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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 119

April, 1981

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Hungarian Rhapsody

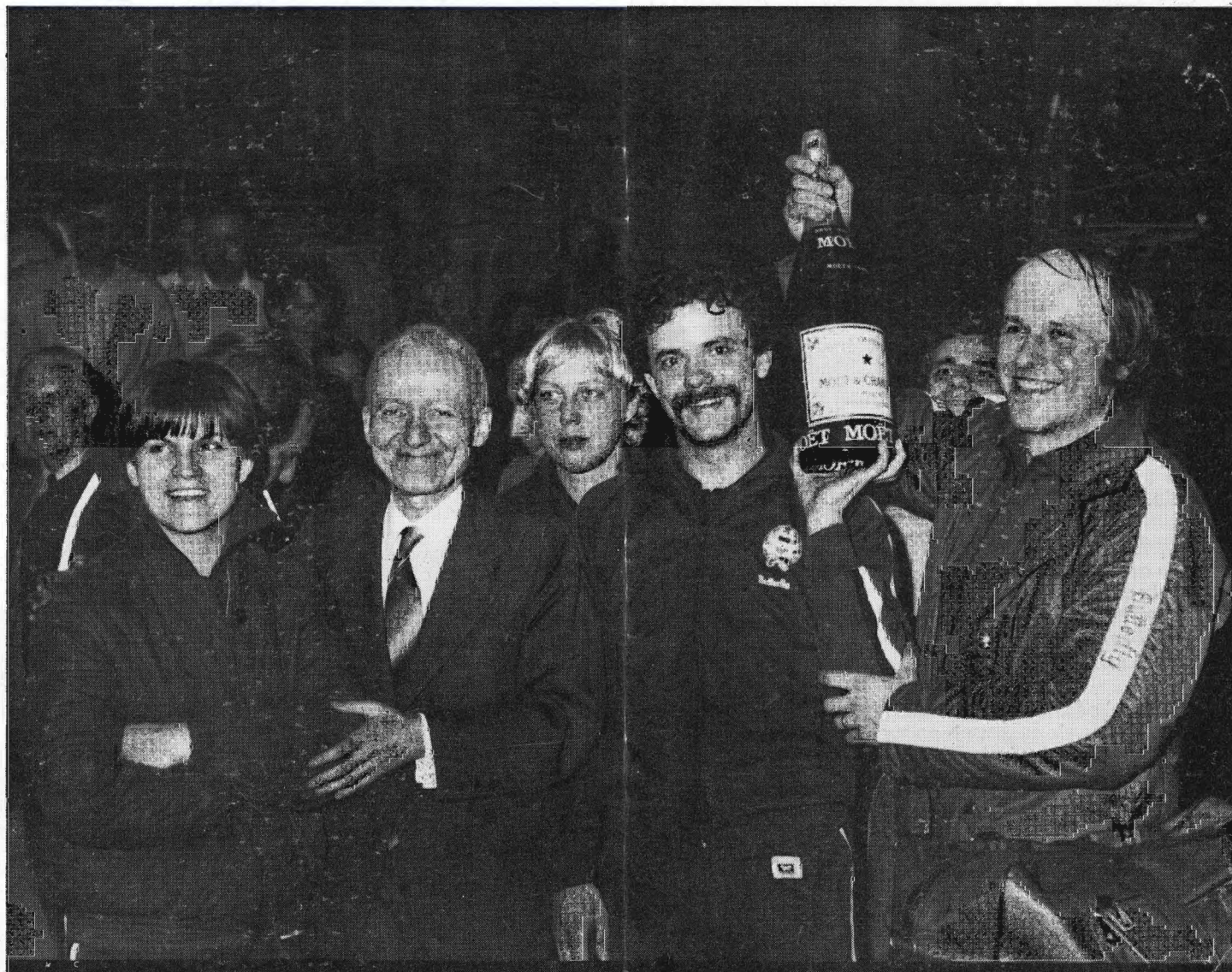


Photo by Murray Corbin, Wimbledon

Jaques - *of course*

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Fingers Crossed

Having done so well in finishing runners-up to Hungary in the Super Division of the European League, England's expectations on the eve of the 36th World Championships in Novi Sad must be somewhat greater than on their departure for Pyongyang two years ago.

On that occasion England's men finished in tenth position and the women twelfth, both retaining their first category positions in the Swaythling and Marcel Corbillon Cup team competitions.

But England's men now having to face up to the opposition to be provided by China, Japan, France, Sweden, Federal Germany, South Korea and Indonesia certainly have a task of some magnitude on their hands.

Our women, on the other hand, have North Korea to contend with but they will provide the only Asian opposition in the first stage groupings otherwise provided by the Soviet Union, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Rumania, France and India.

Team victories cannot be accomplished by one player alone, much as we count on Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley, but they will need a greater measure of support than hitherto. Good luck then to the players entrusted with our fortunes with our fingers crossed for another turn-up as in Berne.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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On the International Front by The Editor

SO NEAR, YET SO FAR

In losing the first two sets in their championship-deciding match with defending champions Hungary, in the Corn Exchange, Ipswich on March 12, England set themselves a monumental task in retrieving the situation which, after a fluctuating struggle, was finally decided in the final set when stand-in, Gabor Gergely, beat John Hilton giving Hungary a retention of the Jupp Schlaf Cup as continuing champions of the Super Division of the European League.

First to the table in the cauldron that was the Corn Exchange was Desmond Douglas, opposed by Gergely, with the English champion aggressively confident in the first game. But, from then on, the Hungarian slowed the tempo down — always a good ploy against the Birmingham left-hander whose lightning reflexes are truly devastating. But Gergely was not to fall into what could well have been the fatal error and ran out the winner although some of the rallies in the deciding game had the crowd spellbound.

But what a start for the Hungarians whose spearhead, Tibor Klampar, had been left behind in Budapest with appendicitis which, it was thought, would give England the greater prospect of winning. Hilton, the European champion, whose combination bat appears no longer the threat it posed in Berne, proved little match for the wily Istvan Jonyer and, as in Belper against the Czechs, it was 0-2 down and the curtain was descending.

Still, there was always Jill Hammersley and, in maintaining her long string of

successes in this particular sphere, the English champion had little difficulty in accounting for Judit Magos the tall blonde penholder.

Then came the crunch set, the men's doubles, in which Douglas, partnered by Paul Day, flattered to deceive by taking the first game only to go all to pieces in the subsequent two with the former far from consistent and latter guilty of many mistakes. Thus, at 1-3 down, the writing was on the wall and the curtain dropped that much lower. But not yet had England thrown in the towel.

Douglas, this time with Linda Jarvis in the mixed, fought their way through three games to finally triumph over Jonyer and Magos with English No. 1 staying on court, as did Jonyer, to contest the penultimate set which Douglas took by storm against a tiring opponent.

All then rested on the final set between Hilton and Gergely and few would have exchanged places with the Englishman whose determination, never in question, was not enough to save the day and Hungary ran out 4-3 winners to retain the title but, in finishing runners-up England achieved their best placing. Scores:

D. Douglas lost to G. Gergely 16, -15, -17;

J. Hilton lost to I. Jonyer -18, -13;

J. Hammersley bt J. Magos 16, 18;

P. Day/Douglas lost to Gergely/Jonyer

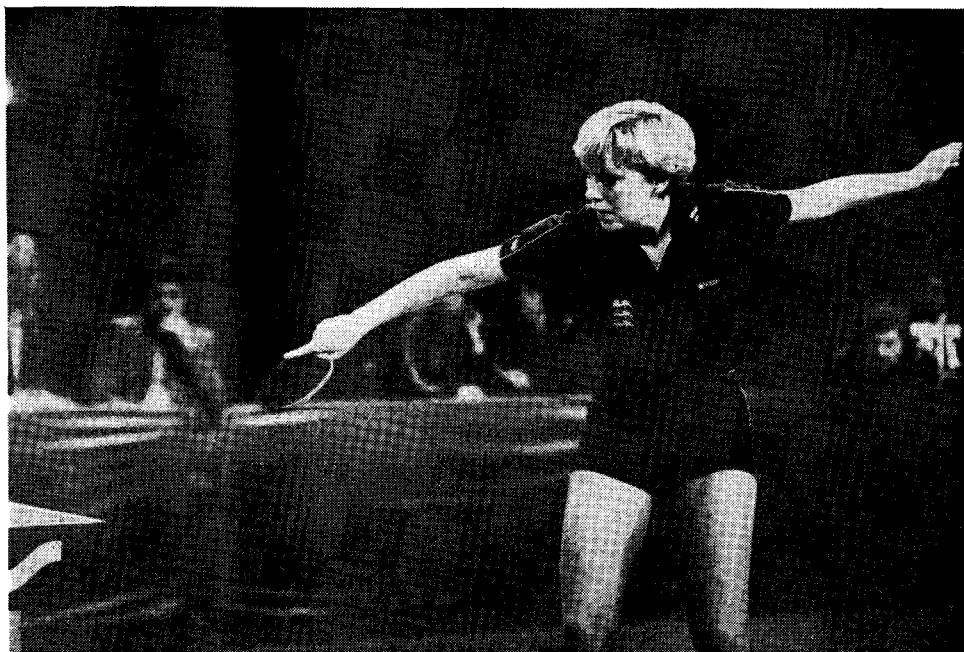
20, -19, -9;

Douglas/L. Jarvis bt Jonyer/Magos

12, -12, 16;

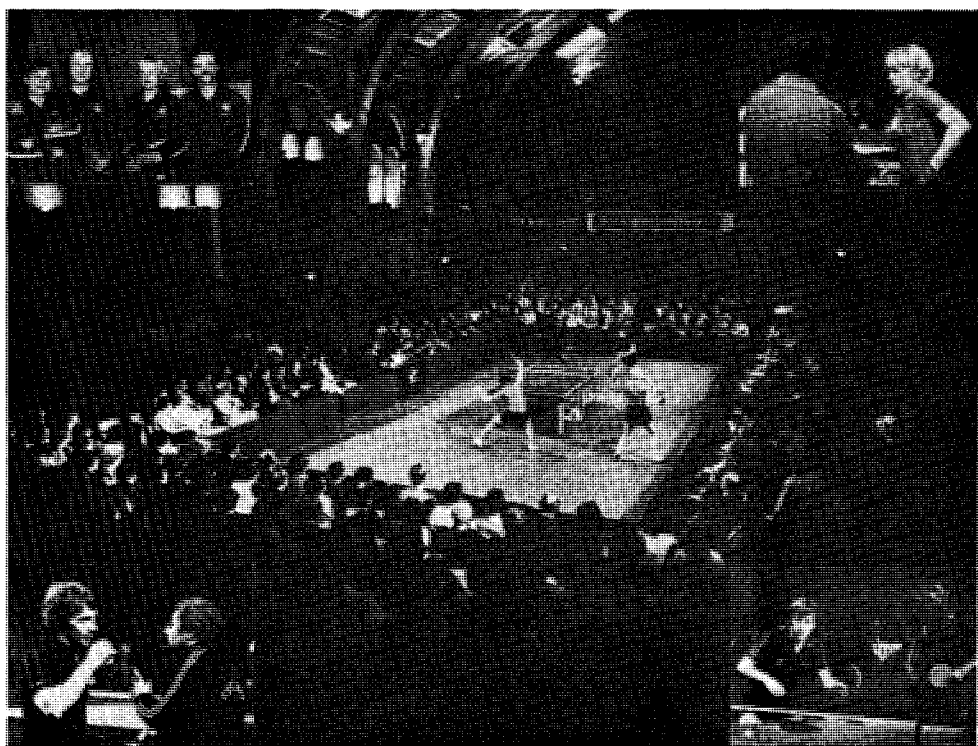
Douglas bt Jonyer 9, 16;

Hilton lost to Gergely -19, -18.



JILL HAMMERSLEY stunned the large audience by her total command and mesmerism of Judit Magos.

Photo by Murray Corbin.



SHOWDOWN AT IPSWICH

Photography by Murray Corbin.

At the other end of the scale, in Titograd, the Soviet Union were beaten 4-3 by Yugoslavia a defeat that spelled demotion for the Russians who, next season, will be replaced by Poland returning, after just one season, to the Super Division. Scores in Titograd were:

- M. Karakasevic bt I. Shevchenko 18, 12;
- Z. Kalinic bt I. Solopov 14, 17;
- B. Batinic lost to N. Antonian 19, -10, -13;
- Karakasevic/Z. Kosanovic bt M. Ovcharov/Shevchenko 17, 14;
- Kosanovic/Batinic lost to Shevchenko/Antonian 16, -15, -17;
- Karakasevic bt Solopov 17, 9;
- Kalinic lost to Shevchenko -22, -16.

In a closely-fought encounter in La Roche, France beat Sweden 4-3 after Christian Martin, in the final set, had beaten Tommy Danielsson. Scores:

- P. Birocheau lost to T. Danielsson -19, 13, -17;
- C. Martin lost to E. Lindh -12, -14;
- C. Bergeret bt A. Hernvall 7, 14;
- Birocheau/J. Secretin bt Danielsson/Lindh 19, 17;
- Secretin/Bergeret bt Danielsson/Hernvall 16, 19;
- Birocheau lost to Lindh -14, -10;
- Martin bt Danielsson 20, 19.

Finally, in Nachod, Czechoslovakia beat Federal Germany 6-1, Ralf Wosik and Ursula Kamizuru saving the "whitewash" by beating Jindrich Pansky and Marie Hrachova in the mixed. Scores:

- M. Orlowski bt J. Rebel 18, 14;
- J. Dvoracek bt R. Wosik 9, 7;
- M. Hrachova bt U. Kamizuru -18, 17, 21;
- Orlowski/J. Pansky bt H-J. Nolten/Rebel 14, 13;
- Pansky/Hrachova lost to Wosik/Kamizuru 14, -17, -18;
- Orlowski bt Wosik 20, 15;
- Dvoracek bt Rebel 11, 14.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
HUNGARY	7	7	0	31	18	7
England	7	6	1	31	18	6
Czechoslovakia	7	4	3	31	18	4
Sweden	7	4	3	27	22	4
Yugoslavia	7	3	4	26	23	3
France	7	3	4	23	26	3
Federal Germany	7	1	6	15	34	1
Soviet Union	7	0	7	12	37	0

In Nieuwegein, the Netherlands just made it 4-3 over Italy with Hans Gootzen beating Giovanni Bisi in the final set to secure the victory. Scores:

- R. Hijne bt G. Bisi -19, 9, 15;
- H. Gootzen lost to M. Costantini -17, 11, -14;
- S. de Kruiff bt F. Strino 8, 19;
- J. van Spanje/R. van Spanje lost to Bisi/Costantini 17, -12, -14;
- J. van Spanje/de Kruiff bt Bisi/Strino 16, 13.
- Hijne lost to Costantini -17, 17, -22;
- Gootzen bt Bisi 22, 20.

By a similar margin in Athens, Greece got the better of Austria and here again all depended on the result of the final set in which Dimitrios Zikos beat Erich Amplatz 21-6 in the third! Scores:

- C. Priftis bt E. Amplatz -15, 20, 21;
- D. Zikos lost to Gockner -16, -17;
- F. Galanou lost to D. Fetter -9, -11;
- Priftis/Zikos bt Amplatz/Gockner 19, 13;
- Zikos/Galanou lost to Amplatz/Fetter -21, -17;
- Priftis bt Gockner 14, -17, 9;
- Zikos bt Amplatz 18, -23, 6.

FINAL TABLE

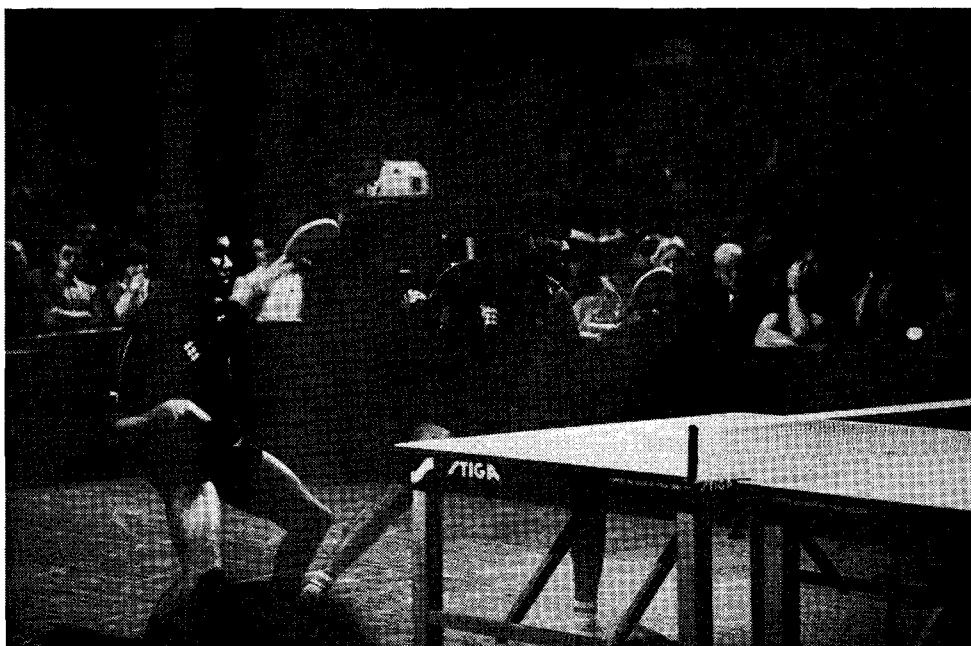
	P	W	L	F	A	P
POLAND	7	7	0	38	11	7
Bulgaria	7	6	1	32	17	6
Finland	7	5	2	32	17	5
Austria	7	3	4	22	27	3
Netherlands	7	3	4	21	28	3
Greece	7	3	4	20	29	3
Italy	7	1	6	18	31	1
Luxembourg	7	0	7	13	36	0

DIVISION TWO

Denmark's 7-0 slaying of Spain assured the Danes of promotion to Division 1, taking the place of Luxembourg, but as this match was played after the scheduled date no results are yet to hand of the individual scores.

Ireland crashed 1-6 to Switzerland but to bring this division up to the uniform strength of eight teams there will be no demotion with Scotland and Ireland joining the Welsh from Division 3. Scores in the Swiss-Irish encounter were:

- T. Miller bt D. Weir -17, 19, 13;
- T. Busin bt C. Slevin 20, 22;
- F. Weibel bt K. Walker -12, 19, 18;
- J. Barcikowski/Busin bt Slevin/Weir -18, 17, 13;
- Busin/Weibel bt Slevin/Walker 12, -15, 18;
- Miller lost to Slevin -4, -12;
- Busin bt Weir 10, 14.



DESMOND DOUGLAS in action during his comparatively easy win over ex-world champion, Istvan Jonyer.

Photoart by Murray Corbin.



WATCHING BRIEF

A sad Peter Simpson and Karen Witt after England's defeat at Ipswich against Hungary on Mar. 12 in the European League.

Photo by Graham Duncan.

TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
DENMARK	5	5	0	32	3	5
Spain	5	3	2	19	16	3
Switzerland	5	3	2	16	19	3
Norway	5	2	3	17	18	2
Belgium	5	1	4	11	24	1
Ireland	5	1	4	10	25	1

DIVISION THREE

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
SCOTLAND	5	5	0	34	1	5
Wales	5	4	1	26	9	4
Portugal	5	3	2	22	13	3
Guernsey	5	2	3	10	25	2
Jersey	5	1	4	10	25	1
Iceland	5	0	5	3	32	0

DRAFT FIXTURES — SEASON 1981/82

SUPER DIVISION

1981

September

Hungary v Poland
Czechoslovakia v France
Yugoslavia v Sweden
Federal Germany v England

October

Hungary v Yugoslavia
England v France
Sweden v Federal Germany
Poland v Czechoslovakia

November

Federal Germany v Hungary
France v Poland
Czechoslovakia v Sweden
England v Yugoslavia

December

France v Hungary
Sweden v Poland
Czechoslovakia v England
Yugoslavia v Federal Germany

1982

January

Hungary v Sweden
Federal Germany v France
Poland v England
Yugoslavia v Czechoslovakia

February

Czechoslovakia v Hungary
France v Yugoslavia
England v Sweden
Poland v Federal Germany

March

Hungary v England
Sweden v France
Federal Germany v Czechoslovakia
Poland v Yugoslavia

DIVISION 1

1981

September

Netherlands v Bulgaria
Italy v Soviet Union
Finland v Greece
Austria v Denmark

October

Greece v Netherlands
Bulgaria v Soviet Union
Austria v Finland
Denmark v Italy

November

Netherlands v Austria
Soviet Union v Greece
Italy v Bulgaria
Finland v Denmark

December

Denmark v Netherlands
Austria v Soviet Union
Bulgaria v Greece
Finland v Italy

1982

January

Netherlands v Finland
Soviet Union v Denmark
Bulgaria v Austria
Greece v Italy

February

Italy v Netherlands
Finland v Soviet Union
Denmark v Bulgaria
Austria v Greece

March

Soviet Union v Netherlands
Bulgaria v Finland
Greece v Denmark
Italy v Austria

DIVISION 2

1981

September

Ireland v Switzerland
Luxembourg v Spain
Belgium v Wales
Scotland v Norway

October

Spain v Ireland

Wales v Luxembourg
Norway v Belgium
Switzerland v Scotland

November

Ireland v Wales
Luxembourg v Norway
Belgium v Scotland
Switzerland v Spain

December

Norway v Ireland
Belgium v Switzerland
Scotland v Luxembourg
Wales v Spain

1982

January

Ireland v Scotland
Luxembourg v Belgium
Spain v Norway
Switzerland v Wales

February

Luxembourg v Switzerland
Belgium v Ireland
Scotland v Spain
Norway v Wales

March

Ireland v Luxembourg
Wales v Scotland
Spain v Belgium
Switzerland v Norway

TRAINERS/PLAYERS COURSE

The Swedish Association has once again agreed to set up a Trainers/Players course on behalf of the European Table Tennis Union for the smaller associations similar to that held in 1979. The course will again be held in Falkenburg early in July.

The ETTU will give financial assistance towards travel to an agreed amount, and will provide hospitality and coaching free to one Trainer and two youth players. Applications to Mrs. Nancy Evans, Hon. Gen. Sec. ETTU, 198 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff, Wales CF2 6BQ (Phone: 0222-757241).

INFORMAL GENERAL MEETING

An Informal General Meeting of the ETTU will be held in Novi Sad, during the World Championships, on April 19. Items to be tabled include future options in respect of the European Championships, European Youth Championships and the Europe Top 12 competition.

Budapest will provide the venue for the 1982 European Championships future options being Yugoslavia (1984), Czechoslovakia (1986), Sweden (?) (1988) and Finland (1990).

The European Youth Championships this year will be in Topolcany and future options are held by Austria (1982), and Netherlands (1983).

France will stage the 1982 Top 12 with England having first option for 1983 followed by Czechoslovakia (1984), Spain (1985), Sweden (1986) and Switzerland (1987).

EUROPE CLUB CUP FINALS

Men's Teams: AZS Gdansk, Poland v Bp Spartacus, Hungary.

Women's Teams: Bp Statisztika, Hungary v Varbergs BTK, Sweden.

Both finals are to be played during the three days May 15/17, 1981.

FEDERAL GERMAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Peter Stellweg (SSV Heinzelmännchen Reutlingen) won the men's singles title of the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund championships, held in Boblingen with a -20, 13, 16, 14 win over Georg Bohm (TTC Morfelden). The women's singles title was won by Ursula Kamizuru (DSC Kaiserberg) with a 19, 17, -18, 15 win over Monika Stork (DSC Kaiserberg) in the final.

Stellweg, partnered by Heinrich Lammers (Eintracht Frankfurt), collected a second title in the men's doubles beating Hans-Joachim Nolten and Ralf Wosik (PSV Borussia Dusseldorf) -17, 18, 12, and 19. And, in the women's doubles, Mrs. Kamizuru

partnered by Kirsten Kruger (TSV Kronshagen) were successful 16, -16, -20, 14 and 19 over Anke Olschewski (FTG Frankfurt) and Susanne Wenzel (TSV Kronshagen). A third title came Mrs. Kamizuru's way when, with Wosik the mixed title was annexed 13, -19, 15 and 16 against Wilfried Lieck (TTC Plaza Altena) and Wiebke Hendriksen (TTV WRW Kleve).

NETHERLANDS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Dutch national championships were played in the Catharijnehal, Utrecht, over the weekend of March 14/15 with Nico van Slobbe emerging as the men's singles winner — for the third time — beating Jaap van Spanje 14, 20, 7 in the final. Nico's previous successes were in 1975 and 1978.

Bert van der Helm, 12 times champion, was beaten 3-0 by Jaap van Spanje who, in the semis, beat Hans Lingen -21, 16, 19, 25 at which stage van Slobbe accounted for Anne Vlieg 12, 19, 17.

As to be expected Bettine Vriesekoop won the women's singles beating Sandra de Kruijf 13, 15, 9 in the final. In the semis Bettine beat Brigitte Kooter (13, 15, 9) and Sandra beat Jolanda Noordam (19, 8, 19).

The brothers Jaap and Ron van Spanje won the men's doubles beating van Slobbe and Vlieg 17, -15, 16 in the doubles beating sisters Sterra and Vivian Blankaert 9 and 10 in the final.

The mixed final was contested by Ronald Rijsdorp and Jolanda Noordam and Patrick Swier and Miss Vriesekoop with the former winning 20 and 17.

In Novi Sad, for the 36th World Championships, the Netherlands will be represented by: Rene Hijne, Hans Gootzen, Jaap van Spanje and Anne Vlieg (men) and Bettine Vriesekoop, Sandra de Kruijf, Brigitte Kooter and Jolanda Noordam (women).

COVER PICTURE

Displaying the magnum bottle of champagne kindly donated by Moet et Chandon (with England in mind) at Ipswich are the victorious Hungarians who (from l to r) are:- Edit Urban, Dr. Georgy Lakatos, Judit Magos, Gabor Gergely and Istvan Jonyer.

Obituary

HARRY WALKER

Harry Walker passed peacefully away on Friday, 13th March, 1981 in St. Helens Hospital, Hastings, aged 81.

Harry's first and only love was table tennis and his involvement started in his home County of Essex. Although the Essex County Table Tennis Association was inaugurated on 13th July, 1938, it ceased to function as an association during the Second World War and in August 1946 it was considered that steps should be taken to re-form the County Association. At a meeting to do this on 31st August, 1946, a guiding document had been submitted from a tennis club in Canham. The signatory to the proposals was Harry Walker, a man who to the best knowledge of those who knew him had never played table tennis. Who was to know that these proposals submitted by him were to be the start of service to table tennis for a period extending through four decades? At the meeting on 31st August, Harry Walker was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Association, but the next A.G.M. saw him appointed as Chairman. This position he held through to the end of the 1950/51 season, but during that time it had been necessary to find a new secretary every year.

Harry knew that this was bad for the development of the Association and therefore proposed that if C. Corti Woodcock would combine the offices of President and Chairman, he would step down from the

chair and take on the duties of Secretary. This action, so typical of Harry, was accepted by the Association and despite changes in other officers, Harry continued as Secretary for year after year. The development of juniors became more than ever one of his main interests and even when serving as he did on the E.T.T.A. Executive, and on other committees, a guiding principle for him was always what would be good for the junior players.

In 1958 a new award, the "Corti Woodcock Memorial Award", was instigated in Essex and this was made annually in recognition of service to table tennis in Essex. Harry was the very first recipient in 1959. Following this, Harry was also honoured by the County of Essex first as a Vice President and later as an Honorary Life Member.

Harry gave up the secretaryship of Essex at the end of the 1964/65 season, having served for 14 years. However, once his service with the county had finished, Harry looked for fresh outlets for his talents and the English Table Tennis Association were quick to accept his offer of help, which proved valuable and greatly assisted the Association's office through times of change. He started by giving part-time assistance to cope with the increase of work caused by the staging of the European Championships in 1966 and stayed on after the resignation of Peter Lowen, thus bridging the gap prior to the appointment of Derek Tremayne as ETTA General Secretary.

Harry worked full time for three years, until 1968 when, following an additional appointment of an Administrative Secretary, his services were officially terminated, but Harry continued to provide valuable service to the Association in a voluntary capacity and this included uprooting himself from his beloved Essex and moving to Hastings in 1973. Finally, in April 1977 Harry retired from all service with the Association, although he continued to drop in to the office from time to time offering advice and assistance to all. Two years before his final retirement Harry received the recognition he prided most — that of Life Member of the English Table Tennis Association — in July, 1975. Harry was a friend to all, and

many a youngster can thank him for his guidance and help in his more active days. He will be sadly missed as another long-standing stalwart of our beloved game of Table Tennis.

MIKE WATTS

(Life Member - Essex County T.T.A.)

ELECTION RESULTS

The Election of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association for Season 1981/82 resulted:

Chairman:

T. Blunn 177 Votes (91 papers) ELECTED

L. Hoffman 102 Votes (57 papers) not elected

Deputy Chairman:

G. R. Yates unopposed ELECTED

Treasurer:

A. Drapkin unopposed ELECTED

The Electoral Register contains 337 electors, a total of 620 votes.

160 ballot papers were received by the due date, Friday, Mar. 13/81, of which 12 were held by the scrutineers to be invalid.

The elected officers take this opportunity of saying thank you for your continued support of their efforts.

TEAMS FOR NOVI SAD

England

Men: Desmond Douglas, John Hilton, Paul Day, Douggie Johnson and Robert Potton. Reserve: Graham Sandley.

Women: Jill Hammersley, Linda Jarvis, Karen Witt and Alison Gordon. Reserve: Carole Knight.

Captains: Peter Simpson and Donald Parker.

Wales

Men: Alan Griffiths, David Welsman, Mark Thomas and Nigel Thomas. Captain: Brian Everson.

Playing Table Tennis ? et Apprendre le Francais ? *Here's a chance to do both — in the sun of Southern France !*

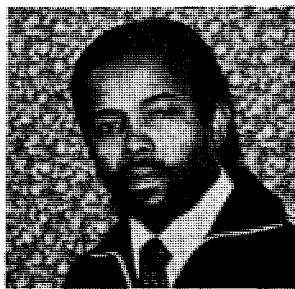
The Association Tennis de Table et Langue Vivantes offers a unique holiday opportunity for 13-16 year old boys and girls:

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- Cognac, South West France
- Stay with French families
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THIS AND THAT IN SURREY



by Murray Corbin

SOUTH OF ENGLAND 2-STAR CHAMPIONSHIPS

For many, the season is nearing its end, but for Surrey, the major event in its calendar is the South of England 2-Star Open, which will again be held at WOKING LEISURE CENTRE on the 23rd and 24th of next month. Revived last year by Trevor Channing after a lapse of nearly twenty years, these Championships have a long and distinguished history, being played first in 1937.

As a tribute to the late Trevor Channing for all the great work he has done for table tennis and Surrey, the Association decided to keep the tournament going in spite of the financial loss it suffered last year. Efforts to find Sponsorship started at least six months ago with dozens of letters being sent off to local and national companies. No major sponsor could be found, but fortunately, several of our locals, including London and South of England Building Society, Johnsons Wax, F. Cordell and Sons, John Jaques, Combined Freight Services, Playrite Sports and Foxgrove Construction of Egham, to name a few, have promised limited help. These offers are welcomed, but barely total the minimum level required of £1,000. Concentrated efforts are continuing to raise more money in order to prevent the tournament being a drain on the financial reserves of the County.

Last year, just over 200 players entered, including most of the England-ranked men and women, except those who were chosen

to represent England at the European Championships which were taking place over the same weekend. In the past, at a venue in Croydon, the largest entry has been over 400. Although it would be difficult to fit an entry of this magnitude in at Woking, with only 12 tables, a great increase on last year's entry is anticipated, because the tournament is the last major one of the season, coming just after completion of the World's.

Hopefully, most of the stars will be on show to cash in on the total prize money of £750. Entries close on the 29th of this month and I hope that many more of the Surrey Juniors than last year, have taken the opportunity to enter to gain the experience of playing at this level. By the way, I personally think that the organisation and the facilities offered last year, were well above 2-Star standard. It was a great joy for me to be present. Good luck to the Organiser — Norman Hooper and his creditable bunch of very able officials and helpers.

BITS AND PIECES

Unfortunately, I have not yet had a break down on the results of the Surrey Closed Schools' Championships that were held at Leatherhead in February . . . I understand that our 1st Team Juniors finished 4th out of 8 at the recent Junior Premier Weekend at St. Neots . . . Do you know when your local League Annual General Meeting will be this year, and will you be making an effort to attend? . . . This season I have not had a scrap of news from the Press Officers of Dorking, Epsom and Leatherhead or Guildford Leagues, to name a few . . . I was more than disgusted to see what quantity of illegal serving was allowed at the England/Hungary Super Division European League match at Ipswich. John Hilton was the main culprit. This absurdity must be stopped if the Rule Book is to be respected. I will certainly request an explanation from Peter Simpson when I next see him . . . It is the responsibility of all Coaches to enforce that their "subjects" at least serve legally. Adios!

TABLE TENNIS AT CARNEGIE

by George R. McKinney, B.A., M.Soc.Sc.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN A PHYSICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL

It is heartening to discover in a part of the Leeds Polytechnic, viz the Carnegie School of Physical Education and Human Movement, one of the greatest of its kind in the country, that an eminent place has been given to Table Tennis — George R. McKinney, B.A., M.Soc.Sc., Senior Lecturer there, writes about what his school is now doing. Perhaps what has been done in one P.E. Training Centre, might well be followed by others.

Tom Matthews, M.A.,
President, ESTTA.

The City of Leeds and Carnegie College amalgamated with Leeds Polytechnic in 1976, but that is not all that has changed. Carnegie School of Physical Education and Human Movement has been involved, along with other Institutes of Higher Education, in a dynamic and exciting, if at times frustrating debate, concerning its future role.

The past speaks for itself, but it will be our capacity to identify future 'needs' which will determine whether or not we can maintain our national and international reputation. To this end we have devised and developed new degrees in Human Movement Studies and Leisure Studies (Three Year Honours Degree) as well as updating our

existing B.Ed. and other teacher-training courses.

As tutor in charge of Games at Carnegie, this process has involved me, along with other staff, in a total reappraisal of the activities which were currently on offer to our students.

The place of Table Tennis in the new courses discussed was never in doubt. This is why.

As a sport in its own right, Table Tennis is exciting, both to play and watch. The component techniques demand close analysis, while the fitness requirements, physical and mental, provide an excellent focus for study.

It is this approach which the Human Movement Study students adopt. The game is practised and personal technique developed by the students with the intention of affording them a first hand confrontation with the associated problems of skill acquisition and technical development.

Concurrent with this practical involvement which can only go so far, because of time and other limiting factors, is the theoretical study of the game. This implementation (bat and ball) game affords an excellent indoor focus for the study of aspects common to many other physical activities.

The creation and use of spin, specific fitness and related training methods, biochemical analysis of the techniques/skills, as well as the identification of the effects of pressure on opponents, are all included.

Table Tennis also features largely in our B.Ed. and other teaching/coaching areas of study. Once again the rationale is clear. This is a dynamic exciting game in its own right, capable of being introduced into schools at any level to both girls and boys. It also requires the development of technical and tactical skill as well as physical and mental alertness to achieve excellence.

The Carnegie School, having that introduction in mind hopes that some of these students, having had ten, twelve or more hours contact with the game will apply for assessment as teacher coaches. Indeed eight have already done so this year and succeeded — many more should follow.

Of course we are fully aware that the game has been in schools for a long time and that the English Schools' Table Tennis Association, now in its 14th year, has been doing a fantastic job in elevating standards and increasing participation levels. There is no doubt that their very 'professional' approach to the training of teachers/coaches has influenced our course development.

Table Tennis, as a sport, is here to stay. I only hope that we, in Colleges, can now contribute more fully to its development in the country.

DURHAM NOTES

by Ray Simpson

JUNIORS EXCEL

What a good County Open for Durham's juniors. As reported elsewhere, three junior events were won, two other junior finals were reached, as well as one senior final. A good base for the future.

Durham's juniors also kept up their good County Championships record with a 9-1 win over Cleveland at Darlington. Darren McVitie and Michael Polkinghorne both scored two singles wins, McVitie beating Chris Metcalfe -18, 13, 14, and Anthony Wattis 8, 11, while Polkinghorne beat Metcalfe 11, 15, and Stephen Craggs 5, 13. The two combined to take the doubles over Craggs and Metcalfe 13, 14, while David Blackburne chipped in by beating Wattis 17, -17, 17. Lorna Wilson and Lyn Yarnell both



Will the very young vibrant and exciting Cadet SUSAN VIGOR emerge with time to be a "shining light"? I hope so.

won their singles and combined to take the doubles.

Unfortunately, Durham's top two juniors in this match and Barrie Gill had to drop out of the County Open the following week-end because of invitations to attend the junior ranking tournament, alongside others who also had to withdraw.

In the National League, SWD went down 9-0 to leaders City of Newcastle, and did not even take an end as their opponents overwhelmed them. The air of inevitability about the place turned out to be quite justified. However SWD have learned from their experiences this season, and are building for next.

The new county rankings have been issued and not unusually came in for an amount of criticism. They are as follows:

Men
1 Nigel Jopling, 2 Tony Gelder,
3 Dave Svenson, 4 John Crawford,
5 Bill Reay, 6 Ian Svenson.

Women
1 Lynne Bainbridge, 2 Julie Smith,
3 Lyn Yarnell, 4 Shirley Gelder.

Boys
1 Michael Polkinghorne, 2 Darren McVitie,
3 Barrie Gill, 4 David Blackburne,
5 Stephen Crosby, 6 Martin Gent.

Girls
1 Lyn Yarnell, 2 Lorna Wilson,
3 Allison Currie, 4 Elaine Blackburne.

The leading positions in the County Leagues are as follows:

Men	P	W	D	L	P
Philadelphia	7	5	1	1	22
Sunderland	5	4	1	0	18
Durham	6	4	0	2	14

Women	P	W	D	L	P
Sunderland "A"	4	4	0	0	16
Sunderland "B"	4	2	1	1	10
South Shields	4	2	0	2	8

Boys	P	W	D	L	P
Peterlee	5	5	0	0	19
Sunderland	5	4	0	1	17
South Shields	4	2	0	2	8

In the South West Durham Junior Top Table held at Scandura on Mar. 6, Gary Webstell beat Martin Gent in four games in the final -12, 17, 14, 18. However, Gent got his revenge twice over by beating Webstell in the semi-final of the open and junior singles in the Bishop Auckland Closed, the finals of which will be reported on next month.

The Durham v Bishop Auckland tournament went down well at Belmont on Feb. 22, with University Sports and Social Club gaining the most points and thus winning the trophy for the Durham league.

In the Peterlee Closed on Mar. 15, Darren McVitie won both the open singles and junior singles titles. In the open final, he beat 1980 county champion Bill Reay 19, 15, and in the junior he beat fellow county junior Barrie Gill -8, 17, 13. A good tournament also for Paul Young, who won both the Div. B open singles and Div. B cadet singles.

Letters to the Editor

FURTHER TRIBUTE

I enjoyed reading the letter from Arnold Shepherd (Memories Recalled, February issue). It is many years since I met Arnold and I hope he is keeping well.

It is sad that his letter was prompted by the passing of Leslie Cohen, and I feel that I would like to add my tribute to a great player and a good friend. Leslie was a delightful player to watch and he gave a lot to Table Tennis both as a player and an official. As Arnold says he modelled his game on the late, great, Victor Barna, but

the resemblance did not end on the table because, like Victor, Leslie was a gentleman, treating opponents and everyone with the greatest respect.

I have many memories of his days with that great Manchester team of Benny Casofsky, Hymie Lurie, and Leslie himself, and I am not sure if they ever represented England as a team, but they certainly had many international honours between them.

I have always been proud to say that I was reserve to this fabulous trio for two years just after the war, and this is a long time to be carrying the bags, but I loved every minute of it. We travelled to London twice for Wilmott Cup finals, and on each occasion they brought the cup back to Manchester, and that makes me the possessor of a Wilmott Cup medal and I never struck a ball in either final, but in spite of this, I treasure that medal because of the many memories that go with it.

The only way that I could have made that team was for one of them to be ill, and this only happened once when Hymie had the 'flu and I played, but not very well, because everyone was delighted when Hymie returned to the side, myself included.

These three players were great tacticians as well as being great players, and the first part of the journey to London was taken up by a serious discussion on the merits of the opposition, with each one contributing his knowledge of the players they would meet that day. Their thoroughness really impressed me and I suppose today the term would be that they had a very thorough and 'professional' attitude to the game.

When the business of analysing the opposition was out of the way, the rest of the journey was spent in telling jokes, a pastime at which these three were also very accomplished, with Benny Casofsky taking on the job of translating the yiddish punch-lines for me.

After both finals we had a drink in the West End, and I remember Leslie taking us for a fabulous meal in "Isow's" restaurant in Soho, and on this occasion we were accompanied by the late Jack Livingstone. I was very conscious and proud of the medal in my pocket, although I had done nothing to deserve it, and it crossed my mind that

to Benny, Les and Hymie the actual medal may not mean all that much because they must have won hundreds of trophies and prizes. I could not have been more wrong because they really treasured those little pieces of metal, because it was an honour they had won for Manchester and not so much for themselves. I remember Leslie saying that he may have his made into a necklet for his wife, Renee.

So you see, it really was 'memories recalled' for me, and I am sure that there are lots of old ex-players who also enjoyed Arnold's contribution. It would be great if some of them are prompted to write to you.

ERNIE POWER,

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BODY BLOWS

One reads a lot about the decline of the County Championships, once a Premier event in which the Greats of the Game, Leach, Barnes, Neale and many others were proud to play. From these dizzy beginnings they have become a minor event. The National League delivered 3 stunning body blows:

1. They took up no fewer than 14 dates during the main playing season.
2. Matches influenced ranking lists, which the C.C. no longer do.
3. The National League offered some players some chance of payment.

(1) meant a clash of interests, (2) automatically bestowed prestige on one, taking it away from the other, (3) was vital to players wanting to play at National level because expenses are now murderous.

To attribute the decline of the C.C. to any of the above factors alone would be a grave mistake. No institution can sink so fast as the C.C. have done without contributing liberally to its own downfall. To share 10 matches among five players is going to one extreme, just as many tournaments, with their 14 hour playing schedules, go to the other. The ratio of 3 men and 2 women simply does not reflect real life. I am open to correction, but my guess would be that in

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the real world there are 10 men playing competitive table tennis to every one woman. One wishes it were otherwise, but legislation must be based on reality rather than wishful thinking. After over-representing women in numerical terms, the playing schedule then gives them next to nothing in playing terms. If a county is lucky enough to have two strong ladies and promotion is won (to the Premier Division), one of the ladies, as a reward for her efforts, must lose her place!

The 5 person team plus the N.P.C. makes sure that they can't all get into one car, so two have to go and expenses are deducted. With petrol at £1.60 per gallon that too does not seem a good idea. Regionalised or not, some journeys seem awfully long. For instance, having Cornwall, Hereford and the Isle of Wight in one region is certainly of greater benefit to the petrol stations than the ones who have to pay.

At local level, too, many county associations seemed in a happy slumber and there have been a number of fiascos which have detracted from the glamour of representing the County. These in the main were due to poor organisation by officials who seemed content to lord it at the county trials, but not when the solid work of staging a match had to be done. Factors described above led to some laughable matches and I have known a lady player buy a brand new outfit, thrilled to be playing for the County, travel 400 miles to be confronted at the other end by a total beginner to win 21-4 twice in 7 minutes. My admiration for the gallant loser knows no bounds — and for her County. They gave four other players the chance to play at all. C'est magnifique, but is it table tennis?

Therefore the mass defection of county stars to the National League had deeper origins and can be explained in terms of a long, nagging dissatisfaction among players that started a lot earlier than the National League. I can see that it is hard for County Officials to adjust to the new challenge, having enjoyed a monopoly situation for so long. It is like a chain store opening next to a family grocer, but such are the realities of life and the only answer is to fight back. It is this course of action that I commend to the Counties. Let them search their own souls. Above all, let them ask themselves the following questions: Have we staged all County Matches in a way that makes them a special table tennis occasion? If we have not, how can we expect the players to feel a special sense of pride when they represent the County? Have we accorded to players the consideration and honour that is due to those who are the best in the County? In short, has this been a season that we, officials and players, can be proud of? Or was it all an irksome routine? There is a lot more to the Game than winning and losing.

My own County has just concluded its season in the lower regions of the County Championships and we have, of course, enjoyed it all immensely and great credit is due to the excellent coverage in Table Tennis News by the admirable Philip Reid, which shows that there is something the County Championships do better than the National League. I have a toe in both camps and I wish them both well. Long term, neither will suffer if they have to compete for players, for spectators and for supremacy, but let it be in constructive terms by genuine competition by each trying to do things better than the other. My own lack of influence in table tennis circles is total. I have come to realize that everybody is much smarter than I am. Each time I complain, for instance, that a certain junior tournament is too long I find that the next one is longer still. For me to put pen to paper therefore is, as was once said, on another occasion, a triumph of optimism over experience. I can only hope that the Counties will not continue to dig their own graves and that they will see in their un-

doubted current problems a challenge to do things better than in the past.

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SEEDS OF DOUBT

The caption to the photograph on page 36 of March "Table Tennis News" — "Stephen Sharpe, Yorkshire's No. 1 ranked boy; Tony Sanderson, Yorkshire No. 2, England No. 11" — illustrates one of the most confusing aspects of the game.

Sharpe was, indeed, ranked at No. 1 in the boys section of the Yorkshire TTA rankings issued on January 5th.

The previous month's national list, however, contained two other Yorkshire boys with Sanderson (York) at No. 11 and David Illingsworth (Barnsley) in Group A — but no sign of the Wakefield player.

I can understand apparent discrepancies, such as the Hilton-Douglas situation, in international lists and I appreciate those which sometimes occur when players are in both junior and senior categories.

But I find such anomalies in national and county lists irritating — and so did the organisers of the South Yorkshire Open tournament for which all three boys had entered and were, after much confusion, seeded.

To further complicate the issue, I am assured that the Yorkshire girls' list — in remarkably similar circumstances — was purposefully compiled strictly according to national rankings.

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MERSEYSIDE 2-STAR OPEN

ANDY'S DAY AT KIRKBY

by Geo. R. Yates

It was a red letter day for Staffordshire's **Andrew Bellingham** (18) at Kirkby Sports Centre on March 28 when, from an unseeded position, he won the men's singles title of the Merseyside 2-Star Open eliminating the No. 2 seed, Nigel Eckersley, in the quarters and, after a semi-final win over New Zealander's Barry Griffiths, crowned his efforts with a 2-straight win over top seed Max Crimmins.

Eckersley had his chance in the quarters leading by a game and 20-19 but this was Bellingham's day and he was fully deserving of the £100 cheque that went with the title.

On the distaff side **Alison Gordon** had a trouble free event never being extended to a third game decider not even by Melody Hill in the final. But in the women's doubles, partnered by **Jean Parker** — winner of the girls' singles — the Berks/Lancs combine were beaten by Mrs. Hill and her Bradford teammate **Helen Shields**.

Eckersley had to settle for a men's doubles win, maintaining his winning partnership with **Kevin Beadsley** with a smooth victory over Bellingham and Tony Isaac.

New Zealander **Griffiths** showed impressive form in winning the boys' singles, particularly against Billy Gleave although made to fight somewhat harder against Andrew Dixon in the final. **Graham Lynch** was the veterans' singles winner beating Jack Evans in the final after the Lancashire man had eliminated the favourite Peter D'Arcy in the semis.

Lynch's last excursion to a Merseyside championship resulted in his winning the boys' singles — a unique double! Such was the efficiency of Referee Brian Leeson and his chartmen that the day's proceedings were over in remarkably early time but what a pity that the finals were so bereft of atmosphere.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Crimmins (Sy) bt K. Beadsley (Y)
-18, 7, 13;

A. Creed (Av) bt P. D'Arcy (Ch) 14, 14;
B. Griffiths (NZ) bt D. Gannon (Le) 21, 16;
A. Bellingham (St) bt N. Eckersley (Ch)
-18, 20, 15.

Semi-finals:

Crimmins bt Creed 13, 16;
Bellingham bt Griffiths 19, 16.

Final:

BELLINGHAM bt Crimmins 19, 18.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Gordon (Bk) bt J. Parker (La) 10, 10;
S. Alexander (Ch) bt H. Frost (La) 15, 19;
H. Shields (Y) bt D. Schofield (Ch)
-19, 16, 16;

M. Hill (Y) bt V. Bellingham (St) 9, -18, 11.

Semi-finals:

Gordon bt Alexander 16, 14;
Hill bt Shields 17, -19, 10.

Final:

GORDON bt Hill 14, 13.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Bellingham/A. Isaac (St) bt Griffiths/
G. Horne (Aul) 15, -17, 14;

Beadsley/Eckersley bt A. Boasman (Ch)/
S. Mills (Y) 21, 12.

Final:

BEADSLEY/ECKERSLEY bt Bellingham/
Isaac 18, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hill/Shields bt S. Bennett/S. Hughes (La)
13, 20;

Gordon/Parker bt Alexander/L. Fennah
(Ch) 19, 13.

Final:

HILL/SCHIELDS bt Gordon/Parker 19, 15.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

P. Rainford (La) bt I. Smith (W) -13, 16, 13;
A. Dixon (St) bt S. Browne (La) 22, -19, 16;
Griffiths bt G. Spencer (Mi) 12, 5;

W. Gleave (Ch) bt N. Conquest (La) 17, 16.

Semi-finals:

Dixon bt Rainford 14, 16;
Griffiths bt Gleave 11, 16.

Final:

GRIFFITHS bt Dixon 10, -16, 16.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Parker bt C. Peacock (La) 11, 13;
Bellingham bt D. Cox (La) 5, 15;

Frost bt B. Annand (Wal) 19, 11;
C. Hemming (La) bt Fennah 12, 13.

Semi-finals:

Parker bt Bellingham 13, 17;
Frost bt Hemming -13, 16, 22.

Final:

PARKER bt Frost 13, 18.

Veterans' Singles Quarter-finals:

G. Lynch (Dy) bt W. Harris (La) 20, 16;
T. Donlon (Ch) bt E. Brown (Ch) 9, 10;

J. Evans (La) bt Mrs. Schofield 7, 13;
D'Arcy bye.

Semi-finals:

Lynch bt Donlon 13, -12, 20;
Evans bt D'Arcy 19, 17.

Final:

LYNCH bt Evans 10, 11.

NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS SEASON 1980-81

WILMOTT CUP - QUARTER-FINALS

Closing Date: 19th April, 1981

Northumberland v Preston (1)

Ely v Leicester (2)

Cheshunt v Dagenham (3)

Crawley v Bournemouth (4)

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Closing Date: 17th May, 1981

1 v 2 3 v 4

Fourth Round Results

Bradford 2 Northumberland 5
 Preston 5 Stockport 0
 Nottingham 3 Leicester 5
 Birmingham 4 Ely 5
 Chelmsford 1 Cheshunt 5
 Dagenham 5 Milton Keynes 3
 Beckenham 2 Crawley 5
 Bournemouth 5 Bristol 4

J. M. ROSE BOWL - QUARTER-FINALS

Closing Date: 19th April, 1981

Sunderland v Bradford (1)
 Leicester v Birmingham (2)
 North Middlesex v Basildon (3)
 Eastbourne v Swindon (4)

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Closing Date: 17th May, 1981

1 v 2 4 v 3

Fourth Round Results

Northumberland 3 Sunderland 5
 Bradford 5 Preston 3
 Nottingham 0 Leicester 6
 Birmingham 7 Luton 2
 Basildon awarded match against Ipswich
 North Middlesex 6 Maidenhead 0
 Eastbourne 5 Aldershot 4
 Swindon walkover against Bournemouth

CARTER CUP - QUARTER-FINALS

Closing Date: 19th April, 1981

Ormesby v Bradford (1)
 Chesterfield v Birmingham (2)
 Thames Valley v Billericay (3)
 Bristol v Medway (4)

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Closing Date: 17th May, 1981

1 v 2 3 v 4

Fourth Round Results

Ormesby 5 Stockton 2
 Bradford 5 Preston 1
 Chesterfield 5 Grantham 2
 Luton 1 Birmingham 5
 Billericay 7 North Herts 2
 Milton Keynes 0 Thames Valley 6
 Medway 9 Crawley 0
 Bournemouth 2 Bristol 5

BROMFIELD TROPHY - QUARTER-FINALS

Closing Date: 19th April, 1981

Preston v Northumberland (1)
 Dunstable v Grantham (2)
 Maidenhead v North Middlesex (3)
 Swindon v Guildford (4)

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Closing Date: 17th May, 1981

1 v 2 4 v 3

Fourth Round Results

Ormesby 3 Northumberland 5
 Preston awarded match against Sheffield
 Hull 3 Grantham 6
 Dunstable 7 Market Drayton 2
 Bishops Stortford 1 North Middlesex 5
 Maidenhead 5 Oxford 2
 Guildford 5 Hastings 2
 Swindon 5 Bournemouth 4

MEN'S COMPETITION - QUARTER-FINALS

Closing Date: 26th April, 1981

Thornaby Youth Club (Stockton) v
 Savoy (Fleetwood) (1)
 South Yardley (Birmingham) v
 Sheepbridge 'A' (Chesterfield) (2)
 Dagenham Dock (Dagenham) v
 Ellenborough (North Middlesex) (3)
 Omega (Reading) v Sturdee (Medway) (4)

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Closing Date: 24th May, 1981

2 v 1 4 v 3

Fourth Round Results

Netherfield (Westmorland) 2
 Thornaby Youth Club (Stockton) 5
 Wavertree Labour (Liverpool) 2
 Savoy (Fleetwood) 5
 Penmaen (Wyberton) 2
 Sheepbridge 'A' (Chesterfield) 5
 South Yardley (Birmingham) 5
 Phoenix (Coventry) 1

Dagenham Dock (Dagenham) awarded
 match against Fellows Cranleigh (Barking)
 Kidlington Forum (Oxford) 0

Ellenborough (North Middlesex) 6
 Civil Service (Hastings) 3

Sturdee (Medway) 6
 Saints (Exeter) 0 Omega (Reading) 6

IRISH AFFAIRS

by Willie Walsh

IRISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

17-year-old Colum Slevin justified his ranking as Irish No. 1 when he retained his Irish Closed Championship with a rather comfortable victory over fellow International Pat Glynn at the E.S.B. Sportsco Complex last month.

When they stood at 10-10 in the first game there was the suggestion of a cliff-hanger and maybe an upset, but from then on Slevin gradually pulled away to lead 14-10, 17-12 and 20-15.

The second game saw the rally of the match at 1-3 and Glynn then went into overdrive to lead 10-4. He then had a mental aberration to lose five points in a row and he never recovered from this. They were level at 11-11 and from then on, Slevin led 14-11 and 17-13 to clinch it at 21-16.

In the semis Slevin beat Martin Kinsella and Glynn came back from the 'dead' against the rejuvenated Tommy Caffrey. Caffrey won the 1st game 16 and actually led Glynn 19-13 in the second, only to lose 20-22. Tommy never recovered from the shock and consequently lost the third -9.

The women's event suffered as a result of the absence of the injured holder, Anne Leonard, as Karen Walker strolled to a leisurely title beating Deidre Kilpatrick in the final.

The ebullient Jim Langan went out to Slevin in the men's quarters, but he came back into the 'big time' when he renewed his former partnership with Mrs. Walker to beat Glynn and Kilpatrick in the Mixed. It was great to see Jim as extrovert as ever and with himself and Caffrey now back on the circuit, it was like the 'good old days'!

Junior International, Aidan Walsh had two good wins in the Men's singles in eliminating Leinster's Jim Canavan and Ulster's Interprovincial and Irish ranked No. 8 Jimmie Hamill.

Full marks too to Joe Hickey, Honorary Referee and the Leinster Branch for their hard, but very successful, work.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

Slevin bt Langan 13, 16;
 Kinsella bt Larrigan 14, 17;
 Caffrey bt Heasley 13, -15, 12;
 Glynn bt Robinson 8, 12.

Semi-finals:

Slevin bt Kinsella 11, 13;
 Caffrey lost to Glynn 16, -20, -9.

Final:

SLEVIN bt Glynn 15, 16.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

Walker bt Cheevers 10, 13;
 Moore bt Sheehan -16, 21, 19;
 Gibson bt G. Leonard 14, 19;
 Kilpatrick bt Kelly 15, 15.

Semi-finals:

Walker bt Moore -17, 13, 14;
 Kilpatrick bt Gibson 15, 15.

Final:

WALKER bt Kilpatrick 17, 17.

Mixed Doubles Final:

LANGAN/WALKER bt Glynn/Kilpatrick 16, 10.

Men's Doubles Final:

CAFFREY/LEONARD bt Hamill/Wilson 16, 15.

Women's Doubles Final:

WALKER/GIBSON bt Kilpatrick/Sheehan 10, -13, 9.

DALE FARM LISBURN OPEN

That great sports benefactor, Dale Farm, who have made such a tremendous contribution to Ulster's Table Tennis were the sponsors for the highly successful Lisburn Open.

The Norwegian European League team who played Ireland in Athlone on the Friday night — when they should have been in Lisburn — were up and ready at 6.30 a.m. to travel to Lisburn on the Saturday morning, but the jinks continued when the car that travelled from Lisburn to collect them had a mishap. The Irish non-playing captain of the previous night cheered up all the taxi drivers of Athlone no end by getting themselves, wives and children out



MIXED DOUBLES

Neville Cruikshanks (Dale Farm) presenting runners-up prizes to Tom Johannsen (Norway) and Valerie Moore (Omagh) at the Dale Farm Lisburn Open.

of bed by ringing them and asking them to drive the Norwegians to Lisburn. Eventually one of the weaker ones broke down under extreme pressure, cajoling and the odd expletive and agreed to drive the Norwegians half-way, from where the original driver drove them the rest of the way. If Robert Kee ever does another television history of Ireland, he will get at least two episodes out of the Norwegian visit.

After all that, the Norwegians had the time of their lives when they won the Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, Mixed, and Miss Folkesson also won the women's doubles with Ulster's Stella McAttamney.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

P. Guttormensen bt D. Hannah 11, 21;

T. Johannsen bt D. Welsman -18, 18, 16.

Final:

JOHANNSEN bt Guttormensen 14, 14.

Women's Singles Final:

T. FOLKESON bt G. Leonard 10, 8.

Men's Doubles Final:

GUTTORMENSEN/JOHANNSEN bt

Hannah/Welsman 15, 15.

Women's Doubles Final:

T. FOLKESON/S. McATTAMNEY bt

P. Hunter/V. Moore 20, 19.

Mixed Doubles Final:

GUTTORMENSEN/FOLKESON bt

Johannsen/V. Moore 20, 19.

Men's Veteran Singles:

J. BRYANT bt C. McBride 20, 19.

"GENEVA CONVENTION"

The Irish woe continued in Geneva last month with another 6-1 rout by Switzerland in the European League Division Two.

Derek Weir, who was a last minute replacement for the ill Pat Glynn started off very well, leading T. Miller in the first game 9-1; 12-3; 13-6 and 15-10, before being overhauled at 17-17. Miller won the next four points to clinch the game. In the second it was neck and neck to 19-19 and this time Weir clinched the game winning the next two points. In the 3rd Miller was always in front and won 13.

What an unlucky year it has been for Slevin! He lead T. Busin 20-17 in the first game only to lose 20-22. In the second game it was 20-20 again and then Slevin won the next point, Busin levelled at 21 and Slevin again won the next point. Busin went on to win the next three points to clinch the game and so Switzerland went into a 2-0 lead.

In the Women's singles, F. Weibel beat Karen Walker 12 in the first, but Mrs. Walker fought back to win the second 19. In the third game Miss Weibel led 13-5, but Walker won the next 5 points. Weibel won the next point to lead 14-10. It then went 14-11; 15-11; 15-12; 15-13, 16-13; 16-14; 16-15 and they were eventually level at 16. They levelled again at 17, but the Swiss lady won the next two points. Walker came back to be still in the 'hunt' at 17-18. It then went 17-19, 18-19; and 18-20. Weibel then clinched it to give the home team a 3-0 lead.

Busin and Barcikowski sealed the match when they beat Slevin and Weir — again in the 3rd — 18, 17, 13.

The mixed was another 3-game set that saw Busin and Weibel beat Slevin and Walker 12, -15, 18.

Ireland avoided a 'whitewash' when Slevin took the bare look off the match result by beating Miller 4, 12.

Busin won the final game 14, 10 against Weir.

So Ireland only have the victory over Spain to show for this year's European League. The question now is — 'where did they go wrong?' The scores against Switzerland indicate that with a bit of luck Ireland could have won. Ireland could also have won with a bit of luck against Belgium, but they were not in con-

tention against Denmark, or, on the night, against Norway.

TREBLE FOR KATHLEEN MURRAY

Kathleen Murray (Skerries) won the Women's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles at the East of Ireland Championships in the Oblate Hall, Dublin last month. Miss Murray, who had a few years break from Table Tennis owing to her studies seems to be regaining her previous form and this achievement will certainly do her the world of good.

Caffrey won his second Men's Singles Championship of the season and completed a double partnering Miss Murray in the mixed.

Surprise winners of the Men's Doubles were T. McCabe and D. Crowley of the up-and-coming Columbanus Club, Coolock, Dublin. Well done lads!

RESULTS

Men's Singles:

T. CAFFREY bt B. Larrigan -15, 16, 19.

Women's Singles:

K. MURRAY bt H. Walsh 13, 19.

Men's Doubles:

T. McCABE/D. CROWLEY bt B. Larrigan/
J. Bryant -19, 16, 15.

Women's Doubles:

MURRAY/WALSH bt M. McEvoy/H. Hayes
17, -18, 15.

Mixed Doubles:

CAFFREY/MURRAY bt Larrigan/Walsh
16, 14.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MAJOR OPPOSITION

Your March issue contains a letter on Standardization written by Major Joaquim. T. Libanio of Brazil. I am afraid I do not agree with his arguments and would like to present another and I think more rational point of view based, not only upon my own knowledge but also upon the results of a scientific research and development programme into table tennis equipment over the past three years in Great Britain.

Table tennis is an exciting sport and is bound to be affected in many ways by improving technology and its impact on the playing equipment involved. Major Libanio makes a comment that the bat, weight, size shape and form are not important but are purely a matter of personal preference. This is a very misleading statement because research has shown that the bat blade exerts a very important effect upon playing technique. It is almost as important technically as the rubbers and the type of timber used, the way the laminates are assembled, the type of adhesive and the number of laminates are all of the utmost consequence. I would remind your correspondent that there are today separate bat blades suitable either for Defence, All-round or Attacking play. Even the balance point of the blade and the shape of the handle have to be taken into account.

Your correspondent goes on to suggest that it is impossible to standardize on the various types of sponges. Some of the most exciting developments are taking place in this particular area and I think it would be a backward step to hamper those possibilities by bureaucratic decisions made by people who do not understand or appreciate the technology involved.

Outside the Far East from where most of our supplies of bat rubbers etc. are obtained there would appear to be considerable lack of knowledge concerning the importance and the technical nature of current table tennis bats and rubbers. At the moment there does not appear to be very much literature available on the technical side of the equipment but a technical Manual on table tennis equipment where all the factors concerning blades, rubbers and sponges are

considered in considerable depth. This Manual will be published by our Company and we propose to add to it by way of annual supplement as the results of further research and development become available.

Major Libanio appears to wish to impose a rigid straight jacket of Standardization upon the sport of table tennis. He does not appear to think that the world should accept the exciting challenge of technical innovations which has been made by both the Chinese and the Japanese over the past few years rather he would try to tie down all the table tennis players in the world to standard bats, standard sponges and standard rubbers and in his opinion this would give more chance for personal skill to be the dominate factor in world competition. In my opinion this is a fallacious argument the world table tennis scene indicates that equipment will get more technical rather than less. Surely it is a much more exciting prospect that the individual player may soon be able to have his individual needs catered for rather than having to accept standardised equipment supplied from the Far East because I am sure he cannot seriously suggest that the technical advances already made by the Far East nations should be cancelled and the world of table tennis return to the sort of equipment used in the distant past. The reason table tennis has much more world wide appeal now than it ever had must be due to the advance in technology and the good equipment of highly technical nature. I think for example that the new attacking shots such as the Loop have added a new dimension to our sport and I think there is much more to come providing research and technology are allowed to continue.

I am of the opinion that too many controls on playing equipment will lead to stereo-type play and mediocrity rather than to excellence. Let us explore our sport in every possible dimension, we have technology available so let us use it.

Major Libanio also has compared table tennis with lawn tennis and pointed out wrongly in my opinion the Standardization of lawn tennis equipment. In this matter he is again incorrect because the most exciting personality on the lawn tennis scene of recent years is Bjorg who has come up with a completely different and successful style of play which incidentally, has required some alteration to the stringing of his racket well within the existing rules. Due to his own personal research into styles and technique we now have a very attractive new world champion who has added a new dimension to lawn tennis.

In the same way I appeal to the powers that be to please let our sport and our players have the benefit of their individual freedom and let our sport develop in whatever way it will. Where there is liberty there is inventiveness and the exciting scientific and technological advances which have been made in the last few years indicate that there are a lot more changes in the pipeline. Personally, I think it would be a retrograde step to go back to rigid standardization and I am certain that if such rules were forced upon the sport many thousands of potentially expert and may be champions would desert the sport entirely.

Quite contrary to the good Major's views I hope that the responsible ITTF body will think very carefully indeed before they impose more rules and regulations on our beloved sport of table tennis. It is about time the European table tennis scene came up with some good ideas of its own and we as a company, aim to help in that direction.

S. T. LENTON, Chairman.

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Who are the favourites for the 36th World's ?

... asks Arpad Csordas, Magyar Szo, Novi Sad.

Dusan Osmanagic, 45, has headed the Yugoslav table tennis team for the past fifteen years. He took over as federal trainer on Nov. 4, 1966 and since then he has reaped a large number of successes in the arenas of table tennis throughout the world. It is only natural that he recalls the 1976 Spring evenings of Prague most willingly, when the Yugoslav men's team downed the Swedes in the final of the European Championships; he also recalls fond memories when speaking about the European Championships of Lyons in 1968 and the Calcutta World Championships in 1975. In Lyons, Surbek won the singles title, while in the men's doubles Stipanovic and Vecko triumphed.

Calcutta enriched the medal collection of the Yugoslav team with three silver medals. This year's world championships will be held "on a home pitch" for the Yugoslavs. We have asked Mr. Osmanagic to answer some questions with regard to the upcoming world championships, his experience of last autumn and the chances of the leading teams.

Q. "What new feature did you note in world table tennis last autumn?"

A. "Let me speak about the Chinese first. Young players, just as earlier, have once again come to the fore. This is the result of systematic and up-to-date practice sessions, led by a large number of well-trained coaches with many players. In Europe, including Yugoslavia, something like this is basically unknown, for several reasons: one being the smaller number of players. Chinese players are good, but their sports career lasts only a short while. Consequently, they cannot gain sufficient experience, and as for the team as a whole, fresh changes are effected time and again, barring the players from getting used to one another. One consequence of this constant change of players cannot produce the results expected in the singles. China has not had a world champion in singles since the 1973 world championships of Sarajevo. As for their team of two years ago, only Kuo Yao-hua has managed to stay on top.

"Other countries still have their old players, the only two new names are Carlsson of Sweden and Pansky of Czechoslovakia. As for the game they play, I did not see anything really new. The anti-topspin cover of bats has gained more popularity, understandably as that makes possible certain types of attacks".

Q. "What about the Japanese?"

A. "They are "the dark horse" of the game. They won't field their strongest team before the world championships. You never can tell what they will come up with next, so as to surprise the others. But, I think, no Japanese player will be able to win the men's singles this year".

Q. "What do you expect in each of the events, and who are the hot favourites for the Novi Sad world championships?"

A. "In each of the women's events, and in the mixed doubles, China seems invincible, while in the men's team competition only Hungary can stand up to them. In the men's singles, besides Kuo Yao-hua, I would opt for Klampar, Gergely and Bengtsson, but one should not forget about the best players of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. I expect a European victory in the men's doubles. I would not dare to say that Surbek and Stipanovic will be able to repeat their success in Pyongyang. Jonyer and Klampar could also

emerge as winners. But I believe I can surely say that European players will take the world title in men's doubles. As for the whole competition, I expect it to be on a higher standard than any previous world championships".

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LANCASHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

by Geo. R. Yates

Top seed Billy Gleave failed to win either the boys' or cadet boys' singles titles in the 8th Lancashire Junior Open played at the Bolton Institute of Technology on Mar. 1.

Kent's David Dodd beat Gleave in the final of the boys' singles, but the young Cheshire player was made to swallow an even more bitter pill when, as the national cadet champion, he was eliminated from the cadet boys' singles at the semi-final stage by the eventual winner, Ivan Smith of Shropshire.

National champion Joy Grundy did Lancashire proud by retaining her girls' singles title, and with her Preston teammate Jean Parker she also won the girls' doubles.

Shaun Browne of Lancashire teamed up with Sean Madden of Yorkshire but this trans-Pennine combination failed to halt Warwickshire's Philip Gunn and Ian Smith in the final of the boys' doubles.

Alison Barker of the Grove School, Market Drayton was the winner of the cadet girls' singles beating Amanda Hegarty. A feature of these championships was the entry of a large contingent from the Isle of Man but sadly, with the exception of Chris Holland, not one of their boys reached the second round in either singles or doubles.

And it was a like situation in the girls' events but, doubtless, having seen the standard to which they must aspire, further excursions must be planned.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

W. Gleave (Ch) bt D. Illingsworth (Y) 12, 16;

I. Smith (Wa) bt F. McEwen (La) 8, -18, 23;
D. Dodd (K) bt D. Rudge (Wa) 18, 17;
M. Thomas (Wal) bt P. Dilger (St) 8, 17.

Semi-finals:

Gleave bt Smith 18, 15;
Dodd bt Thomas 16, -16, 17.

Final:

DODD bt Gleave 10, 21.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Grundy (La) bt F. Elliot (St) 21, 15;
H. Frost (La) bt D. Boughey (Sp) -17, 17, 13;

M. Seaton (Y) bt R. Brook (Y) 10, 14;
J. Parker (La) bt D. Soothill (Cu) 9, 9.

Semi-finals:

Grundy bt Frost -15, 13, 18;
Parker bt Seaton -18, 16, 21.

Final:

GRUNDY bt Parker 14, -20, 18.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Browne (La)/S. Madden (Y) bt P. Ashcroft/M. Mercer (La) 17, 21;
P. Gunn (Wa)/Smith bt Thomas/N. Yardley (Cu) 23, 19.

Final:

GUNN/SMITH bt Browne/Madden 10, -19, 16.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Grundy/Parker bt C. Peacock (La)/Soothill 17, 16;

Frost/B. Hoyle (La) bt Elliot/R. Roberts (St) 20, 18.

Final:

GRUNDY/PARKER bt Frost/Hoyle 14, 17.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

Gleave bt S. Craggs (Cv) 11, 8;
I. Smith (Sp) bt I. Sharp (Cu) 14, 8;
A. Dixon (St) bt A. Dodd (K) 17, -17, 19;
I. McLoughlin (La) bt C. Guest (Y) 12, 8.

Semi-finals:

Smith bt Gleave 22, 17;
McLoughlin bt Dixon 13, -11, 20.

Final:

SMITH bt McLoughlin 18, -19, 16.

Cadet Girls' Quarter-finals:

A. Barker (Sp) bt Soothill 11, 16;
D. Wickstead (Sp) bt S. Thorneycroft (Sp) 18, 19;

A. Hegarty (St) bt T. Duns (Dy) 19, 16;
C. Wickstead (Sp) bt A. Wattis (Cv) 4, 9.

Semi-finals:

Barker bt D. Wickstead 16, 11;
Hegarty bt C. Wickstead 11, -22, 12.

Final:

BARKER bt Hegarty -8, 20, 19.

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REVISED JUNIOR RANKINGS

PREAN, 13, HEADS THE FIELD

13-years-old Carl Prean, from Ryde, Isle of Wight, is the England Junior No. 1 boy in the new ranking lists issued by the ETTA's classification sub-committee. Prean, one of the youngest ever winners of the English Junior Closed last December, continued to show the form that brought him the title "English Junior Champion", by winning the Whitbread Cotswold Junior Select tournament in Gloucester on Jan. 25, using a "combination" bat in the style of the European Champion, John Hilton.

In the Girls' list, Joy Grundy remains at No. 1 and her Lancashire and Preston teammate 15-years-old Jean Parker, the sister of ETTA National Coach Donald, has moved up four places to No. 3 with Helen Williams of Enfield splitting them. Revised rankings (previous position in brackets):

Boys

- 1 Carl Prean (IOW) (2)
- 2 Phillip Bradbury (Bu) (3)
- 3 Mark Oakley (Sy) (4)
- 4 John Souter (Mi) (1)
- 5 Adrian Moore (Sx) (14)
- 6 Paul Rainford (La) (5)
- 7 Nicky Hoare (Sy) (A)
- 8 Tony Sanderson (Y) (—)
- 9 Jeremy Duffield (Wo) (13)
- 10 Adrian Pilgrim (Wa) (—)
- 11 Alan Cooke (Dy) (A)
- 12 Stuart Palmer (Sk) (A)
- 13 Raymond Namdjou (K) (—)
- 14 Ian Smith (Wa) (—)
- 15 David Dodd (K) (15)
- 16 Paul Namdjou (K) (12)
- 17 Billy Gleave (Ch) (7)
- 18 Paul Barnett (St) (16)
- 19 Kevin Green (Cv) (6)
- 20 Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (8)
- 21 Steven Sharp (Y) (—)
- 22 Darren Griffin (Gs) (—)
- 23 Paul Jackson (Av) (A)
- 24 Gary Lambert (Dv) (9)
- 25 Anthony Stark (Mi) (10)
- 26 Steven Dettmar (E) (—)
- 27 David Illingsworth (Y) (A)
- 28 Iain Fullerton (Bk) (A)
- 29 Mark Werner (Do) (—)
- 30 Michael O'Leary (Mi) (A)
- 31 Keith Samuels (He) (—)
- 32 Peter Flint (Ch) (—)

Girls

- 1 Joy Grundy (La) (1)
- 2 Helen Williams (Mi) (3)
- 3 Jean Parker (La) (7)
- 4 Gina Pritchard (Dv) (8)
- 5 Sarah Sandley (Mi) (4)
- 6 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (2)
- 7 Jennifer Collins (Bk) (A)
- 8 Susan Collier (Bk) (A)
- 9 Helen Bardwell (He) (9)
- 10 Julie Speight (Y) (10)
- 11 Fiona Elliot (St) (—)
- 12 Cheryl Creasey (Do) (A)
- 13 Carol Butler (Dv) (6)
- 14 Melanie Seaton (Y) (A)
- 15 Lesley Broomhead (Y) (A)
- 16 Susan Blackburn (Bk) (A)
- 17 Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (5)
- 18 Josette Ryalls (Y) (—)
- 19 Mary Denbow (Ox) (A)
- 20 Lynne Fennah (Ch) (A)
- 21 Michele Hams (Sy) (—)
- 22 Tracy Lightfoot (Ch) (12)
- 23 Nina Tsakarisanos (Gs) (A)
- 24 Amanda Judd (Ca) (11)
- 25 Nikki Hamilton (Bu) (A)
- 26 Helen Frost (La) (A)

CADETS

Boys

- 1 Carl Prean (IOW) (1)
- 2 Billy Gleave (Ch) (2)
- 3 David Rook (Y) (3)
- 4 Ivan Smith (Sp) (11)
- 5 Ian McLoughlin (La) (4)
- 6 Michael Thomas (Wa) (—)
- 7 Murray Jukes (Wo) (—)
- 8 Andrew Barker (E) (—)
- 9 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (—)
- 10 Darren McVitie (Du) (—)
- 11 David Williams (Sp) (—)
- 12 Ian Davies (Wa) (—)
- 13 Phillip Huggon (La) (—)
- 14 Martin Firth (Y) (8)
- 15 Phillip Logsdon (Nk) (10)
- 16 David Goode (Mi) (—)
- 17 Jonathan Bradbury (Bu) (6)
- 18 Nigel Tyler (Mi) (5)
- 19 Adrian Dixon (St) (7)
- 20 Andrew Henry (Dy) (—)

Girls

- 1 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (1)
- 2 Susan Collier (Bk) (2)
- 3 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (3)
- 4 Alison Barker (Sp) (4)
- 5 Tracey Fisher (Ca) (—)
- 6 Amanda Hegarty (St) (—)
- 7 Teresa Moore (Sx) (5)
- 8 Melanie Seaton (Y) (—)
- 9 Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy) (6)

- 10 Claire Hunter (Wi) (—)
- 11 Alison Boxall (He) (7)
- 12 Rachelle Knight (Mi) (—)
- 13 Debbie Symonds (Bu) (—)
- 14 Debbie Soothill (Cu) (—)
- 15 Jane Mills (Sy) (12)
- 16 Dianne Malpass (Y) (—)
- 17 To Thuy Dung (Dy) (—)
- 18 Julie Ballard (Sp) (—)
- 19 Lynne Bennett (Sy) (8)
- 20 Lisa Haydon (E) (—)



Welsh Corner

H. ROY EVANS

CARDIFF RELEGATED

Welsh League championship problems remained unsolved almost until the last moment in the First and Junior Divisions.

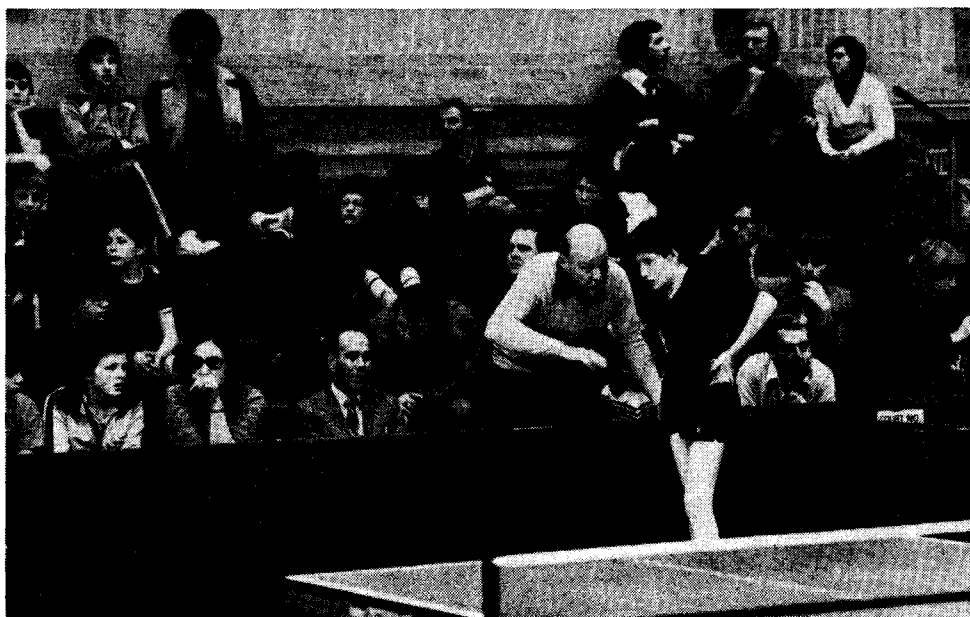
At one time it looked as if Newport, with Brian Jeanes, Michael Nocivelli and Graham Sell would take the title, with Eastern Valley having to be content with second place. But Eastern Valley, with the strong combination of John Bloomer, Andrew Evans, and Kevin Phillips, returned from a win over Swansea to find that Newport had faltered to defeat at Aberdare, and the title was theirs! Jeff Morgan had a considerable hand in that upset, winning his three sets for Aberdare, including success over Jeanes.

Next season's Division 1 will be without Cardiff for the first time since the competition was inaugurated nearly sixty years ago! This is an almost ludicrous situation, for Cardiff has the biggest and strongest league in Wales, but because of the inavailability of many of its best players who are otherwise committed they are obliged to field sides which are nowhere near representative of the League's strength. Even so, relegation from Division 1 is almost unforgivable, and the League should surely be advised to concentrate on its junior talent in the senior divisions.

It was Cardiff's "B" Junior team which in fact almost wrested the Junior title from Swansea. The Cardiff team of Byron Davies, Philip Kenna and Jeff Rigby faced the last week-end of the season with two important matches to be played. They first beat Tredegar 8-2, a fine platform from which to launch an assault on Swansea. Davies did well to beat Jeremy Hobbs in this match, although Jeremy beat the other two Cardiff players in his side's only two successes.

Then came Swansea, and the Cardiff team was quietly confident against Welsh No. 2, Junior Andrew Jones, Ceri Phillips and Kevin Davies. After all, the two teams had drawn 5-all in their earlier encounter. But after the Tredegar success came the crash, and only Kenna in beating Kevin Davies, got any success for Cardiff. So Swansea retain the title, with the two Cardiff sides close behind, followed by Tredegar and Bridgend.

Reverting to the Senior Divisions, Swansea "B" have won promotion from Division 2, neither of the Cardiff "B" or "C" teams being able to do much better than their first side. Barry will drop into Div. 3, from which Tredegar have won promotion.



LET'S GET IT TOGETHER C.P.!
(Fatherly advice from Prean senior)

Photo by Murray Corbin, Wimbledon.

The Women's Division is being played in two communal play-offs. The first took place at Cardiff earlier in the season, with Swansea taking the lead, and the second at Swansea Leisure Centre on March 29, when the Swansea team of Betty Gray, Cathryn Jones and Cheryl Jewells will probably maintain their position, and yet again take the Championship. The Glamorgan Closed on Saturday, April 4 will wind up the domestic season.

With Mark Thomas away representing Wales in the World Championships in Novi Sad, Andrew Jones and Gary Wilkins, along with Susan Jones and Sue Powell will go along to the Tunbridge Wells Tournament to defend titles they won last season.

Mark Thomas, Andrew Jones, Susan Jones and Sue Powell have been chosen for the English Junior Open at Hull over the weekend of May 9/10.

CORNISH JUNIOR OPEN

by Roger Jacobs

A highly successful debut on the open tournament scene was made by the Cornwall Table Tennis Association when it staged its first Cornish Junior Open Championships at Camborne on 21st March. A superb venue at Cam Brae Leisure Centre allowed for matches to be played on 10 tables, one being a show court surrounded by tiered seating which gave the championships a '3-Star' atmosphere.

A total entry of well over 100 included players from as far afield as Middlesex, Gloucester and Dorset, the only disappointment being the relatively small entry in the girls events. All singles events were run on a group basis in the early stages with the group winners then qualifying for the later knock-out rounds.

The U-17 singles events were expected to be dominated by players from outside the county and so it turned out with results running very much according to known form. The boys' U-17 singles semi-finals were both closely fought matches, the outcome being the elimination of top seeded Darren Griffin (Gloucester) and Gary Pope (Dorset) who seeded at number 8 had already done well to beat his county colleague Mark Werner in the quarters. In the final the more varied play of Plymothian Gary Wilson seemed to unsettle second seed Andrew Golding and after losing the first game Gary took control of the next two to take the title.

Carol Butler, the favourite, made it a double for Plymouth when she beat Cornish Champion Sharon James in the girls' U-17 final. She had the extra consistency needed to dominate the match and rarely looked in danger of being beaten. Carol's sister Susan was, however, not so fortunate in the U-14 girls' final. In one of the best finals she was beaten by second seed Allison Clevers, a local favourite whose powerful style enabled her to overcome the loss of the first game and fight back in fine style.

Events in the younger age groups were very much dominated by players from the local Camborne TTC who are now beginning to reap the rewards for the considerable amount of junior coaching done at the club. Leon Jose reached the final of both U-12 and U-14 boys' singles. In the U-12 final he played with remarkable composure to overwhelm top seed Lawrence Symonds (Gloucester) but he could not repeat the performance in the U-14 event where his more experienced clubmate Mark Jones was in control throughout.

Thanks to the controlled running of the championships by referee Stan Ford and the backing given by an army of stewards all events ran according to time and the finals started sharp at 7.30 p.m. Much

valued support was also given by Pat Archdale and her band of fellow umpires from Bristol who controlled all matches played on the showcourt.

The finals were attended by the sponsors of many of the events and by Mr. A. J. Bennet the local representative of Midland Bank without whose valued support the championships could not have taken place.

Full results of finals:

U-12 Girls':

L. Kinsman (Plymouth) bt S. Cramp (Torrington) 17, 17.

U-12 Boys':

L. Jose (Camborne) bt L. Symonds (Gloucester) 7, 14.

U-14 Girls':

A. Clemens (Camborne) bt S. Butler

(Plymouth) -13, 8, 16.

U-14 Boys':

M. James (Camborne) bt L. Jose (Camborne) 16, 11.

U-17 Girls':

C. Butler (Plymouth) bt S. James (St. Ives) 18, 16.

U-17 Boys':

G. Wilson (Plymouth) bt A. Golding (Gloucester) -15, 13, 12.

U-17 Girls' Doubles:

C. Butler/S. James bt S. Butler (Plymouth)/D. Kratochvila (Plymouth) 17, 11.

U-17 Boys' Doubles:

A. Golding (Gloucester)/D. Griffin (Gloucester) bt G. Plutz (Dorset)/M. Werner (Dorset) 19, 9.

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Durham County 2 Star Open

DISTANCE WINNER

by Ray Simpson

Dave Constance, who made the long trip from Dorset for this event, won the Durham County 2-Star Open held at Easington District Leisure Centre, Peterlee on March 7/8, with a final win over Peter McQueen from Surrey.

It was McQueen however who looked the more likely to win in the first end as he raced into an 11-4 lead, with Constance unable to get into the match. Constance then tightened his game, started playing the ball close to the net, and punished any slack shots from McQueen to level at 15-all. Constance continued his improvement and won the end 21-16. The second was an almost one-way traffic, with McQueen unable to get many strong forehand shots in and Constance won 21-12.

The surprise of the men's singles was No. 1 seed Chu Van Que's defeat at the hands of Les Eadie from Essex in the quarters. Eadie fell to the eventual champion, while McQueen saw off "Benny" Robertson in the other semi.

In the men's doubles, two more long-distance travellers, Steve Moreman from Worcestershire and Andrew Creed from Avon won an exciting final against Malcolm Corking and Steve Souter from Cleveland whose mistakes came at the wrong time for them.

The Women's singles was an all-Yorkshire final between Linda Hryszko and Helen Shields with the former winning, and being the more steady of the two when it mattered most. These two combined to take the women's doubles title but they had to fight hard to overcome the local Durham pairing of Lynne Bainbridge and Julie Smith.

The Class 2 singles was a consolation for Keith Paxton, who had earlier lost to Constance in the men's quarters, when he defeated Ron Weatherby from Cheshire in the final after being 16-19 down in the third.

The veteran singles was another tournament win for Peter D'Arcy, but this must have been one of his toughest finals yet as Matt Sheader from Lincolnshire made him fight all the way for his win.

In the junior events held on the first day, Durham had interests in five of the six finals played. The one without any Durham interest, the boys' singles, resulted in a win for Cleveland's Glen Skipp who defeated Ron Whiteley from Yorkshire, thanks to his spin variation which had his opponent in all sorts of trouble.

The girls' singles was won by Lyn Yarnell from Durham, who defeated Julie Todd from Yorkshire, with Miss Yarnell's strong backhand proving reliable when she needed it.

Two more Durham wins came in the cadet events. David Blackburne avenged his County match defeat at the hands of Stephen Craggs of Cleveland, by beating the same player, to win the boys', while Lorna Wilson showed lots of determination to win the girls' over Julie Haigh from Yorkshire.

Durham's other finalists in the girls' doubles, Miss Yarnell and Julie Chambers, had to be content with second best against the Yorkshire pairing of Miss Haigh and Julie Stocks.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
L. Eadie (E) bt Chu Van Que (Nd)
19, -21, 21;

D. Constance (Do) bt K. Paxton (Cv) 16, 8;
I. Robertson (Nd) bt M. Corking (Cv)
-14, 16, 19;

P. McQueen (Sy) bt S. Souter (Cv) 22, 17.

Semi-finals:

Constance bt Eadie 14, 9;
McQueen bt Robertson 11, -18, 15.

Final:

CONSTANCE bt McQueen 16, 12.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Corking/Souter bt Paxton/Robertson 21, 17;
S. Moreman (Wo)/A. Creed (Av) bt
McQueen/P. D'Arcy (Ch) 20, -20, 11.

Final:

MOREMAN/CREED bt Corking/Souter
11, -9, 19.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

H. Shields (Y) bt V. Wilson (Y) 14, 12;
L. Hryszko (Y) bt L. Yarnell (Du) 7, 9.

Final:

HRYSZKO bt Shields 18, 10.

Women's Doubles Final:

F. SHIELDS/HRYSZKO bt J. Smith/
L. Bainbridge (D).

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

D'Arcy bt A. Warrents (Nd) 5, 17;
M. Sheader (Li) bt T. Wilkinson (Nd) 20, 16.

Final:

D'ARCY bt Sheader 19, -21, 18.

Class 2 Semi-finals:

R. R. Weatherby (Ch) bt G. Skipp (Cv)
15, -15, 18;

K. Paxton (Cv) bt T. Taylor (Ch) 14, 19.

Final:

PAXTON bt Weatherby 21, -10, 19.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

R. Whiteley (Y) bt C. Render (Ch) 10, 16;
Skipp bt N. McMaster (Nd) -18, 20, 16.

Final:

SKIPP bt Whiteley 15, 17.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Yarnell bt J. Stocks (Y) 14, 19;
J. Todd (Y) bt J. Woodcock (Cv) 10, 12.

Final:

YARNELL bt Todd 20, 17.

Boys' Doubles Final:

SKIPP/J. CHAN (Cv) bt M. Gent/
G. Webstell (Du) 17, 10.

Girls' Doubles Final:

TODD/WOODCOCK bt Yarnell/J. Chambers
(Du) -19, 12, 16.

Consolation Boys' Singles Final:

D. BLACKBURNE (Du) bt S. Craggs (Cv)
-17, 15, 8.

Consolation Girls' Singles Final:

L. WILSON (Du) bt J. Haigh (Y) -11, 13, 18.

JAPANESE TOUR

Japan, one of the top table tennis nations in the World, are to include the 1979 world champion, Seiji Ono — he defends his title in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia this month — in their team for a three match series of internationals in England.

Immediately following the World Championships in Yugoslavia, a team of four men and four women will spend a week in England for matches at Bletchley Leisure Centre on Apl. 28, British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, Bolton (Apl. 30) and Coventry Sports Centre (May 2).

England's teams have yet to be announced but it is certain that Desmond Douglas, John Hilton and Jill Hammersley are available for this exciting tour.

Japan (from): (age in brackets)

Men

Seiji Ono (24), Masahiro Maehara (27),
Hideo Gotoh (22), Judo Nakazuka (20).

Women

Rie Wada (22), Yoshiko Shimauchi (23),
Ayumi Inamori (24), Fumiko Shimpo (24).

VENUES AND TICKETS

Tuesday, Apl. 28 commencing at 7 p.m.

Bletchley Leisure Centre, Princes Way,
Bletchley, MK2 2HQ.

Tickets from: Mr. Brian Ashton, 4 Browning
Crescent, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Bucks
MK3 5AU. 'Phone: 0908 74502 (Tickets priced
at £4 and £2).

Thursday, Apl. 30 commencing at 7 p.m.

British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock Works,
Bolton, Lancs.

Tickets from: Mr. Geoff Cull, Sports Club
Secretary, British Aerospace Dynamics,
Lostock, Bolton. 'Phone: 0204 66551 (Tickets
priced at £2.50).

Saturday, May 2 commencing at 7 p.m.

Coventry Sports Centre, Fairfax Street,
Coventry.

Tickets from: Mr. J. Elliott, 53 Watercall
Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry CV3 5AW.
'Phone: 0203 412714.



Left to right: Jevan Chan, Julie Todd, Glen Skipp, Julia Woodcock, Counc. G. Laidler (Vice-Chairman, Recreation Committee, Easington District Council), Ken Taylor (County Chairman), Lyn Yarnell, David Blackburne, Lorna Wilson.

Photo by Ian Dobson, Seaham, Co. Durham.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

NORFOLK NOTES

by Neville Graver

SUE'S DAY AT FAKENHAM

The Fakenham Closed Championships, held again at RAF West Raynham, saw Sue Hazell again a triple winner, taking the Women's Singles for the fourth year running and the Women's Doubles with Maureen Haynes for the second year running.

Jim Defty almost became another three title winner, winning the Men's Singles for the third year, plus the Men's Doubles with Steve Barber but fell in the handicap to partner Barber.

In the singles Sue beat Mary Ashmore, whilst Jim beat surprise finalist No. 8 seed Jim Parkin. On his way to the final, Defty had had a close tussle with Richard Mussett, winning 19 in the third after trailing 16-19.

There was a close mixed final, when Hazell and Mussett just edged out Defty and Mary Ashmore. The other doubles were more one-sided with Hazell and Maureen Haynes beating Dot and Mary Ashmore in the women's, whilst Defty and Barber defeated David Ashmore and Hilary Howlett.

In the other events, county-ranked Paul Rich was too strong for Kevin Watson in the youth singles, winning 10 and 13, whilst Bill Seed was a comfortable winner of the veterans, beating Ken Curtis. Winner of the Div. 2 singles was Paul Rich (over Nicky Franks) and Div. 3 singles was won by Neil Howell (over Mike Payne). The tournament was sponsored by the Trustee Savings Bank.

On the county match front, the first team went down 4-6 to Beds and drew with Kent. Both results were disappointing in their way. Against Beds, Richard Stevenson won two singles but both Mick Broughton and Doug Bennett lost to Steve Barby. I gather that the Norfolk team were not too happy by arrangements at Bedfordshire which tended to sour the match.

Against Kent, Norfolk ran up a 4-1 lead, with Bennett in terrific form but Broughton and Stevenson wilted in the second half, and the lead was frittered away.

The senior second team recorded a 7-3 win over Hunts, with Martyn Stevenson the hero, taking both his singles.

The Junior second team were unable to break their duck losing 3-7 to Beds II and 8-2 to Berks II. In the very last match of the season, Cadet Phil Logsdon lost his second singles to lose his unbeaten record. He will no doubt be very disappointed, but he has had a very good season.

In the leagues, CEYMS have virtually sown matters up in the Premier Division in Norwich, whilst Carrow, with the Stevenson twins and Logsdon, are run away victors in Premier 'B'. The Norwich Closed Championships were to be held at the UEA, Norwich on March 22. The Committee Cup is now reaching its final stages, with Division One being quoted as 5-2 favourites, followed by Div. Twelve at 3-1.

In Gt. Yarmouth, the championships were being held after the deadline for this issue and results will be published next month. The same applies to the Dereham championships.

In Cromer, the league title is still open, with Tyneside 'A', last year's champions, under great pressure from Nomads 'A'. The Cromer league stage the last county match

of the season against Suffolk at Beeston Hall School.

In Dereham, the second division has already been decided, with Shipdham 'C' the champions. Hippos 'A' and Costessey are still contesting division one.

In the Broadside Club K.O. Competition the final will be contested between Downham Market (KL) and Sprowston (NCH), the former having defeated Holt 'B' 9-0, whilst Sprowston had an exciting 5-4 win over BSC (KL), with Dave Hardy the star with three singles wins. The end of season sees numerous Dinner-Dances. King's Lynn hold theirs on May 1, whilst in Norwich, the Annual Dinner is on April 27.

NORTH WALES ROUND-UP

by Roy Williams

BULES REGAINS TITLE

East Flintshire's Mark Bules played in his third successive North Wales Closed Men's Singles Final held at Deeside Leisure Centre on Feb. 22 and regained the title beating Wrexham's Simon Roberts in the final. Byles defeated Alun Williams (Rhyl), a former holder, in the quarters and in the semis he put an end to the championship hopes of No. 1 seed Derek Stanfield (EF).

Heidi Cotter (Flint) the Welsh girls' Cadet champion beat the holder Sandra Bennett (EF) in the semi-final and defeated Nalda Holden in the final. Nalda had defeated up-and-coming Karen Buckle in her semi-final.

Stanfield in his first season as a veteran beat Roy Williams (Rhyl) in his semi and Don Hobbs (Anglesey) put paid to John Bowen (EF). Stanfield, however, was too powerful for the older vet and won easily.

The Junior Singles provided a good competition and the four top players all reached the semi-final stage. East Flint's Paul Griffiths was the winner with his League and clubmate Stuart Conway being the finalist. Simon Roberts (Wrexham) and Roger Isherwood (Llandudno) were the losing semi-finalists.

In the Mixed Cadet Singles Tim Turner had to find his best form in beating Heidi Cotter in the final. Tim had beaten Karen Buckle in his semi while Heidi beat Llandudno's Neil Dutton.

The Doubles finals resulted as follows:

Men's Doubles:

C. POWELL/M. BYLES bt D. Stanfield/

R. Lloyd.

Women's Doubles:

N. HOLDEN/C. WATKINS bt S. Bennett/

J. Child.

Mixed Doubles:

A. WILLIAMS/S. BENNETT bt D. Stanfield/

N. Holden.

Junior Doubles:

P. GRIFFITHS/S. CONWAY bt S. Roberts/

L. Stanfield.

The Tournament was organised by Mike Holden with the assistance of Dave Tapp, Stan Davies and Harry Maddison.

STANFIELD CHAMPION

At the Deeside Leisure Centre on Mar. 15 Derek Stanfield won the Men's and Veterans' Singles titles of the East Flintshire League. In the Men's Singles Derek beat Justin Evans in the final having beaten Paul Griffiths in the semis. Evans had defeated Neil James. Derek then beat Ivor Griffiths in the Veteran final. The losing semi-finalists were Noel Ralph and John Bowen.

Heidi Cotter added yet another title to her collection and this young Junior international seems at the present rate of progress to have a bright future in the game. Sandra Bennett was Heidi's final victim having beaten Christine Watkins in the previous round, 11-years-old Claire Potts did extremely well to reach the semi-final.

Paul Griffiths won yet another Junior Championship beating Simon Roberts. Paul beat Stephen Griffiths and Simon beat Stuart Conway in their semi-final rounds.

In the Cadet Singles the girls put paid to the boys in the semi-finals. Heidi Cotter defeated James Tapp and Claire Potts beat Tim Turner, Heidi, however, proved too strong in the final.

Rest of the Results

Div. 2 Singles:

P. ELLIS bt A. Harris.

Div. 3 Singles:

C. DAVIES bt C. Watkins.

Div. 4 Singles:

L. LOCKETT bt A. Jones.

Men's Doubles:

R. LLOYD/C. POWELL bt P. Williams/

D. Tapp.

Women's Doubles:

S. BENNETT/J. CHILD bt N. Holden/

C. Watkins.

Mixed Doubles:

I. JONES/M. TURNER bt C. Powell/

C. Watkins.

LEAGUE NEWS

In Div. 1 of the Anglesey League WYLFA, led by Don Hobbs, have left the rest to fight it out for the runners-up spot once again. They are the only unbeaten side on the island. St. Mary's 'A', Holyhead 'A', Parys and Llangefni 'A' are the teams fighting it out for the honour of being reserve champions.

In Div. 2 Civil Service have a comfortable lead but UCNW Bangor and Llangefni 'C' are in contention for divisional honours.

The following teams have reached round 3 of the Handicap Cup. Llangefni 'D', Holyhead 'A', Llangefni 'E', Civil Service, Llangefni 'A', Parys, Wylfa and Bangor University.

Caergwrie BB 'A' and 'B' teams with Connahs Quay PS are still locked in a gigantic battle for the East Flintshire Div. 1 championship. It looks as if the struggle will not be resolved until the last match of the season.

In the Second Division BB Caergwrie top the league with C.Q. PS and BSC Shotton all very close and again no one would dare predict the winners.

Caergwrie BB 'E', BSC Shotton and Buckley are pretty close in the Third Division but in Div. 4 BSC and Sealand Youth look the two best teams for promotion.

Colwyn Bay Cricket Club retained the First Division Championship of the Llandudno League when they beat Doatra 'A' by seven sets to three. The Cricketers won with Roy Williams and Stephen Strange minus their spearhead John Hook who had been injured in Cardiff playing Rugby for Rhyl. Lansdowne look set to pip North Western for runners-up.

Doatra 'B' also clinched the Div. 2 title with three matches to play. Llandudno Junction 'A' have the best chance of joining them in Div. 1.

Llandudno Youth Club need three points from the last three matches for the Third Division title. Nearest rivals Quinton Hazell and Linfood 'B' look like contenders for the runners-up spot.

There is still everything to play for in Div. 4. Friendship, Presbyterian 'B' and North Western 'B' are in with a chance of promotion.

Presbyterian 'C' have clinched Div. 5 and Conway Youth look set to join them to the Fourth Division.

CONGRATULATIONS

At the National Sports Centre, Cardiff on Feb. 21 players from the North captured three titles. Mark Thomas (Rhyl) Boys' Singles, Sue Powell (Rhyl) Girls' Singles and Heidi Cotter (Mold) Girls' Cadet Singles. Well done.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Dimmock

SCHOOLS ARE GREAT

The 1st Seniors lifted themselves away from joint bottom spot in the league table at the expense of Norfolk, a 6-4 win was made possible by a back to top form Steve Barby who won both of his singles. The most gratifying must have been the win against Dougy Bennett where his back hand loop was his trump card and he used it effectively to win 18 in the third. The well proven partnership of Barby and David Sharpe, who did so well as juniors together, then teamed up to take the doubles two-straight.

The Bellinger sisters, Jackie and Lisa, struggled to take the doubles, but Lisa beat J. Burrage convincingly in the singles, Jackie after getting over-anxious against Wendy Hogg in the first winning at "deuce" went on to take the second to secure the set and the match win.

The veterans were at it once again! Another 4-5 loss, the third of the season. However, this was no disgrace since Worcestershire are unbeaten at the top of the division. Pete Cutting was in good form winning two singles, one of these broke the 100% record of M. Wood, who Jim Woollicroft also beat, with Colin Gill taking the other singles. Once again the team lost both sets of doubles, maybe they should consider reverting back to the mixed doubles combination that was so successful at the start of last season.

The 2nd Juniors playing against Norfolk 2nd selected a side containing a mixture of experience and youth!, and a resounding 7-3 win for Beds was the outcome. Andrew James who represented the county for the first time last month showed once again his potential by beating P. Rish two-straight and then with a little more experience could have won his second game being 20-15 up in the third against C. Anema, he momentarily lost his composure and went down 26-24. Andrew Conquest and Russell Beard each won once and teamed up to take the doubles. For the girls, Lisa Robins also playing in her second match for the county recorded another good win. Mary Jarrett who has a fine attacking game somehow lost her way and it was strange to see her resorting to long pushing rallies. "Whew" she made it 27-25 in the third. This team has certainly been successful this year both in developing the younger players and by its performances. Well done.

SCHOOLS ROUND-UP

The county schools have excelled themselves this year with four teams reaching the National Team Championship Finals to be held at Matlock, Derbyshire. Place of honour must go to Dick Teague the unassuming schoolmaster who has quietly coached and encouraged two girl teams through to the finals. Ramridge at U-11 and Putteridge at U-13. As no Putteridge school teachers appear to be interested in T.T. it was Dick, a Ramridge teacher, who put in the extra effort and time to transport his old pupils around the countryside and it paid off. Mind you the U-13 side had to win their last match in the Regional finals 8-0 to qualify, it was refreshing to see players from both sides playing as if they enjoyed T.T. Dick never puts pressure on the players by telling them how to win, just encouragement, but even for him the pressure was too much he had to retire to the fresh air for a nerve-soothing smoke. Thanks Dick, you're doing a great job, good luck in the finals. Manshead Dunstable at U-16 girls and Bedford Modern at U-13 boys are also through to the finals with perhaps Manshead having the best chance of success and the title with a team consisting of the Bellinger sisters, Julie Dimmock and Angie Martin.

At the recent schools individual cham-

pionships organised by Tony and Linda Morton over 150 children took part and this is a good omen for the future, because this is where T.T. must start if we are going to have success at county and national level. The winners of each age group will represent the county at the National Individual Finals where they will be competing against most of the best players in their age group in the country. The tournament was organised over two days and there were many fine matches perhaps the most exciting being the boys under-16 and under-11 finals which were both won in the third leg 23-21.

RESULTS

	Winner	Runner-up
U-19 Boys:	Simon Reeves	Alan Fordham
U-19 Girls:	Lisa Bellinger	Julie Dimmock
U-16 Boys:	David Sharpe	Ian Doughty
U-16 Girls:	Jackie Bellinger	Mary Jarrett
U-13 Boys:	Neil Stanley	Andrew Trott
U-13 Girls:	Lisa Robins	Judith Montague
U-11 Boys:	Gavin Black	Martin Sharpe
U-11 Girls:	Hazel Lawrence	Louise Dean

LEAGUE ROUND-UP

The Luton League recently held their annual tournament, the lower divisions finals and doubles were held the same day, these included mature and young players; with maybe youth taking the major share of the honours. In the Division 2, 3, 4 and 5 singles Marc Lyons beat the well known veteran Gary Sharpe "deuce" in the final game. Marc then played with Julie Miles in the doubles and beat Steve Buckley and, the late developer, Mick Miles in the final. Mark Luscombe and Janet Roberts won the mixed doubles with Julie Miles and Audrey Robinson winning the ladies doubles.

The Luton Finals "Nite" is on April 30 at Vauxhall Dunstable starting at 7.00 p.m.

The Dunstable League hold their annual tournament on April 12 at Vauxhall Dunstable. The Division one championship looks to be settled with Hunting Engineering just pipping the two AC-Delco teams, mind you it was a shock to the leaders when they lost 10-0 to AC-Delco last week, yours truly and Alan Elliott were in vintage form to shock the front runners.

Forthcoming social events are the annual dance and presentation evenings held by the respective leagues, tickets are now available for:

Leighton League — Friday April 24,
Luton League — Saturday, April 25,
Dunstable League — Saturday, June 6.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

LIKELY RETENTION

By beating Suffolk II 7-3 at Soham, Cambs II now seem likely to retain the Division 3 East title. Both teams had 100% records before this match, which was the last for Suffolk whereas Cambs had to meet Herts III away on Mar. 14. Cambs can afford to lose 4-6 owing to a superior set average to Suffolk and still win the division but there is no promotion as the first team are in Div. II.

Suffolk drew first blood when Russell King beat Gary Jordan, but singles wins from Brian Richardson and Andy Withers soon put the home county in front. There was great excitement in the Women's Doubles with both pairs winning at 21-19. In the third game Suffolk looked likely to level the match score when they led 18-12 but Alison Edge and Valerie Parkes fought back to 19-19 when, after a long rally, Parkes made a brave and uncharacteristic kill to set up a home win. Suffolk won the Men's Doubles to narrow the gap and then missed another great chance to level the scores when David Henderson failed to finish off Jordan after leading 16-11 in the third. This was the end for Suffolk and

Cambs cruised to victory with Withers again being unbeaten for the fourth successive match.

SCORES

A. Withers bt T. Dowsett 19, 7;
bt R. King 15, -19, 7;
G. Jordan lost to R. King -18, -16;
bt D. Henderson -19, 13, 19;
B. Richardson bt D. Henderson 18, 11;
lost to Dowsett -13, 8, -18;
V. Parkes bt K. Brierley 17, 10;
A. Edge bt D. Hubble 16, 19;
Withers/Jordan lost to King/Henderson
-19, -14;
Edge/Parkes bt Brierley/Hubble -19, 19, 21.

Cambs had a rare "blank" week-end when three of their teams were in action on Feb. 28. The Seniors at March in Div. 2 East, against Herts, lost 4-6. The home county made a poor start when Geoff Davies and Robert Swift lost their opening singles to Richard Jermyn and Simon Proffitt respectively. Keith Richardson opened Cambs account when he beat Jonathan Proffitt, but when the Women's Doubles was lost with the amazing score of 26, -24, -25 with Mandy Judd and Joanne Palmer in action against Lindsay Booth and Barbara Peters. Davies could not cope at all with Simon Proffitt but Joanne Palmer eased matters with a comfortable win over Lindsay Booth and Richardson narrowly beat Jermyn, 20 in the third, to narrow the gap further. Mandy Judd defeated Barbara Peters in three the last going to 23-21 with the loop benefitting Mandy making the score 4-5. Swift, however, could not save the match going down to Jonathan Proffitt. Despite this defeat Cambs still stay top of the division as their closest rivals, Kent, were thrashed 9-1 by Essex II. Cambs have a point lead over Essex II and Kent and will win the division if they beat Kent in their last match on Mar. 14.

After going three matches without defeat in Junior 2 East Cambs have now lost two in succession following their defeat by Herts at Braughing. Jamie Frost was the Cambs star, winning his singles against Roger Pyle and Mark Papworth. With Ruth Hunter and Tracey Fisher also winning the Girls' Doubles. Cambs were level at 3-3 but were only able to win one of the last four singles, when Julian Wheel beat Papworth, and so lost 4-6. Cambs Junior second team saw Neil Burgess making his debut after reaching the Final of the "under-14's" in the Cambs Closed last January. He, indeed, made a splendid debut and won both his singles against Raymond Thorpe and Kevin Scott. Neil who plays for the Wesley Club in the Cambs League has made great strides during the last few months and should be a real force next season! Only Paul Day and David Brammer have done as well as Neil on their Junior debut. Despite Burgess's performance Cambs went down 4-6, the only other winners being Paul Oldroyd who beat Thorpe and Alison Edge who defeated Jane Leonard. Stuart Palmer turned the game Suffolk's way being involved in three wins.

SCORES

K. Richardson bt J. Proffitt -15, 8, 18;
bt R. Jermyn 17, -17, 20;
G. Davies lost to R. Jermyn -13, 11, -17;
lost to S. Proffitt -10, -11;
R. Swift lost to S. Proffitt -16, -16;
lost to J. Proffitt -17, -18;
A. Judd bt B. Peters -19, 15, 21;
J. Palmer bt L. Booth 13, 9;
Richardson/Davies lost to Proffitt/Proffitt
-18, -13;
Judd/Palmer lost to Booth/Peters
26, -24, -25.

In the Cambs League Soham I, who had not been beaten for six seasons, suffered their first defeat when beaten 6-4 by St. Ives. Former Bucks player Les Wooding, an old style defender, proved to be Soham's undoing winning all his 3 singles. He was well supported by Cambs No. 6 Jordan who beat both Mick Palmer and Brian Richardson and new Hunts champion Philip Cole

also beat Palmer. Another long-standing record that was shattered in Div. I was the first win in 25 years for John Ashman over John Thurston. Ashman was playing for Soham IV against N.C.I. I and the match finished a 5-5 draw. Wheel also beat Thurston and Ken Green but David Tiplady was unbeaten for N.C.I.

We must give a congratulatory note to St. George's VII in Div. Vb when they scored their first point of the season, which means that they have previously lost all 0-10! Well done St. George's and well done Mrs. H. Oates who was the successful player when she beat C. Barker of Saffrons IV who were still 9-1 winners!

Another sensation in the League is the amazing form of Ivor Newman of L.P.A. I in Division IVB. Ivor is not a 100% man even though he won all his sets against Wesley V in a crucial fixture as the Wesley team had not lost a match since last November and are contenders for the title. No — Ivor has to play in a wheel-chair and it is almost unbelievable how he beats players that are very mobile. What he would do if he too was so mobile is a matter for conjecture but his team, thanks to him, are now in with a chance of promotion. We must call him "Ivor the terrible"!

Cambridge University Press are another team that are in the news! They have not had a team worthy of Div. I since the days of Tony Littlechild, Keith Chapman and Paul Chisnall and now they are really doomed for the drop as the team has only won 9 sets all season. Three of these sets came when they played Soham III who are, themselves, tenth in the division and this sort of form will not save them. Two other teams certain of relegation are Telephones I and II in Div. II. With their top players having left the club, they have been left with a nucleus of second rate players to fight for survival.

Wesley I look like being champions of Div. II and with their second team also certain of winning Div. IIIB the club can be well satisfied. One must pick out Martyn Livermore and Peter Melton for special mention who have played well all the season, the only slip being when they lost to Soham VI in the K.O. Handicap Trophy.

In Div. II Soham V's promotion hopes were severely curtailed when they were defeated 7-3 by Torchbearers. Steve Hunt won his usual three for Torchbearers which included a rare defeat for Tom Welton.

Cambridge and District League Division One

	P	Pts.
Soham	14	119
St. Ives	14	107
University II	14	86
NCI	13	82
Guildhall	14	74
University	13	62
NCI II	14	54
Soham IV	12	49
Soham II	10	49
Soham III	10	42
Swavesey	13	35
Press	11	9

In the National League Soham defeated Dunlop Sports at Birmingham 8-1 which assured them of the title. Soham had no problems, the only set they lost was when local player Keith Richardson teamed up with Kenny Jackson, losing to Barry Johnson and Barry Hayward. Day had two easy victories over Munt and Bellingham but Dave Wells had a harder task when he was taken to three by Johnson and Hayward before winning at 19 and 17 respectively in the third.

In Div. Two South of the National League, St. Neots scored a double over current leaders Bristol when they emerged victors 6-3. Well done St. Neots!

In the Cambs League K.O. Handicap Trophy the semi-final stage has now been reached. In the Quarter-finals both Wesley

teams were eliminated, the handicap being too much. Wesley I were defeated 6-3 by Netherhall with former Bedford League player Brian O'Dell being undefeated. He had good support from the two younger members Stephen Meecham and Kevin Kent with the former beating both Paul Jolley and Keith Lloyd. Strangely enough in a league match the following week O'Dell who, until recently, had a 100% record in the league was defeated by Rod Bryant of Wesley V who then lost to Meecham and Kent! Caravans International had a comfortable 8-1 win over Wesley V. Suffolk Junior Raymond Thorpe and Badcock won all their sets for Caravans and Tony Ashdlian got Wesley's sole success by beating Bentinck.

MAAF and Titleist had a thrilling match with the former just edging home 5-4. Gerald Coteman won three for Titleist but Dave Hinks and Mike Wooding, who won the final set against Moore, had the best of the other Titleist players.

The match between Soham VI and Soham I resulted in a 9-0 win for the first team a result which indicates that Soham I are again in contention for the Trophy although Netherhall (their opponents in the semi-final) could pose some problems. Semi-final ties are:

MAFF v Caravans International
Soham I v Netherhall

AROUND THE LEAGUES

WISBECH

With a third of the season remaining B.M.C. Cars appear to have established an almost unassailable lead at the top of the first division. Their squad of Mick Palmer, Gary Jordan, Michael Jackman and Paul Stacey have played consistently well throughout the season and are, as yet, undefeated. The only match they failed to win was the first of the season against Rokewood for whom Geoff Davies was unbeaten and with Howard Lupton playing well the B.M.C. Cars side did well to escape with a draw. The most interesting battle, however, is that between last season's champions Tydd Trojans and Bury Cars. When the two teams met last November Robert Swift was unbeaten for the Cars but two wins from Barry Wilson, Derek Kiddle and Mike Crowson enabled Tydd to win 6-4. The teams will have met again by the time these notes are in print and this match could well determine who will finish runners-up.

In Div. II the title race is slightly more open with two clubs contesting the leadership. Cobra, led by Calvin and Tracy Fisher, are slightly ahead of Spartans "B" led by Geoff Canham and Alison Edge. When these two sides met in February it was Cobras who emerged victors by 6-4.

In the third division, Kings Lynn Hospital with a strong squad of twelve players have pulled well clear of the rest and are virtually certain to take the title. Behind them four clubs are contesting second place, namely Mann Egerton, Long Sutton, North Cambs Hospital (who were relegated last season) and Institute "D" (who won the fourth division last season).

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT

Against a weakened Glamorgan side, Staffs were able to keep alive their hopes of retaining their place in the Premier Division by scoring a relatively easy 7-2 victory.

The large crowd of over 120 which had assembled at the Michelin Athletic Club in Stoke were understandably disappointed not to see Alan Griffiths and George Evans in action, but in their absence, Jeff Morgan, taking the No. 1 position, put up a good

performance to beat Tony Isaac and then take Andrew Bellingham to three in the outstanding set of the evening. The other highlight was the clash between Jill Harris and former Staffs player, Stephanie Jones, now Wales No. 1. Both players are left-handers, and playing a left-hander often upsets the left-hander more than the right-hander. Whether for this reason or not, Stephanie was unable to settle down to any sort of constructive play, and Jill ran out a surprisingly easy winner 12 and 11. Stephanie had some success, however, and in partnering Tony Healan to a win in the mixed, put a blot on the otherwise good record of Andy Rich and Jill Harris in this event.

RESULTS

A. Bellingham bt J. Morgan 12, -19, 14;
bt A. Healan 16, 13.
A. Isaac lost to Morgan 20, -18, -14;
bt B. Everson 12, 11.
A. Rich bt Everson 13, 17;
bt Healan 19, -11, 16.
J. Harris bt S. Jones 12, 11.
Rich/Harris lost to Healan/Jones
-20, 13, -19.
Bellingham/Isaac bt Morgan/Everson 17, 11.

It was most pleasing to see that the County Championships can still draw a good audience, and the efforts of the Potteries Association in promoting this match are to be commended. Much of the credit goes to the Michelin Club members for their enthusiastic support.

Retention of a place in the Premier division is important to our second team who completed a 100% unbeaten record in the 3rd Division North with a 9-1 win over Northumberland II and therefore qualify to move up into the second division. This was an excellent performance, and players such as Greg Hallam and Paul Barnett will no doubt be helping to maintain the strength of the "A" side in future years.

Our successes are unfortunately not extending to include the veterans. They went down 2-7 away to Cheshire and their last match against Leicestershire will probably decide which of the two counties will prop up the division.

There were a number of surprises in the Closed Championships held at the Northwood Sports Centre, Stoke. Several new names appeared in the junior events for the county selectors to take note of, and good performances by players from the Potteries raised excitement amongst the spectators and prevented a repeat of the past dominance of senior events by players from the south of the County.

Bellingham had to content himself with only two trophies this year. He completely dominated the Men's Singles but in the Intermediates he came up against a resolute John Hancock in fine blocking form, the latter finally winning on 19 in the third. John had previously beaten seeded Mark Evans, but was unable to complete a trio of seed scalps, losing to Rich in the final. Greg Hallam was another Potteries' player who had a good day. He beat Isaac to reach the final of the Men's Singles, overcame the Bellingham-Rich combination in the Men's Doubles, partnered by Craig Bakewell (Potteries), and reached the Mixed final with Janet Dunning by beating the strong Isaac — Vicky Bellingham partnership. In the all-Potteries final, Hallam and Bakewell beat John Hancock and the veteran John Riley, who also won the Veterans' Singles with a good win over the holder, Reg Wain.

The unfortunate clash with an England 'Select' tournament prevented top juniors Barnett, Paul Dilger, Rachel Roberts, Fiona Elliot, Amanda Hegarty and Adrian Dixon from competing, and this left the way for Andrew Dixon to dominate the junior boys'. None of the other seeds Martin Harvey, Peter Dawes or Bill Bridgeman provided an effective challenge, and Andrew, partnered by Dawes, collected a second trophy with an easy win in the Junior

Doubles. In the Girls' Singles, Tracy Spencer surprisingly beat top seed Vicky Bellingham but then lost to Stephanie Hadley in the final, although Vicky had previously had a good win over Janet Dunning in the Women's Singles to reach the final only to lose disastrously to a top form Jill Harris. Jill duly retained the Mixed in partnership with Bellingham, but in a repeat of last year's Women's Doubles Janet Dunning and Joanne Chubb beat Shirley Cain and Jill Harris.

In the Cadet events, unseeded players from Wolverhampton took both trophies. Top seed Matthew Harvey (Wolverhampton), who had a good run in the junior boys, went out in the first round of the Boys' Singles to Stafford's Adrian Hough, who then went out in the semi-final to the eventual winner, Richard Hayward. Stephen Meigh, the other seed, went out to Kevin Cartwright (Wolverhampton) who proved a worthy opponent in the final. In girls', top seed Lesley Page from Lichfield went out to Angela Billings (Potteries) who then lost to the successful Angela Saunders (Wolverhampton) on "deuce" in the third. Angela then overcame second seed Barbara Capper in the final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

A. Bellingham bt A. Rich 14, 17;

G. Hallam bt A. Isaac 12, 10.

Final:

BELLINGHAM bt Hallam 13, 14.

Women's Singles:

J. HARRIS bt V. Bellingham 5, 9.

Intermediate Singles:

RICH bt J. Hancock 11, 13.

Boys' Singles:

A. DIXON bt P. Dawes 16, 10.

Girls' Singles:

S. HADLEY bt T. Spencer 23, 12.

Men's Doubles:

HALLAM/C. BAKEWELL bt J. Hancock/

J. Riley 18, 18.

Women's Doubles:

J. DUNNING/J. CHUBB bt Harris/S. Cain

-23, 14, 16.

Mixed Doubles:

HARRIS/BELLINGHAM bt Dunning/

Hallam 15, 18.

Junior Doubles:

DIXON/DAWES bt M. Harvey/A. Devitt

13, 8.

Consolation Boys' Singles:

R. HAYWARD bt K. Cartwright 13, -18, 13.

Consolation Girls' Singles:

A. SAUNDERS bt B. Capper -8, 12, 18.

Veterans' Singles:

J. RILEY bt R. Wain 18, 18.

MIDLAND LEAGUE NOTES

by Ian E. McKelvey

ONLY ABSURDITIES COUNT

As the season draws to its close, we have champions in both Veterans' Divisions, three teams certain of promotion, and two teams definitely relegated. All the other championship, promotion and relegation spots have still to be decided, although most appear settled barring 'absurd' results.

Birmingham clinched their Veterans' Div. 1 championship with an 8-2 win over the surprise team of the season, Walsall. Terry Bache was unbeaten, and well supported by Bryan Belcher and Arthur Sutton with two each. The Birmingham team has been unchanged in all their seven matches, and clearly deserve their win, with Bache having 20 wins from 21 sets, Sutton 19 from 21 and Belcher 15 from 21. All their doubles have been won also. The runners-up position depends on the last matches in which Nottingham "A" have to play Leicester and Walsall will meet West Bromwich. Nottingham "A" have 10 points and sets of 43-27, and Walsall also have 10 points but trail by one set at 42-28. They therefore need a slightly larger win than Nottingham "A" if they are to be runners-up.

West Bromwich recorded their first win, 7-3, on a visit to Kidderminster. Bill Horton winning three and Les Williams two. Despite this, division 2 is beckoning for West Brom, who could only escape with a big win over Walsall and some co-operation from bottom team Kidderminster in beating Leicester and/or Gloucester. All a bit unlikely.

Derby "A" are champions of Veterans' Div. 2, having beaten Oxford "B" to make certain this month. Roland Hutchinson and Dave Stills each won three. Derby "A" have used six players to win this championship, the most regular being Hutchinson with 15 wins from 18 sets, Stills 14 from 15 and Brian Webster 9 from 12. Cheltenham should follow them into Div. 1 after beating both Stroud and Oxford "B" 7-3. Both matches were 2-2 before Cheltenham took control. They now need only beat Coventry "B" to secure promotion, which should be straightforward as Coventry "B" have yet to gain a point. Derby "B" are in a similar position and have to meet Coventry "B" to decide which team finishes bottom.

PROMOTED

Nottingham "B" will be promoted from Men's Div. 3 and will be replaced by Hinckley "B", now certain of relegation from Div. 2. At the other end of Div. 3, Kidderminster are relegated and due to be replaced by Wolverhampton "C", who have won promotion from Div. 4 even with two matches left to play.

Nottingham "B" achieved their promotion with wins over Chesterfield "B" 8-2 and Oxford 7-3. Trevor Kerry lost his unbeaten record to Steven Young of Chesterfield, but came back with three against Oxford for whom Peter Jones did well to win two. Nottingham could clinch the championship with a draw or better against the other main promotion contenders, Stroud, who themselves need only one point from that match or against Coventry "B" to be sure of going up. Coventry "B" seem to have run into form, inflicting their biggest defeat of the season on Shrewsbury, 8-2. Shrewsbury's two sets were in fact the first two of the evening, but they seemed unable to consolidate a number of good starts. Three times their players won the first game 21-8 only to lose close in the third. Andy Woodcock won three for Coventry, and Chris Martin and Steve Deeming two each.

Division 4 continues to produce upset results, with Market Drayton recording only their second win of the season against promotion contenders, Rugby, by 6-4. Ken Sillitoe won three and Maurice Alcock two for the Shropshire team. A week later they lost to Nuneaton 3-7. Alcock again winning two but just having to give best to Chris Knowles who took three for Nuneaton. Rugby meanwhile got back on course with an 8-2 win over Loughborough, and would be certain of promotion if they can beat bottom team, Lichfield.

Only two results this month from Men's Div. 2 and only one from Div. 1. The latter was a win 8-2 for Chesterfield "A" against Hinckley "A", placing Chesterfield on top of the table, but Bristol and Leicester "A" each have a game in hand. The Div. 2 results affect relegation. Birmingham "B" will feel safer after beating Wolverhampton "B" 7-3, Andy Cockerill winning three, and Hinckley "B"'s fate was sealed when they lost to Potteries "B", their seventh consecutive 0-10. Coventry "A" and Wolverhampton "B" are now the main candidates to go down with Hinckley "B", and have yet to meet in what will be an important match.

The last team certain of promotion is Birmingham "B", going up from Junior Div. 2. They beat Derby "B" 10-0 and Wolverhampton "B" 8-2 to secure promotion. Oxford, Coventry "B" and Leicester are clustered together on 10 points in an interesting race to join Birmingham in Div. 1. All have produced wins this month. Oxford won 7-3 against Wolverhampton "B"

and 6-4 over Walsall "A". Paul Mabbutt, Marlon Higgins and Peter Crabb all winning two in both matches. Leicester beat West Bromwich "A" 9-1 and Walsall "A" 7-3, Simon Griev unbeaten in both matches, and Coventry beat Wolverhampton "B" 6-4 despite Adrian Dixon's maximum for Wolverhampton. Coventry's remaining two matches are both against their rivals, so that these teams really could finish in any order. There is a six point gap between them and the bottom five teams, who again have a number of matches amongst themselves which will determine relegation.

SET TO WIN

Birmingham "A" are set to win Div. 1 after beating Nottingham "A" 8-2 and Cheltenham 9-1, the latter despite playing two reserves. Only Wolverhampton "A" could catch them, and then only by four handsome wins, and help from Chesterfield "A" beating Birmingham. The four wins may be on, but I can't see Birmingham losing to Chesterfield, even if Alan Cooke plays.

A surprise win in Div. 3 for Nuneaton over Market Drayton "A" by 6-4, has given Albrighton a chance to overtake Market Drayton and gain promotion. Chris Bache and his elder brother Andy won all six of Nuneaton's sets. Coventry "C" need to win just three sets in two matches to gain promotion, whilst one point would give them the title. They beat Hinckley 7-3. Hinckley also lost 4-6 to Birmingham "C" and drew with Stroud, but Colin Jones' singles record remains unblemished now being 24 wins from the same number of starts.

Pontesbury go top of Junior Div. 4 with wins 8-2 over former leaders Chesterfield "B" and 9-1 over Market Drayton "B". The latter two teams have 10 points, whilst Loughborough and Rugby each have 9. Market Drayton "B" must win their last match against Chesterfield "B" to stay in contention, but even then would be unlikely to go up. This result would most favour Loughborough, who have Stratford and Walsall "B" to come as likely wins. Bromsgrove could make a late run from their 8 points, but would need to beat Chesterfield "B" and Rugby. It's really in Chesterfield's hands. If they win their last two matches they should hold off all challenges, but otherwise they could be overtaken by Loughborough (most likely) or Bromsgrove (outsiders).

In the Women's Division, Birmingham "A" beat Kidderminster 9-1 and now need only two sets from their final match against Wolverhampton to win the title. Derby beat Nottingham 7-3 and should finish second. Market Drayton "B" finish bottom, and Birmingham "B"'s 8-2 win over Kidderminster should leave the latter next to bottom.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

TITLE IN SIGHT

The Northumberland County first team won their all-important clash with Lancashire II at Byker Community Centre on Feb. 28. With Lancashire fielding a weakened side, Northumberland's men Chu Van Que, Andrew Clark and Ian Robertson had little trouble in winning their next, but Barbara Kearney and Kit Cheung both lost their singles to Jean Parker and Helen Frost respectively and also lost their doubles to make the final match score 7-3. They now only need one point from their remaining fixture at home to Cheshire II to take the Div. 2 (North) title.

The second team ended their season on a low note when they lost 1-9 away to Staffs II, who took the Div. 3 (North) title in the process. Martin Young won the only set.

The juniors must have fancied their

chances against bottom of the table Cumbria when the two sides met at Kendal in a Junior Div. 2 (North) match. As things turned out, however, a very disappointing 4-6 defeat — the third of the season — pushed Northumberland into second bottom place, and there can now be no hope of second division opposition for the juniors next season. Neil McMaster won his two singles, and Christine Burke won hers and combined with Clare Mouzon to win the girls' doubles.

Meanwhile, 12-year-old Clare has also been making her mark in Div. 2B of the Northumberland League. Playing for Ashington Leisure Centre 'A' with her father, Charles, and Kevin Burdis against Electric 'C', she had two tremendous wins against ranked women Christine Burke (-12, 17, 17) and Kit Cheung (17, 14) and only narrowly lost to Caron Buglass (-18, -19). This followed her recent performance in the Northumberland Closed, when she reached the women's singles semi-final, and it should also be remembered that last season she reached the women's doubles final as a "scratch" pairing with Daphne Russell. As a result, she has been rewarded with a long-overdue first time entry into the newly-revised women's ranking list at No. 7. The men's ranking list is unchanged, but new junior and cadet ranking lists have been issued, and these are as follows:

Women

1 Barbara Kearney (1), 2 Christine Burke (4), 3 Caron Buglass (3), 4 Kit Cheung (2), 5 Pauline Jackson (5), 6 Susan Norris (7), 7 Clare Mouzon (—), 8 Shirley Laver (6), 9 Daphne Russell (8).

Junior Boys

1 Neil McMaster, 2 David Maughan, 3 Martin Moore, 4 Martin Schapira, 5 Martin Tate, 6 Nicholas Ringrose, 7 Steve Allen, 8 Nicholas Jeffreys, 9 Anjum Shakoor, 10 Jimmy Brumby, 11 Bernard Clarke, 12 John Bridges, 13 Darshan Singh, 14 Alan Mathewson, 15 Gordon Watson.

Junior Girls

1 Christine Burke, 2 Clare Mouzon, 3 Lindsay Jackman, 4 Gail Curry, 5 Denise Campbell, 6 Judith Drapkin, 7 Tanya Cramman, 8 Karen Wilkinson, 9 Denise Wilkinson, 10 Mandy Lee.

Cadet Boys

1 Schapira, 2 Bridges, 3 E. Smith, 4 Waseem Shakoor, 5 Andrew Drapkin, 6 Peter Curry, 7 A. Dalgleish, 8 D. Linskill, 9 David Watson, 10 D. Shaw, 11 Graham Heatley, 12 Jonathan Miller.

Cadet Girls

1 Mouzon, 2 Jackman, 3 Campbell, 4 Drapkin, 5 D. Wilkinson, 6 Julie Robson, 7 J. Smith, 8 M. Shulka, 9 E. Hopper.

City of Newcastle duly became champions of the National League Div. 2 (North) after their team of Chu Van Que, Andrew Clarke, Ian Robertson and Keith Paxton won every set in straight games to run out 9-0 winners against S.W. Durham. They must still wait, however, to find out who they meet in the play-off from Div. 2 (South) to decide who gains promotion to the Premier Division.

A number of players took part in the Durham 2-Star Open at Peterlee during the weekend of March 7/8, and there were several good performances. City of Newcastle's Keith Paxton (Cleveland) won the Class 2 mixed singles event, and Bob Dodds reached the quarters of the same competition. Ian Robertson narrowly lost in the semi-final of the men's singles, while Chu Van Que succumbed to Les Eadie of Essex in the quarters. Neil McMaster just lost to Cleveland's Glenn Skipp in the junior boys' singles semi-final, and Martin Moore, partnered by S. Craggs of Cleveland, reached the semi-final of the boys' doubles. Judith Drapkin lost in the semi-finals of the cadet girls' singles, and at the other end of the age scale, Arnold Warents was beaten

by Cheshire's Peter D'Arcy in the semi-final of the veterans' event.

Entries for the Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, on May 2 are coming in and it is expected that the tournament will be well supported. There is also a tournament to be staged at Ashington Leisure Centre on May 10 as part of the Ashington Festival, which commences at 0900 hours. Events include men's and women's singles, men's doubles, Div. 1/2 and 3/4 singles, junior boys' and girls' singles, and also separate junior events for local residents.

ISLE OF WIGHT NOTES

by John Prean

REMARKABLE VETS

The County teams have completed their programme in the County Championships. At the half way stage both our teams were on top of their sections. Though in the end both titles eluded us, 8 matches were won out of 11 played, far more than we dared hope at the start.

The Senior team's challenge gradually faded, three victories, including one against the eventual Champions of Div. 3 West, Dorset II, being followed by two defeats that resulted from the long trips to Cornwall and Hereford. Was this really a REGIONAL league? In both outings our team was beaten 6-4, reserve strength not being equal to the task.

The performance of the Veterans was remarkable. With five wins out of six the title of the Veterans Division West was only lost on games average. We lost 6-3 to Dorset I in a match in which we lacked Joy Batten which sank our Mixed Doubles hopes when we were otherwise 100% and one or two others that we thought we might win got away. In what we regarded as the unofficial individual Championship of the section we expected Jim Daly to repeat his victory in the Hampshire Inter-town League a couple of years ago against the ageless Cyril Bush, but instead the Bournemouth man scored a notable if narrow victory. Jim (10 wins out of 12) nevertheless was our star throughout the campaign.

We bowed out with a 7-2 win against Wiltshire, who had beaten Dorset this season. In this match everything went right for us and Mrs. Batten's win against Mrs. Hazell was surely her best ever. As a team the Veterans played above themselves. Our performances in the Hampshire Veterans section, before Independence, were no more than middling with our best team seldom on parade. County status, however, had a galvanising effect and we often played above ourselves in the crunch contests.

With so much travel and other expenses and a certain lack of depth in our playing strength, we shall have to think long and hard as to whether we can continue to enter two teams in the County Championships. I would be sad to see the Veterans go, though they are good enough to challenge for places in the Senior team. Jim would be a certainty. The performances of the Veterans were rather more impressive than those of the Seniors who faded towards the end. They had one considerable advantage which was the presence of thirteen-year-old Carl Prean at No. 1 who won all his sets, 10 out of 10. Too strong for the Division, as was sometimes said? Perhaps, but Pickard, Creasey, Bassett, Owen and Owens provided formidable opposition especially after you have sat in a car for four or five hours. Great credit to him too in one other respect: Having accepted the commitment of playing in all five County matches he honoured it, missing the chance of National League matches on two occasions and with it whatever slender chance he had of gaining a

place in Soham's all-conquering Championship side.

We would like to thank most particularly Reg Glover and Brian Lamerton from the Hampshire Association who between them covered our home matches — quite invaluable assistance from two of the best umpires in the game. The same can be said of our own John Brookes who became our first County umpire during the season. Each of our matches was a special occasion, well staged and played. That this was so is due in no small way to the above three gentlemen.

I read with enthusiasm Jose Ransome's notes on what would be a real table tennis festival (March Issue of Table Tennis News): Staged over, say, a Bank Holiday weekend with three playing days available, combining the Closed Championships and the County Championships. There can be little doubt that the major tournament scene is also in rapid decline and this idea would revive both and be a fine advertisement for table tennis. Whether the financial expertise is available that would make this commercially self-supporting, must be open to doubt. Almost the first thing that is mentioned when any new project is launched, where a financial loss seems inevitable, is sponsorship. That is putting the cart before the horse. The first step is to prove to potential Sponsors that they will get value for money, i.e. good public interest and publicity. Sponsorship should be a bonus rather than a subsidy. It is imaginative ideas like this that will save our Sport. We have to compete with other sports for spectators and media time. I don't think the answer is to cut costs. In 1946/7 the English Open was watched by 10,000 people at Wembley. Next year it will move to a Sports Centre in Crawley. We shall be lucky to get a few hundred watching. We are still suffering from the after-effects of the Birmingham World Championships, a glittering event, which had everything except the financial expertise to bring the ship home with a profit. The loss made at that time seems to have had an inhibiting effect on all that was subsequently attempted and our Sport badly needs a big commercial success, so that confidence returns.

Our own Closed Championships went off well. Carl again defeated Jim Daly in a super Final and also shared in the Men's Doubles with Steve Harris and the Mixed with Jill Fothergill. He did not play in the 'Cadets' which was won by Philip Nicholls, but again won the Juniors. Jim Daly won the Veterans and Darren Read the Intermediate (Divisions 2 to 7). The experiment of playing the Men's Final at 3 o'clock, with other events still to follow, was an unqualified success. Everybody was still there and so we had a good audience for an enthralling match. How sad it would have been to play late in the evening in an empty hall as is the custom in so many 3-Star and 2-Star events. "Staged" Finals (late) is good on paper, but in practice, if by then you have lost your audience, you have simply ignored reality which is that most competitors and their supporters go home when their matches are over. One wishes it were otherwise, but it isn't.

Our sole representative at National Tournaments — you-know-who, played in the Middlesex and Essex 3-Stars. In both he had a number of good wins, some against Senior County players, in both he went out to Nigel Eckersley. You learn more from defeat than from victory and so he gained invaluable experience, especially against such a good and versatile opponent.

Our First Division continues as the anticipated two horse race between the 'A' Teams of Ryde and Columbia. The latter have retained their 1 point lead and with Ryde unlikely to surrender any more points the issue will remain open until the last match of the season.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

WIND OF CHANGE

As the whole structure of table tennis in England faces sweeping changes in the next few months, so the wind of change is raging through the Sussex table tennis administration and in particular, the Lombard Sussex championships.

For something like thirty years a team of administrators from the Brighton and District League have carried out the task of running the championships on 16 tables from 9 a.m. in the morning until late, sometimes very late — when all the trains and most of the late buses have gone.

The late finishes have been a perpetual problem. Occasional successes have been achieved, but who runs tournaments on 16 tables in one day? No-one, except Sussex as far as I know. "It has become unworkable" said Sussex chairman Bert Fretwell recently. The event lost about £120 this time because the tables and lights had to be specially provided, following the change in the Norwich Union international becoming a bi-annual event.

Amongst the present plans being discussed — nothing as yet has been finalised, is to move the event to the Crawley Leisure Centre — the day after the Norwich Union International Championships to regain the equipment advantage, held for so long at the Brighton Corn Exchange. Personalities who will be prominent in the re-shaping of the tournament will be referees Dennis Reed and Chris Wright.

As the season moves towards its close, it is the Moore brothers Adrian and Stephen who continue to make the head-lines. Adrian, at 16, the Sussex senior champion moves towards three tournaments that could win him a place in the England European junior championships team, whilst Stephen has gained great encouragement from his County Championships victory over Max Crimmins.

Shame that Alan Shepherd had to use valuable space in his Essex notes to attack me on the National League v County Championships issue. He gets so confused between opinion and facts. He suggested that I was giving my opinion in "The Daily Telegraph" on the Sealink v Spartacus match that the crowd would be 500. In fact, that is what I was told on excellent authority. To show how un-biased I am, I subsequently reported to Mr. Shepherd's amusement (he called it "daft"), that only 250 turned up and again, on good authority I was told that some of the missing people had gone to clashing county matches. Reporting facts is not daft Mr. Shepherd, but confusing facts with opinion often is!

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Gerald Green

NEW JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

There are new County Junior and Cadet Champions for both Boys and Girls as a result of Shropshire Table Tennis Association's Junior Closed Championships held at Sundorne, mainly because five top County Juniors were taking part in the National Rankings Tournament.

Only title retained was that of Shrewsbury's Peter Hyde and Dean Pountney in the Boys' Doubles although Colette Soan, who had won the Girls' Doubles title with Alison Barker, repeated the feat, this time with Grove colleague Denise Boughy who had beaten her to win the Junior Girls' Singles title.

Grove, Market Drayton, won all three girls events, for Nicola Thorneycroft took the cadet title against club colleague Julie Bloore.

The girls' events went according to seeding but there were a number of upsets in both Junior and Cadet boys' events. Sean Groom, top seed for Cadets and No. 2 for Juniors, rarely attained form, losing to No. 5 seed Peter Thomas (Pontesbury) in the former and No. 6 seed Dean Pountney (Shrewsbury) in the latter.

Second seed in the Cadets, Paul Fisher (Grove) went out in the semi-finals to eventual winner Colin Wilson (Grove).

RESULTS

Junior Boys' Semi-finals:
Martin Tuftt (A) bt Colin Wilson (G) 19, 19;
Dean Pountney (S) bt Peter Hyde (S)
-19, 15, 14.

Final:
TUFTT bt Pountney 17, 14.

Junior Girls' Semi-finals:
Denise Boughy (G) bt Dawn Wickstead (G) 15, 11;

Colette Soan (G) bt Alison Stephens (P)
17, 13.

Final:
BOUGHEY bt Soan 11, 11.

Cadet Boys' Semi-finals:
Hyde bt Peter Thomas (P) 17, -12, 20;
Colin Wilson (G) bt Paul Fisher (G)
-20, 15, 11.

Final:
WILSON bt Hyde 14, -17, 13.

Cadet Girls' Semi-finals:
Julie Bloore (G) bt Dawn Wickstead (G)
-21, 16, 20;

Nicola Thorneycroft (G) bt Joane Smith (P) -17, 15, 19.

Final:
THORNEYCROFT bt Bloore 15, 8.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:
Pountney/Hyde bt Tuftt/Jamie Rea (A)
19, 21;

Wilson/Sean Groom (G) bt Steve Brown/
John Lumley (P) 12, 13.

Final:
POUNTNEY/HYDE bt Wilson/Groom
-18, 16, 17.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:
Boughy/Soan bt Sandra Morris/Julie Field (S) 16, 11;

Stephens/Smith bt Thorneycroft/Wickstead
15, 16.

Final:
BOUGHEY/SOAN bt Stephens/Smith 6, 13.

Key:
S—Shrewsbury, G—Grove, Market Drayton,
P—Pontesbury, A—Albrighton.

Of the missing Cadets, Ivan Smith (P), David Williams (G) and Alison Barker (G) will no doubt get 'Top 10' England Rankings, whilst Juniors Carol Wickstead (G) and Julie Ballard (Telford) also did well at the National Rankings.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

CONTRASTING FORTUNES

Two teams undefeated, one team qualifies for the Premier and one fails to collect a point all season. That, in a nutshell, illustrates the contrasting fortunes of Leicestershire's four teams. The first team concluded their season with a massive 9-1 win over Nottinghamshire, dropping only the final set. This win was enough to guarantee that, since champions Warwickshire already have a team amongst that elite eight they will not be participating in the Challenge. Whilst Chris Roger is not available it seems certain that Paul Randell will discard the 'Non-playing' part of his captaincy and show the team by example — something he is more than capable of doing.

There is still no player in Leicestershire (apart from Chris Rogers) who is likely to beat him — his 100% record in the Leicester League shows that. The County 2nd team topped their division in most convincing style. Even the problem of not having a regular No. 2 woman failed to upset their composure but the outstanding success must

be Alan Philpott, who could perhaps be called a rather late developer. In his first season at this level he has won 11 of his twelve sets (only Northants' Dave Marsh got the better of him) but Grahame Hall, Phil Smith and the ever-reliable Eileen Shaler also had an excellent season.

The Juniors, relegated last season, bounced straight back by topping their division. They dropped a point in the last match of the season — against a young but extremely promising Shropshire side. In the course of the match Simon Grieve lost his 100% record — to Ivan Smith, whose marvellous attack was also too much for Martin Pickles. Yvonne Hall, as usual was undefeated and she must have already created some sort of record for the number of times she has played for the juniors — and she still has another season to go. Not many people can remember a Junior team without Yvonne — nor the last time she lost! That's the good news.

The not so good news concerns the Veterans who have lost all six of their matches to finish firmly rooted at the foot of the table. If Alan Crowson and Colin Truman are available next season things will certainly be more promising and it is hoped that if a Veterans team functions next season, Geoff Aldwinckle will be available after missing all this season due to business commitments.

The Rose Johnson Bowl has now reached the latter stages with teams from three leagues — Hinckley, Leicester and Loughborough — in the last eight. Handicapping an event which brings players from four different leagues is never easy but it seems we have got it about right this season. The most exciting match so far this season involved Bentley Engineering (108 points start) against Jones & Shipman. In the final game Steve Day (J&S) led 20-8 against John Waters and needed one point to give his team victory — but he served off and now the match will have to be re-played.

There has been a delay in arrangements for the 'Leicestershire Closed' for this season but the ever-dependable Reg Billson has stepped in at short notice and agreed to stage the event at Loughborough. Most divisions in the Leicester League are now settled. Magpie look certain to top Division One and with Paul Randell, Keith Fellows and Colin Truman in the side this will hardly come as a surprise. John Iliffe has led Barwell Liberals to the championship of Div. 2. Whilst he is now approaching forty, his enthusiasm and dedication to the game is an example for others to follow. Alan Bell (British Shoe) did the 'double' over Aldwinckle (Knighton Park) but his team have still topped the division and Geoff the Divisional averages.

Stuart Wilford (Magpie) has had a magnificent season in ensuring his team top the chart and he himself the divisional averages. It seems almost impossible to believe that such a mature and competent player will still be a junior next season. The twin spearhead of Terry Highton and Ian Simpson has placed Leicester Building Society in an unbeatable position in the 5th division whilst AEI are set to take Div. 6. They have the unquenchable enthusiasm of Jim O'Connor, who is top of the averages to help them. Wadkins look set to take Div. 7 but it is Steve Freeman (RTH) who tops the averages. Swithland Motors and Bentley Engineering are fighting it out at the top of Div. 8, led respectively by Paul Bumpus and Vijay Sheth.

One of the closest divisions is Div. 10 where Magna Travellers, Goons and East Goscote are still in contention, but it seems unlikely Bob Phipps (East Goscote) will be deposed from top spot in the averages. Police have topped Div. 11 by a substantial margin with Geoff Hancock the outstanding player in the division. Groby Community College are the Div. 12 Champions but Ahmed Shiekh (LUCA) is the division's top

player. Bentleys are top of Div. 13 where Simon Taylor (Forest Centre) looks like taking the divisional trophy. Goodwin Barsby are champions in Div. 14 but with Alan Chapman in the team this is hardly surprising.

University are Div. 15 champions whilst S. Shariff looks set to win the divisional prize. Belgrave Constitutional are leading the way in Div. 16 where Derek Doherty (GRE) tops the averages. County Hall or Great Glen will top Div. 17 with Steve Shaw (Wyvern) at the top of the averages whilst Thorn Lighting look to be Div. 18 champions where S.P. Pan (University) is still unbeaten. In Div. 19 Alex Mason (St. Cuthberts) has lost his 100% record to Dave Williams (Hearts of Oak) but his team have still topped the division by a substantial margin.

In the Hinckley League Kingscroft narrowly lead Hinckley MC but it is Ashby Parva's Mick Thomas who leads the averages. Barwell Liberals, however could move ahead of both of them. Market Bosworth look likely to take the Div. Two title whilst Ashby Parva look to be in a good position to take the Div. 3 title. Westfield and Brockington are fighting it out for the championship of Div. 4 but John Cleveland appear to have the junior division sewn up. A. Bee still has a 100% record for them.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by P. Taylor

VETERANS' TRIUMPH

My apologies for the absence of notes in the last few issues. Due to an increasing amount of schoolwork, table tennis commitments etc., I have found it very difficult to find the time to write them. At least it will give me something to write about this time.

Congratulations to our county veteran team who clinched the Veteran North division by beating Cheshire 1 by the comfortable margin of 6-3. Our veterans have won all their matches and have dropped only 13 sets out of a possible 54. They now go into the play-off for the national title and this will have been played by the time you read this. Unfortunately, Connie Moran has been taken seriously ill and was therefore not available for the Cheshire match. Jean White however is a more than adequate replacement and should not weaken our side's chances in the play-off. We all wish Connie a speedy recovery and hope that it is not too long before she is active again.

The other teams have done quite well. Having been relegated last year to 3rd Division North, the senior team once again showed that this lower standard suits them better for this season they won 3 out of their 4 matches, the last two being a 9-1 win against Cumbria and a 6-4 win over Northumberland 2nd. The Junior 1st team also did well with 7 points out of a possible 14 in the Junior 2nd North Division. Chris Bryan won 9 singles out of 14 while Stuart Worrell won 10. The Junior 2nd team, after a bad start, managed to get a win over Cambridgeshire and a draw with Suffolk to finish the season with 3 points. Special mention regarding county matches must be made of Sue Radley who made her debut in the senior side this season, played all 4 matches and finished the season with a 100% singles record.

As expected, Wyberton took the Haigh Cup in the men's inter-town competition beating their only rivals Louth 6-4 in the deciding match. Louth can get some consolation from the fact that they did drop less sets than Wyberton during the season. Probably the most important set in that match was the one between Dave Skerratt (Wyberton) and Matt Shearer (Louth). Matt won the first 11 but then lost the other two -21, -23. If the result had gone the other

way then the score could have been 5-5 and Louth would have won on set average.

Wyberton also won the Butcher Cup dropping only one point (to Gainsborough) on route and defeating nearest rivals Lincoln by an impressive 8-2 margin. The Butlin Cup, the women's competition, was won for the first time by Grantham who beat favourites Grimsby in the last match of the season. It was the inclusion of England-ranked Suzanne Hunt who tipped the balance in Grantham's favour for it was mainly her wins that gave Grantham maximum points in their encounters with Grimsby. The points the champions dropped were all against Spalding with a draw being the result in the match Suzanne played and a 2-8 defeat when she didn't. Grimsby can have no real complaints however as a draw in the last match would have seen them through but the absence of Connie was too much of a handicap and they went down 2-8 Gillian Sharpe taking Grimsby's only two.

Grimsby managed to take one title, the Veteran Division, beating Lincoln in what once again proved to be a two-horse race between these two.

FINAL TABLES

HAIGH

Wyberton	7	7	0	0	54	16	14
Louth	7	6	0	1	57	13	12
Grimsby	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Lincoln	7	3	1	3	31	39	7
Gainsborough	7	2	2	3	35	35	6
Grantham	7	3	0	4	34	36	6
Boston	7	2	0	5	25	45	4
Scunthorpe	7	0	0	7	7	63	0

BUTCHER

Wyberton	8	7	1	0	59	21	15
Lincoln	8	6	0	1	54	26	14
Grantham	8	6	0	2	51	29	12
Grimsby	8	3	2	3	40	40	8
Scunthorpe	8	3	0	5	34	46	6
Spalding	8	2	2	4	36	44	6
Boston	8	2	2	4	33	47	6
Gainsborough	8	0	3	4	27	53	3
Louth	8	1	0	7	26	54	2

BUTLIN

Grantham	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Grimsby	6	4	0	2	35	25	8
Spalding	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
Lincoln	6	0	0	6	15	45	0

VETERAN

Grimsby	6	5	1	0	46	14	11
Lincoln	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Grantham	6	2	0	4	20	40	4
Louth	6	0	0	6	13	47	0

Finally, two tournaments which may be of interest to Lincolnshire players will be held at Grimsby in April. The Rubber Bat Open will be held on Saturday, 25th April - only rubber bats (i.e. no sponge) may be used. Play will be on a group basis (of 4) with the top two going into the Open singles and the rest into a consolation singles. Everyone therefore is guaranteed at least 4 sets and this event proved very popular last year. The other is an Under-21 tournament again on a group basis, the Clee Sports Hall Open, which will be held on Sunday, April 26. Entry forms for both events can be obtained from Peter Taylor, 44 Edge Avenue, Grimsby (Grimsby 71298).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Ronald Hedley

CLOSED CHAMPS

The Bucks Closed Championships were held at Slough on Feb. 14/15.

Some of the top players were missing due to other commitments and some entries were not received, until after the draw had been made, due to a postal strike.

The boys' singles title was won by the No. 1 seed Jonathan Wright (MK), Philip Bradbury and Stuart Lines were unavailable and this gave Jonathan an easy victory.

The girls' singles final was fought between the No. 1 and 2 seeds Dawn Robbins (HW) and Deborah Simmonds (SI). The match turned into a comfortable victory for Deborah, who was playing in her first Bucks tournament.

The junior doubles was won by the scratch pairing of Nicky Breeze (HW) and Jonathan Wright (MK), both county-ranked juniors.

In the women's singles the junior champion Deborah Simmonds went out to the Veteran No. 1 Ivy Cooper (Ay). No. 1 seed Dawn Robbins had an easy passage to the final where she met Mrs. Cooper. Ivy won the first leg but Dawn knuckled down to the task to win the women's event for the first time.

The restricted singles produced few surprises, although few people would have expected Graham Trimming (SI) to contest the final. In the final he came up against the junior champion Wright. It was Jonathan who added to his junior title by winning the restricted event.

The Men's Singles was the main event to be played on Sunday and it looked to be an open contest. In the absence of Tuckett, Bradbury and Haines it was Peter Simmonds (SI) who had the No. 1 seeding. In the draw unseeded were players of the calibre of Les Wooding, Alec Watson and Dave Pountney who were expected to cause the seeds problems. Watson went early but Wooding and Pountney both won through to the semi-finals, Pountney removing No. 1 seed Simmonds on his way. The semi-finals contained three unseeded players, the No. 8 seed Alex Pratt (Ay) being the only seed left. Pratt removed Mark Curtis (HW) to reach the final and Wooding (MK) accounted for Pountney (SI). The final was a one-sided affair with Wooding running out an easy winner.

The Veterans' singles final was played between the No. 1 and 2 seeds. Len Pratt (Ay) confirmed the seedings in overcoming Alan Catchpole (HW).

The mixed final was one of the most entertaining with the brother and sister pairing of Peter and Deborah Simmonds overcoming Viv McCarthy (SI) and Denise Pitcher (HW).

Milton Keynes provided all four players in the Men's Doubles final with Wooding/Harman running out winners.

The first half of the men's inter-league competition has taken place and the three divisions are headed by:

Div. 'A' - High Wycombe,
Div. 'B' - Maidenhead 'B',
Div. 'C' - High Wycombe 'C'.

All the divisions could see changes at the top when the second half takes place on Sunday, March 23. In the 'A' division the Milton Keynes team walked out after losing their first match to Maidenhead and will take no further part in the competition.

SLOUGH LEAGUE

In the National Club Championships the Slough representatives Cippenham went down to Kidlington Forum 3-6. John Barton (2), Pountney (1) were the Cippenham winners.

Slough fared much better in the Wilmott Cup with wins over Maidenhead 5-3 (McCarthy 3, Barton 2), Reading 5-4 (McCarthy 2, Pountney 2, Earis 1), but then went out to Milton Keynes 2-5 (Barton 1, Pountney 1).

CARTER CUP

Slough juniors went down at the first hurdle to Staines 4-5 (Butler 3, Silcott 1).

BROMFIELD TROPHY

In this competition Slough had a good win over Staines 7-2 (Phelps 3, Knight 3, Brown 1), both Phelps and Knight had good wins over Bucks No. 3 junior Deborah Simmonds. Slough went out to Oxford, in a

closely-fought match, 4-5. Two of the defeats were 19 in the third. Mary Denbow was Oxford's star with three wins.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

OBITUARIES

Following the sad announcement, in these notes last month, of the death of our Vice-President, R. J. Sewell (High Wycombe), it is with similar and sad regret that we also announce the passing of two more Vice-Presidents, both also stalwarts of our County Association from its formation. To lose three such eminent members so quickly is a truly sad blow.

L. T. (TOM) FLINT, a Founder Member, served the Association in the offices of Chairman, Treasurer and Umpires' Secretary and was actively involved until the 1965/6 season. He served as a Vice-President from 1954/55.

Mrs. WIN THORNE, supported the County actively in various ways and particularly gave that vital assistance and encouragement to her husband Cyril, that enabled him to be a tower of strength in both Aylesbury and Bucks table tennis for over twenty years. Our condolences go to Cyril, and indeed to all who will miss the influence of these pioneers.

As a County Association we acknowledge with much gratitude their work and involvement, the sound base which they laid continues to uphold the success of the sport in the area and will serve to us as their memorial.

R. J. "ROLY" SEWELL (High Wycombe)
The tragic and untimely death, at the age of only 55, on the 10th January of R. J. "Roly" Sewell has cast a sad shadow over the buoyant activities of the High Wycombe and District Table Tennis League and the Bucks County Table Tennis Associations, both of which have long owned trophies donated by Roly and competed for regularly every season since their inception.

Speaking at a crowded service the President of High Wycombe Rotary Club, M. P. Smith, said that Roly packed more into his 55 years than most people could ever hope to achieve in the more normal longer life span, and indeed this was so. His contribution to table tennis both locally and in the County, having been a founder member of both official Associations, were enormous as benefitted a great and gentle man who possessed a tremendous love for our sport.

As a player Roly represented the League on over one hundred occasions and he held all three senior titles (MS, MD, XD) in the annual individual championships. At League level he served as a Committee Member, Acting Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer, Treasurer/Secretary and was Chairman for eight seasons from 1966 to 1974. In 1956 Roly was elected a Life Vice-President and in 1977 he succeeded the late John Hudson as President, a position he held at his death. In the County Association Roly was both Treasurer and later Vice-Chairman and served continually as a Vice-President from season 1957/8.

However to Roly this was only a beginning, a successful businessman until his retirement five years earlier, he served with great distinction in many spheres and will be greatly missed in many service areas, most especially the High Wycombe Rotary Club and his Masonic Lodge where his attainments were at least equal to those achieved in table tennis.

As a youngster he represented the County as an athlete and was also Cadet of the Year. In later years he took part in international aviation competitions flying his own small aircraft as part of the official G.B. contingent.

No words can adequately express our loss or offer suitable condolences to Mary the ever reliable support in his life. Those who

knew, respected and admired Roly will be saddened by his sudden passing but can be grateful for the fellowship they enjoyed and will know with certainty, that their own lives have been enriched for having known an outstanding personality.

B. R. J. WEBB,
County Chairman.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NOTES

by Dennis Millman

HIDDEN BONUS

Although an entry of 68 for the Men's Singles was the lowest for many years, the Wellingborough Annual Closed Tournament, sponsored for the first time by the David Scott Group, turned out to be the best of the season, held within the county boundaries. The overall entry, reduced by some 12% from last year's record proportions had the hidden bonus of providing Organiser Mick Morris with time to spare, particularly with the junior events being held prior to tournament day, while surprisingly, the Ladies and Veterans Singles attracted record fields.

For the first time the trophies were not presented to the finalists on the day of the events, but this did not prevent some scintillating encounters, and the Wellingborough Dinner and Dance on Friday, 15th May, may prove all the more successful as a result.

It was the third time in succession at local championships that the Nicoll twins had contested the final of the Men's Singles, and for the second time it was Ken who came through to deprive Keith of yet another title, by using his skilful blocking tactics, to hold, and finally outplay his more adventurous brother.

Both had survived taxing, yet superb semi-finals, with Keith's composure put to a severe test by Steve West, and Ken just outstaying Geoff Atkinson, probably the best hard-bat player in the East Midlands, who battled courageously throughout, before conceding defeat, after all three ends had gone to deuce.

Keith Nicoll and Steve West seemed to have no chance in the Men's Doubles, when trailing 19-13 in the second, after dropping the first end to surprise finalists John Sanders and Graham Ball, but the brilliantly erratic Ball faltered slightly, Nicoll attacked in desperation, and remarkably the game and the title were saved.

Nicoll and Mandy Wallis had earlier retained the Mixed Doubles title, after losing the first to their Kettering conquerors Ian Hawe and Glennis Hooper, while other titles not to change hands were the Ladies Singles in which Miss Wallis beat Miss Hooper after a close struggle, and the Veterans Singles where Dennis Millman playing his ninth consecutive final, took the honours for the sixth time.

Barbara Gibbs, making a successful comeback, joined Mandy in the Doubles, and after trailing badly in the opening game, the pair fought back to catch Dorothy Marsh and Miss Hooper at the post, and then clinch the issue in the second.

Both Junior Singles were epic encounters, with Ian Hawes almost toppled by Richard Malfait, and Andrew Edmonds accounting for Andrew Trott to complete Wellingborough's best series of finals for many years.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:
Keith Nicoll bt Steve West -13, 11, 17;
Ken Nicoll bt Geoff Atkinson -20, 21, 22.

Final:
KEN NICOLL bt Keith Nicoll 18, 17.

Women's Singles Final:
MANDY WALLIS bt Glennis Hooper 16, 18.

Veterans' Singles Final:
DENNIS MILLMAN bt Ken Bussey 12, 21.

Junior Singles Final:
IAN HAWES bt Richard Malfait -17, 19, 19.

Cadet Singles Final:
ANDREW EDMONDS bt Andrew Trott 13, 26.

Men's Doubles:
KEITH NICOLL/WEST bt John Sanders/
Graham Ball -16, 24, 15.

Women's Doubles:
M. WALLIS/B. GIBBS bt G. Hooper/
D. Marsh 23, 15.

Mixed Doubles:
KEITH NICOLL/M. WALLIS bt I. Hawes/
G. Hooper -18, 9, 11.

Junior Doubles:
HAWES/STEVE KENDALL bt Mark
Nannery/Andrew Kimbell 15, 13.

The other main event of note during the month, was the staging of the County League. This took place at the Roadmender Club, Northampton, with Phil Slade and Reg Allen directing operations with commendable efficiency.

Although Wellingborough were the holders, it was anticipated that Kettering with the stronger men, and Northampton with the better balanced side, would contest the final stages, and this proved to be the case, despite some valliant efforts from Wellingborough's Mandy Wallis and Ian Hawes, Towcester's Steve Mazur, and the influx of some Warwickshire players into the Daventry contingent.

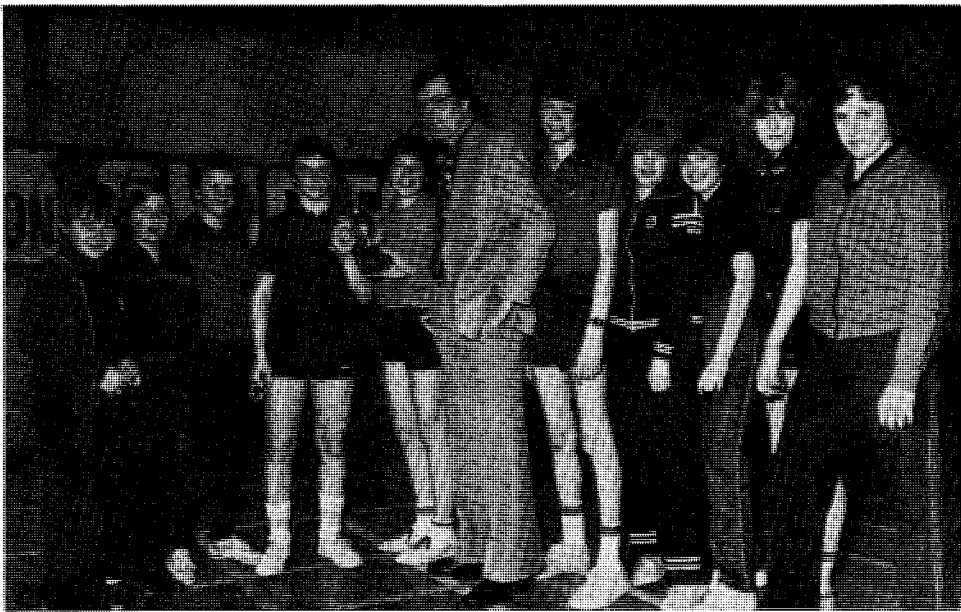
Northampton, having omitted Romano and David Gallo, started confidently, with eleven nil wins over Daventry and Towcester, while Kettering's early responses proved to be nine two successes against Wellingborough and Daventry, despite being without Gary Alden, who was suffering from a recurrence of his shoulder injury.

Although Northampton and Kettering were not scheduled to meet until the final series on Sunday evening, it was the penultimate series featuring Northampton and Wellingborough, and Kettering and Towcester which in the event proved to be decisive, for Kettering, now without Richard Malfait, dropped two points to Towcester's M. Hall, and these were losses the team could ill afford, for Northampton although made to struggle by Wellingborough, went on to win eight three, with Ian Hawes' win over Brian Wooding the highlight, and the doubles expertise of Mandy Wallis gleaning the loser's other points. Although Keith Jones and Steve Lyon were fortunate to escape against Alan Hawes it was the solidarity of the Northampton side which saw them through to a triumphant finale.

With Kettering needing to win seven of the eleven rubbers in the final match against Northampton, their task became well nigh impossible when Ken Nicoll, after missing the afternoon session, started slowly against a confident and talented Graeme McKim, and just failed to make good the deficit in a superb encounter. Brian Wooding threatened to increase the lead against Keith Nicoll but failed gallantly in the attempt, before the wily Keith Jones completely baffled Steve West. With Northampton holding a distinct advantage in the Ladies and Junior events through Stephanie Dunkley (Lines) and Ashley Bennett, Kettering's cause seemed lost. However Keith Nicoll and West took the doubles, the Nicoll twins took further singles and in a fantastic, yet fitting climax to an outstanding weekend, West beat Wooding -24, 21, 20 to give Kettering a fifth win which could not deny Northampton the triumph their unrivalled teamwork deserved.

Final League Table

	P	W	L	P
Northampton	4	4	0	36
Kettering	4	3	1	32
Wellingborough	4	2	2	20
Daventry	4	1	3	13
Towcester	4	0	4	9



Bradford schools table tennis championship finalists at Eccleshill Upper School. From left: Neil Yeats, Joanne Beaumont, Chris Nixon, Martin Firth, David Rook, Ian Walker (training officer of Skipton Building Society, the sponsors), Andrew Clarke, Julie Todd, Julie Stocks, Tanya Pinder and Jane Haigh.

Photo by courtesy of Telegraph and Argos, Bradford.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Les D'Arcy

POISED TO WIN

Continuing to maintain their hundred per cent record in the County Championships with a 6-3 win over Lancashire and a convincing 7-2 result against Cheshire the Premier Division side looks poised to take the Championship.

Two highlights in the match against Lancashire was Kevin Beadsley's win in two straight over Donald Parker and Melody Hill's 21-19 result in the 3rd over Joy Grundy.

Another particularly pleasing performance was 16-years-old Tony Sanderson's debut-making result over Steve Scowcroft, in two straight.

Steve Mills, who has had a consistently good record in the Premier Division this season, was also on target for Unity of Bradford against Ellenborough. He defeated England-ranked No. 5 Graham Sandley 16, and 12 and also joined up with Chris Rogers to take the doubles in Unity's 7-2 defeat.

Steve Wathey (Doncaster) was successful in one of his two singles when making his debut for the senior 2nd team in the 6-4 win over Cleveland.

Mark Illingsworth (2) and Julie McLean (1) were also successful in the singles.

Michael Stead (2), Keith M'Kandla (1), Mark Rycroft (1) and Rachel Brook (1) gained individual victories in the match against Cumbria in the Junior 2nds match. Rachel also combined with Karen Burrows, making her county debut, to take the girls' doubles to give the 2nds a 6-4 result.

David Illingsworth, David Rook, Tony Sanderson, Steven Sharpe, Lesley Broomhead, Melonie Seaton and Julie Speight, captained by Miss Sylvia Broadbent, gave a determined and competent performance at St. Neots during the 2nd Junior Premier Week-end. They defeated Bucks, Devon and Staffs, all 8-2, but went down by the same score to Beds. Yorkshire now finish the season as runners-up, one point behind the Premier Champions, Middlesex.

David Rook, England's No. 3 cadet, at 14 years is becoming one of Bradford's most successful players. His three titles at the Bradford Schools' T.T. Championships — U-15 singles, U-19 singles and the U-19 doubles with Martin Firth gave him the

unique distinction of having won the Championships at all age levels — having taken the U-11 and U-13 singles previously. Other winners: U-11 Neil Yeats, U-13 Chris Nixon. Girls: U-13 Julie Stocks, U-19 Julie Todd, also U-19 doubles with Tanya Pinder.

At the Bradford Closed, David was also on the record trail. After winning the U-14, the U-17 and the men's doubles with Michael Stead (total age 30 years), David then became the youngest player ever to reach the men's singles final. Here he met defending champion David Hirst who proved too consistent for his youthful opponent who no doubt will be aiming to go one better next year.

Other title winners: Women's singles: H. Shields; Girls: J. Todd; Mixed: R. Priestley/H. Shields; Cadet Girls: J. Beaumont; Veterans: E. Taylor; Handicap: S. Bose.

Also rewriting the record books is the Wakefield Youth Team who have won the Yorkshire and Humberside Youth Organisations Championships for the 4th successive year and, on this occasion, without dropping a single set. Contesting the Regional Final with Wakefield were teams from Barnsley, Harrogate, Hull, Humberside and York/Selby. Wakefield's best individual performances were Steven Sharpe's win over Harrogate's Richard Whiteley who defeated Tony Sanderson in the N. Yorkshire Junior final and the win by Trevor Watson and Phil Tomlinson over county senior Mark Illingsworth and Richard Shirt, Yorkshire Summer League U-21 Champion in the boys' doubles.

Congratulations to all the Bradford and Wakefield winners and also to Moor Grange School, Leeds (Neil Edgecock, Keith M'Kandla, Craig Render, Ian Alberts U-19 team) and Sandal Endowed U-13's (Simon Arnold, Richard Hurley, Mark Latham, Adrian Leggetter) on qualifying for the England Schools' Finals at Matlock.

RADIO LEEDS

Former England No. 1 junior/No. 3 senior Alan Hydes of Barnsley was our guest celebrity on a recent programme. Alan, who visited China on the famous "Ping Pong" diplomacy tour, also spent some time coaching in New Zealand and India, the latter on his honeymoon. One of Alan's best performances was against former World Champion Istvan Jonyer whom he defeated in the decider of a match against Hungary with the score at 3-all. He also gave a similar match winning performance against the

Russians. Thanks Alan and your wife, June. It was great to have you at Radio Leeds.

Other guests to appear this month: John Hardcastle, John Walton, Julie Speight (Doncaster); Rod Hullah, Keith Shepherd, Ian Waterhouse (Leeds); Stuart Sykes (Huddersfield); David Atkinson, Shirley and Paul Cammeron, Christine Elliott and Clive Warley (York).

For sheer enthusiasm John Hadfield, the hard working press officer of the Sheffield League and his colleagues, will take some equalling. John returned home at 4.30 a.m. last Friday after about a ten hour round trip to the European Super League Final at Ipswich. Four hours later it was back to work for John who belongs to the progressive Castle T.T. Club which has eight teams in the Sheffield League.

Half the 32 members are juniors, including Lesley Broomhead, Yorkshire's No. 2 girl. In recognition of the Castle Club's good work, Yorkshire Bank donated the organisers £100 to promote further development.



Wakefield Met. Youth Team, the Yorkshire & Humberside Youth Organisations Champions

Back row l to r: Trevor Watson, John Atkinson, Owen Atkinson (Coach). Front row: 12-years-old Joanne Shaw, youngest competitor; Karen Burrows, since made debut for county junior 2nds; Steven Sharpe, Yorkshire No. 1 J.B. and Wakefield men's Champion. Gail Watson 17 years who went on to become Wakefield Women's Champion for 4th successive year. Also played Julie Speight, Yorkshire's No. 1 J.G. and Phil Tomlinson.

Foreign Visitors

We have received two more requests from Clubs abroad wishing to visit England. Anyone interested in arranging a friendly match should make direct contact with the club concerned:

Schiffange T.T.C. — Luxembourg

Wish to come with group of 6-8 juniors; staying with families for one week; between August 10th to 31st; near London. Contact Rold Hoferlin, 58 Rue des Fleurs, 3830 Schiffange, Luxembourg.

Vakant T.T.C. — Sweden

Wish to come to London in the Spring to play a friendly match and possibly enter a tournament. Contact Rolf Nyman, Byvagen 76, 183 39 Taby, Sweden.

NUTRITION FOR TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS

by CEN HAOWANG

Associate Professor of Sports Medicine,
National Research Institute of Sports Science,
Peking, China

The development of modern table tennis technique calls for a higher and higher level of physical fitness, especially in terms of speed and endurance. A major tournament may last up to nine days, entailing great mental and physical exertion by the players. What sort of nutrition should be given to a top player? We made a preliminary study of this problem in connection with our medical supervision of players during training period.

For this purpose we selected nine players — five men and four women — of different body build and age-groups. Their activities in one day were recorded, and by adding the calories consumed in each activity, the total calories consumed in the 24 hours were calculated. At the same time, we weighed the total intake of food in a day and converted it into calories.

This method, we think, could only bring us relatively close to the truth, since the amount of calories obtained from food by each individual is determined by his power to digest and to absorb. Similarly, the consumption of calories is determined by such factors as body weight, the contents, intensity, and duration of training, magnitude of efforts, as well as the technical skill, fervour and state of mind of the individual.

Based on the above-mentioned, our initial conclusion is that the daily energy consumed by a table tennis player is no less than 60 kilocalories per kilogram of his body weight.

As far as diets are concerned, we have noticed that our players, varying considerably in age and physique and coming from different localities, also differed greatly in taste and appetite. For this reason, special menus are provided for those who are not used to the ordinary menu, so as to meet their particular needs of nutrition. Such special attention to individual needs is also essential in the pre-competition period.

In planning the menu, in addition to ensuring an adequate supply of calories, we also took into consideration the fact that table tennis is a game requiring great speed, agility, accuracy and co-ordination, which needs a high degree of concentration of the cerebral cortex activity. After a match or training the players are found, both from their own complaints and medical examination, to be more mentally than physically tired. Therefore, they should be given plenty of proteins in order to enhance the excitability of their cerebral cortex. To enhance their nerve reflex, they should be given ample supply of phosphorus, which is available from milk, internals of animals, soya bean products, eggs, meat and wheat flour.

Table tennis being an indoor game, offers its players little benefit of sunshine. We deem it necessary for table tennis players to take up more outdoor activities, such as outdoor morning exercises, physical conditioning as well as outings on holidays, which mean more exposure to ultra-violet rays and a greater supply of vitamin D to facilitate the absorption of phosphorus.

Table tennis training and matches are conducted under lights and the small, fast-shuttling ball demands the ophthalmic nerves of a player to be at a high degree of concentration for a lengthy period. In order to sharpen his visual sensibility, he is advised to eat more carrots, which are rich in vitamin A.

Among the players not a few have got gum hemorrhage, pericementitis and dental caries and quite a number suffer from chronic tonsillitis. These may be connected with different eating habits and individual preference for a particular kind of food. Whether these ailments have anything to do with the game itself still remains to be studied. However, they may be attributed for one thing, to improper ways of cooking, e.g. a large portion of vitamin C is wasted in the process of washing and cooking. Also, some people eat too little vegetables. Besides giving them proper medical treatment, it is absolutely necessary to give them a certain amount of fruit or doses of vitamin C.

Improper calorie distribution among the three meals of the day also has an adverse effect on training. In training camp, training is very intensive, the players begin their morning session soon after breakfast and terminate the session too close to lunch. Such a tight scheme spoils the appetite of some players, who often take a light breakfast and a moderate lunch but overeat themselves at dinner. As a result, their strength easily gives way during training and they are slow to recuperate. Moreover, an excessive load on the stomach during the night interferes with a complete rest of the body system.

We consider, therefore, that at least one hour should elapse before or after meal and a training session. We consider too, that the food for breakfast should be as diversified as possible. High calorie and easily absorbable food that are rich in vitamins and minerals should be provided.

Those who eat a little less than normal should be given more varied and palatable food to whet their appetite. Glucose may be supplemented.

A tournament which lasts as long as nine days is an enormous tax on the competitors' mental and physical strength. In particular, in the knock-out system, fatigue grows with each passing day, the more so with the few top players who bear the brunt of the competition. Consequently, the ensurance of adequate nutrition on the basis of sufficient sleep and rest is an important matter in medical supervision.

Nutrition requirements during a table tennis tournament may be summed up as follows:

1. Food should be easy to digest and absorb, and should contain little gas-producing ingredients. Attention should be paid to variety in food preparation.
2. Milk, eggs, soya bean products and a certain amount of vegetables and fruits should be provided to ensure an adequate intake of proteins, phosphorus, carbohydrates, vitamin C, etc.
3. Meals before matches should be properly timed so that the players can bring their energy into full play. To make up for calorie shortage and to increase blood sugar concentration, additional rations of multi-vitamin glucose and chocolate may be supplied. Glucose may also be given after matches to accelerate recuperation.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

GRANDSTAND FINISH

In their first season back in the Premier Division of the County Championships, Lancashire can be proud of their record in winning four of their seven matches to finish probably third — depending on the result of the Essex-Yorks match — behind champions Yorkshire and runners-up Warwickshire. Both secured victories over the Red Rose team as did Essex.

Lancs finished off their Premier Division fixtures with a visit to Cardiff where they had a 7-2 win over relegated Glamorgan

with Donald Parker and Joy Grundy keeping a clean sheet. Steve Turner lost to Alan Griffiths and Steve Scowcroft to the veteran George Evans.

At Lytham, Lancashire's second team had an exciting 6-4 win over Durham with Fleetwood's Brian Carney slipping down the coast to win both his singles in brave fashion. Keith Williams and Clive Heap had one win each and Jean Parker also had a singles success and the young Prestonian had the assistance of Bolton's Carolyn Scowcroft in winning the women's doubles. The win gave Lancs II the runners-up position to Northumberland.

On Mar. 14 the only county team out of step was the Junior in which Bolton's Shaun Browne, on debut, failed to win and Lancs were beaten 8-2 by Cheshire whose success brought them the championship. Paul Ashcroft salvaged one set by beating Peter Flint, and Michael Mercer, also of St. Helens, had a win over R. Bevan.

Affairs in the Lancs & Ches League have culminated in Preston winning the men's first division title following their 8-2 win over Farnworth with Don Parker and Steve Turner both on song. But, for the first time in a very long time — certainly not since the last war — Liverpool are doomed for the drop. In their last match, on Merseyside, Stockport beat them 9-1 with Derek Schofield and Ron Weatherby obtaining three each and Roger Hampson losing only to Keith Williams in the very first set. Wayne Percival and Malcolm Pu failed to register a win.

Congratulations to Joy Grundy in retaining her No. 1 position in the revised English Junior rankings and to Jean Parker, elevated from No. 7 to No. 3. Paul Rainford has been dropped just one place from No. 5 to No. 6 but appearing for the first time in the numbers is Helen Frost of Bury albeit at No. 26 and last. On the Cadet front Ian McLoughlin of Bury drops from No. 4 to No. 5 but newcomer Philip Huggon of Preston comes straight in at No. 13 — not so unlucky for him.

Bolton and Mid-Lancs combine to stage an international match between England and Japan at British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, Nr. Bolton on Thursday, Apl. 30. Already the match is a sell-out and why not with five world-ranked players on sight namely Seiji Ono (1) and Masahiro Maehara (35) of Japan and Des Douglas (11) European champion John Hilton (28) and, on the distaff side Jill Hammersley (8) to represent England. Truly a night to look forward to.

EAST OF ENGLAND 2-STAR OPEN

FLETCHER ON SONG

Yorkshire exile Alan Fletcher came up trumps at North Hykeham, Lincoln in the East of England 2-Star Open played on Mar. 15 winning the men's singles title with a final victory over Nigel Eckersley after ousting top seed Graham Sandley in the quarters and Welsh champion, Alan Griffiths, in the round previous.

And, not to be outdone, Yorkshire's Melody Hill, won the counterpart women's event with a final victory over Stephanie Jones of Wales. Kevin Beadsley and Eckersley continued their successful combination by winning the men's doubles and Mrs. Hill and Cheryl Buttery took the women's pairs.

The Welsh came into their own in the boys' singles with Mark Thomas successful over Ian Smith in the final and, in the vets, it was the 'old warhorse' George Evans who triumphed in the final over Peter D'Arcy.

Gillian Sharpe won the girls' singles

whilst, in the Class 2 Mixed Singles, Geoff Davies made his presence felt.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Fletcher (Y) bt G. Sandley (MI)

11, -19, 16;

K. Beadsley (Y) bt S. Mills (Y) 11, -6, 19;

N. Eckersley (Ch) bt M. Thomas (Wal) 13, 7;

M. Crimmins (Sy) bt G. Evans (Wal) 19, 14.

Semi-finals:

Fletcher bt Beadsley 12, -14, 13;

Eckersley bt Crimmins 17, -20, 18.

Final:

FLETCHER bt Eckersley 16, 19.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Hill (Y) bt J. Harris (St) -15, 21, 15;

S. Jones (Wal) bt C. Buttery (Li) 17, -15, 10.

Final:

HILL bt Jones 15, 11.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Mills/Sandley bt M. Harper (Bd)/P. Taylor

(He) 12, -22, 15;

Beadsley/Eckersley bt Fletcher/A. Griffiths

(Wal) 19, -17, 13.

Final:

BEADSLEY/ECKERSLEY bt Mills/Sandley

-12, 18, 16.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Buttery/Hill bt L. Hyrzszo/H. Shields (Y)

-20, 18, 17;

Jones/G. Sharpe (Li) bt J. Barnett (Li)/

Harris 19, 8.

Final:

BUTTERY/HILL bt Jones/Sharpe 17, 18.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

I. Smith (Wa) bt B. Griffiths (NZ)

-19, 18, 18;

Thomas bt D. Hinchcliffe (Dy) 13, 19.

Final:

THOMAS bt Smith 12, -17, 18.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

A. Judd (Ca) bt J. Dimmock (Bd) 11, -19, 15;

Sharpe bt T. Wenn (Y) 19, 15.

Final:

SHARPE bt Judd 16, 19.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

Evans bt M. Shearer (Li) 7, 18;

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt G. Lynch (Dy) 14, 13.

Final:

EVANS bt D'Arcy 20, 16.

Mixed Class 2 Singles Semi-finals:

G. Davies (Ca) bt M. Hankey (Ch) 15, 12;

K. Edwards (Ng) bt P. Namdjou (K)

-18, 12, 11.

Final:

DAVIES bt Edwards 20, 19.

CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING

by Robert Oldfield

January 24/25th 1981 brought a new experience in tournament organisation to this country. Many table tennis enthusiasts had already applied the 'micro-chip' to league tables and players' averages but here, centred around three small boxes at the Whitbread Cotswold Junior Select, was a system capable of developing to the very heart of tournament running.

The project, conceived by the Lentec company — well known for their technological table tennis rubber — in the summer of 1980 was simple. How could a computer be best employed to relieve the referee and organising committee of the more routine aspects of tournament supervision? Lentec brought in Dudley Evans Computers Ltd. to sort the problem out.

Having had just a brief encounter with the game in his garage at home, Dudley Evans paid a visit to the Middlesex 3-Star to see how 'it should be done' and came up with the pilot scheme at the Cotswolds: logging the results, producing the next round's score sheets and keeping the public display sheets up to date.

For the pilot scheme no scores were entered into the system — just winners and losers — and the computer ran in parallel with the referee's table. But the scope of the Lentec Computer Service extends far beyond these simple tasks. From the received entries and the tournament schedule the Lentec Service can relieve the burden of . . . placing the seeds, making the draw, and printing acknowledgements and times of first matches. The only things it cannot do is put them in the envelope, seal it and lick the stamp! Addressing the envelopes? No problem.

Then, on the day itself, it prints up-to-the-minute draw sheets and match score

sheets leaving the referee to see some of the tournament for a change. At a big tournament the computer really comes into its own: the daily results bulletins ready for reproduction; up-to-date programme inserts; and the results direct to the major Press Agencies. For ways in which the Lentec Computer Service can benefit your tournament — contact Stan Lenton of L. Lenton & Co. Ltd., Eagle Street, Coventry CV1 4GJ. Tel. 0203-29983.

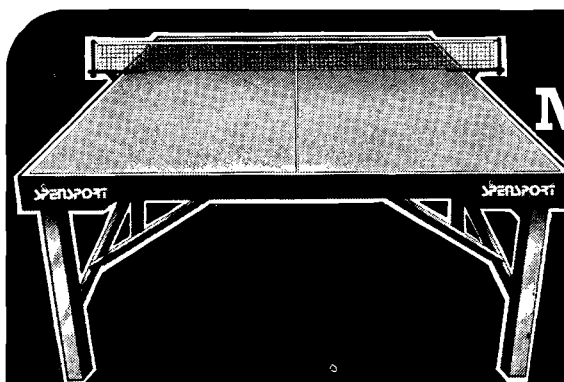


Stan Lenton, sponsor of the Lentec Results service, studies the first print-out with Dudley Evans of Dudley Evans Computers Ltd.

Photo by Leo Black.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

- April
14/26 36th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Novi Sad, Yugoslavia).
13/19 Yorkshire Junior 2-Star 'Select', YPI Ferens Recreation Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North, Hull, North Humberside.
25 Cheshunt 1-Star Open (Waltham Abbey).
25/26 Grieson, Grant Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-Star Open, Sandown Court School, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
25/26 County Championships Senior Play-off.
26 10th International Club Hard Rubber Bat Open, Barnet Table Tennis Centre, Barnet Lane, Barnet, Herts.
28 International Match - ENGLAND v Japan (Bletchley).
30 International Match - ENGLAND v Japan (Lostock, Bolton).
- May
2 International Match - ENGLAND v Japan (Coventry).
2 The Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open, Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, Northumberland.
2 Stiga English Schools' Individual Championships, Mansfield Leisure Centre.
9/10 THE "HUMBERBRIDGE FESTIVAL" JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. YPI Ferens Recreation Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North, Hull. Closing date for entries: MONDAY, Apl. 13/81 to Mr. Chris Wright, Pinehurst Cottage, Old Lane, St. Johns, Crowborough, Sussex.
16/17 Essex Junior 2-Star 'Select' (Harlow).
17 E.S.T.T.A. A.G.M., Anglican Chaplaincy, Leicester (2.30 p.m.).
23 Millom Junior 1-Star Open, Millom School, Cumbria.
23/24 South of England 2-Star Open (Woking).
- June
6 County Championships Annual Conference (London).
7 National Team Championships Finals.



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EXERCISING THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT

by A. J. H. WICKENS

NOMINATIONS & RETURNING OFFICER

In the election of the Chairman for 1981/82 just completed 337 Ballot Papers were sent out, to the General Secretary of every County Association and Local League. By the closing date, a fortnight later, 158 papers and 2 letters had been sent in, but 12 of those did not have any effect on the result of the ballot as the people exercising the democratic voting rights of the organisations of which they are Officers ignored the requirements for casting a valid vote. The Association's rules require two signatures — 3 had only one; the rules require the second signatory to be a "responsible Officer" and there is a note on the Ballot Paper about both "responsible" and "Officer", yet 3 were signed by non-Officer committee members. Electors are invited to send in an extract from their rules to show who is an Officer, if they think the Scrutineers will have doubts. The other 6 invalid papers did not show the name of the organisation voting, which is needed in order to check the General Secretary signatory and ascertain the value of the vote cast, despite a reminder to do so.

It is understandable that a few people should send in a paper which is invalid because it does not comply with some requirement, but it is difficult to understand people who post a form on the day the poll closes, or even after that date, when there is no chance of the vote counting, particularly as the letter accompanying the Ballot Paper asks officials NOT to do this. Of the 11 which arrived late only 3 were posted before 13th March, the closing date, 5 were posted on the closing date, 1 on 14th March, 1 as late as 17th March, the day on which the results were to be sent out, and even 1 on 24th March by which time the result must have been received! Not only is postage wasted but extra work is caused because for each such paper received a Notice of Invalid Paper has to be sent out.

The object of the ballot procedure is to encourage voting and to have as few requirements as are consistent with ensuring that the votes cast are authentic and unambiguous. It is therefore dispiriting when people take the trouble to vote but not to make sure that their vote is valid, or when they send their Ballot Papers in too late. However, it is encouraging that the recent poll was the heaviest of the five carried out since 1970. The 1980/81 Electoral Register contains 337 electors carrying a total of 620 votes; 148 electors cast valid votes totalling 279. That is a 43.9% poll of electors (45% of votes). The numbers of valid Ballot Papers in the four previous ballots were: 1979/80, Treasurer by-election, 24% (83 of 339); 1977/78, Chairman, 33% (112 of 338); 1970/71, Deputy Chairman, 25% (86 of 342); 1969/70, Deputy Chairman (4 candidates), 31% (103 of 327).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

by Robert Oldfield

ALAN RANSOME CUP GOES TO SOHAM

Champions Soham confirmed their supremacy of the Premier Division by beating the last year's champions, Sealink Milton Keynes, 6-3 on March 29. Handing over the Alan Ransome Cup, Brian Ashton, Sealink's manager, told me "It's just on loan!" — giving an indication of Sealink's intentions for next season.

Despite the scoreline it was still an extremely close match — two-all after the first round of singles matches before Paul Day and Kenny Jackson reeled off the next three sets. Day therefore finished the season with a record indicative of his No. 3 ranking — 28 sets played and 27 victories.

On this occasion Richard Yule and Dougie Johnson were his victims. Yule was first and a set of sustained counter-hitting rallies brought the crowd alight for the remainder of the match. At 4-3 in the first game the spectators erupted in response to a tremendous rally and Yule, bleary-eyed from watching a three-day basketball marathon, confessed afterwards, "I was shattered after the first seven points! In the second I just didn't know where I was". But nor did John Souter so the Scotsman did not make the long trip south for nothing.

CHU VAN QUE BEATEN!

If anyone was to challenge and beat Day's astonishing record in the National League, it would have been Chu Van Que of City of Newcastle in Second Division North. Que, having led City of Newcastle all season to the promotion play-offs, went into the final match of the season, undefeated in 26 sets. Unbelievably he was to fall — almost at the last encounter. With Newcastle leading 1-0 at Norton, Que lost the first game 21-18 to Tony Boasman, the former English Junior international. Recovering to win by 21-18 in the second, Que looked to have done enough to preserve his status at 16-8 in the third but Boasman closed the gap to 16-20 before winning six points in a row to shatter Que's unbeaten record. Poor Malcolm Green was made to suffer the force of Que's disappointment — 21-2 in the second! Nonetheless a remarkable achievement for a man of 35, who, after seventeen years in the game, can still maintain his enthusiasm and application.

CASHMANS MAKE THE PLAY-OFFS

As expected Bristol Cashmans won Second Division South although not before their top player, Ian Kenyon, had suffered an ignominious defeat against Prudential Ibis. Cashmans must now wait for the dates of the promotion play-offs against City of Newcastle to be announced. For the other clubs the summer break represents the chance to improve and, in some cases, to rebuild their teams. If St. Neots can add strength to Peter Taylor and Mick Harper then they could do well next season, while the young Seagulls team hope to improve with this level of competition. Meanwhile entries for next season close in the middle of May and the composition of the divisions will be settled in early June.

FINAL TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Soham	14	13	1	93	33	26
Ellenborough	14	10	4	76	50	20
Macleans M'head	14	10	4	73	53	20
Sealink M K	14	8	6	82	44	16
Ormesby I	14	7	7	66	60	14
Fellows Cranleigh	14	5	9	45	81	10
Unity	14	3	11	41	85	6
Dunlop S B'ham	14	0	14	28	98	0

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Bristol Cashmans	12	9	3	73	35	18
Seagulls	12	9	3	69	39	18
Generation II	12	9	3	66	42	18
St. Neots	12	8	4	66	42	16
March	12	4	8	44	64	8
Gunnersbury T	12	3	9	45	63	6
Prudential Ibis	12	0	12	15	93	0

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

City of Newcastle	14	14	0	103	23	28
Salford Select	14	12	2	93	33	24
Norton	14	11	3	86	40	22
Tarmac W'ampton	14	7	7	62	64	14
Ormesby II	14	6	8	60	66	12
Stockton Select	14	5	9	45	81	10
S W Durham	14	1	13	34	92	2
B'ham J. D. White	14	1	13	21	105	2

RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

15th March

SOHAM 7 DUNLOP SPORTS B'HAM 2

P. Day bt S. Kathuria 9, 18.
K. Jackson bt A. Bellingham 14, 17.
D. Wells bt R. Gunnion 14, 15.
K. Richardson lost to B. Johnson -16, -13.
J. Souter/Wells bt Kathuria/Bellingham 20, 20.
Day bt Bellingham 15, 19.
Jackson bt Johnson 10, 14.
Wells bt Kathuria -16, 18, 17.
Richardson lost to Gunnion 17, -12, -14.

29th March

ORMESBY 4 MACLEANS MAIDENHEAD 5

D. Parker bt D. Barr 12, 19.
K. Rodger lost to M. Crimmins -19, -16.
M. Francis lost to P. Bradbury -17, 20, -11.
K. Green lost to A. Wellman -16, 17, -18.
Parker/Rodger bt Crimmins/Wellman -12, 18, 19.
Parker bt Crimmins 19, 13.
Rodger bt Wellman 17, 18.
Francis lost to Barr -19, 18, -11.
Green lost to Bradbury 19, -12, -15.

FELLOWS CRANLEIGH 6 UNITY 3

I. Horsham bt P. Randall -13, 14, 20.
D. Newman lost to C. Rogers -19, -15;
P. McQueen lost to T. Sanderson -18, 11, -16.
T. Penny bt S. Turner 18, 19.
Horsham/Newman lost to Randall/Rogers -15, 8, -20.
I. Horsham bt C. Rogers 22, 13.
D. Newman bt S. Turner 22, -20, 18.
P. McQueen bt P. Randall -19, 19, 10.
T. Penny bt T. Sanderson 19, 11.

SOHAM 6 SEALINK MILTON KEYNES 3

Day bt R. Yule 15, 11.
Jackson bt D. Johnson 20, -13, 20.
Souter lost to S. Andrew -16, -14.
Wells lost to R. Tuckett 13, -19, -14.
Day/Jackson bt Johnson/Andrew -17, 16, 15.
Day bt Johnson 16, 12.
Jackson bt Tuckett 23, 18.
Souter lost to Yule -17, -17.
Wells bt Andrew 15, -19, 20.

ELLENBOROUGH 9

DUNLOP SPORTS B'HAM 10

G. Sandley bt D. Munt 12, 12.
J. Kitchener bt Kathuria 9, 17.
M. Mitchell bt Gunnion 9, 14.
C. Wilson bt Johnson 14, 19.
Wilson/Sandley bt Munt/Johnson -15, 17, 9.
Sandley bt Kathuria 14, -13, 16.
Kitchener bt Johnson 7, 15.
Mitchell bt Munt 7, 8.
Wilson bt Gunnion 19, 13.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

29th March

GENERATION II 6 GUNNERSBURY T 3

BRISTOL CASHMANS 8 PRUDENTIAL IBIS 1

MARCH 3 SEAGULLS 6

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

29th March

BILLINGHAM J. D. WHITE 2
STOCKTON SELECT 7
NORTON 4 CITY OF NEWCASTLE 5
SOUTH WEST DURHAM 2 ORMESBY II 7
TARMAC WOLVERHAMPTON 2
SALFORD SELECT 7

THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Club of England will be held at 12 noon on Sunday, April 26/81 (the day of the Hard Bat Tournament) at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

ADDITION TO FAMILY

Maureen (Heppell) Robson, whose husband Bryan is now Player/Coach at Carlisle United AFC, is expecting an addition to the family in May — a companion for Louise and Steven. Address is now "Brookfield", Highford Lane, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 2DP (Phone: 0434-603281).



Zhuang Jiafu, veteran coach of the national men's team.

CHINA SEES TOUGH FIGHT IN YUGOSLAVIA

by HUA JIANMIN

China's ruling world table tennis champions are expecting a tough fight at the 36th world championships in Yugoslavia in April 1981. The men see the Europeans as the main threat and the women are keeping a wary eye on the Asian players.

After a year in which they won the titles at 11 international tournaments, the Chinese men perhaps have the right to be confident about the final outcome in Yugoslavia.

But, as the veteran coach Zhuang Jiafu said this week, it doesn't do to underestimate the opposition.

He mentioned particularly the rising power of the Hungarians, the Czechs and the Swedes.

Zhuang Jiafu, who is 46, said: "Last year was a good one for us but it also gave us a taste of the power of the European men. They have made distinct progress, with more speed and stronger spin.

"We'll have to watch them carefully if we want to win back the Swaythling Cup, as we are determined to do".

China lost the Swaythling Cup to Hungary in Pyongyang in 1979 after holding it for four successive years.

Zhuang said: "The Europeans' loop play has become much better. We have noticed the forehand and backhand loops of the Hungarian men and the combination of loops and fast attack of the Swedish and Czech players.

"The Hungarians have further developed the technique of continuous loops based on stronger high-spin loop drives, while the Czechs and Swedes have become quicker in their fast attacks and fast smashes and drives after service.

"Another feature of the game in Europe is a narrowing of the gap between strong teams and weak ones. For instance, the Danish men's team was practically unknown before they defeated the very strong Yugoslavians at the 23rd Scandinavian Open Championships in Sweden last November. Later the Danes lost to the Polish men's B team.

"Then there are the French. Their fifth team beat the Czechs, another top team, at the French Open Championships in Evry last December and the then world champions, Hungary, lost to the Swedes at the European Championships last April.

"The Europeans are producing some excellent young stars that we shall have to take seriously.

"Sweden's Ulf Carlsson, who is 19, excels at fast drives and high-spin loops, using the handshake grip. He defeated China's Guo Yuehua, ranked No. 2 in the world, in a bitter five-game final to win the men's singles at the 23rd Scandinavian championships.

"Carlsson is also known for his daring against the world's best players.

"Another rising star is the British player John Hilton who won the men's singles title at the European Championships in 1980. His combination of fast attack and unhurried defence with a combination bat tends to confuse his opponents so that they miff the ball.

"The European veterans have also improved their techniques. Take, for instance, the Hungarians Istvan Jonyer and Tibor Klampar, whom we consider to be China's main opponents.

"Jonyer is a former world champion and he has just about perfected his backhand side-spin loops which make for more power in attack and greater accuracy. He won the men's singles title at the Norwich Union Trophy Tournament in England last December by defeating all his opponents including our Guo Yuehua and six other top players from England, China, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Sweden.

"Klampar is now more efficient in fast-spin combination with a fierce backhand attack and fast loops. He also defeated Guo Yuehua at the Norwich Union tournament.

"In trying to win back the Swaythling Cup, our main opposition will come from the European loop drives. We must gain the initiative and develop even greater speed and concentrate on being less predictable in ball placement. Otherwise, we won't regain the Cup".

Zhuang Jiafu said of the Chinese team: "We have some outstanding young players, some of whom have surpassed the more established players in some techniques.

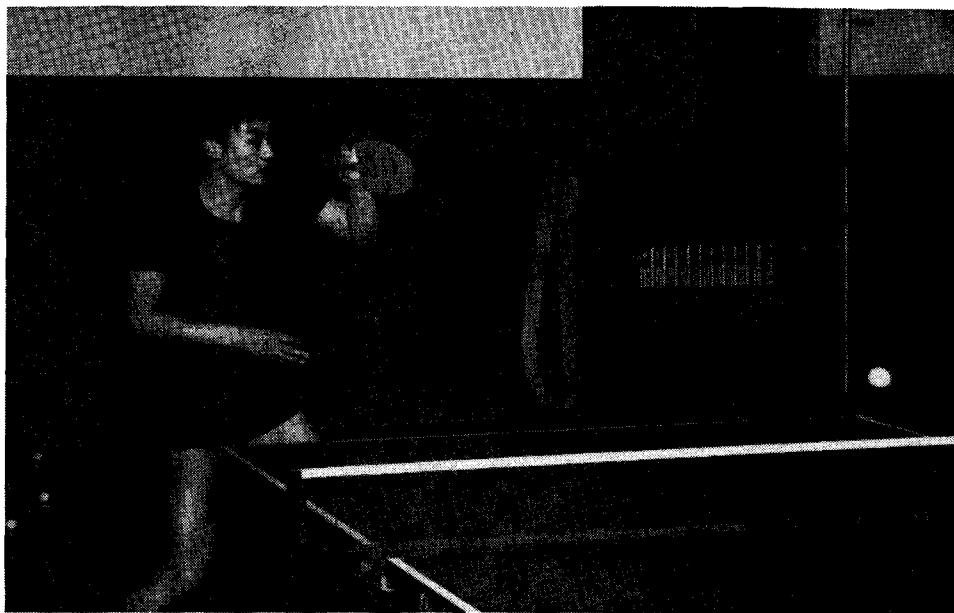
"Among the men is 19-year-old Xie Saike from Guangxi.

"Xie Saike is a left-handed pen-holder. His trump card is his quick, forceful smash. He has beaten such prominent players as Sweden's Bengtsson and Thorsell, Hungary's Jonyer and Klampar and France's Secretin".

Zhuang said: "Although China won 54 titles out of 65 in 11 major international competitions last year, they won them in bitterly-fought sets and some games were very close, particularly for our men who do not take the initiative".

The Chinese women players also do not expect an easy ride in April.

Zhang Xielin, China's 41-year-old cutting stroke expert and coach of the national women's team, said: "The world leaders are still the Asian women — from China, Japan, North and South Korea.



Xie Saike, a new star in the national men's team, smashing the ball.

"Last year, six young South Korean players — three attacking players and three defensive players — won first and second places in the women's doubles event and were runners-up in the women's team event at the 23rd Scandinavian Championships.

"Pak Yung Sun, twice world champion, and Li Song Suk of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also have richer experience in international competition and have shown good general improvement.

"But the European women are trying hard to catch up. They have strengthened their techniques in forehand and backhand loops and they have all made rapid progress in the past year.

"Valentina Popova and Natine Antonian of the Soviet Union, which has the strongest women's team in Europe, took the women's doubles title after beating China's Qi Baoxiang and Geng Lijuan at the 24th Yugoslav International Tournament in Zagreb last November. They both use the right-hand and both are attacking players, ferocious in smashing the ball and with good backhand drives.

"The other strong women's teams in Europe are Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Yugoslavia who are all evenly matched.

"The rest of the European women's teams are not too strong yet, but some of them have some excellent players. I'm thinking especially of Jill Hammersley, who is an outstanding player. She won the women's singles title at the England Tournament last February. Another one is Bettine Vriesekoop of Holland. She teamed up with Andrzej Grubba of Poland to win second place in the mixed doubles final at the 24th Yugoslav tournament and won third place in the women's singles at the European championships last year".

Zhang Xielin said: "In the Chinese women's team, the one to watch is the 19-year-old girl Qi Baoxiang, ranked No. 3 in the world. From Hebei province, she uses the penshake grip and is well known for steady backhand defence and fast forehand attack with great speed. She is also capable of deceptive high-spin loops.

"She has defeated Pak Yung Sun and two top Japanese girls — Rie Wada, their reigning women's girls champion, and the celebrated handshake grip cutter Kayoko Kawahigashi".

Article by courtesy of China Features, Beijing.



Zhang Xielin, China's cutting stroke expert and coach of the national women's team.

ESSEX NOTES

by Alan Shepherd

SIGNIFICANT STAGING

The March match against Middlesex was well staged by our hosts at Hornsey. It was significant that the organisers were the Edison Table Tennis Club, who put a tremendous effort into producing good conditions and facilities. Arithmetically a defeat for Middlesex would have seen them relegated, and despite the rivalry between the two camps, that was really the last thing that Essex wanted to see. As it happens Bob Potton was unable to get away from Holland so a win for us was never really on. Tony Penny came into the side for his senior debut, and was outstanding. He beat Colin Wilson in a fine set, and displayed great skill and courage before Mark Mitchell got the better of him. David Newman also gained a win over Colin, but apart from this we only were in with a shout in the Horsham v Mitchell set and in the men's doubles, both of which we lost in deciding games. So Middlesex ran out comfortable winners in the end and preserved their Premier status.

Dick Roffe, our Senior Match Secretary, tells me that our Second team has been trying hard to win the championship of Division 2 East after their early season setback against Cambs. The regular team of Des Charlery, Tony Penny, Andy Bawden, Linda Barrow and Yvette Brown have since then gained wins over Beds, Norfolk and Kent, plus a draw against Herts. Now we have to beat Suffolk in our last game and hope that Cambs drop some points!

The Veterans have once again won their Division easily, and our doughty Manager, ex-International Phyllis Lauder suggests



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that this points to the desirability of forming a Premier Division. Our regulars here are Bobby Stevens, Stan Battrick, Laurie Fountain and Hilda Cathcart, and they are hoping very much that they can upset the powerful Middlesex squad in the Challenge matches. The second team, whose leading players are Ray Murray, Fred Lockwood, Dave Finlayson, Ronnie Herber and Pam Challis, have had a very satisfying season and have finished runners up to Middlesex, last year's overall champions. They have missed the services of Maureen Pemberton, who has been ill for most of the season, but now appears happily to be on the road to recovery.

In the National Competitions, now at the quarter-final stage, Essex still has three representatives. Dagenham are of course the holders of the Wilmott Cup, and they are still there, having survived really tough encounters with North Middlesex and Milton Keynes. They are now due to meet Cheshunt. Basildon ladies are getting ready for a Rose Bowl clash against North Middlesex, having knocked out St. Neots and North Herts, and walked over Billericay and Ipswich! Sole Carter Cup survivors are Billericay, who face the thankless task of opposing powerful Thames Valley (who put out holders North Middlesex). If I can report next time that they have won I shall be really delighted.

Finally Essex is proud to record the recovery of the County Championships Trophy, shortly after it was featured in the column of the infamous Chester Barnes as having been lost by the E.T.A. Where was it? On the sideboard of the equally infamous Bob Potton — who else, who simultaneously and casually handed over the Carter Cup, which had also been reported lost without trace!

GEOFF HARROWER TROPHY

John Hilton was this season's recipient and he was given his replica at the Black Lion Sports Centre, Gillingham, prior to dashing off for a Bundesliga match in Federal Germany. The official presentation was made by Johnny Leach to George Yates who, as President of the Lancashire T.T.A., accepted the Trophy on John's behalf.

THE "HUMBER BRIDGE FESTIVAL" JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

to be held at

THE Y.P.I. FERENS RECREATION
CENTRE, CHANTERLANDS AVENUE
NORTH, HULL

on

SATURDAY and SUNDAY
May 9/10, 1981

Organiser: H. J. Webb.

Asst. Organiser: A. M. Ross.

Referee: L. A. Chatwin (N.R.).

Asst. Referee: C. Wright (N.R.).

Tournament Committee:

L. A. Chatwin, G. James, R. E. Oldfield,
L. C. Pilditch, A. M. Ross, Mrs. D. Stannard,
M. D. Watts, H. J. Webb, C. Wright and J. Wright.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Humber Bridge Festival Committee
Hull Leisure Services
Y.P.I. Ferens Recreation Centre
Halaxsport Ltd.

LITTLE ATTRACTS A LOT !

by JOHN WOODFORD

Who would have thought that Hastings stalwart Sid Godfrey armed with only £106 prize money would have attracted a star-studded line-up on March 23 at his Hollington no-star tournament?

Only Roger Chandler did not accept the challenge. Peter Pudduck did not arrive from Littlehampton, but all the other Sussex top men were there including Phil Smith, the Moore brothers, Graham Gillett and the almost inevitable winner Malcolm Francis, who might just be returning to Sussex next season.

Francis had to fight for his life in the semi-finals against the brilliant Stephen Moore in the final. After an exciting rumpus in the semis after Francis had claimed a "let" service, the Uckfield man was 15-18 down in the third game. True to his reputation, he escaped the trap to win 24-22. After winning the final, having upset the home crowd, he asked organiser Sid Godfrey if he could play for the club next season and was accepted!

Rachel Mackriell got herself once again into trouble against Sheila King in the women's final. But in her now familiar light-hearted approach, she fought back from 1-7 in the third to win 21-19.

In the clashing Sussex junior championships with Adrian and Teresa Moore absent, Gary Bonner and Tina Curran, both of Crawley took the singles crowns.

KIRKLEES 2-STAR OPEN

Kent's Ian Kenyon brought off a unique double at Batley over the weekend of Jan. 31/Feb. 1 when he won both the men's singles and the Class 2 Mixed singles on successive days.

On the Saturday, in the Class 2 event, Kenyon had a final win over Yorkshire's David Illingsworth (13, 18) having previously removed from his path Paul Rainford and Kevin Satchell.

The Kent man's final victim in the men's singles on the Sunday was Lancashire's Phil Bowen with prior victories of note over Steve Mills and Kevin Beadsley. Final scores in Ian's favour were 17, -14, 18.

Carole Knight was the winner of the women's singles her final victim being Melody Hill beaten 17 and 14. In the semi-finals Miss Knight beat Joy Grundy and Mrs. Hill knocked out the other Lancastrian junior Jean Parker.

Miss Grundy came into her own in the girls' singles with a final success over Melanie Seaton (16, -12, 14), the boys' singles being won by Kevin Green with a final 10, -21, 19 success over Tony Sanderson.

Alan Fletcher and Mills combined to win the men's doubles beating Beadsley and Nigel Eckersley (17, 21) whilst the counter-part women's event was won by Mrs. Hill and Sally Midgley who beat Miss Knight and Julie McLean (13, 18) in the final.

FRIEND LOST

The Bolton Table Tennis League lost a good friend and firm supporter with the death, on March 19, of Mr. William Muirhead Watson, former managing director of Robert Watson and Co. (Constructional Engineers) Ltd.

The firm of Rbt. Watson's have long been members of the Bolton League with multiple teams operating throughout the eight divisions and always behind them, taking much more than a passing interest, had been the firm's former M.D. Sympathy is extended to Mr. Watson's widow, Betty, and his family.

PRESS RELEASE . . .

Sealink Spectacular

Sealink Milton Keynes on behalf of their sponsors, Sealink UK Limited, Europe's largest car ferry operator, and with help from the local Milton Keynes Table Tennis League and Milton Keynes Development Corporation, are to stage a full England v Japan International match at Bletchley Leisure Centre on Tuesday, 28 April, 1981 (7 p.m. start).

It will be the first of three such matches against the Japanese, the other two being held later the same week at Bolton (Apr. 30) and Coventry (May 2).

It will also be the first appearance in this country of an England squad following the World Championships at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia (April 14/26), so a great opportunity for fans to welcome the team home.

Bletchley Leisure Centre has seating for around 1,000 spectators and arena seats will cost £4.00; others £2.00. There are reductions for children. All ticket applications should be directed to Brian Ashton (0908-74502).

Equipment sponsors for the match are Halex. England hope to include at least two from Des Douglas, John Hilton and Jill Hammersley and the Japanese team will be chosen from Seiji Ono, Masahiro Maehara, Hideo Gotoh, Judo Nukazuka, Rie Wada, the reigning Japanese women's champion, Yoshiko Shimauchi, Ayumi Inamori and Fumiko Shimpo.

PRESS RELEASE . . .

AUSTRALIA'S LEADING TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS TO PLAY IN ENGLAND NEXT SEASON

Sealink UK Limited are happy to announce that most of Australia's leading table tennis players will be available to play for English National League clubs during the 1981/82 season.

The move is seen as another boost for English Table Tennis and follows the successful introduction this season into the Sealink Milton Keynes, Premier Division side, of Australian No. 1 Bob Tuckett. Aussies planning to make the trip to Britain next season include Neil Ward, Rod Carlyle, Laurie Skeate and Robbie Javor, the current Australian Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively and Greg Horne, also ranked in his country's top 15.

Neil Ward, aged 21, has represented his country 20 times including appearances at the 1977, 1979 and 1981 World and Commonwealth Championships. Rod Carlyle, aged 21, has made 10 appearances for his country and is also picked for next month's World Championships.

Laurie Skeate, aged 25, has also represented Australia 10 times, current appearances being at the New Zealand Games and against Japan in 1981. Robbie Javor, aged 24, is widely reckoned to be the best of the Aussies although only currently ranked 6. He has made over 40 appearances for his country and has been Australian Champion 1977, Irish Doubles Champion 1978 and Scottish Doubles Champion 1980.

Greg Horne will also prove a useful acquisition for a National League club, and Aussie No. 1, Bob Tuckett, will continue to play next season for his present club, Sealink Milton Keynes.

Clubs interested in acquiring these players should contact Brian Ashton on 01-387-1234 Ext. 2498.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Placings based on results received by
18th March, 1981

compiled by AUBREY DRAPKIN

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	6	6	0	40	14	12	12
Warwicks	7	5	2	38	25	10	10
Lancs	7	4	3	33	30	8	8
Middlesex	7	3	4	31	32	6	6
Essex	6	3	3	25	29	6	6
Cheshire	7	3	4	28	35	6	6
Staffs	7	2	5	28	35	4	4
Glamorgan	7	1	6	20	43	2	2

2nd SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dorset	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Surrey	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Sussex	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Bucks	6	3	0	3	28	32	6
Oxon	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Hampshire	4	0	1	3	15	25	1
Middlesex II	5	0	1	4	18	32	1

2nd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Berkshire	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Devon	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Wiltshire	5	2	1	2	30	20	5
Avon	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Gwent	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Somerset	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

2nd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Northumberland	5	3	2	0	33	17	8
Lancs II	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Yorks II	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Durham	5	1	2	2	22	28	4
Cheshire II	5	1	2	2	18	32	4
Cleveland	5	0	0	5	14	36	0

2nd EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambs	6	4	1	1	42	18	9
Essex II	5	3	1	1	35	15	7
Kent	6	2	3	1	31	29	7
Herts	5	2	2	1	25	25	6
Beds	5	1	1	3	16	34	3
Suffolk	4	0	2	2	15	25	2
Norfolk	5	0	2	3	16	34	2

2nd MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwicks II	6	6	0	0	44	16	12
Leics	6	4	1	1	44	16	9
Worcestershire	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
Derbyshire	6	3	0	3	32	28	6
Gloucs	6	2	0	4	23	37	4
Notts	6	2	0	4	19	41	4
Northants	6	0	0	6	12	48	0

3rd SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent II	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Sussex II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Herts II	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Surrey II	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Hampshire II	5	1	2	2	25	25	4
Berks II	5	0	0	5	11	39	0

3rd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Staffs II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Lincs	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Derbys II	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Northumberland II	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Cumbria	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

3rd MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leics II	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Worcester II	5	2	2	1	25	25	6
Shropshire	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Bucks II	5	1	2	2	19	31	4
Oxon II	5	1	1	3	24	26	3
Northants II	5	1	1	3	19	31	3

3rd EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambs II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Suffolk II	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Norfolk II	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Herts III	4	1	2	1	22	18	4
Beds II	5	0	2	3	10	40	2
Hunts	5	0	1	4	14	36	1

3rd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cornwall	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Dorset II	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Isle of Wight	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Avon II	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Herefordshire	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Somerset II	5	1	0	4	15	35	2

JUNIOR PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
Yorkshire	7	5	0	2	43	27	10
Bedfordshire	7	4	2	1	39	31	10
Surrey	7	4	1	2	37	33	9
Staffordshire	7	1	3	3	29	41	5
Sussex	7	2	1	4	28	42	5
Devon	7	1	1	5	30	40	3
Buckinghamshire	7	1	1	5	26	44	3

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	7	6	1	0	49	21	13
Yorks II	7	6	0	1	50	20	12
Cleveland	7	4	2	1	42	28	10
Lincs	7	3	1	3	36	34	7
Lancs	7	3	1	3	34	36	7
Cumbria	7	1	1	5	26	44	3
Northumberland	7	1	0	6	25	45	2
Derbyshire	7	1	0	6	18	52	2

JUNIOR 2nd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwicks	7	7	0	0	55	15	14
Avon	7	4	2	1	45	25	10
Wiltshire	7	4	1	2	45	25	9
Gloucs	7	4	1	2	38	32	9
Glamorgan	7	3	1	3	40	30	7
Devon II	7	2	0	5	22	48	4
Hampshire	6	0	1	5	14	46	1
Worcestershire	6	0	0	6	11	49	0

JUNIOR 2nd EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent	6	5	1	0	46	14	11
Essex	6	4	2	0	40	20	10
Herts	6	3	0	3	27	33	6
Berks	6	2	1	3	28	32	5
Oxon	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Cambs	6	2	1	3	25	35	5
Middlesex II	6	0	0	6	18	42	0

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Durham	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Notts	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Cheshire II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Shropshire II	5	2	0	3	17	33	4
Cleveland II	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Cumbria II	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex II	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Kent II	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Surrey II	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Sussex II	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Dorset II	5	1	0	4	11	39	2
Hampshire II	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dorset	5	4	1	0	38	12	9
Cornwall	5	3	2	0	30	20	8
Gwent	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Somerset	5	1	0	4	19	31	2
Avon II	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Devon III	5	1	0	4	14	36	2

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hunts	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Norfolk	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
Essex III	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Lincs II	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Suffolk	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
Cambs II	5	0	0	5	14	36	0

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leics	5	4	1	0	39	11	9
Staffs II	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Shropshire	5	2	2	1	26	24	6
Northants	5	1	2	2	22	28	4
Warwicks II	5	1	0	4	21	29	2
Herefordshire	5	0	1	4	10	40	1

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Berks II	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
Bucks II	5	4	0	1	29	21	8
Beds II	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Oxon II	5	2	1	2	22	28	5
Herts II	5	1	1	3	16		

County Championships Round-up

by PHILIP REID

PREMIER DIVISION

Essex 4 Warwickshire 5
I. Horsham bt D. Munt 13, 14;
lost to B. Johnson -11, -22.
D. Newman bt Munt 18, 20;
bt B. Hayward 22, -15, 19.
K. Caldron lost to Johnson -11, -22;
lost to Hayward -15, -6.
Miss E. Sayer lost to Miss K. Groves -14, -15.
Horsham/Newman bt Hayward/Johnson
-20, 15, 19.
Caldon/Miss Sayer lost to Munt/Miss Groves
-17 -13.

Lancashire 3 Yorkshire 6
D. Parker lost to K. Beadsley -19, -14;
bt S. Mills -13, -15.
S. Turner lost to Mills -15, -6;
bt T. Sanderson 16, 19.
S. Scowcroft lost to Beadsley -13, -15;
lost to Sanderson -19, -19.
Miss J. Grundy lost to Mrs. M. Hill
-17, 16, -22.
Turner/Scowcroft bt Mills/Sanderson
-18, 9, 9.
Parker/Miss Grundy lost to Beadsley/Mrs.
Hill 14, -15, -19.

Staffordshire 7 Glamorgan 2
A. Bellingham bt J. Morgan 12, -19, 14;
bt A. Healan 16, 13.
A. Isaac lost to Morgan 20, -18, -14;
bt B. Everson 12, 11.
A. Rich bt Healan 19, -11, 16;
bt Everson 13, 17.
Miss J. Harris bt Miss S. Jones 12, 11.
Bellingham/Isaac bt Morgan/Everson 17, 11.
Rich/Miss Harris lost to Healan/Miss Jones
-20, 13, -19.

Cheshire 4 Middlesex 5

2nd SOUTH

Buckinghamshire 2 Dorset 8

Surrey 6 Sussex 4

2nd NORTH

Cleveland 3 Cheshire II 7

Northumberland 7 Lancashire II 3

2nd WEST

Somerset 1 Wiltshire 9

Devon 7 Gwent 3

2nd MIDLAND

Northamptonshire 2 Gloucestershire 8

Worcestershire 8 Derbyshire 2

2nd EAST

Kent 5 Norfolk 5

Essex II 9 Kent 1

Cambridgeshire 4 Hertfordshire 6

Bedfordshire 6 Norfolk 4

3rd NORTH

Cumbria 1 Lincolnshire 9

Staffordshire II 9 Northumberland II 1

3rd SOUTH

Kent II 6 Surrey II 4

Sussex II 7 Hertfordshire II 3

Berkshire II 8 Hampshire II 2

3rd EAST

Huntingdonshire 3 Norfolk II 7

3rd MIDLAND

Northamptonshire II 6 Oxfordshire II 4

Shropshire 8 Buckinghamshire II 2

Worcestershire II 3 Leicestershire II 7

3rd WEST

Somerset II 2 Avon II 8

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

Cumbria 6 Northumberland 4

Derbyshire 2 Yorkshire II 8

Cheshire 8 Lincolnshire 2

Cleveland 6 Lancashire 4

JUNIOR 2nd WEST

Hampshire 4 Devon II 6

Avon 10 Worcestershire 0

Gloucestershire 7 Wiltshire 3

Warwickshire 7 Glamorgan 3

JUNIOR 2nd EAST

Kent 5 Essex 5

Hertfordshire 6 Cambridgeshire 4

Berkshire 5 Oxfordshire 5

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Shropshire II 7 Cumbria II 3

Durham 9 Cleveland II 1

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Sussex II 4 Surrey II 6

Hampshire II 3 Kent II 7

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Cornwall 6 Avon II 4

Devon III 1 Gwent 9

Dorset 8 Somerset 2

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Huntingdonshire 8 Lincolnshire II 2

Suffolk 6 Cambridgeshire II 4

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH MIDLAND

Leicestershire 5 Shropshire 5

Herefordshire 5 Northamptonshire 5

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH MIDLAND

Oxfordshire II 1 Buckinghamshire II 9

Norfolk II 3 Bedfordshire II 7

VETERANS SOUTH (A)

Hampshire II 1 Middlesex 8

Kent 8 Sussex 1

Middx completed season 100%. D. Smith only one loss in 12 sets (to Peter Shead, Sussex). Hants only managed XD in this match. Several close sets in Kent-Sussex match — 8-1 scoreline perhaps a little kind to Kent!

VETERANS SOUTH (B)

Sussex II 5 Kent II 4

Middlesex II 8 Hampshire 1

VETERANS MIDLAND

Worcestershire 5 Bedfordshire 4

Buckinghamshire 7 Hertfordshire III 2

Oxfordshire 4 Huntingdonshire 5

Beds came close to bringing off a shock win against Worcs. Brian Belcher and Janet Hunt involved in all Worcs wins (2 MS, WS, XD, MD). Bucks lost but two more for Brian Allen, 4 out of 4 this season. Len Saywell's two wins gave Hunts victory after they trailed 3-4.

VETERANS WEST

Dorset II 4 Somerset II 5

Wiltshire 6 Somerset I 3

Isle of Wight 3 Dorset I 6

This win over IOW gives Dorset the title. Cyril Bush completed season 100% and Joyce Coop lost only once (to Wilts' Gwen Hazell). Mrs. Hazell and B. Freeman on form in Wilts' win over Somerset. Dorset II-Somerset II shared MS (two each for Eric Buckley and C. New) but Somerset took both doubles.

VETERANS NORTH

Cheshire I 7 Staffordshire 2

Nottinghamshire 9 Cumbria 0

Leicestershire 4 Cheshire II 5

Staffordshire 8 Leicestershire 1

J. Riley (Staffs) two good wins against Ches including Derek Schofield but that was all. Leics led Cheshire II 4-2 but lost, Terry

Donlon's win over Brian Mayfield the turning point, but Leics never in it against Staffs.

● STOP PRESS

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Yorkshire 7 Cheshire 2

S. Mills lost to M. Hankey -17, 15, -20;

bt A. Boasman 16, 10.

A. Fletcher bt Hankey 8, -18, 15;

bt B. Johns 18, 16.

A. Clayton bt Boasman 10, 13;

bt Johns 13, -18, 20.

Mrs. M. Hill lost to Miss J. Deakin

15, -19, -18.

Mills/Fletcher bt Hankey/Johns 8, 18.

Clayton/Mrs. Hill bt Boasman/Miss Deakin

-17, 9, 20.

This win gives Yorks the title. They have a good allround side but only in XD have they managed 100%.

Glamorgan 2 Lancashire 7

A. Griffiths lost to D. Parker -10, -18;

bt S. Turner -17, 11, 18.

G. Evans lost to Parker -13, -17;

bt S. Scowcroft 10, 18.

J. Morgan lost to Turner -14, 15, -7;

lost to Scowcroft -16, -17.

Miss S. Jones lost to Miss J. Grundy

20, -12, -19.

Griffiths/Evans lost to Turner/Scowcroft

-17, -17.

Morgan/Miss Jones lost to Parker/Miss

Grundy -17, -10.

Glamorgan are relegated but a good performance by Miss S. Jones to take England

No. 1 junior so close.

Warwickshire 5 Staffordshire 4

D. Johnson bt A. Bellingham -20, 18, 18;

bt A. Isaac 7, 13.

B. Johnson lost to Bellingham 15, -15, -14;

lost to A. Rich 14, -15, -6.

B. Hayward bt A. Isaac 12, 19;

lost to Rich 14, -16, -20.

Miss K. Groves lost to Miss J. Harris

14, -7, -17.

B. Johnson/Hayward bt Bellingham/Rich

19, 17.

D. Johnson/Miss Groves bt Isaac/Miss J.

Harris -17, 19, 8.

Warwicks ensured runners-up spot and relegation for Staffs with this win. Staffs

led 4-3 and Bellingham took the first

against D. Johnson but Warwicks without

Derek Munt won 5-4.

Middlesex 7 Essex 2

G. Sandley bt I. Horsham 20, 19;

bt D. Newman 9, 16.

M. Mitchell bt Horsham -19, 15, 18;

bt T. Penny 19, 14.

C. Wilson lost to Newman -16, -14;

lost to Penny -14, 19, -10.

Miss A. Mitchell bt Miss E. Foulds 16, 11.

Sandley/Mitchell bt Horsham/Penny

-17, 13, 18.

Wilson/Miss Mitchell bt Newman/Miss

Foulds 13, 16.

With their strongest team out Middx won

their last three matches to steer clear of

relegation. with Mark Mitchell winning 5

out of 6. Angela Mitchell finished 100%.

DIVISION 2 SOUTH

Middlesex II 5 Hampshire 5

Sussex 6 Buckinghamshire 4

Hampshire 3 Surrey 7

Both Middx and Hants secured their first

point of season. Chris Shetler (Hants) and

A. Stark (Middx) both taking two. Even

with Bob Tuckett Bucks lost to Sussex.

Sheila King and Carole Hewitt collecting

the women's events. In Hants-Surrey match

Peter McQueen (Hants) and Kathy Connor

(Hants) maintained their unbeaten records.

DIVISION 2 NORTH

Yorkshire II 6 Cleveland 4

Northumberland 5 Cheshire II 5

Lancashire II 6 Durham 4

Draw enough for Northumberland to take

title. Chu Van Que finished 100% as did Andrew Clark. T. Manning took two for Ches in this match. Lancs win gives them runners-up spot. Brian Carney the star against Durham but Julie Smith (4 wins out of 5) won again. Mark Illingsworth starred for Yorks with Malcolm Corking on form for Cleveland.

DIVISION 2 WEST

Devon 5 Avon 5

Berkshire 6 Gwent 4

Berks deservedly champions. Two more wins for Andy Wellman who has lost only to Kevin Satchell this season. In Devon-Avon match Andy Creed (Avon) outstanding but Elaine Short and Mavis Scott made sure of women's events for Devon.

DIVISION 2 MIDLAND

Leicestershire 9 Nottinghamshire 1

Derbyshire 4 Warwickshire II 6

Gloucestershire 7 Worcestershire 3

Nottinghamshire 6 Northamptonshire 4

Warwicks completed season 100%. Well done Lester Bertie only one defeat all season. Andrew Cooke impressive debut for Derbys in beating A. Cockerill. Leics back on form. Anita Stevenson and Karen Smith, perhaps not surprisingly, finished season 100%. Great to see Gary Alden winning two for Northants against Notts although Northants lost again. Success of the season for Notts. Robert Watson won two again — 9 out of 10 this season (only three sets coming otherwise all season from MS). Glos good win over Worcs with Bill Dawe impressive.

DIVISION 2 EAST

Hertfordshire 10 Bedfordshire 0

Kent 5 Cambridgeshire 5

Cams needed to win to be sure of title but only a last gasp win by Geoff Davies over R. Beckham, -18, 22, 21 saved them from defeat against Kent. Now Essex could take title if they beat Sussex 8-2. Herts had big win over Beds. Richard Jermyn and Simon Proffitt have both enjoyed good season for Herts.

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

Hampshire II 4 Surrey II 6

Kent II 8 Berkshire II 2

Kent's win makes them champions. K. Chamberlain won two on his only appearance and two more came from Paul Colvin. Karen May good season for Kent — only one defeat. Richard Koslowski again lone Berks singles winner. David Harding inspired Surrey's win against Hants but Ramish Bhalla won two more to finish a fine season with seven out of eight for Hants.

DIVISION 3 MIDLAND

Worcestershire II 2 Leicestershire II 8

Leics never really extended in this division. Alan Philpott in his first season won 9 out of 10 losing only to Dave Marsh (Northants). Eileen Shaler unbeaten — as usual.

DIVISION 3 WEST

Herefordshire 6 Isle of Wight 4

Somerset II 3 Cornwall 7

This win, Hereford's first, spoils IOW's chance of taking title. Carl Prean still unbeaten but Mark Owen good for Hereford. John Crabtree impressive with two for Somerset but Cornwall girls too good. Miss James unbeaten. Dorset need a draw with Avon, otherwise Cornwall take title.

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION

Yorkshire 2 Bedfordshire 8

S. Sharpe lost to D. Sharpe -17, -17;

bt I. Doughty 18, 15.

A. Sanderson lost to Sharpe -17, 14, -18;

bt C. Luscombe -19, 21, 13.

D. Illingworth lost to Doughty -12, 16, -18;

lost to Luscombe -10, 15, -21.

Miss J. Speight lost to Miss J. Bellinger

20, -16, -13.

Miss M. Seaton lost to Miss L. Bellinger

-14, -12.

Sharpe/Sanderson lost to Sharpe/Luscombe

-14, 12, -14.

Seaton/L. Broomhead lost to Bellinger/

Bellinger -18, -14.

Surrey 2 Middlesex 8

M. Oakley lost to J. Souter -13, 18, -21;

lost to T. Stark -19, -18.

N. Hoare lost to Souter -18, -19;

lost to E. Gorniak -18, 18, -18.

M. Hammond lost to Stark -15, -18;

bt Gorniak 19, 13.

Miss M. Hams lost to Miss H. Williams

-12, -20.

Miss L. Bennett lost to Miss S. Sandley

-10, -14.

Oakley/Hoare bt Souter/Gorniak 15, 13.

Hams/Bennett lost to Williams/Sandley

-13, 11, -17.

Buckinghamshire 5 Staffordshire 5

P. Bradbury bt A. Dixon 16, 5;

bt P. Barnett 16, 20.

S. Lines lost to Bennett -17, -20;

lost to W. Bridgeman -19, 17, -24.

J. Wright bt Dixon 15, 22;

bt Bridgeman 19, -12, 13.

Miss D. Robbins lost to Miss F. Elliot -7, -19.

Miss L. Phelps bt Miss R. Robert 13, 12.

Bradbury/Lines lost to Barnett/Bridgeman

19, -14, -16.

Robbins/Phelps lost to Elliot/Robert

17, -13, -17.

Devon 4 Sussex 6

G. Lambert lost to A. Moore 18, -21, -18;

bt G. Bonner 19, 17.

M. Ellett lost to Moore -19, -14;

bt B. Marshall 19, 17.

G. Wilson bt Bonner 20, -13, 14;

lost to Marshall -20, -20.

Miss G. Pritchard bt Miss T. Moore 10, 7.

Miss C. Rowe lost to Miss T. Curran

20, -17, -17.

Lambert/Ellett lost to Moore/Bonner

-17, 14, 18.

Pritchard/Rowe lost to Moore/Curran

-17, -18.

Sussex 1 Middlesex 9

Moore lost to Souter -17, -19;

bt Stark -17, 15, 19.

P. Venis lost to Souter -16, -19;

lost to Gorniak -7, -11.

Marshall lost to Stark -14, -14;

lost to Gorniak -15, -9.

Miss Moore lost to Miss Williams -20, -6.

Miss Curran lost to Miss Sandley -17, 20, -9.

Moore/Bonner lost to Souter/Gorniak

20, -13, -17.

Moore/Curran lost to Williams/Sandley

-17, 20, -9.

Staffordshire 2 Devon 8

P. Barnett bt Lambert 20, -17, 15;

lost to Ellett 16, -19, -17.

A. Dixon lost to Lambert -19, -17;

lost to Wilson 20, -16, -13.

W. Bridgeman lost to Ellett -21, -13;

lost to Wilson -19, -19.

Miss Elliot lost to Miss Pritchard -12, -20.

Miss Robert bt Miss Rowe 17, 14.

Barnett/Bridgeman lost to Lambert/Ellett

-13, -14.

Elliot/Robert lost to Pritchard/Rowe

-13, -22.

Bedfordshire 5 Surrey 5

Sharpe lost to Oakley -10, -13;

lost to Hoare -18, 15, -20.

Doughty lost to Oakley -11, -13;

lost to Hammond -18, -16.

Luscombe lost to Hoare 19, -16, -14;

bt Hammond -18, 11, 22.

Miss J. Bellinger bt Miss Hams 15, 13.

Miss L. Bellinger bt Miss Bennett 11, 5.

Sharpe/Luscombe bt Oakley/Hoare

12, -12, 16.

Bellinger/Bellinger bt Hams/Bennett 11, 6.

Yorkshire 8 Buckinghamshire 2

Sharpe lost to Bradbury -15, -15;

bt Lines 22, 15.

Sanderson bt Bradbury -13, 14, 14;

bt Wright 12, 15.

D. Rook lost to Lines 18, -14, -16;

bt Wright 22, 20.

Miss Speight bt Miss Robbins 10, 11.

Miss Seaton bt Miss Phelps 17, 14.

Sharpe/Rook bt Bradbury/Lines 17, 13.

Seaton/Broomhead bt Robbins/Phelps 8, 15.

Buckinghamshire 3 Surrey 7

Bradbury bt Oakley -16, 14, 13;

bt Hoare 15, 21.

Lines lost to Oakley -11, -5;

lost to Hammond 17, -17, -15.

Wright lost to Hoare -15, 18, -13;

lost to Hammond 18, -14, -14.

Miss Robbins lost to Miss L. Garbet -7, -7.

Miss Phelps lost to Miss Hams -15, 17, -21.

Bradbury/Lines bt Oakley/Sexton 19, 15.

Robbins/Phelps lost to Garbet/Bennett

11, -9, -11.

Staffordshire 5 Sussex 5

Barnett bt Moore 19, -16, 18;

by Bonner 16, 15.

Dixon lost to Moore 13, -18, -11;

lost to Marshall -19, 9, -22.

Bridgeman bt Bonner 18, 22;

lost to Marshall -16, 16, -17.

Miss Elliot bt Miss Moore 17, 20.

Miss Robert lost to Miss Curran -19, -21.

Barnett/Bridgeman lost to Moore/Bonner

-15, -12.

Elliot/Robert bt Moore/Curran 19, -11, 16.

Devon 2 Yorkshire 8

Lambert bt Sharpe 15, -22, 21;

lost to Illingworth 11, -11, -9.

Ellett lost to Sharpe 18, -13, -8;

bt Rook -18, 14, 9.

Wilson lost to Illingworth -11, -9;

lost to Rook 21, -13, -19.

Miss Pritchard lost to Miss Speight -19, -15.

Miss Rowe lost to Miss Seaton -16, -7.

Lambert/Ellett lost to Sharpe/Rook

-14, 19, -20.

Pritchard/Rowe lost to Speight/Broomhead

-10, -15.

Middlesex 7 Bedfordshire 3

Stark bt Sharpe 26, 17;

lost to Doughty -18, -16.

Gorniak bt Sharpe 20, 15;

bt Luscombe -12, 8, 20.

M. O'Leary bt Doughty 17, 16;

bt Luscombe 21, -17, 11.

Miss Williams lost to Miss J. Bellinger

-11, 15, -11.

Miss Sandley lost to Miss L. Bellinger

19, -7, -10.

Stark/O'Leary bt Sharpe/Luscombe

-13, 13, 18.

Williams/Sandley bt Bellinger/Bellinger

15, 16.

Yorkshire 8 Staffordshire 2

Sharpe bt Barnett 16, -20, 19;

bt Dixon 13, 19.

Sanderson lost to Barnett -18, -17;

bt Bridgeman 14, 8.

Illingworth bt Dixon 19, 12;

bt Bridgeman 12, 17.

Miss Speight bt Miss Elliot -17, 16, 19.

Miss L. Broomhead bt Miss Robert 10, 17.

Sharpe/Rook lost to Dixon/Barnett -17, -13.

Broomhead/Seaton bt Elliot/Robert 8, 15.

Middlesex 8 Buckinghamshire 2

Stark lost to Bradbury -16, -6;

bt Lines 22, 19.

Gorniak lost to Bradbury -15, -17;

bt Wright 10, 7.

O'Leary bt Lines -16, 8, 5;

bt Wright 11, -15, 16.

Miss Williams bt Miss Robbins 5, 12.

Miss Sandley bt Miss Phelps 2, 4.

Stark/O'Leary bt Bradbury/Lines 19, -19, 9.

Williams/Sandley bt Robbins/Phelps 9, 18.

Bedfordshire 6 Sussex 4

Sharpe lost to Moore -19, -12;

bt Venis 8, -19, 11.

Doughty lost to Moore -17, -11;

lost to Marshall 15, -13, -18.

Luscombe bt Venis 13, 15;

bt Marshall 13, 19.

Miss J. Bellinger bt Miss Moore 7, 6.

Miss L. Bellinger bt Miss Curran 6, 10.

Sharpe/Luscombe lost to Moore/Bonner

17, -11, -19.

Bellinger/Bellinger bt Moore/Curran 16, 17.

Surrey 6 Devon 4

Oakley bt Lambert -17, 20, 19;

bt Ellett 15, 17.

Hoare bt Lambert 19, 11;
bt Wilson 15, 15.

A. Sexton lost to Ellett -19, 19, -15;
lost to Wilson -18, 19, -20.

Miss Garbet lost to Miss Pritchard
-19, 21, -17.

Miss Hams bt Miss Rowe -19, 13, 10.
Oakley/Hammond bt Lambert/Ellett
-16, 15, 20.

Garbet/Bennett lost to Pritchard/Rowe
-19, 15, -18.

After one of the most exciting series of matches, Middlesex retained the Junior Premier title. In the first set of matches they collected only three of the six points played for, but in the second series of matches they collected maximum points. Bedfordshire caused a big surprise with an 8-2 win over Yorks. Whilst the Bellinger sisters did well they could hardly have expected to take five of the seven boys' events. Beds followed by drawing with Surrey and losing to Middlesex although they did finish a very creditable third with Colin Luscombe and the Bellinger sisters, Jackie and Lisa outstanding. Tony Stark showed consistency for Middx with Sarah Sandley losing only once. Yorkshire 'blooded' cadet David Rook and he did well in a team which had Tony Sanderson and Julie Speight outstanding. After their Beds defeat Yorks reeled off four consecutive 8-2 wins.

Surrey finished fourth with England No. 3 Mark Oakley on form throughout — only John Souter and Phillip Bradbury managed to beat him.

Staffs had five of their seven matches finishing either 5-5 or 6-4 but Yorkshire and (surprisingly) Devon both beat them 8-2. Paul Barnett had a fine season and in none of his seven matches did he lose two. Adrian Moore probably meant the difference between relegation and staying up for Sussex. He was involved in over half the sets Sussex won which illustrates his value to the side. Devon failed to retain their place in the Premier Division but Gina Pritchard justified her England ranking losing only once in seven visits to the table (to Yorkshire's Julie Speight). Bucks finished in bottom spot despite some great play by Bradbury who was only beaten twice.

JUNIOR 2 NORTH

Cheshire 8 Lancashire 2

Cumbria 4 Yorkshire II 6

Northumberland 1 Cleveland 9

Lincolnshire 8 Derbyshire 2

Cheshire have topped this division, England Cadet No. 2 Billy Gleave leading their successful bid. Only Kevin Green (Cleveland) beat him and both Tracey Lightfoot and Lynne Fennah finished 100% Yorks narrow win over Cumbria brought them runners-up spot, Michael Steed and Miss R. Brook were again the stars. Kevin Green concluded a fine season with two more wins against Northumberland. Lincs finished with a win over Derbys. Chris Bryan and Simon Pullen both hitting top form.

JUNIOR 2 WEST

Devon II 2 Wiltshire 8

Glamorgan 5 Avon 5

Warwickshire 8 Gloucestershire 2

Warwicks concluded season 100% with a convincing win over Glos. Adrian Pilgrim remained unbeaten whilst the other two boys — Gunn and Smith were unbeaten in BD. Helen Rainbow continued to show rich promise with six win out of seven, Glos however had Nina Tsakarisanos unbeaten and must be rated a fine prospect. A draw by Avon when they visited Glamorgan enough to give them runners-up spot. Avon were without Paul Jackson, Chris Ross and Tina Shortman so this must be rated a good performance. Andrew Jones again shone for Glamorgan. Finished with 11 out of 12 and with Ceri Phillips 5 out of 6 in BD. Wilts managed third spot after a good

win over Devon with Stephen McBean the star.

JUNIOR 2 EAST

Berkshire 7 Middlesex II 3

Cambridgeshire 2 Kent 8

Oxfordshire 9 Hertfordshire 1

Kent's convincing win gives them the title. David Dodd, Paul Namdjou and Ray Namdjou all unbeaten and three different BD all successful. Manja Ball also took 5 out of 6. Oxon had a great win over Herts with Richard Denbow, Richard Argyle and Peter Crabb all unbeaten. Helen Bardwell (5 out of 6) Herts' only winner. Berks too strong for Middx. Berks' girls, Sue Blackburn and Jenny Collins have dominated girls events in this division.

JUNIOR 3 NORTH

Cheshire II 8 Cumbria II 2

Nottinghamshire 4 Durham 6

Cheshire won but still have three to play. Durham, inspired by two from Darren McVitie seem to have put Notts out of the running and their clash with Ches should decide the title.

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH

Dorset II 7 Hampshire II 3

Essex II 8 Sussex II 2

Essex win included all six BS and their match with Kent (who also have to play Surrey), should decide the title. Dorset's win over Hants gives latter the wooden spoon. Russell Wilson's two wins important for Dorset.

JUNIOR 3 WEST

Somerset 3 Cornwall 7

Devon III 2 Dorset 8

Mark Werner and Graham Plutz again on form for Dorset who have topped this division. With Leanne Harman and Suzanne Hegarty nearly unbeatable they have looked worthy champions. Cornwall have done well to finish second with only one BS win coming from the number three spot all season.

JUNIOR 3 EAST

Suffolk 5 Lincolnshire II 5

Cambridgeshire II 2 Huntingdonshire 8

Congratulations to Hunts on their first title in 16 years! The form of Phillip Cole. Alison Hillard and Janet Randell has been decisive. Alison Hillard's only defeat came against Cambs where Alison Edge won 20, -19, 19 to preserve her own 100% record. Stuart Palmer as expected finished the season 100% but against Suffolk Mark Smith made his debut, and won two!

JUNIOR 3 NORTH MIDLANDS

Shropshire 2 Staffordshire II 8

Staffs finish runners-up. Two wins by Paul Dilger in his only appearance of the season decisive. Seven of Staffs winning sets went to three.

JUNIOR 3 SOUTH MIDLANDS

Norfolk II 2 Berkshire II 8

Bedfordshire 10 Hertfordshire 0

Berks champions of this division. The victory by M. Childs (Berks) over Phillip Longsdon -18, 17, 19 the latter's only defeat of season.

VETERANS SOUTH A

Hertfordshire II 2 Essex II 7

Kent I 9 Hampshire II 0

Essex II 7 Berkshire II 2

These two wins by Essex put them in runners-up spot. Ray Murray and Dave Finlayson unbeaten in these two matches.

VETERANS SOUTH B

Essex I 6 Hertfordshire I 3

Hampshire I 9 Kent II 0

Hertfordshire I 4 Sussex II 5

Berkshire I 0 Essex I 9

Two more resounding wins by Essex means they finish the season on maximum points. Against Herts however Derek Somers

won two, beating Bobby Stevens and Laurie Fountain and followed up with two more against Sussex. Hilda Cathcart finished 100% for Essex. Two by D. Levene helped Sussex to victory against Herts.

VETERANS MIDLANDS

Northamptonshire 5 Buckinghamshire 4

Hertfordshire III 5 Huntingdonshire 4

Worcestershire 6 Oxfordshire 3

Worcs champions. Janet Hunt had fine season to finish 100%. Mervyn Wood and Brian Belcher each lost only two (Belcher against Alf Davies in match with Oxon). Alf in fact had a good season to finish 75%. Herts came back from 4-1 down to win 5-4 against Hunts but latter still runners-up. Against Northants Peter Leckie and Len Pratt each won two for Bucks but Northants won the remaining five sets. Joyce Porter has had a fine season for Northants — unbeaten in WS and XD.

VETERANS WEST

Isle of Wight 7 Wiltshire 2

Avon 9 Somerset II 0

IOW's biggest win of season and it gives them runners-up spot. Two comfortable wins by Jim Daly who has lost only two of his twelve sets.

VETERANS NORTH

Nottinghamshire 6 Cheshire II 3

Lincolnshire 6 Cheshire I 3

Staffordshire 8 Leicestershire 1

The battle for the title between Lincs and Cheshire over by the sixth set when Lincs led 5-1. Two for Matt Sheader but for Cheshire Doreen Schofield finished season 100%. Notts clinched third spot when they beat Cheshire II with Alf Saunders defending well. J. Riley completed fine season for Staffs winning ten out of twelve.

BRITISH RAIL CONCESSION

The concession which allowed half price travel for members attending ETTA events has unfortunately been withdrawn by British Rail. The only possible substitute is a Student Railcard, but this costs £10 and members would need to consider the number of journeys contemplated.

S.T.A. OFFICE

The Scottish Table Tennis Association office has now moved to 18 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh which is beyond the west end of Queen Street and below Charlotte Square. The telephone number remains the same: 031-225-3020.



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