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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY **GEORGE YATES**

No. 111

APRIL, 1980

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QUEEN OF SCOTS



Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London, SW17

*It's a **Jaques** world...*

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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On the International Front

by The Editor



PROBLEMS IN STORE

The resignation of the English Table Tennis Association's Hon. Treasurer, Mike Greatrex, and the impending severance of George White from the Vice-Chairmanship of Administration are just two of the problems which have been causing concern to Chairman Tom Blunn.

In endeavouring to take over responsibility of the Association's finances — handled for two decades previously by Tom Blunn — Mike Greatrex could not have envisaged the magnitude of the task he was taking over.

Indeed it has become more than one man's job, as an honorary administrator coming in cold, to keep pace with the complexities of present day accounting, including the added burden of Value Added Tax, involved in the running of a national sports body such as the E.T.T.A.

One can therefore sympathise with Mike Greatrex who simply found the job too much and hope that the Management Committee will come up with some different but acceptable alternative to the benefit of all.

George White who, throughout a long, varied and distinguished connection with the national body, has rendered yeoman service and his desire to take life a little less onerously is one he richly deserves.

But where are the replacements? Is the well that was once so plentiful now drying up? It was a query put to the last meeting of the National Council by the Chairman.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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N. K. Reeve and E. G. White.

HUNGARY TRIUMPH

Wins for Desmond Douglas, over Tibor Klampar, Jill Hammersley over Gabriella Szabo, and by Douglas and Linda Jarvis in the mixed doubles were not enough to prevent **HUNGARY** (4-3 winners) from going through this season's **Super Division** of the **European League** as the undefeated champions in succession to Czechoslovakia.

And, after just one season, Poland will be relegated and their place taken by the Soviet Union who bounce back immediately after being relegated to Division 1.

Against Hungary, in Tatabanya on Mar 13, England at one stage actually led 3-2 and had the men's doubles gone our way the match score would have been 4-1. The scores in this encounter to Gabor Gergely and Klampar against Douglas and Donald Parker were 21, -23, 18! It was that close.

Douglas played extremely well to account for Klampar in the opening set but, in the final one with the match score poised at 3-3,

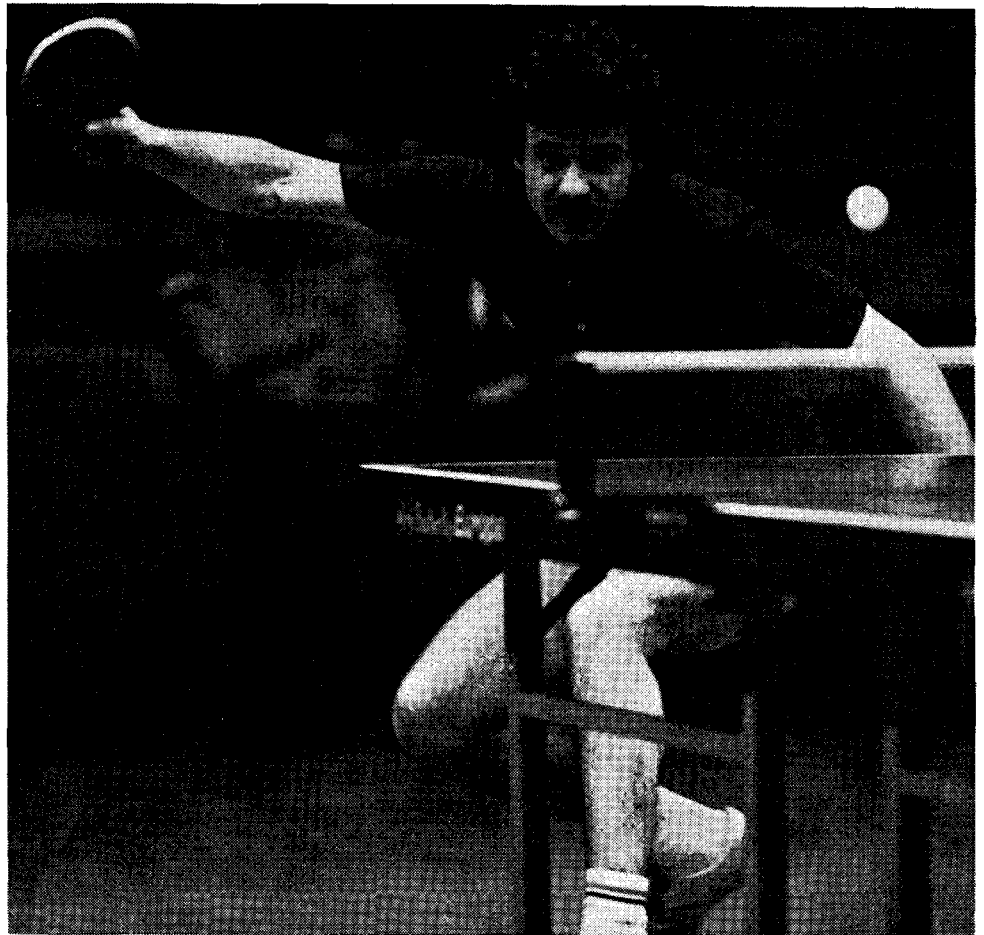
the tactics Gergely used were very effective.

Individual scores:—

T. Klampar lost to D. Douglas 19, -17, -17;
G. Gergely bt P. Day 12, 21;
G. Szabo lost to J. Hammersley 12, -16, -19;
Gergely/Klampar bt Douglas/D. Parker 21, -23, 18;
Gergely/Szabo lost to Douglas/L. Jarvis 13, -14, -18;
Klampar bt Day 11, 11;
Gergely bt Douglas 16, 21.

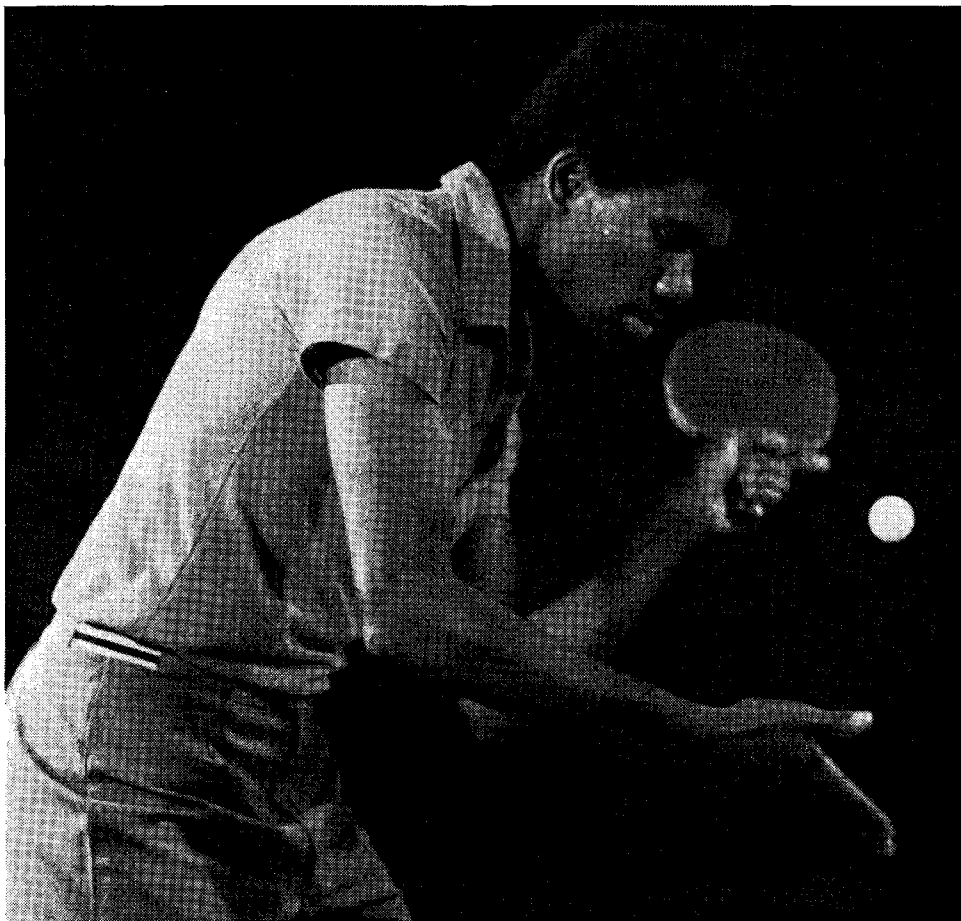
Poland, who finished up with a better set analysis than Federal Germany proved no match for Yugoslavia in Bosanski Brod being beaten 6-1 their only win coming in the penultimate set when Andrzej Grubba had a remarkable -14, 19, 7 win over Dragutin Surbek! Scores:—

D. Surbek bt L. Kucharski -20, 12, 19;
Z. Kalinic bt A. Grubba 12, 14;
E. Palatinus bt J. Szatko 9, 8;
A. Stipanovic/Surbek bt Grubba/Kucharski -9, 19, 11;



Gabor Gergely who got Hungary home 4-3 with his last set win over Desmond Douglas in Tatabanya.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.



Desmond Douglas (England) victor over Klampar (Hungary), but defeated by Gergely (Hungary) in Tatabanya.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.

Stipancic/Palatinus bt Kucharski/Szatko 17, 15;
 Surbek lost to Grubba 14, -19, -7;
 Kalinic bt Kucharski 10, 16.

Meantime, in Hassloch, Federal Germany fought their way to a set-equating 3-3 position only for Engelbert Hucing, after winning the first game of the final set, to be beaten by Jindrich Pansky 16 and 17 in the next two. Still, with Poland also losing, the Federal Germans live to fight another day in the top flight. Scores:-

P. Stellwag bt J. Pansky 20, -17, 18;
 E. Hucing bt J. Dvoracek 19, 10;
 U. Kamizuru lost to M. Hrachova -18, 18, -13;
 J. Leiss/Stellwag lost to Dvoracek/Pansky -16, -19;
 R. Wosik/Kamizuru lost to Pansky/Hrachova -19, -17;
 Stellwag bt Dvoracek -13, 19, 11;
 Hucing lost to Pansky 19, -16, -17.

As a result of beating France 5-2, Sweden finished in the runners-up position with a superior 66-59 set analysis to the 63-61 of Czechoslovakia who finished third.

French wins on Swedish soil were accomplished by Christian Martin, over Ulf Thorsell and Stellan Bengtsson. Jacques Secretin played only in the doubles losing, with Patrick Birocheau, in the men's and with Claude Bergeret in the mixed to Bengtsson and Eva Stromvall. Scores:-

S. Bengtsson bt P. Birocheau 19, 15;
 U. Thorsell lost to C. Martin -5, -17;
 M. Lindblad bt C. Bergeret 12, 16;
 Bengtsson/U. Carlsson bt Birocheau/J. Secretin 12, -20, 15;
 Bengtsson/E. Stromvall bt Secretin/Bergeret 19, 16;
 Bengtsson lost to Martin 18, -16, -15;
 Thorsell bt Birocheau -17, 15, 13.

SUPER DIVISION — FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts	
HUNGARY	7	7	0	33	16	7	Sets
Sweden	7	4	3	27	22	4	(66-69)
Czechoslovakia	7	4	3	27	22	4	(63-61)
France	7	4	3	21	28	4	
Yugoslavia	7	3	4	27	22	3	
England	7	3	4	24	25	3	
Fed. Germany	7	2	5	18	31	2	
Poland	7	1	6	19	30	1	

DIVISION ONE

The Soviet Union, like Hungary, went through their 7-match programme without defeat to finish as the undisputed champions of Division 1 their final victims being Turkey beaten 5-2 in Ankara on March 13. The Russians only dropped six sets throughout the season the two in Ankara being surrendered by newcomer Podnosov to Oktay Cimen and Gurham Yaldiz. Scores:-

O. Cimen bt Podnosov 11, 18;
 G. Yaldiz lost to B. Burnazian -14, -11;
 K. Poyrazoglu lost to Bulatova -14, 19, -7;
 Cimen/Yaldiz lost to Burnazian/M. Ovcharov -13, -13;
 Cimen/Poyrazoglu lost to Burnazian/Y. Danilevichute -18, -15;
 Cimen lost to Burnazian -21, -18;
 Yaldiz bt Podnosov 13, -14, 10.

Austria took the runners-up position bringing off their fourth win in Ybbsitz by beating Greece 7-0 to pip the Netherlands by a superior set analysis, 28-21 to 23-26.

Scores:-
 E. Amplatz bt E. Diakakis 8, 11;
 G. Bar bt C. Priftis -18, 19, 13;
 D. Fetter bt F. Galanou 11, 8;
 Amplatz/G. Muller bt Priftis/Zikos 10, 24;
 Muller/Fetter bt Nikos/Galanou -16, 18, 16;
 Amplatz bt Priftis 12, 20;
 Bar bt Diakakis 17, 19.

After an indifferent start to the season the Netherlands brought off their fourth win by beating Italy 4-3 in Ascoli Piceno where it all rested on the outcome of the

final set won by Jaap van Spanje against Luigi Mamoni 22-20 in the decider!

Scores:-

M. Constantini bt J. van Spanje 16, 15;
 L. Manoni bt H. Gootzen -18, 20, 9;
 F. Strino lost to S. de Kruiff -22, -15;
 Constantini/Manoni lost to Gootzen/v. Spanje -19, -15;
 R. Troilo/Strino lost to v. Sjanje/de Kruiff -11, -13;
 Constantini bt Gootzen 19, 11;
 Manoni lost to v. Spanje -12, 10, -20.

Finally, in Echternack, Luxembourg beat Bulgaria 4-3 a result which consigned Turkey back to Division 2 their 17-32 set analysis being inferior to that of Luxembourg who finished 19-30 and by such slender threads does destiny lie.

Scores in Echternack were:-
 A. Hartmann bt I. Stoianov 10, -16, 17;
 C. Putz lost to D. Hasanov -18, -13;
 C. Risch bt D. Gergelcheva 20, -19, 16;
 Hartmann/Putz bt Hasanov/Stoianov -15, 8, 16;
 Hartmann/Risch lost to Stoianov/Gergelcheva -20, 17, -16;
 Hartmann bt Hasanov 15, -19, 14;
 Putz lost to Stoianov 9, -15, -14.

DIVISION ONE — FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
SOVIET UNION	7	7	0	43	6	7
Austria	7	4	3	28	21	4
Netherlands	7	4	3	23	26	4
Bulgaria	7	3	4	23	26	3
Italy	7	3	4	23	26	3
Greece	7	3	4	20	29	3
Luxembourg	7	2	5	19	30	2
Turkey	7	2	5	17	32	2

DIVISION TWO

The big Scandinavian battle in Helsinki between Finland and Norway resulted in a 4-3 win for the Finns which preserved their unbeaten record and afforded them promotion to Division 1. Finland took a decisive lead in the fifth set when Jarmi Jokinen and Sonja Grefberg beat Paul Guttormsen and Tone Folkesson in the mixed and it did not matter then when Matti Autio and Jokinen lost their subsequent singles.

Scores:-

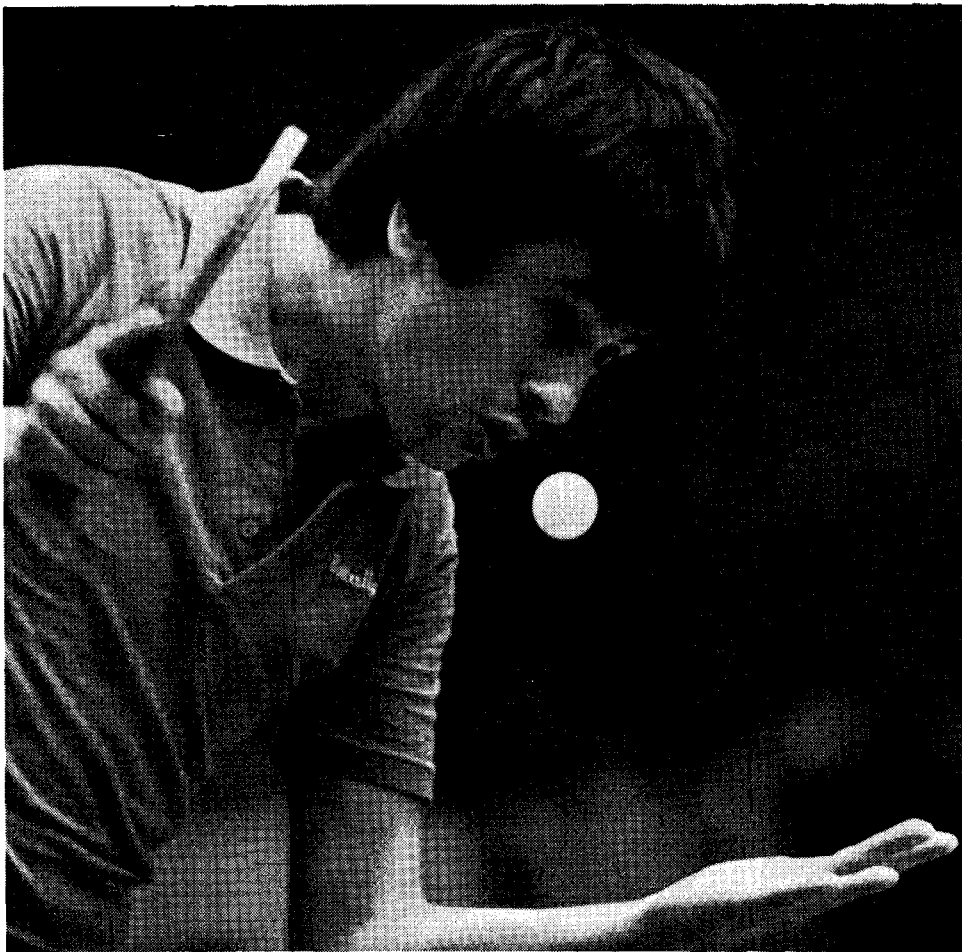
M. Autio bt P. Guttormsen -16, 10, 18;
 K. Jokinen lost to T. Johansen 15, -17, -19;
 S. Grefberg bt T. Folkesson 13, 11;
 J. Ikonen/Jokinen bt Guttormsen/Johansen 14, 22;
 Jokinen/Grefberg bt Guttormsen/Folkesson -20, 11, 8;
 Autio lost to Johansen 19, -10, -13;
 Jokinen lost to Guttormsen -17, 13, -18.

At the other end of the scale Belgium's 4-3 win over Wales (reported in Welsh Corner) kept them in whilst the Welsh will now make way for Rumania. Scores in that all-important match in Seilles were:-

N. Van de Walle lost to D. Welsman -18, -24;
 R. De Prophetis bt N. Thomas 18, 17;
 B. Lippens bt S. Jones 19, -9, 20;
 L. Belien bt Thomas/Welsman 14, -14, 20;
 De Prophetis/Lippens lost to Welsman/Jones -17, -14;
 Van de Walle bt Thomas 15, 17;
 De Prophetis lost to Welsman 15, -20, -15.

Elsewhere Willie Walsh reports on the Irish victory (5-2 over Switzerland) whilst in Svendborg Denmark 'whitewashed' Spain 7-0 to take the runners-up position behind the all-conquering Finns. Scores:-

C. Pedersen bt S. Moles -18, 10, 19;
 J. Hansen bt I. Caymel -19, 19, 14;
 C. Polk bt L. Uribe 20, 16;
 Hansen/Pedersen bt J. Lupon/J. M. Pales 16, -13, 13;
 Pedersen/Polk bt Pales/E. Serra 12, 10;
 Pedersen bt Caymel 11, 11;
 Hansen bt Moles 22, 18.



Tibor Klampar who lost to Desmond Douglas in the opening set at Tatabanya.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.

DIVISION TWO — FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
FINLAND	7	7	0	41	8	7
Denmark	7	6	1	37	12	6
Norway	7	5	2	30	19	5
Ireland	7	3	4	22	27	3
Spain	7	3	4	19	30	3
Belgium	7	2	5	15	34	2
Switzerland	7	1	6	17	32	1
Wales	7	1	6	15	34	1

UPS AND DOWNS

- Super Division—
- Relegated — Poland
- Promoted — Soviet Union
- Division 1—
- Relegated — Turkey
- Promoted — Soviet Union
- Division 2—
- Relegated — Wales
- Promoted — Finland
- Division 3—
- Promoted — Rumania

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1979 U.S. CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

CAESARS PALACE, LAS VEGAS,
NEVADA

DECEMBER 1979

by Malcolm Anderson

Chairman, Photographic Committee
U.S.T.T.A.

Attila Malek won the U.S. Men's Singles Championship in a see-saw battle with top seeded Danny Seemiller, -18, 11, 18, -9, 18. Both players moved well, looped, blocked, hit — Attila seemed to be a bit hungrier for the title.

In the Semis, Danny beat defending champion Eric Boggan 16, -16, 18, -18, 12, and Attila beat Scott Boggan 16, 8, 10. Scott reached the Semis with a Quarter-final upset win over Ricky Seemiller, -18, -16, 14, 16, 16. In the other QF matches Malek beat Roger Sverdlik 16, 7, -16, 14; Dan Seemiller beat Lim Ming Chui 15, 9, 14; Eric Boggan beat Dell Sweeris 20, 14, -14, 12.

In Women's Singles, He-ja Lee won the title, as expected — In Sook Bhushan has retired. Unexpectedly, He-ja's opponent in the final was Faan Yeen Liu, who upset Alice Green in the QF 20 (from 12-20!), 10, 15, and Angelita Sistrunk in the Semis, 18, -15, 10, 12. Faan Yeen is a defensive player who uses tackiness and black phantom, and spins her racket during play to force either a miss or a setup for her excellent forehand kill. He-ja was the only player there who could read Faan Yeen's spin; she won the final 11, 13, 12.

In the other semi, He-ja out countered

Kasia Dawidowicz 20, -15, 16, 17. In the Quarters, He-ja beat Carol Davidson 12, 11, -20, -16, 14; Dawidowicz beat Judy Bochenski 13, -19, -19, 16, 20; Sistrunk beat Takako Trenholme -19, 20, 18, 17.

Men's Doubles:- Dan and Rick Seemiller bt D. J. Lee and Roger Sverdlik 19, 12, 13. Semis — Seemiller and Seemiller bt Randy Seemiller (That is short for Randall — the English slang meaning is totally unknown in the U.S.!) — Jim Lazarus 9, 17; Lee-Sverdlik bt Malek-Sweeris 10, 15.

Women's Doubles:- Lee and Sistrunk bt Bochenski and Shelia O'Dougherty 11, 16, 18. Semis — Lee and Sistrunk bt Dawidowicz and Cheryl Dadian 8, -10, 19; Bochenski and O'Dougherty bt Liu and Trenholme 12, -18, 15.

Mixed Doubles:- Kasia Dawidowicz and Eric Boggan bt He-ja and Dal Joon Lee 12, 15, 17. Semis — Dawidowicz and Boggan bt Dan Seemiller and Faan Yeen Liu 15, 13; Lee and Lee bt Angelita Sistrunk and Scott Boggan 18, 9.

Under-21: Singles:- Eric Boggan bt Scott Boggan 16, 21, -19, -14, 12.

Boys U-17: Eric Boggan bt Dean Wong 13, 20, 13.

Girls U-17: Cheryl Dadian bt Ai-ju Wu 9, 4, 14.

Men +40: D. J. Lee bt Houshang Bozorzadeh 13, 16, 10.

Women +40: Yvonne Kronlage bt Mary McIlwain 7, 6, 12.

Boys' U-17 Doubles: Dean Wong/Quang Bui bt Mike Shapiro/Ben Nisbet 17, 15, -18, 18.

Girls' U-17 Doubles: Ai-wen Wu/Ai-ju Wu bt Cheryl Dadian/Hannah Butler 14, 17, 16.

Men's +40 Doubles: D. J. Lee/George Braithwaite bt Bohdan Dawidowicz/Tim Boggan 15, 13, 12.

Boys' U-15: Brandon Olson bt Sean O'Neill 18, 21, 17.

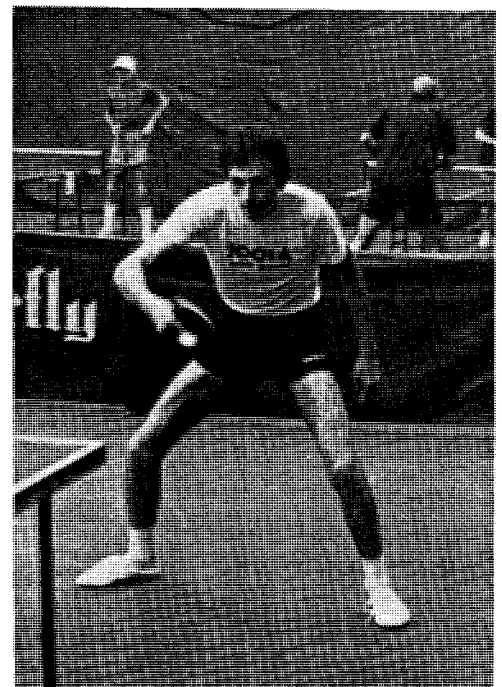
Girls' U-15: Ai-ju Wu bt Hannah Butler 15, 21, 20.

Men's +50: Bernie Bukiet bt Norman Schless 22, 8, 8.

Boys' U-15 Doubles: Sean O'Neill/Scott Butler bt Brandon Olson/Dan Wiig -18, 18, 19, -10, 17.

Girls' U-15 Doubles: Karin Thompson/Marilyn Johnston bt Lisa Gee/Diana Gee -10, 15, -16, 19, 20.

(continued on page 6)

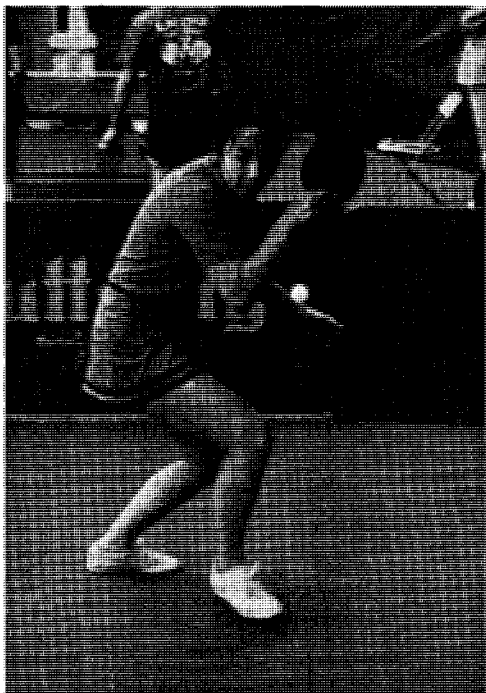


ATTILA MALEK

Photo by Malcolm Anderson

(continued from page 4)

Men's +50 Doubles: George Hendry/Harry Deschamps bt Bukiet/Neil Smyth 10, 20, 12.
 Boys' U-13: Sean O'Neill bt Scott Butler 12, 18, 12.
 Girls' U-13: Lise Gee bt Diana Gee -14, -21, 19, 10, 18.
 Men's +60: Charles Burns bt Eugene Wilson 7, 12.
 Juniors' U-13: Doubles Sean O'Neill/Scott Butler bt Richie Crawford/Jimmy Butler 13, 16, 4.
 Juniors' U-11: David Claflin bt Diana Gee 17, 19, 15.
 Men's +70: Oliver Nicholas bt C. H. McAllister 18, -19, 13.
 Hard Rubber: Dean Doyle bt Houshang Bozorgzadeh 19, -19, 17, -17, 17.



FAAN YEEN LIU

Photo by Malcolm Anderson



Girls' U-16 winners, Parrenthorn with E.T.T.A. Development Officer, Bob Oldfield. (1 to r) Beverley Hoyle, Helen Frost, Susan Hoyle, Debra Bowling.



Boys' U-19 winners Millom School with Councillor G. N. Wilson, Chairman Derbyshire County Council.



by David Lomas

NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Both senior (U-19) titles were successfully defended when the Finals of the National School Team Championships (organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association and sponsored by Stiga AB) were held at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire on March 15.

Most convincing winners were Millom whose Boys' Under-19 team notched 6-2 verdicts over Higham Lane and Bedford

Modern. In so doing two members of the Millom team — Diccon Gray and Ian Reed — won their fifth national title, a performance which also made them joint winners of the Gerald Gurney Trophy for the boys' best performance award.

Bournemouth School for Girls also did well to hold on to their Girls' Under-19 title with the same team that won it last year.

In the Boys' Under-16 category Longlands School, Kendal became the first Cumbrian team other than Millom to win national honours. Organiser Eddie Mitchell had to get out his pocket calculator to determine the winners of the Girls' Under-16 event. There were three newcomers in this section. Parrenthorn High School, who included Lancashire-ranked Juniors Beverley Hoyle and Helen Frost, beat Oxfordshire champions Milhamford 5-3. Milhamford went on to beat Goff's, Cheshunt by a similar margin and then Parrenthorn almost blew their chances by losing 3-5 to Goff's after being 3-2 up! So the title was decided on games ratio and it went to Parrenthorn. Mary Denbow, Milhamford No. 1, was un-

beaten and was awarded the Stiga Trophy for the girls' best performance.

The Grove School, Market Drayton, pulled off an impressive U-13 "double" but neighbours Market Drayton Junior School had to be content with second place in the Girls' Under-11 event which was won in style by Wold Junior High School, Hull.

The Boys Under-11 event was a very closely contested affair with Aldryngton (Reading) lifting the title by winning their last encounter.

Results:-

Boys' Under-19:

1. MILLOM (Cumbria)
(Diccon Gray, Ian Reed, Tim Pachul, Tony Huddleston).
2. BEDFORD MODERN (Bedfordshire)
(Stephen Barby, Russell Beard, Alan Fordham, David Hurley).
3. HIGHAM LANE, Nuneaton (Warwickshire)
(John Green, Peter Friar, David Waddington, Sean Kelly).
Higham Lane 2, Bedford Modern 6.



Girls' U-13 winners, The Grove School, Market Drayton, with E.S.T.T.A. Chairman, John Arnold.



Girls' U-11 winners, Wold Junior High School, Hull with Martin Foulser (Stiga AB)

Millom 6, Higham Lane 2,
Bedford Modern 2, Millom 6.

Girls' Under-19:

1. BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (Dorset)
(Rachel Mackriell, Sally New, Joanna Bush, Judith Fairhall).
2. Longsands, St. Neots (Cambridgeshire)
(Alison Hillard, Sandra Randall, Janet Randall, Louise Willett).
3. Millom (Cumbria)
(Gail Smith, Louise Brockbank, Lindsey Rushton, Elizabeth Proctor).
Longsands 4, Millom 4.
Millom 0, Bournemouth 8.
Bournemouth 5, Longsands 3.

Boys' Under-16:

1. LONGLANDS, KENDAL (Cumbria)
(Stephen Dixon, David Archer, David Hilbeck, Shaun Ellison).
2. St. Paul's Way, Bow (Inner London)
(Steve Dettmar, Tony Dettmar, Ashan Rashid, Frank West).
3. Moseley Park, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
(Andrew Dixon, Alan Trubshaw, Kevin Ash, Nalin Patel).
Longlands 7, Moseley Park 1.
Moseley Park 3, St. Paul's Way 5.
St. Paul's Way 3, Longlands 5.

Girls' Under-16:

1. PARRENTHORN HIGH, PRESTWICH (Greater Manchester)

(Helen Frost, Beverley Hoyle, Susan Hoyle, Debra Bowling).

2. Goff's, Cheshunt (Hertfordshire)
(Sarah Sandley, Alison Boxall, Caroline Boxall, Lisa King, Christine Muskett).
3. Milhamford, Oxford (Oxfordshire)
(Mary Denbow, Jacqueline Windle, Jayne Talbot, Judith Harris).
Parrenthorn 5, Milhamford 3.
Milhamford 5, Goff's 3.
Goff's 5, Parrenthorn 3.

Boys' Under-13:

1. THE GROVE, MARKET DRAYTON (Shropshire)
(David Williams, Sean Groom, Adrian Bloore, Graeme Walwyn).
2. Stepney Green (Inner London)
(Kevin King, Chris Herbert, Darren Brown, Roger Simon, Lee Noakes).
3. Newcastle Royal Grammar (Tyne & Wear)
(Martin Schapira, Andrew Drapkin, Waseem Shakoor, Jonathon Miller).
The Grove 5, Stepney Green 3.
Stepney Green 5, Newcastle 3.
Newcastle 3, The Grove 5.

Girls' Under-13:

1. THE GROVE, MARKET DRAYTON (Shropshire).
(Alison Barker, Carol Wickstead, Maria Roddy, Nicola Thorneycroft).
2. Wibsey Middle, Bradford (West Yorkshire)
(Julie Stocks, Caroline Stocks, Rachel Beaumont, Jane Haigh).
3. Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
(Karen Alder, Janice Deal, Rachel Joiner, Joanne Chandler, Samantha Bruns).
Wibsey 3, The Grove 5.
Brampton Manor 1, Wibsey 7.
The Grove 8, Brampton Manor 0.

Boys' Under-11:

1. ALDRYNGTON COUNTY PRIMARY, READING (Berkshire)
(Andrew Syed, Matthew Syed, Stephen Bourland, Ian Metcalfe, Ian Harris).
2. Caistor CE/Methodist (Lincolnshire)
(Simon Chamberlain, John Gaughan, Andrew Oxspring, Neil Copp).
3. Camborne CE (Cornwall)
(Leon Jose, Mark Dale, Adrian Downing, Stephen le Hunte).

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Girls' Under-11:

1. WOLD JUNIOR HIGH, HULL (Humberside)
(Alison Evans, Ann Boanas, Kathryn Bray, Ruth Bray).
2. Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)
(Lorraine Pidd, Dawn Wickstead, Stephanie Thorneycroft, Jeanette Roberts).
3. Dale Hall Primary, Ipswich (Suffolk)
(Sally Mayne, Sylvia Kenyon, Jane Wilce, Heather Goodson).
Wold 7, Dale Hall 1.
Dale Hall 4, Market Drayton 4.
Market Drayton 1, Wold 7.

The Stiga English Schools Individual Championships are due to take place at Gloucester Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 26 at 9-30 a.m. An entry of 316 players in eight events means that for the first time the group system of play will be abandoned and instead there will be a k.o. with an automatic consolation event in addition.

The Annual General Meeting takes place at the Anglican Chaplaincy, Leicester on Sunday, May 18th, 1980 at 2-30 p.m.

All photographs by JOHN O'SULLIVAN

County of Cleveland Debenhams Sixth 2-Star Junior 'Select'

SHOCKS ABOUND AT ESTON

by Alan E. Ransome

The Cleveland Debenhams Junior 'Select' played at Eston Leisure Centre turned out to be a tournament of shocks on March 8/9 as both the English junior champions were beaten.

England No. 2 Colin Wilson of Middlesex won the boy's singles by beating the "boy of the tournament", John Souter, also of Middlesex, in the final.

Wilson won the title without being troubled scoring easy victories against Souter, who was disappointing in the final, and semi-finalist Philip Bradbury of Bucks.

Despite his poor final showing, Souter played some tremendous table tennis beating Wilson earlier in the day in the team final and scoring two victories over the Debenhams English junior champion, senior international Graham Sandley of Middlesex, in both the semi-final of the singles and the team final.

Souter in fact dominated the team event, carrying his partner, Mark Oakley of Surrey, through to victory against England's top pair Sandley and Wilson by three sets to two.

The girls' singles final saw a defeat for the national junior champion, Alison Gordon of Berks. by Middlesex's Mandy Reeves.

Mandy played some very aggressive table tennis, hitting the ball hard on both wings, outclassing her opponent in the final.

Alison did beat Mandy earlier in the day in the team final, although going down 2-3 when she was partnered by her Middlesex colleague Helen Williams who also put up an impressive display.

The cadet singles went more to form with both national champions, Gary Lambert and Jean Parker taking the titles.

Gary, from Exmouth in Devon, beat York-

shire's Steven Sharpe in the final after Sharpe had played brilliantly to eliminate both Carl Prean of the Isle of Wight, the England No. 2 and Cleveland's No. 1 cadet David Polasek, who did well to reach the last four.

The girls' cadet singles final was a repeat of the national final, Jean Parker beating Lisa Bellinger of Bedfordshire in three games.

Results:-

JBS: Quarter-finals:

G. Sandley (Mi) bt M. Oakley (Sy) 16, 13;
J. Souter (Mi) bt P. Barnett (St) 15, 16;
P. Bradbury (Bu) bt K. Satchell (Wi) 18, 16;
C. Wilson (Mi) bt C. Prean (IOW) -20, 16, 14.

Semi-finals:

Souter bt Sandley -19, 18, 13;
Wilson bt Bradbury 11, 15.

Final:

Wilson bt Souter 6, 16.

JGS: Quarter-finals:

A. Gordon (Bk) bt J. Collins (Bk) 8, 12;
H. Williams (Mi) bt J. Deakin -17, 15, 19;
L. Taylor (Mi) bt T. Robertshaw 13, 12;
M. Reeves (Mi) bt J. Bellinger 12, 18.

Semi-finals:

Gordon bt Williams 15, 11;
Reeves bt Tyler -19, 13, 15.

Final:

Reeves bt Gordon 19, -13, 16.

JXD: Final:

Wilson/Williams bt Sandley/Gordon 14, 17.

JBT: Final:

Souter/Oakley bt Sandley/Wilson 3-2.
Oakley lost to Wilson -12, -20; lost to Sandley -13, -15.

Souter bt Sandley -17, 16, 14; bt Wilson 16, -13, 15.

Souter/Oakley bt Sandley/Wilson 8, 17.

JGT: Final:

Reeves/Williams bt Gordon/Tyler 3-2.
Williams lost to Gordon -12, -18; bt Tyler 17, -19, 19.

Reeves bt Tyler 16, 16; lost to Gordon 15, -18, -18.

Reeves/Williams bt Gordon/Tyler 15, 16.

CBS: Quarter-finals:

G. Lambert (Dv) bt K. Samuels (He) -17, 18, 15;

N. Hoare (Sy) bt M. Mercer (La) 13, 14;
D. Polasek (Cv) bt G. McKim (Np) 10, 15;
S. Sharpe (Y) bt Prean 15, -19, 12.

Semi-finals:

Lambert bt Hoare -13, 16, 18;
Sharpe bt Polasek 16, 10.

Final:

Lambert bt Sharpe -22, 16, 13.

CGS: Quarter-finals:

L. Bellinger (Bd) bt F. Elliot (St) 8, 9;
M. Seaton (Y) bt V. Bellingham (St) -15, 6, 6;

H. Bardwell (He) bt A. Judd (Ca) 21, -18, 7;
J. Parker (La) bt N. Tsakarisanos (Gs) 14, -19, 5.

Semi-finals:

Bellinger bt Seaton 12, 18;
Parker bt Bardwell 18, 10.

Final:

Parker bt Bellinger 19, -16, 15.

CBT: Final:

Lambert/M. Ellett (Dv) bt Mercer/P. Ashcroft (La) 3-0.

Lambert bt Mercer -13, 14, 12;

Ellett bt Ashcroft 13, -14, 15;

Lambert/Ellett bt Mercer/Ashcroft -17, 19, 19.

CGT: Final:

Parker/N. Hamilton (Bu) bt Seaton/J. Ryalls (Y) 3-2.

Parker bt Seaton 14, 14; by Ryalls 20, -20, 10.

Hamilton lost to Ryalls -21, -14; lost to Seaton -16, -25.

Parker/Hamilton bt Seaton/Ryalls -14, 7, 8.

U11: BS: Final:

J. Stokes (Bk) bt A. Dixon (St) -19, 19, 18.

U11: GS: Final:

A. Evans (Y) bt A. Boanas (Y) 10, 14.

IRISH AFFAIRS

by WILLIE WALSH

IRISH CLOSED

Clean sweep for Slevin and Leonard

Colum Slevin and Anne Leonard retained their Irish Closed Singles Titles at St. Mary's College, Galway, last month and also added the 3 closed doubles to their long list of domestic titles.

In the Men's Singles, Slevin beat Keane in a fantastic hard-hitting and open final that belies the scores. Keane who had beaten Slevin in their last seven meetings, started as if this was another formality when winning the first game through sheer brilliance. He seemed to lose his concentration at the start of the second game as Slevin went into an early lead and Keane gradually gave up the ghost. The 3rd game was a classic with long rallies — Keane's loop versus Slevin's counter hitting — but Slevin was the one to win the points. It was unfortunate for Keane to lose the one he really wanted to win, but nobody could deny the character of 15-year-old Slevin, who had beaten Martin Kinsella in the semis. In the other semi-final Keane had a facile victory over Tom Heasley.

The Women's final saw our two top ladies in action with 18-year-old Anne Leonard again proving her superiority over Karen Walker. Miss Leonard is now maturing at International level and with greater experience and full concentration will be a player to reckon with on the International scene next year. With two victories over Mrs. Walker in the past few months and her good European 2 record, she has it all before her.

Slevin and Keane teamed-up together to beat the Anglo Irish pair — Martin Kinsella and Pat Glynn, in the Men's doubles final.

The Women's Singles finalists also 'doubled-up' to beat Mary Sheehan and Deirdre Kilpatrick in the Women's Doubles final.

Slevin and Leonard clinched their 'hat-tricks' when beating Keane and Walker in the Mixed final.

A major surprise in the Women's Singles was the defeat of No. 2 seed Deirdre Kilpatrick by Anna Kelly who unfortunately could not maintain the same form against Helen Walsh whom she lost to.

A revelation in the Men's Singles, was the display of Tommie Caffrey. Tommie who is in semi-retirement after gracing the game for over 20 years and gaining 150 International caps gave Kinsella the fright of his life in the quarter-finals.

Geraldine Leonard, a younger sister of Anne's beat Geraldine Greene in the Girls' final and Michael Greene — a son of well-known Professional Golfer, Christy Greene — beat Dessie Flanagan in the Boys' final.

Results:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Keane bt F. Glynn 5, 18;
T. Heasley bt D. Weir 7, 11;
M. Kinsella bt T. Caffrey 13, -23, 17;
C. Slevin bt P. Glynn 11, 15.

Semi-finals:

Keane bt Heasley 14, 13;
Slevin bt Kinsella 14, 17.

Final:

Slevin bt Keane -16, 8, 9.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

A. Leonard bt K. Keely, 13, 14;
G. Leonard bt C. Greene 16, 13;

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 8)

K. Walker bt M. Sheehan 16, -11, 13.
H. Walsh bt A. Kelly 20, 17.

Semi-finals:

A. Leonard bt G. Leonard 15, 15;
K. Walker bt H. Walsh 10, 13.

Final:

Leonard bt Walker 20, 16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Keane/Slevin bt Caffrey/A. Cairns
- 19, -18, 18;

Kinsella/Glynn bt Weir/Heasley 19, -14, 19.

Final:

Keane/Slevin bt Kinsella/Glynn 16, 16.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

A. Leonard/Walker bt G. Leonard/Walsh
- 15, 15;

Sheehan/D. Kilpatrick bt P. Hunter/
A. McLoughlin 13, 14.

Final:

Leonard/Walker bt Sheehan/Kilpatrick
16, 14.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

Slevin/A. Leonard bt Glynn/Sheehan
-14, 10, 12;

Keane/Walker bt Kinsella/Kilpatrick
6, -13, 22.

Final:

Slevin/Leonard bt Keane/Walker 19, 19.

Boys' Singles Final:

M. Greene bt D. Flanagan 9, 15.

Girls' Singles Final:

G. Leonard bt G. Greene 8, 13.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Martin Kinsella won his place on the Irish team for the European Championships in Berne when he beat Derek Weir and Thos. Heasley in a round robin to fill the vacant position on the Men's team. Martin becomes the first non-Irish born player to represent Ireland and he carries all of our best wishes in Berne. The full team is:—
Men: Colum Slevin, Kevin Keane, Martin Kinsella.

Women: Anne Leonard, Karen Walker.

N.P. Captains: Pat O'Brien and B. Marshall.

IRELAND v. SWITZERLAND

SLEVIN THE STAR

Ireland concluded their European Division 2 programme on a high note when they defeated Switzerland 5-2 in the Royal St. George Hotel, Limerick before a packed house.

As I said last month, if we continue to run to form, we should beat Switzerland, and indeed we did. The form I had in mind was not the form one receives from a computer from information fed in, but the form of having won every second match and particularly when least expected.

Colum Slevin gave Ireland a dream start when he beat the Swiss No. 1 Thomas Busin. In the first game, Slevin led 19-13 and though he lost the next 4 points, he regained his grip and went on to win without losing any further points. In the second game he lead 8-3, but Busin went on to lead 12-10. At this stage Slevin took control going on to win 15.

Martin Hafen regained parity for the Swiss beating Kevin Keane in three games. Keane won the first game 20 and looked to have the match wrapped up when he lead 8-3 in the second. Keane then seemed to have a mental aberation losing the next 8 points and although it was a 'ding-dong' affair after that Hafen took the game 24-22. Hafen won the 3rd game 8.

Anne Leonard won a facile victory over Beatrice Witte to restore Ireland's lead. The Irish Champion was never troubled against the Swiss lady who was unable to cope with Leonard's strong left-handed attacking shots.

Slevin and Keane made it 3-1 for Ireland when they beat Busin and Hafen. In the 3rd game the Irish pair won the first 9 points and subsequently never looked back.

Victory was clinched when Slevin and Leonard beat Busin and Witte. As in the Men's doubles, they were a game each when

Slevin and Leonard won the first 9 points in the 3rd and never looked back.

Slevin confirmed his great return to form when he beat Hafen, and Busin regained some consolation for Switzerland when he beat Keane.

Result: Ireland 5, Switzerland 2.

This young Irish team — Keane (19), Slevin (15), and Leonard (18), should do well next season after their good displays this year. They were most unlucky to lose to Spain and Norway and as well as beating Switzerland they had good victories over Wales and Belgium. With a bit of luck they could also have beaten Denmark, and Finland caught them on the hop in the opening match last September. Ah well! that is what Table Tennis is all about.

C. Slevin bt T. Busin 17, 15.

K. Keane lost to M. Hafen 20, -22, -8.

A. Leonard bt B. Witte 9, 14.

Slevin/Keane bt Busin/Hafen 20, -19, 11.

Slevin/Leonard bt Busin/Witte -19, 11, 20.

Slevin bt Hafen 13, 14.

Keane lost to Busin -15, 20, -19.

Irish Junior Open, St. Vincent's C.B.S.

Glasnevin, Feb 8-10.

Results:-

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

M. Green bt B. Orr; D. Flanagan bt W.

Cherry; P. Barry bt A. Greene; R.

McWilliams bt A. Walsh.

Semi-final:

Greene bt Flanagan; McWilliams bt Barry.

Final:

McWilliams bt Greene.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:

G. Leonard bt E. Tuohy; J. Wightman bt

M. McMullen; P. Blair bt T. Power;

L. Gibson bt C. McGrane.

Semi-final:

Leonard bt Wightman; Blair bt Gibson.

Final:

Leonard bt Blair.

Cadet Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

A. Walsh bt G. O'Hara; J. Fall bt P. Lunney;

M. Wosser bt A. Robson; A. Marshall bt

T. Quinn.

Semi-final:

Walsh bt Fall; Marshall bt Wosser.

Final:

Marshall bt Walsh.

Girls' Cadet Singles: Quarter-finals:

E. Tuohy bt H. Watson; A. Flood bt

C. Leonard; N. McEvoy bt T. Fortune;

A. Reilly bt J. O'Grady.

Semi-final:

Tuohy bt Flood; Reilly bt McEvoy.

Final:

Reilly bt Tuohy.

Boys' Doubles: Final:

D. Flanagan/W. Cherry bt B. Orr/J. Fall.

Girls' Doubles: Final:

G. Leonard/Y. Parsons bt L. Gibson/

J. Wightman.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

M. Greene/G. Leonard bt D. Flanagan/

J. Wightman.

Cadet Boys' Doubles: Final:

A. Walsh/A. Marshall bt J. Fall/C. Inndis.

Cadet Girls' Doubles: Final:

A. M. Reilly/T. Fortune bt E. Tuohy/

H. Watson.

Team Events:-

Boys' Final:

Glenalbyn (M. Greene/E. Byrne) bt

Osmonde Ballymoney (B. Orr/J. Fall)

3-0.

Girls' Final:

Glenalbyn (G. Leonard/Y. Parsons) bt

Lisburn (L. Gibson/M. Dunleavy) 3-2.

Cadet Boys' Final:

Tullygally Craigavon (G. Casey/G. O'Hara)

bt Gormanston (T. Quinn/T. Williams)

3-1.

Cadet Girls' Final:

Cameron Park I (E. Tuohy/H. Watson)

bt Cameron Park II (Marie Christie/H.

Curry) 3-0.

IRELAND v. WALES

Ireland and Wales drew 6-6 in a Junior International played in St. Asaph Sports Centre organised by the Rhyl and District

Table Tennis League in February. This was indeed an exciting and entertaining match between the top juniors of both countries and the I.T.T.A. are indeed indebted to the Table Tennis Association of Wales and the organising committee from Rhyl for their organisation and hospitality.

Results:-

Welsh names first.

K. Davies bt A. Marshall 11, -19, 17.

D. Griffiths lost to A. Walsh 19, -13, -6.

L. Leggett/B. Ammond lost to G. Leonard/

L. Gibson -17, 14, -16.

H. Cotter lost to A. M. Reilly -17, 14, -13.

J. Scully lost to E. Tuohy -13, 20, -18.

B. Jeanes/M. Byles bt M. Greene/D.

Flanagan 18, -11, 14.

B. Ammond lost to L. Gibson -15, -18.

L. Leggett lost to G. Leonard -14, -18.

Griffiths/Davies bt Walsh/Marshall

17, -13, 14.

M. Byles bt D. Flanagan 13, -22, 14.

B. Jeanes bt M. Greene 17, -8, 22.

Cotter/Scully lost to Tuohy/Reilly -17, -13.

CAN THE CUTTING STROKE COME BACK ?

by ZHANG XIELIN

(China's cutting stroke expert and many times Swaythling Cup team member, now coach to national women's team)

Since the Japanese invented the loop drives that took the world by surprise in the 1950s and then the Chinese emerged as a ping pong power with their fast-attacking game in the early 'sixties, the cutting or chopping stroke — once the only orthodox stroke in the eyes of table-tennis players throughout the world — has been losing ground.

While technically, the cutting stroke has been greatly improved in recent years, the number of players who have built their game around it is definitely on the decline.

In the 'fifties, the cutting stroke was the predominant style in the West and we in China still remember the names of a host of brilliant chopping masters such as



Zhang Xieling (right) discusses table tennis techniques with two Japanese coaches.

Victor Barna and Johnny Leach of Britain, Ferenc Sido and Zoltan Berczik of Hungary, and Richard Miles of the United States.

In China, there were Jiang Yongning and Zhuang Jiafu in the 'fifties and Wang Zhiliang, Lin Huiqing, Zheng Minzhi, Su Guoxu and Qiu Baoqin (and of course including the author — editor) in the 'sixties.

They all made notable contributions to the development of table tennis and all topped the rating lists of the ITTF at one time or another.

But in recent years, few cutting stroke players have reached peak international level.

At the 34th World Championships in 1977, Japan's chopping player Takashima Norio defeated top-notch attacking players Istvan Jonyer and Tibor Klampar of Hungary, and in Pyongyang last year, the two finalists in the women's singles were chopping stroke exponents — Ge Xin-ai of China and Li Song Suk of North Korea.

Hideo Goto of Japan, E. Hucing of West Germany, Jacques Secretin of France and Liang Geliang, Huang Liang and Chen Xinhua of China also play an impressive chopping game.

But very few youngsters nowadays are interested in specialising in the chopping game. This is certainly true in China and I think things are not much different in the rest of the world.

At present, the leading cutting stroke exponents in China are Chen Xinhua and two girls, Tong Ling and Bu Qijuan. But in the younger-age bracket, one can only name a handful of promising chopping players in the provincial teams.

Reasons Behind the Waning Popularity of the Cutting Stroke

In the past, almost all players using the handshake grip played a defensive chopping game. Even some penholder-grip players based their game on the cutting stroke.

But today, with the emergence of the loop — and especially the fast loop — even the orthodox-grip players like to play a forehand topspin attacking game.

What is the reason for the decline of a style which has played such an important role in the history of the sport and which is still executed with brilliance by a few great players?

The main reason, in my opinion, is the marked improvement of table tennis in recent years. The game is played at a much faster pace today, attacks are ever more penetrating and spins are much heavier.

This has placed a high premium on forehand and backhand retrieving, counter-attack, footwork and variation of stroke play (spin and non-spin returns) and the over-the-table work of a chopping player.

In other words, if a chopping player wants to be good he must have a very polished, all-round game. He cannot hope to win if he is weak in any one aspect.

The attacking player, however, can still outsmash his opponent if he is very strong on his forehand and somewhat weak on the backhand, or vice versa.

So it takes more time and effort to train a first-class, fully-fledged chopping player than to train an attacking player.

Importance of Having a Reserve of Good Cutting Players

But it's worth the effort to train a strong contingent of first-class chopping players.

China's experience has proved that when a country has a variety of playing styles available, a player of any style can benefit and the level as a whole can be raised considerably.

While a chopping player can greatly improve his defence when pitted against a powerful attacking player, an attacking player can also improve his offensive play through practice with a good, stone-walling, chopping player.

When the loop drive first appeared and Chinese players found it difficult to cope with, some of them began to master the loop technique. Then we had good players capable of beating loop drive players because they learned how to kill a loop drive when practising repeatedly with a loop drive player.

Meanwhile, our loop drives were also particularly fierce because their exponents had benefitted from constantly playing against fast attack.

It is impossible for a nation to attain a very high standard in the game if there is only one type of player available.

Some Pointers on Latest Chopping Techniques

The Spin. The heavy backspin is the basic weapon a chopping player must use. Spinning returns should be interspersed with non-spinning returns with seemingly the same movements to baffle the opponent and create opportunities for counter-attacks.

Backspin strokes must have a very low trajectory while returns must be consistent. Low trajectory is offensive in nature whereas consistency in return is good defence.

Stance and Movements: Footwork is vital to a chopping player if he wants to be always ready to return a shot from a com-

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fortable position. And a combination of proper armswing, wristwork and waist twist produces the desired backspin.

But this cannot be explained in a few words. It can only be acquired through demonstration and long practice.

The Combination Bat: The combination bat has given new meaning to the chopping stroke. With inverted sandwich rubber on one side and long-pimpled rubber on the other, the combination bat enables the chopping player to cope with as well as produce all conceivable types of spin.

Use the long-pimpled side to return a heavily spinning shot. You can turn it into an erratic or curved floater which is difficult for your opponent to return. When you find it hard to judge the spinning force of an on-coming ball, use the long-pimpled side for safety.

With the long-pimpled side, it is easy to counter a heavy topspin shot and turn it into a heavy backspin return.

But the long-pimpled rubber cannot produce great force. So use the inverted sandwich side to smash, loop-drive or for sudden counter-attacks.

The invention of the combination bat is the outcome of the development of a diversified style of play. And let's hope that, with the introduction of an improved bat, there will emerge a new generation of chopping players with a higher level of skill than has ever been attained before.

Letters to the Editor

PARTICULAR DILEMMA

I am grateful to Donald Parker for his notes on the Junior Scene and particularly for his articles on Periodization, i.e. bringing players to a seasonal peak for the big events. This has worked also in other sports. Note Bayern Munich's win in the European Cup (soccer) when only sixth in the German League, Lassi Viren's victory in the Olympic 5,000 and 10,000 metres after almost total lack of success during the previous three years, and in our own sport Gabor Gergely's and Istvan Jonyer's spectacular part in the Hungarian successes in the team events in the 1979 World Championships after a moderate season (by their standards). However, I feel that a Periodization Programme is only possible for players whose selection is assured at the start of the season. Those who have to fight for their places have to be on peak form in those Tournaments that decide their selection. It may well be that players who reach their peak early or mid-season are coming off the boil towards the end of the season when certain big events, i.e. World, European Senior and Junior Championships take place. I don't think that we have yet found the answer to that particular dilemma.

Whilst I agree that Junior table tennis is in the end only a preparation for the Game at Senior level, there is a great deal of statistical evidence that success at Junior level is an essential condition of success at a later stage. Even the Under-11 and Under-12 events already provide very firm pointers. Leading Juniors like Graham Sandley, Colin Wilson, John Souter, Gary Lambert, Alison Gordon, Mandy Reeves, Helen Williams, were already outstanding in their age group at the age of 10 and 11. All the above were also outstanding Cadets and went on to become outstanding Juniors. Examples of players who started playing at a later age who have won through to the top are less numerous, probably because a Junior who has started playing at 13 or 14 has many hundreds fewer playing and Coaching hours behind him than the Junior who has started earlier and very often that gap is never closed. It would seem, therefore, that far more Under-11

and Under-12 events should be staged, perhaps even a National Championship which might attract boys and girls to take the sport up earlier.

I don't share the often expressed view that players who start early get "burned out" earlier. There are many reasons why players "lose interest" (a well-worn phrase in our sport). The main one is lack of success and a good grounding early in life in both learning and competition is a condition for future success.

Few of our top players can hope to earn more than a very humble living from our sport and unless they get a great deal of enjoyment from the game they will eventually drop out or retreat into the seclusion of their local league.

All the above applies mainly to the Western countries; the system in the Eastern countries is completely different, starting with their sports schools where table tennis is often part of the educational curriculum, enjoying the same respect as, say, soccer, rugby and cricket in this country, leading to an assured place on the payroll of a State enterprise. Readers may draw their own conclusions with regard to other aspects, but in terms of producing winners the Eastern systems are more effective.

Reverting to the earlier problems of reconciling Periodized training programmes with the need of being near peak to win enough tournaments to get selected, or indeed earn enough money to live, there may well be a case for selecting teams for important events very early in the season, so that players, if they wish, can concentrate their training for that season on winning the big event, World or European, and treat all other commitments as incidental. Not only training, but financial aspects would need looking at, but it might be a way of achieving greater success. Whether it is the right way, against the Western background, must remain a matter for debate.

JOHN PREAN,

The Barn,
12 Marlborough Road,
Ryde,
I.O.W.

ON OFFER

A club colleague was fortunate enough to win the second prize in the draw held at the Norwich Union Masters at Milton Keynes last May. The prize being a Dunlop Allround Reverse table tennis bat autographed by the sixteen players competing at the tournament.

As neither the winner of the prize nor any colleague is an autograph collector and it seems rather a pity to use the bat for table tennis, would any Table Tennis News reader be prepared to make an offer for purchase of same?

R. J. FENSOM.

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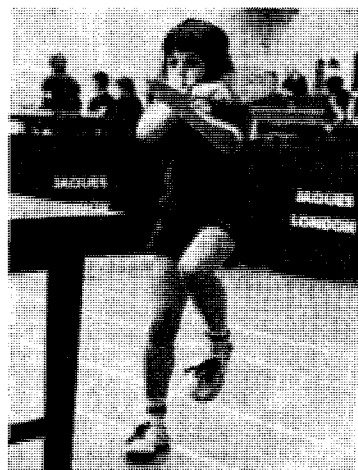
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NINA TSAKARISIANOS (Gloucestershire)



JIMMY STOKES (Berkshire)



ANDREW (left) and DAVID DODD (Kent)
All photos by L. Black, London W11.



Welsh Corner

H. ROY EVANS

The Welsh domestic season ended with the Welsh Closed Championships on Sunday, March 23 at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff, when Alan Griffiths retained his title with little more inconvenience than that resulting from a very over-heated hall.

Alan was scarcely extended at all, but should have had a bigger test in the quarters from which Graham Davies, who didn't like his No. 5 seeded position, withdrew, letting Tony Holmes through to make token resistance, Alan then went on to win comfortably against George Evans in the semi-final, and Nigel Thomas with equal ease in the final. George's quarter-final adversary was the diminutive but determined Andrew Jones, who had done well to eliminate Andrew Evans.

There were far more exciting matches in the bottom half. No. 1 Junior Mark Thomas confirmed his selection in the Welsh team for Berne, by beating No. 2 Seed David Welsman in three excellent games, and then went on to challenge Nigel Thomas in what was the best match of the tournament. Nigel had beaten Brian Everson, then Tony Healan, who had done well to eliminate Brian Jeanes, before his exciting encounter with Mark, which eventually went Nigel's way 23 in the third.

But Alan Griffiths was much too good for Nigel in the final.

Top Seeds Griffiths and Davies took the men's doubles with a three game win — 19 in the third — against Welsman and George Evans, who had only survived 26-24 in the third against the youngsters Nigel and Mark Thomas. The ever present Andrew Evans and John Bloomer put up a splendid fight against Griffiths and Davies in the other semi-final.

Stephanie Jones took the women's singles, and her big top-spin game was too much for the holder, Margaret Phillips. Stephanie was actually given more trouble by Debbie Coulthard, whilst Margaret had an excellent win over No. 2 seed Cathryn Jones. Betty Gray, who seems to go on for ever, met her match in young Lynne Sellick, who only lost narrowly to Debbie Coulthard — a good performance.

Stephanie and Cathryn Jones beat Margaret Phillips and Sandra Pickering in the doubles. The latter must have been in more doubles finals, as winners or runners-up than any other pair in Wales.

Stephanie completed her day's triumphs by taking the mixed with George Evans, beating holders Welsman and Margaret Phillips.

One felt that Mark Thomas, fresh from his excellent win over Welsman would have taken the boys' title without much trouble, but he met Jeanes in a determined and unusually responsible mood, and the latter won the final with a display of expertise and sound tactical approach. Both players had convincing semi-final wins, Brian over Mark Byles and Mark over Andrew Jones.

Susan Jones showed a return to some more positive form by taking the Junior

Singles with good wins over Heidi Cotter and Brenda Annand before winning in the third game of the final against Jayne Sully. The latter also had had a good run with victories over Helen Sellick, Sue Powell and Linda Leggett to her credit.

In the cadet boys' event, Paul Griffiths took the title to North Wales, with an excellent win over No. 1 Seed David Griffiths 23-21 in the third in the semi-final and a very one-sided triumph over Kevin Davies in the final.

Helen Sellick, having lost to Jayne Sully in the girls' event, reversed the result in the cadet girls, and went on to win at the expense of No. 2 seed Heidi Cotter.

Scores:-

MS Semi-final:

A. Griffiths bt G. Evans 13, 11.

N. Thomas bt M. Thomas -19, 8, 23.

MS Final:

Griffiths bt Thomas 9, 14.

WS Final:

F. Jones bt M. Phillips 6, 13.

MD Final:

Griffiths/Davies bt Welsman/Evans 19, -10, 19.

WD Final:

Jones/Jones bt Phillips/Pickering 11, -21, 13.

XD Final:

Evans/Jones bt Welsman/Phillips 20, 17.

JBS Final:

Jeanes bt Thomas 18, -14, 16.

JGS Final:

S. Jones bt J. Sully -12, 17, 12.

CBS Final:

P. Griffiths bt K. Davies 8, 15.

CGS Final:

H. Sellick bt H. Cotter 18, 12.

The play-off matches between divisional winners of the Welsh League in South and North Wales proved to be very one-sided in the men's and junior matches, but much more evenly balanced in the women's game.

Senior men Keith Fitzsimmons, John Hook and Alun Williams from Rhyl were no match for Eastern Valley's John Bloomer, Andrew Evans and Kevin Phillips, and John Hook beat Andrew Evans in the only Northern victory.

Similarly Swansea's Juniors were much too strong for Wrexham. Andrew Jones, Mark and his brother Kevin Davies faced A. Taylor, S. Roberts and A. Harden, and

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Roberts gained Wrexham's only success with a win over Kevin.

Swansea women — Betty Gray, Cathryn Jones and Jayne Sully raced away to a four-nil lead over East Flint's Sandra Bennett, Nalda Holden and Nicola Cotter. But the North Wales side fought back, Sandra Bennett beating Betty Gray, Nicola beating Jayne Sully, and Nalda Holden also defeating Betty. Cathryn Jones then beat Nicola Cotter in the third game of the decisive match, for had she lost East Flint would surely have walked away with the spoils because Sandra Bennett beat Jayne Sully very easily in the ninth match.

At the conclusion of its domestic season, the Welsh Association have issued the following ranking lists:-

Men:

1. Alan Griffiths (Pontypridd)
2. Nigel Thomas (St. Albans)
3. Dave Welsman (Feltham)
4. Mark Thomas (Rhyl)
5. George Evans (Barry)
6. Graham Davies (Bridgend)
7. Brian Jeanes (Risca)
8. Andrew Evans (Pontypool)
9. John Bloomer (Cwmbran)
10. Jeff Morgan (Troedryhiw).

Women:

1. Stephanie Jones (Cardiff)
2. Cathryn Jones (Swansea)
3. Debbie Coulthard (Barry)
4. Kim Wheatley (Penarth)
5. Sandra Bennett (East Flint)
6. Nalda Holden (East Flint)
7. Sandra Coulson (Cardiff)
8. Susan Jones (Penarth)
9. Brenda Annand (Cwmbran)
10. Linda Leggett (Milford Haven).

Junior Boys:

1. Mark Thomas (Rhyl)
2. Brian Jeanes (Risca)
3. Andrew Jones (Swansea)
4. Mark Byles (Rhyl)
5. Gary Wilkins (Blaina)
6. Jeremy Hobbs (Tredegar)
7. Alan Coulthard (Barry)
8. Mark Davies (Llanelli)
9. Ceri Phillips (Swansea)
10. Philip Kenna (Penarth) and Jeff Rigby (Penarth).

Junior Girls:

1. Susan Jones (Penarth)
2. Brenda Annand (Cwmbran)
3. Linda Leggett (Milford)
4. Lynne Sellick (Abercynon)
5. Sue Powell (Rhyl)
6. Jayne Sully (Swansea)
7. Helen Sellick (Abercynon)
8. Nicola Cotter (East Flint)
9. Heidi Cotter (East Flint)
10. Vicki Skeats (Cardiff) and Pamela Grant (Cardiff).

Cadet Boys:

1. Paul Griffiths (Buckley)
2. David Griffiths (Cardiff)
3. Kevin Davies (Llanelli)
4. Peter Champion (Bridgend)
5. Peter Capper (Llandrindod Wells)
6. L. Stansfield (Connah's Quay)
7. Mark Freeman (Cardiff)
8. Anthony Jones (Aberdare)


Cadet Girls:

1. Jayne Sully (Swansea)
2. Helen Sellick (Abercynon)
3. Heidi Cotter (East Flint)
4. Michele Quarrey (Barry)
5. Chantall Nicholls (Cardiff)
6. Karen Buckle (Wrexham).

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GUILD HALL PRESTON

WEDNESDAY 7TH THURSDAY 8TH AND FRIDAY 9TH MAY 1980

NORWICH UNION MASTERS

The 14 players who have qualified by their successes in the 1979/80 NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX; the WORLD CHAMPION Seiji Ono; and the new EUROPEAN CHAMPION, will be invited to compete for the title of

NORWICH UNION MASTER

and for nearly **£6000** prize money

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

The 1979/80 NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX was again an outstanding success with the full list of qualifiers for the NORWICH UNION MASTERS to be held at the Guild Hall, Preston, on 7th-9th May not being decided until the end of the final Open Championships in the circuit.

Such was the severity of the competition for places in the Masters that the reigning European Champion from Hungary, Gabor Gergely only clinched his place in this last event whilst the 1979 NORWICH UNION MASTER, Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia will only become eligible to compete in this year's event if one of the players above him in the Grand Prix points table should become European Champion this month — the European Champion has automatic accession to the Masters — or is unable to take part in Preston.

From the list of the top 20 points scorers in the GRAND PRIX, any vacancies caused by players unable to take their places in the Masters will be filled strictly in order of merit in the Grand Prix points table.

Although the European Open Championships to be part of next season's Grand Prix will not be decided until this month, the organisers are pleased to announce that the Grand Prix will include an International Championship from outside Europe for the first time with the Norwich Union Canadian Open, to be held in Toronto 22nd-25th May, 1980, being the first event in next season's circuit. This accords with the agreement between the organisers and the International Table Tennis Federation for the Norwich Union Grand Prix to gradually enlarge by including Open Championships in other Continents.

THE TOP 20 PLAYERS IN THE 1979/80 NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX

	Points
1 Wang Hui Yuan (CHI)	3,200
2 S. Bengtsson (SWE)	2,750
3 D. Dougas (ENG)	2,600
4 T. Klampar (HUN)	2,400
5 Shi Zhi Hao (CHI)	1,800
6 Xie Saike (CHI)	1,600

7 A. Grubba (POL)	1,500
8 U. Thorsell (SWE)	1,400
9 J. Dvoracek (CZE)	1,200
10 M. Orlovski (CZE)	1,100
11 G. Gergely (HUN)	1,100
12 Cai Zheng Hua (CHI)	1,000
13 Liao Fumin (CHI)	1,000
14 Li Zhenshi (CHI)	1,000
15 D. Surbek (YUG)	1,000
16 J. Secretin (FRA)	950
17 P. Stellwag (GFR)	950
18 P. Day (ENG)	950
19 I. Jonyer (HUN)	925
20 V. Broda (CZE)	900

NORWICH UNION MASTERS

The NORWICH UNION MASTERS will be held at the Guild Hall, Preston, on 7th, 8th and 9th May, 1980.

Nearly £6,000 prize money will be at stake when the top fourteen players in the 1979/80 NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX, together with the reigning World Champion and the newly crowned European Champion will be invited to compete for the title of NORWICH UNION MASTER 1980. The winner will receive £1,500 and a magnificent silver trophy.

Preston is easily accessible by road, lying just off the M6 at Junction 31. Ample car parking space is located next to the Guild Hall. Preston lies on a main railway line and is therefore well served by trains from different areas. The Guild Hall is in the city centre next to the bus station.

The Grand Hall within the Guild Hall has permanent tiered seating for some 1,800 spectators surrounding the playing area.

ALL SEATS WILL BE INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED

Tickets are obtainable only from:
 Guild Hall Booking Office,
 Lancaster Road,
 Preston, PR1 1HT.
 Telephone 0772 21721.

PLAYING FORMAT

The 16 players will be divided into two groups of eight with all playing all in each

group. The players occupying the top four places in each group at the end of the "round robin" will be the quarter-finalists.

THE WHOLE TOURNAMENT WILL BE PLAYED ON ONE BUTTERFLY EUROPA TABLE USING YSP 4-STAR SELECT BALLS ALL COMPETITORS WILL PLAY ONE MATCH IN EACH SESSION (except the final evening)

PLAYING SESSIONS

Wednesday 7th May —
Morning 09.30 4 matches from each group
Afternoon 14.00 4 matches from each group
Thursday, 8th May —
Evening 19.00 4 matches from each group
Friday, 9th May —
Morning 09.30 4 matches from each group
Afternoon 14.00 Play-off for places 9-16
4 quarter-finals
Evening 19.00 2 semi-finals. Play-offs for places 3-8. FINAL.

TICKET PRICES

Three-day tickets £10.00, £11.50, £13.00.
Whole day 7th & 8th £3.50, £4.00, £4.50.
Whole day 9th £4.25, £5.00, £5.75.
Morning (each day) £1.00, £1.25, £1.50.
Afternoon 7th & 8th £1.50, £1.75, £2.00.
Afternoon 9th £1.75, £2.00, £2.25.
Evening 7th & 8th £2.00, £2.25, £2.50.
Evening 9th £2.50, £3.00, £3.50.
Group Discounts: One free ticket for every 10 whole-day or three-day tickets purchased.
Schools' Discount: for accompanied parties of school children can be negotiated.
Children under 16: accompanied by an adult, half price.

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Victoria Guest House, 62 Victoria Road, Preston. Tel. 718644.
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Mrs. Boyce, 84 Watling Street Road, Preston. Tel. 774294.
Mrs. Jones, Hazelwood Guest House, Preston. Tel. 728021.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AMAZING OMISSION

When the England team for the European Championships was finally announced I would think that the majority of people associated with table tennis in England were amazed at the omission of Bob Potton. Just what has he to do to get selected?

I have no doubt that someone in a so-called official capacity will come up with a good excuse for his omission, but facts do speak for themselves in the most important place — on the table — and in

case the selection committee forgot to look at results when the team was picked, I quote the following — with five 3 star tournaments having taken place, he has reached three finals, and in the National League is currently equal top of the averages losing in 4 out of 18 games (in the top half). In the County Championships he has a 100% record, having played all five matches. He was selected for the Irish Open but owing to injury unfortunately had to withdraw, or was the selection only made possible because no one else would travel?

Excluding Desmond Douglas, whom we all know is the best thing to happen to English Table Tennis since Chester Barnes, can anyone doubt that Bob Potton is surely equal to, if not better than any player selected for the Europeans? So the obvious question is what does he have to do to prove his ability. Maybe his face doesn't fit.

It has been said that many other facts are taken into consideration by the Selection Committee. If this is so, why do we bother to have tournaments? Perhaps it would help if the Selectors actually attended the tournaments and watched some of the table tennis. Perhaps we could ask which of the selectors has attended what tournament this season or last. If, as I expect the reply to be, we are only volunteer workers, to that I say — leave it to the people who do have time for this major task. I stand to be corrected, but in any sport, surely a person with ability to reach the top is given every opportunity to do so, first by his Club, then County and then it is hoped by England. In this sport of ours, however, it seems that some people in control have other ideas.

Another controversial point is the County Championship results which for many years have been taken into consideration for national ranking. Does the existence of the National League preclude this?

It seems to me that the County Championship weekends have been a flop, with no spectators and I think it is time to act now, before it is too late, and to return the County Championships to their rightful place — at the top.

Perhaps some thought might be given to staging the County Championships on two days prior to the English Closed. This would enable spectators to support their County and the players would feel a return of the fierce competition that somehow seemed to be lacking this season.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all the players selected for the Europeans the very best of luck and hope all have a very successful tournament.

R. C. ROFFE,

Essex Senior Match Secretary.

**18 Buckingham Close,
Emerson Park,
Hornchurch, Essex.**

IDIOTIC CLASH

May I raise two points regarding veteran events?

1. How on earth did it come about that the Veterans Event at the Debenham 2-Star South of England Tournament was scheduled for the Saturday, 12th April, the same date at the Veterans County Championships play-off which had been in the E.T.T.A. Calendar since July and in which at least 12 from among the better veterans in the country would be taking part? In the majority of, if not all, other week-end tournaments, veteran events are held on the Sunday, surely it would have been possible to arrange this one also on Sunday — in the morning. There must be a sound reason for such a seemingly idiotic clash. Quite possibly I am being very 'dim' for I cannot understand it and would welcome some enlightenment from the organisers.

2. Now to Women Veterans and the 'English'. Certainly entries in very recent years have not been sufficient to run this event, but does this preclude it from appearing on the Entry Form at all? Surely it could be made subject to a minimum entry. In a year when Veterans were moved from the 'Open' to the 'Closed', which meant a different date and different venue, it would have been a good opportunity to 'try again'. Please let us see it on the Entry Form next year, and, come on ladies, have a go. A small country with a total population of only 3,000,000 (New Zealand) manages to run over-45 and over-55 Women's Singles, also Women's Veteran Doubles, we should at least be able to manage one Veteran Women's Singles. I see from the last issue of T.T. News that my 'old' (in the affectionate sense, although our acquaintanceship is getting nigh on 30 years!) friend Harold Pearce wants the counterpart Men's event transferred back to the English 'Open' and am pleased to read that this holds such interest for spectators.

PHYLLIS LAUDER.

**18 Sylvan Avenue,
Hornchurch, Essex.
RM11 2PN**

UTTER FARCE

Following my participation in the Yorkshire 2-Star tournament, I feel I must point out the failings of what turned out to be a complete and utter farce.

By lunchtime many competitors were still waiting to play matches scheduled for the morning session. This situation had been arrived at by the lack of umpires, with the tournament referee airing his views on the subject over the PA system, much to the annoyance of competitors engaged in playing matches. While I can understand his grievance, I cannot understand why the organising committee supplied only four umpires. Competitors were constantly being asked to volunteer to umpire when the rule regarding umpiring stated that "no player would be obliged to umpire". Surely the organisers should have either arranged for a suitable number of umpires or stated that losing players would be required to umpire.

Having attended all the Northern and Scottish tournaments this season, I feel that the people in charge of the Yorkshire 2-Star have a lot to learn particularly from organisers "north of the border" who make the long early morning journey worthwhile.

While knocking up was not allowed, there seemed to be no regulation at all regarding the correct dress with many competitors being allowed to play in various light coloured and striped shirts. It is no wonder that the country's top players keep away from this tournament.

Finally the only consolation from my point of view was the availability of a "licensed refreshment room" where competitors could relax without the constant ramblings of the tournament organiser ringing in their ears.

KEITH WILSON,

(S.W. Durham).

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NATIONAL GIROBANK SCOTTISH OPEN

UNIQUE MEETING IN EDINBURGH

by George R. Yates

A men's singles final between an Australian and an Italian in Edinburgh must qualify as a somewhat unique occurrence in the annals of the Scottish TTA but such was the happening in the National Girobank Scottish Open played at Meadowbank Sports Centre over the weekend of Mar 22/23.

Robert Tuckett was the Aussie to triumph in the final his victim being Massimo Constantini who had the satisfaction of beating both England's Max Crimmins and Nicky Jarvis as well as Ireland's Colum Slevin.

Tuckett also claimed two English scalps, those of John Souter, who replaced David Barr in the original selection, and Nigel Eckersley of Cheshire as well as Tommy Heasley of Ireland.

England's **Melody Ludi** was the winner of the women's singles, the Bradford lass also reaching two other finals, winning the mixed doubles with Crimmins but losing, with Angela Mitchell, the women's doubles to **Anne Leonard** and **Karen Walker** (nee Senior) of Ireland.

Tuckett also made another appearance in the finals winning the men's doubles with his compatriot **Robert Javor** against Constantini and his compatriot Enzo Mariani.

Joe Eng of Canada was the winner of the boys' singles beating Slevin in the final after ousting Souter in the quarters. Scotland came into their own in the girls' singles when **Carole Dalrymple** accounted for Italy's Emilia Masia in a one-sided final. And to put the icing on the English cake, making it a three-tiered one, **Bryan Merrett**

ran away with the veterans' title beating Robert Kerr in the final.

Sadly for England's Angela Mitchell it was not one of those tournaments to be remembered but all credit to Ireland's Anne Leonard who beat the Middlesex girl in the semis of the women's singles and she could also sympathise with her county teammate Souter who, like Angela, got so far but no further.

All-in-all a well run tournament in ideal surroundings with the usual Scottish hospitality headed by Chairman Harry Baxter, Secretary Stan Buchan and Treasurer Ian Dunbar.

Results:-

Men's Singles: Round 4:

R. Tuckett (Aut) bt T. Heasley (Ire)
15, 15, 14;

J. Souter (Eng) bt R. Troilo (Ita)
18, -18, 17, -19, 20;

R. Yule (Sco) bt E. Mariani (Ita)
16, -18, 6, 10;

N. Eckersley (Ch) bt R. Javor (Aut)
22, 17, 14;

N. Jarvis (Cv) bt D. Constance (Ch)
16, 7, 15;

A. Majid (Sco) bt N. Ward (Aut)
18, 15, -16, -20, 21;

M. Constantini (Ita) bt C. Slevin (Ire)
17, 16, -19, 17;

M. Crimmins (Eng) bt J. Eng (Can)
18, 15, 13.

Quarter-finals:

Tuckett bt Souter 8, 13, 18;

Eckersley bt Yule -16, 15, 17, -8, 19;

Jarvis bt Majid 7, 10, 20;

Constantini bt Crimmins 14, -19, 19, 18.

Semi-finals:

Tuckett bt Eckersley 12, 13, 10;

Constantini bt Jarvis 15, -19, 19, 20.

Final:

Tuckett bt Constantini 15, 10, 24.

Women's Singles: Round 3:

K. Walker (Ire) bt L. Mackay (Sco) 6, 10, 2;

G. Masia (Ita) bt E. Robb (Sco)
-19, 8, 13, 17;

C. Johnston (Can) bt S. Thompson (Sco)
-11, 11, 17, -19, 17;

M. Ludi (Eng) bt P. Fleming (Sco) 7, 18, 17;

C. Dalrymple (Sco) bt S. Ferguson (Sco)
16, 8, 11;

A. Leonard (Ire) bt G. Nesukaitis (Can)
9, 11, 11;

F. Strino (Ita) bt I. Ferguson (Sco)
15, 12, 15;

A. Mitchell (Eng) bt L. Johnston (Sco)
7, 10, 9.

Quarter-finals:

Walker bt Masia 20, 10, 11;

Ludi bt Johnston 10, 14, 8;

Leonard bt Dalrymple -14, 19, 19, 21;

Mitchell bt Strino -19, 14, 15, 15.

Semi-finals:

Ludi bt Walker -14, 15, 20, -12, 12;

Leonard bt Mitchell -15, 14, 22, 19.

Final:

LUDI bt Leonard 18, 19, 16.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Javor/Tuckett bt Heasley/Slevin

-18, 13, -12, 17, 20;

Crimmins/Souter bt P. Bargagli (Ita)/Troilo

15, 20, -19, 15;

Constance/Mariani bt Yule/D. Hannah

(Sco) 17, -17, -8, 14, 19;

Jarvis/Ward bt Constance/Eckersley

19, 16, -18, -17, 11.

Semi-finals:

Javor/Tuckett bt Crimmins/Souter

18, 18, -19, 15;

Constantini/Mariani bt Jarvis/Ward

13, 19, 16.

Final:

JAVOR/TUCKETT bt Constantini/Mariani

11, 12, 14.

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Ludi/Mitchell bt K. Hammond/K. Mackay

(Sco) 13, 17, 9;

Dalrymple/Fleming bt A. Blackwell/

Ferguson (Sco) 19, 14, 11;

Masia/Strino bt H. Calder (Sco)/Robb

-18, 20, 19, 19;

Leonard/Walker bt C. Johnson/Nesukaitis

6, -19, 12, 16.

Semi-finals:

Ludi/Mitchell w.o. Dalrymple/Fleming;

Leonard/Walker bt Masia/Strino 4, 14, 11.

Final:

LEONARD/WALKER bt Ludi/Mitchell

-21, 19, -22, 19, 14.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Crimmins/Ludi bt Troilo/Strino

16, -19, 12, 17;

Heasley/Walker bt Yule/Dalrymple

14, -17, -15, 17, 13;

Slevin/Leonard bt Constantini/Masia

8, 14, 19;

Souter/Mitchell bt A. Bourbonnais (Can.)

/Johnston 20, -20, 10, 7.

Semi-finals:

Crimmins/Ludi bt Heasley/Walker

18, -14, 18, -16, 16;

Slevin/Leonard bt Souter/Mitchell

19, 11, 16.

Final:

CRIMMINS/LUDI bt Slevin/Leonard

20, 16, -22, -19, 17.

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Slevin bt G. Docherty (Sco) 12, 17;

Bourbonnais bt G. Campbell (Sco) 25, 17;

J. Eng (Can) bt Souter 11, 18;

D. Campbell (Sco) bt M. Gent (Du)

-17, 15, 14.

Semi-finals:

Slevin bt Bourbonnais 20, -16, 15;

Eng bt Campbell 16, 9.

Final:

ENG bt Slevin 17, -16, 13.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

Dalrymple bt L. Johnston 6, 13;

Masia bt V. Thomson (Sco) 18, 11.

Final:

DALRYMPLE bt Masia 13, 16.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

B. Merrett (Eng) bt J. Mitchell (Sco) 4, 12;

R. Kerr (Sco) bt J. More (Sco) 9, 13.

Final:

MERRETT bt Kerr 14, 14.



Robert Tuckett of Australia pictured during the Men's Final of the National Girobank Scottish Open Table Tennis Championship held at Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, on March 22 and 23. Seeded No. 1 in the Championship, Tuckett beat M. Constantini in the Final to take the National Girobank Cup and first prize money of £200.

More than 130 competitors from six different countries took part in this prestige Scottish event which was able to take place this year largely as a result of intervention by National Girobank. The bank provided more than £2,000 in sponsorship money to the Scottish Table Tennis Association. "Had it not been for Girobank's support", said S.T.T.A. Chairman, Harry Baxter, "We probably would not have attracted enough competitors of the calibre needed to give the event the status it deserved. We did not have the necessary finances to cover costs and prize money.

Photo by Capital Press, Edinburgh.

Cover Picture

Yorkshire's Melody Ludi, winner of the Women's Singles in the National Girobank Scottish Open at Edinburgh.

County Notes Supplement

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

JUNIORS ON TOP!

Cambs Juniors are Champions of Div. 2 Midland of the County Championships following their 10-0 win over Glamorgan at Cambridge on Mar. 1. With maximum points from six matches, they are three points clear of their nearest rivals with only one match to play. The result was never in doubt after the boys won the opening three singles, Andy Withers being particularly devastating with wins over Jones and Davies respectively with only Davies being able to get into double figures and that in one game only! Robert Swift and Garry Jordan were also in good form and although Jordan was taken to three by Coulthard he won the last 21-4. Mandy Judd and Tracy Fisher were also in good form and coasted home in the third games.

All but Tracy Fisher of the Junior team played for the Senior second team immediately after the Junior match and beat Hertfordshire 6-4 in Div. III East. This win gives them maximum points from four matches and they need just one point from their final match against Norfolk II to seal the Championship. The result was not as close as the score suggests as Cambridgeshire had the points in the bag after only seven sets. They then lost the last three at -19 in the third. Withers and Valerie Parkes maintained their unbeaten record in this division but Swift lost for the first time when he was beaten by Alan Lamprell, 19 in the third.

Although without Geoff Davies, away on a banking course, the Senior first team completed a hat-trick of wins and kept their own unbeaten record with a 7-3 win over Beds at Luton. Keith Richardson and Mick Harper won both their singles and also combined to win the Men's Doubles. Joanne Palmer was also unbeaten, beating Barbara Hammond in the singles and winning the doubles in partnership with Jane Hunter 25-23, 22-20!

In the Cambs League Wesley who have reached the final of the K.O. Handicap Trophy twice in the last three seasons, again have a very good chance of reaching the final again as their fourth team have won their way through to the semis of this year's competition with a 5-2 win over TSB Soham III. Only Anthony Booth who beat Martin Livermore and Peter Melton, was able to overcome the 20 Handicap and Wesley won comfortably in the end. In another quarter-final South Cambs R.D.C. beat Torchbearers IV 7-2. Rod Thorpe and Bob Viney were unbeaten for the "council men" and Torchbearer wins came from very veteran Ralph Rust and Mike Grant over Geoff Doggett.

In Div. I of the league St. Ives lost ground in their attempt to catch the leaders TSB Soham. They were without Les Wooding and Gary Jordan when they played Press and only won 6-4. Jordan was back again against TSB Soham II and he had a fine win over county champion Swift. Despite Jordan's three wins St. Ives could again only win 6-4. In Div. II Police cleared themselves from the relegation zone with a 10-0 win over Press II and a 7-3 win over Haverhill. Pat O'Bryne and Steve Stafford were unbeaten in both matches.

COUNTY RESULTS:

SENIORS

v Beds

K. Richardson bt D. Rawlinson 14, 11; bt S. Barby 12, -19, 13.
M. Harper bt S. Barby 12, 19; bt Cartwright 9, 12.
D. Tiplady lost to Cartwright 18, -16, -17; lost to Rawlinson -12, -14.
J. Palmer bt B. Hammond 19, -19, 16.
J. Hunter lost to J. Dimmock -12, -16.
Richardson/Harper bt Barby/Rawlinson 17, 12.
Palmer/Hunter bt Hammond/Dimmock 23, 20.

3 East

v Herts III

R. Swift bt T. Pleasance 14, 14; lost to A. Lamprell 19, -14, -19.
A. Withers bt A. Lamprell 16, 17; bt D. Seaholme 11, 12.
G. Jordan bt Seaholme -14, 20, 9; lost to Pleasance 17, -22, -19.
A. Judd lost to D. Baines -17, 18, -19.
V. Parkes bt J. Rodgers 8, 17.
Swift/Withers bt Lamprell/Pleasance 12, -22, 2.
Judd/Parkes lost to Baines/Rodgers 15, -10, -7.

JUNIOR

2 Midland

v Glamorgan

Swift bt A. Coulthard 22, 16; bt A. Jones 18, 18.
Withers bt A. Jones 9, 9; bt M. Davies 6, 17.
Jordan bt M. Davies 19, 18; bt Coulthard 17, -19, 4.
Judd bt S. Jones -14, 13, 11.
T. Fisher bt L. Sellick -18, 12, 13.
Swift/Withers bt Jones/Coulthard -22, 14, 16.
Judd/Fisher bt Jones/Sellick -15, 18, 20.

Soham kept up their challenge for the National Club Championship with a good win over Ormesby. They beat the Middlesbrough club 5-4 and are two points behind leaders Sealink Milton Keynes. These teams meet in the last game of the season at Soham and which will prove to be a thriller. In the first set Paul Day went down to Donald Parker but Kenny Jackson restored their fortunes by beating Nicky Jarvis. Soham went into a 2-1 lead with Keith Paxton always struggling against David Tan who displayed great versatility. Six times England Champion Denis Neale showed he is still a force to be reckoned with when he beat Mike Johns in straight games. The vital doubles came next and Day, producing much better form, combined with Johns to win in three. The sixth set brought together the two number ones, Day and Jarvis, and after two close games at "deuce" Day finally ran out an easy winner. It looked good for Soham but Ormesby were far from finished and Parker beat Jackson in two more gripping "deuce" games and then Neale beat Tan 20, 18 to equal the scores yet again. It was youth against experience when Paxton faced Johns but the latter player won against a nervous opponent.

Keith Richardson who has been dropped by Soham for the last two matches through loss of form plans to make a come back. He has been unfortunate with an ankle injury which hindered him considerably but now he has recovered and is practicing hard to regain his place in the Soham side. His training comprises of County matches, league matches, tournaments and constant evening play against good opposition. Keith says that it is still his ambition to play for England but his first object is to get back into the Soham team in the National League which comprises top ranking players who are used by all clubs to boost their results. Good luck Keith!

There is every likelihood that Cambridge Y.M.C.A. will not have a team in the 1st Division of the Cambridge League next season as their present position indicates that they will almost certainly be demoted. This will be the first time that Y.M.C.A.

have left the 1st Division and I can go back to the inception of the League in 1936. Back in the old days at Alexandra Street which was then the mecca of table tennis, Y.M.C.A. always had dominance in the 1st Division with many fine players in their ranks starting with names such as W. J. R. (Bill) Humphreys (one time secretary of the league), R. F. H. (Reg) Edwards (who once took international Alec Brook to five in the "English Open" at the Albert Hall in pre-war days) and who could play an ambidextrous game much to the consternation of the opposing player as I well know! And then there was Ray Barrer who could keep up a constant stream of attacking shots that stood him in good stead. We must not forget too that the great Sir Charles (C.P.) Snow used to play at the Y.M.C.A. as I once had the good fortune to play him in a local tournament there together with his brother Philip. These are indeed memories that made the Y.M.C.A. famous for its table tennis and no doubt the team will return to the 1st Division if I am any judge!

The Cambs League programme is now drawing to a close and at the moment many interesting positions are rising in the various divisions. Impington I who have had a bad season look likely to join Y.M.C.A. to the second division and Press may just escape the drop. In Div. II two University teams are almost certain to be promoted to the 1st Division as they have drawn away from all opposition. In Div. IIIB there are three teams who are vying for top position, Eastern Gas, General Accident and Shire Hall all who have passed the 100 mark in points. In Div. IVA Wesley IV and University IV, the top two teams, drew with each other for the second time in a recent fixture but University seem likely to get top position although it is still touch and go with the two young Wesley players Martin Livermore and Peter Melton playing so well.

LATE NEWS — I now hear that TSB Soham have beaten Caravans International in the quarter-finals of the Cambs League Knock-Out Handicap Trophy so that they will now play Wesley IV in the semi-finals.

The problem of Umpires which has plagued the Cambs Association for many years seems now to be resolved as six Umpires were available at a recent County match. May there be co-ordination at all matches so that the lot of umpiring does not fall on one or two willing horses!

Obituary

ALAN SPILMAN

The sudden passing of Alan Spilman at the age of 51 has shocked many table tennis players and fans. It was only a short time ago that he was playing in the Cambridge & District League with success and enthusiasm. For many years he had been Secretary of the University Press Table Tennis Club and mixing administration with playing ability he was very successful at both. He had a knack of toppling the best of players in the league and one could never be sure that he would be beaten. He was deeply involved in tennis and other sports and was a council member of the Lawn Tennis Association. He will be sorely missed by the University Press Club who operate three teams in the Cambs League and who have been very successful in past years.

The Funeral Service was held at St. John's Church, Cambridge where many relatives, friends and sports associations assembled, filling the church in memory of a very good trooper. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Sally and daughter Penelope at this time.

L.R.J.C.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

ADDED INTEREST

Although in the main the events in the County Closed Tournament went according to expectations, there were one or two surprises to provide added interest on the day. Andrew Bellingham, winner of four titles last year, collected only three this year including the all-important Men's Singles trophy confirming his No. 1 position in the County. But in the Men's Doubles, partnered by Andrew Rich, the top seeds went out in an early round to the Wolverhampton pair, Paul Chester and Ray Williams.

Tony Isaac was the other finalist in the men's event. He reversed last year's result of the semi-final against Rich on "deuce" in the third, but apart from raising some hopes at the beginning of the second game of the final, he was unable to maintain his challenge and Bellingham ran out an easy winner.

Jill Harris captured the women's title by beating the holder Janet Carr over three games in the final. She also took two other titles — the Girls' Singles and the Mixed with Bellingham — but the Women's Doubles was retained by Janet Carr and Joanne Chubb for the fourth year running.

The main surprise of the day was Peter Dawes victory in the Boys'. On the way to the final he beat top seed Paul Bennett and higher ranked Paul Dilger and Bill Bridgeman. Vicki Bellingham also upset the rankings with a win over Fiona Elliot in the Under-14's Girls' event.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Semi-finals:
A. Bellingham bt P. Draisley 14, 20;
A. Isaac bt A. Rich -10, 16, 20.

Final:
BELLINGHAM bt Isaac 13, 16.

Women's Singles:
JILL HARRIS bt Janet Carr 14, -14, 12.

Individual Singles:
BELLINGHAM bt Rich 18, 9.

Boys' Singles:
P. DAWES bt W. Bridgeman 12, 14.

Girls' Singles:
JILL HARRIS bt Shirley Cain 8, 13.

Consolation Boys' Singles:
A. DEVITT bt R. Bridgeman 16, 16.

Consolation Girls' Singles:
VICKI BELLINGHAM bt Fiona Elliot
-14, 19, 17.

Veteran Singles:
R. WAIN bt R. Booth 19, 15.

Men's Doubles:
ISAAC/M. DEVITT bt W. Bridgeman/S.
Richards -13, 18, 15.

Women's Doubles:
CARR/J. CHUBB bt Harris/Cain -19, 17, 19.

Mixed Doubles:
BELLINGHAM/HARRIS bt Rich/Cain
-17, 17, 15.

Junior Doubles:
W. BRIDGEMAN/P. BARNETT bt Dawes/P.
Allister 18, 11.

The County 'A' team finished their County Championships programme in fine style with a win over Worcestershire to maintain a 100% record for the season. The team of Bellingham, Rich, Isaac, Janet Carr and Jill Harris deservedly go through to the play-off. Their performance completes a very successful season for the County teams with the junior 'A' side gaining third place in the Premier Division and the 'B' team taking second place in the North Midland 3rd Division, despite the squad policy to provide experience to a wider number of juniors. In their last match of the season, with Alan Trubshaw coming in as a late replacement for Dawes, they went down 3-7 to Warwickshire 'B'. Chris Hunt and Amanda Hegarty won their singles to provide the only Staffs successes, but this first defeat had no effect on their position in the table.

Staffordshire juniors had a field day at

the Derby 2-Star, making almost a clean sweep of titles. Barnett took the Boys' and Jill Harris the Girls' whilst among the doubles titles Jill Harris and Andrew Dixon won the Mixed and Barnett and Bill Bridgeman the Boys'. Barnett had the best performance at the Cleveland 'Select', reaching the quarter-finals with good wins over Nixon (Scotland), Dodd (Kent) and Gary Lambert (Devon — top Cadet and England Junior ranked 15) before going out to John Souter (Middlesex), the ultimate winner.

Around the local tournaments within the County, Stan Deakin took the Potteries title beating Eddie Wilkes in the semi-final and Mark Evans in the final, and Pat beat Karen Wass to win the Women's Singles. In Stone, Greg Hallam successfully defended his men's singles title with a win over Brian Lockett in the final. Bill Bridgeman dominated the Stafford tournament, capturing four titles, the men's, under-21's, men's doubles with Dilger and the mixed with Marie Maud. In a close women's final, Rachel Roberts beat Lynne Burgess.

The semi-finals in the Beattie Trophy are Stafford 'B' v Lichfield 'A' and Bridgnorth v Potteries. Leading positions in the County League are:

Div. 1
Wolverhampton 'A'
Wolverhampton 'B'
Div. 2
Stone 'A'
Wolverhampton 'C'
Div. 3
Leek 'A'
Leek 'B'
Div. 4
Wolverhampton 'E'
Cannock 'C'
Div. 5
Bridgnorth 'A'
Stafford 'D'

The main changes in the ranking lists are the withdrawal of Wilkes for work reasons, Stan Deakin moves up to No. 4 in the men's, and Dawes takes over the No. 4 place in the boys. Amongst the top positions in the regional rankings are:

Boys
Andrew Dixon 2, Paul Barnett 5, Bill Bridgeman 9, Paul Dilger 12 and Craig Bakewell 20.

Girls
Jill Harris 3, Fiona Elliot 6, Shirley Cain 7.

Cadet Boys
Anthony Devitt 5, Darren Haynes 11, Adrian Dixon 14, Richard Bridgeman 16.

Cadet Girls
Fiona Elliot 3, Stephen Hadley 4, Vicki Bellingham 5, Rachel Roberts 7, Amanda Hegarty 13, K. Gampston 15.

NORFOLK NOTES

by Neville Graver

TSB JUNIORS TAKE TITLE

Again, Norfolk's younger players have stolen all the headlines. Pride of place goes to the TSB Junior first team of Richard and Martyn Stevenson, Roger Margetson, Zoe Nichols and Sarah Bignell who, with their fine 7-3 victory over Northants, clinched the Junior 3rd East Midland title with seven points from four matches. The week following that victory the three boys all featured in the semi-finals of the Fenland Open Boys' Singles, with Richard Stevenson eventually beating Margetson in the final.

The junior second team has found going much tougher in their division, but bearing the young age of the team, have performed well, and have gained valuable experience.

The seniors suffered a close defeat away to Bucks at the start of March, which still leaves them needing a point from their last match with Northants to ensure that they remain in the second division East.

On the domestic front, the final of the

Broadside Norfolk Club Knock-Out Competition will be contested between Gothic (Norwich) and Electricity (Kings Lynn) at Fakenham British Legion on Saturday, 19th April, 7 p.m. In the semi-finals, Gothic beat Norwich Police 5-4, with Stan Honor and Terry Darby taking two each, and Derek Wortley chipping in with the vital fifth set with a three-game victory over Jeanne Brown. For Police, Bob Mitcham and Dick Mussett both won two singles. In the other semi-final, Electricity beat fellow Kings Lynn team Post Office, with Steve Barrett starring, well supported by Steve Barber and Alan Nicholls.

On the local league front, CEYMS 'A' seem to have the Premier division sown up, with the fight for runners-up spot between CEYMS 'B' and Park Lane, who have still to play each other. This will be the last season of the Premier in its present form, as next season will see Premier 'A' and 'B' divisions of eight teams each. In the Wymondham League Tarmac are favourites for the title, with Gaymers in pursuit, whilst Dereham sees the continuing fight between Costessey and Hippos, with Costessey having a slight edge at the moment. In the cup, however, the final will be contested between two outsiders in Hippos 'B' and Beetley.

In the Fakenham League activity has centred on the Closed Championships held at R.A.F. West Raynham on Mar. 9. The events were dominated by Sue Hazel, who took all three titles she contested. Winners and runners-up were:

Men's Singles:
J. DEFTY bt S. Barret.
Men's Doubles:
DEFTY/BARRETT bt H. Howlett/B.
Whittaker.
Women's Singles:
S. HAZEL bt M. Ashmore.
Women's Doubles:
HAZEL/M. HAYNES bt D. & M. Ashmore.
Mixed Doubles:
S. HAZEL/R. MUSSETT bt Defty/Ashmore.
Veteran Singles:
WHITTAKER bt A. Petts.
Junior Singles:
P. RICHES bt R. Clark.
Handicap Singles:
H. BENNELL bt Sharon Barrett.
Div. 2 Singles:
R. FENN bt D. Attridge.
Div. 3 Singles:
P. BIDEWELL bt K. Anthony.

Closed Championships will shortly be held at Norwich (Mar. 16), Great Yarmouth (Mar. 23) and Dereham (Apr. 13). On the social front Annual Dinner/Dances will be held at Fakenham - Apr. 11, Great Yarmouth - Apr. 18, Norwich - Apr. 28, Kings Lynn - May 2.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Gerald Green

'25 YEARS OF TABLE TENNIS AT ALBRIGHTON

The Albrighton Table Tennis Club opened 25 years ago on Monday, 28th February 1955: a weekly social table tennis evening for adults has been held each Monday ever since.

The Club has flourished from its small beginnings in premises hired once a week. It now owns the premises, which are well equipped and used every day of the week. It is a desirable venue for Town and County matches.

Shropshire T.T.A. was not functioning at that time and the local league in Shropshire was not then affiliated to the E.T.T.A. Albrighton therefore originally affiliated to Staffordshire and became a member of the Wolverhampton T.T.A. It has been in continuous membership of these Associations ever since. It now runs five teams in the Wolverhampton League and seven in the E.T.T.A. — affiliated Telford League in Shropshire.

The Club also fosters table tennis at Junior level. Coaching sessions are held on Saturdays for local school children and the premises are made available for them to play at other times. The Club also provides a weekend venue for a local Junior Table Tennis League.

Albrighton's success has been attributed to its policy of giving priority to maintaining a large, stable, adult membership. The adults providing the income to enable the Management Committee to run the Club efficiently. Much is owed to Alan and Esme Cavell, the latter having been secretary throughout the 25 years.

Whatever the result in the final of the Boys' Singles at the Shropshire Junior 'Closed' on Mar. 9, it was sure to be a 'youngest ever' winner as two 13-year-olds met. In the event it was Ivan Smith (S) who justified his No. 1 seeding and National Cadet ranking by beating Martin Tufft (T) — who had disposed of the No. 2 seed Tony Cheetham (S). Martin had earlier lost to Ivan in the Cadet final and played much better in the second final, being obviously very nervous in the first and never coming to terms with Ivan's heavy top spin. In fact the latter was not extended all day, indeed all singles events went according to seeding.

The tournament, with a smaller entry than normal, was as usual very well run by Bill Harris and Barry Taylor with the early finish meaning that the finals were played in front of an 'audience' as opposed to the usual parents and officials. Trophies included two new cups — The 'Paddy Jackson' for Boys' Doubles and the 'Peter Parkhurst' for Girls' Doubles — purchased by the County Association in recognition of services rendered by our former County Coach (now in Bristol) and County Secretary (who resigned last season).

RESULTS:

Boys' Singles:

I. SMITH (S) bt M. Tufft (T) 21, 18.

Consolation Boys' Singles:

SMITH bt Tufft 7, 16.

Girls' Singles:

JANE CHEETHAM (S) bt Tracey Powell (T) 21, 18.

Consolation Girls' Singles:

ALISON BARKER (MD) bt Denise Boughey (MD) 16, 19.

Boys' Doubles:

DEAN POUNTNEY/PETER HYDE (S) bt

Keith Sillitoe/Robert Bayliss (MD) 11, -14, 19.

Girls' Doubles:

BARKER/COLETTE SOAN (MD) bt Cheetham/Powell 15, 20.

Key

S—Shrewsbury, T—Telford, MD—Market Drayton.

Still with Juniors — this time on the Schools front — I am again able to report success for Grove (Market Drayton) teams. Both Boys and Girls at U-13 level are through to the National Finals at Matlock, thus joining Market Drayton Junior School U-11 Girls.

The Girls' side (Alison Barker, Carol Wickstead, Maria Roddy and Nicola Thorneycroft) beat Rylands School, Northampton 7-1 and Ferndale, Swindon 6-2. Alison and Carol unbeaten.

The Boys' side (David Williams, Sean Groom, Adrian Bloore and Graeme Walwyn) beat Cambourne, Devon 8-0, Sladen, Kidderminster 7-1 and Glen Eyre, Southampton 6-2. David Williams was unbeaten and recorded a fine win over Murray Jukes of Kidderminster. All the Grove boys are still in the U-12 age bracket.

Juniors are still doing well at outside tournaments. Ivan Smith is leading the way with recent wins at the North Wales and Lancashire 'Opens' making it three so far this season. Ranked No. 4 Cadet he has beaten No. 3 Stuart Worrall, Lincolnshire in both these tournaments, so a higher ranking seems on the cards.

Denise Boughey reached the semi-final of the Cadet Girls' at the Derby Open before losing to England-ranked Mary Denbow of Oxford. With Jane Cheetham she also got to the semi-final of the U-17 Doubles before losing to Yvonne Hall and Jill Harris. Colette Soan did well in the North Wales Open when beating Stephanie Hadley.

The only Senior competing 'outside' is Malcolm Green and he reached the final of the Intermediate Men's Singles and the quarter-finals of the Men's Singles at the Yorkshire 2-Star.

On the County scene fortunes have been very mixed once again. The Seniors got their first and only point of the season when forcing a draw at Nottingham. Green finished the season unbeaten, with wins over Kevin Edwards and Glen Stredder, while Les Baker and Clive Roberts chipped in with one each. The Junior first team beat a weak Clwyd 2 team 10-0 while the second team lost to an especially strong Avon team 2-8. Jamie Rea and Alison Lowe, both of Telford, winning one each.

In closing these notes I would like to express an opinion on the service rule — as applied in practice. Two basics of 'an open and flat hand with the fingers together' and 'projecting the ball upwards' are being completely ignored in the majority of games. It is happening at all levels up to and including International standard. We are starting to get publicity for the sport of table tennis in many ways — including television. Let's put our house in order so that at least the public can see we play to the rules — which to be honest are not difficult to read, understand, or conform to.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Dimmock

SCHOOLBOYS REACH FINAL

The County teams continue to struggle for survival, the first team against Cambs saw Dave Rawlinson and Dave Cartwright both defeat Cambs No. 3 but the experience of K. Richardson and M. Harper for the visitors took the remaining singles and doubles.

Barbara Hammond and Julie Dimmock fought hard to win their section of the match but it was not to be. In the doubles they lost 2-straight both at "deuce". Barbara lost her singles in the third after being in a strong position to win 2-straight. Julie, however, did win her singles against Jane Hunter which made the final result 7-3 to Cambs.

The Veterans without the experience of Jim Wooliscroft lost 2-8 to a very strong Berks team. Ron Chambers and Audrey Robinson both played well to win the two sets. The Junior 1st team against Leics. had their second successive win, 7-3, in a match where we saw the boys taking all but one of their sets.

David Sharpe and Ian Doughty playing with more confidence than in previous matches won both their singles and David and Colin Luscombe won the doubles. Surprisingly this is the first boys' doubles success of the season. Colin won the other singles. For the girls Julie Dimmock went down fighting against the experienced Yvonne Hall losing -26 in the 3rd. Julie Miles playing with characteristic determination showed her opponent that her forehead was both powerful and consistent to win in straight games.

In a Junior 2nd team match against Herts II. we saw a good performance from Russell Beard, who won both his singles and, with Mark Luscombe and Steve Barratt winning a singles each we had four sets. Julie Miles fought hard to win her second set of the day (she had rushed from Luton to Barnet to play in the evening match) but did not quite manage to pull it off against the much improved Alison Boxall. Carolyn

made it a double for the Boxall sisters by beating Mary Jarrett who, although losing in the third, is showing that she has good potential. The result was 6-4 to Herts.

In the English Schools South East Regional Finals held at Orpington, three Beds teams qualified. Two were from Bedford Modern School (Boys' U-13 and U-19) one from Dunstable — Manshead Upper (Girls' U-16). The four-boy team from Bedford in the U-19 age group, Steve Barby, Russell Beard, Alan Fordham and David Hurley, earned a place in the Finals by defeating Desborough School, Maidenhead (5-3) and, Stepney Green, London (7-1). Barby was in impressive form in these matches winning all his singles. In the final match against Harvey G.S., Folkestone a draw was sufficient. Fordham won his two singles, but Hurley had to win the last set to gain the draw.

Manshead in their section drew twice and lost 3-5 to the eventual winners, Jackie Bellinger being undefeated throughout. Dunstable teams continue to progress in the national Bromfield Trophy competition and the Rose Bowl in which the same team competes. They won the zone final by beating Northampton 8-1 in the Rose Bowl.

The County Closed will be held on Apr 20 at Vauxhall Motors Canteen, Luton. Play will be continuous from 9.30 a.m. If you are not competing please make the effort to come and view the finals which are scheduled to commence at 6.45 p.m.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

"NEW" KNIGHTON

Friday, Mar. 7 was the occasion of one of the biggest events in the history of Leicestershire table tennis. On that date the "new" Knighton Park Table Tennis Club was officially opened before a packed house. The opening took the form of a demonstration of table tennis from the beginner, up the various grades and culminating in a fine exhibition match between Jill Hammersley and Anita Stevenson. It was a marvellous evening, enjoyed by all with Steven White doing a great job as compere.

It was good to bump into Brian Hill in a recent National Team KO. Cup match. Brian, playing for Wyberton (Lincs) against Cavaliers seems to be playing as well as ever, although, as he admits, he hits more now, because he 'gets tired quicker' (although those are not the exact words he used). For Cavaliers David Gannon won two but found Hill a bit too much.

In their final match of the season in Division 2 (East) skipper Steven White decided to field the whole of the second team with a view to judging strength for the play-offs. Leicestershire having already qualified. Cambridgeshire, however were much too strong in the men's side of the team, losing only one singles (to Maurice Newman) and although Leicestershire picked up the three women's events they still went under by four sets to six. For the play-offs Leicestershire will once again be without Anita Stevenson but with Karen Rogers available the team still looks strong enough to make a serious challenge.

In the Loughborough League Championships top seed Phil Smith was expected to win the Men's Singles but went out to Roger Bailey in the semi-finals who turned out to be the eventual winner. Season after season Roger turns out good defensive displays for Loughborough and there will be few who were not delighted to hear of his success.

Leicester Veterans, who have had their best season for some time in the Midland League ruined their chances of the runners-up spot by losing 1-9 to Oxford 'B'. Whilst the Men's 2nd team have been promotion possibilities most of the season their chances, apparently evaporated when they could only manage a draw with Coventry. Credit

though to Kevin Pilgrim, who was involved in four of Coventry's winning sets. The Men's 3rd however look destined for relegation and the fact is the team is simply not strong enough for the division in which it is playing. The Men's 1st went down 2-8 to Bristol who could well top the division.

The women completed their season with a 6-4 win over Derby, highlighted by a magnificent maximum from Julie Revill.

In the Leicester League, Paul Randell comfortably tops the 1st Division averages with his team looking certain to win the division, Knighton Park II have taken the 2nd Division title with their mixture of experience and youth. Maggie have some good performances from Bob Spring and Allan Wilson to thank for their position at the top of Div. 3 whilst Peter Moss has spearheaded University to the top of Div. 4. Syston T.T.C. have the experienced Roy Walker in their team and lead Div. 5 but Peter Gerdes and Peter Ball are leading the Thurnby/Northwood challenge and the division is not yet settled. LUCA's Simon Thomas has ensured his team top Div. 6 and this promising youngster could well reach a much higher standard yet. Frank Ralstrick — who recently provided 'Top Spin' with a most interesting article — also provides Div. 7 with the league leaders, Leicester Gas and whilst Frank is second in the averages he is some way behind the leader Bob Davies.

Brian Austick continues to play well and his team, Knighton Park VIII should win Div. 8. What an amazing team Rank Taylor Hobson are! They have won only nine of their 17 matches, yet look likely champions. Reason? They have drawn the other eight. Without Jeff Foster, who has won 46 of their 104 sets, they would never be in the reckoning. Although Steven Want is the outstanding player in Div. 10 it is Records who are expected to take the title.

Leicester University — who are having such a good season — look to be Div. 11 champions, with Robin Neat leading the averages. Bentleys have completely dominated Div. 12 with the first three in the averages — Martin Dunn, Geoff Hibberd and Don Bates — all belonging to that club. Leicester Gas have Div. 13 nicely tied up but Paul Walker (British Shoe) leads the averages. In Div. 14 University look home and dry with Groby's Mick Long topping the averages. The only player in the whole of the league who is still 100% is Brian Canavan whose team, Magna Travellers lead Div. 15. Braunstone Avenue and Gynsil are fighting for the supremacy of Div. 16 but it is Gynsil's David Thompson who leads the averages. Braunstone Avenue look to be prospective champions of Div. 17 for whom DHSS's Martin Hallam leads the averages. R. & J. Hill have won Div. 19 although not until the last match has been played will the champion of that division's averages be known.

Randell, who tops the Leicester League first division averages is in a similar happy position in the Hinckley League where he is still 100% and although his team, Leisure Centre lead at the moment Kingscroft could still pip them for the title. Market Bosworth are much too strong for the opposition in Div. 2 for whom Steve Dobson and Frank Wykes lead the averages. E.M.E.B. lead Div. 3 and also Div. 4 with Roger Reardon still 100% in the Junior Division, led by Ashby Parva.

WESTERN LEAGUES NOTES

by Grove Motlow

NEWPORT CATCH UP

Newport caught up a little on their backlog of fixtures by journeying both to Torbay and Bristol in March beating the former 7-2 but losing to the latter 3-6.

Against Torbay, Brian Jeanes recorded a maximum with both Graham Sell and R.

Goulding losing to B. Pengelly whose teammates, D. Matthews and D. Gibbs had nought to show for their labours.

Bristol's Andy Creed had a treble in his side's success with Chris Ross (2) and Paul Jackson (1) also contributing. Mike Nocivelli (2) and Graham Sell replied for Newport.

We were all sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Leslie Gosling, the oldest of our Vice-Presidents, and a keen worker for the Western and Somerset Leagues, and Weston-super-Mare. After a short illness he will be sadly missed by those who were so closely connected with the sport.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

Just thirteen people, including the two participants, were present at 12.30 a.m. on Sunday, Mar. 9, to see Keith Nicoll take the Wellingborough Men's Singles title at Weavers Sports Centre, and so complete a clean sweep of all six events at the Wellingborough and District Closed Championships.

A tournament, which had begun with a record entry, and had been admirably controlled by Tournament Organiser Mick Morris, assisted by Peter Kendall and Arthur Palmer, faltered in mid afternoon, came back to life in the early evening, and then almost expired as five contestants contrived to dominate the later stages.

However none of this should be allowed to detract from Nicoll's supreme performance, as he raced through the card with a newly found composure allied to his customary controlled aggression, to make light of fifteen hours play in which he played and won twenty eight sets.

His opponent in the men's final was twin brother Ken, who also had a busy day, but despite less success at the end of it, his youthful enthusiasm and sportsmanlike attitude still remained undimmed, and his obvious potential continued to impress.

Mandy Wallis retained the Women's Singles in confident style, but on this occasion her opponent was Glennis Hooper, who for once had produced peak form just when it mattered, to account for Anne Wallis at the penultimate stage.

As usual Anne and Mandy joined forces to take the Women's Doubles, and then opposed each other with Mandy and Keith Nicoll, just holding on to beat Anne, partnered by Dennis Millman, 19 in the deciding game of an absorbing mixed doubles final.

Millman and Ian Baldock had earlier unsuccessfully opposed Keith Nicoll and Graham Feakin in the Men's Doubles final, in an event in which, for the second year in succession, most of the fancied pairings had made an early departure.

A new feature was an Under-14 Singles for which the Post Office Social Club, through Chairman Dave Patenhall, donated an impressive trophy in memory of Trevor Mumford, the popular player so tragically killed last year. Louis Mann later received this award from Mrs. Mumford, after beating Jane Wallis in a thrilling final.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles:

KEITH NICOLL bt Ken Nicoll 9, 15.

Women's Singles:

MANDY WALLIS bt Glennis Hooper 14, 18.

Men's Doubles:

KEITH NICOLL/GRAHAM FEAKIN bt

Dennis Millman/Ian Baldock 12, 15.

Women's Doubles:

ANNE & M. WALLIS bt Hooper/Christine

Price 8, 6.

Mixed Doubles:

Keith Nicoll/M. Wallis bt Millman/A. Wallis

16, -11, 19.

Veteran Singles:

MILLMAN bt Ken Bussey 10, 17.

Junior Singles:

KEITH NICOLL bt Ken Nicoll 16, 14.

U-14 Singles:

LOUIS MANN bt Jane Wallis 13, -21, 17.

Junior Doubles:

K. & K. NICOLL bt Richard Malfait/Neil

Knott 12, 14.

Premier Div. Handicap:

KEITH NICOLL.

Div. 1 Handicap:

DOROTHY MARSH.

Div. 2 Handicap:

ANDREW KIMBELL.

Div. 3 Handicap:

ANDREW EDMONDS.

Div. 4 Handicap:

ALAN ASHBERRY.

Div. 5 Handicap:

GEOFF NEVILLE.

Div. 6 Handicap:

ANDREW TROTT.

In direct contrast to the Wellingborough event, the final of the Northamptonshire Schools Table Tennis Association's Individual Championships staged at Kingsthorpe Upper School were well supported, and the appreciative audience must have given great satisfaction to sponsors Levi Strauss (U.K.) Ltd., whose general manager Jack Gerrish presented a most attractive display of trophies.

Top performance of the day came from Paul Egan (Montsaye School, Rothwell), who accounted for Corby Beanfield's Terry Cardwell in the semi-final, and then went on to beat No. 1 seed Graeme McKim to land the Boy's Under-16 crown, while two other fine sets saw Jane Nicoll (Kingswood, Corby) beat county colleague Jane Wallis (Breezehill, Wellingborough) and in an all-Whitefriars Boys' Under-11 event, Andrew Fensome just got home against Jon Bird.

RESULTS:

Boys' U-19:

JOHN CONNORS (Our Lady & Pope John,

Corby) bt S. Miller (Weston Favell Upper)

18, 15.

Girls' U-19:

HELEN COTTIER (Northampton School for

Girls) w/o.

Boys' U-16:

PAUL EGAN (Montsaye, Rothwell) bt

Graeme McKim (Northampton School for

Boys) 18, 15.

Girls' U-16:

JANE NICOLL (Kingswood Corby) bt Jane

Wallis (Breezehill, Wellingborough)

-9, 17, 12.

Boys' U-13:

LOUIS MANN (Wollaston Comprehensive)

bt Stephen Rogers (Rushden Boys) 14, 13.

Girls' U-13:

MAXINE SHEARS (Breezehill, Welling-

borough) bt Jackie Richardson (Ryelands

Middle Northampton) 10, 8.

Boys' U-11:

ANDREW FENSOME (Rushden Whitefriars)

bt Jon Bird (Rushden Whitefriars) 18, 19.

Girls' U-11:

F. HUSSEIN (Goldings Middle) bt H.

Measures (Goldings, Northampton) 15, 16.

The last series of County matches provided some more depressing reading, although illness and injury has seriously affected results this season. However exempt from criticism on this occasion is the ladies' section with eight splendid wins out of nine encounters.

The County Firsts went down 4-6 to Suffolk, with only Dave Marsh able to add to the three wins shared by Anne & Mandy Wallis. In this match the visiting John Kitchener and Stuart Palmer proved too good for the home side, although Marsh came close to victory over Palmer, before beating father Mick, in the final set.

The County Seconds completed their programme against Worcester Seconds with a third draw in four matches, and they owed most to Connie Bane and Helen Cottier who both kept clean sheets. Keith Jones added a singles and the fifth win came from Tim Chamberlain and David Gallo in the doubles, after they had both failed to impress in their singles encounters.

The TSB Juniors travelled to Norfolk, requiring only a draw to obtain promotion, but this was denied them, when an initial Keith Nicoll success over Martyn Stevenson became the prelude to a devastating display from the Norfolk boys, who reeled off their remaining six sets. Although Jane Nicoll and Jane Wallis took the girls' doubles and Jane Nicoll defiantly beat Norfolk's Zoe Nicholls 10, 8, it is Norfolk, and not Northants, who as champions of East Midlands Junior Division Three, will gain promotion at the end of the season.

The sorry tale continued in the final championship match of the season when the First Team failed to field a full side, after Gary Alden had failed to regain fitness, and David Gallo had withdrawn shortly before the team's departure to Cromer. None of the remaining registered players was available and so two rubbers were forfeited. Anne and Mandy Wallis gave their best display for some years to win three sets between them and Dave Marsh added one singles but all to no avail as Doug Bennett and the Stevenson twins led Norfolk to a narrow victory.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Ronald Hedley

APOLOGIES TO MANDY AND NIKKI

I must begin this month with two apologies. Firstly to Mandy Reeves who heads the Slough League averages and not S. Brindle as reported in Feb. Also to Nikki Hamilton who has retired from County Championships and not completely as Feb.'s comment had some people thinking.

This leads me into the 'Bucks Closed Championships' which were held at Montem Sports Centre, Slough on Feb. 23/24.

Once again it was a most efficiently run tournament due to the efforts of Beth and Tony Wickens, both on and before the tournament.

The Junior's were in action on the Saturday with good entries for all events. The Boys' Singles final brought together the top seeds. In the absence of Phillip Bradbury, the No. 1 seed was Stuart Lines. He looked set to justify his seeding when taking the first game 8 against Alex Pratt. Alex had other ideas and fought back to win 19, 18 to take the title in his last season as a junior.

There was an increased entry in the Junior Girls' and here the top four seeds all reached the semi-finals. At this stage came the first surprise of the championships when the No 1 seed Dawn Risby fell to the much improved Alison Shaw 18, -19, 18. In the other semi-final No. 2 Dawn Robbins overcame Linda Phelps 19, 13. In the final Dawn's all round game proved too steady for Alison's hard hitting game and she won 10, 13. Here I must apologise, as County Match Secretary, for my obvious delight when Dawn won the final, but we do play for the same club side.

The Junior Doubles went entirely to form with Pratt/Lines defeating H. Curtis/S. Foster 21, 16 in the final.

The Restricted Singles brought another surprise when Colin Lindsay beat Steve Brown 17, 14 in the final. The next day Steve gained revenge by beating Colin in the first round of the Men's Singles.

The Veterans' Singles was another event in which all four seeds reached the semi-finals. At this stage Len Pratt took out Alan Catchpole 13, 13 and Pete Leckie disposed of John Davey 19, -14, 16. The final was a win for Leckie 21, 16.

The Men's Doubles was won by Barton/Pountney who beat Watson/Earls 20, 16.

In the Women's Doubles Miss Lines/Miss Finlay retained their title by again beating Miss Risby/Miss Long in the final 14, 14.

The Mixed Doubles entry was up from 10 pairs to 20 pairs but it did not prevent

Stephanie Lines/Stuart Lines from reaching their allotted place in the final as No. 1 seeds. The other produced a surprise when the much fancied Ian Haines/Dawn Risby fell to the untried junior pairing of Alex Pratt/Dawn Robbins -19, 10, 8. The final was expected to be a one sided affair but Pratt/Miss Robbins had other ideas and took the first game 13. They lost the second 13 and trailed for much of the third. They recovered however to lead 16-13 but then things went wrong and the 'Lines' pair got home 16. This was the most entertaining of the finals. Congratulations to all four players. Pratt/Miss Robbins now go for the Wycombe title when we shall see if this effort was a flash in the pan or not.

Speculation had the women's event as the one for surprises. We certainly had surprises but not the ones most people expected. Ivy Cooper disposed of three County ranked girls including the two and three seeds on her way to the final. Some expected Gill Knightley to reach the semi-finals but Alison Shaw showing a new found determination removed Gill from the tournament. Alison met her match in the semi-final when going down to No 1 seed Stephanie Lines 11, 11. If Alison continues to improve as she has this season I am sure she will soon be making a final appearance and it couldn't happen to a nicer girl — even if she is always moaning at me about her ranking!! In the final Stephanie showed why she is county No. 1 with a 17, 8 victory over Ivy.

With the unranked Haines and Watson in the Men's Singles unseeded, surprises were expected to happen. The biggest surprise was to Watson however, when he fell in the first round to the unknown Mills -19, 11, -16. No. 2 seed Stuart Lines also fell in the first round to Leckie 17, -19, -17, but Leckie soon fell to Haines who as expected made his way to the semi-finals with ease. No. 1 seed Chris Leslie went in the third round to Parkinson 14, -19, -21. This left Haines to play Barton in one semi and Brindle to play McCarthy in the other. Brindle had an easy victory to reach the final but Barton made Haines fight all the way before going down 15 in the third. Haines ran out an easy victor in the final beating Brindle 10, 13 to win the title for the first time.

The full list of final results can be found elsewhere in this issue.

March sees most of the local leagues holding their Closed Championships and unfortunately due to lack of communication Slough, Chiltern and Aylesbury have all picked the same weekend. Hopefully we shall not hear complaints of low entries from Aylesbury and Chiltern who are the main culprits. Maybe next year they will inform the county earlier so this can be prevented.

The latest round of County Championship matches proved to be pleasing for Bucks.

Although the Senior 2nd team lost 1-9 to Essex III the only win was a first county victory for Viv McCarthy. Viv who had only come into the side as a late replacement.

Strengthened by the inclusion of Phillip Bradbury, the Junior 1st team had their third win in a row. Middlesex II put up a disappointing display and at one stage we led 8-0, before defeats for Dawn Risby and Alex Pratt gave Middlesex two wins. Following her win in the Girls' Singles Dawn Robbins ended her two season wait for a county victory when overcoming Laura Goldsmith in two games.

In the evening the Senior 1st team were looking for their first victory of the season when they entertained Norfolk.

Stuart Lines made his Senior 1st team debut and what a debut, he won both Singles including the final match of the evening which gave us a 6-4 victory. It was very much a 'Lines' family victory as sister Stephanie won her singles and partnered Ann Finlay to success in the Women's Doubles. Phillip Bradbury and Chris Leslie both won once to secure victory.

Chalfont League

The league championships were held at Seer Green on the weekend of Mar. 1. The Men's Singles title went to Dave Martin who beat A. Hoy in a closely fought final.

High Wycombe League

Exiles 'A' were the Wycombe representatives in the National Club Championship. They fell to Wokingham from the Berkshire league 5-4. Alec Watson won his three singles and Mark Curtis won the other game for Wycombe. Brian Busbridge was disappointing going down in all his singles.

The Wycombe League Handicap Committee thought it had struck gold when in the Roland Sewell Handicap Cup Competition two matches were tied in the same round. Bourne End 'B' and Booker tied first time round with Booker winning the replay. Hazlemere 'F' and Reckitt and Colman were the other teams to tie. When they replayed, the seemingly impossible happened when the teams tied again. Surely this must be one for the Guinness Book of Records. If any mathematician can tell us the odds of two ties in a competition entered by 143 teams we would love to hear from them. Could it happen again in the second replay? No!! Reckitt and Colman won through in the end but only by 13 points.

Milton Keynes League

Milton Keynes hold their Closed Championships on the weekend of Mar. 8/9. If I receive any info a report will appear next month.

BUCKS CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday/Sunday, 23rd/24th February, 1980 at Montem Sports Centre, Slough.

Men's Singles:

I. HAINES (Milton Keynes) bt S. Brindle (Slough) 21-10, 21-13.

Women's Singles:

Miss S. LINES (Milton Keynes) bt Mrs. I. Cooper (Aylesbury) 21-17, 21-8.

Men's Doubles:

J. BARTON (Slough)/D. Pountney (Slough) bt F. Earis (Slough)/A. Watson (High Wycombe) 22-20, 21-16.

Women's Doubles:

Miss A. FINLAY (Slough)/Miss S. LINES (Milton Keynes) bt Miss A. Long (Milton Keynes)/Miss D. Risby (Milton Keynes) 21-14, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles:

S. LINES (Milton Keynes)/Miss S. LINES (Milton Keynes) bt A. Pratt (Aylesbury)/Miss D. Robbins (High Wycombe) 13-21, 21-16, 21-16.

Junior Boys' Singles:

A. PRATT (Aylesbury) bt S. Lines (Milton Keynes) 8-21, 21-19, 21-18.

Junior Girls' Singles:

Miss D. ROBBINS (High Wycombe) bt Miss A. Shaw (Slough) 21-10, 21-13.

Junior Doubles:

S. LINES (Milton Keynes)/A. PRATT (Aylesbury) bt M. Curtis (High Wycombe)/S. Foster (High Wycombe) 23-21, 21-16.

Veterans' Singles:

P. LECKIE (Slough) bt L. Pratt (Aylesbury) 23-21, 21-16.

Restricted Singles:

C. LINDSAY (High Wycombe) bt S. Brown (Slough) 21-17, 21-14.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

CHRISTINE AVENGES

The second seeds came out on top in the main singles events of the Crow's Transport Northumberland Junior Closed tournament, held at Blaydon Youth Club on Feb. 23.

With 77 entries in the junior boys' singles, 45 in the cadet boys' singles and 33 in the boys' doubles, plus 20 and eight in the junior and cadet girls' singles, nine in the girls' doubles and five in the under 11 open event, and only five tables being used, the organising committee deserve every credit for ensuring that the tournament finished at a reasonable hour. In the boys' singles,

Dave Godbold came through after losing the first game to beat top seed John Burke, while in the counterpart girls' event, John's younger sister, Christine, had an exciting victory over No. 1 seed Caron Buglass. Both pairs teamed up to win the doubles events.

Neil McMaster, although a game and 18-19 down to Gordon Watson at one stage, eventually won the cadet boys' singles, while Clare Mouzon was never really extended in the cadet girls' event, which she won comfortably. The under-11 open singles was played in the form of a "round robin" to ensure that everyone was able to play a reasonable number of games, and this was won by Judith Drapkin, who distinguished herself by beating all four boys in that competition.

RESULTS:

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

D. Godbold bt M. Aitchison 13, 9;

J. Burke bt N. McMaster 19, 7.

Final:

GODBOLD bt Burke -22, 18, 19.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

C. Burke bt K. Trenholm 6, 10;

C. Buglass bt C. Mouzon 16, 15.

Final:

BURKE bt Buglass 18, -22, 12.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Burke/Godbold bt N. Jeffreys/N. Ringrose

17, 18;

Aitchison/McMaster bt D. Oxley/K. Robson

-15, 11, 13.

Final:

BURKE/GODBOLD bt Aitchison/McMaster

19, 18

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Buglass/Burke bt D. Wilkinson/K.

Wilkinson 9, 7;

T. Jamieson/D. Nicholson bt Mouzon/L.

Jackman -8, 20, 19.

Final:

BUGLASS/BURKE bt Jamieson/Nicholson

17, 9.

Cadet Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

McMaster bt A. Behrsing 12, 16;

G. Watson bt F. Allen 14, 19.

Final:

McMASTER bt Watson -17, 19, 11.

Cadet Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Mouzon bt D. Wilkinson 10, 5;

J. Hindmarsh bt Jackman -17, 17, 7.

Final:

MOUZON bt Hindmarsh 13, 8.

U-11 Open Singles

Winner: J. Drapkin.

Runner-up: D. Watson.

The County is indebted to the sponsors, Crow's Transport (1971) Ltd., long distance hauliers who are based at Meadowfield in Co. Durham, for their generous support in helping us to stage this inaugural junior tournament.

Meanwhile, on the same day, the second team travelled to Kendal to play their rearranged County match against Cumbria, but suffered a disappointing 4-6 defeat. They started reasonably well winning two out of the three opening men's singles through Martin Young comfortably beating Stephen Dixon and Chris Shepherd scoring a surprisingly easy victory over Ian Reed. However, Cumbria equalised in the women's doubles, where Pauline Jackson and Shirley Laver just failed to overcome a 6-15 deficit in the third game against Louise Brockbank and Janet Sephton, losing -19, 12, -21. This was followed by an equally exciting men's doubles win for Shepherd and Dave Armstrong -19, 20, 19 over Reed and Diccon Gray but that was the last time Northumberland were to hold the lead. Cumbria took the next two men's singles and the second women's singles to lead 5-3, and although Pauline won the top women's singles to narrow the gap to 5-4, the home side eventually took both points when Shepherd lost to Dixon in the last set.

The following week saw the second team in action again for their last match of the season against Cleveland II at Byker Community Centre, but they ended their season on a low note when losing by 2-8. The only

winner was Martin Young, who beat former England ranked junior David Hughes and Michael Laird. However, it must be added that both the doubles involving Young/Watson and Caron Buglass/Christine Burke went to deuce in the third game, which was an excellent performance against more experienced opposition. Earlier in the day, however, the junior team really turned it on against Cumbria II juniors at West Avenue Methodist Church, Gosforth, and won 10-0, conceding only three games in the process. It is many years since any Northumberland County side won a match without losing a set, and special congratulations are due to the team of John Burke, Neil McMaster, Malcolm Aitchison, Caron Buglass and Christine Burke for this performance.

The only County fixtures now remaining are the first and junior team matches against Durham at Byker Community Centre on Mar. 22, and these should provide a keen and interesting finale to the County season.

The Newcastle Royal Grammar School Under-13 boys' team of Martin Schapira, Andrew Drapkin, W. Shakoor and John Miller, having won their Regional final at Leeds in February by beating teams from Millom (5-3), Fairham, Nottingham (7-1) and Sandal Endowed, Wakefield (6-2), qualified for the National School Team Championship finals at Lea Green on March 15, where they were due to meet teams from The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire) and Stepney Green (Inner London). Meanwhile, the Newcastle Schools League once again ably organised by Phil Clark, has just completed its season and the final tables show that the Royal Grammar School has achieved a notable hat trick by taking the senior, intermediate and junior titles — plus a second placing for their 'B' team in the junior division.

Leading positions are as follows:

	P	W	D	F	A	P
Senior Table						
R.G.S.	11	10	1	95	15	21
Slatyford	11	10	0	96	14	20
Rutherford	11	9	0	83	27	18
Intermediate Table						
R.G.S.	11	11	0	106	4	22
Rutherford	11	10	0	91	19	20
Walker	11	9	0	78	32	18
Junior Table						
R.G.S. 'A'	11	11	0	104	6	22
R.G.S. 'B'	11	9	1	83	27	19
St. Cuthbert's	11	7	2	75	35	16
Girls' Table						
Heaton	6	6	0	57	3	12
Benfield	6	4	1	41	19	9
Manor Park	6	3	2	37	23	8

In the Wilmott Cup, the Northumberland League representative side of Andrew Clark, John Burke and Martin Young went out at the area final stage to the Sunderland League, who were able to field their full Durham County side of Dave and Ian Svenson and Tony Gelder. The only success was gained by Clarke, who beat Gelder in straight games. The Bromfield Trophy side of Caron Buglass, Christine Burke and Claire Mouzon (making her debut) were due to play Preston in their area final, but as Preston were unable to raise a team, Northumberland now go forward to the last eight of the competition.

The men's Knock-Out Cup Competition has at the time of writing reached the last 16, which includes three teams from Byker C.C., and two from Gladstone Terrace. New Collingwood 'A', however, have ensured that there will be a new name engraved on the trophy by knocking out the holders, Briarside 'A', by 5-4, with Dave Armstrong (2), Ian Svenson (2) and Peter Gorman (1) gaining successes for the winners. Andrew Clark was undefeated for Briarside, with Steve Robinson winning one, but surprisingly John Burke failed to win a set. The women's Knock-Out Cup, which will involve ten teams of two players each playing two singles and a deciding doubles,

is to take place on one day (March 30) at Blaydon Youth Club.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

HAT-TRICK FOR GRAY

The three local leagues held their annual tournaments during mid-March, all having good-sized entries:-

Peterborough

Held on Mar. 9, Alan Gray completed a hat-trick of singles championship wins. He won the men's title by beating Peter Berna in the final 16, 15. Alan completed a successful day by beating Gregg Baker and Shelly Holland in the mixed whilst partnered by Pip Baker.

Shelly Holland beat Evelyn Allinson in the Women's Singles whilst the former partnered Pip Baker for a duo triumph.

Father and son, Colin and Graham Dale took the Men's Doubles title beating Baker and Gray having to settle for a runners-up medal on this occasion. 16-years-old Graham won the Boys' Singles event beating the luckless Lloyd Brown who finished runner-up in this event for the past three seasons. Caroline Camper won the Girls' event beating Karen Upton in the final.

Colin rounded off a good day for the Dale family when he lifted the Veterans' trophy.

Hunts Central

14-years-old Philip Cole won the men's title beating St. Ives club-mate Alan Smith in the final. Earlier the St. Neots-based player had a fine win over Sid Burgess at the semi-final stage, Smith easily overhauling Ken Green (N.C.I.) at this stage.

Melanie Ringrose (St. Ives) won the Women's Singles and Girls' titles where her final opponent on both occasions was Sandra Randall.

Les Wooding and Sid Burgess took the Men's Doubles title overhauling juniors Richard Wells and Cole in the final, the latter players meeting in the junior final which saw Cole get home comfortably. Melanie Ringrose and Sandra Randall teamed up to take the women's doubles whilst the latter partnered Alan Smith for a mixed success. Ron Parmenter won the Veterans' title beating Joe Thorogood in the final.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Iris Moss

GREAT DEDICATION

Our heartiest congratulations go to Graham Sandley on his selection for the English team for the European Championships. We wish him, and of course the rest of the team, every success.

Having achieved only mediocre club standard myself, I wonder sometimes how the young players stand up to the constant pressures upon their time and energies. Having been selected for the Senior team, Graham is expected to train with the team, play in National Club League matches to maintain his Senior ranking, and at the same time play in Junior events to keep his Junior ranking. Apart from table tennis he still has school work to do which, after all, is important for his future. He needs great dedication to be able to stand up to such pressure when he is being pulled so many ways at once. To a slightly lesser extent this applies to other youngsters and I feel that our "Lords and Masters", the E.T.T.A., need to have better liaison to ensure that we do not kill their enthusiasm and lose them to our sport.

By the time this article is published, the Debenhams Middlesex National Junior Ranking Tournament will have taken place at the new venue at the Harrow Leisure

Centre. I am having many qualms about having such an important event at a venue we have not used before, but with the co-operation I am receiving from the Centre staff, I hope all will be well. I hope to have a report in the next edition of the News.

The Middlesex Committee has been strengthened by the addition of John Goode, who has agreed to take over the editing of the Association Bulletin from me. We welcome him to the Committee and hope he will enjoy the work.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Mary I. Rose

HOPES FOR FUTURE

The Warwickshire Closed Championships held at the Rover Co. Solihull on Sunday, Feb. 24, 1980, was a most enjoyable and successful event which as usual produced its surprises. Many of the Juniors competing must have given the County Selectors hope for the future as there were many fine performances from our younger players. The entry for all the events was very high but unfortunately many of the Senior Finals have had to be held over until a later date. The Men's Final will be between two players from Birmingham — Ralph Gunnion and Pat Glynn, both of whom were in fine form at the championships and an exciting final is anticipated.

The only Women's finalist known so far is the County No. 1 Karen Groves from Birmingham and she will be playing against either Sandra Peakman or Jackie Harper both from Birmingham. I hear that Sandra has now gained an English Junior ranking and congratulations are extended to her. Results of the Championship so far known are as follows:

U-14 Boys:
Winner: P. GUNN (B'ham).
Runner-up: S. Bertie (B'ham).
U-17 Boys:
Winner: A. PILGRIM (Cov).
Runner-up: K. Grundy (B'ham).
U-14 Girls:
Winner: FIONA SUTTON (B'ham).
Runner-up: Melanie McHale (Cov).
U-17 Girls:
Winner: S. PEAKMAN (B'ham).
Runner-up: L. Brison (Leamington).
Boys' Doubles:
Winners: A. PILGRIM (Cov)/K. GRUNDY (B'ham).
Runners-up: D. Rudge/I. Gunn (B'ham).
Girls' Doubles:
L. BRISON/K. HASTINGS (Leamington).
Runners-up: S. Peakman/Tracey Jones (B'ham).
Women's Doubles:
K. GROVES/D. HARDY (B'ham).
Runners-up: S. Peakman/Jackie Harper (B'ham).
Veteran Singles:
Winner: A. SUTTON (B'ham).
Runner-up: T. Bache (B'ham).

An interesting point from the finals played so far is that while Arthur Sutton was winning the Veterans Final his daughter Fiona was winning the U-14 girls' title — a fine family performance.

The U-17 Girls' Final was a most exciting match and Lyn Brison of Leamington played very well in taking the County No. 1 Junior to three games — well done Lyn and thanks for the nail-biting final girls.

WARWICKSHIRE CLUB COMPETITION

The Competition is now at the 4th Round Stage, two clubs having two teams through. Longacre (B'ham) and G.E.C. (Coventry). A mention should also be made of the efforts of the Four Oaks B.C. (B'ham) who have done very well on reaching this stage in the competition. The draw for the 4th Round is as follows:

Camp Hill SDA (B'ham) v Longacre 'A' (B'ham).
G.E.C. 'A' (Cov) v Four Oaks B.C. (B'ham).

Longacre 'B' (B'ham) v Finham 'B' (Cov).
Wellsborne (Stratford) v G.E.C. 'B' (Cov).

The County 'A' team had an impressive win against Glamorgan and should now finish the season in a much higher position than was anticipated at one stage of the season.

Junior 'A' — Our team had a fine win against Glamorgan winning 6-4 after being two sets down at one stage, Adrian Pilgrim proving too good for A. Coulthard and our two girls Helen Rainbow and Lyn Brison combined well in winning their girls' doubles.

Junior 'A' v Gloucester — Away

Our Juniors again made a big fight back (two sets down again) and managed a 5-5 result, C. Morgan winning the last set of the afternoon to clinch the draw.

Junior III Mid (North) v Derbyshire — Away

We unfortunately came against a team on top form going down 0-10, although quite a number of sets went to three — David Rudge only losing -17, 21, -18 against D. Hinchcliffe.

Warwickshire 2 Mid Div. v Gwent — Away

The County 2nd team came away from Gwent 6-4 winners in a match where seven sets went to three — Lester Bertie winning both his singles.

NATIONAL CUP COMPETITIONS

Three of our teams got through to the Zone Finals — but only the Boys, in the Carter Cup, are through to the national quarter-finals.

COACHING

The Warwickshire Coaching Committee have run a series of Sunday Coaching sessions for the 24 most promising youngsters under 16 and have been very pleased with the improvement in their juniors progress, which showed up very well in the last set of Junior County matches.

There are two more six hour sessions to come and next year this policy will continue with a possible weekend at Lilleshall hopefully with Brian Merrett in charge. Before leaving the Coaching scene our congratulations are extended to John Taylor (County Coaching Secretary) on his marriage to Caroline at Solihull Register Office on Feb. 29, our best wishes to them both.

Lancashire Junior Open

RED ROSE BLOOMS!

by Geo. R. Yates

The Red Rose certainly bloomed in the Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open, played at Bolton Institute of Technology on Sunday, Mar. 2 with both U-17 singles events, and the girls' doubles, being won by Lancastrians.

Preston's Paul Rainford, the top seed, was the winner of the boys' singles his final victim being Tony Taylor of Manchester who plays for Cheshire and who had a semi-final win over the local hope Stephen Scowcroft. Sean Madden of Hull was the other beaten semi-finalist.

Together Rainford and Scowcroft reached the final of the boys' doubles but were beaten by Bristol's Andy Creed and Paul Jackson, the Avon representatives.

Joy Grundy of Lytham, but who represents Preston in the Lancs and Ches. League, was seeded No. 1 in the girls' singles and succeeded in retaining her title by beating Helen Frost of Bury in the final. Unseeded Miss Frost had distinguished herself by knocking out the fourth and second seeds, Sandra Peakman of Birmingham and Janet Deakin of Warrington.

There was no success for Lancastrians in the two Cadet events the boys' title going to Ivan Smith of Shrewsbury, seeded No. 2, who had a final win over Stuart Worrall of Lincoln, seeded No. 1. This feat was repeated

in the Cadet girls' final when Melanie Seaton of Doncaster had a creditable 19 in the third win over favourite Jean Parker of Preston.

RESULTS:

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

P. Rainford (La) bt D. Archer (Cu)

-12, 14, 10;

S. Madden (Y) bt A. Creed (Av) -20, 17, 16;

S. Scowcroft (La) bt P. Carter (La) 10, 12;

T. Taylor (Ch) bt I. Duxbury (Y) 16, 17.

Semi-finals:

Rainford bt Madden 18, 10;

Taylor bt Scowcroft 18, 20.

Final:

RAINFORD bt Taylor 17, 8.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Grundy (La) bt J. Parker (La) 16, -10, 13;

L. Broomhead (Y) bt M. Seaton (Y)

10, -16, 18;

H. Frost (La) bt H. Stirrup (La) 17, 14;

J. Deakin (Ch) bt T. Lightfoot (Ch) 15, 21.

Semi-finals:

Grundy bt Broomhead 9, 15;

Frost bt Deakin 14, -17, 20.

Final:

GRUNDY bt Frost 9, 12.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Rainford/Scowcroft bt D. Illingsworth/M.

Illingsworth (Y) 17, 15;

Creed/P. Jackson (Av) bt S. Browne (La)/

Madden -17, 20, 13.

Final:

CREED/JACKSON bt Rainford/Scowcroft

18, 16.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Grundy/Parker bt R. Brook (Y)/Broomhead

14, 9;

J. Ryalls (Y)/Seaton bt J. Myers (La)/S.

Peakman (Wa) 15, 17.

Final:

GRUNDY/PARKER bt Ryalls/Seaton

18, -18, 16.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

I. McLoughlin (La) bt S. Dettmar (E) 21, 14;

I. Smith (Sp) bt P. Ashcroft (La) -17, 14, 15;

S. Worrall (Li) bt P. Griffiths (Wal) 12, 15;

D. Polasek (Cv) bt M. Mercer (La)

14, -22, 19.

Semi-finals:

Smith bt McLoughlin -20, 16, 17;

Worrall bt Polasek 16, -17, 20.

Final:

SMITH bt Worrall 15, 17.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Parker bt W. Worthington 17, 7;

Brook bt H. Cotter (Wal) 11, 18;

N. Tsakarisianos (Gs) bt Lightfoot

17, -15, 11;

Seaton bt L. McEwan (La) 9, 5.

Semi-finals:

Parker bt Brook 14, 19;

Seaton bt Tsakarisianos 9, 10.

Final:

SEATON bt Parker -18, 20, 19.

Hartlepool 1-Star Open

SEASON'S FIRST FOR NICKY

Playing virtually on his own patch Cleveland's Nicky Jarvis chalked up his first tournament success of the season by winning the men's singles title in the Hartlepool 1-Star Open on Feb. 3.

Keith Paxton was Nicky's final victim his other scalps of note being those of Steve Mills and Peter McQueen.

In the counterpart women's event Carole Knight was an easy winner over J. Stradling of Peterlee, Co. Durham but the Cleveland international had to sit out the women's doubles in the absence of her partner Angela Tierney.

Ormesby's Steve Brunskill was the winner of the boys' singles beating Tony Sanderson of York in the final. Winner of the girls' singles was Julie Woodcock also of Ormesby.

RESULTS:-

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

N. Jarvis (Cv) bt S. Mills (Y) 13, 15;

P. McQueen (Sy) bt J. Burke (Nd) 4, 13;
K. Paxton (Cv) bt M. Corking (Cv) 13, 18;
D. Svenson (Du) bt P. Ward (Cv) 14, 7.

Semi-finals:

Jarvis bt McQueen 13, 13;
Paxton bt Svenson 17, -14, 17.

Final:

JARVIS bt Paxton 19, 13.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Knight (Cv) bt J. Woodcock (Cv) 8, 10;
M. Cuthbertson (Du) bt N. Carne (Cv)
-15, 17, 18;

K. Cheung (Nd) bt J. Smith (Du) -18, 10, 7;
J. Stradling (Du) bt C. Borrowdale (Du)
15, 12.

Semi-finals:

Knight bt Cuthbertson 10, 6;
Stradling bt Cheung 18, 20

Final:

KNIGHT bt Stradling 11, 14.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

K. Green/L. Taylor (Cv) bt I. & D. Svenson
(Du) 15, -13, 23;
Corking/Paxton bt A. Martin (Cv)/Ward
19, 13

Final:

CORKING/PAXTON bt Green/Taylor
-8, 15, 16.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Barraclough/S. Proctor (Du) bt Carne/
K. Powton (Du) 15, -14, 14;
Cuthbertson/Smith bt Cheung/A. Smith
(Du) 17, 18.

Final:

CUTHBERTSON/SMITH bt Barraclough/
Proctor 12, 14.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

S. Brunskill (Cv) bt J. Chan (Cv) -19, 11, 14;
L. Taylor (Cv) bt Burke 14, 15;
A. Sanderson (Y) bt I. Duxbury (Y) 16, 17;
K. Green (Cv) bt N. McMaster (Nd) 11, 14.

Semi-finals:

Brunskill bt Taylor 15, 16;
Sanderson bt Green 12, 17.

Final:

BRUNSKILL bt Sanderson -12, 16, 18.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Woodcock (Cv) bt C. Montague (Cv) 6, 12;
A. Currie (Du) bt V. Wilson (Du) -12, 6, 19;
J. Sigsworth (Y) bt L. Wilson (Du) 5, 8;
E. Blackburne (Du) bt A. Holden (Cv)
20, -16, 13.

Semi-finals:

Woodcock bt Currie 17, 15;
Sigsworth bt Blackburne 20, 11.

Final:

WOODCOCK bt Sigsworth 14, 9.

Merseyside 2-Star Open

ALIEN WINNER AT KIRKBY

by Geo R. Yates

Alienated Welshman Alan Griffiths, a non-member of his country's European Championships squad, was the winner of the men's singles title, and the £80 that went with it, in the Merseyside Open Championships played at Kirkby Sports Centre on Mar. 29, his final victim being the top seeded Nigel Eckersley the Cheshire No. 1.

Bradford's Melody Ludi, following on her successes in the National Girobank Scottish Open in Edinburgh the previous weekend, again won two titles retaining her women's singles crown, beating her local rival Helen Shields in the final, and the women's doubles with scratch partner Lancashire junior Jackie Myers in the absence, through illness, of Sally Midgley.

Together Griffiths and Eckersley won the men's doubles beating Evans partnered by Lancashire's Phil Bowen, the latter figuring in what might have been the best set of the day in the men's singles against Eckersley.

Peter Flint of Warrington was a more than comfortable winner of the boys' singles beating Lancaster's Kevin Walsh in the final. But how about the girls' singles success for Bury's Helen Frost against Miss Myers in the final after suffering a -18, -6

defeat in the second round of the women's singles by the same player?

Although beaten by Mark Hankey in the men's singles Derek Schofield was more than a match for Peter D'Arcy in the final of the veterans' singles

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

N. Eckersley (Ch) bt P. Bowen (La)
14, -15, 12;
G. Evans (Wal) bt K. Williams (La) 8, 13;
A. Griffiths (Wal) bt M. Hankey (Ch) 8, 18;
D. Constance (Ch) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) 12, 15.

Semi-finals:

Eckersley bt Evans 14, 16;
Griffiths bt Constance 12, 13.

Final:

GRIFFITHS bt Eckersley 21, 12.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Ludi (Y) bt J. Myers (La) 13, 18;
B. Kirkman (La) bt P. Townsend (Wi)
18, 12;
H. Shields (Y) bt S. Alexander (Ch) 11, 18;
J. Monaghan (La) bt S. Hoyle (La) 10, 13.

Semi-finals:

Ludi bt Kirkman 11, 11;
Shields bt Monaghan 4, 12.

Final:

LUDI bt Shields 16, 14.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Eckersley/Griffiths bt P. Beck (K)/S. Mills
(Y) 10, 17;
Bowen/Evans bt Williams/B. Davey (La)*
14, 16.

Final:

ECKERSLEY/GRIFFITHS bt Bowen/Evans
10, 14.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Ludi/Myers bt Townsend/T. Watkins (Wi)
13, 12;
Alexander/Kirkman bt H. Frost/B. Hoyle
(La) 10, 16.

Final:

LUDI/MYERS bt Alexander/Kirkman
-18, 18, 15.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

P. Flint (Ch) bt J. Wright (Bd) 21, 11;
I. McLean (Sco) bt A. Christopher (La)
15, 19;
S. Madden (Y) bt S. Davies (Ch) 14, 8;
K. Walsh (La) bt M. Gibson (La) 17, 13.

Semi-finals:

Flint bt McLean 16, 10;
Walsh bt Madden 15, -17, 22.

Final:

FLINT bt Walsh 12, 7.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Myers bt H. Cotter (Wal) 17, 18;
W. Worthington (La) bt D. Thornton (La)
11, 13;
Watkins bt H. Stirrup (La) -18, 9, 14;
Frost bt B. Hoyle 15, -19, 15.

Semi-finals:

Myers bt Worthington 13, 15;
Frost bt Watkins 17, -13, 23.

Final:

FROST bt Myers -16, 18, 17.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

D. Schofield (Ch) bt R. Forrest (La) 9, 20;
D'Arcy bt Evans 18, 18.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 10, 12.

Slack of Gloucester and Leanne Harman gained a local success in the girls' singles beating Nina Tsakarisanos of Cheltenham in the final.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Francis (Sx) bt T. Smith (Do) 9, 13;
A. Creed (Av) bt S. Moreman (Gs) 16, 19.

Final:

FRANCIS bt Creed 9, -16, 9.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

S. Sinanan (Ha) bt C. Robb (Gs);
I. Kershaw (Do) bt C. Hewitt (Sx).

Final:

SINANAN bt Kershaw 19, -12, 14.

Men's Doubles Final:

D. DODD/R. NAMDJOU (K) bt A. Terry
(Ha)/Smith 17, -19, 20;

Women's Doubles Final:

ROBB/N. TSAKARISIANOS (Gs) bt Hewitt/
A. Seager (Av) 15, -14, 21.

Mixed Doubles Final:

FRANCIS/HEWITT bt Smith/Kershaw
9, -17, 13.

Boys' Singles Final:

S. DETTMAR (E) bt G. Slack (Gs)
-15, 16, 18.

Girls' Singles Final:

L. HARMAN (Do) bt Tsakarisanos 14, 16.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

ROGER AT CROSSROADS

By winning the Seaman cup for the Top eight Sussex men at Haywards Heath on Mar. 9 and gaining revenge over the New Sussex champion Graham Gillett in the final, Roger Chandler may not, after all, retire.

Earlier, Gillett had a narrow escape against the fierce top-spinner Robin Stace, who once again crashed from a winning position. But in the final, Gillett raised his game as he knew that only top gear and over-drive would be sufficient to stand a chance against Chandler.

The result was in doubt over the five superb games, with Chandler winning at 21-19.

Malcolm Francis, the Uckfield semi-professional is on the move again. Having made his debut for Kent and captured the Bournemouth and Coventry open titles, he is now expected to end his association with Seagulls, the John Clarke inspired national league, Division 2 side, who have done well to be chasing third spot in the table.

When Seagulls travelled to Ormesby they were a man short — Francis, who was busy winning the men's singles at the Hollington (Hastings) tournament. Seagulls thought they were doomed starting two sets down and then facing Keith Paxton, a senior player of some strength from the Ormesby first team.

But again, it was Chandler who lifted Seagulls to win 5-4. He won both his singles and the doubles with Gillett. Clarke came in with one success and then finally Gillett trampled on Paxton 21-4, 21-8!

FENLAND 2-STAR OPEN

Paul Day (Ca) was the winner of the men's singles title in the Fenland 2-Star Open, played at Wisbech on Mar. 9 his final victim being his county colleague Keith Richardson. Scores in Day's favour were 14, -19, 9.

Together the Cambs pair took the men's doubles beating Peter McQueen and Geoff Davies whilst Day made it a hat trick, as did his partner Anita Stevenson, in the mixed the Leicestershire lass winning the women's singles, beating Cheryl Buttery in the final, and with Miss Buttery also winning the women's doubles.

Richard Stevenson (Norfolk) won the boys' singles and Jane Hunter (Ca) the girls their respective victims being James Frost and Ruth Hunter.

Nth. Bournemouth 1-Star

REPEAT WIN FOR SERINA

by C. B. Cashell

A large entry was received for this season's North Bournemouth 1-Star Open, played on Feb. 3 with 95 entries for the men's singles, 46 pairs for the men's doubles and 42 for the boys' singles.

Malcolm Francis of Uckfield, Sussex took the men's singles title beating young Andy Creed of Bristol in an excellent final. Serina Sinanan of Portsmouth repeated her 1978 win in the women's singles defeating Ivy Kershaw of Bournemouth after a dour struggle.

Steve Dettmar, of Essex cadet fame, won the boys' singles from the No. 1 seeded position his final victim being Graham



JOHN HILTON, England's European Men's Singles Champion.

Photo by Werner Schnyder, Basel.

up in the mixed doubles when, in the final Desmond Douglas and Mrs. Jarvis were beaten over five games by Milan Orlovski and Iona Uhlíkova of Czechoslovakia.

FINAL SCORES

Men's Team:
SWEDEN bt Federal Germany 5-4
Women's Team:
U.S.S.R. bt Hungary 3-1
Men's Singles:
J HILTON (ENG) bt J. Dvoracek (CZE) 17, 22 14.
Women's Singles:
V. POPOVA (USS) bt Perkucin (YUG) -20, 7, 21, 8.
Men's Doubles:
P. BIROCHEAU/J. SECRETIN (FRA) bt A. Stipanovic/D. Surbek (YUG) 15, -20, 13, 19.
Women's Doubles:
N. ANTONIAN/POPOVA (USS) bt M. Alexandru/L. Mihut (RUM) 13, -22, 19, 16.
Mixed Doubles:
M. ORLOWSKI/I. UHLIKOVA (CZE) bt D. Douglas/L. Jarvis (ENG) -18, 16, -18, 19, 13.

Full report, pictures and results will appear in the May/June issue.

Ed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to John Hilton on winning the Men's title in the European Championships. An outstanding achievement by any means. It must compare with winning a Cup Final at 10,000-1.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee and this League.

Chris Sweetman.

Willesden & District
 Table Tennis League

DAILY EXPRESS-GLOBAL NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS Season 1980-81

Barry Meisel of Global T.T. Promotions is pleased to announce that the Daily Express and Global T.T. Promotions have agreed to hold National Table Tennis Championships for the 1980/81 season. The tournament will commence in October, 1980 and will be played through until the finals in May, 1981.

The intention of this tournament is to find the international player of the future, and the emphasis will be to encourage the youngster and the player who has not had the opportunity of entering a tournament due to standard or travelling.

The tournament will be restricted and will exclude any player who has represented his county, or has been on the national ranking list, since the 1st January, 1977.

Entries will be eligible from any player residing in England, Scotland and Wales, and there will be a total of £4,850 prize money payable.

The tournament will be run on a home and away basis, where both players will receive advice cards to this effect. Entry forms will be printed by the Daily Express in their paper as from May, 1980, with a closing date for entries in August, 1980.

Entries will include boys' and girls' singles, boys' and girls' youth singles, men's and ladies' singles and a mixed veterans' singles. All matches will be played best of five games.

It is anticipated that this tournament will attract the largest entry for any table tennis event ever held, as this will give the opportunity to players who in the past have not been able to qualify for standard open tournaments.

It is the intention of the Daily Express and Global T.T. to run this event annually and full press coverage regarding results will be printed by the Daily Express for the duration of the championships.

The event will include Men's and Women's Singles, Boys' and Girls' Singles, aged under 17 on 30th June, 1980, Boys' and Girls' Youth Singles, aged under 21 on the 30th June, 1980, and Mixed Veterans' Singles for any player over the age of 35 on 30th June, 1980.

A total of £4,854 prize money will be paid and this will be distributed right down to the losing Area Semi-finalists thus giving all competitors a good change of winning large prize money within the level they choose to enter.

The Tournament has been approved and sanctioned by the E.T.T.A.

Entry fees for the event will be £2 for the Men's and Women's and Veterans' Singles, £1.50 for the Boys' and Girls' Youth Singles and £1 for the Boys' and Girls' Junior Singles.

Full details of the event together with the entry forms will be printed in the Daily Express and entry forms should be received as early as possible with a closing date on the 30th August, 1980.

The Area Finals and Grand Finals will be played on Butterfly Europa tables, nets and surrounds, and YSP 4-Star balls will be used which have been arranged between Global Table Tennis Promotions and Tees Sport.

The event will receive maximum publicity through the Daily Express and all interesting results will be printed regularly. The Tournament will be played for the duration of the 1980/81 season and it is anticipated

12th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS John Joins Euro Elite by The Editor

The country's congratulations go to JOHN HILTON of Lancashire who, in Berne, Switzerland on April 12, became the first Englishman to win the European men's singles title with a final 21-17, 22-20, 21-14 victory over Josef Dvoracek of Czechoslovakia.

In six devastating rounds prior to the 32-year-old Mancunian, deploying his black defensive-rubbered bat with devastating effect, had left in his wake such notables as Bruno Parieetti of France, Bjarne Grimstrup (Denmark), Wilfried Lieck (Fed. Germany), Tibor Kreisz (Hungary), Gabor Gergely (Hungary) — the defending champion — and French ace Jacques Secretin.

Nor were Hilton's successes confined to the men's singles for in the team championships, he saw off Sweden's former world champion, Stellan Bengtsson, and his compatriot, Ulf Thorsell, while against Hungary, the world men's team champions, he beat both Gergely and Tibor Klampar and also added the scalps of Milan Orlovski and Dvoracek of Czechoslovakia.

England's men's team finished third, losing only to the eventual winners, SWEDEN, whilst England's women's team also claimed bronze medals in finishing fourth, losing to the SOVIET UNION, the winners, Sweden and Rumania.

Another bronze award came in the women's doubles when Jill Hammersley and Linda Jarvis reached the semi-finals, losing to Maria Alexandru and Liana Mihut of Rumania, whilst silver medals were picked

that the event will be run annually for all future seasons.

The country will be split into districts, zones and areas and each player will be advised of his opponent within the area in which he resides.

PRIZE MONEY

1. Men's Singles	
Winner	£500
Runner-up	£250
Losing S/F (2 x £100)	£200
Area Winner (4 v £60)	£240
Area Runner-up (4 x £30)	£120
Area losing S/F (8 x £10)	£80
	-----£1390
2. Women's Singles	
Winner	£300
Runner-up	£150
Losing S/F (2 x £70)	£140
Area Winner (4 x £35)	£140
Area Runner-up (4 x £20)	£80
Area losing S/F (8 x £10)	£80
	-----£890
3. Youths' Singles (Boys)	
Winner	£150
Runner-up	£70
Losing S/F (2 x 45)	£90
Area Winner (4 x £30)	£120
Area Runner-up (4 x £20)	£80
Area losing S/F (8 x £8)	£64
	-----£574
4. Youths' Singles (Girls)	
same as Boys	-----£574
5. Veteran Singles	
same as Youths	-----£574
6. Junior Boys' Singles	
Winner	£100
Runner-up	£60
Losing S/F (2 x £35)	£70
Area Winner (4 x £25)	£100
Area Runner-up (4 x £12)	£48
Area losing S/F (8 x £6)	£48
	-----£426
7. Junior Girls' Singles	
same as Boys	-----£426
GRAND TOTAL	£4854

YORKSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

by REA BALMFORD
'TYKES' TO THE FORE

There were 'home grown' winners of both major singles events at the Yorkshire Open, held at the Richard Dunn Sports Centre in Bradford, and both Intermediate Singles titles were also collected by 'Tykes', but three of the four remaining awards were taken back across the Pennines by the invaders from what is traditionally and geographically, if not politically, the rival county of the Red Rose.

Steve Mills, jointly seeded at 5, came through his quarter, dominated by colleagues from Bradford's Unity T.T.C., with a win over Clem Lo, who one round earlier had shut the door on Kevin Beadsley.

Beadsley apart, the remaining top seeds Alan Fletcher and Peter McQueen came through, while Phil Bowen took the spot allocated to the absent Keith Paxton, with Mills, the unorthodox Sheffield left-hander going on to put down the challenge of McQueen and favourite and top seed Fletcher going out to Bowen in a game marred by an unhappy controversy.

Fletcher interpreted an upraised arm after a high thrown service by the Lancastrian as a call for a 'let', the server claimed to be merely retaining his balance, and experienced umpire Heather Masters ruled that the point, won by Bowen against a 'half cock' Fletcher should stand. Referee Geoff Scruton supported the decision — obviously a correct one — and Fletcher, instead of dismissing the incident, allowed it to prey on his mind and went down in three, leaving the winner to face Mills in a final which went the way of the latter in three.

The Women's event attracted a mere 25 entries and produced an all-Yorkshire final with the higher ranked Melody Ludi getting the better of the rapidly improving Sally Midgley, with Sally gaining consolation as she collected the Intermediate trophy at the

expense of one of the two Canadian entrants, Colleen Johnson.

There were few surprises in the parallel Men's event, with Beadsley coming through to oust yet another Unity man, Tony Bottomley in one semi, and the other bringing a clash between the two Malcolms, Green and Francis, the former coming out on top but going to Beadsley in a straight games final.

Most popular event was the Class 2 Mixed Singles, with 130 entries and here again Francis, who had made the long trek from Sussex, showing up, taking a final place with a win over Cheshire's Tony Worthington.

In the other, former Lancashire County man Tony Boasman made the final as he defeated John Marshall, and went on to take the title despite dropping the middle game.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

S. Mills (Y) bt Peter McQueen (Sy) 14, 17;
P. Bowen (La) bt A. Fletcher (GFR)
-15, 13, 9.

Final:

MILLS bt Bowen -18, 12, 13.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Ludi (Y) bt H. Shields (Y) 17, 14;
S. Midgley (Y) bt C. Johnson (Can) 17, 8.

Final:

LUDI bt Midgley -18, 19, 16.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Bowen/A. Boasman (La) bt M. Twidale (Y)/
P. Spencer (He) 15, 10;

Mills/M. Stephenson (Y) bt C. Lo/A.

Bottomley (Y) 18, -12, 14.

Final:

BOWEN/BOASMAN bt Mills/Stephenson
15, 16.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Shields/C. Buttery (Ng) bt Johnson/G.

Nesukaitis (Can) -15, 19, 19;

Ludi/Midgley bt E. Bannister/K. Battersby
(La) 12, 13.

Final:

SHIELDS/BUTTERY bt Ludi/Midgley
-18, 22, 18.

Intermediate Men's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y) bt Bottomley 19, 17;

M. Green (Sp) bt M. Francis (Sy) 14, 10.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Green 16, 16.

Intermediate Women's Singles Semi-finals:

Midgley bt Nesukaitis 15, -15, 17;

Johnson bt Buttery 16, -11, 16.

Final:

MIDGLEY bt Johnson 15, 16.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt T. Donlon (Ch) 16, 10;

M. Shearer (Li) bt G. Brook (Y) 6, 20.

Final:

D'ARCY bt Shearer 15, -14, 14.

Class 2 Mixed Singles Semi-finals:

Boasman bt J. Marshall (La) -19, 12, 15;

Francis bt A. Worthington (Ch) 9, 10.

Final:

BOASMAN bt Francis 13, -16, 12.

NETHERLANDS NATIONAL CHAMPS

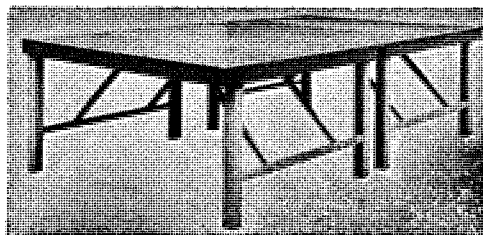
by Bas den Breejen

Bert van der Helm, for the twelfth time since 1966, became the men's singles champion of the Netherlands when, in Utrecht on Mar. 9 he beat Nico van Slobbe 16, 19, 9 in the final. Third place went to Hans Lingen who beat Ed van den Berg 14, 13, -26, 13.

Bettine Vriesekoop, for the fourth time, was crowned women's singles champion after beating Sandra de Kruiff 13, 11, 19 in the final. Former English international Judy Williams, playing for Amsterdam '78, took third place beating Brigitte Kooter 16, 10, 8.

Bert v.d. Helm and Han Gootzen beat Lingen and Bert van den Ham 16 and 18 to win the men's doubles whilst the counterpart women's event went to Vriesekoop/de Kruiff with a final victory over Kooter/Jolanda Noordam.

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GORDON bt Williams 10, 16.
Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:
Oakley/Souter bt P. Pudduck (Sx)/Rainford 24, 19;
Whiting/Wilson bt Bradbury/Satchell 12, 17.
Final:
OAKLEY/SOUTER bt Wilson/Whiting 19, 20.
Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:
Tyler/Gordon bt Deakin/Harris 21, -15, 19;
Grundy/Parker bt Bellinger/Bellinger 21, 16.
Final:
TYLER/GORDON bt Grundy/Parker 15, -19, 22.

CADET EVENTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
Lambert bt N. Hoare (Sy) -21, 19, 19.
C. Prean (Ha) bt I. Smith (Sp) 12, 10;
S. Worrell (Li) bt D. Dewsbury (Sy);
A. Cooke (Dy) bt D. Polasek (Cv) 14, 18.
Semi-finals:
Lambert bt Worrell 14, 12;
Prean bt Cooke 5, 19.
Final:
LAMBERT bt Prean -9, 19, 18.
Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:
Parker bt C. Wickstead (Sp) 14, 12;
L. Bellinger bt Hamilton 18, 16;
L. Goldsmith (Mi) bt N. Tsakarisanos (Gs) 16, 18;

M. Seaton (Y) bt D. Boughey (Sp) 15, 4.
Semi-finals:
Parker bt Seaton 16, 18;
L. Bellinger bt Goldsmith 12, 12.
Final:
PARKER bt L. Bellinger 17, -9, 16.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:
Prean/Lambert bt Smith/I. McLoughlin (La) 15, 16;
Hoare/Cooke bt Hoare/J. Wheel (Ca) 14, -16, 16.
Final:
PREAN/LAMBERT bt Hoare/Cooke 10, 15.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:
Seaton/J. Ryalls (Y) bt T. Moore (Sx)/M. Denbow (Ox) 17, 16;
F. Elliott/V. Bellingham (St) bt M. Hams (Mi)/Tsakarisanos -19, 15, 12.
Final:
SEATON/RYALLS bt Elliott/Bellingham 17, -19, 13.

UNDER-11 EVENTS

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:
A. Dixon (St) bt T. West (E) 8, 19;
J. Bult (Y) bt R. Hurley (Y) 12, 20.
Final:
DIXON bt Bult 9, 12.
Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
R. Knight (Mi) bt A. Boanas (Y) 13, 7;
J. Roberts (Y) bt D. Wickstead (Sp) 17, 14.
Final:
KNIGHT bt Roberts 24, 11.

**YORKSHIRE JUNIOR
2-STAR 'SELECT'**

by REA BALMFORD

EXTRA INCENTIVE

The April National Junior Rankings, announced on the eve of the Debenhams Yorkshire Junior Open at Hull, must have provided an extra incentive for the competitors, who were out to justify a jump up the charts, or to indicate to the selectors in the most effective way possible that they could have made a big mistake.

Obviously wanting to go out at the top was Middlesex left-hander Colin Wilson, elevated to the No. 1 spot above arch-rival Graham Sandley, who missed out on this one for the best of reasons — a call to his country's colours for the European Championships in Berne — and he justified his placing with a straight games final win from the No. 1 seeded spot over a fighting Phil Bradbury (seeded 5).

Alison Gordon, who forfeited top spot in the Girls' ranking to Helen Williams, had the stage set when she lined up against her successor in the Girls' final, and she took her chance with both hands, turning on a fine display which left Miss Williams very much second best on the day while, just to emphasize her point, the winner, who did not drop a game on her way to the title, played the key role in a doubles win with Lesley Tyler which brought her second title.

In the Cadet Boys' Singles, only David Rook of the seeds did not make the quarters losing a Round 2 match to David Dewsbury, a relative newcomer on the tournament scene, and the expected final between Gary Lambert and Carl Prean duly materialized.

Another newcomer, Nina Tsakarisanos, upset the even tenor of the parallel Girls' event as she removed Helen Bardwell in Round 1 before losing out to Laura Goldsmith, who herself had had a good win over Vickie Bellingham.

Things came right in the final, however, with Jean Parker taking a three game win over Lisa Bellinger.

Local interest was there in the Under-11 Boys' final with John Bult, son of former city players Keith and June, lining up against the diminutive Adrian Dixon, but

the more experienced Staffordshire lad carried too many guns and cruised to a comfortable win.

The established Oakley/Souter pairing claimed the Boys' Doubles from the top-seeded spot at the expense of Wilson and Paul Whiting, who had taken out Bradbury/Satchell in the semi, while a nightmare day for Mandy Reeves was completed when she and Helen Williams, top seeds in the Girls' Doubles, were shot out by the Bellinger sisters at the first time of asking. Grundy/Parker took the vacant final place with a win over Bellinger/Bellinger in the semi, before going out in the final which was dominated by the power of Miss Gordon.

RESULTS:

JUNIOR EVENTS

Boys' Singles Round 3:

C. Wilson (Mi) bt S. Scowcroft (La) -16, 18, 4;
P. Bradbury (Bu) bt P. Brownlow (He) 11, 10;
G. Baker (Sy) bt R. Swift (Ca) 17, 17;
J. Souter (Mi) bt A. Moore (Sx) 18, 15;
P. Rainford (La) bt M. Les (Mi) 14, 10;
M. Oakley (Sy) bt S. Palmer (Sk) 18, -18, 18;
S. Moore (Sx) bt P. Whiting (Dv) 18, 19;
K. Satchell (Wi) bt G. Lambert (Dv) 13, -17, 20.

Quarter-finals:

Wilson bt Rainford 15, 9;
Bradbury bt Satchell 18, -17, 18;
Baker bt Oakley 18, 16;
Souter bt S. Moore 15, 17.

Semi-finals:

Wilson bt Baker 11, 16;
Bradbury bt Souter 12, -11, 19.

Final:

WILSON bt Bradbury 20, 17.

Girls' Singles Round 2:

A. Gordon (Be) bt L. Broomhead (Y) 13, 17;
H. Williams (Mi) bt L. Tyler (Mi) -19, 18, 15;
J. Grundy (La) bt L. Bellinger (Bd) 19, 18;
J. Parker (La) bt A. Barker (Sp) 7, 7;
S. Peakman (Wa) bt Y. Hall (Le) -21, 23, 14;
G. Pritchard (Dv) bt N. Hamilton (Bu) 12, 13;

J. Harris (St) bt J. Deakin (Ch) -13, 15, 13;
J. Bellinger (Bd) bt A. Hillard (Ca) 13, 13.

Quarter-finals:

Gordon bt Peakman 16, 10;
Williams bt Harris 12, 17;
Grundy bt Pritchard 14, -19, 13;
Parker bt J. Bellinger 25, 12.

Semi-finals:

Gordon bt Grundy 15, 11;
Williams bt Parker 25, 12.

NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUARTER-FINAL DRAWS

WILMOTT CUP:

- Sunderland v. Manchester (1)
- Dagenham v. Hinckley (2)
- North Middlesex v. Central London (3)
- Crawley v. Bristol (4)

Fourth Round results:

- Northumberland 1, Sunderland 5.
- Sheffield 2, Manchester 5.
- Derby 2, Hinckley 5.
- Dagenham 5, Birmingham 1.
- Central London 5, Cheshunt 4.
- St. Albans 5, Bromley 4.
- Bristol 7, Salisbury 2.

J.M. ROSE BOWL:

- Liverpool v. Sunderland (1)
- Dunstable v. Leicester (2)
- North Middlesex v. Dagenham (3)
- Plymouth v. Gravesend (4)

Fourth Round results:

- Sunderland 5, Hull 1.
- Manchester 0, Liverpool 0.
- Leicester 9, Grimsby 0.
- Northampton 1, Dunstable 8.
- Dagenham 6, Cheshunt 0.
- North Middlesex 6, Maidenhead 0.
- Gravesend w.o., Eastbourne scr.
- Bournemouth 3, Plymouth 5.

CARTER CUP:

- Ormesby v. Sheffield (1)
- Potteries v. Birmingham (2)
- Dagenham v. North Middlesex (3)
- Bromley v. Bristol (4)

Fourth Round results:

- Sunderland 1, Ormesby 5.
- Leeds 1, Sheffield 5.
- Potteries 5, Leicester 0.
- Birmingham 6, Kidderminster 0.
- Dagenham 5, Bury St. Edmunds 4.
- North Middlesex 5, Oxford 1.
- Bromley 5, Crawley 1.
- Plymouth 2, Bristol 5.

BROMFIELD TROPHY:

- Sheffield v. Northumberland (1)
- Dunstable v. Nottingham (2).
- North Middlesex v. Cheshunt (3).
- Bournemouth v. Chelmsford (4).

Fourth Round results:

- Northumberland w.o., Preston scr.
- Market Drayton 3, Sheffield 5.
- Chesterfield 0, Nottingham 5.
- Birmingham 1, Dunstable 5.
- Cheshunt 7, Wisbeck 2.
- Oxford 0, North Middlesex 5.
- Guildford 1, Chelmsford 5.
- Bristol 3, Bournemouth 5.

Quarter-final ties are due for completion by April 20, the closing date for the semi-finals being May 18/80.

SEMI-FINALS

Wilmott Cup	1	v	2	3	v	4
J.M. Rose Bowl	2	v	1	4	v	3
Carter Cup	2	v	1	4	v	3
Bromfield Trophy	1	v	2	3	v	4

County Association are heavily committed and the E.T.T.A. has pledged its support. Some sponsorship has already been obtained but more is required if a substantial deficit is to be averted.

A selection committee has been elected from the three constituent bodies, namely the British Universities Sports Federation, the British Polytechnics Sports Association and the British Colleges Sports Association. This committee is due to meet for the first time on 29th February and is most anxious that every possible student eligible for selection is brought to its notice. It is likely that selection will be made from full time students both undergraduates and post-graduates who are attending Universities, Polytechnics or Colleges during this present academic year 1979/80. In accordance with current selection regulations any likely player has to be nominated by his or her institution but any student who complies with the above is asked to write to me c/o British Students Sports Federation, 28 Woburn Square, London WC 1H 0AD.

As an appetizer Russia, South Korea, Canada and Japan have already confirmed an interest and it is hoped that when the official invitations are sent out many more attractive countries will decide to come.

EAST LONDON LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

For those who require proof that Leyton Baths provides an ideal venue for the sport at its highest standard, the overwhelming success of the East London League's Championships destroyed any doubt that may have still existed, but it must be remembered that the East London League could never have considered the venture without the Guardian Independent Newspapers and Kay De-el Sports, whose sponsorship made this successful experiment possible.

John Payne, who surprised most people last year by taking the Men's Singles title, proved it was no fluke when he retained his title, despite the event being an open one this time round. Only three of the top sixteen seeds failed to reach their allotted place, with Abraham falling to Kent County Junior David Dodd, who then had to face the unbeatable Payne. Ex-England Junior and current Middlesex player Jemmett succumbed to Ray Taylor who looked all set to cause a major upset when he removed Stan (the bat) Battrick to enter the

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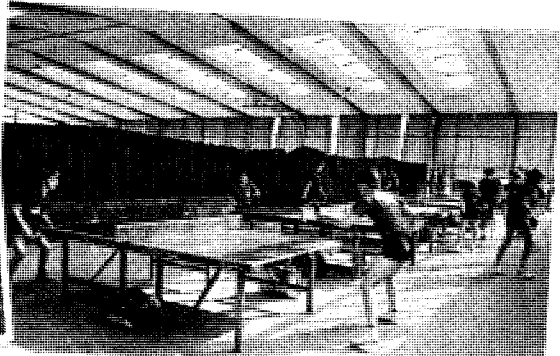


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 - August 11th - 16th
 - August 17th - 22nd
 - August 23rd - 31st (9 DAY)

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3rd WORLD STUDENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

by DEREK OLDMAN
Technical Rep., B.S.S.F.

A firm decision has now been taken and the above championships will definitely take place at Thornaby Pavilion between 7th and 13th September this year. Players and officials will be accommodated at Teesside Polytechnic whose physical education department will be responsible for quite a substantial part of the organisation.

Tony Chatwin and Richard Scruton have already accepted the invitation to be referee and assistant referee respectively, Cleveland



EAST LONDON LEAGUE COMPETITORS.

quarter-finals, but here again Payne put a stop to that.

Only other seed to go was Parish who lost to Martindill, but his run was quickly ended in the next round when he met Blomfield. The quarter-final therefore had seven of the top eight men facing each other, with an all to form top four making it to the semi-finals stage. The possibilities of a brotherly final was removed with the defeat of firstly Simon Proffitt in straight games by Payne and then his brother John by Caldor, also in straight games. The final looked all set to be a long battle, with Payne just edging home 25-23 in the first, but Payne then seemed to gain confidence and finished Kevin Caldor off in straight games at 21-18.

The women's event saw three of the four seeds reach the semi-finals, with only Lyn Tominson going down to Lyn Mallin. Both top seeds then marched easily into the final where a real battle developed, with first Linda Walters looking as if she was going to lift the title, only to be edged out by Helen Cathcart -19, 17, 19.

The Men's Doubles, although producing

excellent table-tennis, did not produce any surprises, with all four top seeds reaching the semis. Top seeds Proffitt and Proffitt easily removed fourth seeds Payne and Tendler, while Stevens and Andrews produced some excellent play to put out second seeds Abrahams and Blomfield 18 in the third. The third seeds continued where they had left off when they took the first game at 16 against the Proffitts, but then the brothers put it all together and raced home 12, 15.

The Mixed Doubles saw the top two seeds make it to the final with little difficulty, but the final was a different story with the order in the first game suiting Cathcart and Campbell who took it at 21-10, only to find themselves on the receiving end in the next game, but with Walters and Stevens poised on levelling the games, their opponents came right back to "deuce" before having to submit to a third game at 21-23 but then with the order again suiting them, they re-established themselves before the change of order at halfway and so managed to maintain their lead to take the title 21-16.

The Intermediate Singles event reflected

the extremely high standard of the League's Second Division, with eventually Paul Lewis facing fellow Club mate Peter Black and then in a final which, in Lewis' own words, Black should never have lost, Lewis edged home, -19, 17, 16.

The Junior Singles again saw the top four seeds facing each other, with Dave Dodd winning what was the closest match of the tournament, 19, -22, 20, against Paul Fong, while Tony Dettmar, although going to deuce in the second, earned his place in the final with a 2-straight win over Raj Patel. In the final, however, Dettmar was never allowed to take command and the battle between two of the top Essex and Kent Juniors went to Kent, with Dodd taking the title at 11, 20.

Brian Parish retained the Veteran title for the third year running, with a 2-straight win over Jim Griffiths, while a very on form Brian Mailey (-8) defeated Raj Patel (-2) in straight games to take the Handicap event.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

On Saturday, May 3, Woodley Table Tennis Club, Reading, will be holding what is believed to be the biggest international club match ever staged in this country.

This will be the first of an annual friendly series of matches between clubs from three countries, with Woodley being the first host club.

The other clubs involved are Cobra, of Belgium, and Wattignies, of France

Each club will have four teams of four players, each player will play two singles, and one doubles per match, each team playing two matches against their opposite ranked teams, teams 1 v 1, 2 v 2, etc.

The match will be held at Rivermead school, London Bridge Road, Woodley, and will start at 12 noon.

In the evening, local table tennis star Karen Witt will present the winning club with the trophy, this will take place at the disco also taking place at Rivermead school.

There will be a bar and refreshments, and anyone who would like to attend the evenings festivities can obtain tickets from the club secretary for only 50p.

Spectators are also welcome during the match, and entry will be free.

Woodley table tennis club would like to thank three local companies who by their sponsorship have helped to stage the event, they are:-

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THIS AND THAT IN SURREY

by Murray Corbin

Since you have looked all through last month's issue and did not find my newsletter, perhaps you will accept my apologies for the disappointment and inconvenience I may have caused. In February, I had a few too many commitments to fulfil, along with the added pressures of starting a new job — I am now specialising in Life Assurance Protection, Retirement and Investment Planning. I can only be contacted at home on 01-542 9935, at any hour.

At the end of this article, you will find the "Face to Face with Ron Crayden", because Mike Kercher consented to this, mainly to prolong the agony of his two fans — Bryan Merrett and Peter Charters. By the way, in order to put the record straight, in spite of popular belief, I have not received the fee for getting Mike's photo published a few months' ago. Instead, whenever possible, he has promised to give me a lift back home from tournaments. Amen.

TSB SURREY JUNIOR CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Top honours went to the players as I had predicted; this was my only big disappointment. The standard of play was much higher than last year, although there were few players able and equipped to attack serves or serve according to the Service Law.

During the first day's play, there were some fine displays from David Baker, Leslie Popkiewicz and Jane Barella, to name a few. I am more impressed every time I have the good fortune to see Jane play. Not only is her all-round game improving, but she looks like a table-tennis player. This is an asset which is limited to a chosen few. I can praise whenever it is due; with this in mind, I raise my hat to Peter Corner for being instrumental in Jane's progress.

I now have pleasure in showing the final results, without the scores, of the two days' play.

U12 Boys' Singles: David Baker bt Derren Hams.

U12 Girls' Singles: Leslie Popkiewicz bt Debora Simmonds

U14 Boys' Singles: Nicholas Hoare bt Andrew Sexton.

U14 Girls' Singles: Michele Hams bt Lynne Bennett.

U14 Boys' Doubles: Hoare/Dewsbury bt Sutton/Oh.

U14 Girls' Doubles: Hams/Barella bt Popkiewicz/Bennett.

U14 Boys' Consolation: Adam Cochi bt Gavin Jackson.

U17 Boys' Singles: Glen Baker bt Mark Oakley.

U17 Girls' Singles: Lorraine Garbet bt Sarah Cresswell.

U17 Boys' Doubles: Baker/Oakley bt M. Hammond/P. Holloway.

U17 Girls' Doubles: Garbet/Cresswell bt C. Gibbs/S. Conway.

U17 Mixed Doubles: Baker/Cresswell bt Oakley/Garbet.

U17 Boys' Consolation: Anthony Haggerty bt Stephen Mayhew.

U17 Girls' Consolation: Jane Barella bt Gaynor Kelly.

The games I shall remember for some time were: the narrow escape Oakley had when he met Mike Hammond; the best set of the championships, when Robert Campbell came out well on top against Neville Miller; and to a lesser extent, the finals

between Baker and Oakley. Glen Baker was in fair form on the second day when the U-17's were played. Unfortunately, he plays either brilliantly or badly. There is no in-between where he is concerned, due to his lack of concentration and self-discipline. This is not necessarily the making of a good reliable player. Let us hope that with maturity, he can change his spots.

WANDSWORTH LEAGUE CLOSED INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Once again, the venue was Devas Club, Battersea, where I was pleased to see that most of the waiting between matches had been cut down — an improvement on earlier years. I offer my congratulations to the organisers for a job that was well done.

The Men's Singles went to Steve Holloway, after being 9-16 down in the third to Desmond Charlery; Men's doubles — Hoare and Charlery of YMCA Wimbledon had little trouble with Steve Holloway and his Dad — Mike, of Earlsfield; Division 1 honours went to Charlery over Steve Hol-



Losing finalists of the Men's Doubles in the Wandsworth League Closed and Individual Championships, Mike and Steve Holloway of Earlsfield, with the winners Nicholas Hoare and Desmond Charlery of the Y.M.C.A. Wimbledon.



Winner David Baker of Guildford has a smile of sympathy for Derren Hams of Morden, the losing finalist in the Boys' U-12 of the TSB Surrey Juniors Closed Championships. These were held at Elmbridge Leisure Centre, Walton, in February.

loway; Div. 2—C. Alvarez of Ensham had a good win over Ron Brown of Argyle; Div. 3—V. Ang of St. George's Hospital finally overcame Robert Campbell of YMCA; Div. 4 was a YMCA battle between Dave Bristol and Tony Fitzgerald, with Dave's experience the winning factor; in Div. 5, D. Phillips of Railton outclassed R. Mak of Munster Road; Div. 6—N. Youngs of Devas, a surprise winner over Carl Mingo of Earlsfield; Div. 7—Ian Cooper of Earlsfield outplayed M. Goulding of Chesterton; the Div. 8 honours went to R. McGrath of Earnest Bevin after an exciting match with M. Turner of Cranleigh; and in Div. 9, E. Coopers of Colliers Wood maintained the upper hand against T. Carvill of Earlsfield. Nicholas Hoare just managed to beat Neville Miller in the third, for the Junior Championship. The winner of the Veterans' was Wines of Crescent in a "not too exciting" contest against Vernon Thomas of St. George's Hospital. The Women's Championship winner was Jane "Umpire" Seabrook, who had an exciting duel with Pauline Clarke of 24 Club, and in the Mixed Doubles — the YMCA pairing of Robert Campbell and Diane Rang did rather well to defeat Stuart Richards and Gillian Bridges of Devas.

BITS AND PIECES

I have not yet been given the results of the Surrey Schools Championships, but I

am informed that Graham Russell won the three most senior cups, defeating Michael Hammond in each of the finals. It would appear that Mike could not acquaint himself with any of Graham's weaknesses even after the second encounter — Nicholas Hoare won the Edinburgh Youth Open Cadet and the Junior Championships recently — Dave Bristow is doing a fine job coaching the beginners and the intermediates at Wimbledon YMCA: thank you Dave — John Hammond is still biting his nails or finger tips — Steve Holloway caught a bad cold recently, because he kept his bedroom window open throughout the night, in order to signal to his fiancée, Karen, who is rather lovely. Forget the semaphore, lad! Use the telephone — Is it a tournament romance, Jean Parker and Nicky Hoare? It may not be the best way for Nicky to catch Donald Parker's eye — David Dewsbury is still making up his mind to move during matches — Amanda Chapman denied a fondness for Mike Hammond, while her brother Neil shouted "Rubbish". — Glen Baker should get more sleep at night while away on tournaments — Sally Conway is one heck of a pretty young lady — I want the real Sarah Cresswell to emerge and blast away at that ball; I am sure that some of her skills are latent — Jane Seabrook appears to be one of a few umpires willing or brave enough to clamp down on foul serves; Phil Goacher (the Umpires' Secretary) please note and encourage the others — young Robert Smith likes to be called Roberto Smithini ever since he had a lick of his father's Italian ice-cream — I have not yet had any correspondence from the Guildford or Byfleet Leagues. Is it too late? — Congratulations to Robin Foot and Stephanie on their recent marriage — Watch out for Matthew Hoare — John Cornelius's absence at the Junior

Closed, a disappointment. He later told me that this was the direct result of yet another quarrel with his father. This sad affair tears me apart — I did not see Peter Brennan, the Captain of the First Surrey Junior Team there on the second day, either — Since the news of the breakdown in marriage between Jill Hammersley and her husband so soon after my "Face to Face" with her, I take this opportunity to wish Ron Crayden luck in any direction he may go.

**FACE TO FACE WITH
RON CRAYDEN — "Mr. TRUE GRIT"**

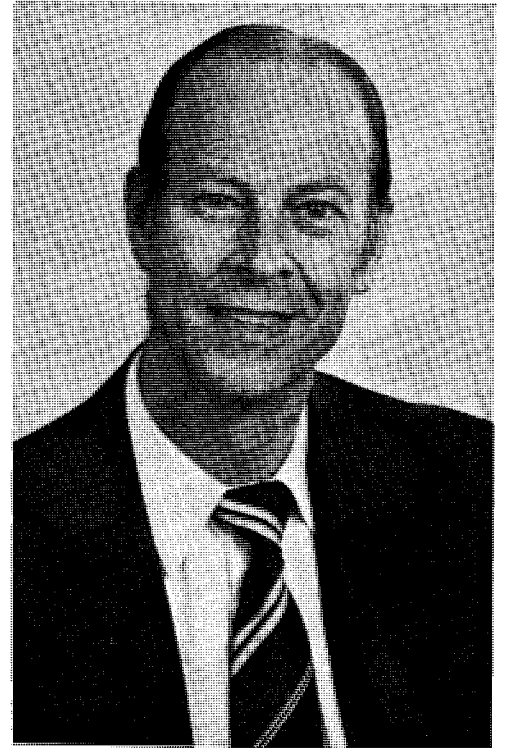
The day was cold, the sky was overcast. The usual cold wind was blowing from Mike Kercher's place in Carshalton right over Morden, where I was picked up by Ron Crayden — Chairman of Surrey Table Tennis Association and a Vice-Chairman of The English Table Tennis Association, advising mainly on Selection and Coaching.

I was soon whisked away to Ron's comfortable home in Sutton, where a cup of coffee was offered and immediately made by "his excellency". As I wrapped both of my cold hands around the mug, my eyes focussed on two nearby cupboards on the wall. On close scrutiny, one housed probably the best collection of table-tennis books in the world. Editions from every ping-pong Nation. Significantly, these are inscribed with the autographs of the top players he either played against or one of his Teams. In the other were cups of all sizes and medallions that were won during his playing era.


I must warn you that you may think that I have indulged myself on account of the length of this Face to Face, but to do full justice to Ron, I would have had to ask the Editor for usage of all the pages in this

magazine, which I hope will be with us for many years to come.


Q. "Ron, to start this interview a little controversially, who in your opinion would



RON J. CRAYDEN, Chairman of Surrey T.T.A. and a Vice-Chairman of E.T.T.A., advising mainly on Selection and Coaching.



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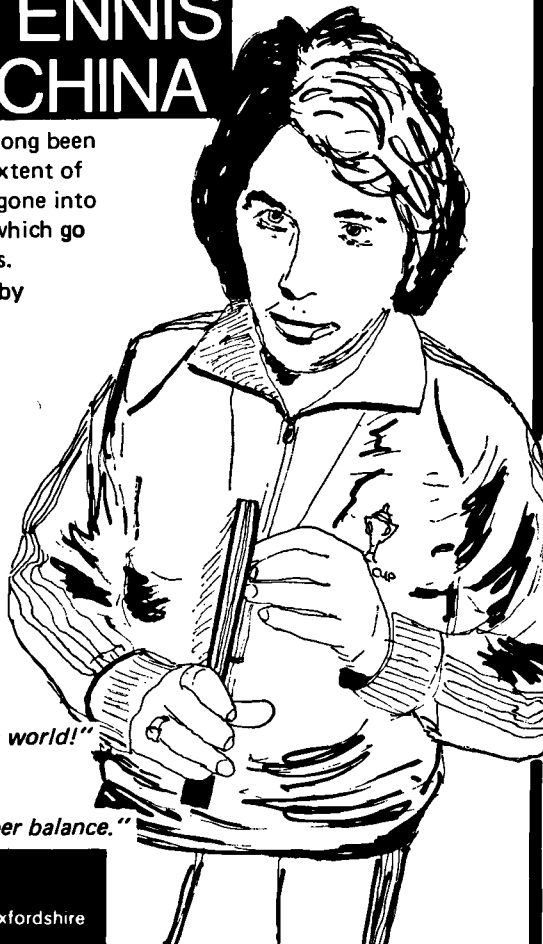
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be the best six men and women to have represented England?"

A. "Coincidentally, I have discussed this from time to time with friends, colleagues and players from a wide age group. The women we generally agree on, in no particular order of merit are, Ann Haydon, Rosalind and Diane Rowe, Mary Wright — nee Shannon, Jill Hammersley and Vera Dace. Out of these you will find that three were world champions; Ann was thrice a world finalist; Jill we know all about and Mary was a world's doubles finalist and at one stage, rated number one in Europe. She should have won the World's Singles in 1964, losing very closely in the third to Rudnova the Russian penholder, who met her in the quarters. Mary was the first girl with a terrific loop, followed by a real bang. Rudnova, being a penholder, could hold the table with the added advantage of being a little faster, got the edge on that occasion, but the others could not really take Mary's loop.

"Of the men, it is not as cut and dry as the women, because it is a question of whom to include. I presume that you have to choose the players who played for England. If you do that, although they were not English born, the list would have to include the late Victor Barna, the late Richard Bergmann, and Johnny Leach. It was felt generally that Adrian Haydon — a world class player for many years would be one. If you could allow me to augment the number to eight, Des Douglas is a certainty and I could have room for Aubrey Simons, Dennis Neale and Chester Barnes."

Q. "What do you think of the method used to select our Senior Ranking teams?"

A. "Many of us have our own opinion about this. It is difficult, but I feel that we should stop the number 1, 2 and 3 business and name a squad of say, twelve. From this, it would be easier for a captain, for example, Peter Simpson, to choose a team that he thinks is better equipped to meet a particular situation. At the moment a player can say, 'I am a better player or higher ranked than so-and-so, why were I not chosen?'"

Q. "What are your feelings and observations about Desmond Douglas?"

A. "Desmond is a fantastic player and even a genius when the conditions suit him, he can be incredible. He does things that are either out of or not in the book. As you would appreciate, being a Coach of some renown, it would be nearly impossible to coach a player with his style to the heights he has risen; he is unique. I would like to see him become World Champion, he has the natural skills and ability and has beaten the best time and again, but the other things in his make-up bother me. A player becomes world champion not only by his skills, but mainly by the ability to adapt to difficult situations — getting over bad living conditions on tour, understanding slow tables and how the ball will behave in different atmospheres in every hall. Generally, the science of making things work for him, and to concentrate for long periods. Desmond has to acquire all of these, not some. On the other hand, he is a great world-class player."

Q. "The affairs of Surrey are very close to your heart. What do you think of its table-tennis and what direction would you like to see it take?"

A. "We do not seem to have enough players at the top end. Those that we do have, for example, Max Crimmins to name one, do not seem to have the mental strength to carry a team. He has tremendous skills in his hand but too often when I see him play, something seems to go wrong. He either gets upset with himself or appears to be saying to himself, 'Wow! look at that fantastic shot'. He lacks the continued concentration and ability to work for 21 points. I think he could be as good as Desmond. I would like to see him

at the top of the Senior Rankings, but his application to the tasks involved, needs a lot of attention. I believe that he practices correctly and is very dedicated. Unfortunately, this is not enough. Regarding our other Seniors, we have not quite got a second player to stay with the best. This must create added pressure for Max. A Captain must be in a position before a match to feel that he has at least 4 sets in the bag. This is the wonderful thing about having players like Desmond and particularly Jill, in a team. They add strength to the performance of the weaker players.

"With reference to where I would like to see our table-tennis go, straight to the top. People are interested mainly in what the Seniors are doing. I believe that people like Mike Kercher, Peter Corner and yourself are doing too much for the Juniors. When they move into the Seniors, they seem to lack strength in personality. One can coach only so much for so long, but it is really up to the player to get on with it and expand on what he should have learnt. Once you have given a player a good solid foundation, your job is finished. Concentrate on becoming a good dependable friend, from whom advice can be sought from time to time."

Conclusion: I am sure that you will appreciate me leaving a few easy questions for your good friend Mike Kercher to answer. This will allow me more space to tell the good folks of your active playing past in the game.

JOINED THE AIRFORCE

Ron Crayden started playing seriously in 1938, after joining the Ravensbourne Club in South London. He soon began to make his mark on the tournament circuit during 1939-40, and then joined the R.A.F. to serve his country for six years. It was in the service that he met Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington in Northern Ireland, where they teamed up to give exhibitional matches for charity.

He returned to Civvy Street and into the game, with a bang in 1946, by taking a game from the late great Victor Barna, in

his first tournament. In December of that year, Ron won his first Open, taking the Triple Crown in the North Midlands Open and beating his friend Jack Carrington in the singles final.

Later that season, he achieved a unique double, winning two major tournament finals in the same day — the Surrey Open and South of England Open, leaving a trail of International scalps in his wake. From obscurity, in one season, he had crept into the National rankings.

CAUSED A STIR

In October, 1947 he was invited to the National Trials and caused a stir by emerging undefeated from the collection of sixty-odd players there, but his International selection was still a long way off. With his long reach and deceptive forehand, Ron became a specialist at doubles and with Ken Merrett as his partner, inflicted on the famous Leach/Carrington combination their first defeat for three years. Successes followed regularly and in 1949-50 season he reached his peak, appearing in nine major tournament finals and toppling no fewer than 22 International players.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL

Ron's first International was against Wales (1948-49) when he won both his singles and doubles. Later that season he played against Ireland at Liverpool, and even in the company of the late Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach, was acclaimed as star of the match.

In November 1949, he toured Sweden with Johnny Leach and they beat France (Haguenauer and Lansky) in the final of an International Tournament. Other successful Internationals followed and in September 1950, Ron and Harry Venner became the first two Englishmen to be invited to the Yugoslavian Open at Opatija. In that Adriatic Cup Competition, they lost only to Yugoslavia, beating teams from Austria, Sweden, and Federal Germany.

The highlight of Ron's career came in March 1951, when he so deservedly was selected for the Swaythling Cup Team and won seven out of nine sets. It was there in Vienna, that Johnny Leach won his second World Singles title, and the Rowe twins, their first doubles title.

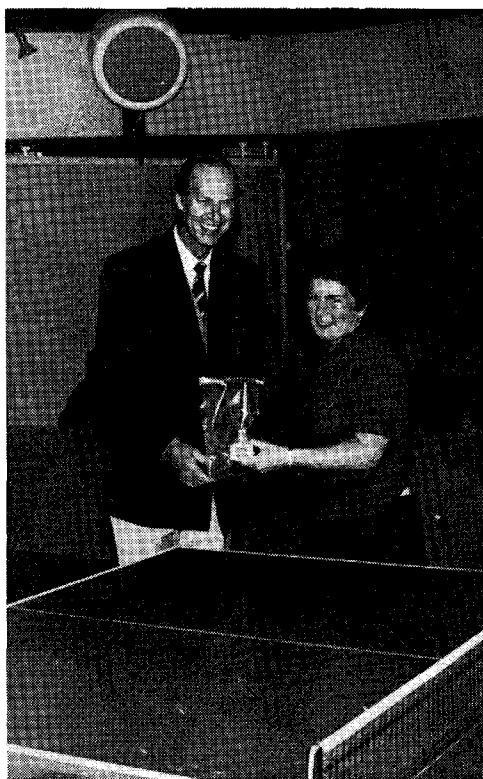
Bryan Merrett, himself a rival of Ron at the time, and an International of over 100 appearances, pays his tribute: "Regarding his captaincy, both on and off the table, I have played under every post war captain in my time, including the late Adrian Haydon, and I regard Ron to be the finest of them all."

TALL, LEGENDARY FIGURE

In South London and Surrey, Ron became a tall legendary figure because his results read like a fairy tale. He has played for Surrey over 100 times and led them to their first Premier Division title as player-captain in season 1955-6. Much earlier, after the war, he had won 24 Individual South London titles. With Jackie Head and Harry Venner, he was a member of South London's famous Wilmott Cup team that won the All-England team title from 1949/50 to 1953/4. London Business Houses singles, Printing and Allied singles, London League singles and Wandsworth League singles were all notched up in those fruitful years. For example, in the 1949/50 season, successes followed regularly when he reached his peak and he appeared in nine major tournament finals and toppled no fewer than 22 International players.

Team-mate Jackie Head recalls memories of a Wilmott Cup Final at Romford on 27th February 1954, when South London narrowly defeated Staines 5-4. "The outstanding memory that I have was of Ron's deciding set against the late Bernard Crouch. This match was one of the best 'cliff-hangers' I was ever involved in myself or, for that matter ever witnessed. The match had been

(continued on page 36)



Ron Crayden, Chairman of Surrey T.T.A. presenting THE JIM FORREST TROPHY to Lorraine Garbet, winner of the Girls' U-17 Singles at The TSB Surrey Junior Closed Championships. The presentation signifies "Outstanding improvement, dedication and sportsmanship" in 1979. Well done Lorraine!

(continued from page 34)

in progress for over four hours when Ron walked out to the table to play the ninth and deciding set against bogey-man, Bernard; the last buses had gone and the hall was still packed to capacity. Ron rose to the occasion magnificently and despite badly blistered feet, secured the Cup for South London by beating Bernard 6 and 19. Truly a night to remember."

PERIOD OF CAPTAINCY

Let me now interest you in his period of captaincy, which produced many honours for England. His first assignment in the non-playing capacity came in December 1955, when he took an England team to Glasgow to trounce Scotland 9-1. Impressed with his leadership, the Selection Committee gave him a more difficult task in September 1956, making him official captain of a party of 19 to play matches in Federal Germany. Other trips followed and then in 1959, he took over the reins of Captain of England for all senior International matches — he made a dramatic impact. His first big test came at the end of that season at the European Championships in Zagreb. He welded together a team labelled as "no-hopers", who shamed their critics and obtained their best-ever overall ranking. The men finished in third place and the women, as runners-up, beating on the way Rumania, who fielded Angelica Rozeanu, then seven times World Women's Singles Champion, and "Miss Poker-Face" herself, Maria Alexandru. A year later in Peking, at an amazing World Championships against a top-weighted Asian challenge, Ron still managed to guide his teams to high ranking positions — both Men and Women were classified in the top six nations. During the summer of 1961, he was appointed to the Selection Committee.

In November 1964, Ron had his finest and proudest moment when in Malmo, Sweden, he led his girls (Diane Rowe, Mary Wright, Lesley Bell and Irene Ogus) to win the Team Championship of Europe and for good measure, his respected twosome, Di and Mary, to take the Doubles title. Again in 1965 at the World's in Ljubljana, the girls finished third behind China and

Japan out of 31 competing teams — a fantastic effort. Later that year, he took our teams to Hungary and Poland where they captured five National Open titles and six of the largest "Pots" it is possible to imagine.

The European followed at Wembley in April 1967, another World's in Stockholm. With a newly-formed team, England finished a creditable fifth out of 24 competing Countries. It was also in 1967 that Ron had another moment of pride when he was at the courtside at Brighton advising and spurring on his friend Mary (who is still sometimes active with her husband Brian Wright in the Premier division of our Leatherhead League) when she won the coveted English Open Singles title.

Another European Open followed at Lyon and his final World's match at Munich. His friend, and co-captain at the time, Johnny Leach, now M.B.E. and a Vice-President of ETTA, twice World Champion, has this to say: "After the war, Ron became one of England's most respected players, winning many team honours, including the Swaythling Cup and tournament victories. I have always admired his temperament. He was a natural choice for the England Captaincy and lost no time in establishing his reputation for shrewd judgement, forthright decisions and absolute fairness at all times. In my view, Ron has been an outstanding England Captain, being always prepared to take calculated risks and never beaten until the last point was played. I never made a major decision without first seeking his opinion and advice".

—:—

In summing up, it was a great privilege and pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to interview Ron and delve into his astonishing past. For more than twenty years, he had been in the spotlight as both player and team Captain, visiting 22 countries in pursuit of table-tennis. I shall always feel humble in his presence and perhaps he may pat me on the head, whenever I make a bow, in close proximity to him.

1980 HOLIDAY COACHING COURSE

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DETAILS:

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Dispersal: After lunch Friday, Aug. 15.

Minimum Age: 17 years on Aug. 1.

Course Fee: £66 including full board, residence and training costs.

Applications: Will be considered from persons who have had some match experience, and wish to work in pleasant company, to improve.

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Applications: Acceptance or "waiting list" will be notified within two weeks. Deposit of £10, is returnable only if a place is not offered. E.T.T.A. reserve the right to cancel the Course up to July 1, '80, if numbers of applicants are insufficient.

Application forms are available from E.T.T.A. Coaching Scheme Administrator, 18 Cedar Manor, Poole Road, Bournemouth, BH4 9DE.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

May 1980

3/4 Essex Junior 2-Star 'Select' (Harlow).
4 National League.

7/9 NORWICH UNION MASTERS (Guild Hall, Preston).

10/11 THE WORTHING "DEBENHAMS" JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Worthing Sports Centre Worthing, West Sussex.
Team Events from 9 a.m. Sat., May 10 (Finals at 7 p.m.).

17/18 Trustee Savings Bank Tunbridge Wells 2-Star Junior Open, Sandown Court School, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Sat. - U-12 and U-14 events from 9.30 a.m.
Sun. - U-17 events from 9 a.m.
Finals 7 p.m. each day.

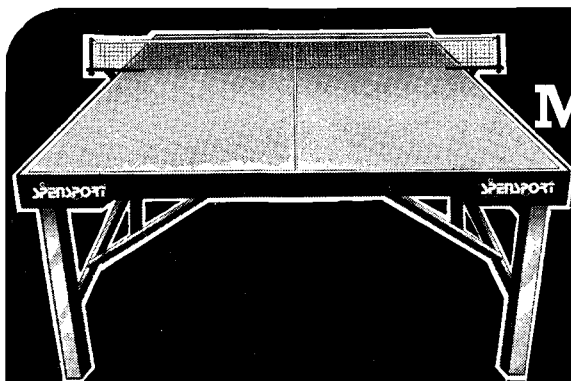
18 —National League.
24 The 5th Butterfly Millom School 1-Star Open, Millom School, Millom, Cumbria from 10 a.m. Closing date: May 10, '80.

June

7 County Championships Conference (London).
8 National Team Championship Finals.

BIENNIAL

As from next season 1980/81 the Norwich Union International Championships (English Open) and the Stiga Welsh Open will operate on a biennial basis. Next year, probably in Feb. 1981, the Stiga Welsh Open will be held, in Cardiff, and in 1982 it will be the turn of the Norwich Union International Championships, but not necessarily in Brighton.



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JUNIOR 2 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent	6	6	0	0	45	15	12
Wiltshire	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
Bucks	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
Hants	6	3	0	3	31	29	6
Herts	6	2	1	3	21	39	5
Middlesex II	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Surrey II	6	0	3	3	27	33	3
Essex II	6	1	1	4	22	38	3

JUNIOR 2 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorks II	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Cheshire	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Lancs	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Cumbria	5	2	2	1	23	27	6
Lincs	5	1	1	3	23	27	3
Clwyd	6	1	0	5	22	38	2
Cleveland	5	1	0	4	18	32	2

JUNIOR 2 MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambs	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Warwicks	6	3	2	1	29	31	8
Beds	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
Glamorgan	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
Notts	5	1	2	2	26	24	4
Gloucs	5	0	4	1	24	26	4
Worcs	6	0	4	2	28	32	4
Leics	6	0	2	4	18	42	2

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Oxford	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Kent II	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Berks II	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Sussex II	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Bucks II	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

JUNIOR 3 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Northumberland	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Cheshire II	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Durham	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Cleveland II	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Cumbria II	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

JUNIOR 3 NORTH MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Derbyshire	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Staffs II	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Salop	4	2	0	2	26	14	4
Warwicks II	4	2	0	2	16	24	4
Clwyd II	4	0	0	4	4	36	0

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Avon	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Gwent	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Devon III	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Hereford	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Salop II	4	0	1	3	14	26	1

JUNIOR 3 EAST MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Norfolk	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Northants	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Hunts	4	2	0	2	24	16	4
Lincs II	4	0	2	2	10	30	2
Cambs II	4	0	1	3	17	23	1

JUNIOR 3 EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Suffolk	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Essex III	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Herts II	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Bedford II	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Norfolk II	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

JUNIOR 3 WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Devon II	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Cornwall	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Dorset	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Somerset	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Hants II	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

VETERANS SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	6	6	0	0	39	15	12
Essex II	5	4	0	1	34	11	8
Kent I	5	3	0	2	20	25	6
Sussex	5	2	0	3	21	24	4
Kent II	5	2	0	3	20	25	4
Hants II	5	1	0	4	18	27	2
Herts II	5	0	0	5	10	35	0

VETERANS MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lincs	5	5	0	0	38	7	10
Cheshire I	5	5	0	0	36	9	10
Notts	5	3	0	2	27	18	6
Cheshire II	4	2	0	2	14	22	4
Leics	4	1	0	3	10	26	2
Clwyd	5	1	0	4	12	33	2
Cumbria	6	0	0	6	16	38	0

VETERANS EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex	5	5	0	0	43	2	10
Berks	5	4	0	1	27	18	8
Herts I	5	3	0	2	26	19	6
Hunts	5	3	0	2	20	25	6
Bedford	6	2	0	4	19	35	4
Herts III	5	1	0	4	15	30	2
Oxford	5	0	0	5	12	33	0

VETERANS WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dorset I	6	6	0	0	41	13	12
Hants	6	5	0	1	35	19	10
Avon I	6	4	0	2	30	24	8
Worcs	6	4	0	2	29	25	8
Avon II	6	2	0	4	22	32	4
Wiltshire	6	2	0	4	22	32	4
Dorset II	6	1	0	5	19	35	2
Somerset	6	0	0	6	18	36	0

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

by Keith Ponting

With just four rounds of matches left the situation in the Premier Division is very close and it appears at this stage that Sealink and Soham will be the two clubs fighting it out for the championships and the prized entry into Europe next season, although, I have no doubt, that Ellenborough and Ormesby will dispute this right to the end.

A glance at the league table shows Sealink two points ahead of Soham but a very important factor which may be vital is the much superior games difference of the Cambridge team which will stand them in good stead should they beat Sealink later.

Latest results and up to date league table: Sealink Milton Keynes 6, Macleans

Maidenhead 3 Soham 9, Kelly Girl International 0.

League Table:

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sealink Milton Keynes	10	9	1	56	34	18
Soham	10	8	2	62	28	16
Ellenborough	9	6	3	47	34	12
Ormesby I	9	6	3	45	36	12
Newham	9	3	6	40	41	6
Kelly Girl International	10	2	8	35	55	4
Macleans Maidenhead	10	2	8	31	59	4
Denmark	9	2	7	26	55	4

SECOND DIVISION

The Unity club from Bradford are the runaway leaders and it would need something very unusual to happen to prevent them winning the division and gain promotion to the Premier Division next season. They are still unbeaten after eleven matches but came very close to surrendering that record recently when they just got the better of second placed Sunlife Second City.

Latest results and up to date league table: Sunlife Second City 4, Unity 5. Unity 8, Salford 1. Ormesby II 4, Seagulls 5. Sunlife Second City 8, Norton 1. Briarside 7, March 2.

League table:

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Unity	11	11	0	83	16	22
Sunlife Second City	11	9	2	76	23	18
Seagulls	9	6	3	46	35	12
Briarside	10	5	5	40	50	10
Salford	9	4	5	38	43	8
Norton	10	3	7	29	61	6
Ormesby II	10	2	8	31	59	4
March	10	0	10	17	73	0

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Congratulations to Cambridgeshire on winning this division for the first time ever! In the last four matches they have failed to drop a boy's event of any kind and Gary Jordan is still 100%. Four sets went to three against Glamorgan who were a bit unlucky to lose 10-0 but there is no doubt Cambs. are worthy champions. Geoff Walters (who must be very proud of his team) tells me they are unlikely to be in the Promotion Challenge since all the boys are out of the junior limitations next season. Beds. too strong for Leics. with Ian Doughty and David Sharpe outstanding. Consolation for Leics. — Yvonne Hall is still 100%. Notts. drew with Worcs. after leading 3-1. Jeremy Duffield looks a fine prospect for Worcs. — two more wins — against Shaun Green and Robert Watson — the latter's first of the season. Worcs. have drawn four of their six matches and lost the other two 4-6 but Glos. can beat that. They have drawn all but one of their five matches, losing 4-6 to Cambs! Latest draw against Warwick's. Andrew Golding (Glos.) and Carl Morgan (Warwick's) outstanding for their respective teams.

Junior 3rd Division (South)

Berkshire 1 Oxfordshire 9

Interesting position here. Following Oxon's win Kent need to beat Bucks. 10-0 in their final match to win the title outright.

Junior 3rd Division (North)

Durham 3 Cheshire 7

Northumberland 10 Cumbria II 0

Cheshire's win has really opened this division. Four of the five teams level at top, each with one to play! Against Durham K. Eden had a hard-fought double whilst Northumberland recorded their first 10-0 win for many years.

Junior 3rd Division (North Midland)

Clwyd 0 Shropshire 10

Warwickshire 7 Staffordshire 3

Clwyd's P. Griffiths took Tony Cheetham to 22, -14, -19 in the third set of the match — the only one which went to three. Ivan Smith (5 wins out of six) has had an impressive season for Shrops. D. Rudge largely responsible for Warwick's victory over the previously unbeaten Staffs.

Junior 3rd Division (East Midland)

Lincolnshire 0 Huntingdonshire 10

Norfolk 7 Northamptonshire 3

Norfolk needed to win outright against Northants. for the title and by winning six of the seven boy's events made certain of it. The figures speak for themselves. Norfolk have won 21 out of 28 boys' events, three out of 12 girls' events. Lincs. heavily beaten by Hunts. — even Stuart Worrell failed to record a win.

Junior 3rd Division (South Midland)

Devon 10 Herefordshire 0

Shropshire 2 Avon 8

This win by Avon gives them the league title. Andy Creed and Paul Jackson have played consistently well for them whilst on the distaff side Tina Shortman has completed the season 100%. Devon never in trouble with only one set going to three. M. Weymouth who has played in only the last two matches undefeated.

Junior 3rd Division (East)

Hertfordshire II 6 Bedfordshire II 4

Norfolk II 1 Essex III 9

This win by Essex keeps them in contention for the title (will need to beat Suffolk outright in their final match). Dave Love-day the only winner for Norfolk. Essex girls in a different class — only one game went to double figures.

Keith Samuels and the two girls (Alison Boxall and Caroline Boxall) involved in all six Herts. wins.

Junior 3rd Division (West)

Devon 6 Cornwall 4

Hampshire II 5 Somerset 5

Although Cornwall stronger in girls it was Devon's boys who won six of their seven sets to bring them victory in this local 'Derby' championship-decider. T. Sweet and G. Wilson unbeaten. Cara Rowe's defeat by S. Collins her only one of the season.

Hants. and Somerset both collected their first point of the season. D. Lee (only one defeat this season) and D. Sulley collected the five Somerset sets, whilst for Hants. the two girls — M. McCabe and B. Nicholson — unbeaten.

Veteran Division (South)

Essex II 8 Hertfordshire II 1

Middlesex 8 Hampshire II 1

Sussex 4 Kent I 5

Congratulations Middlesex on topping the chart without dropping a point. Alan Lindsay never in trouble. Only defeat came when Ian Redfearn lost to M. Barrett -18, 19, -21. Since he beat D. Allen -18, 12, 23 he must have been on the table some time! Herts., still pointless and could only manage a solitary set against Essex II when Keith Hartridge beat F. Lockwood. Two wins by A. Rowden insufficient to give Sussex victory against Kent.

Veteran Division (Midland)

Cumbria 2 Nottinghamshire 7

Clwyd 2 Cheshire 7

Cumbria surrendered good leads in XD and final MS in the third which would have made the score a little closer but John Ellis and Ron Bolton never troubled. Ron only one defeat so far this season. Clwyd led 2-0 through John Bishton and Don Hobbs, but lost all the remaining sets.

Veterans Division (East)

Bedfordshire 2 Berkshire 7

Hertfordshire III 1 Essex I 8

Huntingdonshire 7 Oxfordshire 2

Another good win for Berks. — only one defeat this season and R. Foster unbeaten since first match. Essex, though, are the undisputed champions following another big win. With only two sets dropped this season they have looked quite unbeatable. Well done, E. Wild in beating Laurie Fountain to take the second set from them this season! Hunts. had their biggest win of the season — over Oxon. — with S. Roberts particularly impressive.

Veteran Division (West)

Avon II 3 Somerset 6

Dorset II 4 Avon I 5

Worcestershire 5 Wiltshire 4

Dorset I 7 Hampshire I 2

The battle of the two unbeaten teams — Dorset and Hampshire — resulted in a convincing win for the former who took the first seven sets and should now make the Veteran Challenge. Ray Lush lost his 100% in the first set of the match when he went down to Fred Kershaw -10, -18. He also went down to Cyril Bush. Bush and Kershaw both still 100%.

Avon I came back from 2-3 down to win 5-4 against Dorset II. M. Baker and K. Watts unbeaten. After losing the first six, Watts has now won five out of the last six! An injury to J. Cleveland (when the match score was 3-3) spoilt Wiltshire's chances against Worcs. who went on to win 5-4.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS TABLES

as at 7th MARCH, 1980

by A. DRAPKIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
PREMIER							
Middlesex	6	5	0	1	39	15	10
Cheshire	7	5	0	2	36	27	10
Essex	5	4	0	1	32	13	8
Yorkshire	7	4	0	3	39	24	8
Warwickshire	6	4	0	2	32	22	8
Glamorgan	6	2	0	4	26	28	4
Kent	6	1	0	5	12	42	2
Cleveland	7	0	0	7	9	54	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
2 SOUTH							
Surrey	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Sussex	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Essex II	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
Herts	5	1	3	1	23	27	5
Middlesex II	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Kent II	5	0	1	4	16	34	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
2 NORTH							
Lancs	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Yorks II	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Durham	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Derbyshire	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Northumberland	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Lincs	5	0	1	4	11	39	1
Cheshire II	4	0	0	4	15	25	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
2 MIDLAND							
Staffs	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Warwicks II	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Gwent	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Gloucs	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Worcester	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Glamorgan II	5	0	1	4	12	38	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
2 EAST							
Leicestershire	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Cambs	5	2	3	0	31	19	7
Suffolk	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Bucks	6	1	2	3	23	37	4
Norfolk	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Northants	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Bedford	5	1	0	4	20	30	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
2 WEST							
Berkshire	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Devon	5	2	2	1	25	25	6
Dorset	5	2	2	1	23	27	6
Somerset	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Wiltshire	5	1	2	2	25	25	4
Avon	5	2	0	3	21	29	4
Hampshire	6	0	2	4	25	35	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
3 SOUTH							
Surrey II	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Sussex II	4	3	0	1	31	9	6
Essex III	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Herts II	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Bucks II	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
3 NORTH							
Lancs II	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Cleveland II	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Cumbria	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Cheshire III	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Northumberland II	4	1	0	3	13	27	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
3 NORTH MIDLAND							
Leics II	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Notts	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Derbys II	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Clwyd	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Salop	4	0	1	3	16	24	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
3 SOUTH MIDLAND							
Oxfordshire	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Hereford	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Northants II	4	0	3	1	19	21	3
Berks II	4	1	1	2	15	25	3
Worcs II	3	0	1	2	9	21	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
3 EAST							
Cambs II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Hunts	4	2	1	1	19	21	5
Herts III	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Norfolk II	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Bedford II	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Suffolk II	4	0	1	3	13	27	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
3 WEST							
Dorset II	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Cornwall	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Hants II	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Avon II	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Somerset II	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
JUNIOR PREMIER							
Middlesex	7	7	0	0	64	6	14
Devon	7	5	1	1	46	24	11
Sussex	7	2	4	1	38	32	8
Staffs	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Surrey	7	2	3	2	33	37	7
Yorks	7	1	2	4	28	42	4
Essex	7	1	2	4	26	44	4
Berks	7	0	0	7	7	63	0

(continued on page 37)

County Championships Round-up

by PHILIP REID

PLAY-OFF CONTENDERS

Many of the Senior Divisions are already settled in terms of championship winners and congratulations are extended to Surrey (2 South), Lancashire (2 North) Staffordshire (2 Midland), Leicestershire (2 East), Berkshire (2 West), Surrey II (3 South), Leicestershire II (3 North Midland).

PREMIER DIVISION

Warwickshire 6 Glamorgan 3

D. Munt lost to A. Griffiths -16, 18, -10, bt G. Evans 14, 14.

B. Johnson lost to Griffiths -17, 19, -16, bt G. Davies 12, 12.

R. Gunnion lost to Evans -17, 19, -22, bt Davies 18, -12, 12.

Miss K. Groves bt Miss S. Jones 17, 18.

Munt/Johnson bt Griffiths/Davies 15, -18, 19.

Gunnion/Miss Groves bt Evans/Miss Jones 18, 18.

Essex 6 Middlesex 3

R. Potton bt G. Sandley 11, 13, bt M. Mitchell 17, 20.

I. Horsham lost to Sandley -20, 19, -14, lost to J. Souter 13, -19, -18.

D. Newton lost to Mitchell 18, -17, -16, bt Souter 13, 16.

Mrs. E. Foulds bt Miss A. Mitchell 13, 16.

Potton/Newman bt Sandley/Mitchell 15, 19.

Horsham/Mrs. Foulds bt Souter/Miss Mitchell 17, 16.

Ralph Gunnion still able to turn it on for Warwickshire when necessary. His set with George Evans — another player not short of experience could hardly have been closer. Alan Griffiths outstanding yet again — he has won all eight sets he has played this season.

Middlesex lost their 100% record when Essex beat them. Bob Potton, unbeaten this season, again on marvellous form. This division could now be decided on sets.

2nd Division (South)

Essex II 3 Sussex I 7

Kent II 5 Hertfordshire 1

Surrey I 7 Middlesex II 3

Graham Gillett and Stephen Moore both on fine form for Sussex who, however have finished runners-up to Surrey. Against Essex II Max Crimmins and Dave Welsman were again unbeaten along with Peter McQueen. This trio have lost only two out of 23 sets between them and it is clear where their great strength lies. Richard Beckham made a splendid debut for Kent in this division, being unbeaten in singles or doubles but Hertfordshire's Richard Jermyn dominated things for the visitors. He has completed his season 100%.

2nd Division (North)

Cheshire II 4 Northumberland 6

Durham 6 Cheshire II 4

Lancashire 10 Derbyshire 0

Lincolnshire 0 Yorkshire 10

Two close games and two rather one-sided ones in this division. Lincolnshire, without Brian Hill and Suzanne Hunt were never able to give Yorkshire a really serious challenge, although two of the first three sets were close. Phil Vickers took Lancashire's Steve Turner to a 17, -17, 20 decision in the first set of the match, but none of the others went to three. This win gives Lancashire the championship of the division. Cheshire II won two of the women's events against Northumberland but still went down 4-6 and are still pointless. Andrew Clark looked especially impressive for Northumberland. Durham won all six Men's Singles against Cheshire II to win 6-4. Since Tony

Gelder moved into the side, Durham have won three games in succession.

2nd Division (Midland)

Gloucestershire 7 Glamorgan II 3

Gwent 4 Warwickshire II 6

Staffordshire 9 Worcestershire 1

Staffs. 9-1 win over Worcs. gave them the championship without dropping a point. Only against Gloucs. — when they dropped four MS — have they ever looked in trouble. Against Worcs. Simon Claxton opened by beating Tony Isaac but that was the limit of the Worcs. successes. Staffs. have won every WS and WD and are worthy champions. Gloucs. had a good victory over Glamorgan. David Harvey, unbeaten since the first match of the season, again impressive. Kim Wheatley outstanding for Glamorgan. Lester Bertie's two wins swayed Warwick's match with Gwent their way. Bertie with only one defeat has had an excellent season.

2nd Division (East)

Bedfordshire 3 Cambridgeshire 7

Buckinghamshire 6 Norfolk 4

Northamptonshire 4 Suffolk 6

Two wins by both Keith Richardson and Mick Harper put Cambs. on the way to victory against Beds. Bucks-Norfolk match played in the best possible spirit. Stuart Lines made his debut for Bucks. at this level and was unbeaten — as was Stephanie Lines. Dougie Bennett once again the star of the Norfolk team. John Kitchener and Stuart Palmer (unbeaten this season except against Leics.) again on form in their win over Northants.

2nd Division (West)

Hampshire 4 Devon 6

Somerset 5 Berkshire 5

Wiltshire 4 Dorset 6

Berkshire's draw with Somerset has given them the 2nd Division (West) title. Berks. have made numerous changes but their great strength has been in the Women's events. Long-serving Barry Reeves took two for Somerset in this encounter. M. Gilbert, playing his first and only match of the season for Hants. won two against Devon, who won all the Women's events with junior Paul Whiting also taking two.

Kevin Satchell, unbeaten for Wilts. was once again on the losing side, Dorset being indebted to Trevor Smith who once again gave a good display.

3rd Division (South)

Surrey II 7 Essex III 3

Essex III 9 Buckinghamshire II 1

Hertfordshire II 4 Surrey II 6

Surrey, with wins over Essex and Herts. have topped this division. With three new men players against Essex they still won 9-1 and with the regular trio of David Hannah (100%), Steve Holloway and Gordon Chapman they beat Herts 6-4. As in the 2nd Division, Sussex will be runners-up. Essex dropped only the final set in their match with Bucks.

3rd Division (North)

Cumbria 6 Northumberland II 4

Lancashire II 6 Cleveland II 4

Cheshire III 2 Lancashire II 8

Northumberland II 2 Cleveland II 8

Two wins by Diccon Gray helped Cumbria to their first win of the season. Lancashire kept their 100% record by beating Cleveland and Cheshire. Keith Williams and Nigel Hallows looked sharp in both matches as did the unbeaten Jacqueline Myers. For Cleveland Steve Brunskill had two great wins. Cleveland did better against North-

umberland where Ian Plummer played well.

3rd Division (North Midland)

Leicestershire II 10 Clwyd 0

Nottinghamshire 5 Shropshire 5

Leics. ensured the championship of the division with this win over Clwyd. Maurice Newman again impressive — only one defeat this season. But what about Malcolm Green? He has completed his season 100% but his team Shropshire have finished bottom. They collected their only point when they drew with Notts.

3rd Division (South Midland)

Berkshire 1 Oxfordshire 9

Worcestershire II 5 Northamptonshire II 5

Oxfordshire's win has given them a chance of the title (Clive Alcock having completed the season 100%) but if Herefordshire can beat Worcs. the title will be theirs. Worcestershire drew with Northants. where Derek Baddeley showed he is still a force to be reckoned with, having two good wins, a feat equalled by T. Washington. For Northants Connie Bane has had a fine season. She has only missed one 2nd team match — when she played for the first team — and she has won the lot!

3rd Division (East)

Huntingdonshire 6 Suffolk II 4

Hunts. won this despite two wins from T. Kirby for Suffolk. Dianne Bushby left her Veterans activities to appear and duly recorded a victory. Cambs. young team (virtually their 2nd Division Junior team) look certain to top this division.

Junior 2nd Division (South)

Hampshire 2 Buckinghamshire 8

Middlesex II 3 Wiltshire 7

Buckinghamshire 8 Middlesex II 2

Essex II 6 Hampshire 4

Kent I 6 Surrey II 4

Wiltshire 9 Hertfordshire 1

Kent are already assured of the championship of this division. Their 6-4 win over Surrey clinched it, Keith Chamberlain turning in another immaculate display. Roberts has lost only once this season. Bucks. had fine wins over Hants. and Middlesex. Stuart Lines was unbeaten in these two matches with Phillip Bradbury strengthening the team for the match against Middlesex and winning two. John Roberts won the only BS for Hants. but went one better against Essex, Tracy Kneller winning her GS in each of these matches. Wiltshire, led by Kevin Satchell, won two against Middlesex and the latter, playing a boy short, really had little chance. Wilts. had a crushing 9-1 victory over Herts. and it is of some significance that the only time they have dropped points is when Kevin Satchell has been unavailable.

Junior 2nd Division (North)

Lancashire 7 Cleveland 3

Cheshire 7 Cleveland 3

Cumbria 6 Clwyd 4

Lincolnshire 2 Yorkshire II 8

Yorkshire champions of this division following their win over Lincs. Timothy Dyson on form for Yorks. for whom Julie Todd is still unbeaten. Gillian Sharpe lost her 100% record to Julie Speight but Marcus Emmerson had two good wins for Lincs. Probable runners-up Lancs. had Stephen Scowcroft recording his third maximum in a row against Cleveland. Cheshire beat Cleveland by the same score (7-3) with Tony Taylor the star but Cleveland's Kevin Green played well in both matches, losing only to Lancs. Paul Rainford.; Mark Byles only BS winner for Clwyd against Cumbria, for whom David Archer was particularly impressive.

Junior 2nd Division (Midland)

Bedfordshire 7 Leicestershire 3

Cambridgeshire 10 Glamorgan 0

Gloucestershire 5 Warwickshire 5

(continued on page 38)