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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

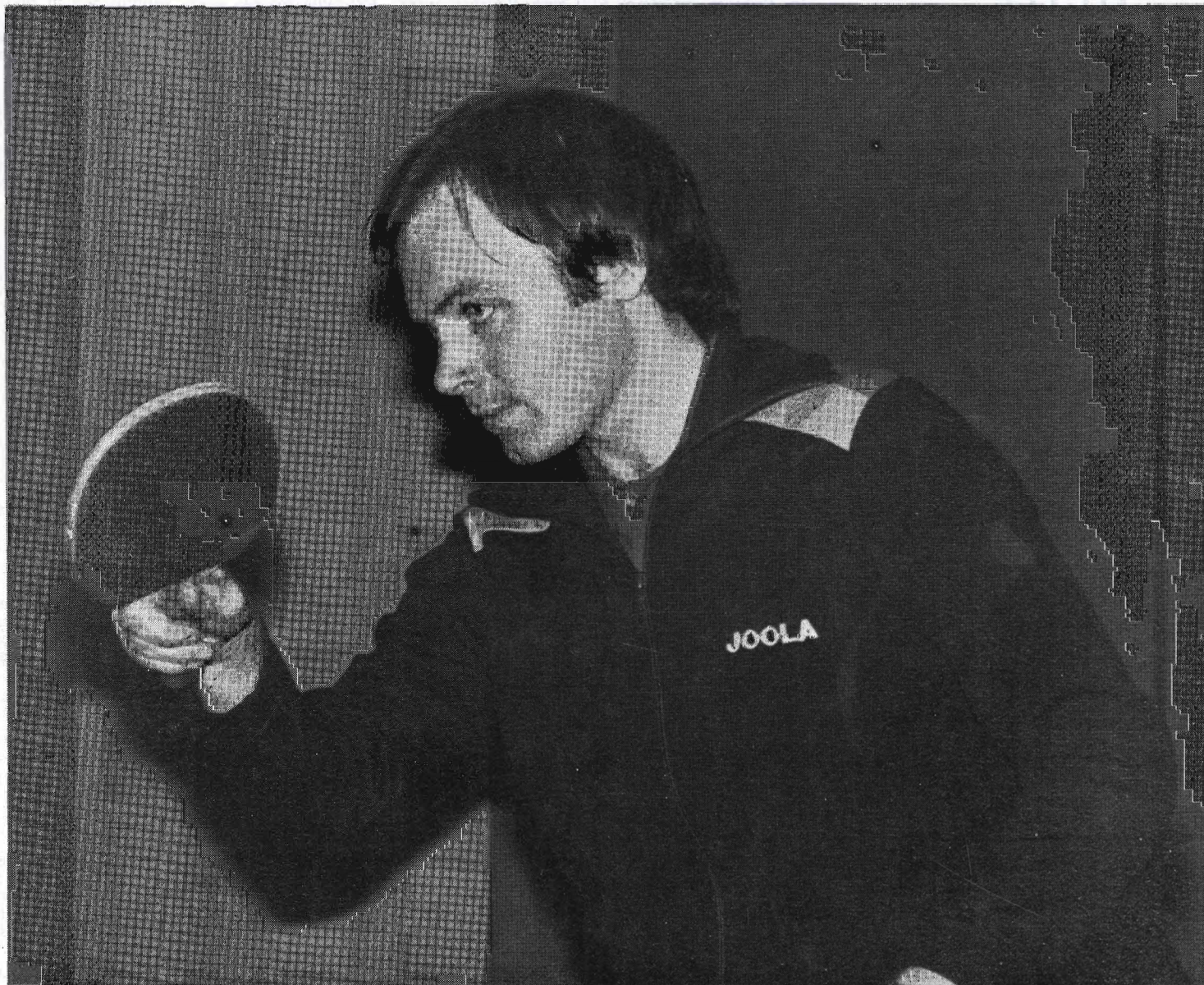
EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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MARCH, 1979

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IRISH INVADER



Cleveland Jimmy Walker, winner of the Stiga Irish Open men's singles title in Galway

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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BEST INTERESTS

Much furore has been created by the introduction of the Global National £2,000 tournament by Barry Meisel and Danny Kinnard on behalf of Global Table Tennis Promotions Limited.

Whatever the outcome of this "dream come true" spectacular at Greenwich Baths, a top cash prize of £1,000 for the open singles, incorporating both men and women, constitutes quite a large slice of "bread".

And it was this element which led an apprehensive National Council to permit the E.T.T.A. membership at large to participate in the tournament and grant blanket permission for members to accept the cash prizes listed for the three separate category events.

As to whether the enterprise is one akin to that of Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket remains ponderable.

But the hope is expressed that should the tournament prove successful and lead to others, perhaps more ambitious still, then like the Norwich Union Grand Prix, close co-operation with the governing bodies would be in the best interests of all parties concerned.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR

CZECHS HANG ON

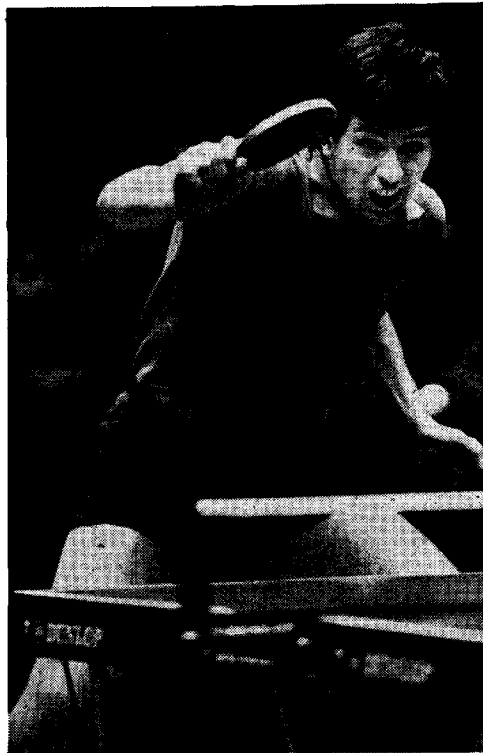
In Pribram on Feb. 6, Czechoslovakia were exceedingly hard-pressed to preserve their unbeaten record when, after the sixth set, they were tying 3-3 with Federal Germany. Nor did it stop there for in that final nerve-gripping set Josef Dvoracek and Peter Stellweg stood one game-all before Dvoracek got home in the third to keep his country's record intact in the **Super Division** of the **European League**.

Matters went a little awry for the Czechs when, in the second set, Engelbert Hugging got the better of Dvoracek and the "pocket battleship" Ursula Hirschmuller was equally convincing in beating Ilona Uhlíkova. Hugging came again in the penultimate set equating the match score with a splendid victory over Milan Orłowski.

Individual scores:-

M. Orłowski bt P. Stellweg 13, 17;
J. Dvoracek lost to E. Hugging -18, -18;
I. Uhlíkova lost to U. Hirschmuller -11, -17;
Orłowski/J. Pansky bt J. Leiss/Stellweg 14, 15;
Orłowski/Uhlíkova bt Leiss/Hirschmuller 17, 10;
Orłowski lost to Hugging -13, -12;
Dvoracek bt Stellweg -13, 19, 15.

Second-placed Hungary kept themselves in the hunt with a 5-2 win over England at Belper (as reported elsewhere) and France, as a result of



Josef Dvoracek of Czechoslovakia — the saviour of his country against Federal Germany with a match winning success against Peter Stellweg.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.



beating Sweden 6-1 in Paris, took over the third position. Sweden, again without Stellan Bengtsson, could only manage one win and that in the mixed doubles with Ulf Thorsell and Eva Stromvall beating the reigning world champions Jacques Secretin and Claude Bergeret.

Scores:-

P. Birocheau bt M. Appelgren 11, 17;
J. Secretin bt U. Thorsell 12, 12;
C. Bergeret bt A-C. Hellman -16, 13, 16;
Birocheau/Secretin bt L. Franklin/Thorsell 14, 20;
Secretin/Bergeret lost to Thorsell/E. Stromvall -17, -20;
Birocheau bt Thorsell 19, 13;
Secretin bt Appelgren -17, 8, 9.

In Kaunas, the Soviet Union were beaten 4-3 by Yugoslavia whose battle-hardened Dragutin Surbek shook off the punitive challenge of both Valerij Shevchenko and Igor Solopov and, in partnership with Zoran Kalinic, accounted for Shevchenko and Mironas Kreeris. The fourth Yugoslav win came from Kalinic who beat Solopov in the opening set. And now nothing short of a miracle can save the Russians from being replaced by Poland in next season's Super Division line-up.

Scores:-

I. Solopov lost to Z. Kalinic -7, -11;
V. Shevchenko lost to D. Surbek -9, -11;
V. Popova bt G. Perkucin -18, 18, 14;
M. Kreeris/Shevchenko lost to Kalinic/Surbek -16, 17, -14;
Shevchenko/Popova bt Kalinic/Perkucin 13, 18;
Solopov lost to Surbek -11, -16;
Shevchenko bt Kalinic 16, 15.

In **Division 1** Poland continued their unbroken run and their 6-1 win over Italy earned them the championship and promotion to next season's Super Division. It was only in the final set, in Warsaw, that Italy were given a look in when Giovanni Bisi beat Leszek Kucharski.

Scores:-

S. Fraczyk bt G. Bisi 7, 15;
L. Kucharski bt M. Constantini 13, -19, 19;
J. Szatko bt S. Milic 19, 17;
A. Grubba/Kucharski bt Bisi/Constantini 13, 13;
Kucharski/Szatko bt Bisi/Milic 19, 10;
Fraczyk bt Constantini 17, 18;
Kucharski lost to Bisi 12, -18, -13.

Ireland (as reported elsewhere) were beaten 4-3 by Greece in Athens and they, like the Soviet Union, would appear to have set themselves an impossible task for they are now committed to beating Bulgaria in Belfast to save themselves from relegation.

Austria brought off a smart 6-1 win over Luxembourg and the news of that success was ill-received in the Emerald Isle. But there it was, the only home success being recorded by Andre Hartmann and Carine Risch in the mixed over Heinz Schluter and Brigitte Gropper.

Scores:-

G. Stebens lost to H. Schluter -10, -18;
C. Putz lost to F. Waldhausl 18, -17, -17;
C. Risch lost to B. Gropper 20, -22, -18;
A. Hartmann/Putz lost to Schluter/Waldhausl -18, 18, -15;
Hartmann/Risch bt Schluter/Gropper 14, -15, 14;
Stebens lost to Waldhausl -13, -21;
Putz lost to Schultler 15, -19, -18.

Bulgaria, in Sofia, took the Netherlands apart in winning 7-0 and this is the measure of the task facing the Irish in Belfast on March 8. Scores in Sofia were:-

I. Stojanov bt A. Vlieg 17, -19, 13;
S. Stefanov bt N.v. Slobbe 20, 18;
D. Gergelcheva bt S. de Kruiff -17, 10, 17;
Stojanov/Stojanov bt Slobbe/Vlieg 14, 17;
Stojanov/Gergelcheva bt Vlieg/de Kruiff -19, 10, 17;
Stojanov bt Slobbe 14, 16;
Stefanov bt Vlieg 17, -17, 9.

The **Division 2** match between Scotland and Turkey at Lasswade on Feb. 7 decided the championship with Turkey claiming the title and promotion with a 6-1 win that sent Scotland down to Division 3 next term.

Scotland got off to a flyer when Richard Yule beat Oktay Cimen but that was the sum total of home success as the Turks stormed the bastions and the Sots were put to rout.

Scores:-
R. Yule bt O. Cimen -18, 12, 17;
K. Rodger lost to V. Aleksandridis 19, -13, -17;
P. Fleming lost to K. Poyrazoglu -19, -16;
Rodger/Yule lost to Cimen/ Aleksandridis -18, 15, -22;
Yule/Fleming lost to Cimen/Poyrazoglu -17, -11;
Yule lost to Aleksandridis -20, 16, -17;
Rodger lost to Cimen -16, -15.

On the same night, in Helsinki, Finland nosed home 4-3 against Spain the individual scores being:-

J. Ikonen bt S. Moles 12, 17;
J. Jokinen lost to J-M. Pales -15, -21;
M. Grefberg bt M. Sanahuja -11, 14, 14;
Okonen/Jokinen bt Moles/Pales 10, 13;
Jokinen/Grefberg lost to Pales/Sanahuja -19, -16;
Ikonen bt Pales 4, 2;
Jokinen lost to Moles 26, -17, -17.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE TABLES SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Czechoslovakia	6	6	0	28	14	6
Hungary	6	5	1	30	12	5
France	6	3	3	20	22	3
England	6	3	3	18	24	3
Federal Germany	6	2	4	22	20	2
Sweden	6	2	4	19	23	2
Yugoslavia	6	2	4	19	23	2
Soviet Union	6	1	5	12	30	1

Fixtures for Mar 8/'79

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

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Poland	6	6	0	38	4	6
Bulgaria	6	4	2	26	16	4
Italy	6	4	2	20	22	4
Netherlands	6	3	3	19	23	2
Austria	6	2	4	20	22	2
Greece	6	2	4	16	26	2
Luxembourg	6	2	4	14	28	2
Ireland	6	1	5	15	27	1

Fixtures for Mar. 8/'79

Netherlands v Poland
Ireland v Bulgaria (at Belfast)
Luxembourg v Greece
Austria v Italy

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Turkey	4	4	0	21	7	4
Finland	4	3	1	16	12	3
Belgium	4	2	2	13	15	2
Spain	4	1	3	11	17	1
Scotland *	4	0	4	9	19	0

(See Welsh Corner for Division 3 Table)

* Scotland demoted to Division 3.

Denmark, Wales, Norway and Switzerland promoted to Division 2 bringing the complement up to eight teams as in the Super and First Divisions.

REVISED WORLD RANKINGS

Following the retirement of reigning world champion, Mitsuro Kohno of Japan, the beaten finalist at Birmingham, Guo Yuehua (Kuo Yao-hua) of China takes over the No. 1 spot in the revised world ranking lists as issued by the

I.T.T.F.'s Classification Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Gyorgy Lakatos of Hungary.



Guo Yuehua (Kuo Yao-hua) of the People's Republic of China listed at No. 1 in the newly revised classification list of the I.T.T.F.

Photo by P. D. France, Telford, Salop.

Gabor Gergely, the reigning European champion, comes up to joint No. 3 with his compatriot Tibor Klampar the latter being lifted from his previous No. 10 position. Also on the way up is China's Li Zhenzhi (Li Chen-shih), from No. 14 to No. 6 whilst, seemingly from nowhere, comes, at No. 9, Shi Zhihao (Shih Chih-hao) also of China not having been previously listed.

The newcomers to the men's list are otherwise Yo Yong Ho (Korea DPR), Janos Takacs (Hungary), Yun Chol (Korea DPR), Josef Dvoracek (Czechoslovakia), Jindrich Pansky (Czechoslovakia), Valerij Shevchenko (USSR) and Anton Stipanovic (Yugoslavia).

England's Desmond Douglas, previously at joint No. 7 with Milan Orlovski of Czechoslovakia is now numbered eight with Orlovski at No. 7. But, in the women's list, Jill Hammersley, previously at No. 8, has been lifted two places to No. 6 being the top European behind four Chinese and the No. 1, remaining, Pak Yung Sun (Korea DPR). Jill shares the No. 6 position with the reigning European champion, Judit Magos of Hungary.

The revised rankings (previous placings in brackets) are:-

Men:

- Guo Yuehua (CHN) (2)
- Liang Geliang (Liang Ke-liang) (CHN) (4)
- Gabor Gergely (HUN) (5)
Tibor Klampar (HUN) (=10)
- Huang Liang (CHN) (3)
- Li Zhenzhi (CHN) (14)
- Milan Orlovski (CZE) (=7)
- Desmond Douglas (ENG) (=8)
- Norio Takashima (JAP) (=10)
Shi Zhihao (CHN) (—)
- Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) (12)
- Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (6)
- Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (15)
- Jacques Secretin (FRA) (9)
- Lu Qiwei (Lu Chi-wei) (CHN) (28)
- Peter Stellwag (GFR) (36)
- Yo Yong Ho (KDR) (—)
- S. Ono (JAP) (18)
- Masahiro Maehara (JAP) (25)
- Janos Takacs (HUN) (—)
- Jochen Leiss (GFR) (32)
- Yun Chol (KDR) (—)
- Wilfried Lieck (GFR) (16)
- Tibor Kreis (HUN) (13)
- Wang Jianguang (Wang Chien-chiang) (CHN) (23)
- Lu Yuangsheng (Lu Yuang-sheng) (CHN) (21)
- Josef Dvoracek (CZE) (—)
- Engelbert Huging (GFR) (29)
- Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (31)
- Ulf Thorsell (SWE) (22)
- Patrick Birocheau (FRA) (24)
- Christian Martin (FRA) (20)
- Danny Seemiller (USA) (34)
- Katsuyuki Abe (JAP) (35)



Captains courageous. Peter Simpson (nearest camera) and Bryan Merrett who will be in charge of England's teams in the forthcoming World Championships in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Photo by Tony Ross, Hessle, North Humberside.

35. Jindrich Pansky (CZE) (—)
36. ValerijShevchenko (USS) (—)
37. Uchida (JAP) (40)
38. Chol Sung Kuk (KRR) (37)
39. Li Kuang Tsu (HKG) (39)
40. Anton Stipancic (YUG) (—)

Women:

1. Pak Yung Sun (KDR) (1)
2. Zhang Li (Chang Li) (CHN) (2)
3. Ge Xinai (Ke Hsian-ai) (CHN) (4)
4. Zhang Deying (Chang Te-ying) (CHN) (3)
5. Tung Ling (CHN) (—)
6. Jill Hammersley (ENG) (8)
7. Judit Magos (HUN) (8)
8. Yang Ying (CHN) (5)
9. Ann-Christin Hellman (SWE) (9)
10. Kayoko Kawahigashi (JAP) (10)
11. Ri Song Suk (KDR) (16)
12. Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) (—)
13. Gabriella Szabo (HUN) (12)
14. Ilona Uhlíkova (CZE) (13)
15. Pak Yong Ok (KDR) (22)
16. Maria Alexandru (RUM) (14)
17. Urushio (JAP) (15)
18. Valentina Popova (USS) (=18)
19. Cao Yanhua (Tsao Yen-hua) (CHN) (—)
20. Ludmila Bakshutova (USS) (27)
21. Jan Guili (Yen Kuei-li) (CHN) (31)
22. Kim Chang Ai (KDR) (30)
23. In-Sook Bhushan (USA) (24)
24. Bettine Vriesekoop (NET) (17)
25. Huang Xiping (Huang Hsi-ping) (CHN) (32)
26. Blanka Silhanova (CZE) (20)
27. Kim Soon Ok (KRR) (21)
28. Erzebet Palatinus (YUG) (29)
29. Claude Bergeret (FRA) (23)
30. Gordana Perkucin (YUG) (37)
31. Ursula Hirschmuller (GFR) (33)
32. Komuro (JAP) (26)
33. Siu Kit Man (HKG) (34)
34. Dana Dubinova (CZE) (36)
35. Chang Siu Ying (HKG) (35)
36. Branka Batinic (YUG) (40)
37. Eva Ferenczi (RUM) (—)
38. Eva Stromvall (SWE) (—)
39. Liana Mihut (RUM) (—)
40. Marie Lindblad (SWE) (—)

England's **Linda Howard**, previously at No. 39, has been omitted along with Chung Hyun Sook (KRR) (6), Lee Ailesa (KRR) (11), Beatrix Kishazi (HUN) (18), Chu Hsiang-yun (CHN), Wiebke

Hendriksen (GFR) (28) and Narine Antonian (USS) (18). Missing from the previous men's list are: Kohno (JAP) (1), Sarkis Sarkhojan (USS) (17), Anatolij Strokotov (USS) (19), Zoran Kosanovic (YUG) (26), Jaroslav Kunz (CZE) (27), Milivoj Karakasavic (YUG) (33) and Lee Sang Kuk (KRR).

CHINESE NAMES

Reuters and Agence France — Presse (though not AP and UPI) have already adopted the Pinyin romanised spelling of Chinese names, which became official from Jan. 1/79. The I.T.T.F. will also adopt the new spellings as per the examples given (old spelling in brackets):-

Officials:

- Xu Yinsheng (Hsu Yin-sheng)
- Chen Xian (Chen Hsien)
- Wang Chuanyao (Wang Chuan-yao)
- Li Furong (Li Fu-jong)
- He Zhenliang (Ho Cheng-liang)
- Zhang Junhan (Chang Chun-han)
- Lin Fumei (Lin Fu mei)

Men Players:

- Guo Yuehua (Kuo Yao-hua)
- Liang Geliang (Liang Ke-liang)
- Li Zhenshi (Li Chen-shih)
- Huang Liang (unchanged)
- Lu Qiwei (Lu Chi-wei)
- Wang Jiangiang (Wang Chien-chiang)

Women Players:

- Zhang Li (Chang Li)
- Zhang Deying (Chang Te-ying)
- Ge Xinai (Ke Hsin-ai)
- Yang Ying (unchanged)
- Yan Guili (Yen Kuei-li)
- Huang Xiping (Huang Hsi-ping)

The I.T.T.F. will **NOT** be using "Beijing" for Peking or "Zhangguo" for China.

TABLE TENNIS PUBLICATIONS

The **U.S.T.T.A.** has published a 1979 Table Tennis Annual which not only describes and illustrates the history and organisation of the sport in the United States, but also contains a wealth of information on world-wide table tennis affairs, and the technical background. Copies can be had (cash with order) from:-

U.S.T.T.A. Headquarters, Bill Haid, Executive Director, 3466 Bridgeland Drive, Suite 209, St. Louis, MO 63044, U.S.A. Price: U.S. dollars 3.50 plus 1.50 mailing charge, or larger quantities may be ordered and will be invoiced at a discount price.

The **Latin-American Union** (Union Latinoamericana de Tenis de Mesa — U.L.T.M.) now publishes a magazine for table tennis enthusiasts which covers the whole field of the sport throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The November issue features reviews and results of major recent tournaments and details of forthcoming developments such as the table tennis tournament in the Pan-American Games in July, as well as illustrated technical articles and news of table tennis in other Continents. The magazine is partly in Spanish and partly in English and will be of interest to many enthusiasts. For subscription details write to: Union Latinoamericana de Tenis de Mesa, Comité de Publicidad, Apartado 293, Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic.

ALISON JOINS HALEXSPORT

Alison Gordon, the 16-year-old player from Reading, has joined the exclusive Halexsport stable of young talent.

Currently ranked No. 10 in the senior and No. 4 in the junior lists, Alison is a 'veteran' international player who has represented England on numerous occasions.

She is in good company in the Halexsport stable, for she joins Helen Williams and Graham Sandley. Helen, who is only 14, has leapt into the senior rankings at No. 14, and is also No. 5 junior and, not surprisingly, Graham, who is 15, has also entered the senior rankings for the first time, at No. 13, in addition to being No. 1 junior.

Halexsport hope that by assisting these youngsters in this way, they will fulfill their promise of talent in due course.



ALISON GORDON

Photo by Leo Black.

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CLEVELAND JUNIOR SELECT

No less than 19 tables will be in use at the Cleveland Junior 'Select' to be played at Eston Sports Centre over the weekend of March 24/25. Rather than turn back entries, room has been found to accommodate this record number of tables for a Junior tournament.

Halex Sport Kent 2-Star Junior Open

BELGIANS MAKE THEIR MARK by Cyril Burden

Once again this popular junior tournament was held at Folkestone (Dec. 2/3) and although a larger entry was accepted than at first agreed over 50 forms had to be returned before the closing date much to the all-round disappointment of competitors and organisers alike. Looking to the future it would seem to be appropriate to do away with the Under-15 mixed doubles event to allow more singles and ordinary doubles entries.

As in past years a strong entry of 4 boys and 4 girls from Belgium was received and through the efforts of enthusiasts locally housed and fed. The tournament, this season, was refereed by Mike Watts who took over the job at short notice when it was found that Albert Shipley was engaged on E.T.T.A. business. Mike was greatly appreciated and brought some fresh ideas with him.

The entry from the top English boys and girls was disappointing, but did not detract from the tournament and it was quite a revelation to see the standard of play in the U-11 and U-13 events although it brings organisational problems. The Belgian entry was expected to do well and indeed won 5 of the 16 events the most successful being Barbara Lippens who won the U-17 and retained the U-15 girls' singles titles as well as winning with Nathalie Higuët the U-15 girls' doubles title.

The U-17 boys' singles title went to John Souter who beat Desmond Charlery in one of the best finals seen. Some of the other successes included the fine play of Gary Lambert from Devon to take the U-13 boys' singles as well as the U-13 boys' doubles with Mark Ellett. Liza Bellinger repeated this in the U-13 girls' winning the singles title and the doubles partnered by Laura Goldsmith and for the second year running Carl Pream from the Isle of Wight carried off the U-11 boys' title and Alison Boxall the U-11 girls' singles.

Results:-

Under 17 Events

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

J. Souter (Mi) bt S. Holloway (Sy);

D. Charlery (E) bt G. Gillett (Sx).

Final:

SOUTER bt Charlery.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

N. Higuët (Bel) bt M. Reeves (Mi);

B. Lippens (Bel) bt V. Macon (Bel).

Final:

LIPPENS bt Higuët.

Boys' Doubles Final:

T. CABRARA/R. de PROTHETIS (Bel) bt

Gillett/S. Moore (Sx).

Girls' Doubles Final:

E. BOLTON (K)/REEVES bt Higuët/Lippens.

Mixed Doubles Final:

SOUTER/REEVES bt de Prothetis/Lippens.

Under 15 Events

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Souter bt P. Brownlow (He);

G. Lambert (Dv) bt M. Oakley (Sy).

Final:

SOUTER bt Lambert.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Lippens bt J. Bellinger (Bd);

Higuët bt N. Boeckx (Bel).

Final:

LIPPENS bt Higuët.

Boys' Doubles Final:

OAKLEY/SOUTER bt Cabrera/de Prothetis.

Girls' Doubles Final:

HIGUËT/LIPPENS bt J. Bellinger/L. Bellinger

(Bd).

Mixed Doubles Final:

CABRERA/HIGUËT bt de Prothetis/Lippens.

Under-13 Events

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Lambert bt C. Pream (Ha);

G. Nailis (Bel) bt B. Collingwood (Mi).

Final:

LAMBERT bt Nailis.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt A. Hillard;

H. Bardwell (He) bt L. Goldsmith (Mi).

Final:

L. BELLINGER bt Bardwell.

Boys' Doubles Final:

M. ELLETT/LAMBERT bt G. Ducker/A. Barker.

Girls' Doubles Final:

BELLINGER/BELLINGER bt R. Hunter/

A. Judd (Ca).

Under-11 Events

Boys' Singles Final:

CARL PREAM bt Bernard Lazarus.

Girls' Singles Final:

ALISON BOXALL (Sy) bt Lesley Souter (Mi).

SHROPSHIRE NOTES by Gerald Green

Teenagers dominated the Shrewsbury and District Table Tennis Association's Annual Closed Championships at Sundorne Games Hall on Sunday, 4th February, 1979.

Malcolm Green comfortably beat Nigel Thomas in the men's final contested by two eighteen-year-olds. They then teamed up to win the men's doubles title for the third successive year.

Jane Cheetham (14) also had a comfortable win over Sue Evans in the women's final, then teamed up with Linda Degg (14) to win the doubles.

Final results:-

Men's Singles:

M. Green bt N. Thomas 12, 16.

Women's Singles:

J. Cheetham bt S. Evans 15, 16.

Junior Singles:

M. Pugh bt G. Lupton 14, 12.

Men's Doubles:

Green/Thomas bt Clive Roberts/Tony Cheetham 16, 20.

Women's Doubles:

Cheetham/Degg bt Alison Bayliss/Colette Soan -19, 15, 8.

Veteran Singles:

Bill Stephens bt Norman Maycock 12, 12.

LANCASHIRE NOTES by George R. Yates

Lancashire's second team lost a great change of going top of Division 3 (North) of the County Championships when they were held to a 5-5 draw by Cheshire III at Newton-le-Willows on Feb. 17.

Preston's Stephen Turner and Paul Rainford shared four wins with Christine Hilton being responsible for the fifth in beating former Lancs. player Sue Alexander. After trailing 3-4 the home county's Roy Frankland let slip an 18-9 third game lead over Wayne Percival putting the pressure on Mrs. Hilton and young Rainford to level the match score.

Individual scores:-

R. Frankland lost to R. Weatherby -14, -18;

lost to W. Percival -21, 16, -19.

S. Turner bt Percival 15, 8;

bt R. MacFarlane 14, 11.

P. Rainford bt MacFarlane 15, -19, 19;

bt Weatherby 14, 15.

Mrs. C. Hilton bt Mrs. S. Alexander -17, 16, 12.

Mrs. K. Wright lost to Miss J. Deakin 17, -17, -10.

Frankland/Turner lost to Percival/Weatherby

-20, -8.

Hilton/Wright lost to Alexander/Deakin -12, -13.

Lancashire's first team match, at home to Yorkshire II scheduled for the same day at the same Red Bank School venue was postponed. It will now take place at Lytham on March 31 by which time the snow may well have cleared!

Following the request of Phil Bowen and Steve Cowley not to be considered for County teams comes the news that David Cottrell of Blackburn does not wish to be considered either. David, in a letter to Match Sec. Gordon Campbell, explains that he has lost his appetite for competitive play and will henceforth concentrate on coaching young players. Both Lancs and Blackburn will miss his representative services.

Big shock in the first division of the Lancashire and Cheshire League was the 8-2 victory obtained by St. Helens over reigning champions Farnworth on Feb. 16. Treble successes for Brian Johns and Percival put the skids under Farnworth whose two wins were registered by Clive Heap and Cowley both at the expense of Dave Roberts.

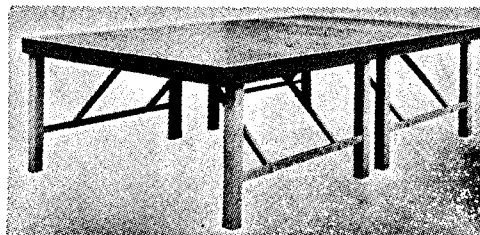
Preston are now in the driving seat and their two most recent wins over Bury (8-2) and Salford (9-1) were obtained by Donald Parker, Turner and Rainford.

Leading positions:-

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Manchester	6	4	2	0	46	14	10
Preston	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
St. Helens	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Farnworth	4	2	1	1	20	20	5

Bolton, despite two draws, are making a determined bid to regain their first division status, and

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although their home match against Manchester "A" was terminated when leading 3-0 by a power failure they have subsequently beaten Preston "A" 6-4 to go to the top of Div. 2 (North). Stockport, with six successive victories to their name, are out-and-out favourites to gain promotion from Div. 2 (South).

The clash of the unbeaten 'giants' in the Women's Division 1 resulted in a 5-5 draw with Susan Lisle of Manchester claiming a treble over Di Johnson, Doreen Schofield and Debbie Coulthard. Di had wins over Mary Leigh and Jean Nield, as did Mrs. Schofield, the pair combining to win the doubles, to give Stockport, the champions, every prospect of retaining their title.

Top placings:-

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stockport	8	7	1	0	70	10	15
Manchester	7	6	1	0	52	18	13
Liverpool	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
Preston	7	3	1	3	33	37	7

Preston, spearheaded by Rainford, lead Junior Div. 1 having dropped but one point to Barrow in seven matches. Surprise packet Rochdale have one loss from five matches and recently beat Manchester 6-4 with Tim Hatton starring with a treble.

Positions:-

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Preston	7	6	1	0	46	24	13
Rochdale	5	4	0	1	28	22	8
Manchester	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
Salford	4	2	0	2	20	20	4

MANCHESTER CLOSED

John Hilton celebrated his first wedding anniversary by winning the men's singles title of the Manchester Closed played at Stretford Sports Centre on Jan. 28. John made it a triple celebration by also taking the men's doubles, with Bowen, and the mixed, with Mary Leigh.

Susan Lisle with a final victory over Janet Deakin won the women's singles and shared a doubles success with Mary Leigh. Tony Taylor beat Tony Worthington to win the Junior Boys' title and the vets., need I spell it out, Stockport's "Sports Personality of the Year" Derek Schofield who, as usual, beat Peter D'Arcy.

Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

J. Hilton bt J. Weatherby 15, 15;

P. Bowen bt B. Clements 15, 18.

Final:

HILTON bt Bowen 19, -21, 14.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

S. Lisle bt J. Swain 7, 6;

J. Deakin bt M. Leigh -19, 22, 17.

Final:

LISLE bt Deakin 4, 11.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hilton/Bowen bt A. Taylor/A. Worthington

-20, 15, 13;

J. Depledge/T. Hatton bt P. D'Arcy/M. Hankey

15, 18.

Final:

HILTON/BOWEN bt Depledge/Hatton

-23, 10, 12.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Leigh/Lisle bt Deakin/D. Schofield 15, 13;

E. Bannister/S. Manock bt L. Rigby/Swain 21, 17.

Final:

LEIGH/LISLE bt Bannister/Manock 5, 6.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Hilton/Leigh bt D. Hulme/Schofield -13, 14, 16;

Hankey/Deakin bt Bowen/Lisle 20, 19.

Final:

HILTON/LEIGH bt Hankey/Deakin 20, -17, 16.

Junior Singles Semi-finals:

A. Taylor bt I. Weatherby 12, 18;

A. Worthington bt D. Mayall 11, 10.

Final:

TAYLOR bt Worthington -19, 14, 15.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

D. Schofield bt T. Donlon -15, 11, 19;

D'Arcy bt R. Rollinson 17, 17.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 16, 18.

MS:

Alan Lord bt Ron Vose 16, -18, 15.

WC:

Pam Murphy bt Christine Hilton 14, 17.

What's on and where

March

17/18—Hartlepoons 1-Star Open (Hartlepool, Cleveland).

18—Edinburgh Junior and Youth 2-Star (Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh).

24/25—Cleveland Junior 'Select' (Eston Sports Centre).

25—SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS sponsored by the Edinburgh Evening News (Meadowbank Sports Centre).

31—County Championships (7).

April

1—Derby Junior 1-Star Open (Derby).

7—South Yorkshire 2-Star Open (Sheffield).

Millom Junior 1-Star Open (Millom School, Cumbria).

National Council Meeting (London).

8—Bedford 1-Star Open.

Merton Junior 1-Star Open (Bournemouth).

12/18—5th COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Meadowbank Sports Centre, London Road, Edinburgh).

14/15—34th Yorkshire Junior 'Select' (Y.P.I. Ferens Recreation Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North, Hull). Commencing at 9 a.m. each day.

Cadet and U-11 Finals 7 p.m. Saturday.

Junior Finals at 6 p.m. Sunday.

21/22—Essex 3-Star Open (Wanstead).

21/22—E.T.T.A. U-14 Regional Championships.

22—Cheshire Junior 1-Star Open (Birkenhead).

25 - May 6—35th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pyongyang, North Korea.

28/29—Trustee Savings Bank Tunbridge Wells Junior Open, Sandown Court School, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Commencing at 9.30 a.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday.

Finals U-12 and U-14 7.30 p.m. Saturday.

Junior Finals at 7.30 p.m. Sunday.

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COTSWOLD JUNIOR 'SELECT'

SKYLET THE WINNER

by Leslie Smith

The bad weather around the country over the week-end of Jan. 27/28 caused many scratching and problems in the Cotswold Junior 'Select'.

The scratchings meant alterations in the draw in the doubles events but with the co-operation of players and organisers alike, play on both days was completed before 10 p.m.

It was not a good championships for the top seeds, in the boys' U-17 the England No. 2 Colin Wilson was the top seed in the absence of Graham Sandley (playing in the Czech Open) but he failed to get past the quarter-final stage losing to Andrew Bellingham, the losing finalist. The winner was Skylet Andrew from Essex, Skylet going one better than in 1978 when, as an unknown, he had lost in the final to Malcolm Green.

In the girls' U-17, top seed Sally Midgley lost

in the semi-final to Alison Gordon, Allison being unable to cope with Helen Williams in the final.

The No. 1 Cadet Boy, Adrian Moore, was a triple winner, beating Eddie Gorniak in the singles, pairing with Graham Russell to win the boys' doubles and the mixed with Cheryl Creasey.

Cheryl Creasey the top Cadet Girl failed to get past the 3rd round losing to Surrey's Sarah Cresswell, who went on to lose in the final to the No. 2 seed Jackie Bellinger.

Details:-

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Bellingham (St) bt C. Wilson (Mi) 21, -15, 18;
G. Gillett (Sx) bt D. Charlery (E) 20, 16;
K. Satchell (Wi) bt C. Papantoniou (Mi) 16, 16;
S. Andrew (E) bt J. Souter (Mi) 16, 15.

Semi-finals:

Bellingham bt Gillett 18, 11;
Andrew bt Satchell 13, -13, 14.

Final:

ANDREW bt Bellingham 17, -16, 16.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

S. Midgley (Y) bt G. Pritchard (Dv) 13, 14;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt S. Cain (St) 13, 18;
H. Williams (Mi) bt L. Fenneh (Ch) -18, 15, 20;
M. Reeves (Mi) bt L. Garbet (Sy) 22-20, 21-16.

Semi-finals:

Gordon bt Midgley 16, -11, 20;
Williams bt Reeves 16, -17, 13.

Final:

WILLIAMS bt Gordon 20, 18.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Wilson/ D. Barr (Bk) bt Charlery/Andrew 19, 17;
S. Holloway (Sy)/P. Bradbury (Bu) bt Gillett/S. Moore (Sx) -15, 18, 14.

Final:

WILSON/BARR bt Holloway/Bradbury 14, 18.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

C. Creasey (Do)/Midgley bt Williams/Reeves -20, 22, 18;
Gordon/Pritchard bt S. Cresswell (Sy)/Garbet 10, -21, 20.

Final:

GORDON/PRITCHARD bt Creasey/Midgley 15, -23, 19.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Barr/J. Purslow (Bk) bt Wilson/Williams -12, 18, 17;
Andrew/Gordon bt Souter/Reeves 17, 8.

Final:

ANDREW/GORDON bt Barr/Purslow 16, 16.

Boys' Cadet Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Moore (Sx) bt R. Namdjou (K) 17, 16;
C. Prean (Ha) bt A. Dixon (St) 14, 11;
E. Gorniak (Mi) bt C. Bryan (Li) -18, 12, 21;
D. Sharpe (Bd) bt G. Lambert (Dv) 18, 18.

Semi-finals:

Moore bt Prean -13, 15, 7;
Gorniak bt Sharpe 15, 9.

Final:

MOORE bt Gorniak 15, -13, 14.

Girls' Cadet Singles Quarter-finals:

Cresswell bt Y. Hall (Le) 10, -18, 15;
L. Bellinger (Bd) bt M. Williams (Mi) 13, 13;
A. Judd (Ca) bt M. Denbow (Ox) 21, 14;
J. Bellinger (Bd) bt J. Richard (Sk) 12, 16.

Semi-finals:

Cresswell bt L. Bellinger 17, 19;
J. Bellinger bt Judd 15, 13.

Final:

J. BELLINGER bt Cresswell 6, 18.

Boys' Cadet Doubles Semi-finals:

J. Duffield (Wo)/Dixon bt Sharpe/C. Luscombe (Bd) 13, 15;
Moore/G. Russell (Sy) bt K. Kavanagh/Gorniak 15, 8.

Final:

MOORE/RUSSELL bt Duffield/Dixon 16, 8.

Girls' Cadet Doubles Semi-finals:

Bellinger/Bellinger bt C. Creasey (Do)/Hall 15, 20;
Denbow/J. Windle (Ox) bt D. Boughey (Sp)/J. Woodward (Ox) 9, 14.

Final:

BELLINGER/BELLINGER bt Denbow/Windle 17, 9.

Mixed Cadet Doubles Semi-finals:

Moore/Creasey bt D. Illingsworth/L. Broomhead (Y) 14, 20;

Russell/Cresswell bt Sharpe/J. Bellinger 13, 18.

Final:

MOORE/CREASEY bt Russell/Cresswell 18, 12.

Boys' U-12 Singles Semi-finals:

Prean bt I. Smith (Sp) 2, 18;
A. Barker (London) bt M. Thomas (Wk) 19, 17.

Final:

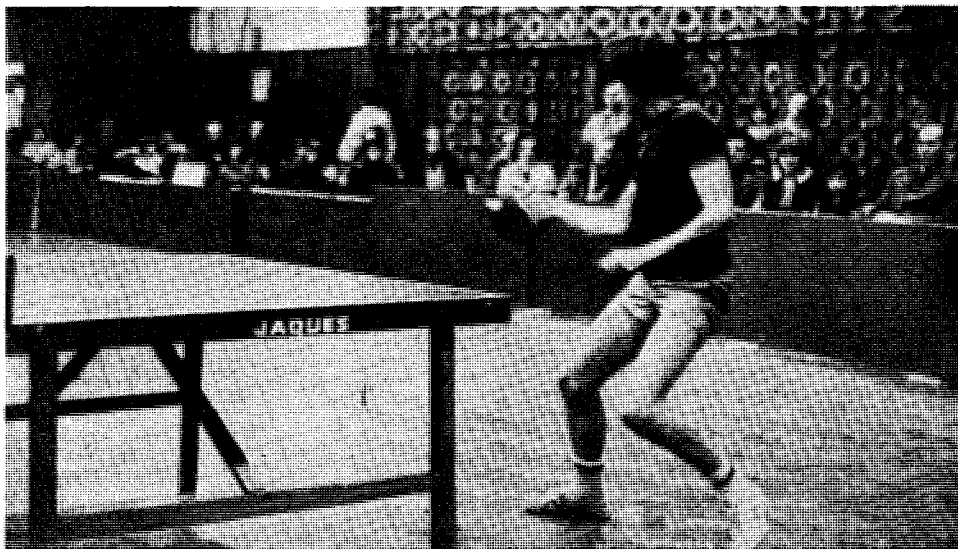
PREAN bt Barker 19, 10.

Girls' U-12 Singles Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt S. O'Leary (Dv) 11, 13;
L. Goldsmith (Mi) bt T. Moore (Sx) 11, 7.

Final:

L. BELLINGER bt Goldsmith 15, 17.



Adrian Moore of Sussex, winner of the boys' cadet singles at the Cotswold 'Select'.

Photo by Leo Black, London.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROTEST

On behalf of our Association I must protest most strongly about Tony Darbyshire's comments in the Midland League Report of the December issue, referring to the behaviour of our Junior 'A' side during their match against Cheltenham.

The indignation of the Team Captain, (a responsible E.T.T.A. Coach), and my Committee can well be imagined when it is realised that this was our first knowledge that there was any cause for complaint, as the match had been well contested throughout.

Whilst agreeing with the general remarks about sportsmanship, I do not think this journal is the place for complaints that should have been made through the correct channels, and so investigated in the proper manner.

J. T. ELLIOTT,

Chairman, Coventry and District T.T.A.

53 Watercall Avenue,
Styvechale,
Coventry CV3 5AW.

EXCHANGE WANTED

I'm a 39-year-old employee of the Mainichi Newspapers, Tokyo, Japan and the captain of the Mainichi Table Tennis Club. To harden my body, I play table tennis and to improve my brain, I study English. Though I've never been to England, I've much interest in your country which I respect. I want to exchange letters with English people who are interested in Japan and playing table tennis. I would be much obliged if you introduced me to some, if possible those working on a newspaper.

ISAMU KIMURA,
Advertising Department of the
Mainichi Newspapers.

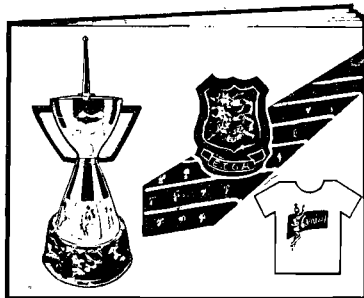
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NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX & NORWICH UNION MASTERS

In 1978/79 the NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX was based on the International Open Championships of France, Yugoslavia, Scandinavia, Czechoslovakia, the Norwich Union International Championships, the Norwich Union Trophy and the Stiga Welsh Open. Points were allocated to players at each event in relation to success achieved.

The NORWICH UNION MASTERS is, in effect, the Grand Final of the Grand Prix, and will be held at Middleton Hall, Milton Keynes — situated approximately halfway between London and Birmingham — on 29th, 30th and 31st May, 1979.

During these three days, the fourteen leading points scorers in this season's Grand Prix, the reigning European Champion, Gabor Gergely, and the new World Champion from Pyongyang will be invited to compete for the title of NORWICH UNION MASTER 1979 and total prize money of more than £5,000.

The leading 24 players in the 1978/79 Grand Prix are shown below and should any players be unable to take their places at Milton Keynes, such vacancies will be filled strictly in order of merit on the list.

1. Tibor Klampar (HUN)
2. Milan Orlovski (CZE)
3. Gabor Gergely (HUN)
4. Desmond Douglas (ENG)
5. Ulf Thorsell (SWE)
6. Li Chen Shih (CHI)
7. Shih Chih Hao (CHI)
8. Tibor Kreisz (HUN)
9. Lu Chi Wei (CHI)
10. Josef Dvoracek (CZE)
11. Peter Stellwag (GFR)
12. Dragutin Surbek (YUG)
13. Huang Liang (CHI)
14. Janos Takacs (HUN)
15. Kuo Yao Hua (CHI)
16. Stellan Bengtsson (SWE)
17. Istvan Jonyer (HUN)
18. Jacques Secretin (FRA)
19. Jochen Leiss (GFR)
20. Liang Ke Liang (CHI)
21. Engelbert Huging (GFR)
22. Lans Franklin (SWE)
23. Michael Appelgren (SWE)
24. Andozeg Grubba (POL)

The sixteen players in the NORWICH UNION MASTERS will be divided into two groups of eight, with all playing all in each group. All matches will be the best of three games and play throughout the tournament will be on one Dunlop Championship table. Dunlop Super balls will be used.

Each day will be divided into three playing sessions, and each player will make one appearance per session, excepting the finals evening.

The schedule of play is:-

Morning Sessions:

09.30 Tuesday)
Wednesday) Four matches from
Thursday) each group.

Afternoon Sessions:

14.00 Tuesday) Four matches from
Wednesday) each group.
Thursday) Quarter-finals
Matches for positions 9 to 16

Evening Sessions:

19.00 Tuesday) Four matches from
Wednesday) each group.
Thursday) Semi-finals
Matches for positions 3 to 8
Final

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(09.30HRS) Wed) 75p £1.25
Thurs)

AFTERNOON SESSION Tues) £1.25 £1.75
(14.00HRS) Wed)
Quarter-finals Thurs) £1.50 £2.00

EVENING SESSION Tues) £1.50 £2.00
(19.00HRS) Wed)
Semi-finals. Final Thurs) £2.00 £2.50

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

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

Every player competing in the NORWICH UNION MASTERS will receive prize money. Allocations as follows:-

Winner	1,000 guineas (£1,050)
Runner-up	£600
3rd place	£450
4th place	£400
5th place	£350
6th place	£325
7th place	£300
8th place	£275
9th place	£250
10th place	£230
11th place	£210
12th place	£190
13th place	£170
14th place	£150
15th place	£130
16th place	£110

Where an amateur player qualifies for prize money over the prescribed limits, that money will be paid to the player's Association.

The prize of £500 to the player accumulating the most points in the Grand Prix has been won by Tibor Klampar, and this will be presented to him at Milton Keynes.

TICKETS OBTAINABLE ONLY FROM:
City Information Centre
Milton Keynes Development Corporation
PO Box 166
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(From where information on Hotels and Boarding Houses can also be obtained)



NEXT MONTH

Coverage in the next issue will include the **Norwich Union English Championships** at Woking where **Desmond Douglas** won the men's singles crown for the second time and **Jill Hammersley** secured the women's title for the sixth time. Their respective final victims were **Dougie Johnson** and **Karen Witt**.

John Woodford will be covering the **Global** tournament played at Greenwich in which **Douglas** won the top prize of £1,000 with a final 12, 16, 12 win over **Nicky Jarvis**. **Jill Hammersley** won both the "A" and "B" events, open to both men and women, her final victim in the A class event being **Brian Kean**.

At Bradford **John Hilton** won the **Yorkshire 2-Star Open** men's singles beating **Derek Schofield** 13, 16 in the final. **Melody Ludi** won the women's singles with a final win over **Cheryl Buttery**.

Max Crimmins was the winner of the **Coventry 1-Star Open**, the counterpart women's event being won by **Karen Groves** of Warwickshire.

Reports on all the foregoing events plus other features of interest will be contained within the April issue.



JAQUES SIGN SCHOOLBOY CHAMPION

News from John Jaques of the signing that took place recently of the current U.K. Schoolboy Table Tennis Champion, Colin Wilson. Colin has just been selected for the full Senior Team to compete in the Commonwealth Championship in Edinburgh later this year and is now ranked number 12 amongst the seniors.

He has competed in the 1976, 1977 and 1978 European Youth Championships and in addition to all this, later this year sits 7 'O' and 3 'A' level G.C.E.'s

Colin will be using Jaques equipment and clothing and adds his name to the increasing number of top juniors now using Jaques products.

Our photograph shows Colin and Christopher Jaques signing the agreement with Jaques Tournament and Promotions administrator, John Waterhouse, looking on.

EXETER JUNIOR 1-STAR

VENUE SURVIVES STRIKES

by Keith Ponting

The Exeter League were very lucky on Saturday, Feb. 3 in that the strikes and work to rule by local authority workers did not affect the St. Thomas High School Sports Hall and the very popular tournament was able to go ahead as planned.

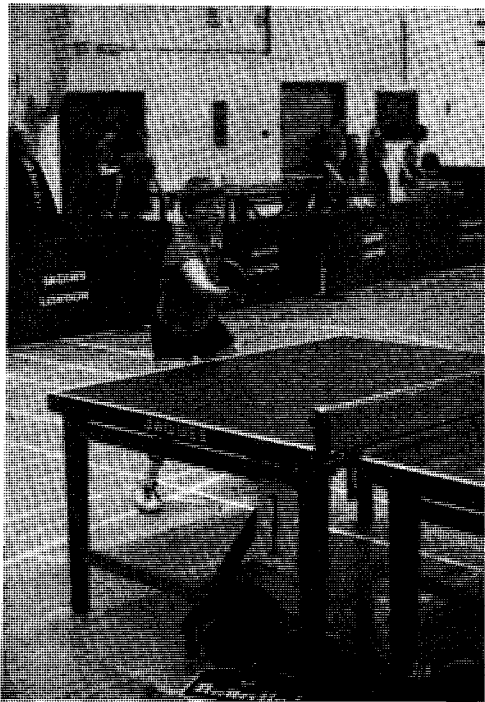
Once again a full entry was received and there was some good table tennis enjoyed all day, culminating in some very exciting finals.

Local interest was maintained until the end through 12-year-old Gary Lambert, from Exmouth who won both the Boys' U-13 and U-15 events in fine style only to be beaten in the semi-final of the Boys' U-17 singles by Andrew Dixon, from Wolverhampton. Andrew's more consistent play gave him a straight games win and he went on to gain a brilliant win against Paul Stratton, from London.

Consolation came to David Pilling and Stratton, the two losing singles finalists when they retained the Boys' Doubles title in convincing style against Plymouth's Shaun Gwynne and Paul Giles.

In the girls' events Michelle Ham's trip from London was worth while as she beat Exeter's hope Sarah O'Leary in straight games to take the U-13 title. Cornwall's Sharon James did her County proud in winning both the U-15 and U-17 events by beating Reading's Jenny Collins in both finals. Local pride was restored in the last final through Devon's Julie Pritchard and Sarah O'Leary taking the Girls' Doubles in a close encounter with Michelle Hams and Rebecca Russe.

Once again National Referee Stan Ford was the Referee ably supported by Valerie Addicott. Devon County Chairman, Don Rattue presented the awards.



ANDREW DIXON (Staffs)

Photo by Leo Black (London)

Results:-

Boys' U-13 Singles:

G. Lambert (Dv) bt M. Ellett (Dv) 14, 17.

Boys' U-15 Singles:

Lambert bt D. Pilling (Mi) 17, -17, 14.

Boys' U-17 Singles:

A. Dixon (St) bt P. Stratton (Mi) -16, 18, 11.

Boys' Doubles:

Pilling/Stratton bt P. Giles/S. Gwynne (Dv) 13, 14.

Girls' U-13 Singles:

M. Hams (Sy) bt S. O'Leary (Dv) 9, 18.

Girls' U-15 Singles:

S. James (Co) bt J. Collins (Bk) 17, 14.

Girls' U-17 Singles:

James bt Collins 17, 18.

Girls' Doubles:

O'Leary/J. Pritchard (Dv) bt Hams/R. Russe 13, -14, 17.

HOSTS REQUIRED

At this time of year the E.T.T.A. office in Hastings receives requests from Clubs abroad wishing to visit this country in order to play table tennis.

The basis of such visits vary in that some applicants state their willingness to pay their own way and some ask for hospitality in private homes. The size of the visiting party is usually around ten persons and of course holiday times such as Easter are most popular.

We have received three requests recently, two from Clubs in Germany both of whom wish to visit England this Easter. In both cases a preference is expressed for the South of England, not too far from London, presumably to facilitate sightseeing.

The third request comes from the U.S.A. and is for a few boys and girls to come to England in the July/August period, when they hope to play competitive table tennis and receive coaching. As their funds are limited, they request hospitality in private homes for which they would be willing to reciprocate in the U.S.A.

If any Club or League is interested in hosting any foreign team, particularly those mentioned above, I would appreciate them contacting me so that they can be put in direct touch with the enquirer. Obviously, in the cases of the requests for this Easter an early contact is essential.

ALBERT SHIPLEY,
General Secretary.

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CZECHOSLOVAK OPEN

ENGLISH DISAPPOINT

by The Editor

England's world-ranked Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley failed to make any impact in the Czechoslovak Open played in Usti nad Labem, the capital of North Bohemia, over the period Jan. 26/28.

Douglas, a late arrival causing him to miss the team event, fell in the third round when beaten 18, 11, 20 by Andrzej Grubba of Poland and Jill, having initially been troubled by Sweden's Marie Lindblad who won the first two games, was ousted in the quarters by Maria Alexandru.

Tibor Klampar won his third Grand Prix title in winning the men's singles with a final victory over his Hungarian Teammate Gabor Gergely but the shock winner of the women's title was Gordana Perkucin of Yugoslavia who beat Ludmila Bakshutova of the Soviet Union in the final.

In the men's singles Nicky Jarvis was beaten in the first round by Antonin Skefo, the Czech No. 7, and Paul Day was 'carted' by Milan Orlowski 4, 10 and 15. Karen Witt, in the women's singles, was ousted in the first round by Erzebet Palatinus. Anita Stevenson disappointed in losing -17, -15, -12 to Kristina Nilsson of Sweden and Mandy Smith fell to Dana Hermanova of Czechoslovakia.

Jill and Karen did reach the quarter-final of the women's doubles, losing to Gabriella Szabo and Urban and, at the same stage in the men's doubles, Douglas and Jarvis were beaten by Gergely and Orlowski.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

G. Gergely (HUN) bt M. Appelgren (SWE)

15, 21, 11;

T. Kreisz (HUN) bt M. Orlowski (CZE)

-19, -17, 10, 12, 17;

T. Klampar (HUN) bt A. Grubba (POL) 14, 8, 13;

I. Jonyer (HUN) bt S. Dobosi (RUM)

18, 15, -11, 17.

Semi-finals:

Gergely bt Kreisz 12, 17, 15;

Klampar bt Jonyer 17, 12, 19.

Final:

KLAMPAR bt Gergely 11, 18, -14, 17.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

L. Bakshutova (USS) bt E. Palatinus (YUG)

19, 15, 15;

C. Bergeret (FRA) bt K. Nilsson (SWE)

11, -16, -21, 12, 20;

G. Perkucin (YUG) bt B. Silhanova (CZE)

14, 13, -19, 17;

M. Alexandru (RUM) bt J. Hammersley (ENG)

21, -14, 13, 11.

Semi-finals:

Bakshutova bt Bergeret 11, 10, -20, 12;

Perkucin bt Alexandru 22, 17, 14.

Final:

PERKUCIN bt Bakshutova 19, 6, 14.

Men's Doubles:

P. BIROCHEAU/J. SECRETIN (FRA) bt

Gergely/Orlowski 14, 17.

Women's Doubles:

G. SZABO/E. URBAN (HUN) bt Silhanova/

I. Uhlíkova (CZE) -11, 16, 19.

Mixed Doubles:

Z. KALINIC (YUG)/PERKUCIN bt Klampar/

M. Csik (HUN) 13, 19.

Men's Team Final:

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3 Yugoslavia 2

Orlowski bt Kalinic 10, 19;

Dvoracek lost to Surbek 23, -18, -13;

Orlowski/Pansky lost to Kalinic/Surbek

-17, 10, -14;

Orlowski bt Surbek 22, -20, 16;

Dvoracek bt Kalinic 15, 7.

Women's Team Final:

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3 Yugoslavia 1

Silhanova bt Perkucin -16, 14, 10;

Uhlíkova lost to Palatinus -20, -12;

Silhanova/Uhlíkova bt Palatinus/Perkucin 13, 18;

Uhlíkova bt Perkucin 16, -17, 20.

England's men, having been reinstated after Poland had wrongly switched their two teams, were beaten 3-0 by Hungary "B" whose Kreisz and Takacs polished off Day and Jarvis in straight games.

In the women's team event England had two bites of the cherry but England I fell in the quarters to Czecho "B" who turned out Dubinova and Hrachova. Jill beat them both but not so Karen who was also on the defeated side in the doubles. Prior to England's top girls had beaten Federal Germany's Ursula Hirschmuller and Weibke Hendriksen 3-1 the doubles being the one lost. Czechoslovakia's Uhlíkova and Silhanova took out England II (Anita and Mandy) 3-0.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

INTRIGUING ASPECT

The latest TSB County League results have given the final series of matches at Kettering Recreation Centre on Sunday, March 24, an intriguing aspect, for three of the sides taking part, Northampton, Wellingborough and Kettering, could still take the honours. However after their 11-0 win over Daventry, Northampton must be favourites, for a win by any margin over Wellingborough, would give them the title for a third successive year. However if Wellingborough manage to produce the form and the side which gave them a similar 11-0 win over Towcester, either they or Kettering could take the trophy, with Kettering on the day facing a Towcester side which did not impress recently against the formidable talents of Gary Alden, Dave Marsh, Brian Dangerfield, Mandy Wallis and Stan Galkowski.

Meanwhile, Peter Edwards, a former Chairman of the County Association, and the driving force behind many recent ventures, including the TSB County League, has resigned his most recent position as Vice-Chairman on his return to Essex, where he has taken up an appointment as Secretary to the Essex County Cricket Club.

If he is able to bring as much enthusiasm and dedication to Essex cricket, as he has to Northants Table Tennis, cricket in the South-East should be in for an uplifting time in the fairly immediate future, and the congratulations and best wishes of all his colleagues and friends in Northamptonshire Table Tennis go with him.

The Wellingborough Coaching scene has been very active recently and an advertisement in December's Table Tennis News for the Sitco Robot swiftly persuaded the members that they should endeavour to raise the necessary £355.

What at first seemed an impossible task was surprisingly easy to achieve, for with a combined effort from the forty members, the money was raised in less than four weeks.

The club has asked me to thank in these notes, all those who by their strenuous efforts or by generous donations made the venture successful, and furthermore hope, that their achievements will inspire other clubs and organisations to emulate them, for in the long term, the game of table tennis must benefit. Incidentally anyone interested in a similar scheme, and who would like to see the Sitco Robot in action, could also benefit, by contacting Dave Marsh at Wellingborough 222528.

All three County matches this month have ended in defeat, with the TSB Juniors 2-8 downfall against Herts. the most surprising. It is perhaps just as well that the Cadets, although going down 4-6 to Leicestershire, displayed enough talent to give hope for the future, as Neil Ridge, Ian Hawes, Steven Kendall, Jane Nicoll and Jane Nicoll and Jane Wallis all did enough to suggest that better things are yet to come.

Another successful Kettering Closed, most capably organised by Jim Chatburn and Ian Nicholl, was again dominated by Keith Nicoll, who comfortably collected five titles, including the men's singles for the third year in succession.

Nicoll won the Junior singles for the second time, partnered Geoff Atkinson to the men's doubles, shared a mixed success with Mandy Wallis and also took the junior doubles with twin brother Ken.

The men's singles final was a repeat of last year's epic, with Keith once again getting the better of John Palmer. Nicoll's controlled aggression, against Palmer's accurate defence provided a fascinating struggle, but youth triumphed in the end, with Palmer playing his sixth final in nine years going down in straight games.

Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

Keith Nicoll bt G. Atkinson 17, 14;

J. Palmer bt Ken Nicoll 11, 19.

Final:

Keith Nicoll bt Palmer 16, 17.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

Mandy Wallis bt Christine Price 16, 9;

Anne Wallis bt Ann Lenton 12, 11.

Final:

Anne Wallis bt Mandy Wallis 19, 15.

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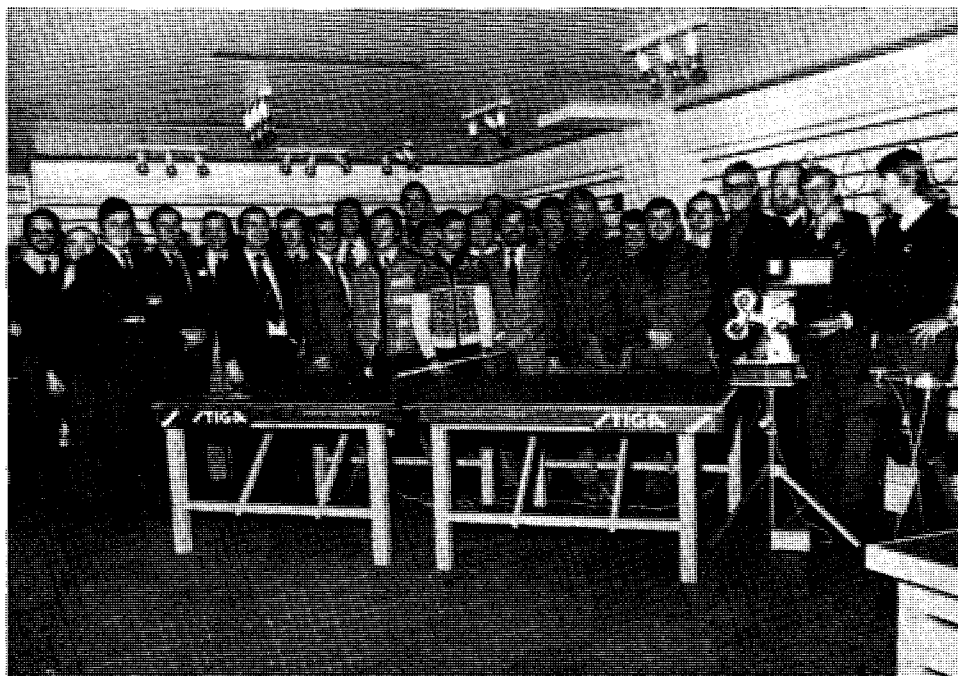
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EURO-DISTRIBUTORS VISIT STIGA SWEDEN

Stiga AB, manufacturers of the World-famous table tennis equipment, entertained their European and Scandinavian distributors in Sweden from 15th to 18th January.

The object of the visit was to unveil their new plans for the 1980's and launch their involvement in the World and Commonwealth Championships later this year in Korea and Scotland.

Mitre Sports of England were represented by Ray Matthews, Marketing Manager. Commenting on the visit, he said there were some significant and exciting changes in store both in bats and tables. However, details were being withheld until ISLE.

Stiga once again demonstrated why they are amongst the World's top manufacturers. Planning, preparation and organised implementation are their keywords for successful marketing.

Picture shows Mr. Ewert Mattsson, Stiga Sporting Goods Divisional Director (holding table tennis bat) with European Distributors and various Stiga Personnel.



Welsh Corner

H. ROY EVANS

EUROPEAN LEAGUE TRIUMPH!

The European League Third Division matches, played as a curtain raiser to the Stiga Welsh Open, attracted nine teams, much the biggest ever.

Rumania, having to make a start in the lowest divisions, nevertheless didn't send a team, although Maria Alexandru and Eva Ferenczi came to the Welsh Open later. Denmark, having dropped out, also had to start again from the bottom, and, in the absence of Rumania, were expected to run away with the Championship.

The European Table Tennis Union having decided that four teams would be promoted, in order to bring Division 2 up to strength of eight, it looked as if Wales had to make sure of victories on the first day.

And this was what happened — Graham Davies, George Evans and Stephanie Jones disposed of Malta 7-0, whilst Jersey beat Iceland 4-3, and Norway "whitewashed" Guernsey.

We continued our winning way in the afternoon

with a 7-0 win over Jersey with our strongest team — Alan Griffiths, David Welsman and Stephanie Jones. Denmark beat Switzerland 5-2, Portugal beat Guernsey 6-1, and Norway beat Iceland 7-0.

Monday evening saw us with our first big obstacle — Norway, whose chop defenders and Guttormsen had caused us problems in the past. But Paul Guttormsen wasn't playing and they had two new men — Johansen and Gierloff. We won with surprising ease, with both Griffiths and Welsman showing impressive form, whilst Stephanie also played well to beat Hundveen. Seven-nil to us was just the right medicine.

Tuesday morning brought us another comfortable win — Evans, Davies and Stephanie picking up maximum points, meanwhile Portugal beat Malta 6-1, and Norway beat Jersey 7-0. In the second session, Cathryn Jones supplanted Stephanie against Iceland and helped Alan and David to another 7-0 win. Switzerland beat Guernsey 7-0, Portugal beat Jersey 5-2, and Denmark beat Malta 7-0.

We didn't have a match in the third session, in which Norway beat Portugal 7-0, Denmark beat Jersey 7-0, and Switzerland beat Iceland 7-0.

The evening saw us face Switzerland in our second big task. Welsman lost the opening set against Hafen, but Alan showed brilliant form in disposing of Sadecky. Stephanie played very well but just lost to Wyder, and then Alan and David combined very convincingly to take the doubles, and level the scores. Evans and Stephanie beat Sadecky and Weibel in the third game of the mixed, and then Alan and David made no mistake in their remaining singles to take us to a 5-2 victory.

In the meantime Denmark were having problems with Norway, and it was only Pedersen's fine play that pulled them through 4-3, the Norwegians looking at one time as though they might win. Guernsey beat Malta 6-1.

On Wednesday morning we had no match. Portugal beat Iceland 7-0, Denmark beat Guernsey

7-0, Norway beat Malta 7-0, and Switzerland beat Jersey 7-0.

In the afternoon we had another good 6-1 win over Portugal, with Welsman dropping the only set. Norway beat Switzerland 5-2. Denmark beat Iceland 7-0, and Jersey beat Malta 7-0.

And so the scene was set for the last evening, and the clash between the two unbeaten sides — Denmark and Wales. There were also "Derby" matches between the others in that last session — Switzerland v Portugal, which went 7-0 to the Swiss, Iceland v Malta, which the Icelanders won 6-1, and Jersey v Guernsey, a clash between the two islands which is of far greater importance to them than anything else! Guernsey won 4-3, and there was a great gnashing of teeth in the Jersey camp.

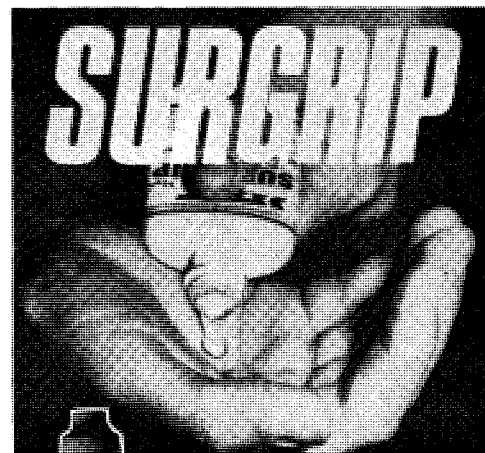
When Wales faced Denmark, we had the better record at that point. Both had won 7, but our figures were 46-3 against Denmark's 44-5. Griffiths opened with a fine win over Palle Rud, but Welsman found Claus Pederson too good for him. Stephanie Jones took us ahead again with a splendid victory over Jacobsen, and we went further ahead when Alan and David played some brilliant doubles to beat Pedersen and Rud. Then we had a disappointment, the usually effective partnership of George Evans and Stephanie Jones going down to Pedersen and Annie Larsen, the significant feature of that match being the apparent ease with which Larsen hit George's usually difficult chop!

So our lead was reduced to 3-2, and that was further eroded when Alan found Claus in devastating form and lost two-straight.

Four all — and David to face Rud. David won the first easily, then lost a whole lot of points to go well behind in the second. He fought back, but too late. He again built up a good lead in the decider, and even when he lost a lot of it and stood leading at 19/16, we felt we had won the Championship. But Rud battled on, and with David losing his cool a little, the Dane made it 20-all. Then it was advantage in and advantage out, until Rud brought off a hard cross court forehand that David just couldn't get to, and so we lost. But it was a fine match and the crowd, though disappointed, gave both teams warm applause.

The Final table was as follows:-

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



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REVISED SENIOR RANKINGS

The E.T.T.A. Selection Committee meeting in Woking over the weekend of Feb. 24/25 have issued a revised senior ranking list. As expected, Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley maintained their positions at the top of the men's and women's list and both Nicky Jarvis and Karen Witt stay at No. 2. Surrey's Linda Howard goes back to No. 3 from the No. 9 position she fell to in the last list because of her success in the Stiga Welsh Open and the Cleveland 3-Star.

In the men's list Jimmy Walker's consistent form of late has taken him back up the list to No. 3, while Donald Parker rises from No. 17 to No. 4 thanks to his win in the Cleveland 3-Star and reaching the semi-final of the Norwich Union English Championships. The highest new entry is the ex-top Junior Kenny Jackson of Essex who comes in at No. 13 after producing some very good results. The biggest fall is Surrey's Max Crimmins who drops from No. 4 to No. 14 because of his lack of significant victories. Revised placings (previous positions in brackets):-

Men

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

Women

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

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

9A Chris Sewell (Av) (9A) — Long period of illness.

17A Tony Clayton (Y) (17A) — Unranked (member of the National Selection Committee).

Omitted from the previous list are Chris Rogers (Le) (15), John Kitchener (Sk) (16), Les Eadie (E) (20), and, on the distaff side, Lesley Radford (E) (13) and Susan Lisle (Ch) (15).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE MISSING LINKS

Is it not the time for sweeping changes in the game of table tennis? Not on the actual playing 'field' where the rules are as near perfection as will ever be possible, but in the presentation to the public at large.

With acknowledgements to a famous quotation in the game of Draughts, my table tennis version would go:- "Everyone plays table tennis but comparatively few are table tennis watchers!"

It is sadly only too easy to see the reason why. Go to the average, one, two or even three star

tournaments. You are usually presented with a massive jungle of tables, clearly numbered to ensure that competitors can quickly get to their playing tables. But what of spectators? They can wander around the maze of tables to view a player they may particularly want to watch and if they are especially lucky may find a nearby seat not already clotted up with sports bags and picnic foods of the contestants.

I feel that it is very wrong to put tables up in every possible playing space in the arena to ensure the maximum number of entries. To me the Reading Junior event played in February, set the fashion for future tournaments. Here they had three centre tables and alongside a splendid spectator seating Stand. On the main two tables, complete with active large scoreboards, we saw mostly Belgian players who, particularly the girls,

put on some wonderful entertaining matches against our best in the tournament.

Spectators thoroughly enjoyed the rare privilege of following with ease the excitement on both these tables and entered into the right spirit with rounds of applause for exceptionally good rallies etc.

Thus I strongly advocate two side by side 'centre courts' complete with scoreboards. All players to wear identity numbers for easy reference in a 'who's who' (duplicated) programme. Then and only then, will the game really come into the public eye. That must be the set pattern for all future star tournaments.

GEORGE SMITH,

74 The Readings,
Harlow, Essex.

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IRISH NOTES

by WILLIE WALSH

STIGA IRISH OPEN

The Stiga Irish Open Championships which were held in the Leisuresland Complex, Salthill, Galway, was badly hit by scratchings owing to the weather. The large entry was decimated when players, particularly from Dublin, failed to travel. This turned out to be a tragedy for the organisers, who had twelve tables, but not enough matches most of the time to use them.

If the quantity of players was low, the quality made up for this with all of the Irish-ranked players competing, plus a formidable foursome from England — Melody Ludi, Jimmy Walker, Alan Fletcher and John Dabin.

Walker won the Men's Singles and the Mixed with his fiancée Karen Senior, and was runner-up with Pat Glynn to Fletcher and Dabin in the Men's Doubles.

Melody Ludi beat Karen Senior in the Women's final but was beaten in the finals of the Women's and Mixed Doubles.

In the Men's semi-finals, Walker beat Dabin, 12 in the third after losing the first set -14. Irish No. 1, 14-year-old Colum Slevin lost to Fletcher -20 in the 3rd in the other semi. Slevin is playing very well at the moment, but is not having the best of luck. He is losing sets in the third game, that he could win with a little more maturity. Now that Jim Langan has "abdicated" he is the new 'king' of Irish Table Tennis and with more experience, he should have a long reign.

Melody Ludi became the new Women's champion when she beat the holder — Karen Senior. Melody won the first game 15, but in the second Karen led 20-19 but Melody won the next three points to clinch the title.

Ireland's No. 1 and 2 — Karen Senior and Anne Leonard beat Melody Ludi and another Irish International Liz Cash in the Women's Doubles.

The Men's Doubles was an all-English affair — Fletcher and Dabin beat Walker and Glynn in a 'cliff-hanger' 23, -18, 19.

A very welcome visitor to Ireland for the championships was the very popular Chairman of the English T.T.A., Mr. Tom Blunn. We all hope he enjoyed his visit as much as we enjoyed having him.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

J. Walker bt J. Dabin -14, 13, 12;
A. Fletcher bt C. Slevin -17, 12, 20.

Final:

WALKER bt Fletcher 7, 19.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Senior bt Kathleen Murray 7, 8;
M. Ludi bt A. Leonard -18, 12, 13.

Final:

LUDI bt Senior 15, 20.

Women's Doubles Final:

SENIOR/LEONARD bt Ludi/Cash -20, 11, 19.

Men's Doubles Final:

FLETCHER/DABIN bt Walker/P. Glynn (Wa) 23, -18, 19.

Mixed Doubles Final:

WALKER/SENIOR bt Fletcher/Ludi 18, 19.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

GREEK TRAGEDY FOR IRELAND

Ireland lost their European League 1st Division match to Greece in Athens, when after losing the first two sets, they won the next three and then before a frenzied audience they lost the last two. As the score stood 3-all, from the time John Mandilas and Kevin Keane went to the table the large Greek crowd made the Hampden Roar pale to a whisper. Every time Mandilas hit a shot that in any way resembled a winner, they cheered, whistled and stamped their feet. The whole evening really proved a nerve-racking experience for this young Irish team.

This is the 3rd match Ireland lost this year 3-4, which if they are relegated — which now seems likely — will indeed be a sad season. With Karen Senior at 22 years of age, Kevin Keane (19) and Colum Slevin (14), this is a young, but very

promising team which only needs a bit more experience in the cauldron of European competition.

Karen Senior proved she is a player above the average women's standard in the 1st Division when she beat Miss F. Galanou, 7, 10.

Slevin won the first game against Mandilas, 14, and after leading nearly all the way lost the second -19. Mandilas won the third 15.

C. Priftis was a convincing winner over both Slevin and Keane, but the Irish duo caused a shock and temporarily stunned the spectators to silence when they recovered from a 10-16 deficit in the second game after losing the first to win 19, 13.

Ireland won the mixed comfortably when Miss Galanou proved to be a little out of her class, Keane and Karen won 15, 16.

Results (Greek names first):-

C. Priftis bt K. Keane 11, 13.

J. Mandilas bt C. Slevin -14, 19, 15.

F. Galanou lost to K. Senior -7, -10.

Priftis/Makrig lost to Keane/Slevin 14, -15, -13.

Priftis/Galanou lost to Keane/Senior -15, -16.

Priftis bt Slevin 12, 13.

Mandilas bt Keane 10, -19, 15.

WEATHERGLAZE OPEN

The well organised one day Weatherglaze Open in the Presentation College Hall, Bray, Co. Wicklow, saw Colum Slevin and Anne Leonard justify their ranking. Slevin beat Kevin Keane in the Men's final and together they won the Men's Doubles when they beat Brian Finn and the Irish domiciled Greek Theo Karrellas.

Anne Leonard beat Dolores Keller in the women's final but they lost the doubles final to Miss M. McNeill and Miss C. Wann -16 in the 3rd. Anne completed a double when she won the Mixed partnered by her brother Kieran.

Results:-

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Keller bt C. Wann 20, -17, 13;

A. Leonard bt G. Leonard 15, 13.

Final:

LEONARD bt Keller 12, 16.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Keane bt K. Leonard 19, 19;

C. Slevin bt B. Larrigan 18, 14.

Final:

SLEVIN bt Keane -17, 16, 11.

Mixed Doubles Final:

K. and A. LEONARD bt Keane/Keller -20, 16, 12.

Women's Doubles Final:

M. McNEILL/WANN bt A. Leonard/Keller

-12, 19, 16.

Men's Doubles Final:

KEANE/SLEVIN bt B. Finn/T. Karrellas 18, 18.

MUNSTER OPEN

The quarter-finals provided the closest finishes in the Munster Open at Limerick. With several Juniors involved the prospects for the future look brighter than they have for some time.

Terry Dolan of Galway in his first year as a senior lost -20 in the third to International Alistair Cairns (Bangor). Mickey Greene (Dublin) lost to current international Kevin Keane (Dublin) -18 in the third and Frankie Glynn of Limerick lost 20, -19, -21 to Colum Slevin. In the last quarter Joe Hickey (Dublin) beat Derek Weir (Newtownards) 20, 13.

In the semis, Keane beat Hickey 19 in the third with a high looping return which just caught the finest corner of the table. Slevin had a comfortable win against Cairns 10, 15 although the score in the second belies the quality of the game with Cairns spectacularly retrieving some wonderful shots from all corners of the playing area. The final was an anti-climax with Slevin beating Keane 8, 17.

Anne Leonard (Dublin) took the Women's Singles title in her customary manner beating Mary Sheehan (Limerick) -16, 12, 10. At 11-all in the second after losing the first it looked as if Anne was in trouble but Mary could not sustain the effort. Anne in partnership with Liz Cash (Comber) easily won the Women's Doubles beating Mary and Anne McLoughlin (Limerick) 18, 11 in the final. The Men's Doubles final produced an upset when Cairns and Weir beat Slevin and Keane 16, -17, 15. After their win against the Austrians in the European League match it was a surprise to see them go down, but the Cairns-Weir partnership is a long-standing one, and their greater experience proved adequate to the occasion.

AUGUST T.T. COURSES ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL COACHING COMMITTEE OF THE E.T.T.A.

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Coaching Course at Littlehampton, Sussex.

Staff:

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Yorkshire's Melody Ludi, winner of the women's singles title in the Stiga Irish Open.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES by Jack Chalkley

CLOSE FINISH EXPECTED

In the County League, Wolverhampton "A" have built up a big lead in Division 1 with 8 points from 5 matches but both Potteries "A" and Stone "A" have maximum points from two matches apiece so a close finish to the season can be expected. County League Secretary, Bob Carr, tells me that a number of matches have had to be postponed due to the weather and this has affected league positions at the halfway stage. In Division 2, Darlaston "A" have 6 points from three matches, and Stafford "A" and Wolverhampton "B" have the same number of points having played an extra match. Stone "B" and Wolverhampton "D" both have maximum points from 3 matches in Div. 3, and Leek "B" and West Bromwich "B" top Div. 4, each with 8 points from 4 matches. In Div. 5 Stafford "C" lead Lichfield "A" by a point after 4 matches, the latter having dropped a point to their "B" side.

The county League continues to prosper this year with 37 teams entered from 12 leagues, many of them from the smaller leagues which have little chance of top honours but nevertheless aim to give their better players and up-and-coming juniors an opportunity of more competitive play.

The most notable upsurge in junior interest is in Stafford, where their two outstanding young players, Paul Dilger and Bill Bridgeman dominated the local individual championships, each appearing in four finals. At the end of the day honours were even between the two, for although Dilger beat Bridgeman in the premier men's singles event, the result went the other way when they met in the Under-21 final. Both matches were closely fought out over three games, and provided the large gathering at the M.E.S.C. clubhouse in Stafford with a real feast of exciting, hard-hitting table tennis. 15-year-old Paul Dilger is the youngest-ever player to win the men's singles and he takes over the crown from John Taylor, 12 times past winner, whom he beat earlier in the quarter-finals. The Finals night was dominated by junior players. The mixed doubles was an all-junior affair, Bridgeman and Rachael Roberts beating Dilger and Lynn Burgess over three games, and Richard Bridgeman, Bill's younger brother, appeared in 2 finals, winning the Handicap but losing out to the experience of veteran Dave Coates in the Consolation. Veteran Bill Bridgeman Senior, of course, is a long-standing and popular figure in Stafford table tennis circles.

The progress of juniors in Stafford is a great credit to Ron Harvey, the County Coaching Secretary, who has devoted himself to the coaching sessions at the Stafford Riverside Centre over the past two years or so. The results achieved are beyond all expectation, and the appearance of several Stafford names in the County Rankings bears witness to the standards being reached.

In the Stafford League, Bill Bridgeman is leading Trades and Labour "C" towards the 1st Division championship, although the experienced trio of John Taylor, Barry Donnelly and Simon Probert together with young Hugh Edwards in the M.E.S.C. "A" team are only a point behind and a close finish is likely. In nearby Stone the fight for top honours is clearly between two teams, Doulton "A" and Meaford "A". Meaford had the better of a tight tussle in the first half of the season, but Doultons were without unbeaten Tom Ball on that occasion so the return match is likely to decide the championship. Meaford's Emlyn Williams is the only other unbeaten player in the 1st Division so individual honour has to be decided at the same time.

In the Beattie Trophy semi-final, Walsall beat Darlaston 5-3 but the result of the other semi-

final between Potteries and Wolverhampton is not to hand. The County "B" side lost to Cheshire 8-2, but the County juniors have been successful in several tournaments around the country. Andrew Dixon has recovered from his foot operation and is back in form with wins in the Lincolnshire under-14's and in the under-17's at Exeter. This was his first under-17 success and he did well to overcome Paul Stratton (Middlesex) in the final. Andrew Bellingham had a good win over Colin Wilson (No. 2 in the national ranking) in the Cotswold Junior Select Tournament, but then went down to Skylet Andrew (No. 16) in the final. Jill Harris won the Glamorgan under-17's and Fiona Elliot the under-14's and together they teamed up to win the under-17's doubles.



PAUL DILGER, Stafford men's singles winner.
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BILL BRIDGEMAN, gained his revenge over Dilger in the under-21's.
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County senior rankings are as listed below; junior rankings remain unchanged from the list published earlier in the season.

- Men:**
1. A. Isaac
 2. A. Bellingham
 3. A. Rich
 4. A. Dixon
 5. E. Wilkes

6. P. Anderson
7. S. Deakin
8. S. Dunning
9. K. Fellows
10. J. Deakin
11. M. Evans

Women:

1. J. Carr
2. S. Cain
3. J. Harris
4. J. Chubb
5. S. Hunt
6. P. Brookes
7. K. Wass
8. C. Underwood
9. V. Bellingham

Geoff Williamson tells me that the Lichfield League is bulging at the seams (his expression) with 26 teams in 3 divisions. No doubt he is referring to the growth of table tennis in many of the smaller leagues following the World Championships and the television exposure. Lichfield are justifiably proud of their junior team in the Midland League, currently heading their division, no mean feat in a league noted for its consistent high standard.

Reference to television exposure reminds me of the problem faced by umpires in top level table tennis. Umpires are, of necessity, always right, but we all know them to be fallible on occasion. A lot of publicity has been given to the problem of observing the service, but there also seems to be difficulty in judging a side edge. This is particularly so in local table tennis, but it was unfortunate to see recently on television a deciding point being awarded on a very contentious side edge. There seems to be a tendency to allow the return as good if it goes anywhere near the top edge of the side of the table, and I think it would help a lot of players — and umpires — if Table Tennis News were to publish an illustrated article on the subject. I have always understood that if a ball returned from outside the table does not gain any extra movement or propulsion from hitting the edge (i.e. the reflected angle is no greater than the incident angle) the return should be adjudged a fault since it did not hit the top of the edge. A few diagrams might help to improve our judgement.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

CLEAN SWEEP FOR WENDY

In the Norfolk Closed at King's Lynn Corn Exchange it was a clean sweep for Wendy Hogg, who retained her singles and women's doubles titles and added the mixed for good measure. For this, she was awarded the Victor Ludorum. Douglas Bennett also did well, retaining the men's crown, which he has won for the third time in four seasons. This time, the speed of his counter-hitting meant that he did not lose even one set. Worthy of mention is Trevor Bunn, who appeared in three finals, one of which he won.

Results:-

Men's Singles:

D. Bennett bt T. Bunn 18, 15.

Women's Singles:

Miss W. Hogg bt Susan Allen -19, 18, 11.

Men's Doubles:

M. Musson/T. Bunn bt D. Smith/P. Tye 13, 16.

Women's Doubles:

W. Hogg/Mrs. R. Hogg bt J. Dixon/B. Pearson 12, 10.

Mixed Doubles:

W. Hogg/Paul Durrant bt Sue Allen/T. Bunn 18, 18.

Veteran Singles:

Dave Hardy bt Arthur Cropper 16, -13, 15.

A record entry with over 380 matches meant that the King's Lynn Championships at Lynn Corn Exchange the following day were not over until 11.30 p.m. Nevertheless, the finals were only 20 minutes behind schedule. Junior Robert Swift (Wisbech Inst.) seeded 1, outpointed his seniors to add the Open Singles to his Junior title and also took the Men's Doubles with Chris Brewer (Gaywood Conservatives). Jane Hunter, seeded No. 1, lost this time to Anthea Rudd, seeded 2, whom she defeated last year, but she had con-

solation by taking both Women's and Mixed Doubles titles.

Results:-

Open Singles:

R. Swift bt Jim Defty (P.O.).

Men's Doubles:

Swift/Brewer bt Defty/Hewett.

Women's Singles:

Anthea Rudd (Wisbech "A") bt Jane Hunter (Gaywood Cons.) 18, 18.

Women's Doubles:

Jane/Ruth Hunter bt Sally Hayes/Pauline Bond.

Mixed Doubles:

Brewer/Jane Hunter bt Defty/Sally Hayes.

Junior Singles:

Robert Swift bt John Frost.

Veteran Singles:

Ken Sutton (Phoenix) bt Peter Saunders (CeColl).

Divisional Winner:

2—Richard Hall, 3—Peter Shaw, 4—Keith Brown, 5—Peter Smart, 6—Alan Leggett.

Graham Eastwood Memorial Trophy for best performance:

Jim Defty.

Wyomondham League's championships saw black-bearded Steven Howlett retain the Men's Singles title with great ease. Margaret Hales, No. 1 lady, lost however to Janet Moore, in turn ousted by Linda Kowalski in the final.

Results:-

Men's Singles:

S. Howlett bt S. Bassett 4, 11.

Women's Singles:

L. Kowalski bt J. Moore 20, 18.

Men's Doubles:

D. Unwin/A. Buckingham bt L. Rayment/J. Ryder -17, 11, 18.

Mixed Doubles:

S. Howlett/Janet Moore bt Bob King/Margaret Hales 11, 14.

Junior Singles:

D. Unwin bt A. Buckingham 18, 9.

Veteran Singles:

Ronnie Annison bt Jim Ryder -19, 23, 17.

Div. 2 Singles:

Janet Moore bt Lawrence Caley 8, 14.

Div. 3 Singles:

Kim Downes bt Chris Whitehouse 18, -19, 13.

Handicap:

S. Howlett bt Paul Brown 43-36.

In the late January County Championship matches, Norfolk's chance of remaining in Div. 2 East looked much brighter following their 6-4 win over Bedfordshire at Luton. Musson and Turner each winning two singles and Bennett one. Turner also took the Men's Doubles with Bennett. The second side suffered a disappointing 8-2 defeat against Cambridgeshire II. Trevor Bunn and Steven Howlett scoring for Norfolk. This Div. 3 East match was at May and Baker's, Norwich.

Our T.S.B. Junior first side came within an ace of winning their first points in Div. 3 Junior S.E. when facing Essex III at Halstead. David Unwin won both his singles and the boys' doubles, and Ruth Harrowven/Zoe Nichols took their doubles. It was a disappointment when Andy Buckingham failed at deuce in the third when we were 4-5 down. Finally, our T.S.B. Junior second team were drubbed 7-3 by Cambridgeshire II at May and Baker's, Norwich. Sarah Bignell had a good win and Richard Stevenson also won one, plus the boys' doubles with his twin, Martyn.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

NORTH SEA CUP

The Newcastle representative table tennis team paid their biennial visit to Bergen during the period Feb. 5-11 for their annual North Sea Cup match and participation in the invitation tournament. Twenty-eight players took part, including four from the Durham County Assn. — Ian Svenson, Nigel Jobling, Julie Smith and Janice Fowles — and all enjoyed tremendous Norwegian hospitality, in spite of failing to regain the North Sea Cup.

Svenson was the most successful player in the invitation tournament, losing to Bergen's Roy Heggelund in the final of the men's singles. Julie Smith and Pauline Jackson were losing semi-

finalists in the women's singles, as were Aubrey Drapkin and Jim Brumby in the men's Class "C" singles. Jobling was the most successful junior, reaching the semi-final of his event.

The North Sea Cup was lost 0-5 in spite of some very close matches. The men's first team (Svenson, Frank Mitchinson and Peter Whiteman) lost 2-5, but the highlight of this match was the victory by "Slim" Whiteman over the Norwegians' best player and previous day's tournament winner, Heggelund. Svenson won the other set. Both the men's doubles and women's matches were desperately close affairs, and both were lost 4-5. Whiteman and Arnold Warents were outstanding in winning all three of their sets, but unfortunately the combinations of Mitchinson/Svenson and Dave Armstrong/Jimmy Scope could win only one set between them, the former combination being the pair concerned.

Julie Smith and Pauline Jackson won two each in the women's match, both recording victories over the previous day's tournament winner, Solveig Greve, but found Liselotte Erentsen in good form, and with Lily Aust unfortunately failing to win a set, eventually lost by the same score. The men's second team (Armstrong, Scope and Warents) lost 3-5, with Warents again showing the most consistency by winning two sets, and Armstrong one.

The juniors (Jobling, John Burke and Hender-son Yeung) found the opposition too strong, and lost 1-5, with Jobling winning the only set. Friendly matches involving the rest of the party included an extra men's team (Michael Watson, Aubrey Drapkin and Alan Morpeth), women's second team (Janice Fowles and Olive Drapkin), junior girls (Susan Norris and Janet Aust), cadet team (Nicholas Jeffrey and Andrew Drapkin) and junior boys' second team (Alistair Collin, Nicholas Ringrose and Jim Brumby), but these were all lost by wide margins.

Northumberland's County fixtures involving the first and junior teams away to Lincolnshire on Feb. 16 had to be postponed owing to adverse weather conditions, but the second team did manage to travel to Ormesby for their fixture away to Cleveland II. They must have wondered whether the effort was all worthwhile, as they lost by the unexpectedly disappointing margin of 1-9, with Malcolm McMaster winning the only set against Paul Hindle.

In the Wilmott Cup match away to Carlisle, a weakened Northumberland team of Andrew Clark (2 sets), Alan Thompson (1 set) and Bob Dodds lost 3-6 to a Tony Clayton-inspired side who had already beaten Ormesby in the previous round. To celebrate the farthest they have ever advanced in this competition, Carlisle presented pens and notebooks to the team captain and three Northumberland players concerned, and we wish them the best of luck in their next match against Hartlepool.

The Rose Bowl team of Nancy Kirsop, Pauline Jackson and Brenda Potts had little chance against Ormesby's team of Angela Tierney, June Williams and Jane Skipp, and lost 0-6, although Nancy did succeed in taking one end from June Williams.

Finally, a date for your diary — the 1979 Northumberland Closed Championships will be held at the Concordia Centre, Cramlington, on Saturday, Apl. 21. Composite entry forms will be sent to all clubs in due course.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

FESTIVAL

Thanks to the splendid sponsorship of the Trustee Savings Bank and the dedication and perseverance of Norman Hooper and his helpers the Surrey Junior Closed tournament was an outstanding success. The large number of spectators, the special attempt at presentation, including an excellent programme, and the keenness and high standard of the players produced an event which was more of a festival than just a tournament.

The juniors from Guildford, products of the coaching scheme run by John Diggins and his merry band, had two field days and captured six of the titles. Star of the events was 14-years-old Mark Oakley who took the U-17 boys' singles

and completed the astonishing record of having won the County title at U-11, U-12, U-13, U-14, and now the senior event.

Shock of the tournament was the defeat of the favourite, Steve Holloway, by Stephen Woodgate in a devastating display of hitting in the semi-final which he could not reproduce, against Oakley, in the final. Another great display was that of Graham Russell who was out on his own in the under-14's.

Results of the finals were:-

U-12 Boys' Singles:

John Cornelius (New Malden) bt Jose Manuel Gay (Reigate) 11, 5.

U-12 Girls' Singles:

Lesley Popkiewicz (Croydon) bt Jane Mills (Guildford) 10, 18.

U-14 Boys' Singles:

Graham Russell (Guildford) bt Nicky Hoare (New Malden) 16, 14.

U-14 Girls' Singles:

Sarah Cresswell (Guildford) bt Michele Hams (New Malden) 10, -20, 12.

U-14 Boys' Doubles:

Russell/Gavin Kemp (Guildford) bt Hoare/Neil Sutton (New Malden) 17, 10.

U-14 Girls' Doubles:

Cresswell/Hams bt Mills/Nicola Taylor (Guildford) 13, 19.

U-17 Boys' Singles:

Mark Oakley (Guildford) bt Stephen Woodgate (Guildford) 17, 9.

U-17 Girls' Singles:

Lorraine Garbet (New Malden) bt Kerry Merritt (Guildford) 6, 14.

U-17 Boys' Doubles:

Oakley/Glenn Baker (Guildford) bt Steve and Paul Holloway (Earlsfield) 14, 18.

U-17 Girls' Doubles:

Merritt/Averil McMahon (Streatham) bt Cresswell/Garbet 21, -15, 15.

U-17 Mixed Doubles:

Baker/Cresswell bt Oakley/Garbet 12, 17.

The Guildford League is aiming for a "first". Plans are afoot for that league to join the "white hot technological revolution". Watch this space!

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

THRICE DEFEATED

ENGLAND No. 20 Les Eadie, the Essex county player is trying hard to make his mark in Sussex and is almost succeeding. In three tournaments within the county, so far, he has reached the men's singles final and then failed to clinch it.

Eadie travels in his job in Sussex and spends some time in the Worthing area. His first loss in a final came in the Hastings Tigers Open where at the time he was odds-on to beat the tenacious Malcolm Francis, the Uckfield semi-professional. Francis nailed him again on Feb. 11 in the final of the Seaman Cup at Haywards Heath.

In between, a week earlier, Eadie again reached the last hurdle at the Woking championships, but fell to the still improving Peter Puddock of Littlehampton, now looking much more like his England No. 14 ranking.

Back to the Seaman Cup, there were a number of prominent absentees — Chandler, Ogundipe, Smith, Horton, Emecz, Puddock and Stephen Moore. But those present put up a good show. Graham Gillett managed to overcome John Clarke in five games, but he became an Eadie victim in the semi-finals. Francis took four games to fool Eadie at the end of the day.

With Chandler enjoying a well-earned rest it looks as though Sussex are going to be hard-pressed to retain the championship of Division 2 (South). Phil Smith leads them against Dorset and Gillett gets another chance amongst the big boys.

Diane Griggs regained the Nicholls Cup for the top eight Sussex women when in the final she disposed of the new Sussex champion Carol Hewett (Crawley) easily in the third. Having won the Sussex crown it looks as though Carol is resting on her laurels or perhaps Diane is getting more accustomed to playing against those long pimples!

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

CURTAINS FOR MARK!

A quieter period for the County than prior to my last report!

In the County Championships Hampshire first team lost to Kent II 3-7 in quite an entertaining match, with both Keith Summerfield and Chris Shetler losing very close third games early in the match. This can be the County's failing in men's singles — they get close but don't win!

Serina Sinanin continues to improve and clearly justifies her No. 1 women's ranking. She won her singles against Marilyn Dudgeon and combined with Angie Gilbert to win the women's doubles. I felt a little sorry for Mark Romano of Kent — it just wasn't his night. First he had numerous differences with the curtain which now restricts the run back at the Merton Club, before a collision with it left his bat in two pieces. Then he had a continual battle with his high "chinese" service, coming into contact with the low lights. To complete his evening playing with a borrowed bat he lost his singles against Derek Holman. A good job he has such a pleasant temperament.

In the later match against Sussex II again at Bournemouth — in Dorset, Hampshire played well to win 7-3. For the first time in many years the men excelled winning all their six singles. Derek Holman played particularly well to win each of his sets in straight games. Also the men's doubles went Hampshire's way for the first time recently. The Hampshire champions Summerfield and Shetler just have not been winning this event for the County and Holman was brought in to partner Shetler and a win resulted. Predictably against a County who have always had good women players, Hampshire lost the three female events but in the singles Serina Sinanin and Angie Gilbert each did well to take Julie Reading and Christine Randall to a third game.

The second senior team continued their winning ways with a 9-1 defeat of Northamptonshire. In the following match against Hereford the County lost the first three men's singles but recovered to win the remaining seven sets to record their fourth win and now only Oxford stand between them and promotion. Dave Large and Kathy Conlan (Basingstoke) Steve Kitcher (Portsmouth) with Southampton's Chris Wilshere and Ann Longland make up this team.

Hampshire's veteran first team had a good 8-1 win over Dorset I and followed this with a 7-2 win over Dorset II. They now go into their final match against Avon needing a win to ensure they once again go forward to the play-off.

Hampshire's second veteran team had a heavy 1-8 defeat against Kent with Danny Allen winning the single set. Again, it is unfortunate that the second team have been placed in a much stronger division than the first team. This means that although the first team may win through to the play-off, their matches during the season are not as good and the second team are virtually on a hiding to nothing against the strong South division teams. Again, against Sussex they were on the wrong end of a 2-7 score line.

The Junior first team's matches against Cornwall and Wiltshire II were weather casualties.

The Junior second team went down 3-7 to Kent with Clive Young winning two singles and Beverley Nicholson one. Their 4-6 defeat against Berkshire II on the table was turned into a 6-4 win on paper as their opponents fielded two ineligible players.

In the inter town league the current situation at the top is as follows:-

Veterans' Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bournemouth 'A'	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Portsmouth 'A'	6	6	0	0	42	18	12
Aldershot	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Bournemouth 'B'	6	2	2	2	34	27	6
Southampton	6	3	0	3	31	29	6
Mixed Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bournemouth	5	5	0	0	59	1	10
Portsmouth	4	3	1	0	40	8	7
Aldershot	5	2	1	2	25	35	5
Basingstoke 'A'	4	2	2	0	30	18	4

Men's Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Southampton 'A'	6	6	0	0	54	16	12
Basingstoke	5	5	0	0	47	3	10
Southampton 'B'	6	3	1	2	31	29	7
Portsmouth	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Andover	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Aldershot	6	3	0	3	27	33	6

Junior Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Aldershot 'A'	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Isle of Wight	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Bournemouth 'A'	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Basingstoke 'A'	4	2	0	2	17	23	4

Junior Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Portsmouth 'A'	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Southampton 'B'	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Aldershot 'B'	3	3	0	0	21	9	6

Leaders of the mixed division Bournemouth have to play both other unbeaten teams Portsmouth and Aldershot in matches which will clearly determine if Bournemouth retain their title. Similarly, Southampton are leaders of the men's division and their match against the other unbeaten team, the holders Basingstoke, takes place early this month.

Junior division holders Aldershot have already beaten Bournemouth and their closest rivals are surprisingly the Isle of Wight only just promoted from the second division. A March match between these two teams could well be a close affair. Three unbeaten teams in the second junior division with obviously all still to play for. Bournemouth and Portsmouth lead the veterans' division but each still have to play Aldershot who have only dropped one point to date.

In Bournemouth Merton "A" won all their first half matches and have a clear lead at the top of the Premier Division with Martin Abbott unbeaten. I was sorry to hear that Marjorie East has resigned as Hon. Sec. of Bournemouth. I am sure they will miss her although I understand Dot Robins has taken over the job.

In the Bournemouth Individual Tournament held at Winton Y.M.C.A. before over 80 spectators, John Robinson won the men's singles beating Abbott in the final — 21, 15, 17. These two combined to beat Trevor Smith and Jason Creasey in the doubles. Creasey beat Robinson in the Premier Division event. In the juniors, Lean Horman won the under-13, Mark Warner the U-15 and Creasey the U-17. Norman Sugarhood won the veterans'. Several events, including all the women's finals were postponed due to illness or absence of players and will be held at a later date.

Winchester first division is still dominated by two teams with Winnall "A" leading from Hursley "A". A repeat of their first half win over their close rivals early this month is all Winnall need to wrest the title from the current holders. Winchester closed tournament is to be held at the Lido Sports Centre on Sundays, March 25 and April 1 with the finals night at Winnall on Saturday, April 28.

The Isle of Wight first division is a bit closer than usual but Ryde are still favourites to win their fifth successive title after beating their closest challengers Columbia 6-4 in the second half match after drawing in the first half. The vital difference was that Carl Preen beat former County player Jim Daly, his first singles loss in four years, in the earlier match but lost the return 19, -19, -19. Still that's not bad for a cadet!!

The Southampton John Jaques Premier division has now turned slightly in favour of Snows "A" after former leaders Lyndhurst "A" lost to the Snows "B" team. However, the balance was restored when Lyndhurst "A" beat Snows "A" 6-4 with Abbott winning his three. The John Jaques Premier "B" title looked to rest between Four T's "B" and Alpha "B" but after a 10-0 win over their rivals Alpha must be clear favourites. The Southampton closed tournament will be held at the University Sports Hall on Sat./Sun., March 24/25 with the finals staged on the Sunday at 7 p.m. After their successful Kohno v Douglas match at Fleming Park Sports Centre last Summer, Southampton are hopeful of obtaining a European League match next season with again Fleming Park, with a possible 1200/1500 capacity, a likely venue.

In the Hampshire Schools Individual Championship held at Redbridge the winners were as follows:-

- Boys U-19:** Steve White (Itchen College, Southampton)
- Girls U-19:** Theresa Jupp (Itchen College, Southampton)
- Boys U-16:** Tony Palaczky (Harriett Costellos, Basingstoke)
- Girls U-16:** Beverley Nicholson (Glen Eyre, Southampton)
- Boys U-13:** Mark Wilding (Cowplain Comp.)
- Girls U-13:** Alison Billmore (Wakefords, Havant)
- Boys U-11:** James Stopher (Bassett Green Middle, Southampton)
- Girls U-11:** Sarah Hammond (Bassett Green Middle, Southampton)

Best final was in the Boys' U-13, where Mark Wilding beat Ian Whyton (Andover) 16, -24, 21.

KENT NOTES

by Eileen Koutikoff

ALL GOING FOR JOHN

It seems to be all happening for John Dabin this season! Not only has he had a successful season on the tournament circuit, which pushed him up to No. 9 on the England ranking 1st, but was also selected to represent England in the first Israeli Open in Tel-Aviv. John's tremendous performance in Tel-Aviv was probably instrumental in the English selectors picking John again to represent England in the Commonwealth Championships to be held in Edinburgh over Easter.

The Kent seconds are going great guns in the Division II South. In their first game of the season they beat Hertfordshire 8-2. In their second match they fielded the squad of Andy Mitchell, Mark Romano, John Burleton, Marilyn Dudgeon and Mania Ball and they beat Hampshire 7-3.

Andy Mitchell beat the Hampshire No's. 1 and 2 Chris Shetler and Keith Summerfield, in straight games. Kent can still expect great things from Andy, he has undoubtedly still got the Old Mitchell Magic! but the extra 5lbs he is carrying in weight, is making it just a bit difficult to wave his wand! But Andy assures me he is training hard, and I have never known him to be keener.

Mark Romano had a frustrating time in this match, as when he doubled up with John Burleton for the men's doubles, he fell backwards through the background curtains and did a somersault over some obstacles stacked behind. Although Mark was not injured, his bat was, and as he did not have a spare with him, borrowed one from the Hampshire ladies.

With an alien bat, Mark and John were 6-13 down in one game but eventually won it 22-20. They lost the second game but came back to take the third 21-17.

Mark also beat Shetler in a close set that went to three hard games, and Mark needed all the concentration and determination he could muster to win 21-19 in the third.

Mark's set against Derek Holman saw him struggling again after one game all, in the third Mark served two high Chinese style balls, which both hit the light fitting and gave his opponent two valuable points, as he lost the game -19. Andy Mitchell commented "Mark was a shade unlucky to lose that game!" Perhaps now he sees the light he will stick to traditional services!!!! (Andy started the puns).

Burleton was in very good form and took the set against Holman in straight games but against Summerfield it became very much a needle match! The usual cool Burleton lost the first game -19, but then got a little upset with his opponent's barracking and put his anger into his shots and the determination of a red-head is always 100% and John took the next two 15, 15.

Although Marilyn Dudgeon lost her singles, 15-years-old Mania Ball made a sparkling debut for the 2nd team, in what was described to me

as the most entertaining match of the day. Mania fought hard and played some fantastic shots and beat her Hampshire opponent 24, 19. Mania is a young lady to watch, she seems to be coming to boiling point.

Kent lost the women's doubles to Hampshire.

The Junior first team won their match in the 3rd division South against Hampshire II 7-3, which puts Kent at the top of the table. The Kent Juniors consisted of Pete Roberts, Paul Colvin, Richard Beckham, Tracey Sivyer and Karen May.

Kent's next match is against Buckinghamshire but consider their biggest challenge to be Oxfordshire who they play in their last game.

Kent Veterans had a very bad start to the season but seem to be getting some of their past year's form back as they had a convincing 8-1 win over Hampshire.

SOMERSET NOTES

by Graham Green

FIRST TEAM SUCCESSES

Somerset's first team gained a success when they travelled to Gloucester for their second match of the season in the 2nd Division West. In excellent playing conditions Somerset scored a 9-1 victory with Gloucester's only win being from Dave Harvey over John Hartry in a closely contested set.

However, playing conditions were not ideal when the team travelled to Avon. The main problem being the highly polished hall floor. Somerset took full advantage of the absence of Chris Sewell, due to illness, but with the score at 6-1, Brian Reeves rushed in to retrieve a drop shot from Martyn Smith, Brian lost his footing and fell head first into the table rendering himself unconscious. He was taken by ambulance to Bristol Royal Infirmary where he was treated for concussion. The match was abandoned, Brian's retirement gave Martyn the victory. The final result was agreed as an 8-2 win for Somerset.

Somerset II's entertained Cornwall at Taunton in December. The match started badly for Somerset with the first three men's singles being won by the visitors. Somerset came back into contention by winning both doubles, Cornwall then took a winning lead before Betty Norman scored the home team's only other success by beating Sharon James by the narrowest margin in the deciding game.

Somerset II scored their first success in the 3rd Division West since entering the County Championships. This was at the expense of Avon II at Bath, Somerset's victories being obtained by Graham Green (2), John Crabtree (2), Betty Norman and both doubles.

This report would not be complete without congratulating both Phil Riley and Andy Creed who made spirited debuts by both winning one singles and fully extending their opponents in the other sets. The Somerset Junior team highlighted their improvement during the past year by drawing with Cornwall, a side who they lost to last season by a 10-0 margin. Somerset's victories came from David Wilson (2), David Lee (1), Kevin Salter (1) and the boys' doubles.

The Junior match against Avon saw little success for Somerset with a 'whitewash' being avoided in the last set of the afternoon, with Lee beating Peter Barnes.

Bridgwater League teams entered the National League competitions at all levels. The junior boys lost in the first round to Bristol, the junior girls lost in the same round to Exeter, unfortunately both defeats being by a 9-0 margin. The women's team beat Reading in the first round, but then lost to a very strong Newbury side. The men's team succeeded in beating Exeter before losing narrowly to a strong Bristol team.

The season's second Somerset Senior Trials took place at Chilton School, Bridgwater on Dec. 10. Pat Reeves returns to No. 4 after a period of absence during which time she produced a second daughter. John Crabtree, now scoring some notable victories, improves his ranking to No. 6. The leading junior David Wilson appears at No.

14, recent results suggest that he will gain higher ranking in the very near future. The County selectors also feel he has potential as they have included him in the most recent senior second team. The new list is:-

Men	Women
1. B. Reeves (F)	1. J. Green (B)
2. J. Hartry (W)	2. A. Taft-Heath (D)
3. R. Morris (W)	3. B. Norman (B)
4. C. Feltham (F)	4. P. Reeves (F)
5. G. Green (B)	5. N. Palk (T)
6. J. Crabtree (B)	6. W. Pryce (B)
7. J. Garland (W)	7. V. Frost (B)
8. E. Brown (Y)	8. S. Bamford (T)
9. R. Thornton (B)	9. W. Payne (B)
10. R. Neal (Y)	10. J. Woodhouse (Y)
11. R. Trimm (Y)	11. J. Coleman (Y)
12. R. Heggarty (W)	12. D. Bee (Y)
13. C. Glover (T)	
14. D. Wilson (B)	
15. D. Lee (B)	
16. K. Salter (T)	

Key:-

F—Failand, W—Weston, B—Bridgwater, Y—Yeovil, T—Taunton, D—Dulverton.

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

WELL DONE ELAINE

Belated congratulations to our No. 1 girl, Elaine Lamb, who reached the last sixteen of the Women's Singles at the Norwich Union International, at Brighton. Elaine is employed by the Norwich Union Group and I am sure they are just as pleased as we are.

In the County Junior Closed at Plymouth, on Sunday, Feb. 4, Gary Lambert continued in good form by winning the Under-13 and -15 events and just failing to make it a 'hat-trick' in the under-17 final against holder Paul Whiting. The 12-year-old from Exmouth, who has averages of 90% and 73% in the top divisions of the Exeter and Plymouth leagues respectively, easily won the first game and held five match points in the second only to see Paul pull off yet another of his 'Houdini' tricks to take the game and the following one to retain his title. This was, without doubt the best final of the evening and both players fully deserved their applause.

One interesting competitor was 10-year-old Valda Lake, daughter of former England International Pam Mortimer, who is now, happily, recovering from another operation. Valda inherits her mother's determination as she is also a very promising tennis player and, who knows, a successful career in sport may be on the horizon.

In the battle of the 'giants' amongst the girls, Plymouth's Carol Butler came out on top against Gina Pritchard in both their finals which went to expedite in the first game of each match. During the matches involving these two very talented players the attitude of the majority of the spectators angered and saddened me and, in my view, made a mockery of the word 'sportsmanship'. It was perfectly natural and understandable that the home supporters wanted their player to win and there can be no doubt that Carol fully deserved her wins, producing some brilliantly controlled table tennis, which was greeted with thunderous applause each time a winning shot was made but Gina and other visiting players also produced some excellent play which deserved appreciation but was seldom given. Adults can accept this kind of attitude but youngsters are deeply affected by it and sport is one medium in which rancour and vindictiveness should be set aside.

The championships were superbly organised by the Plymouth League and our grateful thanks go to Brian Rogers, Graham May and their team of willing and hardworking helpers. County President Mrs. Frances Jarvis presented the awards.

Results:-

U-11 Boys' Singles:
S. Palmer bt M. Guther 12, 12.
U-13 Boys' Singles:
G. Lambert bt M. Ellett 18, 13.
U-15 Boys' Singles:
Lambert bt N. Wilson 14, 11.
U-17 Boys' Singles:
P. Whiting bt Lambert -6, 25, 16.

U-11 Girls' Singles:

S. Butler bt V. Lake 16, 13.

U-13 Girls' Singles:

C. Trainer bt S. O'Leary 18, 22.

U-15 and U-17 Girls' Singles:

C. Butler bt G. Pritchard 17, 17 and 12, 16.

Boys' Doubles:

Lambert/Ellett bt C. Bunch/G. Wiltshire 19, 13.

Girls' Doubles:

J. and G. Pritchard bt D. Roberts/S. O'Leary 17, 12.

Mixed Doubles:

Lambert/J. Pritchard bt S. Gwynne/N. Pine 17, 13.

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by Laurie Selby

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Karl Bushell gave himself a happy birthday in the Swindon closed championships. The 24-year-old celebrated by winning the men's singles and wrapped up a fine performance by taking the men's doubles with Ken Oung.

Ken's wife Pam, who only entered the doubles because she is expecting, figured in one of the biggest upsets of the tournament.

She teamed with Sylvia Morse to defeat top seeds and holders Claire Maisey and Pauline Townsend in the final of the women's doubles. Sylvia has been playing in the tournament for 26 years — and this was her first title.

Claire won the senior and under-17 singles and Pauline took the Under-15 title. The two won the girls' doubles.

Steve McBean snapped up three titles — the U-17 and U-15 singles and the boys' doubles with Lance Morse.

Eddie Roofe and Tracey Watkins were the mixed doubles winners. Helen Watkins beat off the boys to win the U-13 mixed singles and Brian Freeman was involved in the longest final before winning the veterans' singles.

Wiltshire table tennis-ites are over the moon with the success of Kevin Satchell in jumping from 18th to 4th place in the national Junior rankings.

After all, it's not often the Moonrakers are among the shooting stars!

Life, they say, begins at 40. But that's not when table tennis life as a veteran should start, say the Wiltshire county committee. They think 40 is too young and are proposing that the starting age should be upped four years. Perhaps there's a case for having junior veterans, senior veterans and even veteran veterans!

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Dimmock

CLOSE TO THE POINT

The County senior teams are still looking for those elusive first points of the season; in the latest matches they both lost 4-6. The first team, at home against Norfolk, lost all but one of the men's sets, the exception, a notable performance by team captain Dave Rawlinson in beating Doug Bennett -15, 13, 11.

Martin Walters and David Sharpe put effort and fight into their play, but they lacked the experience to put their opponents under real pressure, but this will come. Our women turned up trumps, once again, Barbara Hammond and Lisa Bellinger convincingly winning their doubles and singles sets which kept us in the match right to the last set of the evening.

The second team, away to Hunts, introduced two new faces, both played extremely well Keith McConnell beating K. Green 10, 18 and in a closely contested set losing to A. Gray -13, 16, -17. Ron Chambers, the other new team member, showed just how well he can play by beating Green in straight games and then against T. Speller, which was the most exciting set of the match, with fortunes swinging first one way then the other, neither player deserved to lose, but alas Ron went down 8, -16, -20.

Derek Holden lost his first set in a very uncharacteristic way, for him, to Gray -18, -5 but turned in a good performance to beat the Hunts No. 1 Tim Speller 21, 11. In the men's doubles Holden and Chambers lost to Speller and Gray 11, -18, -24 and the scores indicate just how close we are to getting to winning vital games.

For the women Julie Dimmock turned in a very fine performance to beat Melanie Ringrose -13, 15, 13. Audrey Robinson in a close set lost to S. Upton and we lost the women's doubles. Hence the final match score was 4-6. So close yet so far from a first point.

The tournament circuit has highlighted that the County has a lot of promising younger players. The Cadets are perhaps, where we have the most strength in depth. At the recent Cotswold 'Select' it was heartening to the Bedfordshire contingent who were watching the final stages of the competition. Three tables were in use and Beds was represented on all three. Lisa Bellinger against Laura Goldsmith (Middlesex) in the final of the U-12 girls' won 15, 17. David Sharpe in the semi-final of the U-14 boys' against Eddie Gorniak (Middlesex) lost -15, -14, but David had earlier put out the No. 2 seed Gary Lambert. Jackie Bellinger against Amanda Judd (Cambs) in the semi-final of the U-14 girls' winning 12, 14. Jackie went on to win the final fully justifying her No. 2 national ranking.

The Leighton Buzzard T.T. League, formed in 1929, are holding a Golden Jubilee Celebration Dance on Friday, April 27. Tickets are available from Dolly Harmer, so come on you retired league players let's see you at this get-together. Reminisce about old times; perhaps you will find yourself a team for the 79/80 season!!

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

DICCON THE CHAMPION

Diccon Gray (Millom) is the new Cumbria Closed men's singles champion following his triumph in the annual championships at Whitehaven Sports Centre. Diccon, last year's runner-up to Chris Reed, started favourite for the main event and he progressed smoothly to the quarter-final where he did well to survive against Bill Robinson (Barrow). He then defeated Ian Reed (Millom) in the semi-final to face a surprise finalist in Stan Halesworth (Barrow).

Stan had played well to come through unseeded and on the way he accounted for No. 7 seed Eddie O'Hara (Barrow) in Rd. 3, the No. 2 seed David Kirkpatrick (Carlisle) in the quarters and the No. 6 seed Andrew Pachul (Millom) in the semi-final, the latter being the closest with Halesworth winning -22, 19, 20. The final however ran true to ranking with Gray taking a comfortable 10, 16 win.

Clarice Rose (Westmorland) is the new women's singles champion and her final victory over Gail Smith (Millom) seemed well deserved after wins over the reigning champion Bella Gray (Millom) and then Mary McPortland (Barrow) in the semi-final. Mary having earlier disposed of the No. 1 seed Jennifer Willis (Carlisle) in the 2nd round.

Diccon added another individual title to his name by winning the Boys' singles with success over Ian Reed. Ian took the first game quite comfortably and held an 18-16 lead in the decider but Diccon squeezed home first in a match which could have gone either way. The two players later combined to win the men's doubles although their final opponents Robinson and Halesworth made them fight all the way for it, the Barrow pair were in fact the first to reach 20 in the second after winning the first.

Gail Smith and Eddie O'Hara both retained the respective girls' and veterans' titles and Stephen Dixon retained the U-14 singles trophy for the Westmorland League, following David Archer's initial success last year, with a good win over Tim Pachul (Millom). Stephen in fact had a successful tournament on the whole and apart from his U-14 success he reached the semi-final of the U-17 singles where he went out to eventual winner Gray and with his partner, Archer, reached the semi-final of both the men's and junior doubles, losing

to Gray/Reed and A. Pachul/David Round respectively.

Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Gray bt I. Reed 6, -11, 12;
S. Halesworth bt A. Pachul -22, 19, 20.

Final:

GRAY bt Halesworth 10, 16.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

C. Rose bt M. McPortland 15, 13;
G. Smith bt J. Sephton (Millom) 21, 18.

Final:

ROSE bt Smith 21, 16.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Gray bt S. Dixon 12, 14;
I. Reed bt A. Pachul 18, 18.

Final:

GRAY bt Reed -13, 21, 19.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

G. Smith bt M. McPortland 7, 15;
B. Gray bt J. Sephton -18, 18, 12.

Final:

SMITH bt Gray -19, 19, 19.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Gray/Reed bt Archer/Dixon -20, 15, 14;
Halesworth/Halesworth bt A. Manson/E. O'Hara 14, 9.

Final:

GRAY/REED bt Halesworth/Robinson -17, 20, 17.

Women's Doubles Final:

J. WILLIS/K. WILLIS bt Sephton/Smith 19, -17, 15.

Junior Doubles Final:

A. PACHUL/D. ROUND bt Gray/Reed 12, -4, 19.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

D. GRAY/B. GRAY bt I. Reed/Sephton 13, 13.

U-14 Singles Final:

S. DIXON bt T. Pachul 13, 17.

Veteran Singles Final:

E. O'HARA bt M. Yardley (Barrow) 11, 11.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The County Junior 2nd team is the only one to have played recently and their last two matches have brought welcome success with an 8-2 win over Cleveland II and a 5-5 draw against Cheshire II, both away from home. The whole team, comprising Archer, Dixon, Round, Bella Gray and Pam Bickerdike are all playing much better than in their earlier matches and Stephen in particular has been the outstanding player in the last two matches.

In the first match against Cleveland, Stephen, Bella and Pam were all unbeaten with the two Davids losing just one each. The Cheshire match produced another good performance from the team and they were unlucky to come away with only one point. Stephen once again won his two singles, beating the Cheshire No. 1 T. Turner 20 and 18 and the No. 3 S. Davies 22 and 17. Round supported well and for the first time this season he remained undefeated with two good wins also over Davies and the Cheshire No. 2 P. Flint. Pam gained our other win and produced her best form when it was needed by taking a 10-1 lead in the deciding game of her singles eventually winning 15, -13, 13. Archer had particular bad luck and his two singles results show just how close we were to taking both points. David lost -18, 21, -20 against Turner and -15, 16, -19 against Flint.

INTER-LEAGUE COMPETITION

Reigning champions Carlisle top the league table with three wins out of three and in their latest match they scored a 9-3 win over Whitehaven. Kirkpatrick was undefeated for the leaders with three wins over Jimmy Cummings, Stephen Crosby and Bernard Hand. Ian Wallace lost just the one to Cummings while Paul Watson managed one, surprisingly against Cummings. Whitehaven had to concede two sets due to the unavailability of a women player.

Westmorland, after their early defeat by Carlisle, have come right back into the reckoning with good wins over both Whitehaven and Barrow. Their young but extremely competent side of Archer, Dixon, Kelvin Myers and Clarice Rose earned their first win over Whitehaven and three singles wins for Dixon, including a 16, -17, 19 win over veteran Hand at a crucial stage, helped them to a 7-5 success.

Westmorland's second win was as surprising as it was deserved over a strong Barrow team containing three County seniors in Mason, Robmson and Halesworth. The 9-3 scoreline could have

been much closer with nine of the sets going into a deciding game. Archer and Miss Rose were unbeaten in singles and doubles while Halesworth was best for Barrow with wins over Dixon and Myers, Robinson gained their third win.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Carlisle	3	3	0	0	29	7	6
Westmorland	3	2	0	1	20	16	4
Barrow	3	2	0	1	20	16	4
Whitehaven	4	1	0	3	24	24	2
Millom	3	0	0	3	3	33	0

WESTMORLAND NOTES

Judging by the exploits of young Stephen Dixon already mentioned in this report, the Westmorland League certainly have just cause to feel that they have one of the most promising youngsters ever to come out of Cumbria and at the age of 14 (on 11/3/79) Stephen is already the leading player in that league this season, with one defeat from 33 played. His form of late at both County and Inter-League level must put him on the verge of the England Cadet rankings.

STOP PRESS

Wilmott Cup:

Carlisle 6 Northumberland 3
3 wins for Tony Clayton, 2 for Kirkpatrick and a solo for John Willis.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

TOP SPOT FOR ALAN

Birmingham teacher and former Hull player Alan Fletcher tops the Yorkshire men's list for the first time in his career in new rankings issued by the county selectors. At present, no new cadet ranking lists have been considered. The revised lists are as follows:-

Senior and Junior Ranking Lists

Previous positions are shown in brackets.

Men

1. Alan Fletcher (Hu) (2)
2. Tony Clayton (Hu) (1)
3. Steven Mills (Sh) (3)
4. Andrew Metcalfe (Le) (4)
5. Tony Bottomley (Ha) (6)
6. Clem Lo (Br) (8)
7. Michael Harrison (Hu) (5)
8. Richard Priestley (Br) (9)
9. Joe Naser (Hu) (—)
10. Robert Shutt (Br) (7)
11. Stephen Kosmowsky (Br) (13)
12. Nicky Davies (Le) (10)
13. Adrian Hill (Br) (11)
14. Michael Stephenson (Br) (14)

Women

1. Melody Ludi (Br) (1)
2. Sally Midgley (Br) (2)
3. Helen Shields (Br) (4)
4. Julie McLean (Hu) (8)
5. Maureen Gott (Y) (3)
6. Jane Guanaria (Le) (5)
7. Sylvia Broadbent (Br) (6)
8. Carole Cowell (nee Grayson) (Hu) (7)

Boys

1. Hill (1)
2. Mark Illingsworth (Ba) (4)
3. Sean Madden (Hu) (3)
4. Roger Palfreeman (Br) (5)
5. David Illingsworth (Ba) (7)
6. Ian Duxbury (Le) (6)
7. Tony Sanderson (Y) (8)
8. Neil Bailey (Sh) (—)
9. David Rawley (Y) (9)
10. Neil Barley (Hu) (10)
11. Ricky Burrett (Hu) (17)
12. Trevor Watson (Wa) (—)

Girls

1. Midgley (1)
2. Lesley Broomhead (Sh) (2)
3. Tracey Robertshaw (Br) (3)
4. Melanie Seaton (Do) (7)
5. Julie Speight (Do) (5)
6. Angela Lutkin (Hu) (4)
7. Angela Hudson (Hu) (6)
8. Josette Ryalls (Sh) (8)
9. Julie Todd (Br) (9)
10. Carole Raynor (Br) (10)

Key:-

Ba—Barnsley, Br—Bradford, Do—Doncaster, Ha—Halifax, Hu—Hull, Le—Leeds, Sh—Sheffield, Wa—Wakefield, Y—York.

Overlooked by the selectors, York's former Irish international Steve Tracey replied in the best possible way by beating all three county-ranked players representing Hermits (Bradford) in straight games in the Yorkshire Senior Club Championships quarter-finals. Tracey's team, York Railway Institute, won convincingly 5-2, and Hermits' downfall began when 14-year-old Tony Sanderson defeated Mick Stephenson in the opening set and continued with John Elliott getting home against Richard Priestley. Steve Kosmowsky and Priestley each scored once for Hermits.

In the semi-finals of the Junior Club Championships, Barnsley North End defeated last season's finalists Unity (Bradford). North End's Mark Illingsworth was undefeated, with wins over Neil Harris and Roger Palfreeman, who also lost to Mark's younger brother David.

Sheffield retained their Yorkshire League Division 1 title by beating Leeds 8-2. Sheffield were represented by Derbyshire county players David Rayner (a former Yorkshire player) and Ivor Warner, and by Leicestershire's nationally-ranked Chris Rogers, now at Sheffield University. The two Leeds wins were by Andy Metcalfe over Warner and the men's doubles. Represented by Rogers, Worksop's Martin Kinsella and Steve Mills (the only Yorkshire-ranked player in their squad), Sheffield also blasted Bradford (Lo, Kosmowsky, Stephenson) 8-2, with Mills losing to Stephenson and Kinsella to Lo. With Rayner substituted for Kinsella, Bradford II (Priestley, Jim Yeats, Shutt) were despatched 10-0.

In the National League Championships, the results of Yorkshire leagues still involved have been:-

Wilmott Cup:

Round 3
Bradford 5 Stockport 4
The result of the Wyberton (Lincs)/Hull clash was not known at the time of writing.
In Round 4, Bradford are at home to Manchester.

Rose Bowl:

Round 3
The result of the Bradford/Stockport tie was not known at the time of writing.

Carter Cup:

Round 3
The result of the Manchester/Bradford tie was not known at the time of writing.

Bromfield Trophy:

Round 3
Hull w/o Shrewsbury
Bradford w/o Leeds
In Round 4 Hull will play Bradford.

On the coaching front, sessions have started in Bradford at the Richard Dunn Centre for under-17's, and coaching continues at the Thornton, Eccleshill and Nab Wood centres. In Leeds, three new coaching groups have been started up at youth centres in outlying districts at Garforth, Bramley and Thornhill, and in Huddersfield a new club and coaching centre has been opened at Brockholes.

DORSET NOTES

by Martin Abbott

FOUR SPLIT EVEN

In the latest round of County Championships matches Dorset had four teams in action producing two wins and two defeats. The senior first team travelled to Bucks for a Div. 2 (South) game and won 6-4. Once again the women were the backbone of the victory with Joyce Coop and Rachel Mackriell, making her first team debut, winning their three sets comfortably.

Martin Abbott and Trevor Smith each won a singles and then combined to take the men's doubles. This win should ensure that Dorset compete in this division next season. Dorset's first veteran side were well and truly beaten by local rivals Hampshire 8-1, Cyril Bush winning the one.

The veteran second team fared a little better going down 3-6 to Oxon with Dennis Joyce and Norman Sugarhood each winning one singles with

the latter combining with Dot Robins to take the mixed. Dorset's other winning side were the juniors who convincingly beat Essex II 8-2 with Jason Creasey, Roger Lee, Cherry Creasey and Sarah Gilson all remaining unbeaten.

In the recent North Bournemouth 1-Star Open, Dorset players won six out of the seven titles. Although Dorset's top three men were seeded Nos. 2, 3 and 4 in the men's singles this was the title that escaped our grasp. The two Creaseys, Jason and Cherry, won four titles between them, Cherry, playing at her home club, collected the women's and girls' singles titles while Jason won the boys' singles and then combined with Trevor Smith to win the men's doubles. Joyce Coop and Rachel Mackriell won the women's doubles while Martin Abbott and Sarah Gilson won the mixed.

In the Poole League, Dorset's strongest, Lytchett "A" again look like winning the Div. 1 title after beating second placed Broadstone O.B. 8-2. Martin Abbott won three for Lytchett with John Robinson and Jeremy Musslewhite claiming two each. Trevor Smith won two for Broadstone. Lytchett, who have won the title for the past five seasons have yet to be beaten in Division 1. Their last defeat was in Feb. '73 while gaining promotion into the first division. Much of Lytchett's success must be put down to the hard-working Don Robinson whose superb organisation and management ensures the smooth running of the team. Lytchett, and indeed Dorset, are lucky to have such a man.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. Moran

CLEVELAND PREFERRED!

For yet another month the green track suits remain undefeated. Admittedly the County Premier match versus Essex was postponed, but that can be safely ignored. By the time this issue of Table Tennis News is published the match versus Cheshire will have been played and we may need all the good news we can get!

In the absence of Barry Johnson and Pat Glynn, who preferred the Cleveland Open, Barry Hayward was the solitary winner in the 9-1 defeat of the County "B" team v Leicestershire. Also weakened was the Junior "A" team away v Glamorgan. Andy Woodcock and Kevin Grundy stepped in for Bertie and Tanner and the 5-5 result was due in no small measure to the Misses Peakman and Harper who both turned in winning performances. So nice to see the females winning after such a long time. The Junior "B" went marching on with an easy 8-2 victory over Hunts away from home and look to be a very strong combination.

Competition secretary Brian Lloyd has sent me the results of the third round matches in the B. Mackie Cup and as he is the handicapper as well it could be that he is a very brave man!

B. Mackie Cup — Third Round results:-

Southalls (Rec 72) 346 Whoberley (scr) 348

Phoenix "C" w.o. Wolseley scr

A. Holden (scr) 378

Lucas Exports "B" (Rec 135) 334

Redhill "A" (Rec 126) 366 Phoenix "B" (scr) 375

Finham "A" (Rec 18) 293 Peterbrook (scr) 367

Phoenix "D" (scr) 334 Streetly (Rec 36) 349

Finham "B" (scr) 302

Rover (Acocks Green) (Rec 18) 358

Finham "C" (Rec 72) 338 Redhill "B" (scr) 369

As you can see the first match was almost perfect and others were close, but Finham "A" needed a lot of persuasion to convince them that Brian was NOT the Chairman of Peterbrook! The fourth round draw has produced the following pairings:-

Rovers (Acocks Green) "B" v Phoenix "B"

Phoenix "C" v Whoberley

A. Holden v Redhill "B"

Streetly v Peterbrook

If Brian manages to handicap all those matches to two points he is a genius. Next month I should have results from the Warwickshire Closed, the Coventry Open, the County Championships and that fourth round of the Mackie Cup. Until then ...

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Smith

DAVE RESIGNS

The County Committee have received the resignation of Publicity Officer, Dave Foulser. Dave has also resigned from the county selection committee and from the Cheltenham Association, but he will continue as the secretary of the popular Cotswold Ladies' League. Dave had been forced to take this action because of his success in the other sport he loves, Croquet, at which he has become one of the best players in Great Britain. We wish him well, and thank him for his efforts for both the Gloucestershire and Cheltenham Associations.

Until a successor is found, yours truly will be writing the Gloucestershire Notes, while Dave's job as Tournament Secretary in Cheltenham will be in the hands of John Buckland.

For so long the Cinderella of table tennis in Gloucestershire, the Stroud League's Junior team beat Gloucester in the County Junior League 6-4, this being the first time ever that a Stroud team has beaten a Gloucester team at any level. In the first match between these teams early in the season, Gloucester managed to fight back from 3-5 down to draw, but on this occasion, Stroud were indebted to Susan Giles, daughter of Stroud Coaching Officer Alan Giles, who won the vital ninth set against County No. 1 Julie Phillips to ensure a memorable result for her side. The all-round strength of the Stroud team, with each of the five players winning a singles gives encouragement to the coaches in Stroud for all their efforts.

For the first time, Gloucestershire Schools took part in the English Schools T.T.A.'s Area Team Finals. Two of the three teams that took part, at Boys' U-19 and Boys' U-16 were successful and go forward to the Regional Finals at Swindon. The two teams were both from Marling School in Stroud, while the third team to take part, Rednock School from Dursley just failed to reach the next stage, but with 3 of their players available next season, their time will come in the U-13 Boys.

Arrangements are going ahead for the Individual Schools Championships to be held on March 18th, the winners going on to the National Finals, which this year are being held at the Gloucester Leisure Centre in April.

NORTH BOURNEMOUTH 1-STAR**HARDING TAKES OVER**

by C. B. Cashell

Nearly 100 entries were received for the North Bournemouth Club 1-Star Open played on Feb. 4 and some very keenly contested encounters were seen. D. Harvey just failed to repeat his men's singles win of last season losing to David Harding of Surrey in the final.

14-years-old Cheryl Creasey took the women's singles title for the second successive time and then went on to win the girls' singles, with brother Jason winning the boys' singles.

Results:-

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Harding (Sy) bt R. Tilling (K) 16, -9, 15;

D. Harvey (Gs) bt K. Horton (Sx) 16, 20.

Final:

HARDING bt Harvey -15, 20, 12.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

C. Creasey (Do) bt J. Coop (Do) 17, -15, 10;

A. Burke (Bk) bt R. Mackriell (Do) -10, 21, 19.

Final:

CREASEY bt Burke 16, 12.

Men's Doubles:

J. CREASEY/T. SMITH (Do) bt Tilling/A. Terry

(Ha) 6, 20.

Women's Doubles:

COOP/MACKRIELL bt Creasey/S. Gilson (Do)

-16, 18, 18.

Mixed Doubles:

M. ABBOTT (Do)/GILSON bt S. Kitcher (Ha)/

S. New (Do) 12, 15.

Boys' Singles:

CREASEY bt J. Summerbell (Ha) 14, 20.

Girls' Singles:

CREASEY bt Gilson 21, 7.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

IN WITH A CHANCE

Cambs. and Essex II having won their opening two matches fought a 5-5 draw in Div. II East of the County Championships at March. This was Cambs. first point against Essex at senior level and keeps them in with a chance of winning the division. Mick Harper set the mood for the home county with a straight-games win over England-ranked Les Eadie.

Geoff Davies had to concede best to former England player Stuart Gibbs but Keith Richardson soon put Cambs. ahead again by beating Andy Bawden. They then went into a 4-1 lead by taking both doubles, the women's in particular being a praiseworthy effort with Joanne Palmer and Jane Hunter beating the experienced Elaine Sayer and Elaine Foulds.

Essex hit back and narrowed the gap to 3-4 before Richardson clinched a point by beating the luckless Eadie. Cambs. second team and Juniors showed their depth in strength by beating Norfolk at Norwich. The Seniors who have won three of four matches in Div. III East, won 8-2. Top Juniors Robert Swift and Andy Withers both showed their skill at Senior level by winning their singles. They were well supported by the two Valeries — Scripps and Parkes — who were also unbeaten. Brian Richardson was involved in both Cambs. defeats going down to Bunn and Howlett.

The Juniors with two reserves were still too strong for Norfolk II, winning 7-3. David Brammer (replacing Michael Jackman) and Paul Stacey both won their singles and Jamie Frost won one. Alison Edge taking the place of the indisposed Amanda Judd also won her singles and partnered Rachel Norris to win the Girls' Doubles.

One of the seven unbeaten records in the Cambridge League went when Great Ouse River Board II were beaten 8-2 by Saffron Walden IV in Div. VC. Bogey side Walden drew with G.O.R.D. in the opening match of the season, the only point previously dropped by the "Rivermen". Fourteen-year-old Cameron Alexander kept his 100% record in this division and was well supported by Dedman, also unbeaten.

In Div. I, Soham I continued their massacre of all opposition by beating their third team 10-0. New Chesterton Institute's forlorn chase of Soham fell further behind when they dropped a point in their 5-5 draw with St. Ives. John Thurston had a good win over Les Wooding but then surprisingly lost to Mark Fisher. Telephones took advantage of a weak Press team, who were without their Wisbech stars, to win 8-2 and so ease their relegation problems.

There is no change in Div. II with all three top teams winning against lowly opposition. Leaders Torchbearers I had a comfortable victory over Impington I and second-placed Swavesey went two better by beating bottom club Y.M.C.A. II 10-0. Impington II did not have it so easy and needed to win the final doubles set to scrape home 6-4 against Herbert Robinson. In this Division Torchbearers I (the leaders) have surprisingly been held twice to a 5-5 draw by Wesley I who actually led 4-1 in the last encounter but have faltered somewhat in other matches.

University III overhauled Fisons II at the top of IIIA by beating Wesley II 8-2 and Impington IV 10-0. Fisons kept in touch with a 7-3 win over Ely Fire Service. Police took a three points lead in Div. IIIB following wins over Press III (8-2) and Pye (9-1) but Impington III and University II have matches in hand.

Soham already have two teams in the quarter-finals of the Cambridge League Handicap K.O. Trophy and seem likely to have a third when their first team play their outstanding match against St. Ives. In their fourth round match Soham IV were hard pushed by fourth division St. George's IV but won 5-4 thanks to three wins by Anthony Booth and two from Brian Jones. Impington II found a handicap of 12 points far too much against the experience of John Ashman and Chris Everitt and the youthful promise of John's son Tim. Soham VI won the necessary five sets without conceding a game.

In the Torchbearers "derby" the fourth team

beat the third team 6-3 with Rust, Craske and Braverman winning two each but all three falling to John Jaggs. General Accident from Div. IV had a 5-2 win over third division Fisons II whose two successes came when Davidson beat Oakley and Clarke. First Division Guildhall overcame a massive 22 handicap to beat South Cambs. Rural District Council 7-2. Gerald Coteman was unbeaten for Guildhall but Albert Jackson and Eddie Sharpe had to concede to Viney. Y.M.C.A. I became the third first division club to reach the quarter-finals with a comfortable 5-1 win over L.P.A. II.

County Champion Keith Richardson who plays for Soham I is one of three players who have not yet been beaten in the Cambs. League. The other two are D. Appleby of Swaversey II in Div. IVA and Cameron Alexander, a Cambridgeshire Cadet, who is helping Saffron Walden IV in Div. VC. In addition to Richardson, Soham I have two other players in the top four places — Mick Palmer who is second and county junior Andy Withers, who is fourth. Chris Brewer of University Press is in third place.

Cambridge League leading averages:-

Div. I	Player	Percentage
100%	K. Richardson	
92%	M. Palmer	
88%	C. Brewer	
85%	A. Withers	
Div. II	Player	Percentage
93%	D. Jarvis	
86%	R. Fensom	
84%	P. Zivtins	
78%	A. White	
Div. IIIA	Player	Percentage
92%	C. Lusher	
90%	C. Davidson	
77%	S. Dunster	
75%	J. Jarvis	
Div. IIIB	Player	Percentage
93%	J. Thackeray	
90%	D. Dye	
83%	S. Stafford	
81%	J. Mann	

Cambridge League leading positions:-

	DIVISION 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Soham I	10	10	0	0	93	7	20
NCI 1	11	9	0	2	74	36	18
Press	9	6	1	2	62	28	13
St. Ives	10	5	2	3	51	49	12
	DIVISION 2						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Torchbearers	12	10	1	1	77	43	21
Impington 2	11	8	1	2	67	43	17
Swavesey	10	7	1	2	62	38	15
Haverhill	12	7	1	4	66	54	15

PROFILE — RALPH RUST

Ralph was a pre-war starter in the old Cambridge Federation League and played for the old College Servants team with success. His complete backhand play was very effective and he won many games with this type of play. When the Cambs. Association was formed in 1936 Ralph was one of the players who was most enthusiastic and was a great help. After the war he encouraged many young players including the illustrious John Cornwell and John Thurston who both told me that the cry used to be "bags I play Ralph Rust!" Ralph still continued to play in the Cambs. League and formed the Torchbearers team that has been successful in recent years and now has four teams. Now fast approaching the age of 70 Ralph still plays for the Torchbearers team in Division V of the league and has an 86% average! Such enthusiasm must carry him on to the age of 90 at least!

WISBECH CLOSED

Geoff Davies had a good victory over Brian Richardson in the final of the Men's Singles although the first game went to "deuce". In the final of the Women's Singles the up-and-coming Alison Edge defeated Jane Hunter with identical scores as in the Men's. This was a great victory by Alison and it shows that Wisbech have much potential in their ranks.

Final Results:-

- Men's Singles:**
G. Davies bt B. Richardson 20, 16.
- Women's Singles:**
A. Edge bt J. Hunter 20, 16.

Men's Doubles:

M. Jackman/Richardson bt G. Archer/J. Parkin 18, 17.

Women's Doubles:

K. Hubbard/S. Williams bt S. Hayes/P. Bond 19, 13.

Mixed Doubles:

Richardson/Hubbard bt D. Brammer/Edge 22, 15.

Boys' Singles:

Jackman bt J. Frost 13, 15.

Girls' Singles:

Hunter bt Edge 15, 17.

Girls' Doubles:

Edge/Hunter bt H. Smith/K. Long 12, 6.

Veteran Singles:

C. Halstead bt R. Williams -19, 20, 15.

Div. II Singles:

Williams bt A. Dann 11, 17.

Div. III Singles:

P. Bond bt M. Ebbens 16, -14, 18.

Div. IV Singles:

J. Rogerson bt B. Raspberry 12, 15.

Div. V Singles:

S. Spriggs bt S. Bamber 16, -20, 14.

Under-14 Boys' Singles:

M. Briston bt M. Raine -15, 9, 14.

Under-14 Girls' Singles:

G. Calvert bt H. Smith 12, 14.

S.E. MIDLANDS NOTES

by Leslie Constable

S.E.M.L. JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

IAN DOMINATES

The South East Midlands League Junior Tournament which was held at St. Neots under the direction of John Jermyn attracted a good entry. The Boys' events were dominated by Ian Haines of Milton Keynes, last year's singles winner. He defeated Andy Withers in straight games in the final of the Boys' Singles. Alison Hillard defeated Alison Edge in the final of the Girls' Singles in two straight — Alison being the product of Len Saywell's "School".

Final Results:-

Boys' Singles:

I. Haines (Milton Keynes) bt A. Withers (Cambridge) 18, 19.

Girls' Singles:

A. Hillard (St. Neots) bt D. Risby (Dunstable) 15, 12.

Boys' Doubles:

Haines/S. Lines (Milton Keynes) bt K. Nicoll/T. Chamberlain (Northampton) 20, 19.

Girls' Doubles:

Hillard/J. Randall (St. Neots) bt A. Edge/J. Dimmock (Dunstable) 16, 16.

Mixed Doubles:

Haines/Risby bt Withers/A. Judd (Cambridge) 19, 15.

Junior Singles - Divisions II and III:

I. Doughty (Leighton and Linslade) bt A. Conquest (Leighton and Linslade) 23, 19.

Girls' Divisional Singles Final:

A. Hillard bt A. Edge 19, 16.

S.E.M.L. results and observations on the league so far will be in next month's issue of the Magazine.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Brian Halliday

WORTHY WINNERS

A settled, well balanced team is giving Reading a good run in this season's Wilmott Cup. Their 3rd round victims were Staines, conquerors of Newbury, by 5 sets to 4. Dave Welsman, who seems to find Berkshire players suited to his type of game, won his three sets but fortunately the home side had paced themselves to good effect and ran out worthy winners. Simon Heaps and Andy Wellman notched up a couple of wins each and Jim Stokes won a vital set, with the pressure really on, to level the match at 4 all. The next round opponents are the strong North Middlesex squad and with team spirit sky high at present Reading could cause a shock or two.

No luck for Maidenhead who found Norwich too strong in the Wilmott Cup and their juniors

after a couple of useful wins went out to Plymouth. Reading lost 5-4 to North Middlesex in the Bromfield Trophy — consolation here was the form of Alison Gordon who recorded a maximum.

The successes of Berkshire's top players have been reported in depth in this magazine over the last couple of years and the publicity given has been well deserved. There are now several juniors following behind the star names who are on the verge of a breakthrough. Alison Burke who reached the final of the women's singles at Bournemouth has made rapid strides recently while Jenny Collins surprised even herself by using a clever all round game to reach the under-15 and under-17 finals at the Exeter Junior Open.

The old story of a lack of a quantity of strong boys still gives cause for concern. The various coaching schemes are trying hard to produce players of quality but it may be a couple of seasons before Berkshire can challenge the country's best young boys on equal terms.

No senior County matches have been played since the last set of notes but it is worth recording the magnificent win by the second team over Sussex 1st that ended that County's long unbeaten record in the 2nd division. There has been a big improvement in results for us here mainly due to Simon Heaps return to form with a couple of maximums.

The junior 2nd team found Kent too strong but had a resounding 8-2 win over Sussex. Simon Rowland, Jenny Collins and Michael Barr all opened their accounts on their debuts for the county.

The inter-town championships were completed recently and resulted in a win for Reading. The winners increased their overall points tally over the runners-up Maidenhead to become the first winners of the newly instituted Barbara Peesley Trophy. The points position at completion was READING 21, MAIDENHEAD 17, BRACKNELL 8, SLOUGH 5, DIDCOT 2.

There were several surprising results in the men's first division mainly involving Maidenhead. They caused a sensation in the first match of the day by beating Reading 'A' 4-2, Steve Brindle beating both Heaps and Stokes. They in their turn completely underestimated Bracknell and went down by 5-1. Bracknell then forced a 3-3 draw with Reading.

The winners and runner-up were as follows:-

	Winners	Runners-up
Men		
Div. 1: Reading 'A'	Maidenhead 'A'	
Div. 2: Reading 'B'	Maidenhead 'B'	
Div. 3: Reading 'D'	Bracknell 'B'	
Women		
	Reading	Maidenhead
Boys		
Div. 1: Maidenhead 'A'	Bracknell	
Div. 2: Maidenhead 'B'	Slough	
Girls		
	Reading 'A'	Maidenhead
Cadet Boys		
	Bracknell	Reading 'A'
Cadet Girls		
	Maidenhead	Reading 'A'

The Bracknell League held their closed championships recently. Personal triumphs for Graham Outrim of Wokingham and Pat McKenzie who won three titles each.

- Men's Singles:**
G. Outrim bt D. Halfpenny 12, 18.
- Men's Doubles:**
Outrim/R. Mason bt B. Halliday/E. Cripps 18, 19.
- Women's Singles:**
P. McKenzie bt C. Harmer 16, 16.
- Women's Doubles:**
McKenzie/J. Bull won final group.
- Mixed Doubles:**
Cripps/McKenzie bt D. and Mrs. D. Gilham 11, 12.
- Veteran Singles:**
B. Halliday won final group.
- U-21:**
S. Hodder bt S. Everard -17, 9, 19.
- Divisional Champions:**
G. Outrim (Premier), B. Halliday (1), S. Kirton (2), S. Pullan (3), P. Collins (6).
- Consolation Singles:**
R. Mason.

Handicap:
M. Jacobs.

The Maidenhead League have held their most successful closed championships ever. Steve Brindle after several years of near misses won the men's senior title. Pam Spooner beat the promising Susan Blackburn to gain her second singles title after a gap of 10 years.

Although a couple of the leagues top juniors were absent Martin Bartholomew and Simon Coulson won seven titles between them to keep youth well to the fore.

- Men's Singles:**
S. Brindle bt B. Parkinson -23, 15, 16.
- Women's Singles:**
S. Spooner bt S. Blackburn -10, 9, 18.
- Men's Doubles:**
Parkinson/M. Bartholomew bt Brindle/B. Sweetzer 19, -14, 18.
- Mixed Doubles:**
Bartholomew/Blackburn bt G. Davies/J. Watling -17, 14, 12.
- Junior Boys' Singles:**
Bartholomew bt S. Coulson 19, -10, 11.
- Junior Girls' Singles:**
Blackburn bt S. Collier 17, 11.
- Veteran Singles:**
C. Dyke bt T. Howie 17, -16, 11.

- U-15:**
Coulson.
- U-13:**
Collier.
- Junior Boys' Doubles:**
Bartholomew/Coulson.

- Handicap:**
Bartholomew.
- Consolation Singles:**
R. Moyle.
- Divisional Champions:**
J. Venables (1), S. Coulson (2), N. Munn (3), R. Kealey (4), G. Hough (5), N. Spratt (6).

The championships received generous sponsorship from the South of England Building Society. Mr. Tony Stoughton-Harris their Managing Director presented the prizes.

There have been several changes in the new ranking list (issued 26/1/79). S. Heaps moves from 4 to 3 Dave Barr is promoted to No. 2 while Dave Reeves is at No. 4. Jim Stokes moves up 4 places to No. 6 while Derek Basden drops to No. 8. There have been few changes in the Women's and Girls' lists although Lesley Taylor, the highly talented Omega player has not been ranked because of insufficient evidence due to illness. In the boys' list newcomers Simon Rowland and Paul Halliday come in at 8 and 9 positions respectively.

In the National Club Championships Omega 'A' and Ibis 'A' clash in round 3. Omega, who disposed of Ibis of London in the previous round, must be strong favourites to progress a stage further in this competition especially with home advantage. Ibis beat Marlow (High Wycombe league champions) by 5 sets to 2 in round 2.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Moss

DIFFICULT TO PREDICT

The Tournament scene is about to reach its height within the County. The County Closed Championships take place at Abbey Stadium, Redditch, on 18th February. There is a very good entry and current form shows that there will be plenty of competition and it would be very difficult to predict who will win the various events.

The Malvern Championships, which are always successful, take place on Sunday, 4th March, and the following weekend the Worcester Championships will be held, for the first time, at the Christopher Whitehead School.

The County I team has been struggling this season having recently lost to Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Glamorgan. Bob Brown, who has returned to the team this season, has been the most successful and determined player. Janet Hunt has also continued in good form. She has had some really hard fought matches and shown the necessary determination and fighting spirit required by a County team player.

The County II team has been faring much better with Lynda Reid and Mandy Mytton making a good contribution. It is very pleasing that Mandy Mytton has really settled down well as a senior team player. The team narrowly lost to Hampshire but had a very good win over Bucks.

Recent exciting news from Worcestershire's point of view has been the outstanding success of two youngsters at the Reading Tournament. Jeremy Duffield won both the boys under-14 singles and, together with Andrew Dixon of Staffs, won the boys under-14 doubles. Although Jeremy, England No. 5 under-14 junior, has won various doubles titles at England Cadet level and reached individual semi-finals on a number of occasions, this was his first major singles success nationally since he won the England Schools under-11 tournament in 1975. On his way to the title he disposed of two boys ranked higher than himself, Gary Lambert (2) of Devon and doubles partner, Andrew Dixon (3) 17-21, 23-21, 21-16, in the final. This provided excellent preparation for Sunday's Wores. Closed at Redditch where he will be the No. 3 seed in the Men's Singles.

Jeremy represents CMC in Kidderminster Division I where his team look certain to retain the championship, and he attends the Regional Centre for Table Tennis Excellence, Wolverhampton, twice a week.

Ten-year-old Murray Jukes provided the second success in reaching the final of the boys' under-11 event against strong opposition from various parts of the country. En route to the final he defeated representatives from Derbyshire, Cheshire, Middx. and Kent before losing to Carl Preen from the Isle of Wight, already ranked at Under-14 level.

The Association is to organise a Social event to be held after the end of the season. It will be on the same basis as one which was so successful two years ago. For the first time the County Closed trophies, and also ones for Team Competitions, will be presented. Details will be publicised as soon as arrangements are completed.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Iris Moss

PLAYING HAVOC

This year's weather is playing havoc with all outdoor sports fixtures, but must be affecting table tennis too where long distance travelling is involved. Middlesex have been fortunate in that the majority of their fixtures during the worst of the weather have been against fairly local Counties but I should imagine that things are much worse elsewhere. Our Junior Premier team has at last managed to get started on their programme and I was very pleased to hear that they won their first 3 matches over the week-end of 3rd-4th February.

During March we will be organising the Junior Ranking Tournament (also known as the Middlesex Junior Authorised) on the 3rd and the Middlesex Closed Championships on the 18th. These events are being held at the South Ruislip and Queensmead Leisure Centres respectively and we hope by then the weather will have improved sufficiently for all the players to arrive. I hope to have a report on the Junior event in next month's edition, but unfortunately the Closed will be just that bit too late.

The season for League Closed Championships seems to have arrived although I have not had any results so far. It will be interesting to see whether any new names emerge — if I am informed of the results. I often wonder whether other County Secretaries have as much trouble as I do in finding out what is going on at League level.

As usual, North Middlesex League are doing well in the County's Inter-League Championships with the exception of the Ted Connell (Veterans) Competition. North Middlesex is a League which has always been "rich" in playing strength and one wonders what is the secret of their success. Certainly they deserve it as they work hard to earn it, from coaching right through every stage of the game. A lot of Leagues could, I am sure, learn from them.

THE 1979 STIGA WELSH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS



MILAN ORLOWSKI
(Czechoslovakia)

Photo by Geoff Newman of Maldon, Essex.

RECORD FOURTH WIN FOR JILL

by George R. Yates

Overshadowing the record fourth win by **Jill Hammersley** in the women's singles event of the Stiga Welsh Open, played at the National Sports Centre for Wales in Cardiff's Sophia Gardens over the period Feb. 9/11, was the feat of Czechoslovakia's **Milan Orlovski** in winning the men's singles, men's doubles — with **Gabor Gergely** of Hungary — and the mixed, with **Eva Ferenczi** of Rumania.

The men's team event was won by **Hungary**, who beat Yugoslavia 3-1 the latter country's **Branka Batinic** and **Erzebet Palatinus** winning the women's doubles. But it was **England's** Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard who triumphed in the women's team event beating Hungary's Judit Magos and Gabriella Szabo 3-2 in a fascinating midnight finish.

In this latter event Jill and Linda, representing England I, were in receipt of a first round bye and a gentle easing into the competition with a match against Turkey which must have proved a 'delight'. Belgium's Germiot sisters, Marie-France and Veronique, caused little more effort except in the doubles but from thereon the path became rugged.

The semi-finals had England facing Sweden I represented by Ann-Christin Hellman and Marie Lindblad, the former ranked No. 2 behind Judit Magos and one position higher than Jill in the revised European classifications. And it was Hellman who drew first blood by beating Linda in the opening set only for Jill to equate the match score with a win over Lindblad.

The English girls showed their expertise in winning the doubles but then Jill faltered for, after winning her opening game against Hellman, she slid to defeat in the next two leaving Linda the task of accounting for Lindblad for the match. This she did but only after losing the first game -13 and getting home 22-20 in the second.

Jill then equated the match score in beating Magos and once again it was Linda who had to face up to the pressures of winning her final set, against Szabo, for the match. Coming back from an opening game deficit, Linda showed her mettle in winning the next two for England to take the cheers and the title.

England's second string team in this event, Karen Witt and Anita Stevenson — the pair accompany Jill Hammersley to Pyongyang — began with a 3-1 win over Luxembourg the one to get away being a loss for Anita against Carine Risch. But against Risch and the formidable Jeanny Dom, Karen had no trouble at all although the doubles proved troublesome with a 22-20 victory in the third.

Curtains came in the subsequent round against Rumania whose master tactician Maria Alexandru and reigning European Youth champion, Eva Ferenczi, swallowed up our girls without so much as a hiccup.

MEN'S TEAM

England I in the men's team event was represented by Desmond Douglas and his fellow Bundesliga player Jimmy Walker. They began their run by beating Norway 3-1 Jimmy losing to Jorgen Gierloff who Des beat 9 and 10!

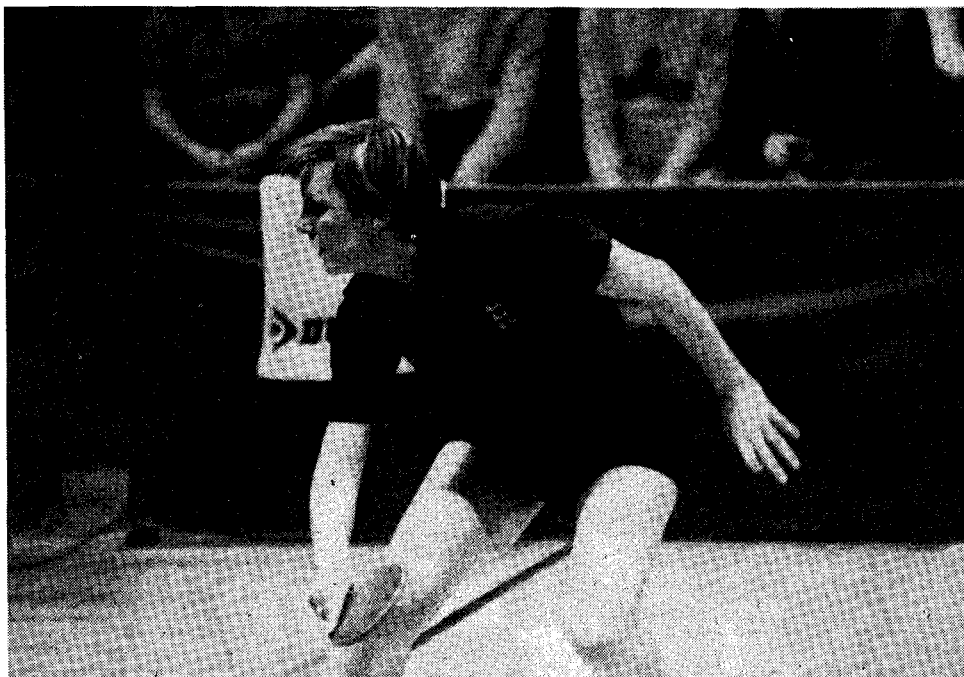
Then followed a match against the team from the principality with the Welsh dragon in evidence on the shirts of Alan Griffiths and David Welsman. And here again, it was Jimmy who failed in losing to Griffiths in the opening set. But Des shrugged off the setback by accounting for both Welshmen in straight games with a doubles win sandwiched between.

That win took us into the quarter-finals and opposition in the persons of Ulf Thorsell and Lars Franklin, representing Sweden I, who had seen off Netherlands II (3-0) and Federal Germany II (3-1).

Des continued his winning ways in disposing of Franklin in the opening set only for Jimmy to blot his copybook once again by losing to Thorsell. And worse was to follow when the Swedes took the doubles 9 and 12. Des then beat Thorsell leaving Jimmy with the unenviable task of 'taking' Franklin for survival.

The Clevelander began like a thunderbolt, to the tune of 8 in the first game, but it was Franklin who won the second at 22-20 and Jimmy had to begin all over again. To his credit he stuck manfully to the task and emerged the winner to take the team into the semis and a match against Yugoslavia's Dragutin Surbek and Anton Stipanovic.

Jimmy was first to the table, against Surbek, that wielder of the sledge hammer, who thrashed home



JILL HAMMERSLEY
(England)

Photo by Geoff Newman of Maldon, Essex.



ULF THORSELL
(Sweden)

Photo by Geoff Newman of Maldon, Essex.

in straight games. As in Duisburg, in the European Championships, Des was not intent on losing a set nor did he beating both Yugoslavs to equate the match score after defeat in the doubles.

Once again, as against the Swedes, it was Jimmy who claimed the spotlight in the final meeting with Stipanovic and in winning the first game hopes were high. But they were subsequently dashed as Stipanovic got a grip and never let go in the next two.

England II in this event had John Hilton and Alan Fletcher as a team and in losing 1-3 to Denmark failed to inspire.

Claus Pedersen was the match winner for the Danes beating both Englishmen, Hilton over three, the Lancashire player having previously beaten Palle Rud 7 and 12. But a -15, -8 reverse in the doubles sealed their fate.

Hungary, the eventual winners, beat Yugoslavia 3-1 with Tibor Klampar, twice a victor in singles, and Gabor Gergely and Istvan Jonyer successful in the doubles. Surbek was the losing finalists' only winner beating Jonyer 24-22 in the third.

INDIVIDUALS

Jill Hammersley in winning the women's singles title for a record fourth time — her first as Miss Shirley in 1971 — broke the 3-way tie of triple successes which she had shared with Diane Rowe (Mrs. Ebby Scholer) and Ilona Vostova of Czechoslovakia.

Relaxing her grip only in the third game of her final encounter with Ann-Christin Hellman, Jill regained her confidence in the fourth to take the title 3 games to 1. En route to her success Jill had put down the challenge of Marianne Domonkos (Canada), Marie Lindblad, Ursula Hirschmuller (Federal Germany) — this after losing the first game -7 — and, in the semis, Szabo.

England's only other player to reach the last eight was Karen Witt who, after victories over Sandra de Kruiff (Netherlands) and, remarkably, Ferenzi, fell to Szabo in the quarters. Linda Howard after beating Karen Senior of Ireland fell to Weibke Hendriksen (Federal Germany) and Anita Stevenson fell foul of Alexandru in the first round.

Douglas, holder of the men's singles title and undefeated in the team event, was the focal point of great expectations moreso after his quarter-final victory over Klampar who, this season, has carried Europe on his back.

But sadly the Warwickshire left-hander allowed his semi-final opponent, Ulf Thorsell, to upset him with a little gamesmanship and a slowing down of

the tempo, a tactic that paid off for the Swede who, against Orlovski in the final, was just as ineffective.

No other Englishman succeeded into the last eight, Walker falling to Surbek and Max Crimmins to Gergely in the previous round. Hilton went out over five games to Engelbert Hucing (Federal Germany) and Fletcher to another German, Peter Stellweg in Round 1.

All three doubles events were latterly contested without an English pairing being involved but in taking two titles in a competition that boasted nationals from 27 countries England can justifiably feel proud of their achievements.

So too can Nancy and Roy Evans who, as ever in their own domain, worked like trojans to make the tournament the success it was despite adverse weather conditions and a depth of snow which, at one time, over the weekend, caused the M4 to be closed.

But come rain, snow, or what you will the show had to go on, and so it did . . . successfully.

Results:-

MEN'S TEAM EVENT

Preliminary Round

Netherlands II 3 Guernsey 0
A. Vlieg bt D. Rihoy 10, 11;
H. Gootzen bt C. Elliott 11, 8;
Gootzen/Vlieg bt M. Pipet/G. Willcocks 18, 11.
Spain 3 Jersey 0
J-M. Pales bt M. Le Moignan 13, 13;
S. Moles bt R. Vincent 12, 8;
Moles/Pales bt Le Moignan/Vincent 19, 15.
Israel II 3 Ireland 0
J. Bogan bt D. Weir 16, 20;
A. Rosenbaum bt J. Hickey 12, 17;
Bogan/Rosenbaum bt Hickey/Weir 20, 17.

Round 1

Sweden I 3 Netherland II 0
Federal Germany II 3 Scotland 0
H-J. Noltten bt R. Yule 16, 19;
R. Wosik bt K. Rodger 12, 19;
Noltten/Wosik bt Rodger/Yule 8, 17.
Wales I 3 Israel I 1
D. Welsman lost to D. Pollak -19, -26;
A. Griffiths bt S. Mendleson 13, 13;
bt Pollak 19, 15;
Griffiths/Welsman bt Mendleson/Pollak 11, 18.
England I 3 Norway I 1
J. Walker lost to J. Gierloff -19, 14, -21;
D. Douglas bt T. Johansen 19, 12;
bt Gierloff 9, 10;
Douglas/Walker bt Gierloff/Johansen 11, 11.

Yugoslavia 3 Iceland 0
Switzerland 3 Canada 1
Federal Germany I 3 Spain 0
Luxembourg 3 Wales II 0
C. Putz bt G. Davies 17, 12;
J. Krier bt G. Evans 14, 16;
Krier/Putz bt Davies/Evans 10, 20.
Denmark 3 England II 1
C. Pedersen bt A. Fletcher 19, 14;
bt J. Hilton 15, -17, 17;
P. Rud lost to Hilton -7, -12;
Pedersen/Rud bt Fletcher/Hilton 15, 8.

France 3 Turkey 1
Netherlands I 3 Norway II 2
Portugal 3 Belgium 2
Hungary 3 Israel II 0

Round 2:

Sweden I 3 Federal Germany II 1
England I 3 Wales I 1
Walker lost to Griffiths 18, -18, -12;
Douglas bt Welsman 7, 10;
bt Griffiths 11, 16;
Douglas/Walker bt Griffiths/Welsman 17, 12.
Yugoslavia 3 Switzerland 0
Spain 3 Malta 0
Federal Germany I 1 Luxembourg 0
Denmark 3 France 2
Sweden II 3 Netherlands I 1
Hungary 3 Portugal 0

Quarter-finals:

England I 3 Sweden I 2
Douglas bt L. Franklin 15, 12;
Walker lost to U. Thorsell -14, -15;
Douglas/Walker lost to Franklin/Thorsell -9, -12;
Douglas bt Thorsell 20, 13;
Walker bt Franklin 8, -20, 17.
Yugoslavia 3 Spain 0
Federal Germany I 3 Denmark 2
Hungary 3 Sweden II 0

Semi-finals:

Yugoslavia 3 England I 2
D. Surbek bt Walker 14, 18;
A. Stipanovic lost to Douglas -12, -16;
Stipanovic/Surbek bt Douglas/Walker 17, 20;
Surbek lost to Douglas -21, 11, -11;
Stipanovic bt Walker -16, 18, 15.
Hungary 3 Federal Germany I 0
I. Jonyer bt P. Stellweg 21, 15;
T. Klampar bt E. Hucing 17, 17;
G. Gergely/Jonyer bt J. Leiss/Stellweg 21, 15.

Final:

HUNGARY 3 Yugoslavia 1
Klampar bt Stipanovic 14, 10;
Jonyer lost to Surbek 20, -16, -22;
Gergely/Jonyer bt Stipanovic/Surbek 15, 20;
Klampar bt Surbek 18, 14.

WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT

Round 1

Canada 3 Guernsey 0
G. Nesukaitis bt K. Herquin 18, 12;
M. Domonkos bt A. Lesbirel 9, 6;
Domonkos/Nesukaitis bt Herquin/Lesbirel 13, 14.
Sweden II 3 Portugal 0
Yugoslavia 3 Scotland 0
A. Batinic bt C. Dalrymple 11, 14;
E. Palatinus bt K. Hammond 12, 17;
Batinic/Palatinus bt Dalrymple/Hammond 9, 11.
Rumania 3 Spain 0

England II 3 Luxembourg 1
K. Witt bt J. Dom 13, 9;
A. Stevenson lost to C. Risch -15, 14, -18;
Stevenson/Witt bt Dom/Risch -16, 10, 20;
Witt bt Risch 11, 10.
Netherlands II 3 Ireland 1
B. Kooten bt A. Leonard 19, 11;
M. v.d. Vliet bt E. Cash 14, 16;
Kooten/v.d. Vliet lost to Cash/Leonard -18, -19;
v.d. Vliet bt Leonard 12, 12.

Sweden I 3 Switzerland 0
Federal Germany II 3 Iceland 0
Netherlands I 3 Wales 1
L. Bois lost to S. Jones -13, -19;
S. de Kruiff bt C. Jones 13, 9;
Bois/de Kruiff bt Jones/Jones 16, -14, 13;
de Kruiff bt S. Jones 16, 9.

Belgium 3 Malta 0
Turkey 3 Norway 1

Round 2

Hungary 3 Canada 0
Rumania 3 England II 0
E. Ferencki bt Stevenson 15, 12;
M. Alexandru bt Witt 14, 14;
Alexandru/Ferencki bt Stevenson/Witt 11, 10.
Sweden I 3 Federal Germany II 0
Sweden II 3 Yugoslavia 0
Federal Germany I 3 Netherlands II 1

France 3 Netherlands I 0
Belgium 3 Denmark 1
England I 3 Turkey 0
L. Howard bt K. Poyrazoglu 9, 15;
J. Hammersley bt S. Mustecaplioglu 6, 5;
Hammersley/Howard bt Mustecaplioglu/Poyrazoglu 14, 8.

Quarter-finals:

Hungary 3 Sweden II 0
Rumania 3 Federal Germany I 0
Sweden I 3 France 0
England I 3 Belgium 0
Hammersley bt V. Germiot 8, 14;
Howard bt M-F. Germiot 18, 18;
Hammersley/Howard bt Germiot/Germiot 19, -19, 19.

Semi-finals:

England I 3 Sweden I 2
Howard lost to A-C. Hellman -12, -10;
Hammersley bt M. Lindblad 18, 18;
Hammersley/Howard bt Hellman/Lindblad 16, 19;
Hammersley lost to Hellman 11, -15, -19;
Howard bt Lindblad -13, 20, 16.
Hungary 3 Rumania 1
G. Szabo bt Ferencki 13, 10;
J. Magos lost to Alexandru -15, -18;
Magos/Szabo bt Alexandru/Ferencki -19, 16, 13;
Magos bt Ferencki -15, 18, 22.

Final:

ENGLAND I 3 Hungary 2
Hammersley bt Szabo 8, 10;
Howard lost to Magos 19, -15, -14;
Hammersley/Howard lost to Magos/Szabo -14, -15;
Hammersley bt Magos 12, 13;
Howard bt Szabo -18, 14, 17.

Men's Singles Round 3:

G. Gergely (HUN) bt M. Crimmins (Sy) 14, 14, 12;
D. Surbek (YUG) bt J. Walker (ENG) 10, 16, 19;
T. Danielsson (SWE) bt P. Stellweg (GFR)

18, 18, -12, -15, 18;
 M. Orłowski (CZE) bt A. Griffiths (WAL) 18, 11, 13;
 D. Douglas (ENG) bt D. Welsman (WAL) 15, 9, 12;
 T. Klampar (HUN) bt J. Leiss (GFR) 19, 15, 16;
 U. Thorsell (SWE) bt E. Huging (GFR) 19, -19, -9, 17, 14;
 A. Stipančić (YUG) bt I. Jonyer (HUN) 17, 17, -17, -13, 20.

Quarter-finals:
 Surbek bt Gergely -16, 19, 18, 12;
 Orłowski bt Danielsson 15, 16, 10;
 Douglas bt Klampar 18, 18, -11, 17;
 Thorsell bt Stipančić -18, -21, 19, 18, 17.

Semi-finals:
 ORŁOWSKI bt Surbek 12, -19, 13, 15;
 THORSELL bt Douglas 14, 19, 11.

Final:
 ORŁOWSKI bt Thorsell 16, 19, 10.

Women's Singles Round 2:

J. Magos (HUN) bt A. Hernvall (SWE) 8, 19, -14, 14;
 M. Alexandru (RUM) bt E. Palatinus (YUG) 18, 16, -9, 19;
 W. Hendriksen (GFR) bt L. Howard (ENG) 13, 9, 10;
 A-C. Hellman (SWE) bt A. Tierney (Cv) 12, 8, 18;
 G. Szabo (HUN) bt E. Stromvall (SWE) -11, 16, 16, 17;
 K. Witt (ENG) bt E. Ferenczi (RUM) 9, -12, 15, 18;
 U. Hirschmüller (GFR) bt B. Batinić (YUG) 9, 19, 19;
 J. Hammersley (ENG) bt M. Lindblad (SWE) 19, 18, 15.

Quarter-finals:
 Alexandru bt Magos 10, 13, 13;
 Hellman bt Hendriksen 19, 15, -17, 10;
 Szabo bt Witt 14, 17, 17;
 Hammersley bt Hirschmüller -7, 16, 12, 17.

Semi-finals:
 HELLMAN bt Alexandru 19, -17, -15, 19, 17;
 HAMMERSLEY bt Szabo 21, 15, 12.

Final:
 HAMMERSLEY bt Hellman 15, 8, -19, 15.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Gergely/Orłowski bt V. Alexandridis/O. Cimen (TUR) 16, 12, 13.

L. Franklin (SWE)/Thorsell bt Stipančić/Surbek 14, -4, 19, 19;

M. Appelgren (SWE)/Danielsson bt Leiss/Stellwag 15, -16, 21, 19;

Jonyer/Klampar bt Douglas/Walker 20, 17, 20.

Semi-finals:
 GERGELY/ORŁOWSKI bt Franklin/Thorsell 13, 16, 11;
 JONYER/KLAMPAR bt Appelgren/Danielsson 20, -17, 8, -20, 14.

Final:
 GERGELY/ORŁOWSKI bt Jonyer/Klampar 2, -15, 13, 15.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Magos/Szabo bt Hirschmüller/K. Kruger (GFR) 11, -7, 16, -17, 19;

Alexandru/Ferenczi bt Hellman/Lindblad 12, -19, 10, 14;
 Batinić/Palatinus bt S. Midgley (Y)/E. Urban (HUN) 17, 16, 15;

Hernvall/Stromvall bt P. Germain/M. Gourmelon (FRA) 20, 10, 15.

Semi-finals:
 MAGOS/SZABO bt Alexandru/Ferenczi 15, -18, 19, -19, 13;

BATINIĆ/PALATINUS bt Hernvall/Stromvall 11, -9, 20, 14.

Final:
 BATINIĆ/PALATINUS bt Magos/Szabo 10, -14, 16, 19.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:

T. Kreis (HUN)/Alexandru bt Gergely/Magos 11, 17, 19;
 Stipančić/Palatinus bt R. Wosik (GFR)/Hirschmüller -14, 12, 21, 14;

Leiss/M. Kneip-Stumpe (GFR) bt Huging/Hendriksen 13, 12, -19, 21;

Orłowski/Ferenczi bt N. Jarvis (Cv)/M. Ludi (Y) -10, 14, 9, -22, 19.

Semi-finals:
 STIPANČIĆ/PALATINUS bt Kreis/Alexandru 20, -18, 15, -17, 15;

ORŁOWSKI/FERENCZI bt Leiss/Kneip-Stumpe 13, 16, 9.

Final:
 ORŁOWSKI/FERENCZI bt Stipančić/Palatinus 16, 13, 15.

Men's Consolation Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Constance (Ch) bt T. Lopez (POR) -19, 16, 16;

G. Sandley (Mf) bt B. Kean (La) 15, 17;

A. Wellman (Bk) bt I. Collins (K) 18, 16;

M. Johns (Ch) bt J. Krier (LUX) 9, 15.

Semi-finals:
 Constance bt Sandley 16, 18;

Johns bt Wellman -12, 12, 17.

Final:
 CONSTANCE bt Johns 9, 17.

Women's Consolation Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Little (AUL) bt C. Dalrymple (SCO) 10, 19;

C. Risch (LUX) bt A. Leonard (IRE) 12, 18;

P. Soper (JER) bt C. Jones (WAL) 10, 8;

V. Germaut (BEL) bt S. Jones (WAL) -20, 24, 18.

Semi-finals:
 Risch bt Little 18, 14;

Soper bt Germaut 11, 14.

Final:
 RISCH bt Soper 19, 15.

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION

DES RUNNER-UP IN KRISTIANSTAD

Eight wins and three losses carried England's Desmond Douglas into second place, behind Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia, in the men's section of the European Union's Top 12 tournament in Kristianstad, Sweden over the period Feb. 16/18.

In the counterpart women's event Jill Hammersley, defending her title won in Prague in Jan. '78, had to withdraw with a tummy virus which caused her to be violently sick after having beaten Maria Alexandru and Erzebet Palatinus but, surprisingly, losing to Bettine Vrieskoop. Gabriella Szabo of Hungary was the eventual winner.

Douglas also had a surprise defeat when going under to Wilfried Lieck, his other losses being to Surbek and the reigning European champion Gabor Gergely. For the record the results of Douglas were:-

- bt J. Secretin 19, -16, 16, -20, 4.
- bt S. Bengtsson 16, 18, 21.
- lost to D. Surbek 19, -14, -17, -19.
- bt J. Takacs 15, 20, -16, 21.
- bt E. Huging -17, -18, 14, 11, 13.
- lost to W. Lieck -13, 11, -16, -10.
- bt I. Jonyer 19, 19, 16.
- bt T. Kreis 15, 14, -16, 16.
- lost to G. Gergely 14, -18, -18, 19, -14.
- bt P. Stellwag -18, 12, 19, 18.

bt J. Leiss 15, 19, 17.

And Jill:-

lost to M. Alexandru 20, 18.

lost to B. Vrieskoop -14, 9, -22.

bt E. Palatinus 17, 16.

scratched to L. Bakshutova -19.

Unfortunately, the severe weather conditions caused some problems — the Czech players Milan Orłowski, Ilona Uhlíková and Blanka Silhanova were snow bound in Federal Germany, and failed to make it. Tibor Klampar was ill, and fourteenth in the Classification List, Tibor Kreis, was brought in to play. Weibke Hendriksen of Federal Germany withdrew at the last moment because of the snow, and there was no time in which to arrange replacements.

Final placings:-

- Men**
1. Dragutin Surbek (YUG) 9-2
 2. Desmond Douglas (ENG) 8-3
 3. Jacques Secretin (FRA) 8-3
 4. Istvan Jonyer (HUN) 7-4
 5. Gabor Gergely (HUN) 6-5
 6. Peter Stellwag (GFR) 6-5
 7. Jochen Leiss (GFR) 5-6
 8. Janos Takacs (HUN) 4-7
 9. Tibor Kreis (HUN) 4-7
 10. Wilfried Lieck (GFR) 4-7
 11. Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) 4-7
 12. Engelbert Huging (GFR) 1-10

Women

1. Gabriella Szabo (HUN) 6-2
2. Maria Alexandru (RUM) 6-2
3. Erzebet Palatinus (YUG) 5-3
4. Ann-Christin Hellman (SWE) 4-4
5. Valentina Popova (USS) 4-4
6. Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) 3-5
7. Judit Magos (HUN) 3-5
8. Bettine Vrieskoop (NET) 3-5
9. Ludmila Bakshutova (USS) 2-6

* Although Douglas and Secretin finished equal, Des took second place because he beat Secretin and so with Szabo and Alexandru.

Prize money in Swiss francs totalled 12,000 being distributed as follows:-

Place	Men	Women
1	1,750	875
2	1,300	675
3	1,000	500
4	750	375
5	650	325
6	550	275
7	450	225
8	400	200
9	350	175
10	300	160)
11	250	135) Not awarded
12	200	110)

Surbek's defeats were to Stellan Bengtsson and Jacques Secretin whilst Szabo lost to Palatinus and Vrieskoop.

CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS

The Final of the Europe Club Cup of Champions has been reached. In the men's PSV Borussia Dusseldorf (Federal Germany), with Douglas, will play Budapesti Spartacus (Hungary) in Germany on either March 10 or 11. In the women's section Statisztika BP (Hungary) are through to the final and will play the winners of CS Arad (Rumania) or Spartak Vlasim (Czechoslovakia).

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1980

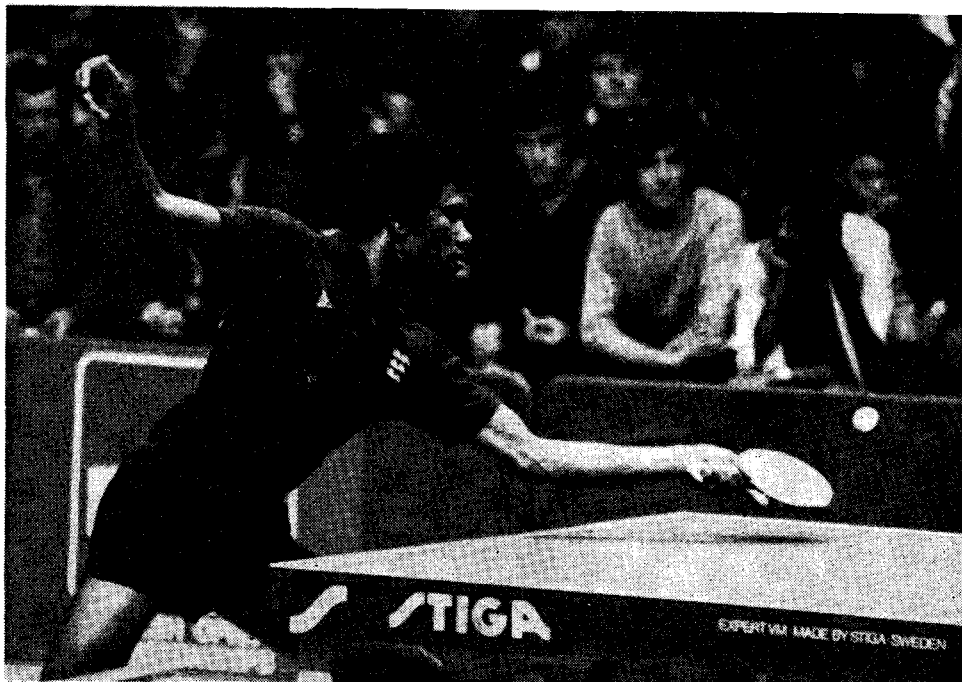
It is now definitely established that the next European Championships in Berne, Switzerland, will take place over the period April 5-13, 1980 with the Free Day on the 9th. The Biennial General Meeting of the E.T.T.U. will take place at 9 a.m. on April 10.

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

Though still by no means recovered, Charles M Wyles, the former chairman of the E.T.T.A., is now located in Mount Ward, at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, Kent.

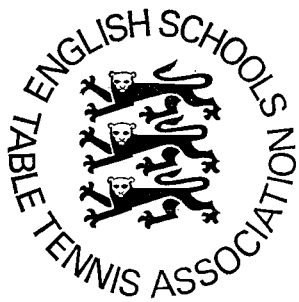
DAY NAMED

Linda Howard and Nicky Jarvis are to be married at 12 noon on Saturday, June 2 at St. Edmund's Church, Sutton Green, Woking. The reception has been booked at the Francombe Manor Inn, Francombe, Godalming, Surrey.



DESMOND DOUGLAS
(England)

Photo by Geoff Newman of Maldon, Essex.



by DAVID LOMAS

Several schools were due to make their debuts in the Grand Finals of the National School Team Championships (organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association and sponsored by Stiga AB) at Lea Green Centre, Matlock on Saturday, March 10.

Although there was a sprinkling of familiar names amongst the finalists, the qualifiers from the three Regional Finals held at Leeds, Swindon and Orpington on Sunday, February 18th managed to oust some of the "big guns" and all seven trophies were due to change hands.

For the first time since the E.S.T.T.A. organised the championships in 1968 the finalists did not include a team from the West Midlands. But the West Country was well represented with two teams each from Devon and Cornwall.

Results:-

NORTH REGION (Leeds)

B19: Millom (Cumbria)

G19: Millom (Cumbria)

B16: Riley High (Humberside)

G16: Thornes House, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)

B13: To be decided

G13: Sandal Endowed, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)

U-11: Holmgate Primary, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)

Extremely bad road conditions forced the Derbyshire teams to turn back after only three miles and created headaches for the organisers. Only three event winners were determined on the day but after consulting the Championship Referee some play-offs were quickly arranged.

Millom have strong teams in the senior (U-19) events and could become the first school to pull off "the double". Their boys team of Diccon Gray, Ian Reed, Andrew and Timothy Pachul had comfortable 8-0 wins over Culcheth (Cheshire) and Frank Wheldon (Notts) but Allerton Grange, Leeds took them to a 5-3 decision.

Two withdrawals in the girls' U-19 event meant that Millom's match against St. Mary's, Hull was the decider. Although the Humberside team had Yorkshire-ranked juniors Angela Hudson and Angela Lutkin amongst their ranks Millom's strength in depth saw them through to a 5-3 win thanks mainly to No. 4 Pam Bickerdike.

But another Humberside team, Riley High, qualified in the boys' under-16 category. Led by Sean Madden the Hull boys beat Longlands, Kendal, 5-3, and beat Culcheth by a similar margin. With a draw against Henry Fanshawe (Derbys.) sufficient to see them through to a 5-3 agreed to call it a day at 4-1 to Riley.

Thornes House, Wakefield, qualified by virtue of a 6-2 win over Ryhope (Tyne and Wear) and Walton, Liverpool, 7-1. (In the February magazine I inadvertently referred to the team from Sunderland as "Geordies").

Another Wakefield team, Sandal Endowed, secured impressive wins over Bishop Barrington (Bishop Auckland) and Fleetwood Hesketh (Lancs) in the girls' U-13 event. Three days later they entertained Tupton Hall, Chesterfield and in a close encounter wins from Karen Arnold (2) Debra Tomlin and Kathryn Dickinson put them through to Matlock.

At the same time Sandal Endowed also played Holmgate Primary, Chesterfield (last season's runner-up) in the Under-11 competition.

The Derbyshire boys were narrow 5-3 victors

and were once again shown the way by Andrew Henry who had two wins.

The Under-13 boys winners had not been determined at the time that these notes were written. Both Longlands (Kendal) and Southcoates (Hull) beat Little Moss (Greater Manchester) and then the two winners drew with each other. Tupton Hall were due to travel at later dates.

MIDLANDS and WEST REGION (Swindon)

B19: Penlee, Plymouth (Devon)

G19: Bournemouth School for Girls (Dorset)

B16: Tamar, Plymouth (Devon)

G16: Callington (Cornwall)

B13: Idsall, Shifnal (Salop)

G13: Callington (Cornwall)

U-11: Market Drayton (Salop)

Penlee, Plymouth won the boys' U-19 event although they went down 6-2 to Itchen College (Hants.). The Itchen team could only draw with Oswestry Boys and Marling, Stroud.

National holders, Highfields (Wolverhampton) crashed 7-1 to winners Bournemouth School for Girls who included Sarah New and Rachel Mackriell in their U-19 side. But Gosford Hill (Oxon) took them to a 5-3 margin.

There was an exciting match in the Boys' U-16 where Tamar, Plymouth put out another West Midlands side, Moseley Park, Wolverhampton, in a narrow 5-3 match.

Callington's Girls' U-16 and U-13 teams made it a double celebration for the school from Cornwall with comfortable wins in each event. It was also a double victory for Salop for the Boys' U-13 team from Shifnal notched three wins whilst Market Drayton only dropped one set and that was against last year's U-11 champions, Bassett Green, Southampton.

SOUTH and EAST REGION (Orpington)

B19: Swanley Comprehensive (Kent County)

G19: Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)

B16: Hereward, March (Cambridgeshire)

G16: Lister Comprehensive, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)

B13: Hillcross Middle, Morden (Surrey Metropolitan)

G13: Conyngnam, Ramsgate (Kent County)

U-11: Old Buckenham Hall, Ipswich (Suffolk)

Five schools from this Region qualified for the National Finals for the first time — the other two being well-known campaigners from Newham, Lister and Brampton Manor.

Swanley had a good all-round team which defeated previous finalists Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet (6-2), Wisbech Grammar (7-1) and Desborough, Maidenhead (5-3) in the Senior Boys' event.

Brampton Manor's 6-2 win over Tolworth Girls in the U-19 was the only sets they conceded — they had crushing 8-0 wins over Cedars, Leighton Buzzard, and St. Bernard's Convent, Westcliff-on-Sea, who had some consolation in beating the Bedfordshire girls to take third place.

Hereward School, March became only the second Cambridgeshire side to appear in the Finals when their Boys' Under-16 side of Robert Swift, Gary Jordan, Michael Jackman and Neil Parsley pipped Trinity, 5-3, to add to wins over Horsell, Woking, and Harvey G.S., Folkestone.

The Girls' U-16 category was a very close battle. Thurleston, Ipswich, were unable to travel and the contest was reduced to three teams. Lister and Bishop Reindorp, Guildford, drew 4-4 in the first match. Lister then defeated Wyndgate, Folkestone 5-3 and as the Surrey girls could only manage another draw against Wyndgate the Newham team edged through. Highlight of this last match was Carla Wilson's win over Sarah Cresswell of Bishop Reindorp.

Andrew Sexton was Hillcross Middle's outstanding player as the Merton boys reached the safety of a 4-1 lead over Bedford Modern in their deciding match.

In the other two events there were some very interesting results. The outcome depended on the final set between Conyngnam, Ramsgate, and Clacton County High School. And it was the Conyngnam No. 4, Dennise Whalen who clinched victory (5-3) with a 21-18 margin in the deciding game.

But the tightest results came in the Under-11

event. Sweyne Primary, Swanscombe looked to be in the box seat with 5-3 victories over Old Buckenham Hall, Ipswich, and Hill House, London. An inspired performance by Wallop, Weybridge, in winning 5-3 over Sweyne meant that three teams were in with a shout at the end but Ray Perrin's fall was complete when the Suffolk boys' 5-3 win over Hill House meant a close encounter of the third kind and a place in the Grand Finals by virtue of a fractionally better sets ratio.

By the time these notes appear in print the seven winners of these Annual Championships will probably be known. As for forecasts, I make but one — that once again the Finals at Lea Green will be a memorable occasion for players, parents and teachers alike.

It is hoped to include an illustrated report in the April issue of "Table Tennis News".

NEW SPONSORSHIP

The English Table Tennis Association are very proud to announce a brand new sponsorship for the sport — that of Rock Motor Parts Ltd., who, for the next three years will be putting up almost £50,000. This money will go to create two new championships every year — an U-21 international and an U-21 English.

The first of these events will take place at Crystal Palace over the 26th/27th May weekend and will see a very large prize fund in seven events. The prize fund is outlined below:-

U-21 Men's Singles
Winner—£500 Runner-up—£100
LSF—£50 LQF—£10 L4thRd.—£5

U-21 Women's Singles
Winner—£250 Runner-up—£75
LSF—£20 LQF—£8 L4thRd.—£3

U-21 Men's Doubles
Winner—£100 Runner-up—£25 LSF—£5

U-21 Women's Doubles
Winner—£50 Runner-up—£25 LSF—£5

U-21 Mixed Doubles
Winner—£50 Runner-up—£25 LSF—£5

Restricted Men's Singles
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Entries are invited from all players who were under 21 on the 1st July, 1978 — apply early because this tournament is expected to obtain one of the biggest entries of any tournament anywhere! Application forms and full details are available from the E.T.T.A. office, 21 Claremont, Hastings, E. Sussex.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

PLYMOUTH BEATEN

Early in January, Plymouth journeyed to Oldfield Park and there beat Bath 9-0 with maximum performances from Brian Davies, Mike Short and Mike Shearman. Subsequently at home to Poole, on Jan. 14, they were beaten 5-4 with the visitors' Trevor Smith claiming a treble and Martin Abbott losing only to Short.

Plymouth were again on the receiving end of a 6-3 result away to Bristol on Jan. 27 and in fact were 0-5 down before they registered their first success by Paul Whiting over Martyn Smith. Whiting scored again, over Brian Reeves, in the penultimate set and, in the final one, Short accounted for Smith. Kevin Satchell was Bristol's 'big gun' with three 2-straight victories to his name.

Bristol, represented by a totally different team, away to Bath on Jan. 13, had lost 3-6. Robert Oldfield had a treble for the victors with John Higgs doing likewise although at pains against Tony Brown with the Expedite rule in force for the second and third games of a marathon encounter which Higgs won 15, -18, 20. In contrast was the all out looping set between Steve Gregory of Bath against Andrew Creed which the latter won 12, -12, 20.

ON THE COACHING FRONT

PERIODISATION PURSUED

by DONALD PARKER

E.T.T.A. National Coach North

It must at this stage be emphasised that as well as "peaking" periodisation is also concerned with optimal realisation of potential. In other words at the end of the season or whatever the period, it is of the utmost importance that the individual is technically a better player. Therefore when planning or periodising a player's training programme these two factors must be taken into account. The emphasis placed on either one will depend upon the stage of development of the player.

In general it is true to say that in this country our players train by competition instead of for competition. Time is not set aside in the training programme for technical improvement as players compete in competition almost every weekend. The Grand Metropolitan Scheme is most definitely a step in the right direction with a weekend set aside for practice, as opposed to competition, with top class players to practice against.

Last month's article examined briefly how physical training should vary at different stages of the training programme. This month's article will look at how practice on the table should vary at different stages of the training programme in order to accommodate both technical improvement and peaking.

The first half of the preparation phase (see last month's article) should be devoted almost exclusively to working on technical matters. For example if a player needs to change his grip in order to progress further then this is the time to alter it and not the week before a major cham-

pionship. If a player needs to modify a stroke or learn a new stroke this is now the time to learn it. This is the period when the player should be concentrating on his techniques and consciously grooving in the correct ones. The coach during this period should be checking the various techniques and correcting any faults while at the same time reinforcing any good points. This is the period when the coach does most of his coaching as opposed to training and captaincy.

As the competition phase draws nearer there is a need to develop consistency with the newly acquired techniques. Therefore while there is still a certain amount of technical feedback from the coach the player should be allowed to consolidate and groove in the techniques in a consistency type practice on the table ready for competition.

Following consistency practices the emphasis should shift to regular footwork exercises, exercises when the player knows where the ball is going and must move his feet accordingly. The types of footwork patterns practiced will vary and will be dependent upon the players particular style. The aim of this particular set of exercises is to groove in the correct footwork patterns having already spent time grooving in the correct strokes.

Still working within the preparation phase the next set of exercises are moving even closer to the match situation. Irregular footwork exercises are quite simply exercises where one player acts as controller placing the ball where he likes. Therefore the player at the other side does not know where the ball is going to and must play the ball back to a set target. If the footwork patterns break down in this type of situation then more time should be spent in the regular situation grooving in the correct patterns.

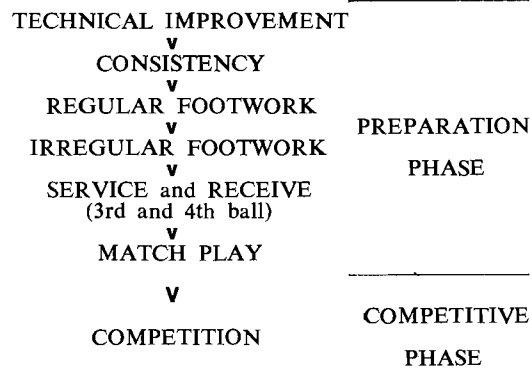
At a reasonably high standard there is no doubt that the most important stroke in the game is the service and the second most important stroke is the receive. John Clarke (Sussex) carried out a piece of research at the 1977 World Championships on behalf of the E.T.T.A. and found that approximately 50% of the points were over with the fourth ball and approximately 80% by the seventh. Therefore it is vital that towards the end of the preparation phase and throughout the competition phase a lot of time is spent on service and receive and linking these to third and fourth ball.

The final 'touch' to the preparation phase is to put all the foregoing sub-skills into the whole skill

and play some competitive matches. Some players need more match play than others before they realise their optimal performance.

Once in the competitive phase the coaches role becomes very much that of a trainer/captain. The players should not have to worry about any technical matters and should be concentrating simply on winning points rather than concentrating on their grip or whatever. The coaches role during this phase is very much in the tactical and psychological areas rather than the technical one.

Diagram One: Progression of sub-skills towards whole skill incorporating technical improvement and preparation for a peak performance.



Before finishing this article it should be emphasised that preparation for a peak performance will vary from individual to individual. However a programme similar to the one I have briefly outlined, incorporates both the technical improvement and preparation for a peak performance.

READING JUNIOR OPEN

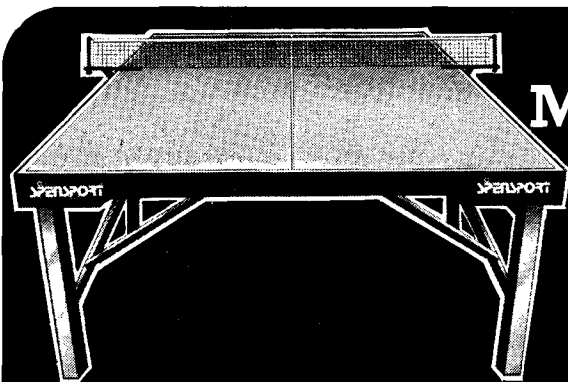
CAPACITY ENTRY

by Alan Dines

The popular Reading Junior Open again attracted a capacity entry of 336 players including a strong squad from Belgium competing for a prize fund worth about £500. The championships were sponsored by Gillette and organised by I.M.P.A.C.T. with the venue at Meadway Sports Centre, Reading, on Feb. 10/11. Thanks to detailed organisation the participants appreciated the tournament running with clockwork precision and the Finals starting on time and finishing early in the evening — still a 100% record.

Star of the Boys' Singles was 'veteran' Sam Harmer who trains at the Centre of Excellence in Reading. The main contender for the title was expected to be Desmond Charlery who just scraped through the quarter-final against Skylet Andrew who was in brilliant form. His semi-final against Stephen Moore produced two close first games but a collapse under a fierce onslaught in the third, won by Moore, 21-7. Ian Attridge made good progress to the last 16 by disposing of Martin Les 17 in the third and David Sharpe, also 17 in the third, but was not able to make much impression on Harmer. P. Brownlow reached the quarter-final via a good 15, 15 win over Glen Baker but was convincingly beaten then by Harmer. Neil Stratton after a very close win over Guy Nailis of Belgium then beat Eddie Gorniak for a semi-final place but further progress was stopped by Harmer. The Final produced some spectacular table tennis with Moore taking the first game at 19. Harmer sharpened measurably as the match progressed and by increasing the pressure on his opponent won the next two games 15 and 13. Thus the Under-17 title went to 'veteran' junior Harmer at his eighth attempt.

The girls' events were dominated by the Belgians and in particular Barbara Lippens who had won titles in previous years. Among the shock results the biggest upsets were Lorraine Garbet's narrow defeat by Sharon James, Julie Speight's win over Shirley Cain and Cathy Belcher's win against Jill Purslow. Cathy then succumbed to Linda Degg who then fought her way to the semi-final and a defeat at the hand of Barbara Lippens. Alison



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Semi-finals:
Lippens bt L. Bellinger 17, 10;
J. Bellinger bt Boeckx 17, 15.
Final:
LIPPENS bt J. Bellinger 19, 16.
Girls' Cadets Doubles Semi-finals:
Lippens/Boeckx bt Bardwell/J. Smith (He) 14, 15;
J. and L. Bellinger bt Goldsmith/M. Williams (Mi) 9, 17.
Final:
LIPPENS/BOECKX bt J. and L. Bellinger 19, 13.
Boys' Under-11 Singles Semi-finals:
Prean bt S. Groom (Sp) 10, 5;
M. Jukes (St) bt J. Stokes (Bk) 7, 11.
Final:
PREAN bt Jukes 12, 5.
Girls' Under-11 Singles Semi-finals:
A. Boxall (He) bt A. Barker (Sp) -17, 21, 18;
L. Forster (Dy) bt D. Simmonds (Sy) 9, 11.
Final:
FORSTER bt Boxall 15, 12.

Burke defeated Eleanor Hughes and then narrowly lost to Claire Maisey. Claire then came up against Barbara Lippens in the quarter-final where after a superb match she was narrowly the loser. Meanwhile Nikki Hamilton with a good win over Nathalie Boeckx of Belgium then reached the quarter-final where she lost to Jackie Bellinger who had just disposed of Sharon James. Cherry Creasey reached the semi-final with a win in the quarter-finals over Leslie Tyler. Her semi-final with Jackie Bellinger provided the spectators with a brilliant and close contest. The Final between Cherry Creasey and Barbara Lippens produced a one-sided first game won easily by Barbara. Cherry got the measure of her defence in the second and with some inspired attacking looked as though she would take the game. However, she did not quite make it and the title went to Barbara Lippens.

Results in the Cadet Boys' Singles went generally as expected except for those of Jeremy Duffield. Andrew Dixon beat Gorniak in the semi-final who had previously just beaten David Sharpe. Graham Russell beat Marc Rosseel of Belgium before losing to Duffield in the quarters. Gary Lambert won a close encounter with Carl Prean in the quarter-final before falling in the semi-final to Duffield. The Final seemed to be in the bag for Dixon, but a last moment comeback in the second game swung the match round to a win for Duffield.

The Cadet Girls' Singles proceeded fairly predictably with Barbara Lippens reaching the final with wins over Nikki Hamilton and Lisa Bellinger who had beaten Jackie Windle in the quarters. The other finalist was Jackie Bellinger with wins against Helen Bardwell and Nathalie Boeckx who in turn had put out Laura Goldsmith in the quarters. The Final was an entertaining attack versus defence match which resulted in two very close games both within seconds of the time limit, and a win by Barbara Lippens over Jackie Bellinger.

In the Boys' Doubles, Charlery and Andrew seemed to be on the way to the title with a convincing win over Baker and Les. Their opponents in the Final were S. and A. Moore who just managed a semi win over Harmer and Dixon at 19 in the third. The Final swung away from Charlery and Andrew and the Moore brothers ran out winners.

Thanks are due to the hard work put in by the Organising Committee, the team of Official Umpires, the main sponsor, Gillette Industries and to Dynamics International, T.S.P. Sports Europe and Dexter and Gordon.

Results:-

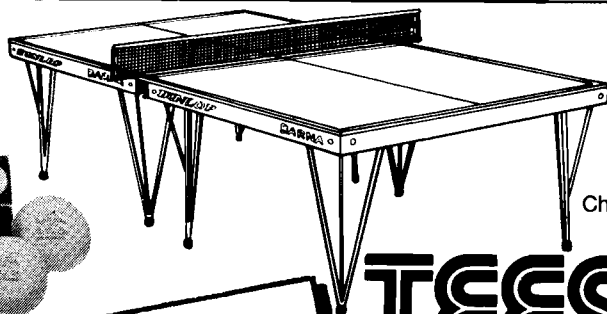
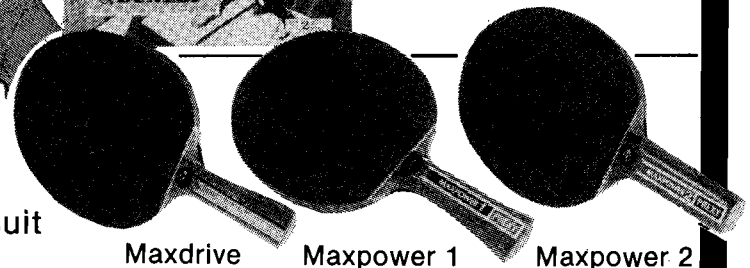
Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
D. Charlery (E) bt S. Andrew (E) 19, -14, 18;
S. Moore (Sx) bt A. Moore (Sx) 19, 16;
S. Harmer (Bu) bt P. Brownlow (He) 9, 11;
N. Stratton (Mi) bt E. Gorniak (Mi) 13, 14.
Semi-finals:
Moore bt Charlery -20, 17, 17;
Harmer bt Stratton 17, 15.
Final:
HARMER bt Moore -19, 15, 13.
Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:
Charlery/Andrew bt G. Baker (Sy)/M. Les (Mi) 17, 8;
S. and A. Moore bt Harmer/A. Dixon (St) 19, -16, 19.
Final:
S. and A. MOORE bt Charlery/Andrew -20, 17, 11.
Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:
B. Lippens (Bel) bt C. Maisey (Wi) 19, -15, 15;
L. Degg (Sp) bt J. Speight (Y) -11, 15, 19;
J. Bellinger (Bd) bt N. Hamilton (Bu) 14, 19;
C. Creasey (Do) bt L. Tyler (Mi) 10, 16.
Semi-finals:
Lippens bt Degg 10, 11;
Creasey bt Bellinger -21, 16, 19.
Final:
LIPPENS bt Creasey 9, 18.
Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:
Tyler/J. Harris (St) bt Creasey/Hamilton 13, 19;
J. and L. Bellinger bt S. Cain (St)/L. Garbet (Sy) -11, 17, 17.
Final:
TYLER/HARRIS bt J. and L. Bellinger -20, 20, 15.
Boys' Cadet Singles Quarter-finals:
G. Lambert (Dv) bt C. Prean (Ha) 22, -14, 14;
J. Duffield (Wo) bt G. Russell (Sy) 14, -14, 15;
E. Gorniak (Mi) bt D. Sharpe (Bd) 17, 20;
Dixon bt A. Longhurst (K) 20, 11.
Semi-finals:
Duffield bt Lambert -22, 12;
Dixon bt Gorniak 11, 22.
Final:
DUFFIELD bt Dixon -14, 20, 15.
Boys' Cadet Doubles Semi-finals:
Dixon/Duffield bt Prean/P. Jackson (Ha) 14, 17;
M. Rosseel/G. Nailis (Bel) bt Sharpe/C. Cluscombe 18, 17.
Final:
DIXON/DUFFIELD bt Rosseel/Nailis 17, 19.
Girls' Cadet Singles Quarter-finals:
Lippens bt Hamilton 10, 18;
L. Bellinger bt J. Windle (Ox) 10, 10;
N. Boeckx (Bel) bt L. Goldsmith (Mi) 16, 16;
J. Bellinger bt H. Bardwell (He) 14, 16.

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LANCASHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

TWO TITLES FOR 'THE DON'

by Geo. R. Yates

Preston's **Donald Parker**, the E.T.T.A.'s Northern Staff Coach, beat Mike Johns of Cheshire at British Aerospace, Bolton on Feb. 3 to win the men's singles title at the Lancashire 2-Star Open, the first Lancastrian to do so since Kevin Forshaw of Manchester triumphed in 1965.

Partnered by Lancashire's No. 1 Junior, **Paul Rainford**, also of Preston, Parker also won the men's doubles by a slender 28-26 third game margin from Alan Fletcher of Yorkshire and Nigel Eckersley of Cheshire.

Fletcher, the top seed in the men's singles, was surprisingly eliminated by Cheshire's Mark Hankey, and the top seed in the women's singles, Melody Ludi of Yorkshire, was knocked out in the semi-finals by **Susan Lisle** of Cheshire, who went on to beat Lancashire's No. 1 Diane Johnson, in the final.

The Tykes came into their own in both the women's and mixed doubles with Miss **Ludi** and Sally **Midgley** winning the former and **Fletcher** and Miss **Midgley** the latter at the final expense of Johns and Miss Ludi.

Seemingly, as ever, **Derek Schofield** took the veterans' singles title, for the fourth successive time, his final victory being over Peter D'Arcy. Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Hankey (Ch) bt A. Fletcher (Y) 20, 16;
M. Johns (Ch) bt B. Kean (La) 20, 7;
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt A. Clayton (Y) -20, 19, 21;
D. Parker (La) bt W. Percival (Ch) 11, 16.

Semi-finals:

Johns bt Hankey 13, 16;
Parker bt Eckersley 18, 9.

Final:

PARKER bt Johns 18, 19.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Ludi (Y) bt D. Schofield (Ch) -19, 9, 13;
S. Lisle (Ch) bt L. Holmes (Dy) 16, 19;
S. Midgley (Y) bt L. Fenneh (Ch) 14, 16;
D. Johnson (La) bt J. Parker (La) 16, 11.

Semi-finals:

Lisle bt Ludi -19, 9, 16;
Johnson bt Midgley 20, 12.

Final:

LISLE bt Johnson 12, 11.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Eckersley/Fletcher bt J. de Pledge/T. Hatton (La) 16, 12;

Parker/P. Rainford (La) bt Clayton/Johns 18, 15.

Final:

PARKER/RAINFORD bt Eckersley/Fletcher -17, 15, 26.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Ludi/Midgley bt Johnson/Schofield 22, -15, 15;
J. Carr (St)/Lisle bt Parker/C. Scowcroft (La) 20, 19.

Final:

LUDI/MIDGLEY bt Carr/Lisle 19, -17, 16.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Fletcher/Midgley bt B. Johns (Ch)/B. Hoyle (La) 15, 18;

Johns/Ludi bt Eckersley/Johnson 15, -23, 18.

Final:

FLETCHER/MIDGLEY bt Johns/Ludi -21, 19, 22.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

D. Schofield (Ch) bt G. Brook (Y) -17, 15, 16;
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt F. Davies (La) 10, 13.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 13, 13.

HALEXSPORT FINAL AT THE COTSWOLD SELECT

In the recent Cotswold Select tournament at Gloucester, the girl's Final was fought out between two young ladies from the Halexport stable — Helen Williams and Alison Gordon. Helen, the younger of the two, certainly showed her talent to the full, and beat Alison, in two straight games. Halexport can indeed be proud of their young players giving such a fine display of talents.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

HUNGARIAN TRIUMPH AT BELPER

by John Woodford

It needed some miraculous play by Desmond Douglas plus some splendid support if England were to win this match played at Belper Sports Centre on February 7th. Although Hungary had lost their last match to the Super Division leaders Czechoslovakia, Gabor Gergely and Tibor Klampar still seem the strongest pair in Europe.

Trudging through inches of wet snow reminded spectators that Belper is in the Pennines — but it was England who had the mountains to climb in the arena in front of a capacity house of 800.

Desmond Douglas almost got to the top of one mountain when he led Klampar 20-16 in the third and then lost the last six points. Had Desmond won the score would have been 3-3.

England's two successes came in the women's singles when Jill Hammersley beat for the fourth time in succession the European champion Judit Magos, and in the mixed doubles another success for Desmond and Linda Howard. This is the partnership now being split-up by the England selectors, at least for Pyongyang, but they played so well that night, that those selectors next season, might change their minds.

Nicky Jarvis fought like the tiger we all know him to be, but very few players get much change out of Gergely and Klampar these days. The consolations for England's defeat at Belper really came during the next few days at Cardiff when Desmond floored Klampar and continuing fine performances by Linda Howard saw the Cardiff chemists' shops running out of aspirins as the England selectors headaches increased!

Individual scores:-

D. Douglas lost to G. Gergely -18, 15, -12;
N. Jarvis lost to T. Klampar -10, -10;
J. Hammersley bt J. Magos 20, 16;
Douglas/Jarvis lost to I. Jonyer/Klampar -17, -19;
Douglas/L. Howard bt Jonyer/Magos 17, 21;
Douglas lost to Klampar 18, -18, -20;
Jarvis lost to Gergely -19, -15.

NORTHERN IRELAND TEAMS FOR COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Northern Ireland teams which have been selected for the Commonwealth Championships are as follows (writes K. C. Strong):-

Men (in alphabetical order)

Freddie Brown (Annahilt)
Alastair Cairns (Annahilt)
Thomas Heasley (Mount Y.M.C.A.)
Roger Strong (Mount Y.M.C.A.)
Derek Weir (Bangor Centre)

Women (in alphabetical order)

Elizabeth Cash (Ards)
Pat Hunter (Lisburn)
Valerie Moore (Omagh Y.M.C.A.)
Karen Senior (Lisburn)

Captains:

Roy Copes (Annahilt)
Kenneth Strong (Omagh Y.M.C.A.)

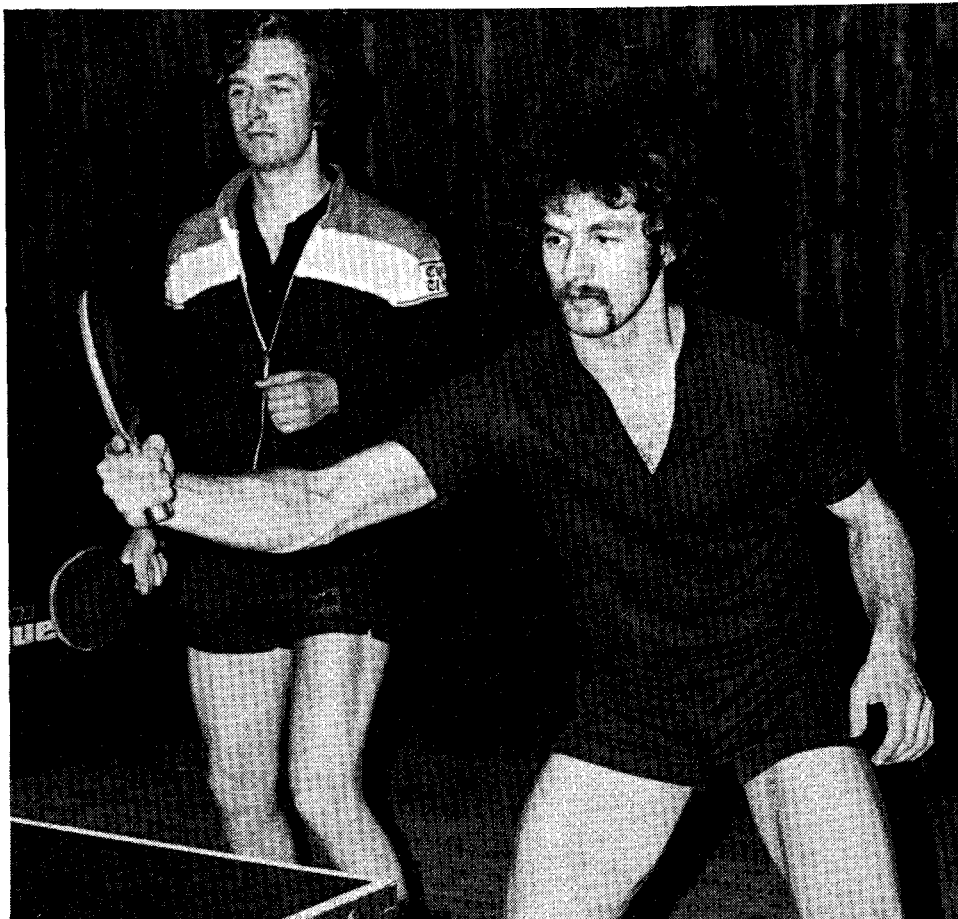
Trainer/Coach:

Ronnie Grimason (Lurgan).

Official in Charge:

Eddie Limberg.

The teams are being generously sponsored by TSP Sports Ltd., who are providing an impressive array of clothing and equipment.



Alan Fletcher (left) and Nigel Eckersley who, as the top seeds in the Lancashire Open, failed to live up to expectations.

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North Yorkshire County Closed

by Richard Scruton

The North Yorkshire County Closed Championships were successfully staged at the York Railway Institute on Saturday, Feb. 24.

There were many surprises throughout the tournament, culminating in the winning of the Men's Singles title by Peter Campkin of Harrogate. Campkin defeated the No. 1 seed, Steve Tracey, a former Iris International and the No. 2 seed, Yorkshire-ranked Nicky Davies, in the final.

The two Yorkshire county team juniors, Tony Sanderson and David Rawley surprisingly failed to reach the final of the Junior Boys' Singles, losing respectively to finalists Andrew Fletcher and Clifford Twineham. Fletcher also managed to take the Handicap Singles in an event fielding 126 players.

However, 14-year-old Sanderson and 16-year-old Rawley overcame the challenges of many older players to take the Men's Doubles title, including a win over Tracey and Campkin in the semi-final.

Maureen Gott repeated her successes of last season and took the three women's events.

The county of North Yorkshire is geographically the largest in England and it was very encouraging to have an entry from 135 players from places as far apart as Harrogate, York, Northallerton, Selby, Pickering, Scarborough and Filey.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

P. Campkin (Harrogate) bt M. Wadsworth (Yor) 17, 10;

K. Bojas (Y) bt D. Bartle (Y) 5, 16;

D. Madden (Y) bt K. Dodd (Y) -13, 16, 19;

N. Davies (H) bt C. Twineham (H) 11, 17.

Semi-finals:

Campkin bt Bojas 16, 15;

Davies bt Madden 12, -17, 8.

Final:

Campkin bt Davies -17, 12, 10.

Women's Singles Final:

M. Gott (Y) bt M. Broadbent (Y) 14, 22.

Men's Doubles Final:

D. Rawley/T. Sanderson (Y) bt Madden/K. Hayes

(Y) -16, 18, 7.

Women's Doubles Final:

Gott/Broadbent bt L. Bradley/B. Norman (Y) 15, -20, 15.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Bojas/Gott bt Davies/Y. Abdellah (H) 17, 17.

Junior Boys' Singles Final:

A. Fletcher (Y) bt Twineham 14, 11.

Veteran Singles Final:

W. L. Dodd (H) bt N. Lusher (H) 15, -16, 12.

Handicap Singles Final:

Fletcher bt S. Oldfield (Ryedale) (+2) 17, 20.

Junior Girls' 1:

J. Sigsworth (H) (Played on a group system).

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by P. Taylor

With many towns in Lincolnshire completely cut off by the snow, it was inevitable that all four county matches on Feb. 17 would have to be postponed. The bad weather also caused the cancellation of the Management Committee meeting on Feb. 20.

In the Haigh Cup, Louth were convincingly beaten 8-2 by both Grimsby and Wyberton. The final destination of the Haigh Cup will therefore depend on the result of the Grimsby-Wyberton clash. Grimsby's victory over Louth emphasized the tremendous depth they have in their league. The Grimsby team of Steve Morley, Mark Newbould and myself dropped only one rubber to Louth in the singles, despite the fact that Louth had Brian Allison, ranked No. 2 in the county, and Matt Shearer, who was seeded No. 1 in the recent Grimsby Closed. I lost to Matt and Louth's other rubber came from the doubles.

The following week it was Wyberton's turn to beat Louth. Mick East was in splendid form taking all three singles — a fine performance as he always finds Matt and Brian difficult opponents. With Brian Hill naturally taking his rubbers, this ensured victory for Wyberton. Louth's two rubbers came with Matt and Brian both beating Jim Brewster. Louth's third player, Marcus Emmerson, put up a very creditable performance in this match losing 18 in the third to Jim, who did play for the county senior team last season.

In the Butcher Cup, Grantham failed to arrive at Mablethorpe and so forfeited the match 10-0,

thereby ruining any chance they had in this competition. Wyberton have a great chance of doing the double as their Butcher Cup team of Tim Cook, David Skerratt and Paul Barnes have yet to drop a point. In round 9, they had a very impressive result against Louth, winning 9-1, Paul Emmerson beating Paul Barnes to prevent the "whitewash". With only two rounds to go, their only threat is Grimsby who have dropped two points. With this advantage, Wyberton should be confident of their chances when they face Grimsby in their last match of the season. Grimsby (John Hancock, Andrew Longbottom and John Whitfield) maintained their challenge by also beating Louth 9-1, this time Philip Eyles preventing the "whitewash" by beating Whitfield.

The Butlin Cup match between Spalding and Grimsby was not played and so the winner of the Butlin Cup is still unknown. Various leagues have been holding their closed tournaments but as usual most have not sent the results to me for publication in these notes. The Grantham Junior Closed produced some interesting results. Chris Bryan beat Simon Pullen in three in the boys' U-17 final and Jane Wingad continued her fine season with an excellent win over Carol Exton, the county No. 1 junior, in the girls' U-17 final.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

Leicestershire clinched the 2nd Division (Midland) title yet again when they beat Staffordshire 9-1 in what was probably the coldest weekend of the Winter. The hunting shire's other three matches were all postponed but the 1st team's win was most cheering for all concerned. Only David Gannon dropped a set — to the very promising Andrew Bellingham. The county have so far lost only seven sets this season and since Gannon has dropped six of them, it is clear the No. 3 spot in the team is still wide open.

Having said that, one must remark on two excellent performances by Gannon. In the Midland League 1st Division, playing for Leicester against Hinckley he was able to beat both Paul Randell (for the first time) and John Iliffe. Later on in the same week he beat all the Barwell Liberal team (Randell, Maurice Newman and Alan Philpott) but in both these matches he finished on the losing side. In the Hinckley match Phil Smith beat Iliffe whereas Grahame Hall's only win was against Newman. Against the Liberals Smith's victory over Philpott was the only other set the Jones and Shipman team could claim.

MIDLAND LEAGUE NOTES

by Tony Darbyshire

In the Men's Div. One Leicester could not overcome the good form of Maurice Billington and Ivor Warner against Chesterfield and lost 3-7. In their 'derby' match with Hinckley they went one set better when David Gannon had a close encounter with Paul Randell winning 19 in the third but the team still lost 4-6. Hinckley overwhelmed Derby "A" 10-0 and now have 8 points from 6 matches. Notts "A" had a very lean season and only have one point from their match against Bristol when Alan Croome won his 3 in a 5-5 draw.

Derrick Marples moved from Div. 4 for one match to help the Chesterfield "A" team but despite a very good win over Barry Hayward 17, 10 (his first loss of the season), couldn't prevent a 3-7 defeat. Duggie Johnson and Paul Judd turned out for Birmingham "A" and were undefeated in an 8-2 win over Derby "A". Doug Foulds and David Yallop beat Lester Bertie for their 2 wins. Birmingham "B" lead the Division having gained 8 points from 4 matches. Hinckley and Chesterfield also have 8 points but have both played 6 matches.

In the Men's Div. 2 Gloucester "A" have put in a string of good wins since their initial defeat at Wolverhampton back in October. They are now second in the table with 12 points beating Leicester "B", Potteries "A", Coventry "A" 8-2, Walsall 10-0 and Oxford 9-1. Wolverhampton are still undefeated after 6 matches and have 12 points as well but Gloucester may still take the division if they falter in the last 2 matches against the Potteries and Walsall.



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STIGA/GRAND MET. TRAINING WEEK-END

by ALAN SHEPHERD

Late in December I attended the second Stiga/Grand Metropolitan Hotels Training weekend at York. After the first weekend, held at Birmingham, I had been told by various people that the whole thing had been a shambles, absolute waste of time, that they would not go again, etc., etc. Accordingly I was a bit apprehensive as to what I should expect. I took up there in my car, three of the invited players, namely David Newman, Skylet Andrew and Desmond Charlery, but as none of these can write, I have been asked to give my impressions.

We arrived at the plush Viking Hotel on the Thursday afternoon, and discovered that we all had really smart rooms — bathroom to yourself, T.V., and all the trimmings. It was teeming down with rain, but we took no notice of that; after all, we had all seen rain before. At 6.30 the entire party, consisting of 120 juniors, about 20 ordinary coaches, and sundry-super-persons, such as Peter Simpson, Peter Hirst, Donald Parker, Jack Carrington, Dick Tammadge, Gordon Steggall and Elsie Carrington, sat down to a splendid dinner in the Hotel dining room. The programme for the evening was that at 8 p.m. we would split up into two groups. The larger one (80 + coaches) would go to St. Peter's College, and the smaller one (40 + coaches) to the University of York.

After dinner everybody assembled in the foyer, only to discover that the River Ouse, which hitherto had been flowing past the hotel at the back, was now flowing past it on both sides and at the front — right up to the doors!! In other words we were virtually marooned. Eventually orders were given that all concerned should make their way through the hotel kitchens, out through the back door, up some stairs, over a bridge and thus to the main road, where buses were waiting.

You all must have read in the papers, and/or seen on T.V., that the River Ouse had risen by some 18 feet. This caused a subsidiary river, which was very deep, to flow along the road outside the Hotel, and many of the main roads in York were impassable. Fortunately our buses were able to plough through the floodwater, where private cars could not.

That evening the players took part in table exercises, to demonstrate the benefits of footwork, an aspect of the game on which all Essex juniors would do well to concentrate. After this there was a showing on video tape of a film analysing service and receive techniques. Finally a period was devoted to the very important routines of pre-match warming up. I have to say that I found all this most impressive and, so far, that I had nothing but praise for the whole operation.

Friday dawned and the floods had not subsided. The buses were still able to get through to their destinations, fortunately, so our plans were not affected. What was quite a worry, however, was the fact that our cars were parked in a car-park opposite the Hotel and the flood waters had reached a point about ten yards away from it! Dick Tammadge of the E.T.T.A. was engaged in negotiations throughout Friday for the towing out of all the cars in that Car Park which would have involved them in being thoroughly soaked; his alternative plan was to get a wall at the back of the Car Park knocked down so that the cars could be driven out that way! Eventually that is what happened and we all managed to put our cars on some high ground about a mile away.

The division of the players into groups of 80 and 40 was still in operation. I must explain that by and large the best players were in the large groups and the more modest ones in the small group. I am not quite sure how the process of selection worked for this, but I must record that some of the players in the small group were little more than beginners. I had volunteered to act as one of the coaches of that small group in the University. I was very pleased to find on arrival, that far from this group being treated as the poor relations they were actually looked after by the top coaches on duty namely Peter Hirst and

Donald Parker. What happened was that Peter and Donald introduced and demonstrated each exercise that was to be done and the other coaches and I then proceeded to get the players to work on them.

During the morning we worked on table exercises designed to improve the technique of the forehand smash, including one very popular one where a feeder sent over 50 balls in quick succession which were smashed by the pupil, some even onto the table! Quite a pleasant packed lunch was provided by the Hotel and this having been consumed we went back to work in the afternoon. Donald Parker demonstrated the Chinese high throw-up in service and explained the benefits and pitfalls of it. Then everybody had a go at doing it, most people finding that it was a lot harder than it looked. After this back to the drawing board and Donald and Peter were explaining all about short services and how to receive them. Finally the players went away and practised these two difficult arts.

What was noteworthy of all this from a group — coaching point of view was that it had all been well thought out and prepared, each coach having a Schedule of the exercises to be gone through with explanatory notes and diagrams. So one was left with the feeling that if the week-end failed this time, it would not be because of lack of pre-planning. As I have said I really was impressed and I personally feel that the whole week-end was a great success.

After the afternoon session we returned to the Hotel for dinner. The weather now changed once more and a snow blizzard descended on York, which did not help to reduce the floods. It did create much ice to walk on however, and proved for one thing that Skylet would be useless in the Slalom.

The following day was set aside for an inter-regional team event for 75 players, and an individual tournament for the remainder. Mike Watts, Doug Young and I were to be referees of these events and we spent the whole of Friday evening getting it organised.

The events of the Saturday went off very well and Panel 2 (Essex, Middlesex, Surrey, Kent and Sussex) proved supreme in the team event — Graham Sandley, Colin Wilson, Mark Oakley and "Costas" were missing, yet England No. 14 Peter Puddock could not even make the team! He did not win the Individual event either, that honour going to Neil Stratton of Middlesex.

Back to the Hotel and we dispersed at about 4 p.m. All that was left was to dig our cars out of the snow — nobody's keys would turn in the locks which made it more unpleasant — but at last we got ours going and made it back to London. I think that very few of those present will forget this week-end and if any junior has a chance of going to the next one I strongly recommend he or she to do so.

PING COMMENTARY

by JOHN WOODFORD

Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent
"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"

RARE BIRD LINDA WITH WINGS CLIPPED!

It is often not possible to put across both sides of an argument in this column. By the time the next month comes along something else has happened, but in this case I am able to say that I fully appreciate that there are two strong cases on the question of dropping Linda Howard from the world championships team in favour of younger players.

Those of us who were at the Stiga Welsh Open in Cardiff saw the Guildford girl who is still on the right side of 25 fight bravely for England when the team had its back to the wall against both Sweden and Hungary. This came at a time when she is without doubt unhappy with the decisions made on Pyongyang by the new broom selectors.

Her fighting qualities and her experience do not seem to be questioned by anybody, neither is the

fact that she had a run of poor results in the first half of the season.

The case for sending Linda to North Korea was put to me by former selector Alan Ransome over a breakfast in Cardiff — she is a rare bird in that she has developed as a doubles specialist.

To be absolutely honest we know that Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley with their high world rankings in Korea have good chances of at least reaching the quarter-finals and with a bit of good fortune could do even better.

But our best chance of medals seem to be with Desmond and Jill in doubles when partnered by a strong and experienced person. Linda has vast experience playing with both Desmond and Jill, but alas, she will not have the opportunity to make use of it in Korea.

No doubt what the selectors have in mind. They are hoping that from the promising pair Karen Witt and Anita Stevenson will emerge a powerful doubles partner to take over the supporting roles for our world-class pair.

That is the other side of the coin to the views I expressed last month. Don't assume readers, that I am necessarily on one side or the other — only time will tell whether the selectors have chosen the right course — it's happening all the time in sport — new blood is brought in and experienced people are left out in the cold, but that happens all the time, everywhere, in sport and everywhere else.

The value of the Norwich Union Grand Prix and the Masters and the sponsorship of companies such as Stiga was brought home to me at Cardiff. The Welsh event is now one of the most important on the calendar. This is due to a number of factors especially the efforts made by Nancy and Roy Evans.

"The Daily Telegraph" made what I would think to be an admirable decision for me to cover this tournament personally after a gap of several years. Because they saw that the tournament had grown in its importance — even without Asian players there were 28 nations in action, not to mention the top twelve men in Europe.

Unfortunately, the Welsh T.T.A. through no fault of their own, do not possess tournament organisers of the calibre of John Wright, Mike Watts and strength in depth all the way down to the line backed by other stalwarts like Geoff Daniels, John Heritage and many others.

Indeed, E.T.T.A. national tournaments have become sophisticated and we Press men are inclined to expect an instant results service from the top table. It took a little time to impress on our Welsh enthusiasts in Cardiff that in order that the national Press agency network can operate properly, we cannot wait for half an hour or so whilst rounds are completed or whilst lists of results are stencilled and duplicated for the benefit of team captains.

But no doubt, now that the Stiga Welsh Open is one of the most vital tournaments in the Norwich Grand Prix and it is of vital importance to both sponsors, they the sponsors, will see that there will be streamlining between the top table and the media in 1980!

ALL-SPORT DO IT AGAIN!

DON MORLEY wins "Sport For All" Photo Awards

For the third time in four years ALL-SPORT carried off a major prize in the Annual Sports Photography Awards organised jointly by the Sports Council and the Royal Photographic Society.

DON MORLEY'S topical photo of joggers silhouetted against the sky-line won the "sport for all" category from hundreds of entries. This is for the photo which best conveys the theme of "sport for all". the Sports Council's campaign to promote sport in all ages.

Last year TONY DUFFY of All-Sport won this award and he was also highly commended in the colour portfolio category this year.

These successes are the 9th time MORLEY and DUFFY have featured in the six years these awards have been held. No other company or individual has ever dominated the awards to such an extent.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	4	4	0	0	25	11	8
Middlesex	4	3	0	1	26	10	6
Surrey	4	2	0	2	16	20	4
Essex	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Warwickshire	3	1	0	2	8	19	2
Berkshire	2	0	0	2	8	10	0
Glamorgan	1	0	0	1	3	6	0
Yorkshire	2	0	0	2	5	13	0
2 SOUTH							
Kent	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Sussex	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Berkshire II	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Middlesex II	4	2	0	2	16	24	4
Dorset	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Surrey II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Buckinghamshire	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
2 NORTH							
Yorkshire II	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Cleveland	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Lancashire	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Lincolnshire	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Durham	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Northumberland	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
2 MIDLAND							
Leicestershire	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Warwickshire II	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Staffordshire	3	1	2	0	18	12	4
Derbyshire	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Northamptonshire	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Shropshire	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
2 EAST							
Essex II	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Cambridgeshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Hertfordshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Norfolk	3	1	0	2	7	23	2
Suffolk	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	10	20	0
2 WEST							
Wiltshire	4	4	0	0	27	13	8
Somerset	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Glamorgan II	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Gloucestershire	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Worcestershire	4	0	1	3	15	25	1
Avon	4	0	1	3	14	26	1
Devon	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
3 SOUTH							
Kent II	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Essex III	3	1	2	0	19	11	4
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Sussex II	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Hertfordshire III	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
3 NORTH							
Cheshire III	4	1	3	0	22	18	5
Lancashire II	3	1	2	0	18	12	4
Cleveland II	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Derbyshire II	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Northumberland II	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Cumbria	2	0	0	2	8	12	0
3 NORTH MIDLAND							
Cheshire II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Nottinghamshire	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Staffordshire II	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Leicestershire II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Clwyd	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Shropshire II	3	0	0	3	5	25	0
3 SOUTH MIDLAND							
Hampshire II	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Worcestershire II	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Oxfordshire	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Herefordshire	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Northants II	3	0	2	1	11	19	2
Buckinghamshire II	4	0	0	4	10	30	0
3 EAST							
Hertfordshire II	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Cambridgeshire II	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Huntingdonshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Norfolk II	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Bedfordshire II	3	0	0	3	10	20	0
Suffolk II	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
3 WEST							
Dorset II	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
Gwent	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Cornwall	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Glamorgan III	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Somerset	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Avon II	3	0	1	2	9	21	1

JUNIOR PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Staffordshire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	22	8	4
Berkshire	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Cheshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Surrey	3	0	2	1	13	17	2
Essex	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Cleveland	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

JUNIOR 2 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Devon	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Wiltshire	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Sussex	4	2	0	2	24	16	4
Middlesex II	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Surrey II	4	1	1	2	13	27	3
Essex II	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Dorset	4	1	0	2	12	28	2

JUNIOR 2 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cumbria	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Lancashire	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Clwyd	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Nottinghamshire	3	1	0	2	17	13	2
Yorkshire II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Derbyshire	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Shropshire	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

JUNIOR 2 MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Buckinghamshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Warwickshire	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Glamorgan	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Hertfordshire	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Gloucestershire	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Northamptonshire	5	1	0	4	16	34	2

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Oxfordshire	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Berkshire II	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Hampshire II	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Sussex II	4	1	0	3	19	21	2
Buckinghamshire II	4	0	1	3	10	30	1

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bedfordshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Suffolk	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Essex III	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Norfolk	3	0	0	3	10	20	0
Hertfordshire II	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

JUNIOR 3 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire II	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Lincolnshire	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Cleveland II	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Durham	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Cumbria II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2

JUNIOR 3 MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Worcestershire	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Gwent	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Shropshire II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Herefordshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Staffordshire II	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Clwyd II	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

JUNIOR 3 EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lincolnshire II	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Warwickshire II	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Cambridgeshire II	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Leicestershire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Huntingdonshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Norfolk II	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

JUNIOR 3 WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Devon II	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Avon	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Somerset	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Hampshire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Cornwall	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Wiltshire II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0

VETERAN SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	34	2	8
Essex II	4	2	0	2	15	21	4
Sussex	3	2	0	1	10	17	4
Hertfordshire	4	1	0	3	16	20	2
Kent	4	1	0	3	15	21	2
Hampshire II	3	1	0	2	9	18	2

VETERAN MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Nottinghamshire	2	2	0	0	13	5	4
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	18	9	4
Clwyd	2	1	0	1	8	10	2
Cheshire II	4	1	0	3	14	22	2
Worcestershire	3	1	0	2	10	17	2

VETERAN EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lincolnshire	2	2	0	0	14	4	4
Essex	3	2	0	1	18	9	4
Leicestershire	2	1	0	1	12	6	2
Hertfordshire II	3	1	0	2	10	17	2
Huntingdonshire	4	1	0	3	9	27	2

VETERAN WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hampshire	4	4	0	0	28	8	8
Avon	4	3	0	1	26	10	6
Dorset	4	2	0	2	16	20	4
Oxfordshire	4	2	0	2	15	21	4
Dorset II	4	1	0	3	12	24	2
Wiltshire	4	0	0	4	11	25	0

THE M K ELECTRIC (Cheshunt Open) TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

This season's newest open tournament — the Cheshunt Open — has been brought forward one week from the date advertised in the Diary, and will be held on **Sunday, 29th April, 1979**, writes Bob Bridges.

Over £300 will be distributed in prize money between the five events with £60 (the most allowed for a one-star tournament) going to the winner of the Men's Singles.

The Cheshunt and District Table Tennis League, who are promoting the event at Waltham Abbey Sports Centre, have found a very good ally in **M K ELECTRIC LTD.** (Britain's leading manufacturers of industrial and domestic wiring accessories) who will underwrite any loss and there are hopes that similar backing will be received in 1980 and 1981. Entry forms are available from Mrs. Tina Pickard (9 Paternoster Close, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 3JU) or Bob Bridges (4 Tysoe Avenue, Enfield, Middx., EN3 6DY). Entries close on April 11th. Len Pilditch is the Referee.

P.S.: Did anybody wonder where the

(continued from page 39)

S. Andrew bt G. Sandley -17, 19, 14;
lost to C. Wilson -17, 18, -17;
D. Charlery lost to Sandley -9, -18;
lost to J. Souter -17, -20;
I. Attridge lost to Wilson -17, -13;
lost to Souter -13, 10, -11;
Andrew/Charlery lost to C. Papantoniou/Sandley
-18, 15, -18;
Kim Mudge lost to Mandy Reeves -14, -14;
Julie Askem lost to Helen Williams -8, 17, -10;
Miss Askem/Miss Mudge lost to Miss Reeves/
Miss Williams -12, 19, -13.

Berkshire 5 Surrey 5

D. Barr bt S. Holloway 13, 13;
bt G. Baker 22, -17, 15;
I. Fullerton lost to Holloway -9, -7;
lost to M. Oakley -16, -15;
M. Barr lost to Baker -17, -17;
lost to Oakley -16, -15;
D. and M. Barr lost to Holloway/Oakley
18, -11, -18;
Mandy Smith bt Lorraine Garbet 15, -9, 17;
Alison Gordon bt Avril McMahon 19, 13;
Miss Gordon/Miss Smith bt Miss Cresswell/Miss
Garbet 20, 17.

JUNIOR 2 SOUTH

Dorset 0 Wiltshire 10
Dorset 8 Essex II 2
Sussex 4 Devon 6
Wiltshire 6 Middlesex II 4
Devon 9 Dorset 1
Middlesex II 5 Surrey II 5

JUNIOR 2 NORTH

Derbyshire 2 Clwyd 8
Shropshire 0 Lancashire 10
Nottinghamshire 10 Derbyshire 0

JUNIOR 2 MIDLAND

Glamorgan 5 Warwickshire 5
Gloucestershire 4 Northamptonshire 6
Glamorgan 3 Buckinghamshire 7
Buckinghamshire 3 Warwickshire 7
Northamptonshire 2 Hertfordshire 8

After leading 2-1 Northants completely collapsed losing the next seven sets. This defeat almost certainly puts Northants in Division 3 next season, which, from the available players is somewhat surprising.

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH

Buckinghamshire II 3 Oxfordshire 7
Hampshire II 3 Kent 7
Berkshire II 8 Sussex II 2
Kent 8 Buckinghamshire II 2
Berkshire II 4 Hampshire II 6

Taking into account the fact that Michael Barr and Iain Fullerton played in all three of Berkshire's Premier Division matches at Muswell Hill on Feb. 3rd and 4th, they were ineligible to represent the second team on Feb. 17th; two wins obtained forfeited converting a 6-4 win into defeat.

Oxfordshire 6 Sussex II 4

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH EAST

Bedfordshire 10 Hertfordshire II 0
Essex III 6 Norfolk 4
Hertfordshire II 3 Suffolk 7

JUNIOR 3 NORTH

Cheshire II 7 Lincolnshire 3
Cleveland II 2 Cumbria II 8

JUNIOR 3 MIDLAND

Clwyd II 0 Gwent 10
Worcestershire 9 Herefordshire 1
Gwent 7 Shropshire II 3
Worcestershire 9 Clwyd II 1

JUNIOR 3 EAST

Huntingdonshire 2 Warwickshire II 8
Leicestershire 2 Lincolnshire II 8

Weakened by absentees (Trevor Kerslake injured and out for rest of season, and top girls Julie Reville and Yvonne Hall playing at school) Leics would have even struggled against this Lincs side with them in.

Norfolk II 3 Cambridgeshire II 7

JUNIOR 3 WEST

Avon 9 Somerset 1
VETERAN SOUTH
Kent 8 Hampshire II 1
Sussex 0 Middlesex 9
Hertfordshire 4 Essex II 5
Essex II 6 Kent 3
Middlesex 8 Hertfordshire 1

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire II 1 Cheshire 8
Nottinghamshire 6 Cheshire 3

Keen to gain their veteran crown again Cheshire secured the assistance of Pete D'Arcy in this clash. Cheshire's only successes came from D'Arcy, substantiating his elevated veteran position, but with no backing.

Worcestershire 6 Cheshire II 3

VETERAN EAST

Hertfordshire II 5 Leicestershire 4
Lincolnshire 8 Huntingdonshire 1
Huntingdonshire 2 Essex 7

VETERAN WEST

Dorset II 3 Oxfordshire 6
Hampshire 8 Dorset 1
Wiltshire 2 Avon 7
Wiltshire 4 Oxfordshire 5
Dorset 5 Avon 4
Dorset II 2 Hampshire 7

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

WHO WOULD BE A MATCH SEC.?

If it isn't one thing it's another. Who would be a county match secretary this season? The arctic travelling conditions put paid to our Premier and Second Senior team matches last month to add to the list of postponements. I don't know about extending the football season it looks as if the T.T. season could well do with a few extra weeks.

Our Senior Third team did manage to get to Kent however and a 5-5 draw ensued. Essex star of the night was young Desmond Charlery who won both his singles in fine style. Yvette Brown was another to keep a clean sheet with a comfortable singles victory and a share in the women's doubles success with Linda Thacker. Our other winner in the match was Stuart Kimm.

Both Veterans' matches were also played, the first team travelled to St. Neots to play Hunts and returned victorious by 7-2. Bobby Stevens, Laurie Fountain and Stan Battrick were our men with Pam Anker the feminine side of our team coming in at a late hour for Hilda Cathcart who was indisposed. The second team had Kent as their visitors and a late change of venue owing to the NUPE dispute the match got under way at Yardley's Basildon thanks mainly to Peter Jackson's much appreciated assistance.

This match was also won by us 6-3 with Mike Watts and Bobby Raybould again netting five between them, Fred Lockwood being our other victor.

Our vast inter-league programme is going well thanks mainly to the efforts of Dick Roffe the man in charge. Dick is certainly proving a valuable asset to the county scene.

Two of our leagues, Basildon and Chelmsford, have concluded their closed championships and both had excellent tournaments with a large entry and good attendance. Chelmsford's in particular was a large affair with well over 700 games being played over the one weekend with a house full sign for the finals night on the following Tuesday.

Final Results:-

Basildon

Men's Singles:
S. Gibbs bt J. Wilson 18, 16.

Women's Singles:
Y. Brown bt M. Pemberton 14, 13.

Men's Doubles:
Gibbs/R. Raybould bt M. Stones/M. Watts 14, 16.
Women's Doubles:

Brown/J. Harrison bt R. Green/M. Nash
17, -19, 12.

Mixed Doubles:

Gibbs/Harrison bt P. Saunders/Brown 16, 19.

Boys' Singles:

K. Gard bt C. Avis 3, -15, 18.

Girls' Singles:

C. Griffiths bt H. Finch -13, 13, 17.

Boys' Doubles:

Avis/Gard bt S. Kimberley/A. Strawford
-18, 13, 19.

Girls' Doubles:

Griffiths/C. Molloy bt Finch/C. Smith -16, 16, 18.

Junior Mixed Doubles:

Gard/D. Avis bt C. Avis/Smith 9, -14, 19.

Veteran Singles:

Watts bt Raybould 18, 16.

Chelmsford

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Newman bt T. Dowsett 13, 17;
D. Bowles bt M. Speight 13, -17, 14.

Final:

Newman bt Bowles 13, -15, 15.

Women's Singles:

J. Dowsett bt L. Barrow 15, 12.

U-21 Singles:

Newman bt Dowsett 8, 16.

Men's Doubles:

Bowles/Newman bt K. Howard/Speight

Women's Doubles:

Dowsett/S. Carroll bt Barrow/F. Crozier
16, -16, 12.

Mixed Doubles:

Newman/Barrow bt T. and J. Dowsett -17, 13, 8.

Boys' Singles:

Dowsett bt R. Lang -19, 9, 14.

Girls' Singles:

Dowsett bt P. Taylor 15, 21.

Veteran Singles:

J. Lewington bt R. Milne -18, 8, 10.

Junior Doubles:

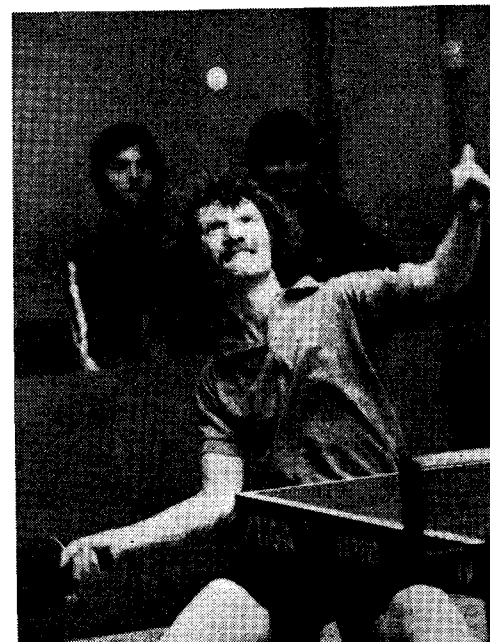
I. Carson/Lang bt T. and J. Dowsett -13, 16, 16.

U-15:

Carson bt P. Chaplin 20, 19.

U-13:

D. Kerns bt C. Milburn -19, 13, 14.



Dave Bowles of Maldon Wanderers, the beaten finalist in the Chelmsford Closed.

Photo by Geoff Newman.

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County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

CHESHIRE IN LINE

Cheshire have placed themselves in line for the Premier championship with a 7-2 win over Warwickshire, but further inactivity at the foot of the table (Yorkshire postponed their trip to Glamorgan with Melody Ludi and Alan Fletcher on E.T.T.A. duty in Ireland and Essex were warned off travelling to Berkshire because of treacherous road conditions at the Essex end on Feb. 17) keeps the positions at the lower end the same.

No clear indication is available as to the relative strengths of the bottom teams but Glamorgan **must** improve previous performances if they are to stand any chance of retaining Premier status next season — their second team appear to have failed in a bid to repeat last season's trick of going to the Promotion Challenge.

Wiltshire beat Glamorgan II in the "match" of 2 West and are almost certainly sure of contesting the Senior Promotion Challenge, together with Leicestershire and Kent, who should progress from their respective divisions. Contenders from 2 North and 2 East are uncertain.

Cleveland could well qualify but would be very reluctant to do so if the Premier Division is not played on a "Ventral Venue" basis.

The relative strong pockets of table tennis in various parts of the country can be demonstrated no better than the case highlighted by Hampshire's two third-division teams.

Hampshire I have been hard-pressed for success in 3 South (including 2nd and 3rd teams from Kent, Sussex, Essex etc.), while Hampshire II are almost having it all their own way in the 3 South Midland.

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION

After the Southern section of the Junior Premier Division had been postponed last November, it was eventually completed in the austere surroundings of Muswell Hill Table Tennis Club, London N22 on Feb. 3/4. Middlesex came out on top after a slow start and surprisingly Essex finished bottom of the four counties present.

The eight Junior Premier teams will finalise their matches on Mar. 31/Apr. 1 when the section reaches its climax, possibly at Nuneaton, although details are not yet confirmed.

Devon are running away with Junior 2 South while the rest of the field are busy knocking each other about. Clwyd look like finishing higher than ever before in Junior 2 North, behind Cumbria and above Lancashire, but one important clash still remains!

In Junior 2 Midland, Warwickshire should have the edge over Glamorgan and Buckinghamshire.

PREMIER

Surrey 1 Middlesex 8

A convincing win for Middlesex whose only defeat was inflicted by Max Crimmins over Graham Sandley in the second set; the nearest Surrey got to another was the M.D. where Crimmins and David Hannah lost the second game -21 after winning the first 21 but Mark Mitchell and Sandley made sure in the deciding game.

M. Crimmins lost to M. Mitchell -9, -18;
bt G. Sandley -13, 22, 18;

D. Welsman lost to Mitchell -19, 17, -16;
lost to P. Guttormsen -12, -19;

D. Hannah lost to Sandley -17, -17;
lost to Guttormsen -19, -17;

Crimmins/Hannah lost to Mitchell/Sandley
21-21-11;

Lorraine Garbet lost to Mandy Reeves -18, -17;
Welsman/Miss Garbet lost to Guttormsen/Miss
Reeves -12, -14.

Warwickshire 2 Cheshire 7

Cheshire shot into a 4-0 lead before the home Men's Doubles pairing of Derek Munt and Dougie Johnson put a stop to the visitor's progress, followed immediately by Karen Groves' success over Lyn Fennah; Cheshire's men then took the remaining sets.

D. Johnson lost to N. Eckersley 19, -13, -9;

lost to D. Constance -11, -17;

D. Munt lost to Eckersley -23, -15;

lost to M. Johns -19, -8;

S. Claxton lost to Constance -15, -19;

lost to Johns -19, -16;

Johnson/Munt bt Eckersley/Johns -18, 17, 15;

Karen Groves bt Lyn Fennah 14, 20;

Claxton/Miss Groves lost to Constance/Miss

Fennah 16, -13, -13.

2 SOUTH

Berkshire II 6 Sussex 4

A strong looking Berkshire seconds surprised traditionally strong Sussex for whom Emile Emecc (and his funny bat) was unbeaten.

Buckinghamshire 4 Dorset 6

Visitors' strength on the women's side swung match their way.

Kent 9 Middlesex II 1

Six sets went the full distance, Kent got five — the one they did not get was Clive Morris v Melvyn Waldman -20, 20, -22!

Middlesex II 7 Berkshire II 3

Sussex 6 Dorset 4

2 MIDLAND

Derbyshire 5 Staffordshire 5

Staffordshire held the initiative leading 0-2 and 2-4 before Women's sets swung game to home team and held the lead for the first time at 5-4 but Andrew Bellingham accounted for Neil Marples 17, 11 to give visitors a draw.

Warwickshire II 1 Leicestershire 9

Leicestershire will take some stopping. Even Warwicks team of Judd, Hayward and Gunnion would have beaten most second division sides!

Northamptonshire 2 Warwickshire 8

An easy win for Warwickshire after. From 2-all they took the rest despite some good play by the home side which was not quite good enough in this strong division. Good recovery by Ann Lloyd v Connie Bane 1-10 down at 'ends' picked up well to win 21-19.

2 EAST

Cambridgeshire 5 Essex II 5

Cams first-ever point from Essex at senior level in this thriller. Cams led 4-1 at one stage. Mick Harper set the mood with a straight-games win over newly-ranked Les Eadie and Keith Richardson kept the pot boiling by beating Andy Bawden. Home side took both doubles — praiseworthy effort by Joanne Palmer and Jane Hunter in beating the two Elaines, Sayer and Foulds. Essex hit back and Cams had to thank Richardson who beat the luckless Eadie to earn a point.

Bedfordshire 4 Norfolk 6

2 WEST

Avon 2 Somerset 8

Unfortunate accident marred this match when Brian Reeves fell, sustaining concussion against Mike Smith; victory for visitors, nevertheless, not in doubt.

Gloucestershire 7 Worcestershire 3

Matches between these counties always produce long and closely fought encounters; this was no exception, lasting near 4 hours with Glos. coming out on top 7-3 from 3-all.

Wiltshire 7 Glamorgan II 3

Home side too good except for Jeff Morgan, on whom Glamorgan relied for their three successes.

Worcestershire 3 Glamorgan II 7

Avon 4 Wiltshire 6

The return of Chris Sewell strengthened home side, but Wiltshire all round provided tough opposition.

3 SOUTH

Hampshire 3 Kent II 7

Sussex II 7 Hertfordshire III 3

Hampshire 7 Sussex II 3

Kent II 5 Essex III 5

Kent admit their good fortune and thanked their lucky stars that they were not beaten 8-2.

3 NORTH

Lancashire II 5 Cheshire III 5

3 NORTH MIDLAND

Shropshire II 3 Staffordshire II 7

3 SOUTH MIDLAND

Northamptonshire II 1 Hampshire II 9

Hampshire clearly too good and heading for the Championship. Score somewhat flattering for the visitors with many close games going their way — nevertheless this was a team without a weak link.

Oxfordshire 5 Herefordshire 5

Worcestershire II 7 Buckinghamshire II 3

Herefordshire 3 Hampshire II 7

Oxfordshire 9 Buckinghamshire II 1

3 EAST

Hertfordshire II 9 Suffolk II 1

Huntingdonshire 6 Bedfordshire II 4

Norfolk II 2 Cambridgeshire II 8

Bedfordshire II 2 Hertfordshire II 8

3 WEST

Avon II 3 Somerset II 7

Dorset II 5 Cornwall 5

JUNIOR PREMIER

Berkshire 6 Essex 4

D. Barr bt S. Andrew 21, -18, 14;

bt D. Charlery 13, 12;

I. Fullerton lost to Andrew -5, -17;

lost to G. Turner -9, -16;

M. Barr lost to Charlery -16, -16;

bt Turner 11, 17;

D. and M. Barr lost to Andrew/Charlery -19, -22;

Mandy Smith bt Kim Mudge 14, 20;

Alison Gordon bt Julie Askem -11, 9, 20;

Miss Gordon/Miss Smith bt Miss Askem/Miss

Mudge 4, 13.

Middlesex 7 Surrey 3

The unbiased and very fair referee (Len Pilditch) was "doing his nut" as Colin Wilson's opening set defeat to Steve Holloway was followed by Mark Oakley's win over John Souter. I expect Mike Kercher was highly delighted as the Holloway/Oakley combination put Surrey ahead again at 3-2, but the form book prevailed in the end.

G. Sandley bt S. Holloway 8, -22, 11;

bt G. Baker 10, 14;

C. Wilson lost to Holloway -14, -14;

bt M. Oakley -17, 11, 18;

J. Souter bt Baker 13, 16;

lost to Oakley -18, -17;

Souter/C. Papantoniou lost to Holloway/Oakley

-17, 16, -17;

Mandy Reeves bt Lorraine Garbet 17, 16;

Helen Williams bt Sarah Cresswell 14, 18;

Miss Reeves/Miss Williams bt Miss Cresswell/

Miss Garbet 15, 11.

Middlesex 9 Berkshire 1

G. Sandley bt D. Barr -21, 12, 13;

bt I. Fullerton 12, 17;

C. Wilson bt D. Barr -11, 18, 7;

bt M. Barr 8, 16;

J. Souter bt Fullerton 16, 17;

bt M. Barr 6, 10;

C. Papantoniou/Sandley bt D. and M. Barr 14, 12;

Mandy Reeves bt Mandy Smith 22, -16, 15;

Helen Williams lost to Alison Gordon -17, -8;

Miss Reeves/Miss Williams bt Miss Gordon/

Miss Smith 14, 15.

Surrey 5 Essex 5

S. Holloway lost to S. Andrew -10, -18;

bt D. Charlery -17, 17, 20;

M. Oakley lost to Andrew 18, -11, -16;

bt T. Dowsett 12, 16;

S. Woodgate lost to Charlery -8, -15;

lost to Dowsett -18, 12, -11;

Holloway/Oakley lost to Andrew/Charlery

-13, 19, -16;

Lorraine Garbet bt Kim Mudge 15, 10;

Avril McMahon bt Julie Askem 18, 16;

Miss Cresswell/Miss Garbet bt Miss Askem/

Miss Mudge 9, 9.

Essex 1 Middlesex 9

Skylet Andrew's win over Graham Sandley saved Essex from a "whitewash" and also took the only 100% boy record remaining.

(continued on page 38)