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

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NON-PARTICIPANT

One cannot help but sympathise with organiser Michael Lawless of the Norwich Union Trophy Tournament when Desmond Douglas declined the invitation to participate at the Black Lion Sports Centre, Gillingham, Kent on December 4.

Although duly qualified to do so, the Warwickshire left-hander is reported that because of a heavy playing schedule, including matches for Borussia Dusseldorf in the Federal German Bundesliga, and a visit to Poland two days later on England's behalf in the Super Division of the European League, saturation had been reached.

Naturally the English Table Tennis Association would want him at peak fitness for the clash in Warsaw — for Poland are no pushovers these days — and therefore one is loathe to criticise our No. 1 man for wanting to be just that.

Too much of this European commuting can take the edge off a player as witness the woeful form of Paul Day last season. He tried to do too much and if Douglas is wary of not falling into the same trap who can blame him?

Perhaps a date not so close to a European League match would have been better but as most of the invitees — not Douglas — were engaged in the French Open the previous weekend, the date and the venue seemed best suited.

But, because of ever increasing competition, one has to become selective. The pity is that this showpiece event, due to be televised in the new year, will not have in its line-up the people in this country want to see most, namely Desmond Douglas.

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On the International Front

by The Editor

ENGLAND DISAPPOINT

It was again a disappointing result for England, against Yugoslavia at the Central Hall, Birmingham on Nov. 14 when, after losing 3-2 it appeared a home victory was assured with Desmond Douglas a game and 20-all against Dragutin Surbek and only 2 pts. required for victory.

But it was not to be and England have yet to beat Yugoslavia in a **European League Super Division** match. Jill Hammersley remains unbeaten this season but she struggled against Erzebet Palatinus in the second game.

Douglas began the proceedings by despatching Zoran Kalinic in straight games but on the receiving end of a similar scoreline was Paul Day when opposed by Surbek. Mrs. Hammersley, after weathering a second game deficit, came up trumps in her women's singles subsequent to which Douglas and John Hilton, apart from a middle game 22-20 success, failed to harmonise overall.

A much improved performance from Linda Jarvis, in combination with Douglas, brought victory in the mixed against Anton Stipanovic and Miss Palatinus and so a 3-2 situation was brought about. But, sadly, the



Dragutin Surbek, Yugoslavia's match winner at Birmingham with victories over Desmond Douglas and Paul Day in single combat and a further win, with Anton Stipanovic in the men's doubles.

Photo by Norbert Rzepka, Delmenhorst, Federal Germany.



tide turned in the Yugoslavs favour and Surbek from being a game down and 20-all in the second rallied to equate the match score.

All then rested on the shoulders of Day, against Kalinic, but after taking the first game the Soham man could not maintain the pressure and, as at Southampton against France, it was 3-4 down.

Scores:-

D. Douglas bt Z. Kalinic 14, 12;

P. Day lost to D. Surbek -18, -17;

J. Hammersley bt E. Palatinus 8, -13, 15;

Douglas/J. Hilton lost to A. Stipanovic/

Surbek -7, 20, -9;

Douglas/L. Jarvis bt Stipanovic/Palatinus

20, 17;

Douglas lost to Surbek 11, -20, -13;

Day lost to Kalinic 17, -15, -13.

Czechoslovakia, the defending champions, also went down at home, in Trebic on the same evening, to Sweden who at one stage trailed 2-3. In the final two men's singles first Ulf Thorsell beat Milan Orlovski in straight games and the coup-de-grace was administered by Stellan Bengtsson who got home 21-17 in the decider against Josef Dvoracek to give his country the win.

Scores:-

M. Orlovski bt S. Bengtsson -18, 14, 14;

J. Dvoracek bt U. Thorsell 17, -19, 12;

M. Hrachova lost to M. Lindblad 18, -21, -20;

Dvoracek/J. Pansky lost to Bengtsson/

U. Carlsson -16, -13;

Orlovski/I. Uhlíkova bt Thorsell/Lindblad

17, 13;

Orlovski lost to Thorsell -18, -18;

Dvoracek lost to Bengtsson -16, 16, -17.

Away to Federal Germany in Minden on Nov. 15, favourites Hungary triumphed 6-1 the lone home success coming in the final set when Ralf Wosik beat the European champion, Gabor Gergely, over three games. This reverse, the third in a row, placed Federal Germany at the foot of the table four sets adrift of Poland, the only other pointless team.

Scores in Minden were:-

W. Lieck lost to G. Gergely 20, -16, -17;

R. Wosik lost to T. Klampar -18, -9;

U. Kamizuru lost to G. Szabo 19, -15, -9;

J. Leiss/Lieck lost to Gergely/Klampar

-19, -17;

Wosik/Kamizuru lost to Gergely/Szabo

-15, 18, -14;

Lieck lost to Klampar -16, -17;

Wosik bt Gergely 12, -12, 18.

Away to France, in Amiens on Nov. 15, Poland gave notice as being the team of the future with a fighting display which resulted in a narrow 4-3 win for the home team.

In the very first set France were in trouble when their champion, Jacques Secretin, was a game and 16-20 down to Andrzej Grubba!! But the former European champion (1976) rallied to win the set only for Patrick Birocheau to be involved in a deciding game against Leszek Kucharski before making the score 2-0 in favour of the homesters.



Sweden's Ulf Thorsell who in Trebic against Czechoslovakia beat Milan Orlovski 2-straight to square the match score at 3-all.

Photo by Geoff Newman, Maldon, Essex.

Claude Bergeret had it easier in her women's singles, against Jolanta Szatko, but both doubles were captured by the Poles — in the decider in both sets. Secretin won the match for France when he disposed of Kucharski but Poland, with that never say die spirit, took the final set when Grubba beat Birocheau 19 in the third.

Scores:-

J. Secretin bt A. Grubba -17, 20, 15;
P. Birocheau bt L. Kucharski -15, 17, 8;
C. Bergeret bt J. Szatko 10, 10;
Birocheau/Secretin lost to Grubba/
Kucharski -18, 24, -15;
Secretin/Bergeret lost to Kucharski/Szatko
-14, 13, -18;
Secretin bt Kucharski 18, 17;
Birocheau lost to Grubba 12, -11, -19.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Hungary	3	3	0	16	5	3
Czechoslovakia	3	2	1	14	7	2
Sweden	3	2	1	12	9	2
Yugoslavia	3	2	1	12	9	2
France	3	2	1	8	13	2
England	3	1	2	10	11	1
Poland	3	0	3	8	13	0
Federal Germany	3	0	3	4	17	0

Fixtures for Dec. 6:-

Hungary v Sweden (Szolnok)
Federal Germany v France (Nierstein)
Poland v England (Warsaw)
Yugoslavia v Czechoslovakia (Nis)

GIANT STRIDE

The Soviet Union took another giant stride towards the championship of **Division One** when, on Nov. 15 in Sofia, they "white-washed" Bulgaria 7-0 despite a telegram to Mrs. Nancy Evans giving the score the other way!

Scores in Sofia were:-

Lukoff lost to V. Shevchenko -15, -16;
D. Hasanov lost to I. Solopov -12, -14;
D. Gergeltscheva lost to F. Bulatova
-15, -19;
Hasanov/I. Stoyanov lost to M. Kreeris/
Shevchenko -7, 24, -15;
Stoyanov/Gergeltscheva lost to Kreeris/
Zaharjan 16, -19, -12;
Lukoff lost to Solopov -20, -15;
Hasanov lost to Shevchenko -17, 21, -19.

And, missing from the last issue, the scores in Turin where the Soviet Union beat Italy 6-1 were:-

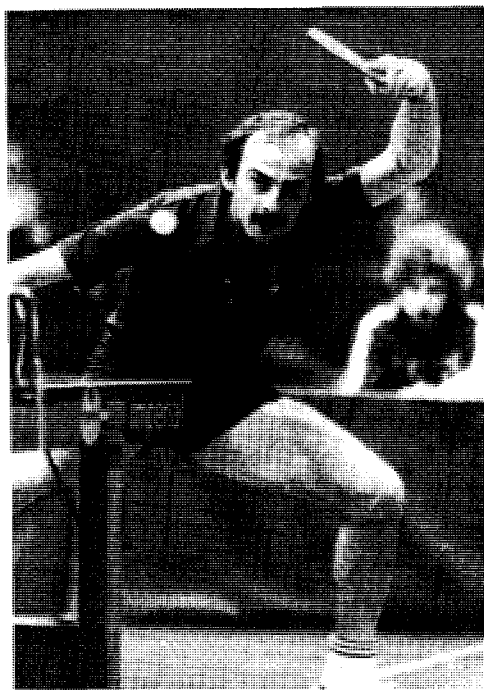
M. Costantini bt Shevchenko 15, 18;

S. Bosi lost to Solopov -13, -12;
P. Bevilacqua lost to V. Popova -15, -13;
Costantini/Mariani lost to B. Burnazian/
Shevchenko -17, -18;
Costantini/Bevilacqua lost to Shevchenko/
Popova -13, -10;
Costantini lost to Solopov -11, -13;
Bosi lost to Shevchenko -14, -10.

But, back to Nov. 15, on which date in Athens, Greece lost their unbeaten record when beaten 4-3 by Netherlands who registered their first win.

Scores:-

K. Priftis bt R. Hijne -15, 16, 18;
D. Zikos lost to J. van Spanje -16, 18, -17;
H. Marinou lost to M. v.d. Vliet -12, -9;
Priftis/Zikos bt Hijne/v. Spanje 17, -18, 13;



French champion Jacques Secretin who was so hard-pressed to account for Andrzej Grubba of Poland in the first set at Amiens.

Photo by Norbert Rzepka, Delmenhorst, Federal Germany.

Zikos/Marinou lost to Hijne/v.d. Vliet
-11, 19, -15;
Priftis bt v. Spanje 16, 12;
Zikos lost to Hijne -19, -18.

In Wolkersdorf, as a result of beating Turkey 7-0, Austria levelled with Greece in second position.

Scores:-

E. Amplatz bt O. Cimen 16, 11;
F. Waldhausl bt M. Ozbayrag 19, 13;
D. Fetter bt S. Dogan 11, 9;
Amplatz/G. Muller bt Cimen/Ozbayrag
18, 23;
Muller/Fetter bt Cimen/Dogan 7, 13;
Amplatz bt Ozbayrag 18, 20;
Waldhausl bt Cimen -19, 12, 14.

Luxembourg picked up their first point of the season when beating Italy 4-3 in Differdange and this after the Italians had taken a 2-0 lead.

Scores:-

A. Hartmann lost to Costantini -13, -8;
C. Putz lost to R. Troilo 17, -13, -7;
C. Risch bt Bevilacqua 11, 12;
Hartmann/Putz bt Costantini/Troilo
19, -17, 19;
Hartmann/Risch bt Costantini/Bevilacqua
13, 12;
Hartmann bt Troilo -18, 18, 11;
Putz lost to Costantini -16, 19, -13.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Soviet Union	3	3	0	20	1	3
Austria	3	2	1	14	7	2
Greece	3	2	1	14	7	2
Luxembourg	3	1	2	10	11	1
Italy	3	1	2	8	13	1
Netherlands	3	1	2	7	14	1
Bulgaria	3	1	2	6	15	1
Turkey	3	1	2	5	16	1

Fixtures for Dec. 6:-

Netherlands v Austria (Montfoort)
Soviet Union v Greece
Italy v Bulgaria
Luxembourg v Turkey (Remich)

DIVISION 2

No joy for either Wales or Ireland in their third fixtures the former going down 2-5 to Norway in Rhyll and the latter, away to Denmark in Nykobing, beaten 6-1.

Scores in Rhyll:-

D. Welsman lost to P. Guttormsen -16, -16;
G. Evans lost to T. Johansen -12, -18;
S. Jones lost to S. Folkesson -13, -14;
Welsman/N. Thomas lost to Guttormsen/
Johansen -12, -15;
Welsman/Jones bt J. Gierloff/Folkesson
16, 20;
Welsman bt Johansen -17, 16, 15;
Evans lost to Guttormsen -11, -14.

And in Nykobing:-

C. Pedersen bt C. Slevin -14, 15, 13;
J. Hansen bt K. Keane 15, 15;
A. Larsen lost to A. Leonard -15, -14;
Hansen/Pedersen bt Keane/Slevin 19, 16;
Pedersen/Larsen bt Slevin/Leonard
20, -17, 19;
Pedersen bt Keane 16, 18;
Hansen bt Slevin 17, 14.

Finland, away to Spain in Madrid, kept their nose in front of the pack by winning 6-1 losing only the men's doubles.

Scores:-

J. M. Pales lost to J. Jokinen -17, 8, -10;
I. Caymel lost to J. Ikonen -18, -15;
P. Lupon lost to S. Grefberg -11, -18;
J. Lupon/Pales bt Ikonen/Jokinen 19, 11;
Lupon/Lupon lost to Jokinen/Grefberg
-11, 20, -12;
Pales lost to Ikonen -18, -20;
Caymel lost to Jokinen -11, -18.

In the battle of the bottom dogs in Bailleux, Belgium came out tops 4-3 over Switzerland whose Martin Hafen, currently playing in England — for Newham in the National Club League — had wins over Daniel Nassaux and Norbert van der Walle.

Scores:-

D. Nassaux lost to M. Hafen 16, -17, -14;
N. v.d. Walle bt T. Busin -17, 15, 18;

M-F. Germiot bt R. Weider 11, 18;
L. Danroy/D. Leroy lost to J. Barcikowski/
Busin -19, -9;
v.d. Walle/Germiot bt Busin/Weider
-19, 14, 19;
Nassaux bt Busin -17, 15, 18;
v.d. Walle lost to Hafen -17, 8, -20.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Finland	3	3	0	17	4	3
Norway	3	3	0	15	6	3
Denmark	3	2	1	13	8	2
Wales	3	1	2	10	11	1
Ireland	3	1	2	8	13	1
Spain	3	1	2	7	14	1
Belgium	3	1	2	6	15	1
Switzerland	3	0	3	8	13	0

Fixtures for Dec. 6:-

Switzerland v Wales (Basle)
Finland v Belgium
Norway v Denmark (Porsgrunn)
Ireland v Spain (Limavady)

HUNGARIAN OPEN

It was not a good start to the international tournament season for England, the only two players with credibility of performance in Miskolc, over the period Nov. 8/11 being Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley.

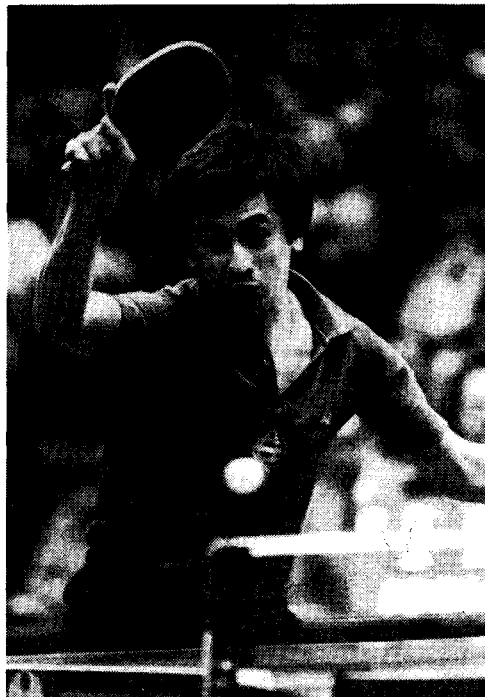
Douglas, in the men's singles, reached the semi-final stage with wins over Kucharski (Poland), Stefko (Czecho) and, in the quarters, European champion Gabor Gergely of Hungary. But, in the semis, against Stellan Bengtsson (Sweden) after winning the first game, he faded badly.

Jill Hammersley had good wins over Blanka Silhanova (Cze) and Csik (Hun) before falling, in the quarters, to Judit Magos who carried the host country's flag into the final and defeat by Gordana Perkucin of Yugoslavia who came back from two games down to win 20 in the fifth.

Hungary's Tibor Klampar carried on the good work from last season in winning the men's singles with a final win over Bengtsson but this was the only individual title that Hungary won. Apart from Miss Perkucin's triumph in the women's singles, Josef Dvoracek and Jindrich Pansky (Cze) took the men's doubles; Marie Hrachova and Ilona Uhlíkova (Cze) the women's doubles and Anton Stipanec and Erzebet Palatinus (Yug) the mixed.

It was not Hungary's men but their

women who succeeded in the team championships, beating Yugoslavia 3-2 in the final, the Hungarian men, winners in Pyonyang of the Swaythling Cup, losing out to Rumania whose Serban Dobosi and Zsolt Bohm had a 3-2 triumph against the host country's Klampar, Gergely and, in the doubles, Istvan Jonyer — and this in the quarter-finals!



Tibor Klampar who defeated Stellan Bengtsson in the final of the men's singles in the Hungarian Open.

Photo by Norbert Rzepka, Delmenhorst, Federal Germany.

The men's team event was eventually won by France with a 3-0 victory over Federal Germany with Jacques Secretin and Patrick Birocheau proving too steady for Engelbert Hugin and Peter Stellwag, the latter having Wilfried Lieck as his doubles partner.

England's "B" team of Donald Parker and Kenny Jackson were beaten 3-0 by Hungary "B" (Tibor Kreis and Janos Takacs) in Rd. 1 whilst Douglas and John Hilton were beaten 3-2 by Federal Germany's Hugin, Stellwag and Lieck with Douglas beating both Hugin and Stellwag.

In the counterpart women's event England "A" represented by Jill Hammersley and Linda Jarvis began with a 3-0 win over East Germany but thereafter lost 1-3 to Yugoslavia "A" whose Palatinus clinched the match with a 17, 13 win over Mrs. Hammersley who began with a 20, -15, 16 win over Perkucin, the women's singles winner. England "B" (Karen Witt and Melody Ludi) were seen off 3-0 by Czechoslovakia's Hrachova and Uhlíkova.

In the qualifying round of the men's singles Jackson was ousted by Kocsis of Hungary (3-1) and, in the first round, Hilton was beaten by Damir Jurcic of Yugoslavia, and Parker by Takacs of Hungary.

In the first round of the women's singles Linda Jarvis fell to Czvetkovic (Yug) and Melody Ludi to Marie Lindblad of Sweden but Karen Witt survived with a win over Dudas of Hungary. But it was curtains for Miss Witt in Rd. 2 when she was beaten quite decisively by Valentina Popova of the USSR.

Hilton and Mrs. Hammersley did reach the quarters of the mixed losing to the host nation's Jonyer and Gabriella Szabo. In the men's doubles Douglas, paired with Parker, were beaten -18 in the fifth by Jonyer/Klampar, Hilton and Jackson losing to Gergely and Milan Orłowski -21, 17, -20, -21.

In the women's doubles Jill and Karen lost to Branka Batinic and Dubravka Fabri of Yugoslavia whilst Linda and Melody fell to Hrachova and Uhlíkova.

RESULTS:

Men's Team Final:

France "A" 3 Federal Germany "A" 0
P. Birocheau bt E. Hugin -26, 13, 10;
J. Secretin bt P. Stellwag 19, 19;
Birocheau/Secretin bt W. Lieck/Stellwag 18, 21.

Women's Team Final:

Hungary "A" 3 Yugoslavia "A" 2
G. Szabo lost to E. Palatinus 14, -18, -10;
Z. Olah bt G. Perkucin -17, 19, 15;
J. Magos/Szabo lost to Palatinus/Perkucin -16, -17;
Szabo bt Perkucin 17, 14;
Olah bt Palatinus 12, 16.

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

T. Klampar (HUN) bt U. Thorsell (SWE) 12, -17, 13, 8;
J. Secretin (FRA) bt D. Surbek (YUG) 11, -16, -19, 18, 14;
S. Bengtsson (SWE) bt Z. Kalinic (YUG) 14, 20, 7;
D. Douglas (ENG) bt G. Gergely (HUN) -21, 15, 12, -14, 19.

Semi-finals:

Klampar bt Secretin 11, 8, 23;
Bengtsson bt Douglas -17, 12, 14, 15.

Final:

KLAMPAR bt Bengtsson 20, 11, 13.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

A-C. Hellman (SWE) bt E. Palatinus (YUG) 17, 17, -19, -16, 14;
J. Magos (HUN) bt J. Hammersley (ENG) 21, 22, -10, 22;
G. Szabo (HUN) bt I. Uhlíkova (CZE) -16, 12, -15, 16, 18;
G. Perkucin (YUG) bt V. Popova (USS) -15, -10, 15, 18, 9.

Semi-finals:

Magos bt Hellman 19, 17, 19;
Perkucin bt Szabo 19, -22, 18, 22.

Final:

PERKUCIN bt Magos -16, -15, 11, 14, 20.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

J. Dvoracek/J. Pansky (CZE) bt I. Jonyer (HUN)/Klampar 20, 14, 14;
A. Stipanec (YUG)/Surbek bt Gergely/M. Orłowski (Cze) 12, 19, -15, 11.

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(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 4)

Final:
DVORACEK/PANSKY bt Stipancic/Surbek
16, 17, 19.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:
M. Hrachova (CZE)/Uhlíkova bt Palatinus/
Perkucin -15, 12, 18, -10, 18;
N. Antonian/V. Popova (USS) bt Magos/
Szabo 15, 14, -19, -18, 14.

Final:
HRACHOVA/UHLIKOVA bt Antonian/
Popova 15, 10, 20.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:
Stipancic/Palatinus bt Bengtsson/E.
Stromvall (SWE) 8, -15, 21, 11;

Jonyer/Szabo bt Pansky/Uhlíkova 14, 16, 18.

Final:
STIPANCIC/PALATINUS bt Jonyer/Szabo
14, 15, -19, 13.

JOSEF NEKVASIL - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A Tribute by H. Roy Evans, President,
International Table Tennis Federation

Josef Nekvasil became Chairman of the ITTF's World Championships Technical Committee in 1967, the year I became President. He was one of those dedicated workers to whom I gave responsibility of management in a policy of delegation, and during his Chairmanship the Technical Committee assumed much greater control of successive World Championships.

He became a member of our Council (then the Advisory Committee) in Nagoya in 1971, and was returned to that body regularly with a very high vote until the Biennial General Meeting in Pyongyang in 1979, when he announced he would not be seeking re-election.

In the meantime he was also discharging the duties of International Secretary of the Czechoslovak Association.

Nor was his work confined to the ITTF and his own association. He succeeded his compatriot Vaclav Vebr as Vice-President of the European Table Tennis Union, and occupied that Executive position until his death.

During all the years of his work, Josef showed a single minded devotion to table tennis. He was always anxious of course for the success of his own countrymen, and during any tournament was constantly assessing how many medals Czechoslovakia would win. But he was not a blinkered national, and could always lift his attention to the higher spheres of continental and world table tennis. His work in the Technical Committee, although it ended in 1979 in Pyongyang, was wide ranging and thoughtful, and he reacted well to encouragement to look far into the future.

At every World Championships he was an extremely busy man. His Committee worked to a roster of duties so that each day there was always a Technical Committee man on duty to help the referee in interpretation of our rules and in the solving of the many problems that never fail to threaten any World Championship gathering. But Josef was almost always on duty himself, not because he lacked confidence in his committee members, but because he felt an obligation to be always at the side of the referee.

Josef Nekvasil was a kindly man, rarely given to bad temper, honest in his intentions, and anxious to be seen to be level-headed and logical. Moreover, he was always interesting in talk about life outside table tennis, being well read in international history, and quite ready to discuss the virtues and faults of all types of society even on "his side of the fence".

My wife and I spent a great deal of time with Nekvasil during the European Youth Championships in Rome in July. He was never a great one for experimenting in food, and was content to follow what others were ordering. This also applied to his drinking, and I still carry in my mind a picture of

Josef sipping some exotic concoction, and declaring it "fine", at the same time making the most awful face!

We went to the Vatican together, there to meet the Pope, and although Josef came from a Socialist country where religion is not encouraged, somehow I felt that his religious beliefs were not so far beneath the surface as we talked with the Pope.

We went to Florence together, city of

much history — history which Josef knew as well as our guide. On such excursions he was always grateful for the opportunity to look back at the past, and maybe to remember a more immediate past through which people of Josef's age have lived not without pain.

A real enthusiast for table tennis has gone from us, a nice fellow has gone his way.



A smiling Josef Nekvasil (extreme left) is here pictured with his fellow executive and management members of the European Table Tennis Union in Vienna (March '79). Also sampling the Austrian sunshine on the hotel balcony are (from l to r) Jupp Schlaf (President) (Federal Germany), Nancy Evans (Hon. Gen. Sec.) (Wales), Dr. Karl Smekal (Austria), Lollo Hammarlund (Sweden), George Yates (England), Henk van Dilst (Hon. Treasurer) (Netherlands) and Jerzy Dachowski (Poland).

Revised Senior Rankings

The National Selection Committee of the E.T.T.A. have issued the following Ranking List of Senior players in England. The most interesting developments are in the Men's list where Paul Day, following his return to form has now moved up from No. 14 to No. 2, and better recent performances by Graham Sandley, Max Crimmins and Bob Potton have also been duly taken into consideration.

In the Women's list Anita Stevenson, following recent wins against Erzebet Palatinus (Yugoslavia) and Valentina Popova (Soviet Union) has been elevated to No. 2. Previous positions in brackets:-

Men

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

Women

1 Jill Hammersley (Bu) (1), 2 Anita Stevenson (Le) (3), 3 Karen Witt (Bk) (2), 4 Linda Jarvis (Sy) (5), 5 Melody Ludi (Y) (6), 6 Angela Mitchell (Mi) (7), 7 Mandy Smith (Bk) (8), 8 Carole Knight (Cv) (4), 9 Suzanne Hunt (Li) (10), 10 Karen Rogers

(Le) (12), 11 Claire Maisey (Wi) (—), 12 Helen Williams (Mi) (9), 13 Alison Gordon (Bk) (11), 14 Sally Midgley (Y) (13).

The following players have not been ranked because of lack of results and the places given are for seeding purposes only:- 4A Jimmy Walker (Cv) (4), 9A Alan Fletcher (Y) (8), 10A John Dabin (K) (9).

Not included from the previous list are Richard Jermyn (He) formerly at No. 18 in the men's list and Lesley Radford (E) formerly at No. 14 in the women's list.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' T.T. ASSOCIATION

by David Lomas

Twelve Area Finals are due to be staged on Jan. 19/20 when the National School Team Championships really get under way.

Competitions Secretary, Eddie Mitchell, tells me that preliminary indications from competing counties are that the trend of record entries year after year will be continued. There are eight events for 4-player teams ranging from Under-11 to Under-19.

Winners of the Area events go forward to one of three Regional Finals which take place on Sunday, Feb. 17 and thence to the National Finals at Lea Green, Matlock on Saturday, Mar. 15.

It was decided at the last meeting of the Association's Executive Council that the system of automatically selecting players placed 1-4 in the Individual Championships for the International Championships would not necessarily be continued. Rea Balmford of Hull takes over as Chairman of the Selectors.

Cover Picture

Jill Hammersley (left), England's 27-year-old table tennis champion who won the 1976 European women's singles title, is joined at Buckingham Palace by 24-year-old Donna Hartley, golden girl of British athletics, when each received the M.B.E. at an investiture ceremony held by the Queen on Tuesday, October 23rd, 1979.



Welsh Corner

H. ROY EVANS

PRIDE PRESERVED

The usual entries from the Midlands and the North West, together with a large contingent from South West England provided the "foreign" competition in the Aberdare Open, at the Michael Sobell Sports Centre on Sunday, Oct. 21. However, George Evans and Stephanie Jones managed to preserve Welsh pride by taking the two senior titles.

George played with a mixture of form, having moments of real trouble against Tony Isaac in the semi-final, and then, after a convincing first game win over Phil Bowen in the final, lost the second in seemingly diminishing form, only to come back with convincing domination of the Lancastrian in the decider.

Earlier Nigel Thomas had flattered to deceive against Bowen in the other semi-

final, taking the first game in good style, but then losing the initiative to go down tamely in the next two. Jeff Morgan had had one of his best runs before losing to Bowen in the quarters.

Stephanie Jones had an unnecessarily hard task to beat Shirley Cain (Staffs) in the women's final, the latter having been beaten in the semi-final of the Junior Girls event earlier in the day, and it was only at the end that she got into command.

Evans teamed up with Thomas in the doubles, and didn't drop a game even against Isaac and Rich in the semi, or against Bowen and Tony Boasman in the final.

The women's Doubles was an all-Welsh affair, in which Stephanie Jones and Cathryn Jones beat Kim Wheatley and her North Wales partner Sue Powell.

There was no Mixed, a simplification which I can see other tournament organisers following without any great complaint.

The Boys' event also resulted in an all-Welsh clash — indeed an all-North Wales clash when Mark Thomas met Mark Byles. Thomas won the first but Byles started the second with a convincing lead. As happens with the latter he retreated into his shell, and the more experienced Mark Thomas came through without any further trouble. Byles has plenty of ability, but he must learn to maintain the pressure all through.

Despite some heroic performances by our new junior girls, none could oust the outside competition, and Devon's Carol Butler eventually beat Sue Peakman in the final.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

G. Evans bt A. Isaac 10, 19, 14.
P. Bowen bt N. Thomas -17, 14, 15.

Final:

EVANS bt Bowen 14, -12, 15.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

S. Jones bt C. Butler 12, -20, 16.
S. Cain bt C. Jones 10, -11, 16.

Final:

JONES bt Cain -18, 14, 18.

Men's Doubles Final:

EVANS/THOMAS bt Bowen/Boasman 17, 20.

Women's Doubles Final:

S. JONES/C. JONES bt K. Wheatley/S. Powell 13, 15.

Junior Boys' Singles Final:

M. THOMAS bt M. Byles 17, 16.

Junior Girls' Singles Final:

BUTLER bt S. Peakman -22, 13, 14.

The Swansea Open was a two-day tournament, with Juniors on the Saturday and Seniors on the Sunday. Saturday's play provided Byles with another tilt at the title, this time against Brian Jeans, but in a fine final, Brian got home in the third. He had good wins over Michael Owens of Hereford in the quarters, and a third game win over local "boy" Andrew Jones in the semi. Byles did very well to eliminate Gary Lambert, the English No. 1 cadet in the semi, after the latter had beaten Gary Wilkins.

But Gary and Andrew got their consolation in the doubles when they beat Byles and Lambert. There was no joy for Wales in the girls' doubles in which Pauline Townsend and Tracy Watkins from Wiltshire beat the Welsh pair Susan Jones and Brenda Annand, whilst the girls' singles was even more unproductive, Carol Butler beating Tracey Watkins.

There was a Welsh interest in the junior mixed, but Andrew Jones and Susan Jones went down eventually to Lambert and Carol Butler.

In the cadet boys' Lambert, although the favourite, expected more resistance than he got from Swansea's Kevin Davies, who failed to reproduce his earlier form. Mary Benbow from Oxford took the cadet girls' from Helen Wilson of Wiltshire, whilst in the boys' U-12 event Anthony Jones (Aberdare) beat Peter Thomas from Salop.

And so to Sunday, and the Seniors. Alan Griffiths took the men's title, but in truth he was lucky to survive a third round clash with Joe Kennedy, a last minute entry from Kent. Alan only got home 19 in the third, but went on to beat Wilkins, and to drop a semi-final game to George Evans before meeting Dave Welsman in the Final. Dave had dropped the first game in the quarters to Graham Davies, who looked to be well in control, but then faded badly. Dave then had a tremendous tussle with Nigel Thomas, which he only won 22-20 in the third. Nigel had come from a splendid victory over Bristol's Chris Sewell, No. 3 seed.

In the Final, Griffiths lost the first game to Welsman, but Alan's greater penetration came through in the end.

It was nice to see two juniors Wilkins and Andrew Jones in the quarters.

We had no involvement in the women's singles. Cathryn Jones going out to Elaine Lamb in one semi-final, but an unexpected failure by Stephanie Jones to beat Gina Pritchard in the other. Elaine won without much trouble in the final.

Griffiths and Welsman took the men's doubles, dropping a game to Owens and Owens in the quarters, but then coming through to beat John Bloomer and Angie Evans in the semis, and Kennedy and Welsman in the final. The latter had eliminated No. 1 seeds George Evans and Nigel Thomas in the semis.

The women's doubles was nearly all-Welsh, with the Jones girls Cathryn and Susan beating Kim Wheatley and Elaine Lamb. It was good to see a spirited fight by Cardiff's young Vicky Skeats and Pamela Grant in an early round against Betty Gray and Jayne Sully.

The Mixed saw Nigel Thomas and Cathryn Jones get home 22-20 in the third against George Evans and Susan Jones. These pairs both had good wins against English couples in their paths to the final.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

A. Griffiths bt G. Evans 7, 18.

D. Welsman bt N. Thomas 13, -6, 20.

Final:

GRIFFITHS bt Welsman -21, 17, 16.

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Women's Singles Semi-finals:

G. Pritchard bt S. Jones.
E. Lamb bt C. Jones 14, 9.

Final:
LAMB bt Pritchard 12, 14.

Men's Doubles Final:
GRIFFITHS/G. DAVIES beat Welsman/
J. Kennedy 13, 20.

Women's Doubles Final:
C. and S. JONES bt K. Wheatley/Lamb
12, 18.

Mixed Doubles Final:
N. Thomas/C. Jones bt G. Evans/S. Jones
-21, 21, 20.

Wales v Norway

There was no joy for the Welsh team in the trip to North Wales to play Norway in the third match in the European League Division 2 programme. Well staged by the North Wales Counties Association at Rhyl Town Hall, on Friday, Nov. 16, the disastrous 2-5 defeat was poor reward for the efforts of Roy Williams, who put so much time into the organisation of this event.

Lack of mobility must surely have been the greatest factor in this Welsh defeat. Pal Guttormsen went to the table first for Norway, facing Dave Welsman, and the latter just had no answer to the diminutive Norwegian's effervescent hitting from all angles. George Evans now followed with the imperative task of levelling the scores, but although George had a good lead in the second after losing the first, the writing was on the wall as soon as Tom Johansson got the hand of George's style.

Now it was Stephanie Jones versus Sonja Folkeson, and it was soon clear that Sonja's quicker movement to attack would be Stephanie's downfall. And so it was, and we were three down in no time at all.

Nor was our men's doubles to bring any

respite. Welsman and Nigel Thomas, after an initial phase of seeming to contain Guttormsen and Johansson, were just never in the hunt, and we had lost.

We gained a consolation event when Norwegian captain Kjell Sorenson put the defender Gierloff in the mixed, and Welsman and Stephanie Jones had time to impose their own game. Welsman, too, had more time in the next singles against Johansson, and he got our second success with a good looking win. But if it had been three-all at that stage, there would still have been no way that George would beat Guttormsen, who blasted his way through to make it 5-2 to Norway.

The large crowd which turned out to support us seemed to enjoy the table tennis, but hardly liked the result.

RESULTS:

D. Welsman lost to P. Guttormsen -16, -16;
bt T. Johansson -17, 16, 15.
G. Evans lost to Johansson -12, -18;
lost to Guttormsen -11, -14.
Stephanie Jones lost to Sonja Folkeson
-13, -14.
Welsman/Thomas lost to Guttormsen/
Johansson -12, -15.
Welsman/Jones bt Gierloff/Folkesson 16, 20.

Friendly International

England v Yugoslavia

by Les Smith

A young England team failed to get revenge for the European League defeat in Birmingham the previous evening when they met Yugoslavia in a friendly international at Stroud Leisure Centre on Thursday, Nov. 15, going down 1-7. Although a crowd of 400 watched Anita Stevenson open the evening with a victory over Erzebet Palatinus in three games, this was to be England's only success as the experience and all-round strength of the visitors proved too much for the young home team, who must surely benefit from playing against players such as Dragutin Surbek and Anton Stipanovic.

RESULTS:

A. Stevenson bt E. Palatinus -18, 13, 14;
D. Johnson lost to Z. Kalinic 18, -18, -14;
G. Sandley lost to A. Stipanovic -15, -16;
K. Jackson lost to D. Surbek -11, -14;
K. Witt lost to Palatinus -14, -14;
Sandley lost to Kalinic -17, 19, -17;
Jackson lost to Stipanovic 18, -16, -12;
N. Jarvis lost to Surbek -12, -7.

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

Maintaining his form as shown against Poland Lancashire's John Hilton was the winner of the men's singles title in the Middlesex 3-Star Open at Picketts Lock over the weekend of Dec. 8/9. In the final Hilton beat Bob Potton (Essex) 16 and 16. Jill Hammersley was the winner of the counterpart women's event beating Karen Witt 7 and 15. A full report with detailed results will appear in the January issue.

SWEDISH WINS AT VAESTERAS

China won four titles and Sweden the other three in the Scandinavian Open played at Vaesteras over the period Nov. 22-25. For the host country Stellan Bengtsson won the men's singles, Ann-Christin Hellman the women's singles and Bengtsson and Eva Stromvall the mixed. In this latter event England's Paul Day and Nicky Jarvis reached the semi-final losing to Sweden's Ulf Thorsell and Tommy Danielsson.

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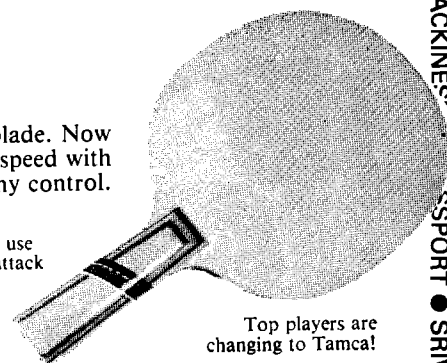
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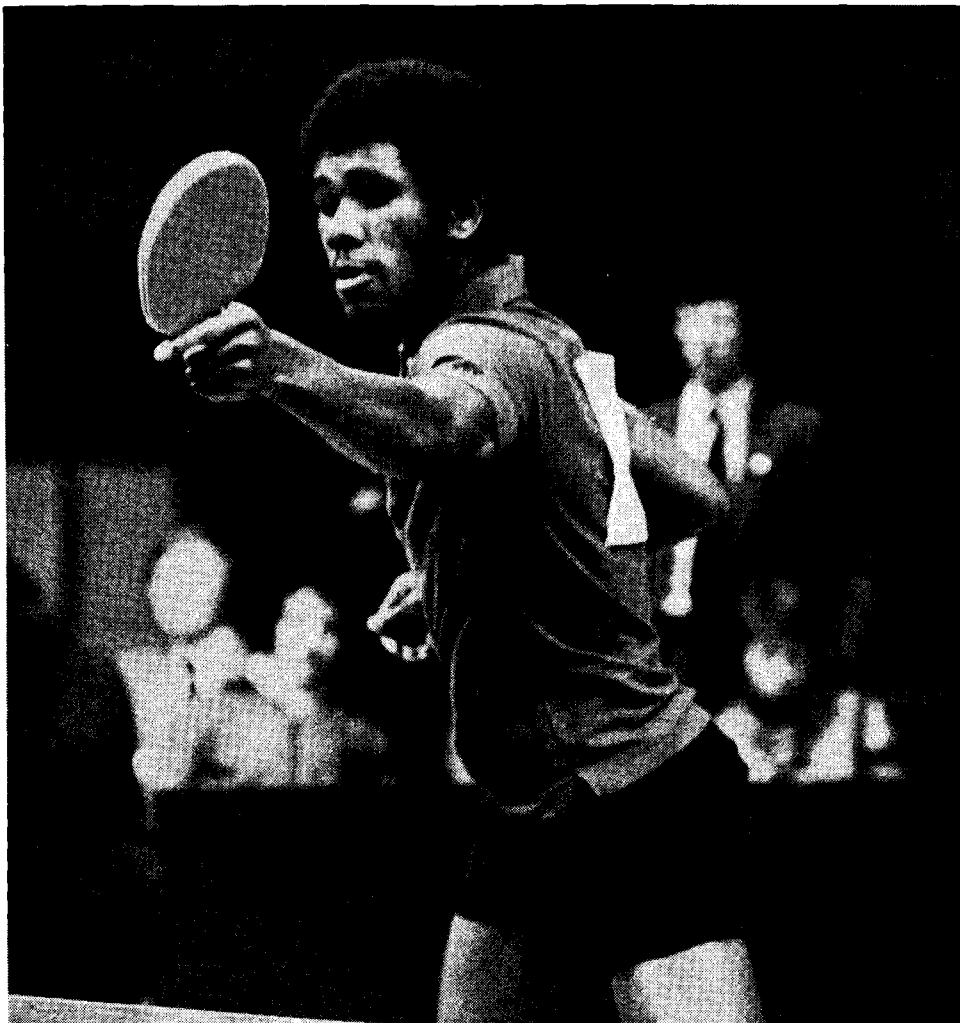
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DES DOUGLAS

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17.

JEEP (U.K.) INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT

DOUGLAS THE VICTOR

by The Editor

England's Desmond Douglas, after suffering defeat at the hands of Ulf Thorsell (Sweden) in the groups made a remarkable recovery to lift the £750 first prize at Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds on Sunday, Nov. 4.

Apart from Douglas and Thorsell, Bert van der Helm was the other player in Group B and it was against the Dutchman that Douglas coasted to an opening win. But, seemingly, ill at ease when opposed by Thorsell, the Warwickshire left-hander succumbed to the Swede after taking the first game.

In the other group spearheaded by Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia, it was the Commonwealth champion, Vong Iu-Veng of Hong Kong who took the eye standing up to the Yugoslav in remarkable fashion in his first game and giving Day a game start and then seeing off the Soham man in the next two.

Surbek and Douglas met in the first semi-final and what a set this turned out to be with Douglas a game and 14-19 down figuring in a truly tremendous rally, estimated at fifty strokes, winning 28 out of the next 37 points to enter the final.

In the other semi-final Thorsell easily accounted for Vong Iu-Veng and the stage was set for another clash between the Swede and Douglas which, after a middle

game reverse, Douglas won to the acclaim of an appreciative crowd.

RESULTS:

Group A

D. Surbek (YUG) bt P. Day (ENG) 15, 10;

bt Vong Iu-Veng (HHKG) 23, 12.

Vong Iu-Veng bt Day -15, 12, 10.

Group B

U Thorsell (SWE) bt B. van der Helm

(NET) 14, 20;

bt D. Douglas (ENG) -15, 15, 14.

Douglas bt van der Helm 12, 7.

Semi-finals:

Douglas bt Surbek -14, 20, 8;

Thorsell bt Vong Iu-Veng 12, 11.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Thorsell 21, -17, 18.

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPS

Closing date for this season's Norwich Union English Championships, to be played at Woking Sports and Leisure Centre over the period Feb. 14-16, is Monday, January 7th. Completed forms should be delivered to Mr. D. A. Young at 75 Hillery Road, Worcester, WR5 1RF. Forms are available from the ETTA Office at 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA.

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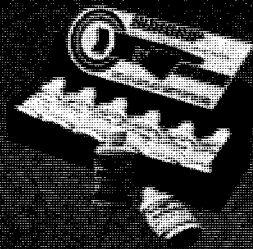
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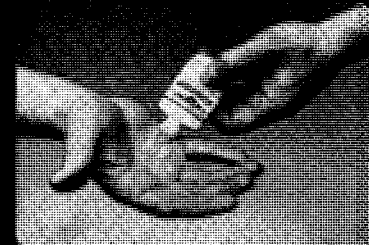
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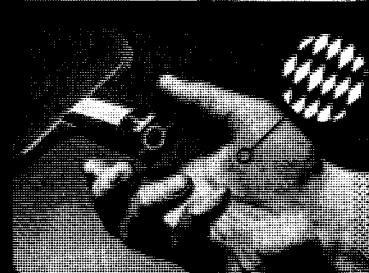
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IRISH AFFAIRS

by WILLIE WALSH

IRELAND LOSE TO DENMARK

Ireland's hopes of returning to the first division disappeared in Copenhagen when Denmark trounced them 6-1. Ireland's only winner was Ann Leonard who beat Anne Larsen 15, 14.

Things looked good for the visitors when 15-year-old Colum Slevin won the first game 14 against the World-ranked and local hero — Claus Pederson in the opening set. The stunned audience required their voices in the second and third games which Pederson won 15, 13. This was a tremendous display by Slevin and a performance that can only give him the confidence he needs to reach his true potential. Slevin and Leonard were unlucky to lose to Pederson and Larsen -20, 17, -19, but overall, the steadier Danes deserved to win the International, even if 6-1 was a little flattering.

LUCOZADE OPEN

Kevin Keane consolidated his present superiority over Colum Slevin and justified his recent elevation to No. 1 in the Irish Rankings when he beat Slevin, in the Final of the Lucozade Open in Bray, Co. Wicklow. Keane is riding 'on-the-crest-of-a-wave' in Irish Table Tennis at the moment and The Lucozade Open follows his winning of the Leinster Open and the South County Open. Keane and Slevin combined to capture the Men's Doubles and Slevin and Ann Leonard beat Keane and Deirdre Kilpatrick in the Mixed.

Ann Leonard once again proved she is the No. 1 woman when she beat Mary Sheehan easily in a one-sided singles final.

Mary Sheehan and Deirdre Kilpatrick caused the major upset of the championships when they beat Ann Leonard and her younger sister Geraldine.

Great credit is due to the Bray and District League and Lucozade the sponsors, for the excellent running of the tournament.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles:

K. Keane bt C. Slevin 20, 15.

Women's Singles:

A. Leonard bt M. Sheehan 13, 8.

Men's Doubles:

Keane/Slevin bt T. Caffrey/K. Leonard 15, 13.

Women's Doubles:

D. Kilpatrick/Sheehan bt A. and G. Leonard 12, 11.

Mixed Doubles:

Slevin/Leonard bt Keane/Kilpatrick 14, 7.

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

FIRST TITLE FOR TUCKETT

Robert Tuckett of Victoria won his first national title in beating Laurie Skeate of Queensland in the final of the men's singles in Adelaide in early September. And, in the women's singles, Kerry Thompson of Victoria retained her women's singles crown with a final win over Ann Middleton (South Australia).

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

L. Skeate (Q) bt P. Pinkewich (NSW)

-17, 14, 23, 10;

R. Carlyle (V) bt N. Ward (SA)

-20, 15, -9, 11, 16;

R. Tuckett (V) bt C. Campbell (V) 17, 19, 6;

G. Thomas (V) bt R. Javor (V) 22, 15, 17.

Semi-finals:

Skeate bt Carlyle 16, -15, 15, -18, 17;

Tuckett bt Thomas 13, 15, 11.

Final:

TUCKETT bt Skeate 15, 18, 11.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

A. Middleton (SA) bt C. Little (SA)

-15, -16, 19, 18, 15;

K. Thompson (V) bt V. Woodward (V)

-14, 11, 13, 11.

Final:

THOMPSON bt Middleton 19, -15, -18, 14, 15.

Men's Doubles Final:

Javor/W. Vickery (NSW) bt Ward/Skeate 15, 14, 15.

Women's Doubles Final:

R. Chambers (V)/Woodward bt K. Frank (V)/Little -14, 20, 17, -11, 15.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Ward/Middleton bt Javor/Thompson -15, 9, -14, 15, 20.

Boy's Singles Final:

Vickery bt R. Rockefeller (V) 11, 16.

Girls' Singles Final:

P. Whitehouse (Q) bt T. Handicott (Q) 10, 14.

(From the TT Newsletter issued by the Australian TTA)

1979 AUSTRALIAN RANKINGS

The Australian selectors (N. Harwood, W. Savage and R. Hodge) have announced the following national rankings for 1979:-

Men

1 R. Tuckett (Vic), 2 N. Ward (SA), 3 R. Javor (Vic), 4 P. Pinkewich (NSW), 5 L. Skeate (Qld), 6 R. Carlyle (Vic), 7 G. Thomas (Vic), 8 G. Munday (Vic), 9 W. Vickery (NSW), 10 B. Hare (Qld).

Women

1 A. Middleton (SA), 2 C. Little (SA), 3 V. Woodward (Vic), 4 K. Thompson (Vic), 5 P. Whitehouse (Qld), 6 D. Millikan (Tas), 7 R. Chambers (Vic), 8 L. McKeough (NSW), 9 V. Sikora (NSW), 10 M. Cannon (NSW).

Junior Boys

1 W. Vickery (NSW), 2 R. Rockefeller (Vic), 3 G. Tepper (Vic), 4 J. Bartolo (Vic), 5 G. Haberl (NSW), 6 S. Campbell (Qld), 7 N. Fields (WA), 8 G. Horne (SA), 9 W. Pennell (SA), 10 M. Wellington (Qld).

Junior Girls

1 P. Whitehouse (Qld), 2 T. Handicott (Qld), 3 L. Buckby (SA), 4 A. Morrow (Vic), 5 S. Isele (Qld), 6 K. Walsh (WA), 7 K. Stephenson (NSW), 8 W. Jordan (NSW), 9 G. Marriner (Tas), 10 M. Bartolo (Vic). B. Benli (Vic) insufficient performances.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HOTTEST JUNIOR

I feel that I am obliged to point out an error on page 30 of the November ETTA News. In your excellent article on Nghia Tran, it is stated that he was the 1979 Under-14 Singles Champion of Australia. This was probably meant to be of West Australia as Gary Haberl (NSW) is the current Australian U-14 Champion.

14-year-old, Gary Haberl is probably the hottest junior in Australia since Paul Pinkewich emerged 15 years ago. Gary's remarkable record is as follows. In 1977, he won the Australian U-14 Singles and Doubles titles. Youngest player to do so. 1978, Australian U-15 Singles Title and he also represented NSW Juniors at the Nationals. Aged 13, he was probably the youngest player ever selected.

In 1979, he made a clean sweep of the Australian Sub-Junior titles winning the U-14 and U-16 Singles and also the U-14 and U-16 Doubles titles. Finalist in the Australian U-15 Singles and also representing NSW Juniors at the Nationals where he fought his way to a National No. 5 Ranking. Once again, he is the youngest Ranked Junior. For the past three years, this diminutive player has rewritten the Australian record books.

On the 26th December, he will go to Japan with another NSW Junior, Craig Dengate for six weeks' intensive Training. This has been arranged by Yasaka and while in Japan, he will come under the influence of Ichiro Ogimura.

T. HALLING, Publicity Officer,
NSW Table Tennis Association.

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Martin Chamberlaine (right), Marketing Manager of Beecham of Ireland Ltd. presenting Anne Leonard, winner of the Women's Singles of the Lucozade Open and Kevin Keane — Men's Singles winner — with their perpetual trophies.

A HOME OF TABLE TENNIS

WHERE "GOLDEN PHOENIXES FLY OUT OF A HEN-COOP"

by CHENG HSU, China Sports, Peking

With an impressive display of diverse chop strokes, 18-years-old Lu Yuan-sheng outmatched the then world champion Stellan Bengtsson and another Swedish ace Kjell Johansson in October 1973 during his tour of Europe with a Chinese table tennis team.

Relying on her powerful loop drives now to the left and now to the right, Huang Hsi-ping carried off the women's singles title at the 18th Scandinavian Open Championships in November 1974.

Close-to-table quick-hitting player Chiu Chen-yen made her successful debut by finishing second at an international junior championships held in Egypt in August 1977.

These three players, and many others too, have won general acclaim at home and abroad for their excellent technique. But few people know that they received their elementary education and learned the rudiments of table tennis in the same school — No. 1 Primary School of Chulu Road in Shanghai. The school has trained some 130 players of national or provincial calibre in the last decade and more and earned the reputation of being "a home of table tennis".

Among the table tennis contestants at the Third National Games in 1977, ten had at one time or another studied in this school. At the 1977 National Table Tennis Tournament, its alumnae took all the three women's titles — the singles, doubles and team event.

It is just an ordinary school tucked away in a lane, with no spacious buildings or sports grounds. Table tennis was introduced in this school in 1959 when a ping-pong craze swept the country after Jung Kuo-tuan captured the men's singles title at the 25th World Championships.

At that time, however, the school lacked the necessary facilities, and there was only one table for its 1,000 pupils. Teachers and parents took counsel together and worked out ways to overcome the difficulty. Wooden boards belonging to the vegetable stall in the market in front of the school were used for playing ping-pong after business hours. Some children's homes provided rooms for the game after class.

Bed boards and doors, and even a few wash-boards put together, served as make-shift tables. When they lacked these, the kids simply played on the floor, using a broom supported on both ends by two bricks as a "net". In this way the sport thrived, with 95 per cent of the pupils taking part. Teams were formed from the second grade up, each grade and class having a team of its own, with the best players selected to the school teams.

Table tennis is not only played after class, but included in the P.T. course. The school now boasts a table tennis hall with six standard tables at the disposal of the pupils who take their lessons by rotation so that every one of them is ensured at least an hour of practice under a coach every week.

Many children who did not even know how to hold a bat properly when they entered school have learned the rudiments of the game in a short time. Some of them, though only taller than the table by a head, can deliver some beautiful strokes in attack or defence.

The best players in each grade are

organised in a table tennis class. They attend school just like other pupils, but after class they spend more time playing table tennis. Whenever they miss a lesson on account of training or competition, the teachers see to it that they make up for lost time.

The teachers are always on the look-out for promising youngsters. Once spotted, each player is given systematic training in accordance with his physical and mental conditions. Attention is paid to both his strong and weak points with a view to cultivating a style of his own. The teachers' painstaking work has proved fruitful.

Take Ku-Yuan-sheng, one of China's crack players, for example, When he was a boy, he was rather short for his age, quiet, soft-spoken and unassuming. One day, he had a match with an older boy from a

higher grade. Taking full advantage of his own height, the older boy resorted to the tactic of pushing the ball gently over the net after a few powerful drives.

Playing his own game, little Ku remained unruffled. Once, to his opponent's surprise, Ku jumped on to the table and hit back a short ball with a vengeance. His agility and quick response impressed his teacher. He was picked out for special training, to which he owes much of this later development.

As a towering poplar grows from a tender sprout, so many promising youngsters owe their success to their childhood education. Despite its poor facilities, the No. 1 Chulu Road School has done a good job in turning out a galaxy of table tennis players. In praise of this school people say: "Here's another instance of golden phoenixes flying out of a hen-coop".



German Champion Peter Stellwag



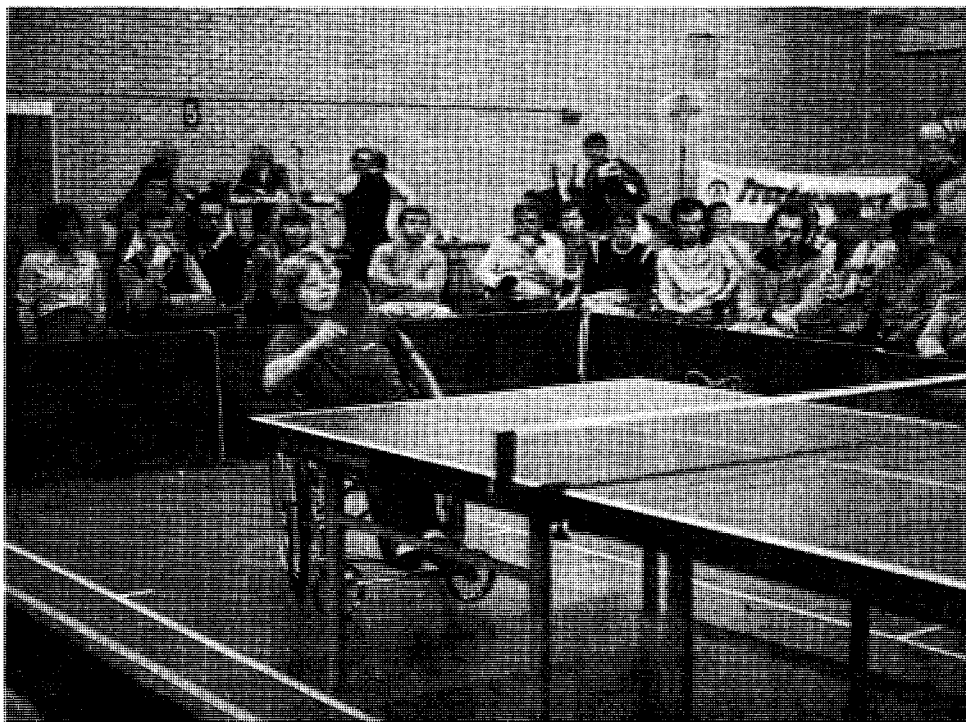
Why Peter Stellwag will soon have more Rhythm in his Game

On the Ivory Coast a giant Koto tree has been cut down. The special acoustic panels used in concert halls are made of this wood. And now the veneer is used to make JOOLA blades. Many other kinds of wood may be light, but they are at the same time not too sturdy; Koto veneer combines low weight with a high degree of resistance. German table tennis champion Peter Stellwag says, "I like playing with blades made out of this wood because it is light, can be controlled easily, and is still strong and solid." So, in the future, Koto trees will not only be helping to provide the right sounds in concert halls, but will also be adding more rhythm to table tennis.

JOOLA

JOOLA AT TEES SPORT

1st EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR PARAPLEGICS



"Caz" Walton during play in the Ladies' Class 4 final which she lost -18, 17, -15 to Irene Schmidt of the Netherlands, the current Olympic champion.

Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium
October 6/7, 1979

THREE GOLD MEDALS FOR GREAT BRITAIN

by TED INGE

Team Captain and Coach of the Great Britain Team

A total of 135 competitors from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, West Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Israel, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, together with all the organisers, agreed that these first table tennis championships for wheelchair players were a great success.

Excitement mounted as the teams arrived at the stadium on the Friday from all over Europe. The spirit of friendly rivalry was very evident as the players renewed old friendships from previous International games staged at the Stadium, but these were the first European championships and all were more than keen to be the first winners. After the team briefing all settled down to an early night as a strenuous two days lay before them.

No less than 26 different competitions were to be played over the two days, which included 12 team and 14 individual events. Paraplegic table tennis is divided into six different classes according to the degree of disability, and a Team event for every class for men and women, plus a singles event for every class was to be played. Also, for the first time, two open events, one for men and one for women were to be staged, and these were creating great interest among the players.

Play began at 9 a.m. on the Saturday with the team events, on 14 brand new Butterfly tables. Butterfly had generously sponsored the Championships by supplying the tables and surrounds. Play continued throughout the day with the last finals being completed at around 8 p.m. The

Netherlands were strong favourites to take both Class 4 (the fittest) titles. In the men's competition Great Britain, represented by Steve Fussell from Bristol, and Arnie Chan from Chingford, accounted for France 3-0 in the first round, but then came up against the strong Dutchmen and lost by the same score. The Dutchmen then went on to win the competition in convincing manner.

In the Ladies' we fared much better. Represented by Carol (Caz) Walton from Croydon and Barbara Gibbs from Coventry,

with wins over Denmark (3-0) and Switzerland (3-1) we reached the final where we faced the mighty Dutch, who have in their team the current Olympic champion in Irene Schmidt. A terrific match ensued, with the match at 1-1 the doubles had to be won. Caz and Barbara fought hard, and having lost the first game on "deuce", came back to win the second at 19, only to lose the third again on "deuce".

Caz then had to play Irene, and, although she fought hard, lost in 2-straight and the match 3-1.

Great Britain had better fortune in the high lesion classes. Tommy Taylor from Polegate, Sussex, with Steve Bradshaw, from London, took the Men's Class 1B title beating West Germany in a closely contested final, and it was Great Britain's first Gold.

On the Sunday the Individual events started and by mid-day Great Britain had two more Golds. Taylor repeated his success in the team when he took the individual Class 1B title beating Hassler of Germany. Steve Bradshaw took the Bronze in this event.

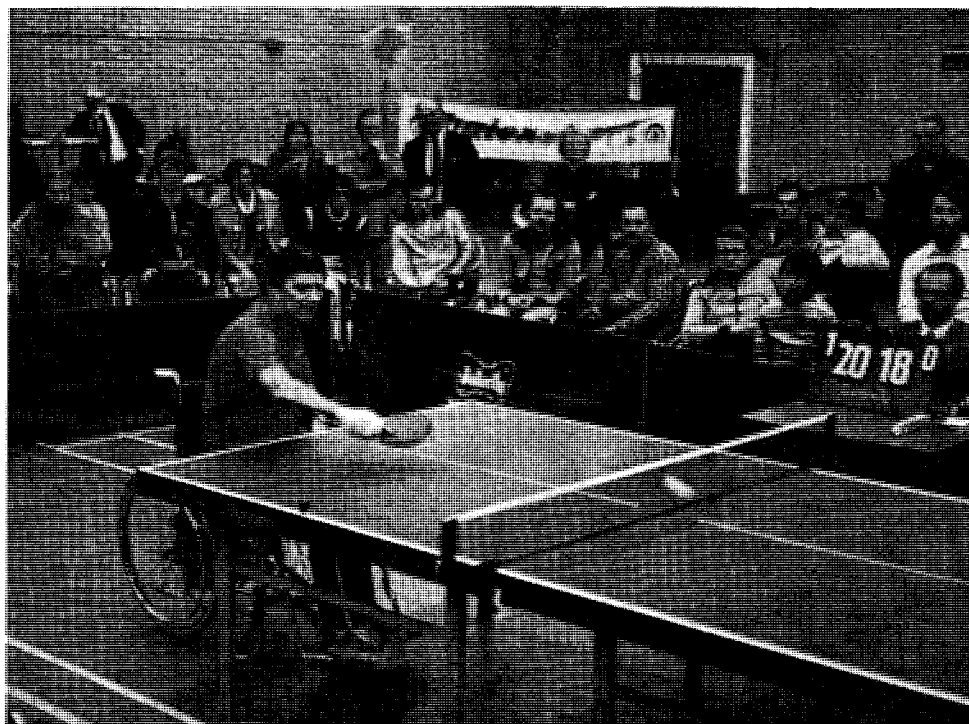
Our second gold came through Jane Blackburn, from Crawley, Sussex, who, in beating Lysen from Norway, took the Ladies' Class 1B title.

The biggest upset of the day came in the Men's Class 4 event. It had been expected that the strong Dutch team of Loek van der Leur and Gradi Uit den Boogardt (Humphrey to his English friends) would contest both the Class 4 and Open finals. However, Klaus Lerner from Germany had other ideas, and beat them both (in semi, and the final) to take the title. They had their revenge in the Open event however, when Loek van der Leur took Klaus in 3, and then went on to win over his fellow countryman and became the first open champion of Europe.

Mike Cunningham of Ireland did well to reach the final of the Men's Class 3 event, but went down to Heinz Simon of Germany, in three.

Interest for another medal for Great Britain was in the hands of Caz Walton in the Ladies' Class 4 and Open events, and, although Caz obliged by reaching the final in both events, always at the other end of the table sat that same Dutch girl Irene

(continued on page 16)



Tommy Taylor of Polegate, Sussex, winner of the Men's Class 1B event.

(continued from page 14)

Schmidt, and we had to be content with Silver medals.

At the conclusion, Germany headed the medal table with six Gold medals, followed by the Netherlands with five (three to Irene Schmidt), with Great Britain on third spot with three.

With 26 different competitions, the schedule was tight, but Len Pilditch and "Stew" Dane, our tournament referees brought us through on time, no doubt helped by a sturdy gang of E.T.T.A. umpires — thank you ladies and gentlemen.

All agreed it had been a great success and we look forward to 1981 when the next championships will be staged—with France, Belgium and Switzerland competing for the honour.

The Ivor Montagu Papers

by E. G. WHITE

The history of table tennis is spanned by less than sixty years. This means that there are still people about who were there when things started — who were involved in the formative steps and the early key decisions. Not many, of course, but an important few.

Pre-eminent among these is Ivor Montagu, Founder-President of the International Table Tennis Federation and its pilot for forty years, as well as successively the E.T.T.A.'s Chairman, President and Life Vice-President.

Now Ivor has decided to hand over all his table tennis papers to the archivists. A tremendous task of sifting, sorting, collating and filing has been undertaken by Bill Vint, O.B.E., Ivor's colleague in table tennis for many years, both internationally (as I.T.T.F. Treasurer; he later became General Secretary) and in the E.T.T.A., where Bill was Treasurer — General Secretary and Treasurer too for six crucial years — before

succeeding Ivor as Chairman and later becoming President. The international papers will become part of the I.T.T.F. archives, kept at their St. Leonards office only a couple of miles from our own headquarters at Hastings. The papers that deal with E.T.T.A. affairs have been handed over to the Association and will be kept as "The Ivor Montagu Papers" with the E.T.T.A.'s other archives.

Ivor Montagu has asked that the papers he has donated should be kept together as far as possible, and this wish will be respected. It does not, of course, rule out integration of documents in any case where this proves to be the only way to assemble a complete set.

This acquisition will be most important in documenting the Association's early history. Much of the record of the pre-war days has to be made up from what individuals are able to supply, because all the official records up to 1940 were lost when the Association's first proper office (in Featherstone Buildings, High Holborn, London) received a direct hit from a bomb.

Thanks have been expressed not only to Ivor Montagu for his gift and to Bill Vint for his work on these archives, but also to Tony Brooks, I.T.T.F. Secretary General, for his assistance and to Mrs. Pat Duce and Mrs. Margaret Haley of Tony's staff, who helped Bill Vint to put the papers into the excellent order in which we have received them.

youngest boys, 10-12 years old, have been very successful in our district. The activities for the girls started seriously a little more than a year ago, and the girls take a vivid interest in our sport.

We would like to get into touch with an English table tennis club that is positive to an exchange with our club. It is our ambition to make our young members widen their views in sports on an international level and get to know how young people in other countries train and do their sports.

As the English language is compulsory to all Swedish pupils, they are highly motivated to meet young people of their own age in other countries and make friends with them.

The details how an exchange could be arranged, might be discussed when we have got into contact with a club that may have an interest in these matters. Our address is:-

BK Derby
c/o Jorgen Andersson
Hedborns gata 55
582 49 LINKOPING, Sweden.

We suggest that a representative of ETTA personally contacts a table tennis club in England, that is interested in international work. Every letter from English clubs will be answered or given to other Swedish clubs.

THE SCIENCE OF TABLE TENNIS

by BRIAN BURN

An appreciation by H. Roy Evans

Some instructional books never reveal the character of the writer. Maybe this is done deliberately in the hope that the reader will digest the content without being influenced one way or the other by what he knows of the author. Maybe the author wants to set down with the utmost objectivity the lines to be followed in one's quest for better table tennis, and yet remain almost anonymous.

In "The Science of Table Tennis", Brian Burn is beset by no such inhibitions. The man shows up clearly through all the many and varied chapters. Brian is a student of the technique of table tennis, and he is not prepared to let that student knowledge gather dust whilst he rattles out a few lectures on "How to play table tennis in ten easy lessons".

The author not only instructs on the technique of stroke production, but he also wants the reader to know just how his body should work when playing these strokes. He places a great deal of emphasis on physical fitness, and sets down guide-lines for the greater development of the physical aspect of our game. He talks of the preparation for physical well-being in the choice of the most suitable food, and quite clearly believes that preparation for the game at its top level is far more demanding than a few hours aimless practice every night.

Brian's chapters on the development of stroke production are clear and informative, and it is evident that he believes that even at beginner level, an awareness of the part played by body movement is of paramount importance. Thus, the book is of value, not only to the player, but also to the coach who wants to instruct his pupils on the whys and wherefores of progress.

To be able to write a book which covers such a wide canvass needs experience at all levels and in all places. Brian has had this, and can write about the game, its players, coaching schemes, the World scene, and a veritable encyclopedia of interests to would-be players, already established players, coaches and organisers. Photographs are used extensively to illustrate stroke production, and graphs abound to relate theory to fact.

A "must" for all table tennis enthusiasts.
Pelham Books Ltd. £7.50

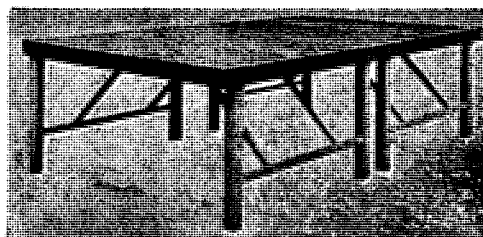
LETTER FROM ABROAD

Sweden - England

A Youth Exchange in Table Tennis

BK Derby is a Swedish sports club that has among other things table tennis on its programme. The club has its members in Linkoping, a town about 200 kilometres south of Stockholm. Other activities in the club are soccer, handball and bandy. We work in a rather young table tennis section that is a part of the older club BK Derby. There are several other table tennis clubs in Linkoping, so the competition is rather hard both among boys and girls. Our

TABLE TENNIS TABLES



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County Notes Supplement

THIS AND THAT IN SURREY

by Murray Corbin
T.S.P. Sponsored Coach, Umpire, Player.

There was some good action in the Surrey Senior Closed which was held recently in Walton at the Elmbridge Leisure Centre. Max Crimmins defeated Peter McQueen in the Men's Singles final. The Women's Final was a much too easy win for Sarah Cresswell over the experienced Jayne Mitchell, and to my surprise, "Transistor" Hannah and Glenn Baker had no trouble in whipping Crimmins and Wellsman in the Men's Doubles. Susan Head with Jane Mitchell, played well to overcome Michele Hams and Jenny Webster in the women's final. Better team work saw Lorraine Garbet and Mark Oakley through in the short battle against Baker and Cresswell in the Mixed. Steve Woodgate was too classy for the improving Rue Bole in the Boys' Singles while Gordon Chapman was a little too young and fit for the Magnificent Kercher, in the Veterans Final.



Mike Kercher, the demon chopper in action during the Surrey Senior Closed.

The competition was well organised and run by Alan Grant and his able assistants including Phil Goacher, the Referee. Well done you lot. I was very impressed with this year's arrangement of the tables in the hall and I hope that the Junior Closed in February will follow this pattern. During the day, I witnessed some excellent play from Crimmins, McQueen, Hannah, Steve Holloway, Kercher, Hoare, Cresswell and Mike Hammond, but most of the other players performed without having a plan in mind.

For example, many opportunities were lost after good spin serves, where players served and took up a backhand position immediately instead of keeping their forearms open, either to put the ball away or working to build up to the final kill. One of the modern secrets of good table-tennis,

applicable also to the average player, is to serve with a forearm serve from off the backhand point of the table and recover near the middle immediately. Since the ball will be returned three out of five times in the forearm, it will be easier to keep pressure on your opponent.

Keep this up until you are forced to play a backhand shot, which in itself, could be the winner you seek. This method builds up speed in the legs and quickens your reflexes and judging by what I saw, these factors were missing. The second rule is to recognise a good return, according to your own skill or standard and play safely. Few players have the ability to back spin a ball heavily. This eliminates your biggest problem in winning the point. Even so, you have a choice of top spinning slowly or making the return with a flattish bat, because the third rule is, once the ball is in play, nothing is lost. Your ambition may not be to become a world champion, but the more you know to apply to the game, the more enjoyment and satisfaction can be had. Two of the main purposes of the sport.

I have mentioned previously the fact that too many players serve badly in relation to the Service Law. Those of you who find it necessary to misinterpret this Law will pay the penalty sooner than you expect. We are agreed that too few Umpires bother to enforce this Rule, they expect players to show obedience too easily — well why should they not? I reiterate, it is the responsibility of the player to abide by the Service Law and to satisfy the Umpire accordingly. Players often retort that they have never attended a Club where practising to serve was a part of the session. To them I say "Hard luck to you, Club and particularly to your Coach". Charity begins at Home.

On this point, I may add that it is now permissible but not yet obligatory, for a Referee to appoint a second official at the side of the table opposite to the Umpire, to assist in deciding the legality of a player's service action, when it is not visible clearly to the Umpire. The exact procedure for applying this rule is yet to be finalised. Experiments are to be carried out at some tournaments to determine the effectiveness of different methods. By the way, for Umpires of at least three years standing, the National Umpire Examination will be held in January in London and I do hope that the eligible have already been in touch with Phil Goacher, as he had requested.

Another pleasant moment for me at Walton, was having sight of the lovely people from Guildford, who are nice to talk to besides being a good representation of the game for their township. You may remember me wondering loudly why it was so quiet in that area. As a result, The Merritts and Sally Conway assured me that most of the players were taking time off from Tournaments to tighten up their games and I sincerely hope that those efforts will materialise as you anticipate. I thought that Gavin Kemp, a very nice and well spoken young man, looked rather tired. Perhaps he was suffering from Sleep-lag. Mark Oakley is seen around often and I am glad to report that Glenn Baker, now free from his Chester Barnes Holiday Camp exhibitions, is working on his serious game at Wimbledon, with the help of Nicholas Hoare and Des Charlery.

At last the efforts of Hoare and Dewsbury (Wimbledon) and Sexton of Spices are paying dividends. I raise my hat to them for being placed 7th, 10th and 9th respectively, in the unofficial National Cadet Rankings and good luck to them, Martin Jones of Wimbledon, Lynn Bennett of Southwark and any other Cadet who may have been invited to the Cadet Ranking Tournament at Cleveland, in late November.

For some time I have been stretching the Coaching facilities at my local YMCA in Wimbledon and I am grateful for the facilities "Connie" Warren has made available to me at Larkhall, where I shall begin coaching an elite few, within a few weeks.

This will enable me to coach the beginners and maybees at Wimbledon, without the same being too over-awed by the presence of the others. I am sorry that I can not accept anymore advanced or beginners at the moment and would advise you to get in touch with Peter Corner for advice or help, if you find my waiting list too long. I would also advise any of you who may be attached to a Club already, that I would only entertain the idea of coaching you on the condition that your Club or Coach knows of your desire. Coaches are sometimes too ready to blame another coach of poaching, rather than trying to find out why his kids are drifting. Generally, clubs are over prescribed and this can prevent a good coach from being thorough and efficient. On the other hand, a successful club or Coach breeds success in spite of this.

While Surrey Juniors 2 were away to Wiltshire and being beaten narrowly 6-4, Surrey Seniors 1, now in the Second South Division, were away to Essex 2 whipping their tails 8-2, although most of the sets were won after 21 in the third, surprisingly.

At the time of writing, only two League Press Officers had supplied me with local coverage and I am grateful to Peter Keepen of Redhill and Reigate and John Garland of Thames Valley. For the others who may be motivated, my address is 304B Haydons Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 8JZ.

THE PERCY JOHNSON CUP (Open only to non-top-ranked players chosen by their League). Redhill and Reigate opened their season with a good 6-3 win over a strong THAMES VALLEY team, which consisted of the unbeaten Rue Bole, and the unlucky John Garland and Schramm. Representing Redhill were John Millward, Chris Wells and Julian Crock, all from Lloyds Register who won two sets each. The CROYDON team of C. Harper (2), D. Crowley (2) and T. Downing (1), were 5-4 victors over the LEATHERHEAD squad of R. Bhalla (3), J. Calcutt (1) and R. Denman (0), while WANDSWORTH with M. Richards (3), P. Holloway (3) and S. Richards (2), flogged BYFLEET'S P. Simmonds (1), M. Barratt and G. Cameron (0). It is believed that Wandsworth or Redhill look more likely to take the Cup from CROYDON BUSINESS HOUSES, who may have started their defence by now. In January, some of the results from the HARDING Cup will be available along with those of the County Games, scheduled for early December.

Congratulations to Derrick Bennett and Danny Kinnard for the good work they are doing at The Southwark Club. Their first team of Richard Beckham, Melvyn Waldman, Martin Shuttle and Keith Seager and the third team — Michele Baker, Lynn Bennett and Kevin Naish, are top of their respective divisions in the Southwark League.

My lad of the month is NEVILLE MILLER, who, representing the YMCA in Wimbledon/Wandsworth Division 1 and Ewell Cedars, Leatherhead Division 1, was the Victor Ludorum in winning this year's Surrey Comet Trophy. The competition which was organised by Gail McCullough, was well attended and fiercely competed. Factors which I also attribute to the good facilities offered by The Goblin Canteen, Leatherhead. In the Boys' U-17, Neville defeated his stablemate Lionel Faure, who boasts recent defeats over Andrew Sexton and Mike Hammond. The Girls' U-12 went to Jane Sutton over Jackie Wright. The Boys' U-12 saw Graham Vigor in great form against my favourite little scrapper Richard Jones, but Graham could not emulate this success over Graham Bateman in the Boys' U-14. Jane "The Smile" Barella had a good win over Claire Pollard in the Girls' U-14 while Gaynor Kelly was too experienced for the lovely Nicola Teague, in the Under-17 Girls' finals. The finalists then played off for the major trophy, when Neville defeated Lionel a second time.

● STOP PRESS. David Hannah, to his satisfaction after a hard third game, put the crunch into David Wellsman in the

Midlands 3-Star. Peter McQueen was stopped after some exciting play during the day by Duggie Johnson, in the Quarters.

Well, please tune in again in the New Year and read my "FACE TO FACE" with our first Lady of Table Tennis, Jill Hammersley, M.B.E. Vaya con dios.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

IAN TAKES OVER

The senior and junior County ranking lists were recently released, and these are as follows:-

Men

1 Ian Robertson, 2 Andrew Clarke, 3 John Burke, 4 Dave Armstrong, 5 Chris Shepherd, 6 Malcolm McMaster, 7 Martin Young, 8 Peter Whiteman, 9 Michael Watson, 10 Bob Dodds, 11 Fred Short, 12 Steve Robinson, 13 Arnold Warents, 14 Bill Dial, 15 Jimmy Scope, 16 Dave McAllister.

Women

1 Barbara Kearney, 2 Kit Cheung, 3 Nancy Kirsop, 4 Pauline Jackson, 5 Caron Buglass, 6 Julie Hobson, 7 Christine Burke, 8 Lily Aust, 9 Susan Norris, 10 Shirley Laver, 11 Susan Yeung, 12 Daphne Russell.

Boys

1 Burke, 2 Neil McMaster, 3 Chris Reed, 4 Malcolm Aitchison, 5 Simon Montague, 6 Dean Hastie, 7 David Maughan, 8 Nicholas Ringrose, 9 Jimmy Brumby, 10 Martin Schapira, 11 Kevin Burdis, 12 Nicholas Jeffreys, 13 Keith Robson, 14 Gary Stephenson, 15 Gordon Watson, 16 M. Moore.

Girls

1 Buglass, 2 Burke, 3 Yeung, 4 Clare Mouzon, 5 S. Shakoov, 6 K. Trenholm, 7 Mandy Lee.

Cadet Boys

1 McMaster, 2 Schapira, 3 Watson, 4 Nigel Cameron, 5 Andrew Drapkin, 6 C. Moore, 7 R. Jassal, 8 Paul Curry, 9 W. Shakoov, 10 R. Hall, 11 G. Elsander, 12 G. Miller, 13 Peter Curry, 14 T. Hagan, 15 R. Walker.

Cadet Girls

1 Mouzon, 2 Lindsay Jackman, 3 Denise Wilkinson, 4 Judith Drapkin, 5 Karen Wilkinson, 6 D. Campbell.

These rankings take place with effect from Dec. 1. Earlier senior ranking lists were in fact issued for November, and the main changes in the men's list show Ian Robertson taking over the top spot from Andrew Clark, leading junior John Burke continuing his steady climb to his highest position yet at No. 3, Dave Armstrong riding high at No. 4, and Peter Whiteman dropping right down from No. 3 to No. 8. Martin Young and Michael Watson, two very promising young players, figured in the November list for the first time and are included in the current list at Nos. 7 and 9 respectively. The women's list is unchanged from that issued previously except that Susan Yeung and Daphne Russell have been added to increase the number ranked to twelve. Janice Fowles has not yet been included as her transfer application from Durham is still to be finalised.

The junior assessments were held on the day following the County matches away to Lancashire I and II, and in spite of the fact that John and Christine Burke and Caron Buglass had all been involved in a long day and a very late return home on the Saturday, they all appeared to have recovered sufficiently by the Sunday. John and Caron won the boys' and girls' events without too much trouble, and therefore take top places in the respective lists.

Three senior County matches have been played so far, with the first team meeting Yorkshire II and Lancashire in successive weeks, and the second team opening their account against Lancashire II. The first team turned on their best ever performance against Yorkshire II in front of an almost

full house at Byker Community Centre, and the eventual result of 6-4 to the visitors can only give some indication of how hard they had to work for their victory. Ian Robertson played magnificently to win both his singles, as did Barbara Kearney to win a tight and vital top women's singles, but although Andrew Clark won one singles — and was very unfortunate not to take the other as well — this was just not quite enough. The results are worth recording.

Northumberland 4 Yorkshire II 6

A. Clark lost to C. Lo -16, 12, -19;
bt J. Nasser 13, -15, 10.
I. Robertson bt Lo 13, -20, 11;
bt A. Bottomley -19, 14, 17.
P. Whiteman lost to Nasser 15, -18, -17;
lost to Bottomley -18, -18.
Barbara Kearney bt Linda Hryzsko
18, -16, 19.
Kearney/Cheung lost to Hryzsko/Shields
Clark/Robinson lost to Lo/Bottomley
-23, -16.
Kit Cheung lost to Helen Shields -10, -9,
-19, -17.

The matches involving both teams away to Lancashire I and II at Newton-le-Willows ended in a 3-7 defeat for the first team and a 1-9 reverse for the second team. The first team match was another personal triumph for Ian Robertson, who again won both his singles, this time against John Marshall and Steve Turner, and shared in a men's doubles victory with Andrew Clark over Marshall and Paul Rainford. John Burke's victory over Brian Carney in the opening set was the second team's only success, but with all five players — Burke, Martin, Young, Michael Watson, Caron Buglass and Christine Burke — playing for the first time at this level, a defeat was only to be expected against such experienced opposition. Nevertheless, seven out of the ten sets did go to three games, and it is worth mentioning that the Lancashire officials were sufficiently impressed to comment on the future promise of this young team. Unfortunately, with three of the players being juniors, problems do arise with junior and senior fixtures not always being held against the same county at the same venue on the same day!

Following the Northern area junior and cadet trials at Eston, Caron (third in the junior girls' event), Martin Schapira and Clare Mouzon (second and third in their respective cadets events), all go forward to the England ranking tournament at Thornaby on Nov. 24/25. The results will of course, be known by the time these notes are published, but we certainly hope that they will have done well even though the standard will obviously be high.

The Northumberland Closed Tournament — with a change of venue to Ashington Leisure Centre — is to be held on Saturday, Dec. 15. This has been brought forward to accommodate the Evening Chronicle Northumberland Open, which as stated in the last issue will be held on April 26, 1980, at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Iris Moss

EARLY DAYS

Well, the season is now well under way, with four of our five teams having played matches in the County Championships and with the first of our Tournaments having taken place. Our teams have had mixed fortunes, with the Premier and Veterans team so far unbeaten. But it is early days, and we will be watching to see how they all get on with great interest and with even greater expectations.

The Middlesex 2-Star Under-15 Open, a report of which appears elsewhere in this edition, was a great success but entailed a lot of hard work. My hardest job was having to convince some of the parents of players whose entries we had to turn down that we really could not accommodate any more but

then no doubt they were being pushed by their enthusiastic children. It is pleasing to think that there are so many young players who want to enter Open Tournaments.

For the first time since I have been Secretary of the Association, and that is a long time, we have lost two of our affiliated Leagues. As no doubt you are aware, Barnets have decided that they have more in common with Hertfordshire than Middlesex and the National Council have agreed that they can change their affiliation; and the City of London League has had to suspend operations for lack of a Secretary. In place we have been pleased to welcome a new League, Isle of Dogs, and hope that they will soon establish themselves and join in our Inter-League Competitions next season.

Our Inter-League programme is also under way with two divisions of seven and six teams in the Victor Barna Competition; seven teams in the Norman Pegg Competition; two divisions of six and four teams in the D. W. Birmingham Competition; and two divisions of five teams each in the Ted Connell Competition. Some matches have already been played but it is too soon to predict how the Competitions will end up.

Our next big job will be the Middlesex 3-Star Open Championships and already entries are rolling in. By the time this article is published, the event will be over and I hope to get an article into the next edition of the News.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Gerald Green

FIRST 'OPEN' A SUCCESS

A lot of hard work behind the scenes at Market Drayton ensured that the first ever 'open' tournament to be held in Shropshire was an outstanding success, both from the organisation and playing points of view.

The Junior 'Grove 1-Star' — sponsored by the National Westminster Bank — was held during the week end 13/14th Oct. On both days the events were on, or ahead of schedule and that cannot be said of many tournaments held in this country.

RESULTS:

U-17 Boys' Singles:
Jeremy Duffield (Worcester).
U-17 Girls' Singles:
Melanie Seaton (Doncaster).
U-14 Boys' Singles:
Ivan Smith (Shrewsbury).
U-14 Girls' Singles:
Melanie Seaton.
U-17 Boys' Doubles:
Paul Jackson/Andrew Creed (Bristol).
U-17 Girls' Doubles:
Melanie Seaton/Josette Ryalls (Yorks).
U-14 Boys' Doubles:
Ivan Smith/Ian McLoughlin (Bury).
U-14 Girls' Doubles:
Tracey Lightfoot (Crewe)/Fiona Elliot (Wolverhampton).
U-12 Boys' Singles:
Adrian Dixon (Wolverhampton).
U-12 Girls' Singles:
Alison Barker (Market Drayton).

As can be seen our local juniors did very well with Ivan Smith and Alison Barker winning titles (the fourth in a row for Alison). Jane Cheetham and Linda Degg (Shrewsbury) reached the U-17 Girls' doubles final. Kate Harris (Shrewsbury) and Mary Denbow (Oxford) were runners up in the U-14 Girls doubles.

The Grove Table Tennis Club, Market Drayton was also the venue for a series of matches versus Danningelanda BTK from Malmo, Sweden, from Oct. 22-27th. On this occasion the visitors proved too strong in team events, but Keith Sillitoe did well to beat the Swedish Club's top three players. Ivan Smith won the invitation tournament with a three sets win over Mats Petterson.

On the other side of the County, Telford Table Tennis Association's activities con-

tinue to attract new players and (usually) people willing to serve on the management committee. An extra Division has been formed and the committee, which includes non-players with special functions, now numbers 21. Owing to increased business commitments Graham Finch had to resign the Secretaryship he held with conspicuous success since 1973. His successor is John Willcocks whose enthusiasm for the work makes him a stimulating member of the committee. New firms to join the Association this term are 'Hoover Ball and Bearing', 'Pelloby' and 'Shifnal Jig and Tool'. Many new firms are becoming settled in Telford and it is expected that the Association will continue to expand.

Their new Junior Ranking list is as follows:-

Boys

1 Martin Tuft, 2 Jamie Rae, 3 Nigel Chaplin, 4 Paul Angeloff, 5 Colin Wilson, 6 Mark Perkins, 7 Roy Bradburn, 8 Keith Pritchard, 9 Richard Fettes, 10 Brent Powell.

Girls

1 Julie Ballard, 2 Julie Wakeley, 3 Delyth Jones, 4 Gill Hartley, 5 Helen Beards.

In the Midland Junior League Shropshire teams have had mixed fortunes. Grove 'A' losing 2-8 to Stroud, Altrington beating Rugby 7-3 and Shrewsbury beating Oxford 6-4 and Coventry 'B' 10-0.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

WITHOUT DEFEAT

In spite of being without several key men through injury and illness Cambs. came through their four County Championship matches with Bucks., Gloucester, Lincs. and Suffolk without defeat. In their match against Buckinghamshire the Senior team forced a 5-5 draw at Impington Village College despite having to play two juniors Robert Swift and Michael Jackman. Mick Harper's experience earned him two wins against Hamilton and Leslie and Swift had a good win over Phillip Bradbury. Jane Hunter beat Dawn Risbey and also combined with Joanne Palmer to win the women's doubles. Cambs. looked set for a win when they led 5-3 but had to settle for a draw when Jackman was beaten by Gary Hamilton and Joanne Palmer had to give way to Stephanie Lines.

Cambs. II had a very good win against Suffolk II at Ipswich. The four Juniors, Swift, Andy Withers, Gary Jordan and Alison Edge plus Valerie Parkes swept aside the opposition and had a scintillating 10-0 victory which is a great booster for future matches in their division.

Cambs. Junior first team, without Swift, had a job on their hands against Gloucestershire but got home 6-4 after trailing 2-4. Cambs. got off to a bad start when Withers lost to Daren Griffin but they levelled when Jordan beat Gloucester No. 1 Andrew Golding. The only other win, however, was the Girls' Doubles in which Mandy Judd and Tracy Fisher beat Nina Tsakarisianos and K. Whittaker. Tracy Fisher then set them back on course with her sixth singles win in seven matches and Withers made no mistake against Golding to level the scores. Mandy Judd then put Cambs. ahead with a win against Miss Tsakarisianos and then Jordan completed a personal double when he defeated Slack and so gained the points for Cambs. A meritorious victory when all seemed lost!

With Paul Stacey on duty for the first team and Jamie Frost at the Middlesex "Under-15", Cambs. Junior II still held Lincs. II to a 5-5 draw at Wisbech. Alison Edge and Ruth Hunter won all three Girls' sets for the home county and Michael Jackman and Julian Wheel each won a singles. This was a good effort by the depleted team and augers well.

In the National Club League TSB Soham

overcame a pre-match injury to Keith Richardson to beat Larkhall 5-4 at Guildford and so keep their unbeaten record. Richardson injured ligaments in an ankle in the pre-match knock-up and this kept him out of the game for three weeks. His place was taken by reserve Stuart Palmer. Soham had to thank Paul Day and Kenny Jackson for their win, both winning their two singles and Day also winning the doubles in partnership with David Tan. Ellenboro, who were also unbeaten, lost their first match 3-6 to Newham and so Soham now have a two point lead at the top.

RESULTS:

(Soham names first)

P. Day bt D. Wellman 18, 16;
bt M. Crimmins 12, 16.
K. Jackson bt Crimmins 17, -17, 19;
bt Wellman 14, 13.
D. Tan lost to D. Wells -12, -9;
lost to M. Johns -21, -10.
S. Palmer lost to Johns -14, -18;
lost to Wells -5, -12.
Day/Tan bt Crimmins/Wells 22, 17.

In the Veterans Division of the St. Neots Invitation League Cambridge had a very successful debut when they won all three of their matches against Bedford (5-4), Peterborough (7-2) and North Herts (6-3) and so set the pace for future matches!

Cambs. Junior players were in good form at the Kent Junior Open at Folkestone. The U-17 Boys' final was fought out between Stuart Palmer from Lakenheath, also a member of Soham's National Club League squad, and Andy Withers the Cambs. No. 2. Palmer won the event in straight games. Robert Swift the Cambs. No. 1, also had a successful week-end, winning the mixed with Lisa Bellinger of Beds. All three of these players now look certain to be in the England Junior ranking list.

While the top juniors were at Folkestone, the lesser lights were doing sterling work in the St. Neots Invitation League. This is the competition that has temporarily taken over from the South East Midlands League, which has ceased to exist for the time being. Julian Wheel (Soham), Michael Lister (Soham) and Martin Livermore (Wesley) represented Cambridge, who beat Leighton Buzzard 6-3, Wisbech 8-1 and lost 4-5 to Northampton. The Juniors previously had beaten St. Neots 8-1, Bedford 9-0 and Kettering 7-2. Cambridge are currently top of the League with eight wins and one defeat and a total of 63 sets. Peterborough are second with a similar record but one set less. The stage is set for a grand finale on Dec. 22 when Cambridge meet Peterborough and March to complete the competition.

In the Cambridge League Soham are again dominating with three teams leading their respective divisions. The first team head division one, the third team head Div. 3A, while the newly formed eighth team are already walking away with Div. 5C. Police promoted from Div. 3 last season are the front runners in Div. 2.

Titleist have made a great start in the Cambs. League with four consecutive 10-0 victories and have yet to drop a set in Div. 5A. Their latest victims were Saffrons VII who had previously won their first three matches but who now have dropped into third position as Telephones V beat Simplex 8-2 to occupy second position.

In the Cambs. League Knock-Out Handicap Trophy the competition has now reached the second round and the fight is now really on with all teams anxious to do well in this popular competition. Prominent of course is the TSB Soham teams who always do well in this trophy although Wesley too still have a big interest with seven teams there and who have supplied finalist teams twice during the last four years although losing both times to Soham teams by a 5-4 margin.

PROFILE — JOHN LOKER

John Loker has been a stalwart of the Y.M.C.A. Club for many years and has made

a very successful job as a player and a secretary with many diversities in the last few years. At the old Y.M.C.A. he was always willing to encourage young players and represented Cambridge in the South East Midlands League besides his own club. Always a very hard man to beat he then concentrated on keeping the Y.M.C.A team going when they moved to new premises and difficulties arose concerning playing facilities. He now keeps going and has been a good committee man also a likeable fellow who never says die! Well done John — keep it up!

The Cambs. Closed Championships are being held at Cambridge Sports Hall on Saturday, Jan. 12, 1980 when eleven tables will be in action. The Championships are being organised by the Cambridge League and are returning to Cambridge after a lapse of two years. It is hoped that a big entry will be forthcoming bearing in mind the excellent facilities offered by the Sports Hall authorities. It is a spacious Hall and has plenty of room for spectators. Play will start at 9 a.m. with a full programme of events, Senior, Junior and Veterans and the probability of a Handicap event. A sponsorship of the Championships is in the offing with well known Sports firms and it is hoped to offer good prizes for all events.

Keith Richardson, at the moment injured, will almost certainly be defending his singles title and Jane Hunter her Women's Singles title. In the Junior events Robert Swift will be favourite for the Singles and of course Mandy Judd will take some stopping in the Girls' Singles. Altogether it will be a fascinating tournament and I hope that it will be an event to be remembered.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

County Championships

RESULTS:

Cambridgeshire 5 Buckinghamshire 5

M. Harper bt G. Hamilton 14, 14;

bt C. Leslie 18, -20, 14.

R. Swift lost to Leslie 17, -9, -19;

bt P. Bradbury 15, -10, 15.

M. Jackman lost to Bradbury -19, -14;

lost to G. Hamilton -14, -15.

J. Palmer lost to S. Lines -16, -15.

J. Hunter bt D. Risby 16, 16.

Harper/Swift lost to Leslie/Hamilton

-19, -13.

Palmer/Hunter bt Lines/Risby -15, 12, 9.

Cambs. Juniors 6 Gloucestershire Juniors 4

A. Withers lost to D. Griffin -12, 19, -14;

bt A. Golding 9, -16, 15.

G. Jordan bt Golding 14, 20;

bt G. Slack 13, 18.

P. Stacey lost to Slack -11, -11;

lost to D. Griffin -14, -20.

A. Judd bt N. Tsakarisianos -17, 16, 15.

T. Fisher bt K. Whittaker 12, -23, 15.

Withers/Jordan lost to Golding/Griffin

-20 -18.

Judd/Fisher bt Tsakarisianos/Whittaker

15, 13.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Smith

PROGRESS IN SCHOOLS

It is pleasing to report that at long last, progress is being made with the playing of table tennis in Gloucestershire schools. When entries closed for the team event, 14 schools had shown an interest in entering so that Gloucestershire will be represented in all four boys' age groups plus the girls' U-16 at the area finals at Stratford-on-Avon in January. Two trophies have been presented for the winners of the boys' and girls' U-16 in memory of the late Frank Newell who was the Gloucestershire Chairman for many years and its President when he passed on.

Dave Harvey the County No. 1 has been having some success, winning the Merton Open and helping Cheltenham to win their opening two matches in the Midland League

against Nottingham and Leicester both by 7-3 with Dave unbeaten, but on the local scene when playing for his club, Taynton and Tibberton in the Gloucester League, he had a pointless night when playing against the Gordon League Club. Taynton and Tibberton have been the Gloucester champions for the last few seasons, breaking a long run of successes by the Gordon League who have been able to call on the services of ex-international and now national coach, Bryan Merrett more this season than for some seasons, in an attempt to regain the title. With Bryan unbeaten, and with the support of young Daren Griffin and William Dawe it is beginning to look as though the title will return to the city from the village club.

Congratulations go to Mike Collier of Gloucester on passing his practical and test paper to become a County Umpire. Mike who is a member of the County committee this season for the first time is also attending the Coaching Course being run by David Fairholme and our own Coaching Officer, Peter Cruwys.

Looking to the future, a Dinner/Dance is being arranged for March 28, when the social side of the game will take over from the playing side for one evening, further details will be available from John Boyd shortly.

NORFOLK NOTES

by Neville Graver

POOR START

The first senior county match, against Suffolk, ended in a disappointing 2-8 defeat, the only Norfolk victories coming from Doug Bennett over Mick Palmer and Wendy Hogg over Sue Welham. There was another fine set between Bennett and John Kitchener, resulting in a third-game victory for the Suffolk man.

Since that match, the selectors have embarked upon a programme of mixed squad training sessions in an attempt to boost standards, and improve results. The first test of this policy will come against Cambridgeshire, a match that will have been played when this article comes to print.

On a more domestic front, the Broadside Club Knock-Out Competition is now under way, bringing together teams from various parts of the county. Entries were disappointing, possibly due to restrictions on eligibility. The first round draw was:-

Telephones (Norwich) v Post Office Sports (Kings Lynn)
Kings Lynn Electricity (Kings Lynn) v Shipdham (Dereham)
Gothic (Norwich) v Holt T.T.C.
Fourways (Norwich) v Police (Norwich)

Favourites for the trophy are probably Gothic, but they will be challenged by Police and the two Kings Lynn teams.

Also sponsored by Broadside Sports of Norwich, the Senior Closed Championships will take place at the University of East Anglia on Sunday, Dec. 16, and will see Bennett and Wendy Hogg aiming for singles title hat-tricks.

On the junior front it is very pleasing to report that five TSB juniors are now members of the Eastern Region Training Squads. Most recent addition is Philip Logsdon (Norwich), who joins Chris Rayment in the under-14 class. Martyn and Richard Stevenson are in the U-17 group, with David Unwin in the intermediates. This is the highest number Norfolk have ever had, and is just reward for the hard work of Les Rayment and Vic Bennett, and more than justifies the recent emphasis on youth.

Umpiring is another area where things are on the up and up. County Umpires secretary reports increasing numbers of test applicants, and also the awarding of County Umpire badges to Ray Drew (Kings Lynn) and Ray Hogg (Norwich).

Finally, revised senior ranking lists were issued for November as follows:-

Men

1 D. Bennett (1), 2 Mick Musson (2), 3 Trevor Bunn (3), 4 Neville Graver (4), 5 Terry Darby (—), 6 David Smith (7), 7 Steve Howlett (5), 8 John Turner (8), 9 Mick Broughton (6), 10 Richard Stevenson (—).

Women

1 Wendy Hogg (1), 2 Margaret Hales (2), 3 Joy Dixon (3), 4 Sue Allen (5), 5 Sue Hazell (4), 6 Janet Moore (7), 7 Ruth Hogg (6), 8 Sue Browne (8), 9 Zoe Nicholls (—), 10 Paula Ribbans (9).

Biggest move is that of the previously unranked Terry Darby (Great Yarmouth) into the No. 5 position, following good performances at trials.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

FINE STYLE

Staffs. senior 'A' team started their championship programme in fine style with a 10-0 win over Glamorgan II. The County side of Tony Isaac, Andrew Bellingham, Andrew Rich, Janet Carr and Jill Harris were rarely extended and only the Glamorgan No. 1 Geoff Morgan provided any opposition. Hopes are running high that this season we may reach the play-off and certainly this start is pointing in the right direction.

Performances of our top juniors also look promising for their second season in the Premier Division of the County Championship. Following Paul Barnett's Boys' Singles win in the North of England Open, Andrew Dixon has taken the Middlesex U-15 title with a win in the final over J. Sparks (Essex) 7, 13 having earlier beaten Jeremy Duffield in the second round. Dixon and Duffield also took the doubles title. Third-ranked County junior, Billy Bridgeman, is turning in some good performances in the Potteries League, and with our two girls, Jill Harris and Shirley Cain both nationally ranked we are all set for the coming challenge.

Most of the singles titles in the Woodfield Tournament were retained in the County. Bellingham took the men's singles, beating Francis (Sussex) in the final and Janet Carr and Jill Harris won the women's and girls' titles respectively. Dixon was beaten in the final of the boys' but a very good performance the following day in reaching the semi-finals of the men's made up for this reverse. Andrew's younger brother, Adrian, won his first title in the other local tournament — the Grove at Market Drayton — when he beat Murray Jukes (Worcs.) in the boys' U-12 event. His victories in the final and against Andrew Henry (Derbys.) in the semi were the highlights of an excellent first Grove Tournament.

The Norton club from the Potteries, playing in the new National Club League Division 2, broke their duck with a tremendous team effort against Briarside at Sunderland. Two wins apiece by Malcolm Green and Joe Deakin led the way to a 7-2 victory against a side which has already won two matches, and this suggests that Norton's record of one win out of four is likely to be improved in the future. In their previous match against Unity (Bradford), surely the strongest team in the division, two wins by Stan Deakin prevented a "whitewash" in an exhibition of scintillating table tennis which excited the enthusiastic home crowd at Norton.

Rules for the new James Beattie (Handicap) Competition have now been circulated by Don Pritchard, and the signs are that there will be a good entry. Leagues within the County will have the opportunity of giving more representative competition to their top and up-and-coming players.

In the County League, the early matches

in the first division have shown good performances by the newly-promoted, Stafford 'A', with their strong junior contingent, beat Potteries 'B' 7-2 and Darlaston, unfortunately without a lady player on the night, ran Wolverhampton 'B' close, losing 4-5. In the clash between Potteries 'A' and West Bromwich 'A', the former ran out 7-2 winners, but it was interesting to note that Dot Deeley continues to be a strong force in ladies' table tennis with an 11, 13 win over Pat Brookes and a victory in the mixed partnered by Stuart Richards, over Mrs. Brookes and Phil Anderson. In the 2nd division, wins were recorded by Walsall 'A', Stone 'A' and Cannock 'A'. In the third division, Leek 'A' were only able to beat their 'B' side 6-4, and West Bromwich 'B' and Cannock 'B' were the other winning sides. In the 4th division, Lichfield 'A', Cannock 'C' and Wolverhampton 'D' each overwhelmed their opponents, as also did Bridgnorth 'A' in Division 5. After some lean years in the County League, it is reported that their 10-0 victory has left Bridgnorth in a state of shock. They still have Stafford 'D', Cheadle 'B' and Stone 'C' to beat; these were the other winning teams in that division.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Dimmock

FIERCE AND DETERMINED

County pre-season trials (for or against!) bring the players and officials together and give a good indication of the interest for the new season.

Three separate trials were arranged this year and the response from the players was tremendous and their play was fierce and determined.

The senior trials saw 24 men and 12 women competing, with approximately 180 games played in the space of six hours on just 6 tables all ran smoothly. A vote of thanks to Alan Elliott and his team.

For the men we saw Stephen Barby and David Cartwright, juniors from last season, giving a good account of themselves and, for the ladies, the Bellinger sisters finished what was a very exciting afternoon by playing each other, just for a trial! But T.T. at its very best was seen by a very appreciative audience, Jackie just winning a 3-gamer.

The junior trials saw the emergence of that very promising 13-years-old Ian Doughty who went through the complete day without losing a game. One major disappointment was the poor response from the Bedford League juniors only one making the effort by going to Luton for the trial.

Veterans' surprise trialist was Dave Frost ex-Brewery stalwart who was thought to have retired at the end of last season but showed his class with a fine display of backhand attack. The "Peter Pan" of local table tennis Jim Wooliscroft and his A.C. Delco teammate Ron Chambers both had a very successful trial and showed that they will be a force to be reckoned with in the Eastern Division.

The start of the County Championships season saw a great weekend for Bedfordshire. The senior 1st team beat Bucks 1st 7-3 away, with Barby winning both his singles in convincing style and with his partner Dave Rawlinson won the doubles. Paul Birch who was not expected to play first team table tennis this year showed just how well he can play by beating that very promising junior Philip Bradbury.

On the distaff side Barbara Hammond and Julie Dimmock won both their singles and doubles in positive manner. The juniors playing away to Warwickshire drew 5-5 which was a sound start in this their first season in 2nd Midland. David Sharpe showed what a good competitor he is by winning both his singles. Doherty and Andrew Conquest, new to county table

tennis, were not able to control their nerves sufficiently to win a game but both have the technique to be very good county players. Jackie and Lisa Bellinger once again put in very sound performances to take the singles and doubles.

The first ranking list of the season is:-

Men
1 S. Barby, 2 D. Rawlinson, 3 J. Wooliscroft, 4 J. Alsop, 5 D. Cartwright, 6 P. Birch, 7 I. Doughty, 8 D. Beddal, 9 R. Chambers, 10 D. Hyde, 11 D. Sharpe, 12. D. Foster.

Women
1 J. Bellinger, 2 B. Hammond, 3 L. Bellinger, 4 J. Dimmock, 5 A. Robinson, 6 D. Campbell, 7 J. Miles, 8 M. Jarrett, 9 J. Roberts, 10 T. Jackson, 11 S. Shaw, 12 J. Doughty.

Boys
1 Doughty, 2 Sharpe, 3 A. Conquest, 4 C. Luscombe, 5 M. Luscombe, 6 R. Beard, 7 A. Fordham, 8 S. Reeves, 9 L. Scarbrow, 10 S. Barrett, 11 S. Alvis, 12 M. Andrews.

Girls
1 J. Bellinger, 2 L. Bellinger, 3 Dimmock, 4 Miles, 5 Jarrett, 6 Shaw, 7 Jackson, 8 L. Robins, 9 Doughty.

Veterans
1 Wooliscroft, 2 Chambers, 3 D. Frost, 4 C. Gill, 5 D. Holden, 6 G. Sharpe, 7 R. Gilliard, 8 A. Elliott, 9 P. Cutting, 10 R. Daniels, 11 F. Morris, 12 B. Cohen.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Junior 1st team made the best start to the season of our four County Championships teams and they were the only side to pick up any points in the first round of matches with a well-earned draw in a tough fixture away to Cheshire Jnr. 1. The Cheshire side looked to be heading for a comfortable win at one stage and led 5-2 with their No. 2 Tony Taylor in particularly fine form.

Cumbria wins at this stage were a singles win for Tim Pachul over Ian Weatherby and a doubles win for Stephen Dixon and David Archer over John Weatherby and Taylor and it was Stephen who turned the match with an excellent 16, 7 win over the Cheshire No. 1 John Weatherby. This was followed by an even better win for Bella Gray over England-ranked Janet Deakin -18, 18, 17 and David Archer followed suit with a 19, 16 win over Ian Weatherby to square the match.

The Senior team were also away to Cheshire opposition but came away disappointed after a 7-3 defeat against Cheshire 3rds. The Cumbrian Nos. 1 and 2, Ian Reed and Diccon Gray were arguably the best players on view but with the rest of the side relying heavily on them there was no margin for error.

Sadly this was to prove the case early in the match and although Reed got us off to a good start with a comfortable 10, 14 win over Ron Weatherby the team slipped to 1-6 down with Gray losing -22, 14, -13, to the Cheshire No. 1 Wayne Percival and Reed and Gray losing the men's doubles -13, 20, -19 among the six defeats. Cumbria took two of the last three sets with Reed taking his second singles win 9, 11 over Percival and Gray taking his first win of the match by beating John Weatherby 9 and 9. Mary McPortland and Carol Tyson both played above expectations and Carol in particular came close to adding another win.

The Junior 2nd team entertained Cheshire 2nd at Millom and were well beaten by an 8-2 scoreline. The team did however contain four debutants in Andrew Dawson (Kendal), Tony Huddleston (Millom), Neil Yardley (Barrow) and Lindsey Rushton (Millom) alongside past regular Pam Bickerdike (Millom) and understandably the side will take time to settle down. Dawson and Bickerdike scored our only two wins and Dawson in particular can be pleased with his efforts after beating

the visitors' No. 2 Kevin Eden -18, 11, 19 and just losing -16, -19 against the No. 1 Stephen Davies.

Cumbria's first-ever Veteran team opened their Vets Midland Division programme with a 3-6 defeat away to Clwyd and more recently suffered a similar 3-6 reverse at home to Lincolnshire. The Clwyd match in particular was quite a close affair and the Cumbria side of Eddie O'Hara, Peter Buxton, Bill Robinson and Clarice Rose were in with a chance of points until late into the match, with wins from Buxton, Miss Rose and O'Hara in that order.

Five of the nine sets went to a decider but unfortunately for Cumbria all those deciding games went to Clwyd, the closest of which were a 19, -19, -19 defeat for O'Hara and Miss Rose in the mixed and a -9, 15, -18 defeat for O'Hara by the Clwyd No. 2 Roy Williams.

The Lincolnshire match produced the same scoreline as the Clwyd match but the similarity ends there as it was a more comfortable win for the visitors than the 6-3 would suggest. Lincs. took all their wins 2-straight and made the home side fight for theirs, a comfortable doubles win for Buxton and Robinson being in contrast to the close singles successes for Buxton and Miss Rose over their respective opponents A. Patrick and Connie Moran.

CUMBRIA OPEN 1980

Next season's Cumbria Open moves one week forward from its usual slot in the calendar and is now booked for Sept. 27 at the Market Hall, Carlisle. The men's singles prize is to rise from £50 to £75 and fresh sponsorship will have to be found to cover ever rising costs, especially with the news that we are to lose the support of one of our backers over the past few years, John Roper Ltd., Haulage Contractors of Workington.

CUMBRIA CLOSED 1980

The Cumbria Closed tournament takes place on Sunday, Feb. 3, 1980 at Workington Sports Centre, Moorclose, Workington.

INTER-LEAGUE COMPETITION

The Inter-League competition details have been finalised and with four leagues competing — Barrow, Carlisle, Westmorland and Whitehaven — the three fixed Sundays when the matches are to be played are as follows:-

Dec. 9/'79, Jan. 27/'80 and Feb. 10/'80.

MIDLAND LEAGUE NOTES

by Tony Darbyshire

INSPIRED PERFORMANCE

A very friendly match with some excellent table tennis took place in the Men's Div. 1 between Wolverhampton 'A' and Chesterfield 'A' with the latter going down 4-6. Andrew Rich gave an inspired performance, defending well to beat Steve Lyons -27, 13, 10, and breaking into attack to beat Maurice Billington 17, 19. I can remember watching Maurice in his county days with Warwickshire (alas some years ago) and I can take great pleasure in reporting that he is still a delightful player to watch, win or lose. Steve Dunning got christened with the name "Stunning" Dunning, hitting everything like a man possessed when he partnered Rich in the crucial doubles win that proved to be the match winning set.

In Div. 2 of the men's programme Doug Foulds, registered for Derby 'A', had to concede the two sets he managed to win against Leics. 'C' because he was ineligible to play for the 'B' team. Leics 'C' therefore won 7-3 and gained the Foulds sets by default. Colin Truman in good form, won his three legitimately. However against Coventry 'A' the trio of Kevin Pilgrim, John Green and A. Woodcock played well to beat Truman and his team mates McKelvey and Craven-Griffiths by the wide margin of 9-1. Leics. 'B' (Phil Cawser, Brian Mayfield and

Steve Day) played in an exciting match at the Potteries by beating Potts 'B' 7-3. Joe Deakin did his best to blend his experience with the youngsters Paul Barnett and Greg Hallam but could not salvage a point despite a 3-4 scoreline at one point. Dave Harvey won three for Cheltenham in Div. 2 to give them a 7-3 victory. Rux Tor had a tight set against young Adrian Pilgrim, just getting home 17, -18, 19. Harvey and Co. also beat Notts. 'A' by a 7-3 margin with Dave again winning his three. Alan Croome picked up two for Notts.

The 'original' local Derby between Derby 'A' and 'B' gave victory to the 'A' side of Philip Vickers, David Yallop and Div Singh over the two Stephens, McCarthy, Yallop, and Robert Albutt by 6-4. Highlight here was when David Yallop scraped home against Albutt 18, -20, 26 to give the 'A' side a 5-3 lead. David's brother Stephen had a chance to get one point for the 'B' side but lost convincingly to Vickers in the last set.

In Div. 3 Wolves 'B' (Sid Hodgetts, Paul Chester and Ray Williams) trailed 2-4 to Hinckley 'B' (Alan Philpott, Stuart Haynes and John Illiffe) but pulled back to 4-all. Illiffe beat Chester -13, 12, 12 to put Hinckley 'B' in with a chance of both points but Philpott could find no way through Hodgetts' solid defence in the last set and lost -12, -12. Both these teams look like being in the promotion stakes. The Wolves 'B' trio beat Shrewsbury 8-2. Bill Herbert won the only singles for Shrewsbury against Hodgetts, Steven Young, John Barton and Trevor Jackson emerged as convincing winners for Chesterfield 'B' against Leamington by 9-1 despite five sets going to three games. Leamington's consolation set came from an excellent doubles win. Young the best player here on the day. A week later Leamington visited Oxford but were even more convincingly beaten 10-0, the two Clives, Alcock and Morris and Arthur Chilvers proving much too good for the spa town.

In Div. 4 of the Men's, Kidderminster made their Midland League debut against Notts. 'B' but Simon Gray (A Bromsgrove player last season) proved no match for Trevor Kerry losing -8, -11 and couldn't salvage a point for Kiddy and went down 6-4. Notts. 'B' did well to take four of the last five sets for victory. Both sides should be up at the top of this division at the end of March. Cheltenham 'B' took on their neighbours Stroud in their first match of the season with two evenly balanced sides sharing the spoils 5-5. Cheltenham trailed 2-5 before Guy Greening, John Turner and Roy Fowler player hard to obtain the draw. A very good doubles here with Andrew Golding and Peter Harris just clinching it for Stroud -17, 26, 18. Nuneaton led Loughborough 5-2 before Paul Calloway put the two points in Nuneaton's bag by beating Glenn Johnson. Overall an even match with four players winning two sets each, final result 6-4. David Hanney stepped out of last year's junior ranks to win two for Lichfield at Tamworth. At 4-4 he watched Dave Evans go down 2-straight to P. Cammerer. To salvage a point he had to beat Andrew Bache but 16-years-old Andrew showed his experience at this level by clinching a 6-4 win for Tamworth 14, -14, 16 and his own third win of the afternoon. Nuneaton won five of the six sets which went to the third game against Kidderminster, three of them at "deuce". To gain the upper hand for a good 7-3 victory away from home. Chris Knowles, Pete Friar and Paul Calloway won two each for Nuneaton.

Wolves 'A' in the Junior Div. 1 made a flying start by defeating Derby 'A' 9-1 at home. Peter Dawes and the Devitt brothers, Marc and Tony in top form. Derby 'A' also lost 2-8 to Birmingham 'A'. Gloucs. juniors thrashed Chesterfield 10-0. Michael Owens, Darren Griffiths and Paul Jackson (son of Paddy Jackson, ex-Salop county coach, now living in Bristol) all had good wins over Steven Young in their 10-0 win. Coventry, not playing Adrian Pilgrim, were defeated

4-6 by Cheltenham. B'ham 'B' no match for Notts. 'A' losing 1-9. Shaun Green, Andrew Phillips and Robert Watson look like they have every opportunity to chase the Div. 1 title on this performance.

In Junior Div. 2 Coventry 'C' beat their own 'B' team 7-3. Tom Orr won his three. Walsall beat Nuneaton 8-2. Adrian Tottey and Peter Alister won three each for Walsall and combined to win the doubles. Oxford deservedly led 3-1 but Shrewsbury fought back to win 6-4. The final set between Ivan Smith and Richard Denbow was the best of the match with Smith keeping his unbeaten record on the day. The Notts. 'B' and Leics. match looked very even at 3-3 before Notts. took the last four sets to win 7-3.

In Div. 3 of the juniors Derby 'B' beat B'ham 'C' 7-3. Alan Hearn in good form winning three for Derby. Jimmy Pittaway undefeated for Leamington in their 5-5 result against Worcs. 'A'. Promoted Market Drayton played brother and sister Robert and Alison Bayliss against Worcester 'A' to record a 7-3 win but it was Keith Sillitoe who got through three sets without losing. Wolves 'B' took on newly promoted Lichfield to win the match 9-1. Chris Hunt won the only set for Lichfield, but only just. 19, -17, 19 over Martin Harvey. Stroud, with Andrew Golding, Stephen Porter and Chris Barron look like being the probable team to trouble Wolves 'B' after a 10-0 victory over West Brom 'B'.

In Junior Div. 4 Hinckley asserted their authority with a 10-0 victory over newcomers Bromsgrove and Market Drayton 'B' pulled off a close win 6-4 against Worcester 'B' despite Brian Genever having three wins for Worcs. The doubles proved crucial which Market Drayton won 20, 19. Andrea Mason and Mark Gould won three each for Chesterfield in their 9-1 win at Leamington. Julie Green beat Dawn Padley 15, -11, 16 to save the "whitewash".

In the Vets. Div. 1 Geoff Aldwinkle, John Ball and Phil Overend scraped home 6-4 against B'ham. A point might have been saved if Neil Wheatley and Frank Norton had not lost narrowly in the doubles 17, -19, -19. Oxford 'A' were grateful that John Stanford had three wins in their 7-3 victory at Coventry.

In Div. 2 of the Vets. Peter Slack also went undefeated for Cheltenham in the away win at Rugby 8-2. Rugby lost by the same margin to Walsall, who were also much too strong for Coventry 'B'. They didn't drop a game, let alone a set, winning 10-0. The closest match was between Peter Bentley and Joe Lasek with Peter winning 20, 19. Better fortunes for the Coventry 'B' side against Derby 'B' with Geoff Taylor undefeated for them in a 6-4 win. Kidderminster took on Nuneaton and won 8-2.

In the Ladies' division, Walsall's Jill Harris won two but lost -13, 9, -16 to Linda Holmes, the Derby No. 1. Derby were eventual winners 7-3. A very close match between B'ham 'B' and Leics ended in a 5-all draw. Walsall fared better against Notts. Grete Willacy managed two wins and Jennifer Curley one win with Jill undefeated this time. Jenny and Jill also took the doubles for a good 7-3 win. B'ham 'B' led 3-0 and 4-2 but were caught at 4-all by the girls from Leics. Yvonne Hall then narrowly beat Joan Hower 19, -14, 19 to put Leics, 5-4 up. Ann Lloyd then played extremely well to beat Barbara Holt 10, 8 to save the home side a point. The same Leics. side took on Market Drayton's Alison Barker, Colette Soan and Kate Harris but despite staying in the match at 4-all lost the last two sets fairly easily. A memorable victory for the Market Drayton girls because it recorded their first-ever win in this division. The following day however they took on the strong Derby side and although they all won one each by beating Lynne Slack the eventual result was a 7-3 win for Derby. Finally match report for this month the B'ham 'A' v 'B' local derby saw the 'A' team far too good in a 10.0 win.

I would be grateful if team captains could write a few words on the match in the space provided on the scoresheet as this makes the job of compiling the report much easier. Oh yes, a slight correction to the Nov. mag report on the B'ham 'A' v 'B' match should have been Men's Div. 1, not Junior, I'm sure Bob Brown and Co. were duly flattered!

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

SATISFACTORY WIN

Leicestershire recorded a very satisfactory 9-1 win over Suffolk where only the Men's Doubles went to the visitors, who, however put up spirited resistance. The Juniors went to Worcester where they took the first three sets, the last two and lost the other five! Paul Brindley played well winning two. The Veterans took part in a four match with Nottinghamshire which they lost 1-8 in a match full of expedites and which took over five hours to complete. Ernie McLeish was making his debut in this match and was the only player with any idea of attacking play but he has been assured he can expect other matches to be much more entertaining! The Leicestershire Towns League Cadets event was successfully staged at Melton Mowbray where Peter Capewell did an excellent job of organisation. Leicester retained their hold on the trophy with David Aldwinckle emerging unbeaten. Paresh Rughani (72.7%) and Shayne Murray (90%) completed the team. Hinckley I were runners-up with both Andrew Allen and Wayne Harris recording a very satisfactory 81.8%. The only other player to reach 80% was Loughborough's highly-promising Louise Forster. Hinckley look set for a good season in the Midland League. Their second team, in the Midland League 3rd Division secured a good point from Wolverhampton. John Iliffe, who continues to play as well as ever took two and this season Alan Philpott appears to have hit the form he has always been capable of. He also won two and the pair took the doubles. Hinckley have also entered a Junior team and a team of Colin Jones, Steve Dobson and Kevin Shield is obviously a force to be reckoned with. Their 10-0 win at Bromsgrove is a good start.

Leicester opened in the Midland League (1st Division) with a convincing win over Wolverhampton but then came unstuck against Gloucester. The Men's Second team have started well with 7-3 wins over Potteries I and Potteries II. The Men's Third team went down 9-1 to Coventry but bounced back to beat Derby 7-3. The Junior side certainly is showing great promise, despite a 7-3 reverse against Nottingham. Trevor Kerslake, Martin Pickles, Simon Griev and Yvonne Hall looks a pretty formidable quartet to me.

Jones and Shipman are leading the 1st Division of the Leicester League and certainly their young team of David Gannon, Phil Smith and Steve Day looks good enough to stay there although Earl Shilton Institute and Knighton Park are certain to be in contention all the season. Grahame Hall has suffered a hand injury which has put him out of the team for a couple of months. Over the last two or three seasons Grahame seems to have been unfortunate health-wise and I am sure everyone will hope this popular player all the best for a quick recovery and prolonged good health. certainly his captaincy of the Leicester Men's team and Great Glen will be sorely missed.

Current leaders and top-of-the-averages in the Leicester League are:-

1 Jones & Shipman (P. Randell), 2 Knighton Park II (A. Nixon), 3 Swithland Motors (M. Pickles), 4 Loughborough III (P. Brindley and G. Johnson), 5 Thurnby/Northwood (D. Barry), 6 LUCA (S. Thomas), 7 Leicester Gas (R. Davis and G. Redmile), 8 Countersthorpe (B. Austick), 9 R. T. Hobson (R. Harper), 10 Records (S. Want),

11 Electricity (S. Dobson), 12 Bentley Eng. (G. Hibberd), 13 Leicester Gas (A. Lo), 14 Groby C.C. (M. Long and K. Mullins), 15 Magna Travellers (B. Canavan), 16 Braunstone Avenue (S. Morrissey), 17 Braunstone Avenue (D. Gimson), 19 Oadby Church of Christ (Saleem Awan).

The respective leaders in the Hinckley League are as follows:- 1 Kingscroft (P. Randell), 2 Market Bosworth (C. Neville), 3 E.M.E.B. (D. Dyall), 4 E.M.E.B. (R. Reardon), Junior (L. Dixon).

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

LOUD AND CLEAR

If the Premier Division of the County Championships exists in 1985 then Sussex will be in it! That was the message that came through loud and clear after the dust had settled on the night of the 13-hour Hastings Tigers Open at Bexhill Youth Centre on Nov. 18.

There were players who played well above themselves, there were those who bit the dust and there were selectors calling for the smelling salts.

The four Sussex young "tigers" Graham Gillett, Stephen Moore, Adrian Moore and Peter Puddock all reached the semi-finals of the men's singles leaving a pile of scalps that included such experienced men as Robin Stace, Sam Ogundipe and Phil Smith.

Giving warning that he is progressing faster than his Bexhill rivals Peter Puddock (Littlehampton) came through to win the final against Graham Gillett who seemed tired and unable to take the initiative. Puddock triumphed 21-9, 21-17.

The biggest shock in two seasons amongst the Sussex women came when 12-year-old Teresa Moore pulled off a staggering win at 19 in the third over Diane Griggs, currently the Sussex No. 1 woman! Teresa was 16-19 in arrears. Later however, Teresa went under to the improving Julie Reading who captured all three titles. The other female shocker was Angela Maskell — she hammered out Carol Hewett (Lewes) the reigning Sussex champion who is going to be hard-pressed to hold her crown at Brighton Corn Exchange on Jan. 13.

CLWYD REPORT

by Roy Williams

LITTLE TO CHEER

Wales who have had a good run in international matches until their defeat by the Irish last month lost again to Norway 2-5 at Rhyl on Nov. 16 to a full house. In this European League match the first to be held in North Wales, the local fans expected Wales to turn it on but the result proved to be a decisive win for the Norwegian team who got on with the job. David Welsman after losing to the undefeated Pal Guttormson won a singles and teamed up with Stephanie Jones to win the mixed. By this time the Norwegians had won the match without conceding a game. On the bright side the match proved to be a money spinner and I am sure a boost to the funds of the T.T.A.W.

The Mayor of the Rhuddlan Borough attended the match with other V.I.P.s and at the Civic reception. The Rhuddlan Borough Council also gave us the hall free and assisted in many other ways a credit to the local government officials.

With the resignation of Malcolm Hook as N.W.C.T.T.A. secretary Len Elias has taken the post until the end of the season and Les Jones has agreed to get the Welsh League started by filling the post of secretary. With problems at North Wales and league level may I appeal to certain players and senior officials to put the Association first. Some

players have put themselves in the Super Star bracket but I hope they come down to earth and rejoin clubs in the first division of their leagues and not sign on in the lowest divisions of their organisations. This cannot be doing the game in our area any good and I am sure that the "rabbits" in the lower divisions do not appreciate being hammered every week. These half dozen players who seem to consider themselves above the rules of the Association should have a little loyalty for if they reach international standard are we going to be subjected to the same performance. At league level many people and almost one league are talking about leaving the T.T.A.W. and this cannot be good. A firm lead must be taken by the T.T.A.W.

In January a Round Robin tournament is to be held and the seedings for the North Wales Closed will be decided by the results. Players already in the rankings who do not attend will be left out of the seedings. The championships will be held at the Deeside Leisure Centre on Sunday, Feb. 17.

On the previous day, Feb. 16, the North Wales Junior Open will be held at the same venue and a bumper entry is expected. It is hoped that besides the best players in Wales we can expect a number of the better English juniors. We hope the Irish Association will also send a number of players as they did last season. Last year the tournament was known as the Clwyd Open but from now it will be known by the new title.

On the county scene our veteran team had a good win against Cumbria at Kinnel Bay. The junior firsts had a good away win at Warrington when they met Cheshire but in their second fixture at Colwyn Bay they lost 4-6 to Cleveland. We lost the services of Mark Thomas for this match because he had withdrawn his registration from the Llandudno league.

The junior seconds lost easily away to Warwickshire at Solihull and our policy of playing cadets in this team must be looked at as glancing through the result sheet we do not seem to be giving opponents a match. The seniors lost at home (Deeside Leisure Centre) to Nottinghamshire 3-7. Trevor Manning won two singles and Alan Williams won one.

My final message for this month of gloom in North Wales is that we must all work together and put our association on a firm footing. I for one am sick and tired of spending hours at meetings to discuss the same subject.

Seasonal greetings to all.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by P. Taylor

FIFTEEN TIMES A WINNER

As expected, Brian Hill retained his men's singles title in the Lincolnshire Closed Championships. This is the fifteenth time he has won this title and it was probably his most difficult, for some years with four players forcing a third game. Tony Patrick (Gainsborough) was Brian's first opponent and created quite a stir when he took the first game 22-20 but Brian came back to take the next two 11, 15. Dave Skerratt (Wyberton) had set point against Brian in the quarters having won the first game 21-10 and being 20-19 up in the second but yet again Brian came through to win 22-20 and then the third 21-8. Neil Parkin (Scunthorpe) was the next. Having beaten Mick East in the first round and then Peter Skerratt in the quarters, he continued his fine form by taking the first game in the semi against Brian 24-22, but Brian took the next two to reach his allotted place in the final. His opponent was Peter Taylor (Grimsby) who had beaten Mark Newbould (Grimsby) in the other semi. Although Peter took the first game 21-18, the attacking shots of Brian proved to be the decisive factor and Brian took the next two reasonably comfortably.

The women's singles was won by Connie Moran (Grimsby) who beat last year's winner Jean White (Spalding) in the final. The boys' singles was won by Marcus Emmerson (Louth) who beat Guy Ashton (Gains) in the final, Guy having beaten top seed Simon Pullen 19 in the third at the semi-final stage. Jean White gained some consolation from losing the singles by taking both doubles titles, the mixed with Mick East and the women's with her fellow town player Mary Burgess.

The group system, introduced for the first time in this championship, proved to be very popular and many thanks must go to Grimsby officials, Pauline Chapman and Albert Hackford, who worked hard all day ensuring that the tournament ran smoothly and efficiently.

RESULTS OF FINALS:

Men's Singles:

B. Hill (Wy) bt P. Taylor (Gy) -18, 12, 13.

Women's Singles:

C. Moran (Gy) bt J. White (Sp) 9, 12.

Boys' Singles:

M. Emmerson (Lo) bt G. Ashton (Ga) 16, 16.

Girls' Singles:

J. Wingad (Gra) bt J. Barnett (Gy) 17, 12.

Veteran Singles:

M. Sheader (Lo) bt B. Allison 15, 17.

Men's Doubles:

Hill/M. East (Wy) bt M. Sheader/B. Allison (Lo) 13, -14, 14.

Women's Doubles:

White/M. Burgess (Sp) bt Moran/K. Fisher (Lo) 12, 14.

Mixed Doubles:

East/White bt Hill/S. Radley (Li) 17, -15, 14.

As a result of the Lincs. Closed and other information this year, the ranking lists have been amended. Full details of the County Team Ranking Lists will be sent to all leagues, the main changes being as follows. In the Men's, D. Skerratt goes up to No. 3 from 5, while N. Parkin moves to No. 5. I am now in the No. 2 spot with M. Newbould at No. 4. The boys' top five stay as they are and J. Whitfield now occupies the No. 6 spot. The 'A' squad is increased to eight players and S. Read and M. Smith are placed at 8 and 9 respectively.

The county teams had mixed fortunes. The seniors drew with Durham. Hill overcoming the challenge of the much improved Svenson twins to take his three rubbers. Mick and Brian won the other two against the Durham No. 3. The veterans continued their winning ways, making the long trek up to Cumbria and winning 6-3. The junior 2nd team drew against Cambridgeshire 2nds, Stuart Worrell taking his three rubbers and Guy Ashton and Paul Barnes each winning one. Jackie Barrett and Cathy Bryan must count themselves extremely unlucky for they lost all three rubbers at "deuce".

In closing, details of the Haigh, Butcher, Butlin and Veteran Cup matches will appear in the next issue. I hope to have another News Report out about Mid Dec. (the first this season) so contact your local league secretary for a copy.

AVON NOTES

by Robert Oldfield

HISTORIC DAY

Saturday, Nov. 10 was a historic day for table tennis in this County. Five teams fielded on the same day for the first time and a record clean sweep. Fifteen women's sets played; fourteen in our favour. Unbelievable.

The day started with Avon Juniors at 1 p.m. at Mayfield Church Hall, Bath. Against the Gwent team of Brian Jeanes, Gary Wilkins, Jeff Hobbs, Brenda Ammand and Gillian Bevans, Avon lead 3-2 thanks to the two doubles and a singles from No. 1, Andy Creed. Paul Jackson and Rebecca Russe took the score to 5-2 in commanding

style before Welsh No. 2 Junior, Jeanes, had another '16 in the third' win, this time over Andy, Avon's No. 1 girl. Tina Shortman then staged a cool comeback from 16-20 down to beat the Welsh No. 3 girl, Annand, 22-20 and grab both points for Avon. A good win particularly after the unsettling event of needing reserve Chris Ross to stand in at a moment's notice.

Andy, Paul and Tina moved on to Swindon in fine spirits for the first team fixture v Wiltshire whilst Rebecca Russe and Geraldine Sandford stayed in Bath for the evening's second team match. Playing at home, last year's champions Wiltshire, must have been favourites but Avon squeezed home on the very last game of the night despite a maximum for Wilts. No. 1 Kevin Satchell. It was a magnificent match lasting four hours. Seven out of the ten sets went the full distance and three of these were won by the narrowest of margins.

Although in essence a team victory for Martyn Smith, Andy, myself, Paul, Helen Gore and Tina, pride of place must go to Helen with a superb game of tactics in her win over Clare Maisey. Tina backed her up with both her singles and the doubles and the rest came from myself and the final set of the evening from Andy.

Meanwhile, at Bath, in the rest of the quadruple fixture, Avon Vet. II beat Dorset II in the afternoon, 6-3, thanks to the Fry's pair of John Morris and Peter Dommney with Lesley Hamblin. Their first team won by the same score against Wiltshire who fielded Bath player Don Morris. Mike Baker, Keith Howse and the two doubles provided the six sets for Avon. Finally, youth again in the Avon II v Somerset II match with two from Phil Riley and two from the junior girls. Andrea Seager and Tony Brown added one singles each to take the score to yet another 6-4 win in Avon's favour.

In the Avon Schools Team Championships, Weston Technical College won the U-19 Boys', St. Bernadettes the U-16 Boys' and Monks Park the U-13 Boys'. These teams go forward as Avon's representative's at the Area Finals at Callington on Jan. 20. The following week-end sees the 'Further Education' counterpart taking place with the BUSF Individual Championships at Bath University. Get your entries in before the end of term. It's a great place for a Winter break but bring warm clothing! Sure to see you there Derek.

We're halfway through the season down here and I have been sure that something was lacking from the table tennis scene... no Stewart Sherlock. Many thanks for your work in the past and bad luck for us on your posting to ICI, Manchester. Get a transfer back to Avonmouth soon. Next month I shall be reporting on the domestic league front along with Inter-town results and the three December matches. Information please, and more, for the Newsletter which will be published in late January/early February.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

MEETING THE LEAGUES

The County Management Committee meeting at the end of November was due to be held in Sheffield, in a new move to take the Committee around the county regions, with a period set aside at the start of the meeting for questions from local leagues in the region and their members. If the leagues make full use of this opportunity, I suspect that the 45 minutes allowed for questions may prove to be too short!

After opting out of county play last season, 18-year-old Bradford left-hander Kevin Beadsley has returned to take the top position vacated by Birmingham teacher Alan Fletcher, who has been in dispute with the E.T.T.A. over a refusal to grant per-

mission to play in the Federal German National League. Kevin has been recruited to play for the Saint Albion club in the Sheffield League and also represents Bradford club Unity in the second division of the National League. The Unity team includes Sheffield players Steve Mills and Chris Rogers (currently at Sheffield University) and local players Clem Lo and Tony Bottomley. Andrew Metcalfe, ranked No. 5 in the senior list, has since moved out of the county and is no longer available. The top places in the junior lists are taken by 15-year-old Sean Madden (Hull) and 14-year-old Lesley Broomhead (Sheffield), but Sean had an indifferent day at the regional trials and missed nomination to the first national junior ranking trials.

Early results in the County Championships have been reasonably satisfactory so far:-

Premier Division:

v Glamorgan (away) won 7-2;
v Cheshire (at Birmingham) lost 3-6;
v Cleveland (at Birmingham) won 9-0;
v Essex (at Sheffield) won 5-4.

2nd Division North:

v Northumberland (away) won 6-4;
v Derbyshire (at South Elmsall) drew 5-5.

Junior 2nd Division North:

v Lancashire (at Wakefield) won 8-2.

Tony Clayton did not play against Glamorgan (who were without Alan Griffiths) and Melody Ludi was on international duty for the other three matches though Sally Midgley proved to be a very capable deputy. Beadsley was released from the Essex match to play in the West Yorkshire Open, and with Essex minus Kenny Jackson (also on international duty), a close match was tilted Yorkshire's way by the success of Mills and Lo in the men's doubles.

Nominated players Neil Marples and David Yallop could not turn out for Derbyshire in the 2nd Division North match at South Elmsall and visiting n.p.c. Graham Lynch had to play, and helped his team to a draw by defeating Hull's Joe Naser. Graham must have had mixed feelings about this, as he happens to be a member of the Yorkshire Management Committee! His Derbyshire affiliation is through Chesterfield. Fourteen-year-old Stephen Sharpe became the first Wakefield junior to play for Yorkshire when he made his county debut against Lancashire in the Junior 2nd Division North.

Entries from leagues in Yorkshire into the National Leagues Championships are:-

Wilmott Cup:

Sheffield, Harrogate, Leeds, Huddersfield, Bradford, Hull.

Rose Bowl:

Hull, Bradford, Harrogate, Sheffield.

Carter Cup:

York, Bradford, Hull, Sheffield, Halifax, Leeds, Huddersfield.

Bromfield Trophy:

Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield.

Beadsley played for Sheffield together with Mills and David Rayner in the 6-0 first round defeat of Harrogate. Only Unity and York Railway Institute have entered the National Club K.O. Championships.

Former junior international Judith Walker, who retired from competitive play in 1977, has made a return to local league competition with Dial House in the Sheffield League. Also in Sheffield, Crookes Y.M.A. raised £900 in a 48-hour sponsored marathon in a bid to purchase their club premises after their landlords had indicated their intention of selling the building.

Next, a success story from a Barnsley school. Willowgarth T.T.C. came into being in 1973 when, in the words of its founder, Albert Wilkinson, senior deputy headmaster of Willowgarth H.S. and a former soccer professional with Halifax Town and Rotherham United, "the young bloods wanted to take over the soccer, so I decided to involve myself in some other activity". Peter Myers,

head of the craft department and better known as a Yorkshire League cricketer, was persuaded to play, and with five pupils, two teams were entered in the Barnsley League. Since then, the club has prospered, with parents, pupils and teachers all combining harmoniously. Two of the original squad have returned to the club after going away to college and returning to the area as teachers, and this season Barnsley veteran Brian Starkie, youth leader and coach, has joined their ranks. After six sessions, the club now has five teams, one in Division 1.

The Yorkshire Closed Championships will be held at the Richard Dunn Sports Centre, Bradford, on Saturday, Dec. 15. The unfortunate clash with the English Junior Closed was unavoidable because of the difficulties in obtaining suitable venues on other dates.

The current ranking lists are as follows:-

Men

1 Kevin Beadsley (S) (-), 2 Tony Clayton (Hul) (2), 3 Steven Mills (S) (3), 4 Clem Lo (Br) (6), 5 Andrew Metcalfe (L) (4), 6 Joe Naser (Hul) (9), 7 Tony Bottomley (Hal) (5), 8 Sean Madden (Hul) (-), 9 Nicky Davies (Har) (12), 10 Michael Stephenson (Br) (14), 11 Michael Harison (Hul) (7), 12 Adrian Hill (Br) (13), 13 Mark Illingsworth (Ba) (-).

Omitted from previous ranking lists are:- Alan Fletcher (Hul) (1), Richard Priestley (Br) (8), Robert Shutt (Br) (10), Steve Kosmowsky (Br) (11).

Women

1 Melody Ludi (Br) (1), 2 Sally Midgley (Br) (2), 3 Linda Hryszko (Br) (-), 4 Helen Shields (Br) (3), 5 Julie McLean (Hul) (4), 6 Maureen Gott (Y) (5), 7 Lesley Broomhead (S) (-), 8 Melanie Seaton (Do) (-), 9 Julie Speight (Do) (-), 10 Julie Todd (Br) (-), 11 Tracy Robertshaw (Br) (-), 12 Josette Ryalls (S) (-).

Omitted from previous ranking lists are:- Jane Guanaria (L) (6), Sylvia Broadbent (Br) (7), Carole Cowell (nee Grayson) (Hul) (8).

Boys

1 Madden (3), 2 Illingsworth (2), 3 David Illingsworth (Ba) (5), 4 Neil Bailey (S) (8), 5 Tony Sanderson (Y) (7), 6 Timothy Dyson (Hul) (-), 7 Stephen Sharpe (W) (-), 8 Paul Barker (L) (-), 9 Erroll Bernard (Hul) (-), 10 Graham Wilson (Br) (-), 11 Ian Duxbury (L) (6), 12 Neil Edgecock (L) (-), 13 Clifford Twineham (Har) (-), 14 Richard Marshall (S) (-), 15 Michael Stead (Br) (-), 16 Vincent Grimshaw (R) (-), 17 Trevor Walton (S) (-), 18 Kevin Thompson (S) (-), 19 Keith McKandla (L) (-).

Omitted from previous ranking lists are:-

**Hill (1), Roger Palfreeman (Br) (4), David Rawley (Y) (9), Neil Barley (Hul) (10), **Ricky Burrett (Hul) (11), **Trevor Watson (W) (12).

**indicates player now over the age limit.

Girls

1 Broomhead (2), 2 Seaton (4), 3 Speight (5), 4 Todd (9), 5 Robertshaw (3), 6 Ryalls (8), 7 Gail Watson (W) (-), 8 Rachel Brooke (De) (-), 9 Karen Arnold (W) (-), 10 Natasha Houseaga (L) (-).

Omitted from previous ranking lists are:-

**Midgley (1), Angela Lutkin (Hul) (6), Angela Hudson (Hul) (7) **Caron Raynor (Br) (10).

**indicates player now over the age limit.

Cadet Boys

1 Sharpe (-), 2 Bernard (-), 3 Graham Morris (Hul) (-), 4 David Rook (Br) (5), 5 Jeffrey Thatcher (L) (-), 6 Martin Firth (Br) (-), 7 Robert Rowlands (De), 8 Paul Mear (Br) (-), 9 Richard Hurley (W) (-), 10 Andrew Kelly (L) (8).

Cadet Girls

1 Seaton (2), 2 Ryalls (3), 3 Brooke (7), 4 Arnold (-), 5 Houseaga (-), 6 Janet Evans (Hul) (4), 7 Ruth Midgley (-), 8 Ruth Baxter (L) (-), 9 Caroline Stocks (Br) (9), 10 Diane Malpass.

Key

Ba—Barnsley, Br—Bradford, De—Dewsbury, Do—Doncaster, Hal—Halifax, Har—Harrogate, Hud—Huddersfield, Hul—Hull, L—Leeds, R—Rotherham, S—Sheffield, W—Wakefield, Y—York.

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

WESTERN TRUST INCREASE THEIR SPONSORSHIP

Really good news for the County this season is that Western Trust and Savings Ltd. have not only continued their sponsorship but have actually increased the amount of money they gave us last season. The County Executive Committee had already decided to enter four teams in the County Championships and with three junior teams involved the sponsorship will go a long way to giving our promising juniors much needed county table tennis experience. With other costs escalating all the time we are deeply grateful for the help and encouragement being given to us by Western Trust and we sincerely hope we can justify their faith in us. Once again we are greatly indebted to County Treasurer David Wood and Fund Raising Officer Adrian Wright whose efforts and well presented discussions on our affairs did much to obtain the much needed sponsorship.

I'm sure everyone connected with the County will join me in congratulating Elaine Lamb and Mike Short who announced their engagement early in November. Two of the most popular players in the county and we wish them every happiness for their future together.

The county ranking lists issued for December show little change from the previous one. In the women's list Penny Perry from Exeter forces her way into the number six spot whilst Elizabeth Crews, from Plymouth makes her first appearance at number eight in the girls' list.

The full lists are:-

Men

1 Paul Whiting, 2 Mike Shearman, 3 Mike Short, 4 Gary Lambert, 5 Paddy Shephard, 6 Barry Davis, 7 Keith James, 8 Bill Northcott, 9 Adrian Wright, 10 Paul Giles.

Women

1 Elaine Lamb, 2 Carol Butler, 3 Gina Pritchard, 4 Mavis Scott, 5 Jane Hatton, 6 Penny Perry, 7 Sue Tilley, 8 Debbie Roberts, 9 Nicola Pine, 10 Julie Pritchard.

Boys

1 Whiting, 2 Lambert, 3 Colin Bunch, 4 Gary Wiltshire, 5 Paul Waldron, 6 Tony Sweet, 7 Mark Ellett, 8 Neil Wilson, 9 Gary Wilson, 10 Paul Farrell, 11 Mark Weymouth, 12 Kevin Giles.

Girls

1 Butler, 2 Pritchard, 3 Theresa Sugden, 4 Cara Rowe, 5 Sarah O'Leary, 6 Susan Butler, 7 Dana Kratochivila, 8 Elizabeth Crews.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

LUCKLESS SANDRA

The major event in the local Association's calendar, the County Closed Championships were held at St. Neots T.T. Centre over the weekend of Nov. 17/18.

The men's singles saw little in the way of surprises with the top four seeds reaching the semi-finals. One seed, however, Sid Burgess was well beaten in his group by young Keith Willett who did well to reach the last eight in this event. At the semi-final stage No. 1 seed Les Wooding (St. Ives) beat Alan Gray (Peterboro) 15, 13 whilst the second seed Tim Speller (St. Ives) ousted last season's winner Alan Albon (St. Neots) 20, 14. In a fine final Wooding's more con-

sistent play saw him home by a -19, 18, 11 scoreline.

In the women's singles 16-years-old Sandra Randall came to the table for the first of her three finals. At this stage she met the more experienced Jean Allinson (Peterboro) going down -17, -6.

The men's doubles gave Speller and Mark Fisher (St. Ives) their second doubles title with a final win over the Peterboro pairing Gray and Gregg Baker whilst the women's doubles title went to mother/daughter Evelyn and Jean Allinson with a final win over Diane Gutteridge and Sandra Randall at 17 in the 3rd. The mixed also went to Peterboro as Gray and Pip Baker defeated Stan Roberts and Diane Gutteridge in the final 16 and 18.

In the boys' final Graham Dale (Peterboro) defeated clubmate Paul Rogers, the latter having earlier defeated second seed Richard Wells. The girls' title saw the Randall sisters in the final with Janet winning in three games against the luckless Sandra who completed a haul of three runners-up medals.

The Cadet boys' title was won by St. Ives Junior Richard Ballard who beat R. Pattell of St. Neots 16 and 14 in the final, whilst the U-14 girls' gave Michelle Fellows (St. Ives) her first title in overcoming Tracey Reeves in the final. The U-12 event saw yet another Randall, this time Peter, getting the better of Giles Watts (St. Ives) in the final.

The Paul Charlton Memorial for boys, aged between 17 and 21, gave Keith Lakin, a much-improved player, a final win over past winner Mark Fisher. The veterans' title went to Len Saywell (St. Neots) who defeated Colin Dale in the final whilst the lower divisional singles, which proved a great success in its first year, gave Pat Gale a straight-games win over Richard Ballard in the final. Many thanks must go to the tournament secretary, Bill Walker, for his smooth handling of this 2-day event.

The latest county rankings are:-

Men

1 L. Wooding (St.I), 2 T. Speller (St.I), 3 A. Gray (P), 4 A. Albon (St.N), 5 R. Norton (St.N), 6 S. Burgess (St.I), 7 K. Lakin (St.N), 8 P. Berna (P), 9 A. Smith (St.I), 10 M. Fisher (St.I).

Women

1 S. Upton (P), 2 M. Ringrose (St.I), 3 A. Hillard (St.N), 4 D. Bushby (St.N), 5 D. Gutteridge (St.N), 6 S. Randall (St.N), 7 J. Randall (St.N), 8 B. Pace (St.N).

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

FEAST OF ENTERTAINMENT

One hundred and twenty-one competitors provided a record total of two hundred and eighty-nine entries for the twenty-ninth Northamptonshire County Closed Tournament, staged at Weavers Sports Centre, Wellingborough on Nov. 24.

Two years ago, Kettering, staging the first TSB-sponsored tournament, boosted the then steadily declining interest and entry by almost 40%, and subsequently, Northampton, and now Wellingborough have succeeded in maintaining the entry in both quantity and quality. However it is not without significance, that this uplift in enthusiasm, has coincided with the three years of Trustee Savings Bank sponsorship, now sadly at an end, and our thanks are extended to that organisation for all the help provided, during a rewarding, successful and co-operative three years.

Weavers, so strongly criticised in the past, had additional lighting provided for this occasion, but still, despite the strenuous efforts of a capable and hard-working Wellingborough League Committee, failed to provide an atmosphere worthy of the supreme efficiency of Tournament

Organiser, Arthur Palmer, the appreciative and sizeable audience, or the talented competitors who provided a plethora of table tennis expertise.

Once again leading the way in this feast of entertainment was Gary Alden, who just before midnight collected his fourth Men's Singles title by beating Keith Nicoll in a final too one-sided to enthral the watching spectators despite the rapidity of many of the close to the table exchanges, and some uncharacteristic defensive ploys from the confident champion.

Earlier it had been Nicoll who proved the more impressive, as he powered his way to the final with straight game wins over Robert O'Neil, Brian Wooding, Dave Marsh and Keith Jones, but Alden had also started well with comfortable successes over Gordon Oke and the colourful J. Tay, before being made to struggle by both David Gallo and Steve Lyon, who both took him to deciders before falling victims to the talented Rothborough player. Lyon indeed, with some rapier like returns to both wings had succeeded in showing Alden's vulnerability wide on the forehand, but in the final it was a different story, with Alden's class showing through to give Nicoll no chance of producing a surprise result.

In addition to the Singles crown, Alden partnered first by a top form Graham Feakin in the Men's Doubles, and by that fine doubles player Christine Price in the Mixed, completed an outstanding treble, becoming the first player to achieve the feat since John Goodall in 1967.

In the women's events, Mandy Wallis was scarcely less impressive, when retaining her Singles title with a win over older sister Anne, as after a close first game in which Mandy's slightly better control, just accounted for the final important points, she achieved top form in the second, to sweep away Anne's not insignificant opposition. Earlier in the semi-finals, Mandy and Anne had been extended by Connie Bane and Celia Abraham respectively, but when it came to the doubles, the Wallis sisters had no difficulty in winning for the fourth time with Helen Cottier and Joanne Cutler providing the opposition.

Mandy almost went on to emulate Ann Lenton's 1964 treble, and deny Alden his, but in the final of the Mixed, she and Keith Nicoll just failed to cope with the Men's champion, and went down narrowly in the best final of the day.

The Men's Doubles title had also seemed in doubt, when Dave Marsh and Steve Lyon had shaded the first game 23-21, but with Graham Feakin back to form, and Alden also at his best, the holders romped away with the next two. Marsh had an unhappy day after his recent triumphs, for playing as a Veteran for the first time, and seeded No. 1, he had to admit defeat in the Veterans' Singles, to his old adversary John Palmer, who thereby completed a hat-trick of wins in this event.

In many ways this was an 'as you were' championships, for titles were retained in eight of the twelve events, and in three Junior competitions, last year's winners had become ineligible, leaving just the Mixed Doubles as a genuine change of ownership.

In fact the Junior events went much as expected, with Keith Nicoll retaining his Boys' Singles title, with twin brother Ken providing some stern resistance before admitting defeat. However when this pair joined forces in the doubles, things did not go according to plan, for after taking the first game in customary and anticipated style, opponents Neil Knatt, who had an excellent day, and Richard Malfait, found some championship form of their own to take the second and third games and the title, with some fine play much appreciated by a partisan audience.

The tangled trio at the top of the Girls' Rankings eventually sorted themselves out, when Joanne Cutler gained narrow wins over both Jane Wallis in the semi's, and

Jane Nicoll in the final, to take the honours for the first time, but the two Janes fought back to make the Girls' Doubles a non-event with a comfortable win.

Jane Wallis added to her rapidly growing number of trophies with a straight-forward win in the Girls' Under-14 Singles, while Ian Hawes retained the Boys' Under-14 crown, with a series of flawless displays which augured well for his future prospects.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

Gary Alden bt David Gallo 14, -15, 13;
Steve Lyon bt John Horne -13, 5, 18;
Keith Nicholl bt Dave Marsh 17, 17;
Keith Jones bt Neil Knatt 16, 16.

Semi-finals:

Alden bt Lyon -15, 15, 11;
Nicoll bt Jones 19, 15.

Final:

ALDEN bt Nicoll 13, 9.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

Mandy Wallis bt Connie Bane 19, 13;
Anne Wallis bt Celia Abraham 20, -15, 14.

Final:

M. WALLIS bt A. Wallis 20, 13.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Alden/ Graham Feakin bt Romano Gallo/
Horne 11, 16;

Lyon/Marsh bt John Palmer/Dennis
Millman 17, 19.

Final:

ALDEN/FEAKIN bt Lyon/Marsh -21, 13, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

A. and M. Wallis bt Joyce Porter/Margaret
Maltby 14, 13;

Joanne Cutler/Helen Cottier bt Christine
Price/Glennis Hooper 7, 12.

Final:

A. and M. WALLIS bt Cutler/Cottier 8, 16.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Keith Nicoll/M. Wallis bt Palmer/A. Wallis
17, 16;

Alden/Price bt Jones/Cottier 20, 11.

Final:

ALDEN/PRICE bt Nicoll/M. Wallis
-18, 14, 17.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

Marsh bt Cliff Bull 5, 8;

Palmer bt Millman 15, 12.

Final:

PALMER bt Marsh 16, 18.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Keith Nicholl bt Ian Hawes 12, 13;

Ken Nicholl bt Neil Knatt 8, 19.

Final:

KEITH NICOLL bt Ken Nicholl 15, 18.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Jane Nicoll bt Caron Wallis 10, 13;

Joanne Cutler bt Jane Wallis -19, 17, 11.

Final:

CUTLER bt Nicoll 17, -19, 19.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Nicoll/Nicoll bt Neil Ridge/Peter Tribe
16, 16.

Knatt/Richard Malfait bt Hawes/Steve
Kendall 19, 18.

Final:

KNATT/MALFAIT bt Nicoll/Nicoll -14, 9, 19.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

C. Wallis/Jill Philpott bt Sue Nannery/Julia
Kendall 11, 17.

Nicoll/J. Wallis bt M. Shears/Cutler 12, 12.

Final:

NICOLL/J. WALLIS bt Philpott/C. Wallis
22, 13.

Boys' Under-14 Singles Semi-finals:

Ian Hawes bt Nigel Metcalfe 12, 13;

Louis Mann bt Andrew Edmonds 15, 13.

Final:

HAWES bt Mann 9, 11.

Girls' Under-14 Singles Final:

WALLIS bt Kendall 8, 3.

The last series of County Championship matches produced a narrow win and a draw, and a more optimistic outlook for the future.

The First Team confirmed a recent superiority over Bedfordshire, although a weakened opposition may not have constituted a fair test for Alden and Lyon, who both won twice, while Romano Gallo accounted for former Northampton player Paul Birch.

Although Mandy and Anne Wallis

gained a breath-taking 17, -18, 23 win in the Women's Doubles, Mandy fell to the experience of Barbara Hammond and Anne to the youthful brilliance of Jackie Bellinger, before Gallo made the match safe in the final singles.

The Seconds drew with Hertfordshire, but here it was the ladies who held sway, with the contrasting styles of Helen Cottier and Connie Bane gaining easy singles wins and combining for a doubles, before Marsh and Tim Chamberlain, on his debut, squared the match in the final encounter.

Woodfield 1-Star Open

MIDLAND MECCA

by JOHN PIKE

Cometh the day, cometh the man. Last year in this tournament at Wolverhampton Andrew Bellingham missed out in the final of the men's singles, but this year over the weekend of Nov. 3/4 he made no mistake when beating Martin Francis from Sussex with something to spare.

I have said on more than one occasion that the Woodfield Club is the mecca of Midland table tennis, and again this year, the club has done a marvellous job for a local charity. Something in the region of £200 will go to the Penn Home for handicapped children.

The big shock in the men's singles came in Rd. 3 when Leicestershire's Phil Smith put out the No. 1 seed from Hertfordshire, Richard Jermyn. Smith however, was beaten in the quarter-finals by young Andy Dixon, who did very well to reach this stage of the tournament. Another game that stood out for me, was the quarter-final clash between Paul Randell and Tony Isaac. Randell went through to the last four but it was the sort of table tennis that was appreciated by the large Woodfield crowd.

Janet Carr won the women's singles title for the second year in succession when beating Walsall's Jill Harris in an all-Staffordshire final. Janet also got her name on the women's doubles cup, when with Shirley Cain, they beat Jill Harris and Birmingham's Karen Groves. The game was held up for a short while as one of the shades parted company with the ceiling and finished up on the table.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks. That thought crossed my mind while watching the final of the men's doubles between Derek Schofield and Terry Donlan and Jermyn and John Payne. The Cheshire veterans were soon up against it and quickly dipped -13 in the first before taking control. The young pair from the south were given a lesson in defensive skills and on the night it was a just result.

A lot of good table tennis was seen from the four junior events which means the Woodfield tournament looks to be in good hands for many years to come.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Francis (Sx) bt P. Judd (Wa) 13, 19;
A. Dixon (St) bt P. Smith (La) -15, 19, 16;
A. Bellingham (St) bt J. Payne (He) 18, 18;
P. Randell (Le) bt A. Isaac (St) -15, 18, 15.

Semi-finals:

Francis bt Dixon 21, 18;
Bellingham bt Randell 18, 13.

Final:

BELLINGHAM bt Francis 11, 11.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

J. Carr (St) bt S. Cain (St) 11, 16;
J. Harris (St) bt K. Groves (Wa) -17, 10, 15.

Final:

CARR bt Harris 18, 14.

Women's Doubles:

CARR/CAIN bt Harris/Groves 12, 16.

Men's Doubles:

SCHOFIELD/T. DONLAN (Ch) bt Jermyn/Payne -13, 14, 21.

Veteran Singles:

SCHOFIELD bt Donlan 13, 13.

Girls' Singles:

HARRIS bt Cain 14, 11.

Girls' Doubles:

J. DEAKIN (Ch)/HARRIS bt J. Myers (La)/Cain 19, 11.

Boys' Singles:

S. SCOWCROFT (La) bt Dixon 8, -16, 15.

Boys' Doubles:

DIXON/J. DUFFIELD (Wo) bt B. Gleave/A. Taylor -20, 21, 20.

MIDDLESEX 2-STAR UNDER 15 OPEN

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

by IRIS MOSS

I begin to wonder what number of entries we could get in this event if we could accommodate them! This year's Championships were held at the Queensmead School Sports Centre, South Ruislip, on Nov. 10/11 with the boys playing on the Saturday and the girls on the Sunday. Despite having the two days, I still had to turn down over £25-worth of entries apart from those I had to disappoint by regretfully refusing to send them entry forms. We finished up with 128 boys in the U-15 Singles and Doubles; 64 boys in the U-13 Singles and 52 in the Doubles; 95 girls in the U-15 Singles and 86 in the Doubles; and 46 in the U-13 Singles and 42 in the Doubles. Taking the Consolation events into consideration, we had 372 matches to play on the Saturday and 269 on the Sunday on 12 tables. I am pleased to report that with the help of a few scratchings and a lot of hard work, we did finish all the events and at a reasonable time.

The number of entries in the Girls' events included a party of 24 girls from Leinster, all of whom seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. I thought I was being made the subject of an Irish practical joke when I received the first phone call from Ritchie Leonard — who wanted to bring 15 boys as well — but he convinced me that he really meant it and the only problem we had was to find a Guest House large enough to take them all.

The seeding in the Boys' U-15 went sadly awry, with the No. 1 seed losing in the first round (but happily winning the Consolation event), the No. 2 having to withdraw for County representation, and none of the others getting beyond the Quarter-finals. We did rather better in the U-13 Singles with two of our seeds coming through to play one another in one Semi-final. We anticipated correctly that Jackie and Lisa Bellinger would dominate the Girls' events, but doesn't it make it difficult to run a tournament to time when one player is in all four Finals?

The final results were:-

Boys' Singles U-15:

Andrew Dixon (St) bt John Sparks (E) 7, 13.

Boys' Doubles U-15:

Jeremy Duffield (Wa)/Dixon bt Chris Bryan (Li)/David Illingsworth (Y) 18, 13.

Boys' Consolation Singles U-15:

Gary Lambert (Dv) bt Michael O'Leary (Mi) 7, 6.

Boys' Singles U-13:

Andrew Barker (E) bt Ian McLoughlin (La) 16, 10.

Boys' Doubles U-13:

Ivan Smith (Sp)/McLoughlin bt Nigel Tyler (Mi)/Andrew Dodd (K) 9, 10.

Boys' Consolation Singles U-13:

Clive Geelan (Wa) bt Paul Attridge (K) 6, 13.

Girls' Singles U-15:

Jackie Bellinger (Bd) bt Lisa Bellinger (Bd) -16, 17, 16.

Girls' Doubles U-15:

J. and L. Bellinger bt Amanda Judd (Ca)/Michele Williams (Mi) 17, -13, 9.

Girls' Consolation Singles U-15:

Leanne Harman (Do) bt Jane Mills (Sy) 16, 19.

Girls' Singles U-13:

Lisa Bellinger bt Laura Goldsmith (Mi) 10, -20, 10.

Girls' Doubles U-13:

Lisa Bellinger/Goldsmith bt Deborah Ballard (E)/Lynne Bennett (Sy) 10, 18.

Girls' Consolation Singles U-13:

Julie Woodward (Ox) bt Nicola Taylor (Sy) 14, 15.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Currys Ltd. for providing the prize vouchers; the staff of Queensmead Centre who were extremely helpful on this occasion (perhaps because we were finished in good time!); the Umpires who gave up their week-end to work extremely hard; the players who apart from entering also helped with the umpiring; the parents and coaches who kept their charges in good order and helped with the umpiring too; and last, but not least, the members of the Middlesex Committee who worked a 12-hour day and pushed games forward to enable us to finish in good time.

HALEX 51st MIDLAND COUNTIES 3-STAR OPEN

TOP SEEDS TAKE THE BREAD

by GEO. R. YATES

Lancashire's John Hilton and Newdigate specialist Jill Hammersley had triple crown successes in the 51st Midland Counties 3-Star Open, played at the Alunwell Centre, Walsall over the weekend of Nov. 17/18, a tournament sponsored by Halex Sport Ltd. and boasting a prize fund in excess of £800.

Top prize of £175 went to Hilton, winner of the men's singles, but it was a tightrope that the Lancastrian walked in reaching for that handsome cheque which so very nearly was claimed by Paul Day who, in the final, was a game and 20-16 up!

Mrs. Hammersley too, was precariously balanced in her quarter-final meeting with Linda Jarvis who, in the third game decider, was 15-10 up at one stage. But from such positions champions are made and all credit to the winners.

The two combined to take the mixed after Hilton, with Dougie Johnson, had won the men's doubles and Mrs. Hammersley, with Mrs. Jarvis, had given an old fashioned thrashing to the youthful Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith.

But what of the other top seeds who never made the finals. Second seed Nicky Jarvis, in the men's singles, took a first round departure at the hands of Keith Richardson whilst Donald Parker succumbed to Day in Rd. 2. Day, of course not being seeded but likely to be hoisted up the ranking list when next revised.

Jimmy Walker, like Desmond Douglas, was an absentee although Walker had entered and was seeded No. 4. Mark Mitchell, seeded No. 5, was beaten by his namesake, Hankey, of Cheshire fame which county also provided the player to oust Graham Sandley in the person of Nigel Eckersley resplendent in natty gear.

Karen Witt, still having a bad time of it, took a third round exit at the hands of Angela Mitchell whilst Anita Stevenson, seeded No. 3 lost to Melody Ludi also in the quarters. Mandy Smith was the beaten finalist in the women's singles her victories being over Mesdames Buttery, Midgley, Gordon and Mitchell, a more than useful quartet to beat.

Kevin Satchell, seeded No. 3, was the winner of the boys' singles the top seeded Colin Wilson having departed in the quarters when beaten by Mark Thomas of Wales. John Souter, seeded No. 2, lost to Philip Bradbury who had earlier ousted No. 4 seed Mark Oakley.

In the counterpart girls' events Miss Gordon was in splendid form but all credit to Joy Grundy who had the distinction of knocking out the top seed, Mandy Reeves. Sue Peakman also peaked when taking out the No. 3 seed Helen Williams, a triumph for the Birmingham lass. And another triumph too for ace veteran George Evans of Wales who retained his title in no mean fashion when plastering Pete D'Arcy in the vets' final.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Hilton (La) bt D. Constance (Ch) -13, 22, 9;
M. Crimmins (Sy) bt D. Wells (Mi) 15, 17;
P. Day (Ca) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) -19, 17, 17;
D. Johnson (Wa) bt P. McQueen (Sy) 16, 10.

Semi-finals:

Hilton bt Crimmins 21, -19, 10;
Day bt Johnson 17, 9.

Final:

HILTON bt Day -17, 20, 11.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Hammersley (Bu) bt L. Jarvis (Sy) -18, 14, 19;
M. Ludi (Y) bt A. Stevenson (Le) 14, -12, 10;
M. Smith (Bk) bt A. Gordon (Bk) -12, 19, 4;
A. Mitchell (Mi) bt K. Witt (Bk) 14, -14, 19.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley bt Ludi 10, 12;
Smith bt Mitchell 22, 20.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY bt Smith 13, 9.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hilton/Johnson bt Day/N. Jarvis (Cv) 13, 11;
D. Welsman (Wal)/M. Johns (Ch) bt R. Potton (E)/
J. Kennedy (K) 19, 17.

Final:

HILTON/JOHNSON btb Johns/Welsman 16, 13.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hammersley/Jarvis bt M. Reeves (Mi)/S. Midgley (Y)
17, 8;
Gordon/Smith bt L. Fennah (Ch)/Stevenson 14, 19.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY/JARVIS bt Gordon/Smith 7, 7.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Hilton/Hammersley bt Johns/Ludi -14, 16, 7;
G. Sandley (Mi)/Gordon bt C. Rogers (Le)/S. Hunt (Li)
4, -17, 20.

Final:

HILTON/HAMMERSLEY bt Sandley/Gordon -14, 16, 8.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Thomas (Wal) bt C. Wilson (Mi) 11, 13;
K. Satchell (Wi) bt N. Abbott (Gs) 9, 10;
P. Bradbury (Bu) bt M. Byles (Wal) 12, 9;
J. Souter (Mi) bt P. Rainford (La) 16, 16.

Semi-finals:

Satchell bt Thomas 10, 21;
Bradbury bt Souter 15, 20.

Final:

SATCHELL bt Bradbury 20, -17, 11.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Reeves bt J. Deakin (Ch) 19, 21;
J. Grundy (La) bt L. Tyler (Mi) 18, -14, 12;
Fennah bt S. Peakman (Wa) 17, 18;
Gordon bt S. Cain (St) 10, 13.

Semi-finals:

Grundy bt Reeves 11, -17, 18;
Gordon bt Fennah 7, 11.

Final:

GORDON bt Grundy 18, 5.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Sandley/Wilson bt G. Baker (Wi)/Satchell 16, 19;
M. Oakley (Sy)/Souter bt P. Barnett/W. Bridgeman (St)
11, -20, 11.

Final:

SANDLEY/WILSON bt Oakley/Souter 22, -21, 17.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Reeves/H. Williams (Mi) bt J. Cheetham/L. Degg (Sp)
18, -17, 10;

Gordon/Tyler bt Cain/Fennah 15, 20.

Final:

GORDON/TYLER bt Reeves/Williams -13, 17, 20.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

G. Evans (Wal) bt G. Chapman (Sy) 10, 15;
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt D. Harris (Bd) 12, 14.

Final:

EVANS bt D'Arcy 7, 7.

Newbury Death

A former Kingsclere man, David Hiscock died while playing table tennis in Newbury on November 1. Mr. Hiscock, aged 43, who lived in Basingstoke, was playing for Kingsclere in a Newbury and District T.T. League match against Kleinwort Benson at the firm's social club in Bath Road, Newbury, when he collapsed.

Mr. Hiscock, who was married, had played in the league for 15 years and collapsed after losing a hard game. Team members tried to revive him, but he was dead on arrival at Newbury District Hospital. Mr. Hiscock also played in the Basingstoke League, Hants.

The deepest sympathy from all the league's players go to his widow and to teammates Ivor Cummings and David Smith. The match itself was abandoned and a draw agreed by the two captains.

WEST YORKSHIRE 1-STAR OPEN

WHITE ROSE DOMINANCE

by The Editor

In capturing five of the seven titles at stake Yorkshire players were giving little away at Parkside, Bradford in the West Yorkshire 1-Star Open on Nov. 11.

Indeed the only titles to escape them were the men's doubles, won by Tony Boasman and Phil Bowen of Lancs., and the veterans' singles claimed by Terry Donlon of Cheshire.

Otherwise it was white rose dominance with Kevin Beadsley claiming the men's singles and Linda Hryszko the women's singles, the latter with Helen Shields also winning the women's doubles.

Mark Illingsworth was a worthy winner of the boys' singles and Lesley Broomhead took the girls' title beating Julie Todd in the final after a titanic struggle with Melanie Seaton in the semis.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y) bt A. Boasman (La) 12, 10;
R. Priestley (Y) bt M. Stephenson (Y)
17, 17;

B. Johns (Ch) bt D. Schofield (Ch)

-14, 19, 17;

P. Bowen (La) bt T. Bottomley (Y)

17, -20, 18.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Priestley 16, 14;

Bowen bt Johns 9, 19.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Bowen 16, 14.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

L. Hryszko (Y) bt J. Speight (Y) 16, -14, 11;

H. Shields (Y) bt E. Blackbourne (Du) 10, 7;

J. McLean (Y) bt V. Wilson (Du) 17, 5;

J. Carr (St) bt L. Broomhead (Y) 17, 11.

Semi-finals:

Hryszko bt Shields -20, 21, 13;

McLean bt Carr 12, -18, 17.

Final:

HRYSZKO bt McLean -17, 17, 10.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Boasman/Bowen bt Beadsley/K. Guy (La)

21, 19;

T. Donlon (Ch)/Schofield bt Johns/W.

Percival (Ch) 23, 19.

Final:

BOASMAN/BOWEN bt Donlon/Schofield

16, 19.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Broomhead/Speight bt Carr/McLean

18, -20, 18;

Hryszko/Shields bt T. Robertshaw/J. Todd

(Y) 15, 16.

Final:

HRYSZKO/SHIELDS bt Broomhead/
Speight 16, 17.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Illingsworth (Y) bt I. Duxbury (Y)
17, 17;

N. Edgecock (Y) bt S. Brunskill (Cv)

-13, 12, 17;

C. Freely (La) bt D. Indriks (Y) 11, 21;

K. Thompson (Y) bt M. Werner (Do)

18, -21, 18.

Semi-finals:

Illingsworth bt Edgecock -14, 12, 18;

Freely bt Thompson -17, 8, 17.

Final:

ILLINGSWORTH bt Freely 17, 18.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Todd bt Wilson 11, 19;

B. Hoyle (La) bt Robertshaw -22, 17, 17;

Broomhead bt Blackbourne 7, 2;

M. Seaton (Y) bt R. Brook (Y) 14, 17.

Semi-finals:

Todd bt Hoyle 12, 14;

Broomhead bt Seaton 20, -8, 21.

Final:

BROOMHEAD bt Todd 9, -18, 16.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

G. Brook (Y) bt J. Walton (Y) 17, 17;

Donlon bt K. Hurley (Y) 6, 18.

Final:

DONLON bt Brooks 13, 16.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

STILL UNDEFEATED

Unchanged from the team victorious against Northumberland at Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire made the cross country trip to North Hykeham on Dec. 1 and came away against Lincolnshire with a 9-1 win under their belts to maintain their unbeaten sequence.

Young Paul Rainford was the only player to falter, against Brian Hill who, in turn, lost to John Marshall the only non-Preston player in the Lancs. team.

RESULTS:

D. Skerratt lost to J. Marshall -18, -8;

N. Parkin lost to S. Turner -15, -18;

B. Hill bt P. Rainford 18, 15;

Miss S. Hunt/Miss G. Sharpe lost to Miss

J. Grundy/Miss J. Parker -19, 18, -13;

Hill/Skerratt lost to Marshall/Rainford

-19, -16;

Skerratt lost to Turner -13, -10;

Miss Sharpe lost to Miss Parker -15, -16;

Hill lost to Marshall -19, 16, -12;

Miss Hunt lost to Miss Grundy -19, 14, -16;

Parkin lost to Rainford -11, -14.

On the same day Lancashire's juniors made the trip to Colwyn Bay to take on Clwyd and with Bolton's Stephen Scowcroft restored to the side, to the exclusion of Andrew Christopher, and Bury's Beverley Hoyle, to the exclusion of Heather Stirrup, a 7-3 victory was obtained.

This was a splendid win and much credit was attaching to the boys' doubles success of Scowcroft and Paul Ashcroft of St. Helens who beat Mark Thomas and Mark Byles. Thomas won both his singles and Byles had a win over Ashcroft. But the Red Rose girls gave nothing away not even to Sue Powell.

RESULTS:

M. Byles lost to S. Scowcroft -15, 18, -12;

R. Isherwood lost to P. Ashcroft -19, -19;

M. Thomas bt C. Freely 12, 9;

Miss N. Cotter/Miss S. Powell lost to Miss

H. Frost/Miss B. Hoyle -14, -14;

Byles/Thomas lost to Ashcroft/Scowcroft

-18, 15, -17;

Byles bt Ashcroft 23, 13;

Miss Cotter lost to Miss J. Myers -7, -18;

Thomas bt Scowcroft 10, 20;

Miss Powell lost to Miss Frost -9, -20;

Isherwood lost to Freely -21, -14.

The revised Boy's rankings list now reads:-

1 Paul Rainford (Preston) 2 Stephen Scowcroft (Bolton), 3 Chris Freely (Bury), 4 Paul Ashcroft (St. Helens), 5 Andrew Christopher (Mid-Lancs), 6 Winston

CHANGE OF DATE

The Hartlepool 1-Star tournament will now be held at the Rossmere Centre, Hartlepool on Sunday, Feb. 3, 1980.

The tournament has been sponsored by the Hartlepool Civic Lottery Fund and will carry a cash prize fund of £260. Entry forms may be obtained from:-

M. Green, 52 Ventnor Avenue, Hartlepool, Cleveland. Tel. 0429 78589 (H)

D. Hutchinson, 19 Beachfield Drive, Hartlepool, Cleveland. Tel. 0642 223333 (B).

Requests for entry forms must include a stamped addressed envelope. Entries close on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 1980.

Johnson (Preston), 7 Douglas Mayall (Manchester), 8 Andrew Gray (Preston), 9 Gary Deakin (Farnworth), 10 Kevin Walsh (Lancaster/More.), 11 Ian McLoughlin (Bury), 12 Johnathan Moore (Preston).

Matches for Jan. 19 bring Cheshire II to play Lanes. I at British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, Bolton for a 6.30 p.m. start in Division 2 (North) whilst at the Post Office Motor Transport Depot, Bamber Bridge, Preston the Juniors tackle Cheshire at 2.30 p.m. and Lincolnshire at 6.30 p.m. in Junior 2 (North).

The lifting of a ban on Denis Neale within Lancashire has enabled the former English international to turn out for Farnworth in Division 1 of the Lancashire and Cheshire League. He turned out for them on Oct. 29 and obliged with a treble against Salford's John and Ron Weatherby and Ron Vose and further combined with Steve Cowley for a doubles success. Farnworth only just managed it 6-4 the other two wins coming from Cowley who lost to Vose.

Manchester have begun their campaign with wins over Salford (10-0) and Liverpool (3-2) in the latter engagement on Merseyside Keith Williams had a win over Tony Boasman and figured with John Marshall in a doubles success. Otherwise it was one way traffic for Phil Bowen and Mark Hankey with Boasman being successful against Wayne Percival and Marshall.

In the battle of the promotees Stockport leathery Bolton 9-1 the sole home success coming from Nigel Hallows who beat Dave Hulme but nothing was given away by the ace veteran Derek Schofield nor by Roger Hampson. Preston have maintained their winning ways beating St. Helens 9-1 with Tony Rigby losing to Les Molyneaux, and further accounting for Bolton 8-2.

In this latter engagement Stephen Scowcroft had a notable win over Paul Rainford and Tony Rigby lost to Hallows, Steve Turner was unbeaten.

In the Women's Division 1, champions Stockport were held to a 5-all draw by Preston who now have the services of Joy Grundy whose treble success took in Doreen Schofield, M. Lypnyckyj and D. Coulthard. Jean Parker added one win, against Mrs. Schofield and the two young Lancashire county players won the doubles.

Manchester with wins over Bolton (8-2), St. Helens (9-1) and Southport (8-2) lead the field being the only unbeaten team in the division, their team comprising Mary Leigh, Jean Nield and Anne Sweeney.

Manchester's team in Junior Div. 1 is also unbeaten with wins over Warrington (7-3) and Bolton (8-2) with Tony Taylor beating Scowcroft in this latter engagement. Preston too, the defending champions, are also unbeaten with wins over Barrow (7-3) and Bolton (6-4) both without the services of Rainford. Also unbeaten are Bury whose victories have been over Barrow (9-1) and Warrington (6-4) with McLoughlin unbeaten in both matches.

Monday, Dec. 10, is the date Steve Cowley departs these shores for Australia and he will live with his sister Mrs. Diane Warlitt at 16 Dolphin Street, Macgregor, Brisbane, Queensland 4109. Steve's place in the Farnworth inter-league team will be hard to fill and his reluctance to play for the county has been hard to understand. However, good wishes go with him, and doubtless his loss will be Australia's gain. Remember Steve's win over Desmond Douglas in the North of England Open? That's my boy!

HALEX DOUBLE AT CLEVELAND

Players sponsored by Halexport took both the Girls' and Boys' Championship titles at the recent Cleveland Select tournament. Alison Gordon, from Reading, Berkshire, is in tremendous form at the moment, and she had a fine win over Joy Grundy to add another victory to those already gained this

season. In the Boys' final, Graham Sandley from Potters Bar, Herts., beat his old rival and club-mate Colin Wilson; such was Graham's form that he did not drop a single game throughout the entire tournament.

ON THE COACHING FRONT

'WARMING UP' OR 'PRE-MATCH ACTIVITIES'

by DONALD PARKER,
E.T.T.A. Staff Coach

The term 'warming up' is often very loosely thrown about and can be interpreted in several ways. For the sake of clarity in this article my interpretation of a warm-up is: 'Any pre-match activity that gives a player the best possible chance of realising his full potential when he goes onto the table'.

In this context the term pre-match is referring to the hour or so prior to the match and it is therefore necessary to examine any activities that could take place during this period that could enhance performance.

The types of activities that are necessary to achieve this fall into four categories, Physical, Technical, Tactical, and Psychological. Therefore if a player who is evenly matched in a particular match but finds himself 3-10 down the answer lies in his pre-match preparation which is divided into the above four areas.

It is necessary at this point to examine in detail these four areas and the types of activities that need to be carried out to achieve optimal condition. For a peak performance all four need to be at optimal level and an inefficient preparation in only one could be the cause of a poor performance.

TACTICAL ACTIVITIES

These are necessary to ensure that you are familiar and fully aware of your opponents style, his weaknesses and strengths and how you are going to play to them. If it is at all possible you should watch your opponent closely before the match and discuss his style of play with your coach.

It is obviously advantageous to have a short practice session with someone with a similar style and bat to your opponent just before you go on the table. Once on the table in the two-minute knock-up before the start you do not reveal to your opponent your strengths or give him an opportunity to see what your heavy topspin or backspin are like. For example very few world class defenders chop in the two-minute knock-up before the match starts. Finally with so many variations of combination bats available it is necessary to examine your opponent's bat carefully, which the rules entitle you to do.

Failure to do any of the foregoing homework by the player and coach can result, and often does, in a distinct disadvantage often resulting in the loss of an important game which could have been won.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

A physical warm-up is necessary to ensure that the body is capable of the maximum effort and the maximum range of movement which in turn will inevitably decrease the risk of injury.

Basically, there are two bodily systems that need to be 'warmed-up', the cardiovascular system and the muscular system. The cardio-vascular system is 'warmed-up' by jogging, skipping etc., activities that make the heart beat a little faster. It is important not to over do this part of the physical warm-up as the lower an individual's heart beat is when play commences the better.

Once the heart rate passes 120 then various neuro-physiological processes such

as concentration break down and therefore to increase the heart rate can have a detrimental effect on performance. The muscular system is 'warmed-up' and 'loosened' by rotating and stretching the various limbs and joints that are used in a game.

This part of the warm-up should take approximately 10 to 15 minutes while the first part approximately 5 minutes, depending on the time of day and the amount of activity that has been done previously. An excellent warm-up immediately prior to a match is shadow play i.e. playing against an imaginary opponent. I appreciate as much as anyone that when table time is precious, as it often is in English tournaments, it is necessary to keep physical warm-ups minimal but they are still necessary.

TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

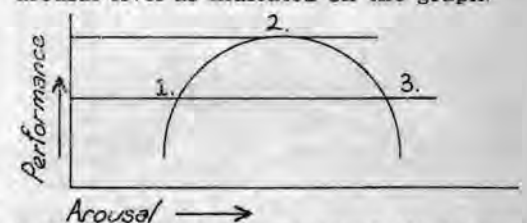
These are necessary to ensure that all the strokes and footwork patterns are working well under the match conditions. In order to stimulate match conditions in a pre-match 'knock' it is essential to use the same type of table and ball that will be used in the match. Once 'knocking up' it is important firstly to attain consistency in all your strokes and once this has been achieved footwork on a regular basis (i.e. set patterns) should be introduced.

Moving a little nearer the match situation irregular footwork exercises, such as switching, should be introduced. The most crucial part of any game is the serve and receive and these obviously come next combined with some short pushing to keep the rally 'tight'. Finally a player should finish by playing some points in a match like situation putting together all the exercises stated above. It is impossible to say how much time to spend on each type of exercise as this is dependent on two factors, firstly the time available and secondly an individual's style.

The first factor is overcome by, in the case of important tournaments, the provision of a practice hall and I would like to see more English tournaments providing this facility. However, whatever a player's style all the foregoing aspects of the game need to be covered in a pre-match 'knock'.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Psychological preparation is vital to ensure that the brain is at its optimal arousal level as indicated on the graph.



If a player is under aroused (1) or over aroused (3) he will not perform at his highest level (2). A player who is too nervous is over aroused while a player who is over-confident and taking it too easy is under aroused. For an introvert the graph curve shifts to the left which generally means a player needs calming down, however for an extrovert the curve shifts to the right which generally means the player needs 'psyching up'.

For example, the comment "This game is the most important in your life" can have disastrous effects on one individual and can act as an excellent motivator for another. Some players adopt the flight reaction, playing not to lose, instead of the fight reaction, playing to win, which can be corrected by an understanding coach. Phobias against a particular ball, table, opponent, etc., can be corrected by various psychological techniques which would need more detail than is available in this article to discuss.

The higher the standard you play or coach at, then the more important this area becomes as with top class players, skill is a relatively common factor.

PING COMMENTARY

JOHN WOODFORD

**Deputy Table Tennis Correspondent,
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH**

LONELY AT THE TOP?

Sorry to return to the Olympic controversy, but I agree with every word of Peter West's letter in the last issue. No doubt Roy Evans will come up with valid reasons why he decided to continue with the last world championships when they amounted to a political adventure for North Korea and very little else.

I believe that if there are persons in the corridors of power who support his decision last April they should either say so or say they disagree. What I fear for Mr. Evans, is that in keeping silent, the experienced administrators are expressing their view which is that they did **not** agree with his April decision.

So, it still seems lonely at the top of the mountain for the President of the I.T.T.F. Again, he seems to lack support in the proposed marriage between table tennis and the Olympic movement.

Turning to the report on the Olympic Mediterranean Games at Split in July, I am amazed to read that our old friends Jacques Secretin and Dragutin Surbek met in the final of the men's singles! Both men have won substantial amounts of cash playing table tennis in England, heaven (and their accountants) knows how much they have won elsewhere!

So, how can these gentlemen play in an Olympic event in Yugoslavia? There seems no possibility of them being rated anything but professional, so the chances of them appearing in say the 1988 Olympics or even their ultimate successors, seem as remote to me as Roy Evans standing alone on that misty Welsh mountain-top.

Reply to the John Woodford Column on the National Club League and relevant publicity — November Edition of T.T.N.

Lack of national publicity concerning the National Club League has been the subject of many heated discussions between E.T.T.A. members over the past few months and after John's comments, I think it will continue to remain that way.

Whilst accepting these comments made by an established and well-respected journalist, I found it incredible to read such copy which must create a dampening effect on every Press Officer concerned with a club playing in this League and amongst E.T.T.A. officials themselves.

If you try hard enough however, a way can be found around almost anything and after acting as Liaison Officer for press cuttings from National League Clubs, I think we are already well on the way to finding a solution to the problem, although it needs full co-operation from our table tennis friends in the press world — including John.

I will now answer John's points from a National Club viewpoint:

1. Adequate arrangements were not made in time for the start of the season with the London-based news agencies to accept and transmit the results.

(a) We are not at the start of the season anymore and there has now been plenty of time to sort this problem out. What we cannot expect is to send results to the Press Association late on a Sunday evening and expect to see them in the following morning's papers. Those results, must be on the

duty officers desk within minutes of the games finishing and by 19.00 hrs. at the latest.

2. The agencies will argue that many sports now have National Leagues, one of the latest being hang-gliding. If the agency agrees to transmit table tennis National League results they have a weak answer when a number of other sports ask for similar treatment.

(a) Poppycock. Hang-gliding is most certainly a minority sport but Table Tennis is not. In order to realise this, you must forget about official E.T.T.A. membership figures because the sport goes much further than that. How often have you visited a Leisure Centre and found a table tennis table not in use? Rarely I think because the plain fact is our sport is a family sport and is now the second largest participation sport in the United Kingdom.

Another plain fact is that newspapers are produced to sell to the public and if a particular one does not have the copy content that you require then you will change newspapers. Whether the National Press believes it or not, our National Club League is big news and sooner or later our Fleet Street friends will have to recognise this fact and act accordingly.

3. For obvious reasons agencies cannot have their telephone lines and copy takers swamped with numerous individuals sending in results thus blocking their lines for more important happenings taking place all over the world.

(a) In the first place, all National League Clubs are asked to phone results to one central body who in turn phones the press association — not numerous individuals, just one man! If we are having trouble getting the results through why not phone

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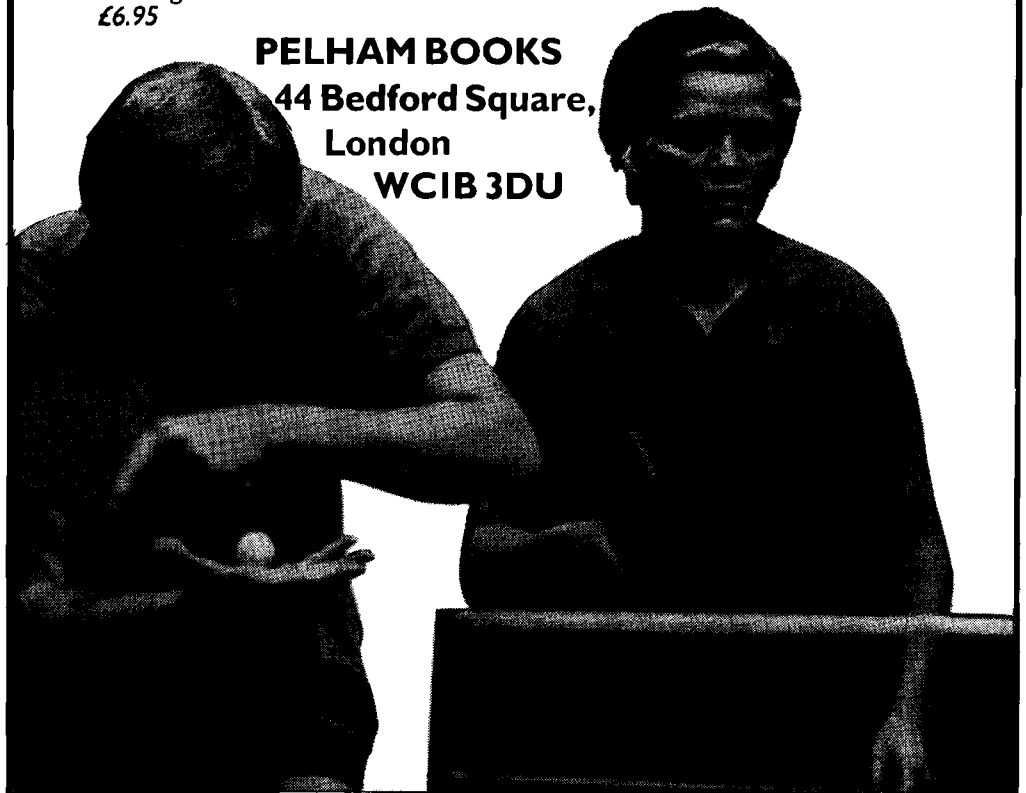
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them through direct to the newspapers -- John please take note!

4. From the National Press point of view and indeed all national media our National League is still a club-level event, even though it contains most of the best players in the country.

(a) It might be a good idea if our Fleet Street friends come to see some of the matches. I can honestly say that some of the table tennis seen at Sealink Milton Keynes matches would not be bettered anywhere in the world. A new type of player is now emerging from these matches — a team player well equipped to withstand any pressure he might encounter whilst actually on the table. Quote from a leading player — “National Club League matches are completely different from any other. The pressure is on you from every angle and every match is like representing your country”.

Also for the first time ever, many of these matches are being promoted specially to attract spectators. My club is building up a large following and such is the atmosphere, tension and enjoyment that more and more people are coming — Yes a following for National Club League matches is beginning to build up.

(e) Unfair as it may sound, national newspapers are immediately less interested in any table tennis event if our two world-class players Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley are not competing.

(a) The point is taken, and agreed with. However there is still much to see and report on. The problem is getting you to matches to prove this point.

(f) The National League is scheduled to occupy no less than 14 weekends during the season. There is no such thing as spare space in the National Press. We have a full programme as it is — I am assigned to cover 15 major events for “The Daily Telegraph” during the campaign, as an example. To cover regularly National League games in addition means that other sports would be cut out, its really not on, unless a real ‘story’ happens at a match perhaps a ‘punch-up’ between leading players or the presence of a ‘streaker’.

(a) There may be no such thing as spare space but there are what we call slack periods and instead of spiking table tennis news, there is no reason whatsoever why this could not be held over until such a period. I also happen to believe that table tennis does not get a fair crack of the whip when it comes to National Press Coverage. Why not cut some of the other sport out — most seem to get more coverage than us anyway!

Nobody stages anything better than myself, so if a ‘streaker’ or ‘punch-up’ is what it takes to get you and your colleagues to a match, then I will arrange it — who knows, you might find the table tennis played far more exciting and realise at last what we are trying to get over to you.

A last comment. Just to prove that many members of the media have realised the importance of National Club League table tennis I will say that Sealink Milton Keynes to date has achieved 1240 column inches of copy in newspapers throughout the United Kingdom, been featured extensively on local radio, been given a 15 minute slot on BBC Nationwide and has had two small pieces on “About Anglia”. Both BBC and Anglia television will be taking other games as the season progresses.

I also know that other National League Clubs have achieved similar press coverage.

The National League is indeed popular and I have a thick file of press cuttings and transcripts to prove it.

BRIAN ASHTON, M.A.I.E.,
Club General Manager,
Sealink Milton Keynes T.T.C.

LANCS AND CHESHIRE LEAGUE CLOSED

Ace Stockport veteran Derek Schofield was the winner of the men's singles event in the Lincs and Ches. TTL Closed Championships played at Bury's Castle Leisure Centre on Dec. 9. Beaten finalist was Manchester junior Tony Taylor who also lost in the boys' singles final to Stephen Scowcroft of Bolton. Janet Deakin of Warrington won the women's singles title beating Doreen Schofield in the final. Jean Parker (Preston) beat Beverly Hoyle (Bury) in the girls' final.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WELL AWARE OF FACTS

There is a great temptation to comment at length on the letter from Mr. Peter West and the article of Mr. John Woodford in your November issue, but I wish only to correct some misconceptions under which they both appear to be labouring.

In the first place I am disappointed that Mr. West should hint that I am only “in part” stating the facts as laid down by the International Olympic Committee. Having spent the best part of four years in close touch with the I.O.C. and having only this week been in conference in Budapest with Dr. Csanadi, Chairman of the Programme Committee of the I.O.C. on the many points concerning table tennis vis-a-vis the I.O.C. I think I can claim to be well aware of all the facts on this subject.

Nor is he correct in “taking issue” with the points made in my original letter, because if he examines that letter again he will find that at no time did I express any opinion, either my own or the ITTF's on the rights or wrongs of the I.O.C. concept. Mr. West is perfectly entitled to express his own opinion on these matters, but his disagreement must be with them, and not with what I said. I have merely stated the facts as they are, with the object of bringing them to the notice of players who may wish not to jeopardise an amateur status. Indeed to indicate that the ITTF takes no blinkered view of the present growth of commercial involvement, I specifically mentioned that I am all for such involvement, but I also believe in control of it.

Mr. Woodford states that both I.O.C. and I.T.T.F. are totally out of touch with the way sport in general is heading. Is it conceivable that either of these organisations, the one bringing together most of the sports in the World and the other in control of 124 table tennis playing countries can really be out of touch with all that is going on? Mr. Woodford can, if he wishes, accuse us of being wrong, but being “out of touch” is not one of our deficiencies.

Mr. West, in an attempt to cast doubt on our ability to handle these matters, tells us that the ITTF “made a mistake in holding our show case in North Korea”. I suspect that Mr. West has little or no knowledge of the circumstances of the playing of the 35th World Championships in North Korea, and in this respect it would have been kinder if he had said “In his opinion the ITTF made a mistake . . .”. May I again state a fact, not, I may hasten to add, an opinion. At the Biennial General Meeting at Pyongyang, only eighteen out of eighty-three Associations present indicated any opposition to the Council proposal that the Championships should proceed.

H. ROY EVANS, President,
International Table Tennis Federation,
198 Cyncoed Road,
Cardiff, CF2 6BQ.

TABLE TENNIS AND THE IOC

In commenting on Roy Evans' letter, John Woodford and Peter West have expressed only a very narrow English view about the recognition of table tennis as an Olympic sport. They have also rather missed the point.

In the first place, this recognition in no way affects the opportunities open for bringing more money into the sport through sponsorship — something which the ITTF itself does its utmost to encourage. The sport remains ‘open’, and all players will continue to play together, whether they are amateurs, pseudo-amateurs or unabashed professionals.

But the IOC recognition of table tennis is already bringing additional money into the sport in many countries, in particular those

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where government finance for sport is distributed through N.O.C.'s to National Associations. So the ITTF cannot take the parochial view that because professional players will not benefit, table tennis should have nothing to do with the IOC. To the ETTA's credit, they understand this perfectly well.

As for actual participation in the Olympic Games, the possibility is a long way off and our 122 member Associations will have the chance of deciding in due course whether any eventual invitation should be accepted. Roy Evans was merely pointing out that if table tennis is one day included, and if the ETTA should decide to send a team, it would be a pity for youngsters playing now to have excluded themselves merely through ignorance of the rules.

If the English decide to take no interest in all this, that's their privilege. The USTTA — who are no slouches where commercialism is concerned — were also originally very cool about the idea but since they have calculated that participation would bring in an extra \$150,000 a year in sponsorship for their amateur programme they have become one of the many national Associations urging the ITTF to press on with negotiations.

And meanwhile, the inclusion of table tennis in the Asian, African, Mediterranean, South Pacific and Pan-American Games has been of enormous value to our sport in general, even if John Woodford thinks these are only fringe events because the English do not compete in them.

TONY BROOKS,
Secretary-General, ITTF.

83 London Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex, TN37 6AY.

DETERMINED TO FIGHT

There has been a lot of controversy over the ETTA's National Council decision not to give automatic permission to English players who want to play abroad. As a result, Chris Sewell and I (both of us playing in Federal Germany this season) find ourselves 'out in the cold' for doing only what other players have done in the past — i.e. we have been forced to relinquish our ETTA membership in order to play in Germany. Generally a placid person, I am incensed at this blatant discrimination and infringement upon a player's freedom.

The ETTA did not offer me a contract — and yet are 'pressuring' me to stay when I am offered a contract elsewhere. This means that, in future, top players may be told that they are not wanted here (i.e. no ETTA contract available) and yet they should not play elsewhere.

The Packer Law case in cricket showed that what the National Council are trying to do is restrictive practice (Federal Germany is an E.E.C. country). It's about time table tennis had a progressive, professional outlook. Positive steps should be taken to improve table tennis in general — NOT RETROGRADE ONES. I am determined to fight this appalling restriction to the end.

ALAN FLETCHER.

5 Bracken Way,
Streetly,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.

DANGEROUS CLAIMS

I have often thought that the claims of individuals who think they hold some record or other are dangerous claims. Someone will either break the record immediately, or, the so called record is not a record at all.

Your correspondent from the Bradford League and his report of the excellent playing achievements of M. Gee (411 consecutive appearances) is a dangerous claim.

There is a player in the Cambridge League who played under paraffin lamps in the 1930s and is still playing. I myself represented the Cambridge Fire Brigade team from 1951/52 season until 1976/77 playing continuously for each of those seasons.

I am sure that these are not records but it supports the comments of another writer in the November issue who told of the "Grass Roots" of our sport.

It is better then to make comparisons only, as sure enough a vellum batted veteran will confound us all.

TONY BROTCHE.

59 Hertford Street,
Cambridge, CB4 3AF.

DUTY FIRST

In reply to Ron Rigg's letter published in the November issue, I feel I ought to say a few words — if only to put the record straight.

Yes I have heard comments concerning the withdrawal of certain Sealink Milton Keynes players from the Cumbria 2-Star Open and have now seen them in print not only in TTN but also in a National newspaper.

It might have been a good idea if these people had approached Sealink Milton Keynes in the first instance to seek our views.

I sympathise with Ron and his problems but my first duty is to my Club, my players,

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my sponsors and all table tennis fans in Bucks and surrounding Counties who give up their Sunday afternoons to support Sealink Milton Keynes. It is unfair to expect my players to play in some tournaments on a Saturday, arrive home in the early hours of Sunday morning, grab a couple of hours sleep, get up at the crack of dawn and travel some 200 miles to the match venue and then expect them to give their best in our National Club League matches.

It is unfair not only to them but also to my Club's sponsors and our fans. Also, Sunday travel is not always straight forward and my players have experienced great difficulty in getting to the match venue in time on some occasions. Indeed a train delay of some two hours seriously affected match preparations for the Ellenborough game which resulted in three of my players arriving at the match venue just 15 minutes before the start, therefore getting no table practise and going into the game stone cold.

Mr. Rigg might also like to know that the E.T.T.A. National Club League rules provide for some very substantial fines being slapped on clubs who's players fail to appear by the stipulated time, who start a match a player short etc., etc. — I can go on giving examples!

It is for these reasons, that Sealink Milton Keynes has decided to bring all its squad together on the day before a home match so that players get the right sort of match preparation.

It must also be remembered that the National Club League is a fully professional League and this fact very definitely places extra responsibilities on clubs.

Sealink Milton Keynes is determined to do the job right and if table tennis in this country benefits from our efforts then so much the better for everybody concerned.

I'm extremely sorry that one of our games clashed with the Cumbria 2-Star Open but this must happen at some stage if a prestigious project such as the National Club League has at fairly short notice, to be fitted in the Table Tennis Tournament Diary.

I'm sure the E.T.T.A. are at present looking into this problem with a view to overcoming it in time for the 1980-81 season.

I can only make amends Ron for our 'misendeavours' by inviting you to a Sealink Milton Keynes match — I can certainly promise you a warm and very friendly reception and a chance to 'air your grievances' in more detail to many sympathetic ears.

I could also put the record straight with regard to Sealink UK Ltd. who do not sponsor the National Club League — only a mere club in its Premier Division.

That club however is the 'tops'.

BRIAN ASHTON,
Club General Manager,
Sealink Milton Keynes T.T. Club.

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Bletchley,
Milton Keynes, MK3 5AU.

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WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by K. J. Moran

"21 UP FOR DOUGGIE"

The first of the new-style County Championship weekends coincided with Dougie Johnson's 21st birthday and he celebrated in style. Played at his old school, Washwood Heath, on Saturday, Nov. 10, the six County Premier Division teams taking part, Yorkshire, Middlesex, Cleveland, Kent, Cheshire and Warwickshire were well cared for and administered to by the Warwickshire Association. Our county team had two matches to play, versus Middlesex and Cleveland, with the southern county as favourites to press the holders Cheshire for this season's title.

Middlesex duly won this first tie 7-2, but what a fight our squad gave them, with Dougie taking both winning singles. He convincingly beat England No. 6 Mark Mitchell 11 and 11 and then took on the in-form Graham Sandley and triumphed 16 and 21. Of the other seven sets no less than 6 went to three games and Pat Glynn and Karen Groves were unlucky to lose the Mixed -19, 16, -19 to the highly-rated pairing of Colin Wilson and Angela Mitchell.

As this column has noted in the past Pat Glynn has been a revelation since his return to the first team in place of Simon Claxton. Incidentally, Simon has severed his connections with the county and we wish him well on his return to quieter waters.

The next question was, would the pressure exerted for such meagre rewards have an adverse effect on their second match versus Cleveland? Well, a 9-0 "whitewash" with all sets won in 2-straight games answered that query. Cleveland, for reasons of their own, fielded an under-strength team it is true, (perhaps the County Championship is now beneath the dignity of their star players), but No. 1 Keith Paxton did hold a recent victory over Dougie in a National League match. However, after pausing to blow out his candles, the Birthday Boy extinguished Keith 6 and 12 thereby reaching 21 for the ninth time in one day! — and inspiring his team-mates to show that we can worry the

best and beat the rest. What price the Championship should the "Bungesliga Backhand" return next season?

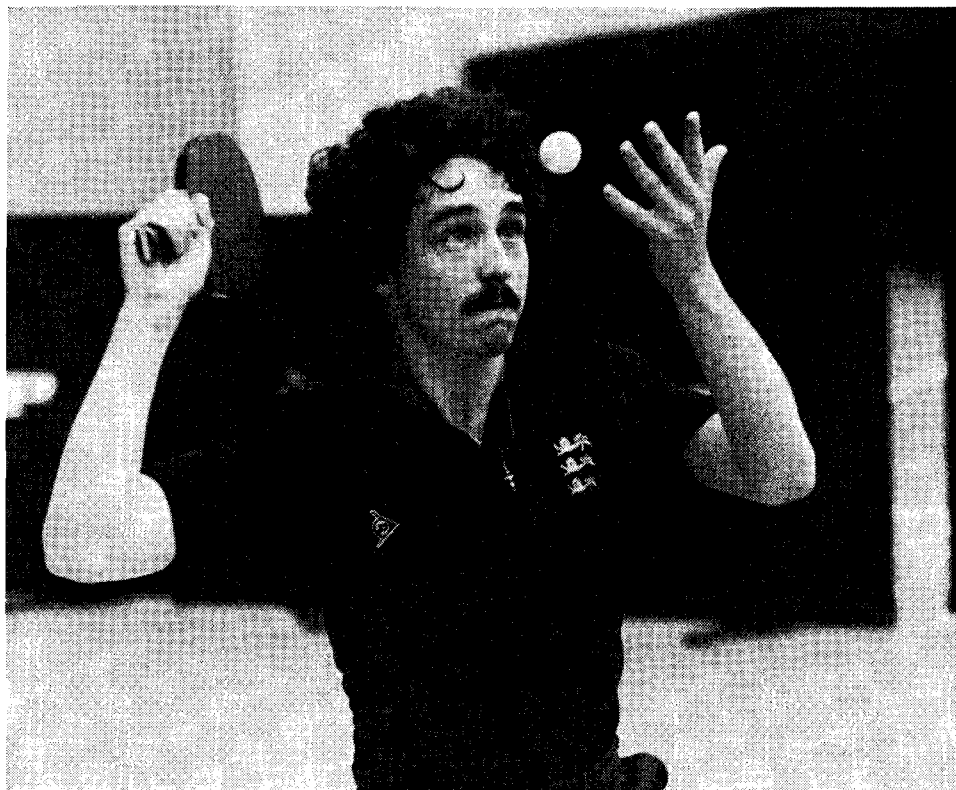
After seeing Super Des show his true form on television when he hammered the redoubtable Surbek on his way to the Jeep Invitation lolly, perhaps the people who mocked him, after his tired and over-played showing, in the Norwich Union Grand Prix will change their tune.

While the cheeky chappie was having his party at Washwood Heath, brother Barry Johnson was captaining the 'B' team to a 9-1 win over Gloucestershire at Rugby. Yes that's right, Rugby. The recently re-formed Rugby and District T.T.A. played host to their first county fixture and are to be congratulated on their efforts. The 'B' team gave them plenty to applaud with some close finishes for example Lester Bertie won his first game -10, 26, 16 and in his second took the third game 23-21 for victory. Jackie Harper was not to be outdone and beat Miss Jacobi 21-11, 29-27 in her set.

It was girls, girls all the way in the Junior 'A' fixture versus title favourites Nottingham where our youngsters travelled for a famous victory. After the three boys had played and lost to go 0-3 down, the Misses Brison and Williams won our first Girls' Doubles for ages and ages to stop the rot. This inspired Pilgrim and Grundy to win the Boys' Doubles, but poor Steve Smith lost a close set to leave us 2-4 down. However the two girls won their singles and the boys followed suit and we came home with the points!

Meanwhile, back at ranch the Cup competitions are once more underway. Forty-six entries in the "Mackie" Cup will keep the handicappers Brian Lloyd and Geoff Taylor busy and eight teams will contest the Warwickshire League. Sun Life Second City our local National League team from Birmingham have made a solid start, their only defeat to date was at the hands of Unity, the clear leaders. SLSC hold a firm second place and look good to finish in that position.

One last item about someone rarely mentioned, congratulations to D. Johnson on his selection for the England squad to play in the French Open at the end of November.



DOUGGIE JOHNSON

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17.

Christmas Prize Crossword

Mike Lawless, a former Development Officer of the E.T.T.A., has compiled this prize crossword puzzle in conjunction with John McDonnell, Public Relations Manager, of the Norwich Union Insurance Group.

As a form of tie-breaker, should there be more than one all correct solution, entrants are requested to add a maximum of ten words saying why the Norwich Union Masters is such an exciting table tennis event in this country.

A double three-day ticket for the Masters at Preston next year (May 7/9, 1980) is the prize at stake. Entries, marked **CROSSWORD** should be addressed to Mr. J. M. McDonnell, Public Relations Manager, Norwich Union Insurance Group, Publicity Department, 1 St. Stephen's Street, P.O. Box 48, Norwich NR1 3TA.

ACROSS

- 3 Circle to attack.
- 9 Robin?
- 10 Champion of the 50's.
- 11 Call up 3 for a whole new ball game.
- 12 Said to be an alternative for rowing.
- 13 Period.
- 15 A place to stay in North.
- 17 In the first round? Shame!
- 21 — Worlde.
- 22 Supreme service.
- 23 Shaped for medecine.
- 24 The end of the shorts and skirts.
- 26 Win this before you serve.
- 29 Best method of 58.

- 32 What most youngsters want for their country.
- 34 & 35 Mixed doubles?
- 36 Exist.
- 37 Youngest international.
- 38 Proverbially contrary and not always Wright.
- 39 Chinese player.
- 42 I go right for the Russian.
- 44 May venue for gathering of insurance experts?
- 49 & 48 down Does the T.T. playing judge remove his bat before taking this decision.
- 51 Capital place in a state.
- 54 Confused Russian at 41 heading North for an area that is often strained.
- 57 An objection across the channel.
- 58 It's no secret that 8 is its mistress!

DOWN

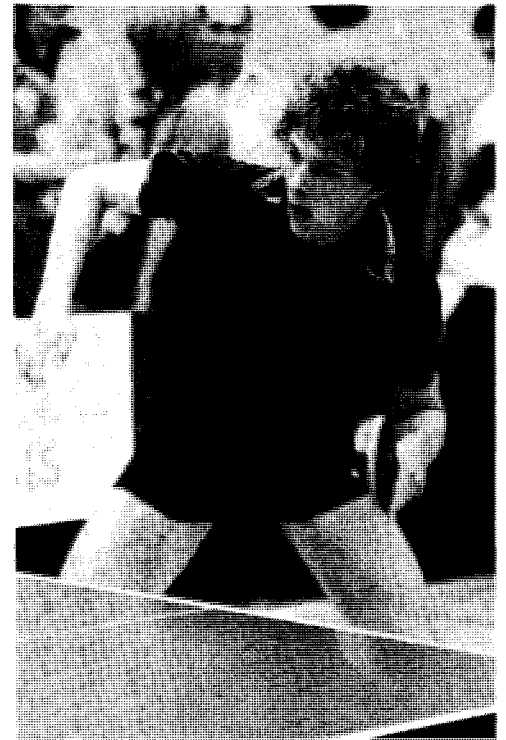
- 1, 2 & 25 The event of the year!
- 2 See 1.
- 4 He has already qualified for 1.
- 5 Call up 3 for a whole new ball game.
- 6 Straight is shortest but it can be crooked.
- 7 Connected with hearing.
- 8 She soundly beats a Chinese player.
- 11 An organiser who seems to be in favour of the internal combustion engine on wheels.
- 14 The winner's one is the place to be.
- 16 Born in France.
- 18 The direction to go for 14.
- 19 You need this to be at your best.
- 20 Trade in bat material.
- 25 See 1.
- 27 It looks like the first point against the server.
- 28 A dancing weapon.
- 30 Definite article.
- 31 For opening the music box?
- 33 Surely he doesn't play table tennis on the streets of San Francisco.

- 37 We hear that the common French policeman used to have a good back-hand.
- 40 Flynn or Caetano?
- 41 Pass on the top of a mountain.
- 43 Love all.
- 45 With this the piper gets the bird.
- 46 Shortened race.
- 47 The winner of 1 will make one for himself.
- 48 See 49 across.
- 50 Abbreviated examples.
- 52 Anyway, she's a woman.
- 53 Twitch.
- 55 About.
- 56 Conditional.

DEBENHAM'S CLEVELAND NATIONAL JUNIOR RANKING TOURNAMENT

POSITION CONFIRMED

by Richard Scruton



Graham Sandley (Middlesex) the boys' singles winner at Cleveland.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17.

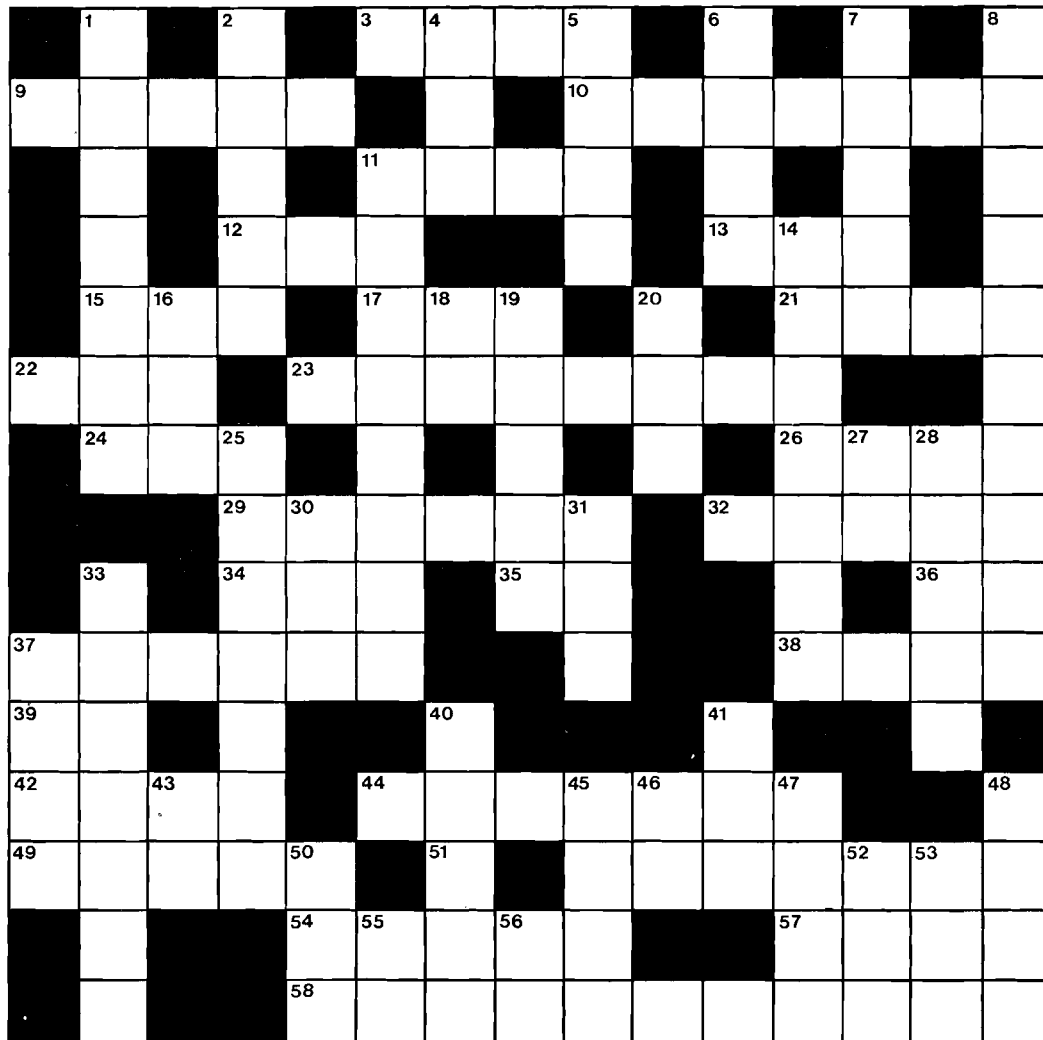
Graham Sandley confirmed his position as England's leading Junior player when he won the Boys' Singles event at the Debenhams Cleveland National Junior Ranking Tournament, played at Thornaby Pavilion on 24th/25th November.

In a repeat of last season's final, Sandley edged out second seed Colin Wilson in two very close games. Wilson let slip leads of 20-19 in the first game and 19-16 in the second and so Sandley reversed the result of the previous final.

Surrey's Glenn Baker was the surprise qualifier from the groups with wins over Stephen Moore and Peter Pudduck. Baker put out Suffolk's Stuart Palmer in the quarters, before falling to Sandley.

In the Girls' event, Alison Gordon beat two of her main rivals, Joy Grundy and Helen Williams to take the title. In the first

(continued on page 36)



(continued from page 34)

girls' group, tournament favourite Mandy Reeves was one of five players to finish with five wins from seven matches. The top two places were determined by points ratio and so Janet Deakin and Gina Pritchard, who had both beaten Miss Reeves, qualified for the quarter-finals.

In the Cadet Boys' the two leading players, Gary Lambert and Carl Prean, were untroubled as they reached the final without losing a game. In the final, 12-year-old Prean was very impressive and won in straight games.

Lisa Bellinger of Bedfordshire took the Cadet Girls' title, beating Yorkshire's Melanie Seaton. Again, both players came through their earlier matches unscathed.

The Ranking Tournament was the first of this season's Junior tournaments to be sponsored by Debenhams, with co-sponsorship from Cleveland County Council and Butterfly Table Tennis (UK) Limited, the Butterfly agents for the United Kingdom.

GROUP RESULTS:

Boys		
Group 1		
G. Sandley (Mi)	11-0	
P. Rainford (La)	10-1	
P. Brownlow (He)	8-3	
A. Moore (Sx)	8-3	
A. Booth (Sk)	6-5	
C. Bryan (Li)	5-6	
P. Stratton (Mi)	5-6	
A. Pilgrim (Wa)	5-6	
P. Namdjou (K)	4-7	
J. Chan (Cv)	2-9	
J. Wright (Bu)	1-10	
B. Johnson (Bk)	1-10	
Group 2		
C. Wilson (Mi)	11-0	
G. Baker (Sy)	9-2	
S. Moore (Sx)	8-3	
P. Pudduck (Sx)	8-3	
S. Brunskill (Cv)	6-5	
R. Watson (Ng)	5-6	
P. Jackson (Av)	5-6	
J. Hall (Sk)	4-7	
W. Bridgeman (St)	3-8	
I. Attridge (E)	3-8	
K. Green (Cv)	2-9	
J. Okosieme (K)	2-9	
Group 3		
J. Souter (Mi)	11-0	
P. Bradbury (Bu)	10-1	
M. Les (Mi)	8-3	
N. Bailey (Y)	7-4	
A. Withers (Sk)	7-4	
E. Gorniak (Mi)	5-6	
J. Duffield (Wo)	5-6	
P. Barnett (St)	4-7	
S. Scowcroft (La)	4-7	
A. Creed (Av)	2-9	
L. Taylor (Cv)	2-9	
K. Chamberlain (K)	1-10	
Group 4		
S. Palmer (Sk)	10-1	
K. Satchell (Wi)	10-1	
R. Swift (Ca)	8-3	
M. Oakley (Sy)	7-4	
A. Dixon (St)	7-4	
P. Roberts (K)	7-4	
T. Sanderson (Y)	4-7	
T. Taylor (Ch)	4-7	
M. Illingsworth (Y)	3-8	
G. Russell (Sy)	3-8	
A. Golding (Gs)	2-9	
G. Toole (Ha)	1-10	
Girls		
Group 1		
J. Deakin (Ch)	5-2	
G. Pritchard (Dv)	5-2	
M. Reeves (Mi)	5-2	
C. Butler (Dv)	5-2	
L. Tyler (Mi)	5-2	
S. Cresswell (Sy)	1-6	
J. Myers (La)	1-6	
J. Cheetham (Sp)	1-6	
Group 2		
A. Gordon (Bk)	7-0	
C. Creasey (Do)	6-1	
L. Garbet (Sy)	4-3	
J. Dowsett (E)	4-3	
L. Broomhead (Y)	3-4	
S. Cain (St)	2-5	
S. Peakman (Wa)	2-5	
T. Shortman (Av)	0-7	
Group 3		
H. Williams (Mi)	6-1	
S. Sandley (Mi)	6-1	
J. Bellinger (Bd)	6-1	
J. Fennah (Ch)	4-3	
S. Blackburn (Bk)	3-4	
J. Dimmock (Bd)	2-5	
J. Todd (Y)	1-6	
T. Robertshaw (Y)	0-7	
Cadet Boys		
Group 1		
G. Lambert (Dv)	7-0	
I. Smith (Sp)	6-1	
A. Sexton (Sy)	5-2	
M. Tufft (Sp)	4-3	
M. Jukes (Wo)	2-5	
P. Judson (Cv)	2-5	
N. Tyler (Mi)	2-5	
J. Stokes (Bk)	0-7	
Group 2		
S. Worrell (Li)	7-0	
D. Rook (Y)	6-1	
S. Bettmar (E)	5-2	
A. Devitt (St)	4-3	
G. McKim (Ng)	2-5	
J. Treweek (Ch)	2-5	
P. Coffey (E)	2-5	
A. Henry (Dy)	0-7	
Cadet Girls		
Group 1		
L. Bellinger (Bd)	7-0	
F. Elliot (St)	6-1	
T. Moore (Sx)	5-2	
M. Hams (Sy)	3-4	
V. Bellingham (St)	3-4	
L. Goldsmith (Mi)	3-4	
T. Fisher (Ca)	1-6	
J. Hudson (Cv)	0-7	
Group 2		
H. Bardwell (He)	6-0	
J. Ryalls (Y)	5-1	
S. Hadley (St)	4-2	
A. Boxall (He)	3-3	
L. Harman (Do)	2-4	
R. Brook (Y)	1-5	
A. Sparks (E)	0-6	
Group 3		
J. Grundy (La)	7-0	
J. Harris (St)	5-2	
E. Bolton (K)	5-2	
Y. Hall (Le)	5-2	
K. Mudge (E)	3-4	
J. Speight (Y)	2-5	
G. Sharpe (Li)	1-6	
C. Buglass (Nd)	0-7	
Group 4		
C. Prean (Ha)	7-0	
N. Hoare (Sy)	6-1	
I. McLoughlin (La)	5-2	
D. Polasek (Cv)	4-3	
D. Dewsbury (Sy)	2-5	
J. Wheel (Ca)	2-5	
P. Halliday (Bk)	2-5	
M. Jones (Sy)	0-7	
Group 4		
A. Cooke (Dy)	6-1	
P. Cole (Ca)	5-2	
S. Sharpe (Y)	5-2	
M. Ellett (Dv)	4-3	
P. Ashcroft (La)	3-4	
M. Schapira (Nd)	2-5	
M. Mercer (La)	2-5	
I. Doughty (Bd)	1-6	
Group 2		
M. Seaton (Y)	7-0	
T. Lightfoot (Ch)	6-1	
A. Judd (Ca)	5-2	
A. Barker (Sp)	4-3	
N. Tsakarisanos (Gs)	3-4	
L. Bennett (K)	2-5	
C. Bryan (Li)	1-6	
C. Mouzon (Nd)	0-7	
Group 4		
J. Parker (La)	7-0	
M. Denbow (Ox)	5-2	
N. Hamilton (Bu)	4-3	
A. Hillard (Ca)	4-3	
S. Collier (Bk)	4-3	
J. Evans (Y)	2-5	
R. Hunter (Mk)	2-5	
W. Worthington (La)	0-7	

RESULTS:

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
 G. Sandley (Mi) bt P. Bradbury (Bu) 13, 14;
 G. Baker (Sy) bt S. Palmer (Sk) 18, 11;
 P. Rainford (La) bt J. Souter (Mi) 15, 17;
 C. Wilson (Mi) bt K. Satchell (Wi) 8, -17, 14;
Semi-finals:
 G. Sandley bt G. Baker 14, 12;
 C. Wilson bt P. Rainford 18, 15.
Final:
 SANDLEY bt Wilson 21, 20.
Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:
 J. Deakin (Ch) bt S. Sandley (Mi) 18, -16, 12;
 J. Grundy (La) bt C. Creasey (Do) -17, 13, 17;
 H. Williams (Mi) bt G. Pritchard (Dv) 18, 7;
 A. Gordon (Bk) bt J. Harris (St) 14, 15.
Semi-finals:
 Gordon bt Deakin 15, 11;
 Grundy bt Williams 12, 15.
Final:
 GORDON bt Grundy 18, 12.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
 G. Lambert (Dv) bt D. Rook (Y) 12, 20;
 A. Cooke (Dy) bt N. Hoare (Sy) -13, 18, 18;
 C. Prean (Ha) bt P. Cole (Ca) 8, 12;
 I. Smith (Sp) bt S. Worrell (Li) -17, 19, 18;
Semi-finals:
 Lambert bt Cooke 13, 13;
 Prean bt Smith 11, 13.
Final:
 PREAN bt Lambert 14, 13.
Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:
 L. Bellinger (Bd) bt J. Ryalls (Y) 15, 15;
 J. Parker (La) bt T. Lightfoot (Ch) 15, 16;
 H. Bardwell (He) bt F. Elliot (St) 17, 20;
 M. Seaton (Y) bt M. Denbow (Ox) 16, 18.
Semi-finals:
 Bellinger bt Parker 14, 16;
 Seaton bt Bardwell 18, 7.
Final:
 BELLINGER bt Seaton 24, 18.



Berkshire's Allison Gordon, the top girl in the Junior Ranking tournament.
 Photo by Leo Black, London W11.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

WARSAW VICTORY

By beating Poland 5-2 in Warsaw on Dec. 6 England should have ensured themselves of another season in the Super Division of the European League as both Poland and Federal Germany have yet to register a win.

Desmond Douglas spearheaded England's win against the Poles winning both his singles and the mixed with Linda Jarvis. John Hilton justified his selection by winning the first set against Grubba and Jill Hammersley had a comfortable win over Jolanta Szatko.

Scores:-
 A. Grubba lost to J. Hilton -15, -18;
 L. Kucharski lost to D. Douglas -12, -11;
 J. Szatko lost to J. Hammersley -8, -11;
 Kucharski/Grubba bt Douglas/Hilton 18, 17;
 Kucharski/Szatko lost to Douglas/L. Jarvis -13, 11, -14;
 Grubba lost to Douglas -10, -12;
 Kucharski bt Hilton 17, -17, 18.

Other Results:-
Super Division
 Hungary 4 Sweden 3
 Federal Germany 3 France 4
 Yugoslavia 3 Czechoslovakia 4

Division One
 Netherlands 3 Austria 4
 Soviet Union 6 Greece 1
 Luxembourg 3 Turkey 4

Division Two
 Switzerland 6 Wales 1
 Finland 7 Belgium 0
 Norway 3 Denmark 4
 Ireland 3 Spain 4



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NORWICH UNION TROPHY

ORLOWSKI BEATS FAVOURITE
by John Woodford

Milan Orlowski of Czechoslovakia was the surprise winner of the £2,100 Norwich Union Trophy at the Black Lion Sports Centre, Gillingham on Dec. 4. In a thrilling final, Orlowski triumphed over the favourite and holder Tibor Klampar (Hungary) to win the £750 first prize.

The Czech No. 1, ranked second in Europe to Klampar, took the initiative from the start to win the first game 12. The crisis came for Klampar at the end of the long second game. Orlowski hit the edge of the table twice and was a lucky winner 25-23. Klampar tried hard to regain the initiative, but eventually desperation forced him into errors unworthy of his standing as the European No. 1.

He lost the final game -17 with Orlowski receiving a standing ovation from the huge crowd. Dougie Johnson (Warwicks) finished in 6th place after losing to the former world champion Istvan Jonyer (Hungary) but the Birmingham man collected £130 prize money.

RESULTS:

GROUP A

T. Klampar (HUN) bt I. Jonyer (HUN) 15, 16;
J. Dvoracek (CZE) bt M. Appelgren (SWE) 6, 17;
Klampar bt Appelgren 10, 18;
Dvoracek bt Jonyer -15, 19, 13;
Jonyer bt Appelgren 19, -18, 15;
Klampar bt Dvoracek 13, 16.

GROUP B

G. Gergely (HUN) bt J. Takacs (HUN) 15, 18;
M. Orlowski (CZE) bt D. Johnson (ENG) 14, 15;
Gergely bt Johnson 12, -12, 11;
Orlowski bt Takacs 16, 15;
Johnson bt Takacs 21, -11, 18;
Orlowski bt Gergely 12, 18.

Semi-finals:

Klampar bt Gergely 12, 20, 19;
Orlowski bt Dvoracek -19, 14, 18, 15.

Final:

ORLOWSKI bt Klampar 12, 23, 17.
5-6 place play-off:
Jonyer bt Johnson 15, 10.

NATIONAL CLUB LEAGUE

FIRST WIN FOR DENMARK

Denmark, in beating Macleans Maidenhead 8-1 at Gillingham, on Dec. 2, brought off their first win of the season and lifted themselves above their victims in the league table.

Soham remain unbeaten at the top following their 6-3 win over Newham with Paul Day maintaining his winning sequence.

England junior Skylet Andrew made quite a home debut for Sealink Milton Keynes against Kelly Girl Internationals beating Mike Johns and Dave Wells both in straight games. John Hilton also picked up two wins beating Max Crimmins and Peter McQueen.

RESULTS:

Premier Division

Sealink Milton Keynes 6 Kelly Girl Intls 3

Soham 6 Newham 3
Denmark 8 Macleans Maidenhead 1
Ellenborough 4 Ormesby I 5

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Soham	5	5	0	31	14	10
Sealink Milton Keynes	5	4	1	29	16	8
Ellenborough	5	3	2	25	20	6
Ormesby I	5	3	2	24	21	6
Kelly Girl Intls	5	2	3	24	21	4
Newham	5	1	4	21	24	2
Denmark	5	1	4	15	30	2
Macleans Maidenhead	5	1	4	11	34	2

Second Division

Unity 7 Seagulls 2
Ormesby II 7 March 2
Norton 2 Salford 7
Briarside 1 Sun Life Second City 8

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Unity	5	5	0	37	8	10
Sun Life Second City	5	4	1	34	11	8
Salford	4	3	1	18	18	6
Seagulls	4	2	2	19	17	4
Ormesby II	5	2	3	21	24	4
Briarside	5	2	3	18	27	4
Norton	5	1	4	14	31	2
March	5	0	5	10	35	0

Clean sweep for China

Players from the People's Republic of China swept the board in the 27th French Open Championships (Nov. 30 - Dec. 2) winning all five individual titles as well as the two team events. The only Europeans to figure in the individual finals were Jacques Secretin and Claude Bergeret of France in the mixed and Gabor Gergely and Milan Orlowski (Czecho) in the men's doubles. China had it all to themselves in all other events.



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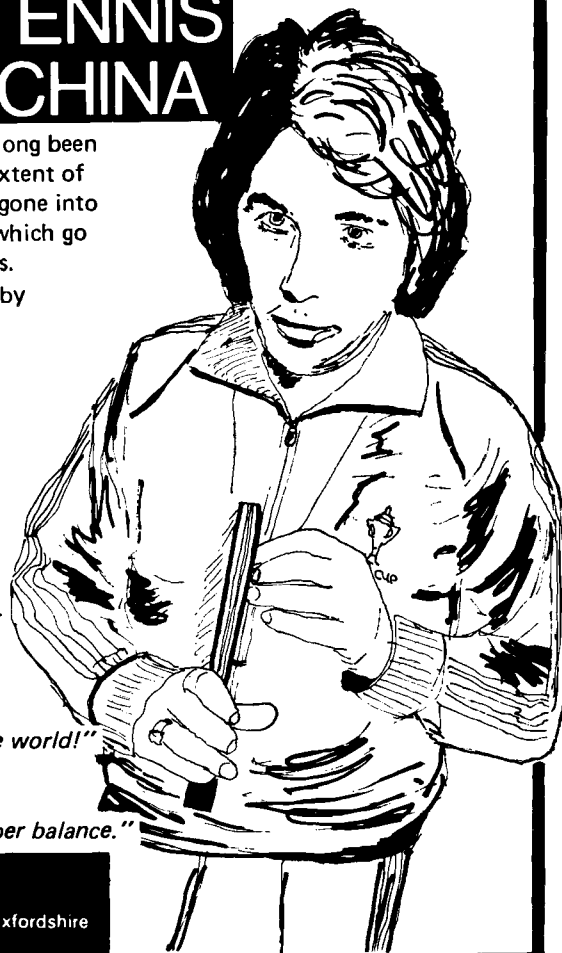
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JAN CARR

Black Country Beauty

by MALCOLM HARTLEY

One of the most attractive personalities in appearance and play on the tournament circuit is Jan Carr, the Staffordshire champion — a happy player with a ready smile, win or lose.

Although she has stacked up the honours in and around her native Wolverhampton, it is Manchester which has been a significant city in her career so far.

Having left school with 11 "O" levels and four "A"s she went to Manchester University and earned an honours degree in maths.

While there she helped Di Johnson and Doreen Schofield win the Lancashire and

Cheshire Women's Division 1 two years in a row and in 1976-7 Jan was unbeaten until the last match when Sue Lisle spoilt her record.

She won the English and British universities' titles and represented Great Britain at the world universities' championships in Israel.

Jan, now 23, says: "I'm a late developer, I've improved considerably since I left the juniors, which is quite unusual really. I think a lot of it is through playing in Manchester".

It was there too that she put up her best performance to date when last season she knocked out Angela Mitchell, then ranked England No. 10, and finished runner-up to Melody Ludi in the North of England championships.

This year her way was again barred by the Yorkshire international. Jan says: "I was thrilled to get 18 in the third against her whereas really I should have been disappointed that I didn't win.

"But I like playing Mel because we always have an open game and I like her as a person".

In the Black Country at least, she is a benevolent dictator — Staffordshire champion the last three years, Wolverhampton champion the last four years, two successive victories in the Woodfield Open and automatic No. 1 for the County Championships team.

At Woodfield in November her women's doubles final was stopped in its tracks by laughter: Jan was serving to Karen Groves when a light shade fell off and landed on Karen's head!

Jan likes watching any sport on TV except wrestling, enjoys all food except curries, loves musical shows like On the Town, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and Fiddler on the Roof and used to sing in school productions.

She is engaged to another Wolverhampton player, Steve Dunning, himself an inter-league and former county player. They plan to marry next April.

MORE WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Karen Senior and Jimmy Walker who were married in Lisburn, Northern Ireland on Oct. 31.

Belated congratulations also to Alan Fletcher and Susan Hurn who were married at All Saints Church, Thornton Dale on July 21. Their new address is 5 Bracken Way, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. (Phone: 023-353 7253).

SITUATIONS VACANT

Butterfly Table Tennis (U.K.) Limited have vacancies for two sales representatives to cover the South West territory and the North East and Scotland.

Due to promotion, Butterfly, who also act as selling agents in the sports trade for Milsta products, require an area representative to cover the counties of Avon, Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Hereford, Oxford, Pontypridd, Somerset, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.

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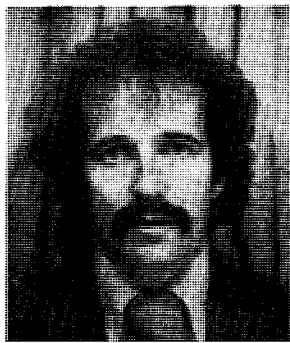
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Thanks to Joe'



by MIKE JOHNS

"Mike, can you run a coaches course for me?" "How long for Gordon?" "About ten days". "When?" "September/October time". "Yes, sure, where?" "Israel". "What the one in the Middle East, surrounded by hostile nations?" "In the middle of the desert?"

So went the conversation between Gordon Steggall (Chairman of the Coaching committee, normally known as 'Sir' or at certain times, God) and myself, Mike Johns (overweight and over the hill table tennis player).

After healthy negotiations between Albert Shipley (also known as God to the E.T.T.A. office staff) and what seemed like half of Tel Aviv, I finally left the shores of our country (well actually it was Heathrow Airport) around midday on Thursday, Oct. 11. Take off time was an hour late, because of security problems (very reassuring) and a strong wind (nothing to do with Dave Welsman) delayed the flight even further. So consequently I passed through customs at Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv over two hours late. There to meet me was the gentleman who was to be my host, guide and interpreter throughout my stay, Joe Yeshua.

It also turned out that Joe was partly responsible for me being there in the first place. During the English Junior Open at Worthing, Joe had approached Albert Shipley and inquired into the possibility of a good English coach going to Israel to run a course. (Obviously they could not find one, so I went instead).

From the airport we took a coach into Tel Aviv, and a taxi to my hotel, the Ramat Aviv. Joe and I decided that we would meet the next day and formulate a programme for my visit. The hotel was very nice, with an excellent swimming pool, and so the next morning I ventured out in my swimming costume (I had forgotten my bikini) attempting to get a nice tan. A couple of hours of this achieved two things. 1. It turned me a lovely shade of Lobster Pink. 2. It put half the female population of Tel Aviv off the opposite sex for life. (I am sure it would have put the other half off as well, but fortunately for them they were not around to see me). Which brings me to a rather interesting point. The women in Tel Aviv outnumber the men by 3-1. So if there are any English table tennis players who can manage three women, the next plane leaves in half an hour.

Joe duly arrived in the afternoon and we worked out a programme which meant that I coached each evening from Sunday but had all the days free. On Friday evening, Joe took me to see his family and on Saturday I went sight-seeing around Tel Aviv. On Saturday evening we went to watch the Israel junior team play against a French schools team. Joe is the Israeli junior captain and I met, for the first time, Mr. Oskar Kraus who is the senior team captain. During my stay Oskar and I had many discussions, and his knowledge of the world game surprised me, for the Israeli team are, because of politics, very limited to where they can play.

I spent most of Sunday, planning the programme (by the swimming pool of course), and on Sunday evening the first session was held. Twelve of Israel's leading coaches attended each session, and we discussed the art of coaching in depth, from the basic strokes right through to the

preparation of players for important championships. Joe proved to be a very good interpreter (at least I think he was), and I am sure we could have continued talking until the early hours of the morning, if it had been possible.

During the course a number of Israel's top players looked in from time to time, and I had the opportunity to play against them. The coaches took this opportunity to pull my game apart. "Anybody playing a loop like that must be deformed". "Did you mean to put spin on that one, or was it another mistake". "That must have been a foul service, no one could serve like that and keep it legal". "I thought you said it was important to move".

The standard of the Israelis is quite good. Pollock, their number one spent a year in a Swedish training camp and is consequently very fit and very fast. With a good loop from both wings.

My impression of most of the players I saw was that they were technically very good with a good touch, but that their footwork and movement was poor. Apparently, the coaches told me, it is very difficult to get most of the players to do any physical training at all (shades of old England)!

On the final evening of the course they asked me to play against a player who had newly arrived from Russia. To watch him play you would think that he was a younger version of Gomozkov, all his shots were identical but luckily he wasn't anything like as good.

So on Saturday, Oct. 20 my trip to Israel came to an end. I will have many lasting impressions of my stay there, not the least of which was a fabulous trip to Jerusalem organised and paid for by the Israeli Association.

Although everyone was very helpful, I really must thank Joe Yeshua, who spent all his time during my visit, looking after me. I hope the course was of some use to the coaches, and that they enjoyed it, at least half as much as I did. To my new friends in Israel, I look forward to meeting you again. SHALOM.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

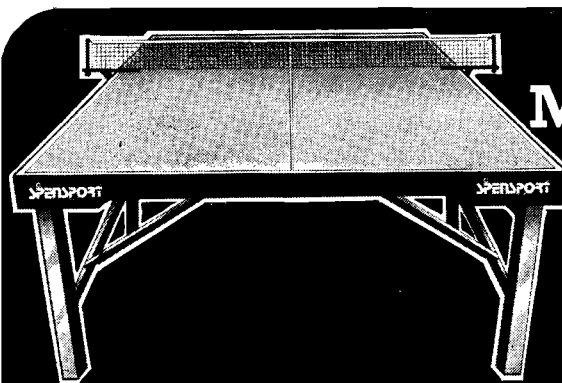
December

- 15/16 Debenhams English Junior Closed Championships, The Redefield Hall, Blackbird Leys, Oxford. Finals 5.30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16.
- 15/16 Cardiff Open, National Sports Centre for Wales, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.
- 23 National Club League (6) Premier
Soham v Ellenborough
Newham v Sealink Milton Keynes
Kelly Girl Internals v Denmark
Macleans Maidenhead v Ormesby
- Division 2
Ormesby II v Briarside
March v Unity
Seagulls v Norton
Salford v Sun Life Second City

1980

January

- 5/6 County of Cleveland 6th 3-Star Open incorporating Butterfly Cleveland International Team Championship. Thornaby Pavilion, Town Centre, Thornaby, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland (Phone Stockton 62971) Cash Prize Fund £1,500 sponsored by County of Cleveland Leisure Services.
Team Event Finals 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5/80.
Individual Finals 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6/80.
- 6 Winton - Star Open (Bournemouth).
- 6 Edinburgh Open 2-Star (Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh).
- 9/12 THE NORWICH UNION INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton. Finals: January 12th, 1980.
- 13 National Club League (7) Premier
Sealink Milton Keynes v Soham
Kelly Girl Internals v Ormesby
Denmark v Newham
Ellenborough v Macleans Maidenhead
- Division 2
Unity v Ormesby II
Sun Life Second City v Seagulls
Norton v March
Briarside v Salford
- 17 EUROPEAN LEAGUE, SUPER DIVISION, Czechoslovakia v England (Pribram).
- 19 County Championships (4).
- 19/20 E.S.T.T.A. Team Area Finals.
- 26 Pontefract 1-Star Open (Featherstone).
- 26/27 Kent 2-Star Open (Folkestone).
- 26/27 Whitbread Cotswold 2-Star Junior 'Select', Gloucester Leisure Centre, Station Road, Gloucester.



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**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
FIXTURES AND VENUES**

January 13
Division 3
East Norfolk II v Suffolk II. May and Barker, Norwich. 4 p.m.
January 19/20
PREMIER DIVISION WEEK-END at Black Lion Sports Centre, Gillingham, Kent.
19 Cleveland v Kent.
Warwickshire v Yorkshire.
Cheshire v Middlesex.
20 Cheshire v Warwickshire.
Kent v Yorkshire.
Middlesex v Cleveland.
Cheshire v Cleveland.
Middlesex v Yorkshire.
Kent v Warwickshire.

January 19
Premier Division
Essex v Glamorgan. West Thurrock Generating Station, Stoneness Road, West Thurrock, Essex. 7 p.m.
2 North
Lancs v Cheshire II. British Aerospace, Lostock, Bolton. 6.30 p.m.
2 East
Cambs v Suffolk. 'Windayle', Hall Street, Soham. 6.30 p.m.
3 North
Midland Shropshire v Leics II. The Mary Webb School, Pontesbury, nr. Shrewsbury. 7 p.m.
3 West
Somerset II v Hants II. Taunton YMCA, Priseaux Way, Taunton. 6 p.m.
Junior 2 South
Herts v Surrey II. Braughling TTC, Green Lane, Braughling. 2.30 p.m.
Junior 2 North
Lancs v Lincs. GPO Motor Transport Depot, Bamber Bridge, Preston. 2.30 p.m.
Junior 2 Midland
Cambs v Warwicks. Trinity Methodist Centre, Norfolk Street, Wisbech. 2.30 p.m.
Junior 3 East Midland
Northants v Lincs II. Danesholme C.C., Motala Close, Corby. 3 p.m.
Junior 3 South Midland
Shropshire II v Gwent. Albrighton TT Club, Albrighton, Salop 3 p.m.
Oxon v Northants II. Bletchington Village Hall, Bletchington, Oxon. 2.30 p.m.
Junior 3 East
Norfolk II v Herts II. C.E.Y.M.S., Norwich. 2.30 p.m.
Veteran South
Middlesex v Essex II. East Finchley TT Centre, 142 High Road, East Finchley. 7 p.m.
Veteran West
Somerset v Wiltshire. Taunton YMCA, Priseaux Way, Taunton. 6 p.m.
January 20
2 East
Norfolk v Bedfordshire. May and Baker, Norwich. 4 p.m.
Veteran East
Essex v Bedfordshire. Japan Road Club, Japan Road, off Chadwell Heath, High Road, Essex. 3 p.m.

Table Tennis Club in the party which was in the control of Mr. Harrison and league president Brian Smith.

The visitors were highly delighted with their visit and, said Mr. Harrison, would be recommending the Lions Club to other leagues in the area.

The Burton League visitors saw an advertisement in Table Tennis News during the winter and arranged the trip at the beginning of March with help from Bass Brewery, who gave them a reproduction water jug to present to Lions and G.T.T.A president Horace Mallett.

"We had no trouble in getting people to come, we were turning them away. Other

leagues in the area were also interested", said Mr. Harrison.

"We would like to thank Horace Mallett, his committee and all the helpers for making our stay so enjoyable", said Mr. Harrison, "The main topic of conversation is when we are coming back next year".

Other groups have booked in for this summer, but Mr. Mallett is hoping for more next summer including some from the continent.

The visitors played three friendly matches against Lions Club teams and in the top match, Ian Powell proved too strong for his three opponents.

(Guernsey Evening Press, August 1979)

GUERNSEY NEWS COLUMN
by HORACE MALLET

Guernsey is to host the 1979/80 3rd Division European League Championships February 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1980 at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, Saint Peter Port.

Countries participating:- Scotland, Rumania, Portugal, Jersey, Guernsey, Malta. We are still awaiting an intention from Germany D.R., Iceland and Faroe Islands. Most of these Countries will also be represented at the Stiga Welsh Open 7th-10th February, 1980.

Equipment:- Jaques Tables and Nets, Dunlop Balls.

THINKING OF HOLIDAYS!!

Why not organise your own "Club Holiday" or "Small Group" Table Tennis holiday, using the new and extremely popular "Lions Table Tennis Holiday Club", Saint Peter Port, Guernsey, which was opened earlier this year.

A warm welcome is extended to all. Write to me for full details, brochure, etc. — Horace Mallett, President, Guernsey Table Tennis Association, and Lions Table Tennis Club, Brackenhurst, Les Hubits, Saint Martin's, Guernsey. Telephone 0481-38972.

Lions Club — the perfect hosts!

"I don't know of any other place like this", was the comment of Burton Senior League coaching organiser Ray Harrison at the end of the first week-long table tennis holiday at the Lions Club in Maurepas Road.

After a lot of hard work by members, the club can now offer accommodation to visiting parties as well as plenty of table tennis and the party from Burton were the first to use the new facilities.

There were 16 players from the Hill Street



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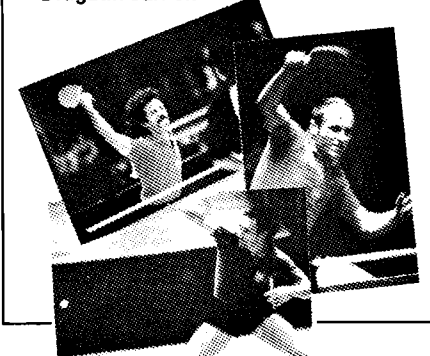
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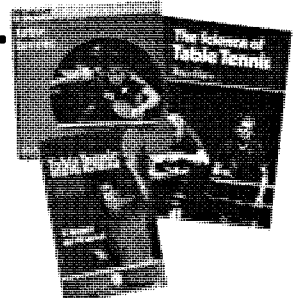
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The Science of Table Tennis

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TEES SPORT

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(continued from page 43)

Cleveland II 4 Durham 6

Two wins from their No. 1 D. Godbold helped Durham to victory with their girls. L. Yarnold and A. Currie also being unbeaten.

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH MIDLAND

Shropshire 3 Derbyshire 7

Warwickshire II 8 Clwyd 2

Against Shropshire, Derbyshire (Stephen Young, Allen Cooke and David Hinchcliffe) took the seven boys' events with Shropshire replying through Collette Soan and Allison Barker.

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH MIDLAND

Avon 6 Gwent 4

Herefordshire 7 Shropshire II 3

Avon's dominance in the girls' events brought them victory against Gwent for whom Brian Jeanes won two. Herefordshire took all seven boys' events in their victory.

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Dorset 5 Cornwall 5

Somerset 1 Devon II 9

Devon's 9-1 win included only one set which went to three — the one they lost! In the circumstances they must have a great chance of topping the division.

VETERAN SOUTH

Kent I 7 Kent II 2

Middlesex 6 Sussex 3

Middlesex, who were Champions last season have made a good start in defence of their crown, but their 'new' arrival, Laurie Landry lost his 100% record to G. Batt-Rawden in a closely-contested set. Batt-Rawden in turn lost to I. Redfern and the only man to emerge unbeaten was the Sussex No. 3 A. Rowden.

VETERAN MIDLAND

Clwyd 6 Cumbria 3

Cumbria 3 Lincolnshire 6

Nottinghamshire 8 Leicestershire 1

Cheshire I 8 Cheshire II 1

And what a strong division this is! With Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Cheshire all in contention it is anyone's guess who will top it. Cumbria may not be the strongest side in the division but they have a player who is certainly going to cause a few shocks. Clarice Rose (formerly of Surrey) beat Barbara Williams (Clwyd) 12, 5 and then followed up with a victory over Connie Moran — not a bad performance!

VETERAN EAST

Hertfordshire III 1 Berkshire 8

Huntingdonshire 5 Bedfordshire 4

Oxfordshire 3 Hertfordshire I 6

Huntingdonshire have won both their matches played so far but the powerful Essex side must surely start favourites.

VETERAN WEST

Avon I 6 Wiltshire 3

Avon II 6 Dorset II 3

Hampshire 5 Worcestershire 4

Dorset I 8 Somerset 1

Ray Lush in good form for Hampshire against his former county Worcestershire. The left-handed hitter won both his sets two-straight.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
PREMIER							
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	19	8	6
Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	24	12	6
Middlesex	2	2	0	0	15	3	4
Essex	2	1	0	1	12	6	2
Warwicks	2	1	0	1	11	8	2
Glamorgan	2	0	0	2	6	12	0
Kent	2	0	0	2	2	16	0
Cleveland	3	0	0	3	1	26	0

2 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Surrey	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Sussex	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Herts	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Middx II	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Essex II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Kent II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

2 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancs	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Yorks II	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Derbys	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Lincs	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Durham	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Nd	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Cheshire II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2 MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Staffs	1	1	0	0	10	0	2
Worcs	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Gwent	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Gn II	1	0	0	1	0	10	0
Warwicks II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2 EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leics	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Beds	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Northants	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Sk	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Cambs	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Bucks	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Norfolk	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

2 WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dorset	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Berks	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Avon	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Somerset	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Devon	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Hampshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Wiltshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1

3 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Surrey II	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Sussex II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Herts II	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Bucks II	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Essex III	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

3 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancs II	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Nd II	1	0	0	1	1	9	0
Cheshire III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cv II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3 NORTH MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Notts	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Derbys II	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Shropshire	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Clwyd	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Leics II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3 SOUTH MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bucks II	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Herefordshire	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Northants II	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Worcs II	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Oxfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3 EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambs II	1	1	0	0	10	0	2
Hunts	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Norfolk II	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Suffolk II	1	0	0	1	0	10	0
Beds II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herts III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3 WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dorset II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Avon II	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Somerset II	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Cornwall	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Hampshire II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

JUNIOR 2 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Herts	3	2	0	1	13	17	4
Middx II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Hampshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Surrey II	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Bucks	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Essex II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0

JUNIOR 2 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorks II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Cv	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Clwyd	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Cumbria	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Cheshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Lancs	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Lincs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

JUNIOR 2 MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Gwent	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Cambs	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Warwicks	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Worcs	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Gs	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Beds	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Leics	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Notts	2	0	0	2	8	12	0

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bucks II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Oxfordshire	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Sussex II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Bucks II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Kent II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

JUNIOR 3 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Durham	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Cv II	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Cumbria II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Northumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

JUNIOR 3 NORTH MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwicks II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Clwyd II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Shropshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffs II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Herts	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Avon	1	1	0	0	6	4	2

County Championships Round-up

by PHILIP REID

TWO UNBEATEN

Only Cheshire and Yorkshire are still unbeaten — these two teams finished first and second last season. Cheshire had a close match with Glamorgan where Alan Griffiths took the 100% singles records from Nigel Eckersley and David Constance and also spoilt the Eckersley/Johns doubles record. At the other end of the chart the two promoted teams, Kent and Cleveland look probable relegation candidates, looking considerably weaker than the other six teams.

PREMIER DIVISION

Cheshire 6 Yorkshire 3

N. Eckersley bt A. Clayton 16, 16;

bt K. Beadsley 23, -22, 13.

D. Constance bt Beadsley 11, 19;

bt S. Mills 17, 17.

M. Johns bt Clayton 18, -17, 18;

lost to Mills -11, -18.

Miss L. Fennah lost to Miss S. Midgley -8, -8.

Eckersley/Johns bt Beadsley/Mills 9, -16, 17.

Constance/Miss Fennah lost to Clayton/

Midgley 19, -14, -14.

Yorkshire 9 Cleveland 0

Beadsley bt K. Paxton 16, 17;

bt A. Martin 15, -17, 11.

Clayton bt Paxton 16, -23, 14;

bt P. Ward 15, -14, 13.

Mills bt Martin 14, 12;

bt Ward 11, 19.

Miss Midgley bt Miss N. Carne 10, 13.

Beadsley/Mills bt Paxton/Martin 20, 14.

Clayton/Miss Midgley bt Ward/Miss Carne

18, 12.

Kent 1 Cheshire 8

J. Kennedy lost to Eckersley -15, -16;

lost to Constance -10, 16, -18.

J. Burleton lost to Eckersley -8, -18;

lost to Johns -14, -15.

R. Taylor lost to Constance -13, -14;

lost to Johns -9, -10.

Miss E. Bolton bt Miss Fennah 15, 14.

Kennedy/Burleton lost to Eckersley/Johns

-12, 19, -15.

Taylor/Miss Bolton lost to Constance/Miss

Fennah 17, -19, -20.

Warwickshire 2 Middlesex 7

D. Johnson bt M. Mitchell 11, 11;

bt G. Sandley 16, 21.

D. Munt lost to Mitchell 7, -17, -16;

lost to C. Wilson -20, 17, -14.

P. Glynn lost to Sandley 9, -18, -16;

lost to Wilson 16, -17, -14.

Miss K. Groves lost to Miss A. Mitchell

-11, 20, -8.

Johnson/Munt lost to Mitchell/Sandley

-14, -19.

Glynn/Miss Groves lost to Wilson/Miss

Mitchell -19, 16, -19.

Middlesex 8 Kent 1

Sandley bt Kennedy 14, 7;

bt Taylor 15, 19.

Wilson bt Taylor 18, 13;

lost to Burleton -17, -19.

Mitchell bt Burleton -17, 19, 9;

bt Kennedy -14, 15, 12.

Miss Mitchell bt Miss Bolton -16, 12, 20.

Mitchell/Sandley bt Kennedy/Burleton

18, 11.

Wilson/Miss Mitchell bt Taylor/Miss Bolton

15, 12.

Cleveland 0 Warwickshire 9

Martin lost to Johnson -7, -13;

lost to Glynn -9, -18.

Ward lost to Munt -8, -8;

lost to Glynn -13, -11.

Paxton lost to Munt -17, -14;

lost to Johnson -6, -12.

Miss Carne lost to Miss Groves -10, -17.

Ward/Martin lost to Johnson/Munt -17, -14.

Paxton/Miss Carne lost to Glynn/Miss

Groves -15, -18.

Cheshire 5 Glamorgan 4

Constance lost to A. Griffiths 11, -21, -15;

bt P. Harry 16, -17, 16.

Johns bt Harry 8, 15;

bt J. Morgan 17, 15.

Eckersley bt Morgan 15, 13;

lost to Griffiths 18, -12, -17.

Miss Fennah lost to Miss S. Jones -18, -9.

Eckersley/Johns lost to Griffiths/Morgan

17, -14, -19.

Constance/Fennah bt Harry/Jones 19, 16.

Yorkshire 5 Essex 4

Mills lost to R. Potton 21, -19, -19;

bt D. Newman 19, -16, 19.

C. Lo bt Newman -15, 17, 18;

lost to I. Horsham -19, 18, -16.

Clayton lost to Horsham -15, -21;

lost to Potton -12, -15.

Miss Midgley bt Mrs. E. Foulds 14, 12.

Mills/Lo bt Horsham/Potton 20, -18, 15.

Clayton/Miss Midgley bt Newman/Mrs.

Foulds 17, -22, 15.

2nd SOUTH

Essex II 2 Surrey II 8

Hertfordshire 5 Middlesex II 5

Sussex 8 Kent II 2

Surrey and Sussex look outstanding here, with Roger Chandler in the side and playing well. Surrey's team, though look likely contenders for the title. Max Crimmins, Dave Welsman and Peter McQueen could be the strongest trio of any second division side.

2nd NORTH

Lancashire 7 Northumberland 3

Lincolnshire 5 Durham 5

Worcestershire 7 Gwent 3

If Donald Parker were available regularly for Lancashire they must have been favourites to take this division, although Yorkshire II are going to be a tough nut to crack. Brian Hill still delivering the goods for Lincolnshire (what great service he has given to Lincs!) had two singles wins and doubles (with East) securing a point for Lincs. against Durham.

2nd MIDLAND

Glamorgan II 0 Staffordshire 10

Warwickshire II 9 Gloucestershire 1

Worcestershire 7 Gwent 3

Staffordshire's young team, expertly led by Tony Isaac must have a great chance of topping this division. Warwickshire made a great start with the consistent Barry Hayward and Barry Johnson both showing consistency. The big-hearted Bob Brown still using his pen-holder grip with good effect for Worcestershire.

2nd EAST

Bedfordshire 4 Northamptonshire 6

Cambridgeshire 5 Buckinghamshire 5

Leicestershire 9 Suffolk 1

Cambridgeshire, with only Mick Harper of their regular men players available came back from 3-5 down in their match against Buckinghamshire to take a draw. I hope I shall not be accused of bias, however if I say I still fancy Leicestershire to win this division but much will depend on the availability of Anita Stevenson, Karen Rogers and Chris Rogers.

2nd WEST

Avon 4 Berkshire 6

Dorset 7 Somerset 3

Hampshire 5 Wiltshire 5

This division is being closely contested with no particular team emerging as clear favourite. Dorset have made a good start. With three 6-4s and two draws out of the first six games it is clear the play here is of a very even standard.

3rd SOUTH

Buckinghamshire II 3 Hertfordshire II 7

Sussex II 8 Essex III 2

Sussex look good and their 8-2 win over a very useful Essex side must make them favourites for the title.

3rd NORTH

Cheshire III 7 Cumbria 3

Lancashire II 9 Northumberland 1

Two wins from Ian Reed brought no tangible reward from Cumbria's visit to Cheshire. Lancashire, led by Nigel Hallows, much too strong for Northumberland.

3rd NORTH MIDLAND

Derbyshire II 6 Shropshire 4

Clwyd 3 Nottinghamshire 7

Malcolm Green on splendid form for Shropshire, but like T. Manning (Clwyd) he got little support.

3rd SOUTH MIDLAND

Berkshire II 7 Worcestershire II 3

Northamptonshire II 5 Herefordshire 5

Berkshire's all-round strength looks as though it could bring them the title in this division. Hertfordshire did well to take a point from Northamptonshire, with Mark Owen and Michael Owens collecting their five sets between them.

3rd EAST

Norfolk II 4 Huntingdonshire 6

Suffolk II 0 Cambridgeshire II 10

A commanding win by Cambridgeshire and a close one for Hunts. with Tony Gray giving a good performance.

3rd WEST

Avon II 6 Somerset II 4

Dorset II 8 Cornwall 2

A close win for Avon with P. Riley's two wins proving decisive. Dorset II had things much their own way — only John Bassett amongst the Cornwall men looked likely to upset them.

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Cheshire 5 Cumbria 5

Yorkshire II 8 Lancashire 2

Clwyd 4 Cleveland 6

Yorkshire, with two wins from N. Bailey and A. Sanderson look a very good side indeed.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Buckinghamshire 4 Hertfordshire 6

Essex II 3 Middlesex II 7

Kent 6 Hampshire 4

Wiltshire 6 Surrey II 4

Kent, with three wins in a row must be in with a good chance of topping the division. Their team of P. Roberts, K. Chamberlain, P. Namdjou, Elaine Bolton and Manja Ball really is a case of strength in depth.

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

Bedfordshire 3 Glamorgan 7

Gloucestershire 4 Cambridgeshire 6

Nottinghamshire 4 Warwickshire 6

Worcestershire 5 Leicestershire 5

This division is going to be one of the most closely-contested of all. There have been three draws and three 6-4s already out of eight matches. Three of the four matches above were 4-5 before the last set! Cambridge trailed 2-4 at Gloucester but took the remaining four sets! Glamorgan recorded the only clear-cut win taking all seven boys' events but the Bellinger sisters took the three girls' events.

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Berkshire II 8 Buckinghamshire II 2

Sussex II 2 Oxfordshire 8

A good performance by Oxfordshire who at this rate could soon move out of this division. Neil Abbott and Clive Morris both won their sets in two-straight.

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Cumbria II 2 Cheshire II 8

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