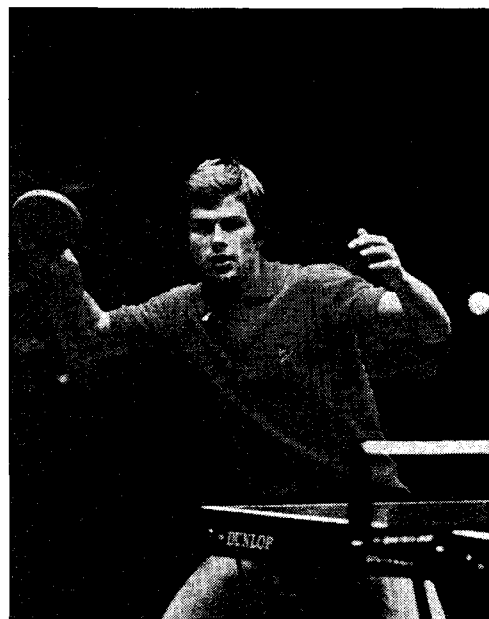
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Picture shows Milan Orlowski, a past European champion, in action at the recent Norwich Union Trophy tournament.



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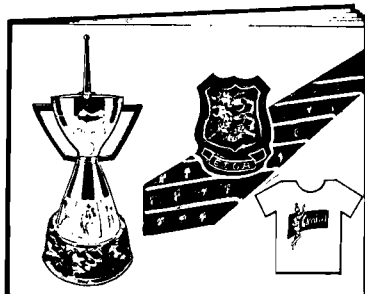
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(County Notes continued)

Dixon (Kendal) made his County debut in the match and he was unable to get into his stride in either of his two singles.

INTER-LEAGUE

Inter-League champions Carlisle made a good start to this season's campaign with a comprehensive 12-0 win over Millom, with the Millom league currently devoid of any top class players. Carlisle had no difficulty in securing two points even with an under-strength team. David Kirkpatrick, Ian Wallace, Matthew Wallace and Jennifer Willis were the unbeaten Carlisle team. Keith Sheldon made his debut for the Millom side with Stewart Stamper coming the closest to any success.

An under-strength Barrow side also opened with a win at the expense of a Whitehaven side who finished runners-up in the competition last season but who had to give the Barrow team two sets due to unavailability of a woman player. An undefeated performance from Cummings was to no avail therefore as Barrow scraped home with two wins from Eddie O'Hara and Barry Lynch and one from Andrew Murray, the latter two both making their debuts for the town team.

Whitehaven made amends in their second match however and they beat Millom 11-1 at Millom with Cummings, Stephen Crosby and Iris Herbert all remaining unbeaten. Derek Brown gained the one win for Millom, on his debut for the side, over Lyndon Merner. Keith Sheldon came the closest to another Millom win when losing 20-22 in the decider to Crosby.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

BRIAN KEAN RESIGNS

On medical recommendation Brian Kean has reluctantly resigned his position as coach to the Lancashire T.T.A. and his non-playing captaincy of the Junior team in the County Championships. This action follows a period of hospitalisation in Stretford Memorial Hospital where Brian underwent exhaustive tests.

A drastic curtailment of Brian's activities also includes severance from his participation of the squad activities at British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock. In accepting the resignation the County Chairman, Arthur Upton, expressed the sincere appreciation of the services rendered, in particular the progress which had been made amongst the junior players as a result of Brian's personal involvement. All will wish Brian a speedy return to full health in the new year.

Meantime congratulations to Joy Grundy of Lytham St. Annes on her elevation from Group A to the No. 10 position in the new Junior rankings and to Carolyn Scowcroft of Bolton on her retention of a Group A position which has also been afforded Jean Parker, brother of E.T.T.A. National Coach Donald, of Preston.

Congratulations too to Paul Rainford, also of Preston, on his elevation to the No. 13 position in the boys' list from previously being in Group A. Progress indeed and a tribute to the work of Brian Kean in this field.

Entry forms are now available for the Lancashire 2-Star Open Championships to be held at British Aerospace Dynamics Group, Lostock Factory, Bolton on Saturday, Feb. 3/79. They can be obtained from the Organising Secretary, George Fackrell of 9 Clive Avenue, Orford, Warrington (Phone: Warrington 59228). Entries close on Saturday, Jan. 20. Total prize money at stake, thanks to a generous contribution from British Aerospace, is £315 with £75 going to the winner of the men's singles and £35 to the winner of the counterpart women's event.

Two entries, already to hand, are those of Marianne Domonkos and Peter Joe of Canada the former having participated in last year's event with her compatriot Birute Plucas, the beaten finalists in the women's doubles event. Miss Domonkos lost to Cheshire's Susan Lisle in the semi-final of the women's singles the event being won by Linda Howard. David Constance was the winner of the men's singles beating Donald Parker in the final.

Regrettably there is to be no repeat of last season's Granada T.V. Tournament. Paul Doherty, Granada's Head of Sport was the bearer of the sad tidings for despite two heavy meetings with the Producers they did not believe they could represent the sport sufficiently well in their programme (Granada Reports) to make it worth while.

One ray of hope is that Mr. Doherty is trying to get a one hour sports slot in the New Year and he guarantees that table tennis will get coverage in this. These negotiations will not be concluded for some weeks yet, but the writer will be informed — and so will the readership.

In a top-of-the-table clash in Div. 1 of the Lancs and Cheshire League, Manchester and Preston shared the spoils in a 5-all draw which dented the 100% record of both leagues. Current positions are:-

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Manchester	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Preston	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Farnworth	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Bury	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
St. Helens	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Liverpool	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Salford	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Macclesfield	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

Preston "A" with four wins from four matches lead Div. 2 (North) and Stockport boast a similar record in Div. 2 (South).

Both Stockport, the defending champions, and Manchester claim 100% records in the Women's Div. 1 after four matches, the defending champions having but dropped 3 sets out of the 40 contested. Leading positions:-

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Stockport	4	4	0	37	3	8
Manchester	4	4	0	31	9	8
Liverpool	3	2	1	18	12	4
St. Helens	4	2	2	18	22	4
Blackpool	4	2	2	17	23	4

Preston, Barrow and Rochdale are all undefeated in Div. 1 Junior but only Rochdale are 100% Preston and Barrow having shared the points when they met. Bolton and St. Helens boast full points in Div. 2.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

CARTER CUP WIN

The Northumberland League met the Tyneside Summer League on Nov. 18 in an early round of the Carter Cup at West Avenue Methodist Church, Gosforth. The Northumberland League were represented by John Burke, Bernard Clark (a late replacement for Philip Kolvin) and Neil McMaster, who gained his first representative honour for the home side. Due to a misunderstanding, however, two of the Tyneside Summer League's originally selected team failed to arrive at the venue, and Steve Lawrence and Nicholas Jeffreys were drafted into the team to join Durham County junior Nigel Jobling. The Northumberland League side won 7-2, with both John and Nigel recording maximums, and Bernard narrowly losing two out of his three sets. The winners are, inevitably, due to meet Ormesby in the next round.

The following weekend saw the County's three teams in action, but unfortunately none managed to finish on the winning side. The first and second senior teams both went down 2-8 to the Lancashire first and second teams at Byker Community Centre, with the first team winners being Andrew Clark in his singles against Steve Cowley, and together with Malcolm McMaster, a very good men's doubles win over Cowley and Nigel Hallows. Malcolm also won one singles for the second team by beating Roy Frankland, who also lost to Peter Whiteman.

The juniors fared only marginally better by losing 3-7 to Durham juniors at Consett Sports Centre, with Durham's Nigel Jobling showing much better form than in the Carter Cup match the week before! John Burke and Neil McMaster — the latter making his official County debut — did, however, gain good victories in their other singles, John beating Malcolm Polkinghorn and Neil edging out Dave Godbold. Susan Norris beat Amanda Smith in her singles to score Northumberland's third win.

The first Ashington Closed tournament held at the Leisure Centre on December 9, was a great success, although there were less entries than usual in the women's and junior girls' events for varying reasons. With both Andrew Clark and Kit Cheung electing to play in the Middlesex tournament on the same day, the singles events especially were expected to be very open, and in fact the tournament produced some of the closest and most exciting finals for a long time.

Only one of the top seeds managed to win an event — Susan Norris comfortably beat Gwen Brigham in the junior girls' singles final.

Durham County player Dave Svenson took the men's singles title, edging out top seed Frank Mitchinson in three close games, and former Shropshire County junior Judy Davies gained her first tournament victory in a similar battle with top seed Pauline Jackson in the women's singles. The men's doubles title went to established pair Malcolm McMaster and Chris Shepherd, who won through against the new pairing of Frank Mitchinson and top junior John Burke.

The latter also had to be content with the runners-up prize in the junior boys' singles, as this event was won by Henderson Yeung, who came back strongly in the later stages. Ian Bonner performed a similar feat against Terry Straughan to win the Div. 3 and 4 singles, while the Under-11 open and girls' singles both featured the same finalists, with Claire Mouzon emerging as the winner over Denise Wilkinson in each case.

Results:-

Men's Singles:

D. Svenson bt F. Mitchinson 18, -19, 16.

Women's Singles:

Miss J. Davies bt Miss P. Jackson -17, 16, 15.

Men's Doubles:

M. McMaster/C. Shepherd bt Mitchinson/J. Burke -14, 17, 17.

Div. 3 and 4 Singles:

I. Bonner bt T. Straughan -16, 17, 18.

Junior Boys' Singles:

H. Yeung bt Burke -17, 10, 18.

Junior Girls' Singles:

Miss S. Norris bt Miss G. Brigham 9, 13.

Under-11 Open Singles:

Miss C. Mouzon bt Miss D. Wilkinson 17, -19, 7.

Under-11 Girls' Singles:

Miss Mouzon bt Miss Wilkinson 13, 13.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

SUCCESSFUL WAY . . .

Leicestershire carried on in their successful way when they beat Derbyshire 8-2 and whilst this was a successful result in itself, the County have clearly not solved their No. 3 spot yet with the luckless Gannon suffering two defeats. The 2nd team beat Shropshire II 9-1, Phil Smith surprisingly losing the lone set. The Junior team suffered by the late withdrawal through injury of Yvonne Hall and with her in the team they would surely have done better than draw with Cambs II.

In the Midland League, Leicester are performing well. Although the first team lost 3-7 to Chesterfield they have still collected four points from their first three matches and with Chris Rogers unavailable this is not a bad performance. The second team are situated half-way down the chart but the third team have won all four of their games in Div. 3 and naturally top the division whilst the women, with three points out of four, could keep their hold on the Women's Division. The Juniors, clearly will struggle in the 1st Division but a fine maximum by Simon Griew brought the team a draw against Derby. The Veterans for their part are in a comfortable position in mid-table.

In the Wilmott Cup, Leicester's 5-3 win was due to a fine maximum from Rogers and two wins from David Gannon. Although he failed against the wily Alf Saunders, Gannon hit well against Alan Croome and deserved his win.

Great Glen have emerged as first division favourites with a great victory over Barwell Liberal. Paul Randell suffered the indignity of two defeats in the same match with Graham Hall and Gary Alden both beating him. Whilst Maurice Newman beat them both he came unstuck against

Suzanne Hunt, so that the Great Glen trio all won two. Suitably encouraged, they went to Knighton Park I the following week and took all ten!

There has been a massive entry for the 'Leicestershire Closed'. The Intermediate Singles entry is easily a record and not since the halcyon days of 1966 has there been such a large entry in the Boys' Singles or Boys' Doubles. Compare that with the Women's Doubles (3) and Girls' Singles (5)! The Women's Doubles has not attracted an entry higher than seven since 1971 and although tradition dies hard, it seems in the case of the Women's Doubles, die it must!

There have been various changes in the ranking lists but perhaps the most significant was the elevation of young Griev in the junior list from No. 9 to No. 4 which puts him right in line for an outing in the Junior team. The Junior Selection Committee may be big, but under Mike Holt's astute chairmanship seems to be doing a pretty thorough job. The Senior Selection Committee have brought Steven White up the list from No. 12 to No. 9 and there is no doubt this left-hander has all his old enthusiasm. Moreover schoolmaster White is passing his enthusiasm on to his pupils at Anstey Martin School. On the schools front, there is little doubt great progress is still being made and with people of the calibre of Steve White, Steve Zanker, Bob King, Peter Capewell and Keith Fellows at the helm it isn't surprising.

Finally, all our hopes for Graham Hall for a 100% return to peak fitness. Graham in fact hasn't been well for much of the season (nor last season either). Hurry up Graham, the 'Royal Mail' isn't the same without you!

MIDLAND LEAGUE NOTES

by Tony Darbyshire

CONGESTION PROBLEM

Approaching the half way point in the season's programme there are very few teams which have a clear lead in any of the divisions. This perhaps highlights the congestion problem for many leagues who find it difficult to put out their strongest team for every match because some players are heavily committed to tournaments, county matches, etc. On the other hand it does give some leagues a better chance to beat the stronger leagues and for stronger leagues to play up-and-coming youngsters against established and more experienced players. At the end of season of course we probably do not get a true picture of the individual, or collective, strength of the bigger leagues. This is particularly apparent when one looks at the men's first division where Birmingham have had to use three of their top players for their "A" and "B" teams instead of fielding the same three or four players throughout the season. Bristol, after playing four matches have had to use six players, as have Derby "A". Other teams through all the divisions seem to be having the same problem.

Anyway on to the report. Lester Bertie played well to win his 3 against Notts "A" and helped B'ham "A" to an 8-2 win. Only Glenn Stredder extended him to a third game but he ran out the winner -20, 11, 18. A fine tussle took place between Chesterfield "A" and Derby "A" where neither side was ever more than one set ahead. David Yallop, for Derby, won his 3, all in the third game. Maurice Billington and Ivor Warner won 2 each for Chesterfield and the match ended in a 5-5 draw. Barry Hayward easily defeated Kevin Satchell 12, 11 for B'ham "B" but Kevin salvaged some pride for Bristol by winning their only 2 sets in a 2-8 loss, their first defeat of the season. After playing two matches Hayward is undefeated and has dropped only one game in his 6 sets.

In the Men's Div. 2 Walsall languish at the bottom of the table after being demolished by Glos. without winning a game in any of the 10 sets. Phil Cawser for Leic. "B" won 3 to help his side to a 7-3 win over Derby "B". Steven Yallop played some fine rallies in all his sets but failed to notch up a win this time. David Harvey lost his 100% record when he lost to K. Pilgrim of Coventry -13, -18 but 3 wins from Steve Moreman gave Cheltenham a well earned 6-4 victory over them. So far only Wolves "A" are undefeated in Div. 2.

Leic. "C" lead Div. 3 after 4 wins but they only

managed to beat Bromsgrove and Hinckley "B" by a 6-4 margin. Alan Philpott got the better of all the Leic. "C" players (Truman, White and Day) and will be pleased to have beaten two players who are ranked above him in the Leic. County ranking list. Simon Gray of Bromsgrove has only lost once in 4 matches and has 11 wins out of 12. Unfortunately his side have only two points to show for his good form taken from their win over Shrewsbury "B" 8-2, although Shrewsbury will no doubt feel the scoreline is not a true reflection of the match since they lost 4 sets very close in the third game. Joe Deakin for the Potteries "B" side was only extended by Stuart Richards 18, -17, 17 in a 9-1 win over West Brom. Juniors predominated in this match with Greg Hallam winning his 3 but Paul Barnett narrowly losing to Richards -20, 13, -17. Hinckley "B" could not hold Potteries "B" either and went down 2-8 at home. So far Hinckley have only 2 points to show for their efforts after 5 matches. Shrewsbury "A" without Malcolm Green suffered their first defeat to Leamington 3-7. John Fuller won his 3 for Leamington. Coventry "B" picked up 2 points by defeating Bromsgrove 7-3 with Dave Abbey, Paul Durrant and Chris Martin winning 2 each. Abbey inflicted Simon Gray's first loss of the season, although Martin only lost to him 20, -19, -19 in the first set of the night.

In Div. 4 Derrick Marples strides on for Chesterfield, who head the table, and is so far undefeated after three matches. He gained 3 easy wins at Nuneaton where his side won 7-3. Tony Nixon (2) and Chris Knowles (1) were Nuneaton's 3 marks on the score sheet. Only one set went to 3 in the match between Cheltenham "B" and Loughborough "B". In winning 6-4 Loughborough have now used 7 players in their opening 3 matches. Lichfield made the journey to play Nottingham "B" only to confront Dennis Collins in top form and lost easily 0-10. Keith Gough nearly got a win on the scoresheet for Lichfield but lost -12, 17, -21 to John Ellis.

Vets Div. 1 is still dominated by Nottingham, who continued on the victory path by defeating Cheltenham 10-0 without the loss of a game. Peter Stack of Cheltenham could only write 'No comment' when he came to write a brief report on the evening's play. Peter's side put up a bitter fight at Leamington but still lost 4-6. Bill Sharp and Sam Ewens settled down to expedite in their 3rd game but Bill ran out the winner 16, -17, 12. Henri Strasinkas also beat Sam on expedite 13, -12, 13. Oxford lie second in the table after a 5-5 draw at home to Leamington, and a 9-1 away to Gloucester. Coventry beat Birmingham 9-1 but went down 4-6 to West Bromwich.

In the Vets Div. 2 Oxford beat Derby 9-1 and now have 6 points after three matches. Nuneaton beat Coventry "B" 6-4 but lost to Walsall 8-2. Stratford beat Worcester 7-3.

Junior Div. 1 is being ruled so far by Coventry "A" with 4 wins out of 4. They beat Leicester 9-1, Wolverhampton "A" 8-2 and Derby "A" 8-2. Adrian Pilgrim has a 100% record to date with 12 wins out of 12, although Brian Bennett of Derby took him the closest -19, 10, 20. In Junior Div. 2 Birmingham "B" lie second to Nottingham "A" with 3 wins out of 3 and beat Leamington 9-1 with Stuart Sheasby beating Birmingham's Kevin Grundy 15, -19 and 24 but losing to Colin Higgins -17, 21, -20! Nottingham "A" have 8 points after 4 wins so it looks like the crunch match will be against Birmingham "B". In Div. 3 West Bromwich beat Worcester 10-0 and in turn Worcester beat Derby "B" 6-4. In Jun. Div. 4 Market Drayton registered their first win in the Midland League when Keith Sillitoe won his 3 in a 6-4 win over Stratford. It's nice to report that an enthusiastic audience cheered Market Drayton to victory, although young Chris Church of Stratford had to retire hurt in his game against Robert Bayliss after twisting an ankle.

In the Ladies' Division Derby beat Birmingham "B" 9-1 but were involved in a cliffhanger at Nottingham which ended in a 5-5 draw. Pauline Cameron hurt her elbow in her match against Linda Holmes when the score was 4-4 and lost 20, -11, -13. Had she won this would have been a very good win for Nottingham. Nottingham beat Birmingham "B" 8-2. Birmingham "A" beat Walsall 9-1. Jill Harris registered the one win for Walsall.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

THE MAN MOST LIKELY TO . . .

Phil Smith (East Grinstead) seems to be the man of the moment in Sussex, the man who has yet to win a major county tournament, but whose form in local league play and sometimes for the county is quite devastating, especially when he concentrates on his counter-hitting.

In the new ranking lists the selectors have shoved him up to No. 3 in place of Graham Gillett who is still waiting for his new England junior ranking.

The new rankings, issued prior to the Lombard Sussex championships, show several surprises. Of course, Roger Chandler remains at the top. John Clarke is the most fortunate man on the South Coast to retain his No. 2 spot after losing three times in a row to Smith.

A name to watch for now is Littlehampton's Peter Puddock, now on the men's list at No. 11, in front of "Cosmo" Graham bringing up the rear.

Les Eadie did not maintain his threat to enter the Sussex championships, just as he becomes No. 20 on the England rankings, but an unexpected new twin threat emerges from the return of Andy Wellman and Jonathan Proffitt, despite the fact they have taken no part in table tennis in the county this season, at least at the time of writing.

However, Wellman is the No. 2 seed in the mens singles.

Strange to see Julie Reading, the reigning Sussex champion, defending her crown from the No. 3 seeded spot behind Carol Hewett and Diane Griggs. This must be Carol's year, she has spent some eight years trying to get her hands on the trophy, should have made it last time, this time it must be hers.

Sussex Rankings:-

Men

1. Roger Chandler (B)
2. John Clarke (B)
3. Phil Smith (EG)
4. Graham Gillett (H)
5. Keith Horton (C)
6. Robin Stace (B)
7. Andy Meads (EG)
8. Emil Emezc (C)
9. Malcolm Francis (HH)
10. Stephen Moore (H)
11. Peter Puddock (L)
12. Cosmo Graham (B)

Women

1. Carol Hewitt (C)
2. Diane Griggs (E)
3. Julie Reading (E)
4. Linda Budd (E)
5. Christine Randall (B)
6. Sheila King (H)

Key:- B—Brighton, C—Crawley, E—Eastbourne, EG—East Grinstead, H—Hastings, HH—Haywards Heath, L—Littlehampton.

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

With things very quiet on the County Championships front the Goddard Invitation International Tournament has taken pride of place in our area. This tournament which was televised was a sell out at Braintree and the full house was treated to some entertaining play from some European top stars which included our own No. 1 Des Douglas. Our National Councillor Ian Whiteside stage managed this event and very successful it was.

Unfortunately Ian has tendered his resignation for next season, as has County chairman Pat Dukes. These departures will be sad losses to the County for both have served faithfully and efficiently for a number of years.

The Southend League will be staging the final home European League match against the Soviet Union and tickets are selling well. Interested prospective spectators can obtain details from Mike Watts whose home telephone number is 03706-429.

It was with deep regret that I heard of the death of Sydney Beard one of the founder members of our Association. Sydney was always ready to help and encourage and his passing is a great loss to our sport.

NORTH YORKSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

by Richard Scruton

BEADSLEY PROVIDES THE SHOCKS

The Second North Yorkshire Open, held at Bingley on Dec. 2/3 again produced a Lancastrian winner, when John Hilton took the Men's Singles title with a straight-games victory over Max Crimmins from Surrey. Hilton defeated Graham Sandley in the quarter-final despite the loss of the first game and then overcame the challenge of Kevin Beadsley of Yorkshire, in the semi-finals. Beadsley, playing in his first Open Tournament of the season, provided the shocks, with wins over the seeded Nigel Eckersley and Richard Yule, before he succumbed to Hilton -18 in the third.

Apart from Eckersley, the only seed to fail to reach his allotted place was Denis Neale, who was a non-starter due to injury.

In the Women's Event, 16-years-old Sally Midgley took the title, with a victory over her fellow Bradford player, Melody Ludi. Sally retained the Junior Girl's title with a straight-games win over Julie Revill, having been fully extended by Janet Deakin of Cheshire in the semi-final.

Due to bad weather conditions, three of the four seeds in the Boy's event failed to arrive in time, which enabled Skylet Andrew to take the opportunity to win the event, with a close victory over the home county's Sean Madden.

In the new Class 2 Mixed Singles event, which attracted an entry of 180 players, Yorkshire's Andrew Metcalfe, also a member of the Tournament Organising committee, overcame the challenge of Hertfordshire's Richard Jermyn in the final.

There were surprises in the Men's Doubles, with the top two seeded pairings unable to reach the semi-finals. Eckersley and Alan Fletcher lost to the Juniors Sandley and Andrew in the quarter-final, whilst McQueen and David Constance went down to Bradford's Clem Lo and Tony Bottomley. An eventful final ended with victory for Crimmins and David Wells of Surrey over Beadsley and Mike Johns.

With an entry of 240 players and with play on 16 tables the Tournament was successfully completed on time with the final session over at 7.45 p.m.

Although a Sponsor was not found for the Championships, a prize fund of £310 was offered, which attracted a strong entry and it is clear that this Tournament is now permanently established in the Calendar.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Hilton (La) bt G. Sandley (Mi) -24, 5, 10;
K. Beadsley (Y) bt R. Yule (Sco) 18, 7;
P. McQueen (Cv) bt C. Wilson (Mi) -12, 16, 10;
M. Crimmins (Sy) bt D. Constance (Ch) 16, 18.

Semi-finals:

Hilton bt Beadsley 12, -11, 18;
Crimmins bt McQueen 12, 14.

Final:

HILTON bt Crimmins 12, 18.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Ludi (Y) bt J. McLean (Y) 15, -11, 22;
S. Midgley (Y) bt S. Lisle (Ch) -20, 13, 6.

Final:

MIDGLEY bt Ludi 17, 18.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Beadsley/M. Johns (Ch) bt S. Andrew (E)/Sandley 16, 10;

Crimmins/D. Wells (Sy) bt M. Corking/A. Martin (Cv) 16, -12, 17;

Final:

CRIMMINS/WELLS bt Beadsley/Johns -22, 19, 21.

Women's Doubles Final:

LUDI/MIDGLEY bt McLean/H. Shields (Y) 13, -22, 18.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

S. Madden (Y) bt M. Rycroft (Y) 9, 11;
S. Scowcroft (La) bt R. Palfreeman (Y) 16, -20, 14;
M. Thomas (Wal) bt M. Illingsworth (Y)

-17, 12, 20;

Andrew bt C. Twineham (Y) 13, 0.

Semi-finals:

Madden bt Scowcroft 18, 19;

Andrew bt Thomas 13, 16.

Final:

ANDREW bt Madden 20, 20.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Midgley bt J. Deakin (Ch) 16, -20, 12;

J. Revill (Le) bt C. Scowcroft (La) 14, -20, 15.

Final:

MIDGLEY bt Revill 16, 19.

Class 2 Mixed Singles Quarter-finals:

R. Jermyn (He) bt Corking 16, 20;

J. Payne (Mi) bt A. Bellingham (St) -19, 13, 20;

S. Cowley (La) bt Martin -26, 13, 20;

A. Metcalfe (Y) bt C. Carder (Mi) -20, 16, 15.

Semi-finals:

Jermyn bt Payne 10, 12;

Metcalfe bt Cowley -16, 16, 18.

Final:

METCALFE bt Jermyn 19, 15.

PING COMMENTARY

by JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"

IT'S THAT MAN AGAIN!

Welcome back into the arena Alan Shepherd of Essex or North Middlesex, whichever is preferred! There are two points at issue here concerning the admitted poor coverage by the national press of the national league finals sessions last June, the first one is that, **June!**

June is getting near mid-summer. I have emphasised this point time and time again that all sections of the press, national, regional and local do **not** look favourably on table tennis when it encroaches into summer. After all, the summer sports are only in action between four and five months, May to September, whereas football is on most of the year and even our season is sometimes over eight months long.

Expecting publicity for winter sports in June

in more detail than the results is just wishful thinking. I am not saying there are no exceptions, there probably will be when the Norwich Union Masters event is played in May but they will all be world-class players. Getting any reasonable size spaces will be difficult — I shall be in the thick of the battle.

As to why "The Daily Telegraph" devote space to so many obscure sports like real tennis (Whatever that is!), lacrosse and many other activities with very limited followings is a life-long mystery to me and to other colleagues connected with the national sporting press.

But there are people who nurse the fallacy that newspapers are public property in terms of content and demand to know things that they have no right to know. Newspapers are run by private companies as businesses. Many other businesses and professions would tell nosy people to take a running jump if they thought their enquiries were trespassing on private information concerning a company and its policies.


As a correspondent of the "Telegraph" it is well outside my terms of reference to delve into their sports space allocation policies. It is a tradition of long standing that the newspaper follows its advertised policy of "covering sport in depth". We in table tennis, benefit from that policy as much as any other sport, but I doubt if anyone, even the readers, would get very far by making suggestions that space given to one sport should be switched to another.

CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTPONED

The Individual Divisional Championships of the Bolton League, scheduled to have been played over the four days, Jan. 2/5, were postponed at short notice due to inclement weather and the adverse road conditions prevailing in the area. They will be re-dated for later in the season.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that all 47 member clubs of the Bolton Table Tennis League are subscribers to Table Tennis News and have been for quite a few seasons. If your league were to follow suit a 10% discount on each subscription would be afforded.



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LINE-UP OF CHINESE TEAMS FOR 8th ASIAN GAMES

by Hua Chien-min

Attacking players dominate the Chinese table tennis teams for the 8th Asian Games. Aces in the men's team are Kuo Yao-hua and Liang Ko-liang and in the women's team Chang Li and Chang Teh-ying.

Kuo Yao-hua, 21, was one of the stellar players in the Chinese team at the 34th World Championships and runner-up in men's singles event there. He plays a game which combines the Chinese fast, close-to-table attack with the Japanese loop drive. With agile footwork, he is able to smash from any position. His high-spin loop drives are always a danger to his opponents.

Liang Ko-liang, 27, played for China in the 31st, 32nd, 33rd and 34th World Championships at all of which he was the stellar player of the Chinese men's teams. He is a tennis-grip player who combines attack with defence. He returns his opponent's shots with cutting strokes far away from the table, and sometimes scoops up the ball almost from the floor. But at opportune moments, he will suddenly dash forward for a fierce and accurate smash. He is however a versatile player in the Chinese team. Since the 34th championships, he has improved his skills both in chopping strokes and in counter-attack and he has shown good form in matches against Japanese and Yugoslav players who visited China last year.

The other two players in the men's team are Huang Tung-sheng, 22, and Chen Hsin-hua, 20.

Huang Tung-sheng is a tennis-grip player with strong forehand and backhand loop drives. He played for China with Lu Yuan-sheng, Lu Chi-mei and Wei Ching-sheng at the 1977 Scandinavian Championships where China won first place in the men's team event.

Chen Hsin-hua is a cutting stroke defensive player with fast footwork.

The stellar player in the women's team is Chang Li, a left-hand attacking player who impressed spectators at the 33rd and 34th world championships. Chang Li's style is characterized by powerful

forehand smashes and fast backhand blocking shots. She counters cutting strokes with steady drives punctured by smashes and counters loop drives with fast pushing shots. She always follows her service with attacks to gain the initiative. Chang Li was runner-up in the women's singles events at both the 33rd and 34th world championships.

Chang Teh-ying plays a style similar to that of Chang Li. The difference between them is that Chang Teh-ying, 25, is a right hander and she has a more varied twisted serve. She used to gain her points by fierce smashing immediately after service. She plays placement shots with great accuracy.

Another two women players are Tsao Yen-hua, 16, and Yang Ying, 24. The former commands a very good high toss service and plays a wicked game. She won the team event with Tung Ling, a 15-year-old Chinese at the 1977 International Championships held in France. The latter is a pen-holder playing fast loop drives. She and Pak Yeung Ok of the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea, won the women's doubles at the 34th world championships.

China selects its table tennis players from the great number of amateur players who come to the fore at various national contests. To give experience to young players, China has in the past year participated in international championships held in France and Yugoslavia and played with a number of visiting table tennis teams.

China encourages diversity in table tennis playing styles, described by the Chinese as "letting a hundred flowers blossom". Its players have in recent years developed a new style combining the Chinese fast attacking game characterised by "speed, accuracy, power and flexibility" with Japanese and European styles. Most of the principal players in the Chinese teams can now play this new combined style.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

UMPIRES AND REFEREES

Having got my first letter into print, I am drunk with the power of the press so whilst the compliments of friends, acquaintances and colleagues ring clearly around me, I would like to attempt to correct an extremely farcical and ludicrous situation within the system which permeates itself more and more throughout the game. I have been made very aware of the stupidity of the situation since working for and obtaining my Tournament refereeship. I thought (how naive us young ones are) that, having obtained that honour, I would be immediately in demand as a referee of County matches within my own beautiful County of Surrey, especially as I am the **only** referee.

Oh, foolish fellow that I am, I came up against a farcical situation that says an Honorary Match Referee shall be "at least a County umpire". This set me thinking. In a broader view, 'X', having been a tried and trusted umpire for 6 weeks, and possibly Daddy is a friend of the Umpires' Secretary, suddenly finds himself appointed Match Referee for a vital Premier Division Match — Middlesex v Surrey. The three umpires under his command are John Wright, N.R., L. Pilditch, N.R. and A. N. Other, International Umpire. Having painted the picture for you, let us now put the situation into parallel with an outside organisation such as the Armed Forces, Police service, civil service or any other body you care to think of. Can you really see a system that permits 2 Chief Constables and a Chief Inspector to serve under a fresh-faced Constable?

Surely, as our game moves into the nineteen-eighties and beyond, it is true to say the game of table tennis progresses in leaps and bounds and the umpiring system remains in the days of "ping". Surely effort and merit should have its immediate reward.

I would respectfully suggest the person to approach first to be a Match Referee should be an N.R., then automatically to T.R., International Umpire, National Umpire, and the very last person to be asked, having failed to locate any others available, is a County Umpire. It surely is a system that cries out for an immediate overhaul and I would suggest it be done sooner than yesterday.

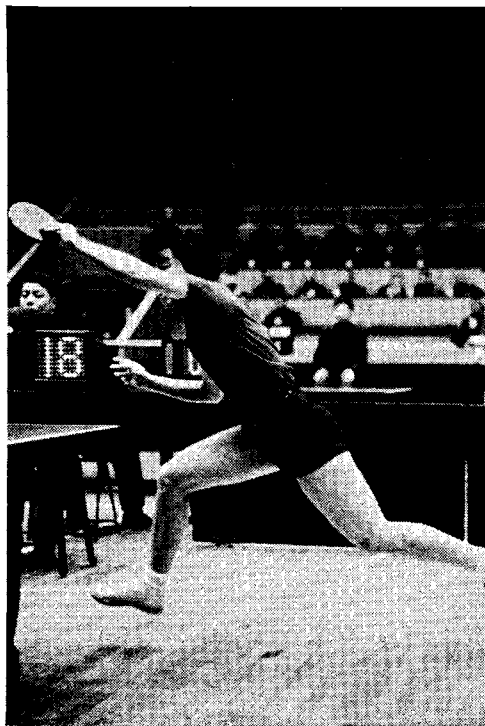
In reply to John McDonnell's letter in the December issue:-

I am very grateful and covered with embarrassed confusion at the contents of his letter, but I am writing to say that unfortunately I feel he has missed the point that I was trying to make which is that for all of the things that I have done in Table Tennis, I still have a burning ambition to work on the top table, pen in hand. There are only six administrators of that calibre in the E.T.T.A. and there is no back up team. **That's** what I want to be, "tomorrow's administrator". To this end I will strive.

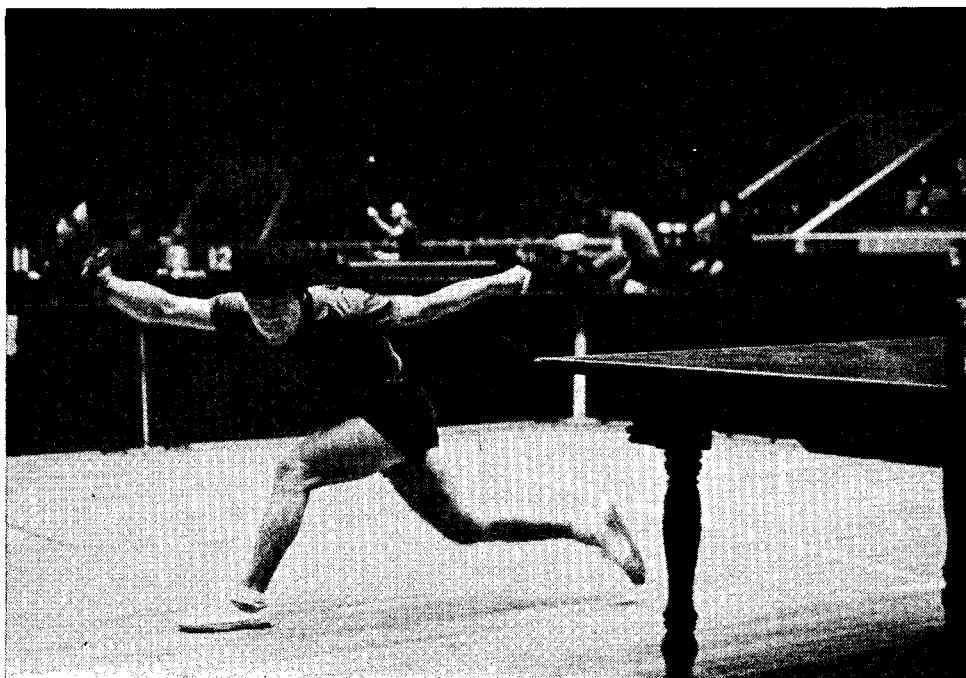
Trevor M. Channing,

A very frustrated Tournament Referee.

16 Hampton Close,
Church Crookham,
Hants.



Pen-holder Chang Li playing an attacking game.



Cutting-stroke player Chen Hsin-hua.

JUNIOR & CADET RANKINGS

The National Selection Committee have issued revised ranking lists for Juniors and Cadets having the benefit of results from the first National Junior Ranking Tournament staged in Cleveland in November and the English Junior Closed Championships held at Leicester early last month.

With the progression of Kenny Jackson and Karen Witt into the Senior ranks, the way was clear for **Graham Sandley** and **Mandy Smith** to take over their respective No. 1 spots, but Colin Wilson still remains the biggest threat to Sandley's position. Kevin Satchell makes the biggest improvement with a jump of 14 places.

In the Cadet ranks Adrian Moore and Cherry Creasey gain their due rewards for coming out on top at the Junior Ranking Tournament. Revised positions (previous places in brackets):-

Boys

1. Graham Sandley (Mi) (3)
2. Colin Wilson (Mi) (2)
3. David Barr (Bk) (6)
4. Kevin Satchell (Wi) (18)
5. Desmond Charlery (E) (14)
6. Andrew Bellingham (St) (7)
7. Costas Papatoniou (Mi) (A)
8. Graham Gillett (Sx) (15)
9. John Souter (Mi) (11)
10. Stephen Holloway (Sy) (17)
11. Paul Whiting (Dv) (16)
12. Sam Harmer (Bu) (A)
13. Paul Rainford (La) (A)
14. Peter Puddock (Sx) (—)
15. Martyn Smith (Av) (—)
16. Skylet Andrew (E) (A)
17. Lester Bertie (Wa) (—)
18. Julian Hall (Sk) (—)
19. Adrian Hill (Y) (19)
20. Stephen Moore (Sx) (—)

Girls

1. Mandy Smith (Bk) (2)
2. Sally Midgley (Y) (5)
3. Mandy Reeves (Mi) (7)
4. Alison Gordon (Bk) (3)
5. Helen Williams (Mi) (11)
6. Gina Pritchard (Dv) (9)
7. Lorraine Garbet (Sy) (14)
8. Elaine Bolton (K) (A)
9. Carol Butler (Dv) (—)

10. Joy Grundy (La) (A)
11. Julie Revill (Le) (—)
12. Shirley Cain (St) (A)

Boys Group A

- (Alphabetical Order)
- Glenn Baker (Sy) (A)
 Alan Borowczyk (K)
 Philip Bradbury (Bu)
 Peter Brownlow (He)
 Diccon Gray (Cu) (A)
 Paul Hindle (Cv)
 David Hughes (Cv) (A)
 Gary Lambert (Dv)
 Martin Les (Mi)
 Adrian Moore (Sx)
 Mark Oakley (Sy) (A)
 Stuart Palmer (Sk)
 Paul Stratton (Mi)
 Robert Swift (Ca)
 Alan Withers (Sk)

Girls Group B

- (Alphabetical Order)
- Pauline Cameron (Ng)
 Cherry Creasey (Do)
 Julie Dowsett (E)
 Lynne Fennah (Ch) (A)
 Sarah Gilson (Do) (A)
 Eleanor Hughes (Ox)
 Claire Maisey (Wi) (A)
 Jean Parker (La)
 Jill Purslow (Bk)
 Carolyn Scowcroft (La) (A)

CADETS

Boys

1. Adrian Moore (Sx) (15)
2. Gary Lambert (Dv) (—)
3. Andrew Dixon (St) (7)
4. Eddie Gorniak (Mi) (—)
5. Jeremy Duffield (Wo) (11)
6. Carl Prean (Ha) (13)
7. David Sharp (Bd) (—)
8. Roy Namdjou (K) (—)
9. Bruce Collingwood (Mi) (—)
10. David Illingsworth (Y) (—)
11. John Sparks (E) (—)
12. Christopher Bryan (Li) (—)

Girls

1. Cherry Creasey (Do) (3)
2. Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (8)
3. Jean Parker (La) (—)
4. Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (7)
5. Helen Bardwell (He) (—)
6. Lesley Broomhead (Y) (—)

7. Jesette Ryalls (Y) (—)
8. Jackie Myers (La) (—)
9. Sarah Cresswell (Sy) (—)
10. Melanie Seaston (Y) (—)
11. Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (—)
12. Evonne Hall (Le) (—)



Wiltshire's **KEVIN SATCHELL** up 14 places in the new rankings.

BOOK REVIEW

by **JOHN PIKE**
TABLE TENNIS NOW

"For the novice, club and league player alike, this is a worthwhile book that will put them on the road to new pleasures and skills", so says E.T.T.A. President, Maurice Goldstein.

"Barry and Phil have helped me along the path of my international career. They talk good sense and I recommend this book to anyone wanting to become a better table tennis player" that's the view of England's No. 1, Desmond Douglas.

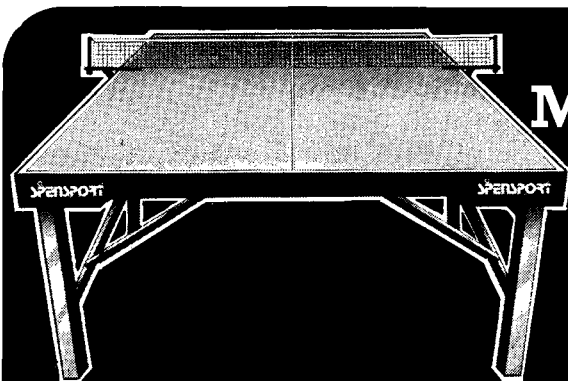
National Coach Bryan Merrett says, "I have admired the work of Barry and Phil in coaching players and instructing coaches for several years now, and have no hesitation in approving and recommending their book as a comprehensive guide to modern table tennis".

There you have three comments from three men who know what the game is all about and after reading 'Table Tennis Now' I can only say that Barry Hayward and Phil Burwell have a winner on their hands with this book. It started to take shape shortly after the 34th World Championships in Birmingham and is extremely well written and produced.

The book at £4.25 is well illustrated and covers every aspect under four separate headings. Fifty-two pages are devoted to Section A which covers the entire range of shots, while Section B gives a complete run-down of preparation and practice. The third part takes a look at Attitudes, Styles, and Tactics, and reading this, one cannot fail to be impressed.

The last twenty pages of this 160 page book is again full of useful information. It starts with 'Working Your Way To The Top' and finishes with 'Playing Records', an in depth look at past winners in the World and European Championships.

Over the years, I have read and reviewed a great many sports books, and I must say, I rate 'Table Tennis Now' with the best, and strongly recommend it to every reader of Table Tennis News.



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REVISED NATIONAL RANKINGS

The National Selection Committee issued a Ranking List of Senior players which was released on Dec. 14/78. The most interesting developments are in the Women's list where Carole Knight, England No. 2 for quite some time is dropped to No. 6 due to her bad results this season. The previous No. 3, Linda Howard, drops still further to 9th position since, despite her play in the Federal German Bundesliga, she has failed to get past the first round in two 3-Star Tournaments this season. Up to No. 2 goes Berkshire schoolgirl Karen Witt because of her success in foreign Open competitions and her victory in the Midland 3-Star at Walsall.

In the Men's list John Hilton falls from No. 2 to No. 6 and his place below Desmond Douglas is taken by Cleveland's Nicky Jarvis, who although he has not played in many competitions this season, has looked very impressive when he did. Middlesex schoolboy Graham Sandley enters the list at No. 13 — lower than might be expected but despite his early season successes he would appear to have fallen away more recently. The biggest surprise in the Men's list is the entry of Alan Fletcher right up to No. 7 thanks to his top class performance in three 3-Star tournaments this season. New rankings (previous placings in brackets):-

Men

1. Desmond Douglas (Wa) (1)
2. Nicky Jarvis (Cv) (4)
3. Paul Day (Ca) (3)
4. Max Crimmins (Sy) (6)
5. Jimmy Walker (Sy) (5A)
6. John Hilton (La) (2)
7. Alan Fletcher (Y) (—)
8. Denis Neale (Cv) (8)
9. John Dabin (K) (13)
10. Douglas Johnson (Wa) (9)
11. Peter McQueen (Cv) (14)
12. Colin Wilson (Mi) (—)
13. Graham Sandley (Mi) (—)
14. Nigel Eckersley (Ch) (12)
15. Chris Rogers (Le) (—)
16. John Kitchener (Sk) (17)
17. Donald Parker (La) (5)
18. Robert Potton (E) (11)
19. Mark Mitchell (Mi) (10)
20. Les Eadie (E) (—)

Women

1. Jill Hammersley (Bu) (1)
2. Karen Witt (Bk) (6)
3. Anita Stevenson (Le) (5)
4. Melody Ludi (Y) (4)
5. Mandy Smith (Bk) (11)
6. Carole Knight (Cv) (2)
7. Suzanne Hunt (Li) (12)
8. Karen Rogers (Le) (9)
9. Linda Howard (Sy) (3)
10. Alison Gordon (Bk) (13)
11. Sally Midgley (Y) (14)
12. Angela Mitchell (Mi) (10)
13. Lesley Radford (E) (7)
14. Helen Williams (Mi) (—)
15. Susan Lisle (Ch) (6A)
16. Angela Tierney (Cv) (8)

The following players have not been ranked due to listed reasons, but for the assistance of Tournament Organisers the places given are for seeding purposes:-

- 9A Chris Sewell (Av) — Long period of illness.
17A Tony Clayton (Y) (—) — Unranked (member of the National Selection Committee).

WOODFIELD 1-STAR

by John Pike

DEREK MAKES HISTORY

History was made at last month's 38th Woodfield tournament in Wolverhampton when Derek Schofield became the first player ever to win both the men's singles and the veterans' singles. Andrew Bellingham, remember that name, this boy is going to be good, also featured in the record breakers by winning the boy's singles and then played in the final of the men's against Derek.

The two semi-finals in the men's were in direct contrast. First we had a no contest when Tony Isaac completely folded against Schofield, but then we had one of the best matches seen at the club for a very long time. Bellingham, the Staffs champion and county No. 2, sent the Woodfield crowd wild by just getting the better of Chris Rogers. The men's entry of 118 was the second highest, but what happened to the women, just 18. I think the poor entry in the women's was reflected in the

final when Janet Carr beat Stephanie Jones in a match that never really got out of second gear.

Janet, with Shirley Cain, also put her name on the women's doubles trophy with a win over Jill Harris and Cathy Robb.

The men's doubles was very much a Leicestershire affair with Paul Randell and Maurice Newman coming out on top against Phil Smith and David Gannon.

Playing well all day, Schofield beat Derrick Marples to take the Vets title on his way to completing that elusive double.

To the juniors now, and can I say here, that the organisers were full of praise for the way these youngsters conducted themselves. How refreshing news that is when you read so much of what is bad these days from the terraces of football grounds up and down the country.

As I said Bellingham stole the limelight in the boys' by taking the singles, and then with Andrew Dixon, the doubles. In the girls, it was Janet Deakin's day for she went back to Cheshire with the singles and doubles trophy which she won with Jill Harris. Over the years the Woodfield club have done a great deal for charity and last month nearly £200 was handed over to the Penn Hall School for Handicapped children. A good effort and how is this for a nice touch to finish on. Three Cheshire lads brought down with them a bottle of sherry and a bottle of port for a raffle which raised £11. Yes the Woodfield is different and with Albert McIlreath and his helpers around, plus referee Doug Young, long may it continue.

Final Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

- A. Bellingham (St) bt C. Rogers (Le) 25, 23.
D. Schofield (Ch) bt A. Isaac (St) 4, 9.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt Bellingham 21, 17.

Women's Singles Final:

J. CARR (St) bt S. Jones (Cardiff Univ.) 22, -13, 10.

Men's Doubles Final:

P. RANDELL/M. NEWMAN (Le) bt P. Smith/D. Gannon (Le) 15, 15.

Women's Doubles Final:

CARR/S. CAIN (St) bt J. Harris (St)/C. Robb (Gs) 9, -18, 12.

Veterans' Singles Final:

SCHOFIELD bt D. Marples (Dy) 17, -14, 16.

Girls' Singles Final:

J. DEAKIN (Ch) bt Cain 19, 17.

Girls' Doubles Final:

DEAKIN/HARRIS bt E. Hughes/C. Filmere (Ox) 13, 12.

Boys' Singles Final:

BELLINGHAM bt J. Weatherby (Ch) 13, -12, 19.

Boys' Doubles Final:

BELLINGHAM/A. DIXON (St) bt J. Barton/S. Young (Dy) 9, 15.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

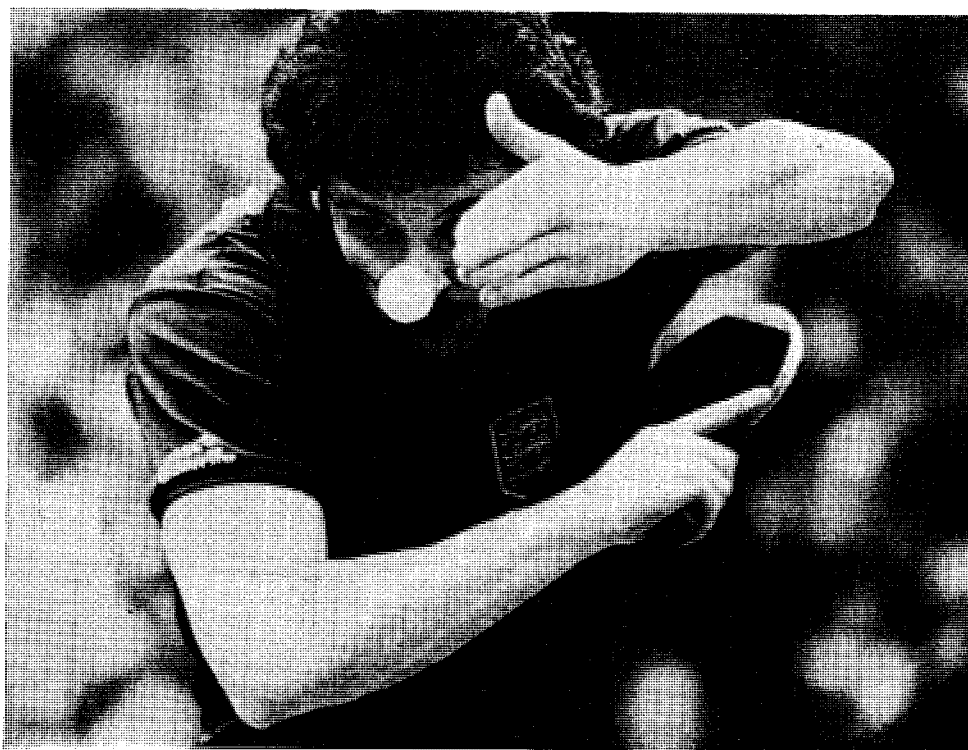
TRAGIC DEATH

If you have room in the mag we would be glad if you could include an obituary to one of our juniors. We are distressed about it in our league for he was involved in an accident outside his school in late November.

He was Andrew Audas, aged 15, who had played in the league for 5 years and represented his school in team competitions as well — a very reliable team member. However, he had already arranged to give his eyes to others at his death and his kidneys, and a liver transplant was arranged as well. So seven people had a fresh chance of life — those who had the five organs and two more on the kidney machines so released. He was a patrol leader in the Buzzard Scouts.

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Cleveland's Nicky Jarvis up to No. 2.

Photo by Norbert Rzepka, Delmenhorst.