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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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THE LADY TURNS

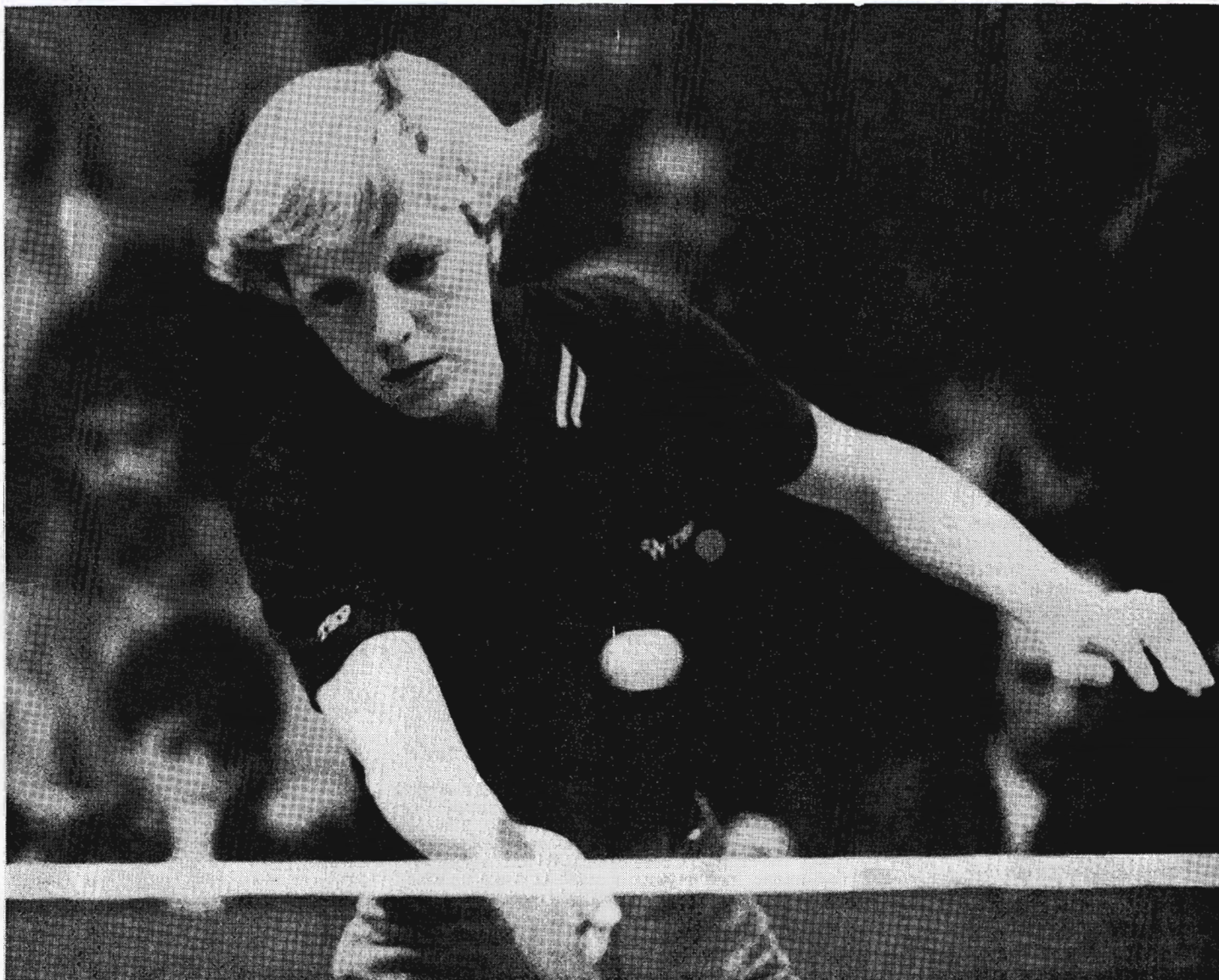


Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17

Jaques - of course

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Advertisements: Mrs. Christine Wilkes, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HA. Tel. Hastings (0424) 433121.

Subscriptions: Miss B. Davies, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HA. Tel. Hastings (0424) 433121.

Distribution: Mrs. E. Doreen Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs. BL1 6JH. Tel. Bolton 42223.

Editorial: Mr. George R. Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs. BL1 6JH. Tel. Bolton 42223 (H), 061-228-2141 Ext. 2698 (B).

SUPPORT DENIED

Ron Rigg, of Whitehaven, was the inspiration behind the inaugural Cumberland Open, successfully, although protractedly, staged at Messrs. High Duty Alloys Ltd., Distington, on November 28, 1964.

Confined to four male events, an exception was made for Miss Maureen Heppell, who attracted quite a gallery for her unsuccessful joust with the home county's No. 1, Ron Batty, in the 103-strong men's singles won by George Livesey of Lancashire.

Such were the seeds sewn by Ron Rigg and his fellow Cumbrian enthusiasts some seventeen years ago ever since when the Cumbria Open, as it has now become known, has continued to prosper at various locations more recently at the Market Hall, Carlisle.

This season saw a dramatic drop in entries which, whether brought about by the current recession coupled with the high cost of petrol, placed a severe financial strain on the organising committee. But sponsorship, itself becoming more and more difficult to obtain, was solely responsible in keeping the tournament viable.

Subsequent to this season's tournament, again successfully staged at Carlisle, sponsors have withdrawn their support for the future and at a recent meeting of the Cumbria TTA executive committee it was decided, albeit reluctantly, to discontinue the event.

Agreed, this is a sad tale with which to start the new year, but one which has to be heeded lest others, more favourably placed geographically, should lose their backers.

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On the International Front by The Editor

TOP OF THE SHOP

England's 7-0 victory over the Soviet Union at Basingstoke on Dec. 12 (as reported elsewhere by David Cosway) carried them into the lead position of the Super Division in the European League with the unprecedented record of four wins from four matches!

But, hovering in hawklike fashion, the defending champions, Hungary, are also undefeated in three engagements their outstanding match being against the USSR with a similar result to England's predicted and only six sets lost so far as against the eight shed by England.

Possibly a home success for Sweden over Hungary in Koping on Dec. 11 would have suited England better but despite trailing 2-3 the Hungarians fought back to win the match 4-3 when, in the penultimate set, Tibor Klampar followed up his initial success over Ulf Carlsson by taking Ulf Thorsell in straight games to level the match score at 3-3.

It was then up to Gabor Gergely in the final set, against Carlsson, to preserve Hungary's unbeaten record and this he did despite the Swede taking the second game. Earlier in the proceedings Thorsell had beaten Gergely and Mikael Appelgren had twice been successful in doubles partnering Carlsson and Marie Lindblad to success over Klampar/Istvan Jonyer and Jonyer/Edit Urban. Miss Lindblad lost her unbeaten record in this match when beaten by Beatrix Kishazi.

SCORES

U. Thorsell bt G. Gergely -15, 18, 11;
U. Carlsson lost to T. Klampar -12, -20;
M. Lindblad lost to B. Kishazi -11, -23;
M. Appelgren/Carlsson bt I. Jonyer/
Klampar 20, -18, 18;
Appelgren/Lindblad bt Jonyer/E. Urban
12, 9;
Thorsell lost to Klampar -10, -15;
Carlsson lost to Gergely -17, 17, -16.

Meantime in Usti u. Orlice, Czechoslovakia maintained their challenge with a 4-3 win over Yugoslavia who lacked the services of Dragutin Surbek whose replacement was Bela Mesaros who distinguished himself with a win over Josef Dvoracek in the final set after the Czechs had taken a decisive 4-2 lead in the penultimate encounter when Milan Orlovski beat Milivoj Karakasevic.

SCORES

M. Orlovski bt B. Mesaros 19, 5;
J. Dvoracek bt M. Karakasevic -18, 15, 17;
M. Hrachova lost to B. Batinic -20, -14;
Orlovski/J. Pansky lost to Z. Kalinic/
Karakasevic -15, -15;
Pansky/Hrachova bt Kalinic/Batinic
-15, 20, 16;
Orlovski bt Karakasevic 19, -14, 8;
Dvoracek lost to Mesaros -8, -13.

Federal Germany, still seeking their first win, had a 3-2 lead over France in Croix but the reversed men's singles went the way of the original encounters with Jacques Secretin beating Peter Stellwag and Christian Martin accounting for Ralf Wosik.



Kirsten Kruger had brought the Federal Germans into the picture with a win over Claude Bergeret and Hans-Joachim Nolten had figured in two doubles successes with Wosik and Miss Kruger.

SCORES

J. Secretin bt R. Wosik 11, 10;
C. Martin bt P. Stellwag -20, 14, 20;
C. Bergeret lost to K. Kruger -18, 19, -14;
P. Birocheau/Secretin lost to H-J. Nolten/
Wosik 17, -9, -19;
Secretin/Bergeret lost to Nolten/Kruger
-18, -17;
Secretin bt Stellwag 18, 14;
Martin bt Wosik 20, 12.

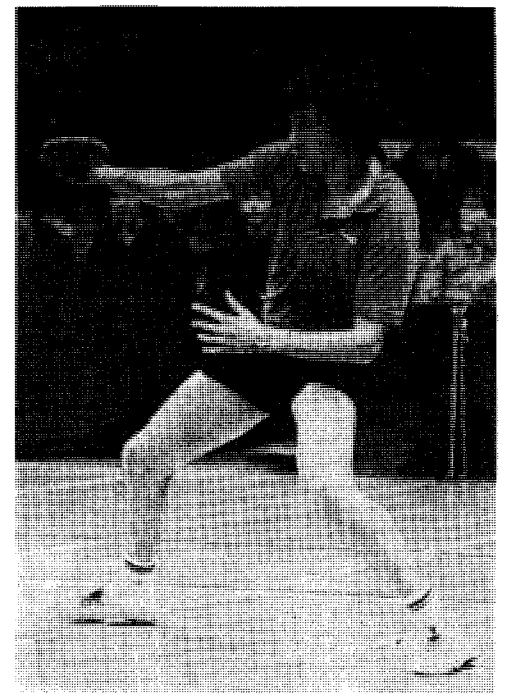
SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
England	4	4	0	20	8	4
Hungary	3	3	0	15	6	3
Czechoslovakia	4	3	1	19	9	3
Sweden	4	3	1	17	11	3
France	4	2	2	14	14	2
Yugoslavia	4	0	4	10	18	0
Federal Germany	4	0	4	8	20	0
USSR	3	0	3	2	19	0

Fixtures for Jan. 15/'81

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

In Division One Poland continued their triumphant march with a 6-1 victory over



Tibor Klampar of Hungary who splits England's John Hilton and Desmond Douglas in the new European rankings.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17.

Greece in Athens where the only home win was accomplished by Kostas Priftis who beat Stefan Dryszel 19 in the third.

SCORES
 K. Priftis lost to A. Grubba -17, -11;
 D. Zikos lost to S. Dryszel -15, -12;
 E. Spanou lost to W. Sikora -8, -9;
 Priftis/Zikos lost to Grubba/A. Jakubowicz -12, 12, -16;
 Priftis/Spanou lost to Dryszel/Sikora -18, -22;
 Priftis bt Dryszel -15, 18, 19;
 Zikos lost to Grubba -11, -12.

Promotees Finland, still in with a chance, also succeeded by a like score in Helsinki against Luxembourg whose sole winner was Carine Risch over Eva Malmberg.

SCORES
 J. Ikonen bt A. Hartmann 11, 19;
 J. Jokinen bt Y. Maas 12, 14;
 E. Malmberg lost to C. Risch -17, -15;
 Ikonen/Jokinen bt Hartmann/Maas -14, 18, 21;
 Jokinen/S. Grefberg bt Hartmann/Risch 16, 15;
 Ikonen bt Maas 15, 18;
 Jokinen bt Hartmann 15, -22, 16.

In Judenburg, Austria recorded their third win of the season with a narrow 4-3 success over the Netherlands whose Hans Gooten figured in his country's three successes beating Gottfried Bar and Gunter Muller in his singles combat and combining with Jaap van Spanje to win the men's doubles.

SCORES
 G. Bar lost to H. Gootzen 18, -19, -16;
 G. Muller bt J. van Spanje 15, -12, 17;
 D. Fetter bt J. Noordam 15, 19;
 F. Klaus/Muller lost to Gootzen/van Spanje 16, -12, -16;
 Muller/Fetter bt Gootzen/Noordam 19, 11;
 Bar bt van Spanje 18, 16;
 Muller lost to Gootzen -16, 8, -14.

Bulgaria had a 5-2 victory over Italy (no results to hand) to keep them on the 3 pt. rung along with Finland and Austria.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Poland	4	4	0	23	5	4
Finland	4	3	1	20	8	3
Bulgaria	4	3	1	17	11	3
Austria	4	3	1	14	14	3
Netherlands	4	1	3	12	16	1
Italy	4	1	3	10	18	1
Greece	4	1	3	9	19	1
Luxembourg	4	0	4	7	21	0

Fixtures for Jan. 15/'81

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

Ireland, as reported elsewhere by Willie Walsh, picked up their first point with a 5-2 win over Spain in Gerond in Div. 2 but Denmark maintained their unbeaten run with a 5-2 home success over Norway in Roskilde on Dec. 11.

SCORES
 C. Pedersen bt T. Johansen 17, -12, 18;
 J. Hansen bt J. Gierlof 10, 10;
 A. Larsen lost to T. Folkesson -19, -10;
 Hansen/Pedersen bt P. Guttormsen/Johansen -17, 17, 12;
 Pedersen/Larsen lost to Johansen/Folkesson -16, -11;
 Pedersen bt Gierlof 9, 16;
 Hansen bt Johansen 14, 17.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Denmark	3	3	0	19	2	3
Switzerland	3	2	1	9	12	2
Spain	2	1	1	8	6	1
Norway	3	1	2	10	11	1
Ireland	2	1	1	5	9	1
Belgium	3	0	3	5	16	0

Fixtures for Jan. 15/'81

Ireland v Belgium
 Norway v Spain
 Switzerland v Denmark

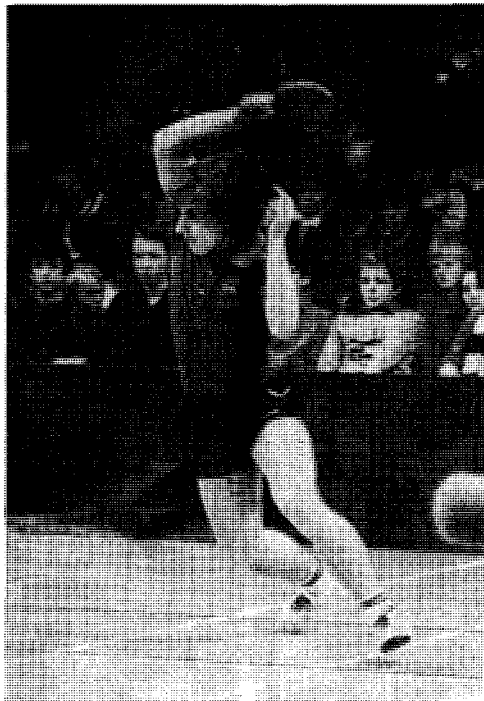
EUROPE CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS '80/'81

RESULTS Third Round

Men
 Bp Vasutas (HUN) 5
 Falkenburgs BTK (SWE) 1
 GSTK Vjesnik (YUG) 3
 AZS Gdansk (POL) 5
 SSV Heinzelmann (GFR) 5
 Banik Ostrava (CZE) 4
 Sealink Milton Keynes (ENG) 1
 Bp Spartacus (HUN) 5

Women
 Statisztika Bp (HUN) 5
 STV Mladost (YUG) 0
 Start Praha (CZE) 7
 Amicale Laique (FRA) 2
 Varbergs BTK (SWE) 5
 TSV Kronshagen (DEN) 0
 Tolnai v. Lobogo (HUN) 5
 Palette Stace (BEL) 2
 Semi-finals to be played by Feb. 1/'81

Men
 Bp Vasutas v AZS Gdansk
 SSV Heinzelmann v Bp Spartacus
Women
 Statisztika Bp v Start Praha
 Varbergs BTK v Tolnai v. Lobogo



Jindrich Pansky of Czechoslovakia not yet in the top twelve but still climbing the ranking ladder.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17.

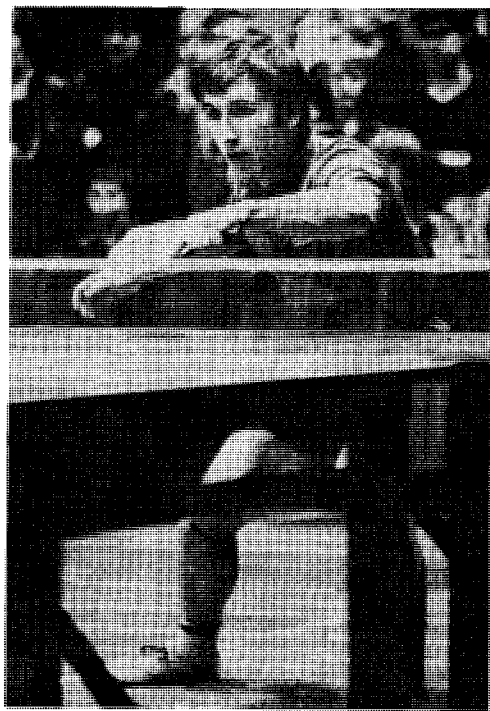
NEW EUROPEAN RANKINGS

England, with two men in the top three of the new rankings issued by the Classification Committee of the European Table Tennis Union, can be justifiably proud with John Hilton retaining his No. 1 position, as the European champion, and Desmond Douglas moving up from No. 5 to No. 3 behind Tibor Klampar of Hungary.

On the distaff side England's Jill Hammersley, having made a timely comeback in beating the reigning European champion, Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union in the European League, loses only two places in coming down from No. 2 to No. 4 her previous position going to the Dutch star Bettine Vriesekoop followed by Gordana Perkucin of Yugoslavia.

Carole Knight occupies the No. 20 position, one up from her previous ranking. Biggest rise, in the male category, has been made by Ulf Carlsson of Sweden who leaps

from No. 17 to No. 9 a position also now claimed by his compatriot Marie Lindblad previously at =16 in the women's list.



England's Paul Day who, apart from partnering Desmond Douglas to a men's doubles success in the European League match against the USSR, was also undefeated in the friendly international against the Russians at Braintree.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17.

New rankings (previous positions in brackets):-

- Men**
- 1 *John Hilton (ENG) (1)
 - 2 Tibor Klampar (HUN) (3)
 - 3 Desmond Douglas (ENG) (5)
 - 4 Jacques Secretin (FRA) (4)
 - 5 Josef Dvoracek (CZE) (6)
 - 6 Milan Orlovski (CZE) (7)
 - 7 Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) (2)
 - 8 Gabor Gergely (HUN) (=9)
 - 9 Ulf Thorsell (SWE) (=9)
 - 10 Ulf Carlsson (SWE) (17)
 - 11 Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (8)
 - 12 Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (15)
 - 13 Andrzej Grubba (POL) (16)
 - 14 Leszek Kucharski (POL) (21)
 - 15 Patrick Birocheau (FRA) (14)
 - 16 Peter Stellwag (GFR) (11)
 - 17 Christian Martin (FRA) (19)
 - 18 Wilfried Lieck (GFR) (13)
 - 19 Jindrich Pansky (CZE) (20)
 - 20 Mikael Appelgren (SWE) (—)
 - 21 Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (18)
 - 22 Ralf Wosik (GFR) (—)
 - 23 Tobor Kreis (HUN) (22)
 - 24 Anton Stipanovic (YUG) (25)
 - 25 Milivoj Karakasevic (YUG) (—)

- Women**
- 1 *Valentina Popova (USS) (1)
 - 2 Bettine Vriesekoop (NET) (4)
 - 3 Gordana Perkucin (YUG) (3)
 - 4 Jill Hammersley (ENG) (2)
 - 5 Ilona Uhlíkova (CZE) (5)
 - 6 Judit Magos (HUN) (6)
 - 7 Ann-Christin Hellman (SWE) (=7)
 - 8 Blanka Silhanova (CZE) (13)
 - 9 Marie Lindblad (SWE) (=16)
 - 10 Szusza Olah (HUN) (10)
 - 11 Marie Hrachova (CZE) (18)
 - 12 Erzebet Palatinus (YUG) (=11)
 - 13 Nadine Antonian (USS) (15)
 - 14 Beatrix Kishazi (HUN) (=19)
 - 15 Ludmila Bakshutova (USS) (14)
 - 16 Kristen Kruger (GFR) (24)
 - 17 Claude Bergeret (FRA) (=16)
 - 18 Maria Alexandru (RUM) (=11)

- 19 Eva Ferenczi (RUM) (=19)
- 20 Carole Knight (ENG) (21)
- 21 Eva Stromvall (SWE) (23)
- 22 Erika Urban (HUN) (—)
- 23 Dubravka Fabri (YUG) (—)
- 24 Alica Pelikanova (CZE) (—)

* European Champion

Omitted from the previous lists are:- Men - Engelbert Hugging (GFR) (12), Jochen Leiss (GFR) (23) and Janos Takacs (HUN) (24). Women - Gabriella Szabo (HUN) (=7), Ursula Kamizuru (GFR) (9), Wiebke Hendriksen (GFR) (22) and Jolanta Szatko (POL) (25). Mrs. Kamizuru and Miss Szabo were not ranked owing to insufficient evidence.

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL

As a follow-up to their European League match at Basingstoke, England engaged the Soviet Union in a friendly international on the following evening in Braintree and again triumphed — this time 6-2.

Both Paul Day and Duggie Johnson were undefeated and it was a great night also for Linda Jarvis, the recently ranked England No. 1, who had a 2-straight win over Valentina Popova, the reigning European champion.

SCORES

- D. Johnson bt I. Pogonov 12, 19;
- G. Sandley bt V. Shevchenko 14, -20, 16;
- P. Day bt M. Ovcharov 12, -16, 11;
- Miss A. Gordon lost to Miss F. Bulatova -16, 19, -14;
- Mrs. L. Jarvis bt Miss V. Popova 11, 19;
- Johnson bt Ovcharov 14, 16;
- Sandley lost to Pogonov -14, -14;
- Day bt Shevchenko -20, 12, 15.

SCANDINAVIAN OPEN

Sweden's Ulf Carlsson was the winner of the men's singles event in the Scandinavian Open, played in Karlskrona over the period Nov. 27/30, the counterpart women's event being won by Cao Yanhua of the People's Republic of China.

World Cup winner, Guo Yaehua (China) and Zhang Deying (China) were the defeated singles finalists.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

- Guo Yaehua (CHN) bt D. Douglas (ENG) 10, 11, 20;
- T. Klampar (HUN) bt M. Orlowski (CZE) -17, 11, 14, 14;
- Jo Yong Ho (KDR) bt J. O. Waldner (SWE) 8, 13, 6;
- U. Carlsson (SWE) bt Huang Liang (CHN) 11, 20, 21.

Semi-finals:

- Guo Yaehua bt Klampar 12, 7, 15;
- Carlsson bt Jo Yong Ho -11, 16, 19, 20.

Final:

- CARLSSON bt Guo Yaehua 21, -16, -12, 19, 12.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

- Cao Yanhua (CHN) bt Rie Wada (JAP) 10, 17, 12;
- Tong Ling (CHN) bt M. Hrachova (CZE) 15, 12, 18;
- Pak Yung Sun (KDR) bt A-C. Hellman (SWE) 13, 11, 16;
- Zhang Deying (CHN) bt Hwang Nam Sook (KRR) -18, 10, 16, 15.

Semi-finals:

- Cao Yanhua bt Tong Ling 11, 8, 14;
- Zhang Deying bt Pak Yung Sun 14, 16, 21.

Final:

- CAO YANHUA bt Zhang Deying 19, -19, 16, 9.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

- P. Birocheau/J. Secretin (FRA) bt Huang Liang/C. Martin (FRA) 10, 11;
- A. Grubba/L. Kucharski (POL) bt M. Karakasavic/D. Surbek (YUG) 7, 14.

Final:

- BIROCHEAU/SECRETIN bt Grubba/Kucharski 14, -18, 16.

Mixed Doubles:

- GUO YAEHUA/ZHANG DEYING bt H. Gotoh (JAP)/Wada 13, -15, 12.

Men's Team:

- China 3 France 2

- Guo Yaehua bt Martin 18, 10;
- Huang Liang bt Secretin 21, 18;
- Guo/Teng Yi lost to Birocheau/Secretin -18, -18;

- Guo lost to Secretin 14, -19, -22;
- Huang bt Martin 20, 15.

Women's Team:

- China 3 Korea RR 0
- Tong Ling bt Lee Soo Ja 17, 12;
- Cao Yanhua bt Hwang Nam Sook 7, 7;
- Cao/Zhang Deying bt Lee Soo Ja/Kim Kyung Ja 15, 12.

In the men's team event England had a 3-0 win over Denmark with Douglas and Hilton successful in singles and the former with Potton in doubles. Czechoslovakia then put paid to our further progress winning 3-2, the coup-de-grace coming at 28-26 in the third game of the fifth set when Orlowski beat Douglas! Prior to, after Douglas had been beaten by Dvoracek and Hilton by Orlowski, the recovery came with Douglas/Potton winning the doubles and Hilton accounting for Dvoracek.

Linda Jarvis and Anita Stevenson fell at the first hurdle in the women's team event when beaten 3-0 by the Soviet Union's Popova and Bulatova.

In the men's singles Potton fell to Hakan Jeppson of Falkenberg in Rd. 2 at which stage Hilton had a 14, 16, 19 win over Jurgen Rebec (GFR) and Douglas had a 10, -19, 21, 19 success over Kimiaki Takenouchi of Japan.

Rd. 3 saw the dismissal of Hilton, beaten 17, -13, -21, 11 and 19 by Leszek Kucharski of Poland, whilst Douglas ousted Istvan Jonyer (HUN) 13, -21, 18, 19. A further win by Douglas 19, -12, 14, 17 over Milivoj Karakasavic of Yugoslavia carried him to the quarters and defeat by Guo Yaehua, the defeated finalist.

In the women's singles Anita Stevenson had an initial win over Lena Waller (SWE) 13, 11, 11 before losing to Kim Kyung Ja (KRR) -17, -19, -16. Linda Jarvis also went out to a South Korean, Hwang Nam Sook who won 15, 16, 19.

Together in the women's doubles Linda and Anita had a good win over Stromvall/Nilsson (SWE) and repeated their success over another Swedish pair Jonsson/Weizades before falling in the quarters to Jang Yon Ok/Li Song Suk (KDR).

Douglas and Potton began with a 20, 12 win over Ulf Bengtsson/Ulf Karlsson (SWE) but were then ousted by the Yugoslav combine of penholder Karakasavic and thumper Surbek who won 10 and 9.

In the mixed event Hilton/Stevenson were beaten by Zsolt Kriston and Erika Urban (HUN) 15, -13, 19 whilst Potton/Jarvis were despatched by Huang Liang/Tong Ling, the Chinese pair winning 17 and 12.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

by Jean Devys

Reigning champions US Kremlin-Bicetre stamped their authority on the men's team championship of the Federation Francaise de Tennis de Table when, in a top-of-the-table clash in Rueil on Dec. 14, in the 7th Journee, they defeated arch rivals AS Messine 13-7 to preserve their unbeaten record.

In the first section of this two 3 by 3 encounter Jacques Secretin scored a maximum in beating Patrick Birocheau, Patrick Renverse and Guy Caussin and shared a doubles success with Franck Vinitzki who, in turn, beat Caussin and Thierry Gernot accounted for the same player.

A treble for Philippe Molodzoff, two from Rene Hatem and a solo from Vincent Purkart, plus the doubles, brought a further 7-3 success to the champions which, added to the 6-4 top trio's win saw Kremlin-Bicetre triumph 13-7 overall.

A similar confrontation in the women's section saw defending champions A. L. Bruz held to a 5-5 draw by ASPTT Annecy whose Claude Bergeret had wins over Brigitte

Quenolle, Beatrice Abgrall and Nadine Daviaud 18, -18, 19. Miss Daviaud had earlier beaten Odile Perrier and Brigitte Marquet.

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Men							
US Kremlin-Bicetre	7	7	0	0	89	51	21
AS Messine	7	6	0	1	92	48	19
TT La Tronche	7	5	0	2	80	60	17
VGA Saint-Maur	7	4	0	3	79	61	15
Women							
AL Bruz	7	6	1	0	48	22	20
ASPTT Lyon	7	3	3	1	43	27	16
ASPTT Annecy	7	2	4	1	36	34	15

NETHERLANDS NEWS

by Bas den Breejen

Nico van Slobbe, winner in 1974, '78, and '79, was the outright winner of the NTTB Cup in Oss over the two days Dec. 13/14 being unbeaten in his nine sets. The counterpart women's event, for the Limburg Cup, was won by Sandra de Kruiff who, like van Slobbe, had an unblemished record. Bettine Vriesekoop, winner for the past five seasons, did not compete on this occasion being, with Jolanda Noordam, in China.

Finishing line-up

- Men**
- 1 Nico van Slobbe 9-9
- 2 Han Gootzen 9-7
- 3 Bert van der Helm 9-6
- 4 Rene Hijne 9-5
- 5 Henk van Spanje 9-5
- 6 Jaap van Spange 9-4
- 7 Anne Vlieg 9-4
- 9 Ron van Spanje 9-1
- 8 Patrick Swier 9-4
- 10 Paul Bakker 9-0

Women

- 1 Sandra de Kruiff 9-9
- 2 Brigitte Kooter 9-7
- 3 Steffen van Gennip 9-6
- 4 Judy Williams 9-6
- 5 Vivian Blanckaert 9-5
- 6 Marianne van der Vliet 9-5
- 7 Ria van Rijwijk 9-3
- 8 Ine Willems 9-2
- 9 Mirjam Kloppenburger 9-1
- 10 Jantien Jansma 9-1

Tempo-Team of Amsterdam comprising van der Helm, Gootzen and Hijne were the winners of the men's team championship of the Netherlands with 't Hooze Huys of Alkmaar finishing runners-up. Scylla of Leiden have been demoted and their place will go to Nikon-Valkenswaard with Bakker, Matthieu van Vroenhoven, Theo v. Gasteren and perhaps England's Bob Potton!

Scylla were the winners of the women's section from Avanti (Hazerswoude) with Amsterdam '78 demoted and Swift-Deventer promoted.

DEUTSCHER TISCH-TENNIS BUND

Kirsten Kruger of Schleswig-Holstein came out top of the Federal German ranking tournament in Berlin over the weekend Dec. 13/14 with a set analysis of won 9 lost 2 but with a better games return than Susanne Wenzel who also won 9 sets.

Peter Stellwag (Wurttemberg-Hohenzollern) (9-2) topped the men's section from Ralf Wosik (WTTV) (8-3).

THIN RASHER FOR JOHN

England's John Hilton was beaten 7 and 13 by Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia in the semi-final of the Pondus Cup competition played in the Virum-Hallen, Copenhagen on Dec. 16 (writes Peter Fredberg).

Surbek went on to win the competition accounting for Denmark's Claus Pedersen -18, 20, 22 in a nail-biting final after the bearded Dane had beaten his compatriot Johnny Hansen in the other semi.

RESULTS

- Group A**
- C. Pedersen (DEN) bt B. Holmsgaard (DEN) 14, 8;
- bt M. Plum (GFR) 13, 17;

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 4)

bt J. Hilton (ENG) -15, 23, 19.
Hilton bt Plum 15, 12;
bt Holmsgaard 10, 20.
Plum bt Holmsgaard 15, 18.

Group B

J. Hansen (DEN) bt Carlsson (SWE)
19, -16, 16;
lost to D. Surbek (YUG) -11, -17;
bt F. Hansen 18, 12.
Surbek bt F. Hansen 6, 15;
lost to Carlsson -17, 14, -19.

Carlsson bt F. Hansen 18, -23, 13.

Semi-finals:

Pedersen bt Hansen 13, 21;
Surbek bt Hilton 7, 13.

Final:

SURBEK bt Pedersen -18, 20, 22.

Cover Picture

Happily reversing her decision to retire, Jill Hammersley made a memorable comeback at Basingstoke where she beat the reigning European champion, Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union, just in time for the Classification Committee of the European Table Tennis Union to take her into account in the new rankings in which Jill figures at No. 4.

Universities Athletic Union ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

NOVEMBER 22nd/23rd, 1980

by DEREK OLDMAN

The UAU Table Tennis Championships returned to Nottingham University for the second time in four years with a record entry of 152 for the men's event and 65 for the women's championship. Unfortunately there were the usual late withdrawals but in no way did this detract from the enjoyment of the occasion. The most notable absentee was Cheryl Buttery, top seed in the women's singles and fresh from her notable victory over Anita Stevenson at Humberside. Sadly Cheryl has developed

disc trouble and only complete rest will quickly cure it. Ian Reed, of Millom School fame, seeded No. 8 and studying at Durham was another star who failed to appear.

Chris Rogers returned for the last time to defend his men's singles title and his main opposition was expected to come from the Berkshire No. 1, a freshman at City University, David Barr. Early fallers were Ian Smith of Aston and Adam Proffitt, now at Nottingham and no doubt hoping to emulate the distinctive university record of elder brother John. Apart from these two setbacks all the seeded players reached the quarter-finals with all eyes firmly fixed on an Indian student, a fresher at Oxford, Sinja Kathuria. I discovered at Nottingham that he had been runner-up in the 1980 Indian Closed, but afterwards ranked only at No. 7. First Bryn Tyler felt his impact, although it did take 3 games and then Rogers was swept aside, comfortably in 2 games. Meanwhile Barr was beating Dave Gannon (Lancaster), and then Kevin Edwards on his own ground.

The stage was set for what for me turned out to be the finest final I have witnessed during the ten years I have been associated with the event. With David at his brilliant defensive best and Sinja the most consistent and effective attacking player I have seen outside England's top six the stage was set. First game to the Indian comfortably 21-12. Barr was however far from finished and with the partial spectators behind him he fought back to take the second 18. The ding-dong battle continued throughout the final game with both breathtaking attacking and defensive play. In the end it was Kathuria who got on top and received very generous applause from his captured audience. Barr deserves great praise for his part in a memorable final. I am sure that by the time this is printed much more will have been heard of Kathuria.

With Cheryl Buttery absent the opportunity was there for Marilyn Sangster or perhaps Debbie Coulthard to take the women's title. Other notable entrants were Caroline Scowcroft, the Lancashire-ranked player recently domiciled at Manchester University and Jill Purslow of Exeter.

Marilyn was the first seed to go losing to Vanessa Cruwys a first year student at Hull University, whose father has been a pillar of strength for years in the Cheltenham

area. Vanessa, without much trouble or ceremony, reached the semi-final along with Manchester's Debbie Coulthard, Jill Purslow and M. Sheeran of Oxford who had to beat Caroline Scowcroft to reach this stage. Both semi-finals needed only two games, Jill comfortably beating M. Sheeran whilst Vanessa beat Debbie Coulthard rather less easily 17 and 18. Unfortunately the final was very ordinary with both girls seemingly wary of each other. Eventually Jill Purslow took the title back to Exeter, the first title to go South-west for a very long time.

With all the top players appearing in the men's doubles but only the Nottingham pair Kevin Edwards and Proffitt playing together it appeared that after listing Edwards and Proffitt as top seeds the rest of the event was very difficult to predict. Barr and his partner Read of City University lost to comparative unknowns Williams and Mitchell of Birmingham who in turn were swept aside by a pair from Leicester, Grundy and Hall who eventually reached the semi-final only to lose to Edwards and Proffitt. In the lower half Kathuria and Hammett of Oxford had little difficulty in reaching the semis where they met second seeds Rogers and Kian-Ah-Chong the BUSF Champions from Sheffield. After a very close match the Sheffield pair scraped home 18 in the 3rd. In the final the unorthodox style of Chong proved the decisive factor resulting in a Sheffield victory in two games.

The strong Manchester University pair Caroline Scowcroft and Debbie Coulthard were expected to have little opposition in the women's doubles. Without much trouble they slipped into the final, beating Sangster and Hinde of Loughborough in the semis. In the other half the Leicester pair Kathryn Hayhurst and Lorraine Breedon benefitted from the withdrawal of Buttery and Fairhall of Nottingham. In a somewhat one-sided final the greater experience of the Manchester pair proved very decisive and resulted in a very comfortable victory. Bradburn and Fougay of Sheffield were the other beaten semi-finalists.

Perhaps the mixed event was the most difficult to predict with any one of half a dozen pairs capable of taking the title.

In the end Edwards and Fairhall of Nottingham, Unwin and Purslow of Exeter, the holders Inkley and Sangster from Loughborough together with Kathuria and Sheeran of Oxford were the semi-finalists. Predictably the final was between Edwards/Fairhall and Inkley/Sangster. Another very close and exciting final was witnessed with Judith Fairhall, a last minute replacement for Cheryl Buttery acquitting herself very well. Inkley and Sangster easily took the first game but were pinned back in the second by some fine attacking play from Edwards. The third was even all the way with finally Steve Inkley and Marilyn Sangster retaining their title.

The scene now moves on to Strathclyde University at the end of January for the British Universities Championships where no doubt there will be old scores to settle and many exciting games to look forward to.

RESULTS

Men's Singles:

S. KATHURIA (Oxford) bt D. Barr (City)
12, -18, 17.

Women's Singles:

J. PURSLOW (Exeter) bt V. Cruwys (Hull)
11, 14.

Men's Doubles:

C. ROGERS/K. AH-CHONG (Sheffield) bt
K. Edwards/A. Proffitt (Nottingham) 16, 18.

Women's Doubles:

C. SCOWCROFT/D. COULTHARD (Manchester) bt K. Hayhurst/L. Breedon
(Leicester) 12, 15.

Mixed Doubles:

S. INKLEY/M. SANGSTERR (Loughborough) bt K. Edwards/J. Fairhall
(Nottingham) 8, -14, 20.

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YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Les D'Arcy

DYNAMIC FORM

After defeating Warwickshire 5-4, Yorkshire's Premier Division side has continued to play well despite several team changes. Tony Clayton (captain), Kevin Beadsley, Steve Mills and Sally Midgley were in dynamic form against Glamorgan. They went through the match without dropping a game, against a side weakened by the absence of Alan Griffiths and George Evans on duty in the Federal German Bundesliga, to register a 9-0 win.

Below full strength for the match against Middlesex, Yorkshire had to give a top class performance to win and they did. Mills led the way with some devastating attacking play to beat Dave Wells and John Payne. Beadsley had a comfortable win over John Souter but lost to Wells and Melody Hill took another set in 2-straight against Helen Williams. The mixed doubles proved to be all-important with Kevin and Melody rising to the occasion to come back from 16-19 down in the third to win 23-21 for a memorable success to take the match 5-4.

Yorkshire's second team showed strength in depth when they had a 9-1 success over Cheshire 2nds. Mike Stephenson, who received his county badge at this match, Mark Illingsworth, Helen Shields and Sally Midgley were all unbeaten. 16-years-old Tony Sanderson of York, became, probably, the first York male player ever to play for a Yorkshire senior side when he made his debut in this match. Tony celebrated by winning one of his two singles and the doubles with Stephenson.

The Junior 2nd team lost their 100% record when they were beaten 6-4 by Cheshire. Michael Stead, David Rook and Keith M'Kandla, making his debut, all won one singles and Melanie Seaton and Josette Ryalls won the girls' doubles.

COACHING

A mammoth coaching course was held at Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds on Nov. 29. About 150 children between the ages of 11 and 14 took part on the course which was staffed by qualified and trainee coaches from the surrounding Wakefield and Leeds areas, directed by Donald Parker, ETTA National Coach. Highlights of the day were top class table tennis exhibitions given by Donald Parker and his Lancashire county colleague Steve Turner who also plays for Unity, Bradford in the National League, Division 1.

The course was organised by ESTTA officials, John Arnold and Tom Matthews, the Yorkshire and Humber Sports Council, Stiga AB and YTTA officials. A coaching course with a difference was held at Ossett School Sports Hall, nr. Wakefield in the school holidays earlier in the year. It was the 1980, 2nd Annual Course, admission free, for a full week's course, divided into three sessions each day: beginners in the morning, advanced in the afternoon and parents and players in the evening. Cups were donated by the Wakefield Advisory Sports Council for the two outstanding players on the course and other prizes were given by officials on the course.

The 1979 girl top award winner, Joanne Shaw, after further coaching by her school coach, Mr. Roger Vasey and local club coach Mr. Roden Fullen, has become the youngest ever to represent a senior Wakefield inter-league side. 12-years-old Joanne, celebrated by winning her three singles in a match against Leeds Ladies on Dec. 7. Joanne's best winning effort was against Val Wilson who recently won the girls' championship at the Hartlepool Open. More recently at the local youth championships Joanne won the U-13 and U-15 girls' singles events and reached the final of the open age event in which she was beaten by county-ranked 16-years-old Karen Burrows 14 and 19.



The photograph shows Joy Cameron receiving her prize for the "most improved girl" from Sports Advisory Council (Wakefield) official Mr. Roger Rothery, along with the other prize winners.

Joy Cameron, the winner of the 1980 "most improved girl" prize on the Ossett Course is also remarkable. 7-years-old Joy could not even play the ball back to the coach for the first two sessions, but by the end of the week was defeating girls much older than herself. Joy is so keen she now attends the Ings Road Coaching School sessions and has already shown much potential.

RADIO LEEDS "MATCH POINT"

Some of the top table tennis personalities have appeared on the writer's Radio Leeds programme "Match Point" including Mr. Tom Matthews, ESTTA President, and Donald Parker, National Coach for the North. In December, Mr. Alec Thompson, former army PTI and sprinter, who is now manager of Featherstone Sports Centre, gave details of the arrangements for the Yorkshire 2-Star.

Also on that programme was Mr. Stuart Svkes, former Huddersfield singles champion and now Yorkshire Clubs KO Cup Competitions Sec. Subsequently the thing which most radio presenters dread happening happened! Kevin Beadsley and Melody Hill, who were to have appeared on the programme, had their car break down on the way to the studio. So with seconds to go it was a rapid change of part of the programme. I didn't stay around afterwards to discuss points raised. It was a relief to rush to the car and speed off into the night to my next match.

Bob Shutt, National Boys' Club champion, 1973, and Yorkshire Closed champion, 1974 became the youngest man to represent Bradford 100 times recently. Bob, who is 26, is a member of Clayton Heights "A" has represented the county several times and has a handicap of 7 at golf.

Yorkshire's official handbook for 1980-81 has now been distributed to all Yorkshire league secretaries. Any affiliated club secretary who has not yet received one please contact your local league secretary. Also if you have news suitable for these notes or Radio Leeds "Match Point" programme please send to the following address: 14 Townley Road, Lupset, Wakefield WF1 8RT West Yorks. Phone: 0924 66420.

YORKSHIRE CLUBS COMPETITION

RESULTS

Round 1

Drax Power Station 0 Clayton Heights 9

Sturge 2 Alpha 5
Leeds YMCA 2 Unity 7
Fulford Road v Hermits (awarded to Hermits)
Barnsley North End 5 Nemesis 1
Barnsley North End II 1 Harrogate W. 5
YRHA 9 Filey W. 0
Brook Motors 3 Barnsley W. 5
York Railway Institute 6 The Saints 2
Middleton Park Avenue 3 St. George's 5
Victoria 5 WLD Textiles 3
Fulford Road II 1 Castle 5

Women

York RI 4 Barnsley NE 5

Juniors

Hermits 3 Victoria 5
Castle 1 Yorkshire RHA 8



Rachel Brook the first Dewsbury girl to represent a Yorkshire Junior team. She made her successful debut against Lancashire in Junior Division 2 (North). Here she is being congratulated by former senior Yorkshire player, Mrs. Pam Bodrog, also of Dewsbury.

NORWICH UNION TROPHY

Jonyer Rejuvenated

by ALBERT W. SHIPLEY

Istvan Jonyer of Hungary won the Norwich Union Trophy and the first prize of £1,000 before an appreciative audience and the television millions at the Black Lion Sports Centre in Gillingham on Tuesday, 2nd December 1980. Experienced observers declared that they had not seen such form from him since his World Championships triumph in Calcutta in 1975.

The styles of eight players assembled for this year's event seemed unlikely to produce much interesting play, especially when one looked at the formation of the two groups. However, the day proceeded to show how fickle the finger of fate can be, for there was so much play of the highest standard that even some well known coaches in the audience were full of wonder at many of the shots produced.

The day got off to a flying start with a marvellous match between the much admired Milan Orlowski of Czechoslovakia and the World No. 2, Guo Yuehua, from the People's Republic of China. The superbly fit and totally orthodox Orlowski made a good start and took the first game 14. Back came Guo with a nail-biting finish in the second to win 24-22. Orlowski as holder of the title made a tremendous effort to get off to a good start and this he did by some superb play which brought him to 20-14 up in the third game. We then saw Guo at his very best and by calling upon all his skills he saved every match point and continued the onslaught to win 22-20.

The next few games in the morning session went according to form with the possible exception of a good win by young Mikael Appelgren of Sweden over the awkward style of Josef Dvoracek, Czechoslovakia's new No. 1. Then came the last match of the morning's programme, featuring the first appearance of Jonyer, against the luckless Orlowski. Although Orlowski won the first game 25-23, there were signs of the old Jonyer skills and in the next two games we saw some breath-taking back-hand loops followed by those famous swinging straight arm loops wide to the opponent's forehand, and Orlowski was powerless to prevent the Hungarian crashing through the next two games 21-19, 21-14.

One match in the afternoon session will stay in my memory for a long time, not only for the skills displayed but for the manner and circumstances in which it was played. Again Orlowski was featured, this time playing his young compatriot, Jindrich Pansky. Both players had already lost their two previous matches and had no hope of finishing high enough in their groups to reach the semi-finals, so they could have just gone through the motions of an inconsequential game. Not a bit of it, for they proceeded to give an exhibition of table tennis that delighted the audience, moved television to start recording it for transmission that afternoon and earned the players a double ovation. No wonder I am the self-confessed No. 1 fan of Orlowski.

Such a demonstration was hard to follow, but the next match on table was the one to decide the group winner between the as yet unbeaten Jonyer and Guo. Again, both players were assured a place in the semi-final but personal pride took over and

Jonyer was made to use all of his newly-found touch to overcome Guo over three games.

The evening session commenced with the two semi-finals and Jonyer simply cruised through against young Appelgren, who owed his place to that win over Dvoracek. The semi-finals were the best of five games and we enjoyed a spectacle going the full distance of Guo trying to prise open the close to the table position adopted by the formidable Tibor Klampar of Hungary. The fact that he failed gave rise to gloomy forecasts of an uninteresting all Hungarian final. However, it was not to be, as the magic cloud upon which Jonyer found himself enabled us all to enjoy the sight of Klampar being forced to the sides of the court time and time again by an amount of side spin that had to be seen to be believed.

And so it was Jonyer who stepped up to tremendous acclaim to take the £1,000 prize in what turned out to be an absorbing day of table tennis played at its very best.

Unfortunately, neither John Hilton nor Des Douglas had played in enough of the Norwich Union Grand Prix tournaments this season to gain enough qualifying points for the Trophy, but Bob Potton's semi-final place in the Canadian Open had given him a firm base from which to come into the reckoning for this event. Although without a win in the four matches he played, it gave Bob some much needed experience at the difficulty in winning points at international level, something which has to be learned by players successful on the domestic scene.

For those of you who watched the event on television and suffered from the distraction of the lines upon the court, it has to be recorded that this was not intentional. The washable paint used so successfully last year must have had an extra chemical ingredient as it caused blistering and flaking and had to be washed off at the last minute. For those lucky enough to be in attendance there was no such distraction, only the enjoyment of witnessing table tennis skills all too rarely displayed in front of the television cameras.

RESULTS

Group 1

I. Jonyer (Hungary) bt J. Pansky (Czech) 17, 14;
bt M. Orlowski (Czech) -23, 19, 14;

bt Guo Yuehua (China) 22, -12, 16.
Guo Yuehua bt M. Orlowski -14, 22, 20;
bt J. Pansky 17, -14, 11.
M. Orlowski bt J. Pansky 19, 14.

Group 2

T. Klampar bt R. Potton (England) 11, 13;
bt J. Dvoracek (Czech) 9, 11;
bt M. Appelgren (Sweden) 11, 15.
M. Appelgren bt J. Dvoracek 17, 16;
bt R. Potton 20, 14.
J. Dvoracek bt R. Potton 17, 18.

7th/8th places:

Pansky bt Potton 18, -11, 7.

5th/6th places:

Dvoracek bt Orlowski 15, 20.

Semi-finals:

Jonyer bt Appelgren 13, 13, 16;
Klampar bt Guo Yuehua 14, -14, -12, 19, 13.

Final:

JONYER bt Klampar 19, -19, 16, 12.

NATIONAL SELECTIONS

The National Selection Committee has chosen the following teams to represent England in international matches and tournaments during January 1981.

Jan. 15 -

European League — England v Czechoslovakia at Belper Sports Centre.

Desmond Douglas, John Hilton, Paul Day, Jill Hammersley and Linda Jarvis. NPC - Peter Simpson.

Jan. 17/18 -

Cleveland 3-Star Open, Thornaby Pavilion, Thornaby, Middlesbrough.

Bob Potton, Graham Sandley, Jill Hammersley, Anita Stevenson and Linda Jarvis.

Jan. 20 -

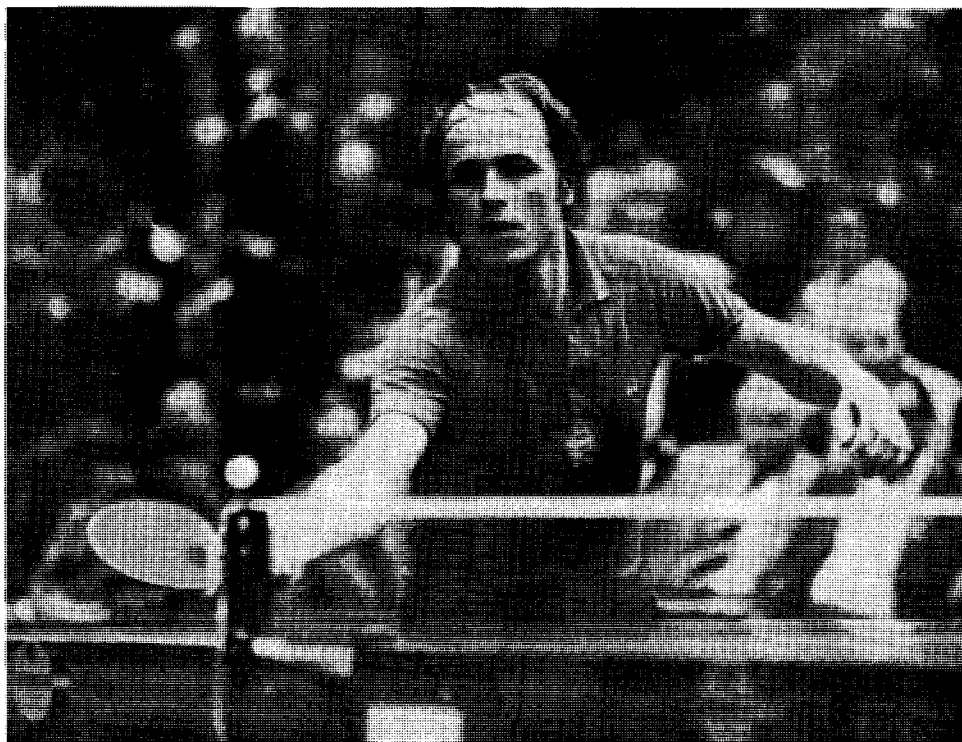
Friendly International at Coventry Sports Centre.

Bob Potton, Paul Day, Dougie Johnson, Jill Hammersley and Anita Stevenson. NPC - Peter Simpson.

Jan. 22/24 -

Stiga Welsh Open, National Sports Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

Desmond Douglas, Paul Day, John Hilton, Dougie Johnson, Jill Hammersley, Linda Jarvis, Karen Witt and Alison Gordon. NPCs - Peter Simpson and Donald Parker.



Hungary's Istvan Jonyer, winner of the £1,000 first prize at Gillingham.

Photo by Norbert Rzepka, Delmenhorst, Hanover, Federal Germany.

The Combination Bat

(Part Two)

by DONALD PARKER
ETTA STAFF COACH

There was little doubt that ten years ago with the advent of the fast, spiny rubbers defenders had a very lean time with rubber technology very much favouring the attacker. The reason for this emphasis was simply that the Japanese leading players were attackers, therefore rubber technologists in Japan were trying primarily to benefit their players.

However several years ago Japan produced several top class defensive players and consequently the rubber technologists researched in the areas that would help these players resulting now in a whole consortium of long-pimpled and anti-loop type rubbers. The question now is to whether the balance has swung in favour of the defensive type player and whether these latest innovations are from a spectator point of view to the detriment of the game.

Certain players and coaches will argue that the colour of a piece of rubber should not affect a player's skill level and that a player should rely on his wrist for deception rather than his bat. Others will argue that only with this advantage have players any chance of compensating the fast, spiny rubbers available to attackers.

Huging, the Federal German European-ranked defender, claimed in a heated argument he would be just as successful with two completely different coloured rubbers and to prove it changed to such a bat. It did not take very long for him to revert back to the same coloured bat.

It is interesting to note that during a debate on a Senior training camp John Hilton voted in favour of combination bats having different coloured surfaces. There is little doubt that opponents and spectators find these bats frustrating and as with the latter they do not appreciate what is happening and find the short rallies and apparently simple errors very boring and uninspiring.

However having said that I have thoroughly enjoyed, and I am sure thousands of others have as well, watching John Hilton since he won the European men's singles title.

Many players who feel the combination bat gives their opponents an unfair advantage, which incidentally they could use themselves, go onto the table with the wrong attitude. They moan about the bat, that it is not table tennis, and concede defeat without putting up a fight. Unfortunately for these players combination bats are here to stay and they must accept it and start adapting their techniques to beat these players. After all, one of the most important characteristics of a skilled player is one who can adapt, both to his opponents style and to the conditions.

A combination bat is at its most effective on the service and receive and during a push rally close to the table when the difference between the spin generated by either side is at its most extreme. If a defensive player using the combination bat is forced away from the table and has to receive consistent topspin drives the difference between the spin generated by either side when chopping is minimised. But I must hasten to add that there are many successful combination bat players who attack quite frequently and also out-and-out attacking players with a relatively weak wing who stick anti-loop or long-pimples to cover this weakness.

There is no doubt that familiarity against a certain combination bat player is a big

advantage as is seen with John Hilton. It is a standing joke that John is ranked higher in the World than he is in Manchester YMCA. While not quite true it highlights the point. Basically what happens is that a player uses the trial and error technique of learning when trying to read the spin until finally he solves the problem.

A coach can reduce the amount of time spent during this trial and error process by explaining to the player exactly what he should be doing in an attempt to read the spin. Once a player can read the spin the combination player must then have a good basic technique to fall back on if he is to have any chance of winning.

This can be one of the problems of a player starting with a combination bat in that because players cannot initially read the spin he wins simply because of the bat and need not have any basic consistency as the rallies are so short. However once the players learn how to read the spin they can keep the ball on the table and unless the combination players can, they will lose.

This is not to say that a player must not start from scratch with a combination bat but that if he does it must be ensured that basic consistency is acquired and that the player works hard on technique not just relying on the bat. The advantage of starting with an orthodox bat is that the player cannot rely on the bat alone and must therefore work hard on technique and consistency in order to win. Once this consistency and the techniques have been acquired then the transition to the combination bat may take place.

This question of combination bat familiarity is one of the reasons why the Selection Committee stress that ranking and selection are separate. Even before the European Championships in Berne, John Hilton was far more successful in international competition than many of his counterparts who domestically were far more successful. It is very fortunate that John did not try to hide himself domestically only appearing when he had to and only practicing with certain players.

Had this been the case then I feel certain he would not have acquired the techniques necessary to win the European title. John, in fact, practices hard all the time, enters many competitions and with players getting used to him he had to improve his techniques to have any chance of winning, which obviously he did.

Personally I believe the combination bat will become more popular as the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. The combination of reversed rubber and anti-loop is, I feel, the combination of the future rather than long-pimples. Players have mastered the initial problems of long-pimples and are now able to topspin fairly consistently against it.

However one of the disadvantages of long pimples is the lack of control to keep the rallies going, a problem not inherent with anti-loop. Several leading English players have changed to anti-loop combination bats and I suspect that in Novi Sad for the next World Championships there will be several very successful anti-loop combination bat players. Whether this is for the good of the game is another question!

SPREADING THE GOSPEL or COACHING en MASSE

by TOM MATTHEWS
President, ESTTA

If I have a bee in my bonnet it is that the best approach to promote the game of Table Tennis is to rope in all the interested bodies and to persuade them to embark on a joint venture — this was a lesson I learnt when helping to establish the Moor Grange

School Table Tennis Centre. Going it alone is like jumping out of an aeroplane without a parachute — a situation fraught with disaster. Also I discovered how friendly and helpful are others when asked. This is something special about Table Tennis and ought to be developed whenever possible. So when Donald Parker, England's No. 4 and National Coach for the North of England, suggested to me that it would be a good idea to get 200 youngsters together for a day and give them a dose of basic coaching in the game, my immediate reaction was to scream for help, for this was no small matter. There were many problems.

- 1 To fix a suitable date, because the Table Tennis fraternity have a full and complicated programme.
- 2 How to get the pupils.
- 3 Publicity to help in this.
- 4 What range of pupils — age wise.
- 5 To find a place big enough to house them.
- 6 How to get the pupils to the site.
- 7 What to charge them — if anything.
- 8 How to get enough tables for them to play on.
- 9 To find sufficient coaches — at least twenty.
- 10 How to finance the project.

If there is one thing experience teaches you, it is the art of sharing your burdens and possible failures with colleagues. Disasters thereon can be somewhat cushioned.

Immediately at hand was Neville Hyman, Chairman of the Leeds Schools' Association, and only twelve miles away John Arnold, Chairman of the English Schools' and Secretary of the Wakefield Schools. We met and came up with some answers. First we would aim at the pupils, boys and girls, between the ages of ten and fourteen — this would cover most pupils in the middle schools and the first year pupils in high schools. This would fit the adage 'catch 'em young etc.' and recognise that basic coaching was not for the 15+ students. Yes — we would impose a 20p charge as a token assurance of intention to come.

We would try to get the use of Rothwell Sports Centre which is about mid-way between Leeds and Wakefield and which would take eighteen tables. The question then of how many became obvious — four players to a table meant 72 pupils. If the day was split into two sessions of two and a half hours each, morning and afternoon, 144 players could attend. The morning session was to be given over to pupils from Wakefield, John's responsibility and the afternoon to Leeds players, Neville's baby. Somewhat less than the original 200, but nevertheless a lot of pupils and youngish ones at that.

An essential part of each 2½ hour session was to be a demonstration by Donald and his Lancashire County colleague Steve Turner — estimated duration 30 minutes.

Recruitment plans were to despatch personal letters to affiliated schools in both areas, while special posters were to be printed to be displayed in all Sports Centres and clubs in the district in order to notify Tom, Dick, Mary and Jane in non-affiliated schools. A call for help in this event to the Yorkshire Humberside Sports Council which, of course, gave us the necessary support by being responsible for such posters.

Through Les D'Arcy who runs the Match Point Table Tennis Spot on Radio Leeds each Friday evening at 6.40 p.m., a public announcement about the coaching day was made when he interviewed Donald Parker some ten days before the event. With this kind of total publicity we felt that we would get the players — and we did.

With the help of Neil Roberts from the Sports Council and the good offices of the Leeds Leisure Services we obtained special low terms for the hiring of Rothwell Sports Centre.

This also involved the willing support of the Leeds and Wakefield Table Tennis Leagues, who in addition to acting as financial intermediaries with regard to transport, guaranteed to supply the Table Tennis coaches — 10 for the morning session and 10 for the afternoon one.

The fundamental and basic problem of getting sufficient tables (most Sports Centres carry about 4 only — of not exceptional quality) was solved by the ESTTA sponsors, Stiga (UK) Ltd. Like a modern Sir Galahad, at considerable expense to his company, Martin Foulser, Managing Executive UK, delivered eighteen Stiga VM Expert World Championship Tables for the occasion, much to the delight of the players.

So, all problems were solved, and the day Saturday, 29th November, was an unqualified success. Donald's display with Steve Turner was brilliant and just what was needed to stimulate the kiddywinkies. I might add it also stimulated some of the oldies.

Now, all I would say is that given this kind of concerted and willing help, such as occurred in this exercise, Table Tennis has a bright future.

Here finally is a list of the consulted bodies:

- 1 The Coaching Section of the ETTA — Donald Parker.
- 2 The two Schools' Associations, Leeds and Wakefield.
- 3 The two local ETTA Leagues, Leeds and Wakefield, and especially their coaching representatives.
- 4 The Leeds Leisure Services.
- 5 The Sports Council — Yorkshire Humberside.
- 6 Stiga (UK) Ltd. — Martin Foulser.

These six were my parachute. The most grateful thanks to all.

Donald Parker will add to this report his thoughts on why he wanted to do it, the kind of programme he arranged, his conclusions about its work, perhaps the kind of follow up desirable and could other areas emulate.

POSTSCRIPT FROM DONALD PARKER

I am glad to be able to add these words to the above article.

I felt that the best way to expand the interest in the game of table tennis was for as many young people as possible to see the game demonstrated well and to be subject to high quality coaching, in a suitable place, under good conditions and with first class equipment. All this came to fruition on Saturday, 29th November, 1980, as the results of the concerted efforts described above. All concerned, but myself in particular, hoped that it would lay at least one foundation stone for a future generation of adult players and have an immediate spin-off in the schools and Sports Centres in the areas.

The logistics were fairly simple. The players were already numbered, ranked and allocated to particular tables. The ranking was achieved by separating (on the teachers' advice) the pupils into three main groups:

- 1 Those who already played regularly in school teams.
- 2 Those who played a little non-competitive table tennis.
- 3 Pure beginners.

I briefed the coaches for about ten minutes before each session. For the first hour the coaches went through the four basic shots, backhand and forehand push, backhand and forehand drive. Irrespective of the pupils standard, going through the basics is a valuable exercise. The second hour was left to the discretion of the individual coach who having assessed the pupils during the first hour devised a suitable programme. For match play and irregular footwork exercises, coaches reverted to two per table while with weaker



ETTA Coach Donald Parker in action watched over by ESTTA officials John Arnold (Chairman) — back left — and Tom Matthews M.A. (President).

Photo by courtesy of Yorkshire Post, Leeds.

players who needed consistency exercises the coaches worked four per table.

I also asked them to look carefully amongst their group for any player who showed particular potential, because Stiga had very generously supplied two 'Original' bats for such players.

Watching the continuous flow of play, seeing the youngsters' application, concentration and dedication, made one feel that the exercise was successful and worthwhile. Indeed there is a general feeling by all concerned that there should be a follow-up and arrangements are already being made for another special all day coaching session in Leeds on Saturday, 31st January, 1981, and a little later in Wakefield.

Any other area in the North of England which thinks it could mount a similar effort for between 100 and 150 pupils should contact me through ETTA Headquarters, Hastings.

U.S. Open Team Championships

Detroit, Michigan
November, 1980

by MALCOLM ANDERSON,
Chairman, Photographic Committee,
U.S.T.T.A.

There were 113 teams in the Men's division, from the USA, Canada and Mexico. The first day's results divided them into 7 groups of 16. Each group was split into 2 sections of 8, who played a complete round robin. Group A-1 was won by Butterfly I, who beat runners-up Joola 5-3:

Butterfly I Joola
Randy Seemiller lost to Attila Malek

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-12, 14, -7.
 Dan Seemiller bt Scott Boggan 21, 14.
 Ricky Seemiller bt Eric Boggan 18, 7.
 D. Seemiller bt Malek 17, 21.
 Ricky Seemiller lost to S. Boggan 13, -9, -8.
 Randy Seemiller lost to E. Boggan
 -17, 19, -13.
 D. Seemiller bt E. Boggan -20, 14, 13.
 Ricky Seemiller bt Malek 5, 15.

Ontario won Group A-2, beating runner-up China town I 5-2:

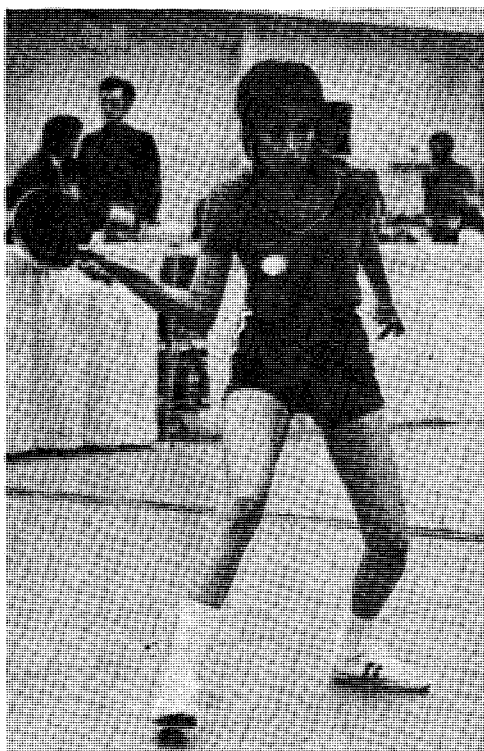
Ontario Chinatown I
 Errol Caetano lost to Rey Domingo -18, -23.
 Zoran Kosanovic bt Alex Tam 14, 10.
 Joe Eng bt George Brathwaite 10, 14.
 Kosanovic bt Domingo 18, 9.
 Caetano lost to Brathwaite 18, -18, -13.
 Eng, bt Tam 18, 19.
 Kosanovic bt Brathwaite 13, 19.

As in the Swathing Cup, the winner of each group plays the runner-up from the other group in a semi-final match. Butterfly I beat Chinatown I 5-0, but other result was unexpected:

Joola Ontario
 A. Malek bt E. Caetano 18, 19.
 Scott Boggan lost to Z. Kosanovic -11, -7.
 Eric Boggan bt Joe Eng 15, 19.
 Malek lost to Kosanovic -12, -11.
 Eric Boggan bt Caetano 16, -13, 12.
 Scott Boggan bt J. Eng 15, 16.
 Eric Boggan lost to Kosanovic -9, 19, -16.
 Malek bt Eng 14, -18, 14.

Thus, Joola again played Butterfly I, this time for the title. Many spectators were disappointed in that Dan Seemiller would not play Zoran Kosanovic. Kosanovic earlier lost to a North American player for the first time — Quang Bui, one of our top juniors, beat him 24-22 in the 3rd game!

Butterfly I Joola
 D. Seemiller bt Attila Malek 11, 17.
 Perry Schwartzberg lost to E. Boggan
 -15, -17.
 Rick Seemiller lost to S. Boggan -19, -19.
 D. Seemiller lost to E. Boggan -19, -13 !!!
 Schwartzberg lost to S. Boggan -27, -19.
 R. Seemiller bt Malek 18, 19.
 D. Seemiller bt S. Boggan 22, -18, 8.
 R. Seemiller bt E. Boggan 18 (from 14-18!),
 14.



Adele Karim of Quebec I women's team voted "The Most Valuable Player".

Photo by Malcolm Anderson, Chairman, Photographic Committee, USTTA.

Naturally the 9th match went 3 games. This time, Attila Malek beat Perry Schwartzberg 19, -17, 14, giving Joola the title!

This was the first time a Mexican team entered this event, and there were 2 teams from South of the Border — Club Internacional (Emilio Chao, Alfonso Chiu, Mario Munive, Anibal Olivares and Alfonso Munguia) and Club Kanoa (Luis Ochoa, Jorge Zavala, Francisco Mandez, Mario Olivera and Kurt Wicker). Club Kanoa played well enough to reach the A Group, where they lost to Butterfly I 0-5, to Joola 0-5, to Ohio I 3-5, to Harvard/Robbins 1-5, to Jimmy McClure's 3-5, and to ORACC Eagles 2-5, and they beat Quebec Seniors I 5-4, to finish tied for 14 place in the tournament.

The Womens' division had 14 teams, of which 8 were Canadian. In the final team match, Mariann Domonkos of Quebec I did not play; she was catching a plane to a tournament in France.

Paddle Palace Quebec I
 Judy Bochenksi Hoarfrost bt Michelin
 Aucoin 21, 19.
 Carol Davidson bt Diane Bourdages 14, 17.
 Shelia O'Dougherty bt Adele Karim 16, 21.
 Davidson bt Aucoin 10, 19.
 Hoarfrost lost to Karim 21, -17, -18.
 O'Dougherty bt Aucoin 14, 14.

The Junior Division was won by Yasaka — Kansas City (Norbert Braun NPC, Bernie Braun, Peter Braun, Roland Rittmaster).

"The Most Valuable Players" (decided by vote of the team captains) were George Brathwaite and Adele Karim.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOTHING NEW

Time passes quickly and sometimes the facts are forgotten.

In your "Table Tennis News" I have read some articles regarding the new (?) stroke and sponge-bat invented by Japanese players.

In my opinion, there are no new strokes and nothing in table tennis is a novelty. Novelty in table tennis is the big increase of its popularity, year by year.

That new stroke I refer is the loop drive. In the early days of table tennis many players used the shot and most books of reference on the technique of the game refer to it as "high top spin", "loop drive" or "balloon defence".

The same thing happened with the sponge-rubber bat. In the excellent Montagu's book (First Edition 1936) and in his article written on March 15, 1952, I noticed: "Rackets have been made of gut; of strung wire; of wood covered with vellum or with rubber; the rubber-covered type has been plain or studded with pimples, made of thick sponge etc." "G. W. Decker long used cotton wool or sponge rubber padding. So did I, for over 20 years".

So, the soft rubber of Satoh and the Satoh-type game are no novelties.

Therefore, "there is no new thing under the sun".

Major JOAQUIM T. LIBANIO.

Caixa postal 115,
 12460 - Campos do Jordao, S.P.,
 Brazil, South America.

LEFT WONDERING

One hears so much said about the conflict between National League and County Championships, indeed the bitterness sometimes has to be heard to be believed. I am left wondering if this is a sport or simply a power struggle.

Isn't it about time people realised that

most players want to play in both leagues given the opportunity and availability and this attitude of "it's us or them" is ridiculous to the extreme.

There are six playing Saturday and Sundays between October and the end of April. Bearing in mind that a number of players have a financial responsibility to their sponsors to be fresh there is no reason why both leagues cannot sit down and plan their matches a good deal better than they have so far this season! A typical example being the Middlesex v Staffs match, all credit to Middlesex for turning out a team (a good one too) but it should not have happened in the first place!

There is room in table tennis for both leagues so why not let those with the talent use it instead of obstructing them.

DAVID T. EVANS,
 ETTA Coach.

48 Ironstone Road,
 Burntwood, Nr. Walsall,
 Staffs.

SIMPLE TEST

Surely the objection by John Preat to the length of tournaments is unreasonable, because he is not comparing like with like. A football match lasts 90 minutes but a football competition, like the F.A. Cup, involves the finalists in at least nine hours of football. It is because of the greater number of football supporters that it is possible to play separate rounds over the whole season, and not that table tennis lacks support because of the time taken.

We, the enthusiasts, must do more to sell table tennis to the public. Go to any town and you will find that eight or nine out of every ten people know where the football ground is. How many know when and where table tennis is played? I suggest that all readers interested in this problem try the foregoing simple test.

MICHAEL BLACKMAN,
 International Umpire.

97 Washington Avenue,
 Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

TWO GRUELLING DAYS

by Iris Moss

The 24th Middlesex Open was dogged with trouble over top-ranked players. The ETTA Selection Committee started the ball rolling by deciding to send an extremely strong team to the French Open, thus taking away the title holders of the Men's Singles, the Mixed Doubles and part of the Women's Doubles. Then David Constance's German club decided not to release him although they had promised to do so; Nicky Jarvis found he did not make as quick a recovery from his illness as he had hoped and had to withdraw; and the last straw was when both Carole Knight and Max Crimmins had to retire through back trouble. Nevertheless the remaining 274 players battled on bravely despite the absence of some of the "stars" and appeared to enjoy their tournament throughout two gruelling days.

Bob Potton maintains that the Middlesex is an unlucky tournament for him and certainly the results seem to indicate that he is right, never quite winning the titles but so often hovering on the brink. In the Men's Singles, Kenny Jackson had a reasonably comfortable passage to the Final, the only opponent who extended him (so far as scores show) being Potton in the quarters.

But although he did not win the title, I

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 12)

think that my nomination for the "Player of the Event" must go to our own John Souter. John, who is still a Junior, had to overcome Mark Mitchell, Skylet Andrew, Mark Thomas of Wales and Gary Lambert to reach the semi-final and play Donald Parker, in what in my opinion was the best match of the evening. John won the first at 22, lost the second at 13 and needed every bit of the tenacity that makes him such a sound player to stick on and win the third. Unfortunately he "blew out" against Jackson in the Final and finished up rather disappointed, not at losing but at not playing his best.

In the Women's Singles, Alison Gordon fully justified her promotion in the Ranking List by winning the event without dropping a game.

The Men's Doubles draw finished off looking slightly different from the original. With both Jarvis and Crimmins out of the competition, their partners, the two Essex players, Jackson and Potton, decided to join up and proceeded to work their way through to the Final, but Bob's "jinx" got to work and they were beaten at the post by the Middlesex title holders, Mitchell and Graham Sandley. This is the 3rd consecutive year that Mark and Graham have taken this title and constitutes a record for the Men's Doubles in the Middlesex.

Melody Hill (Ludi) managed to retain her half of the Women's Doubles title by substituting Sally Midgley for the absent Karen Witt. Angela Mitchell and Helen Williams did well to get to the Final but could not quite hold off the strength of Melody and Sally.

The Mixed Doubles gave both Alison Gordon and Sandley their second title each in the 1980 Middlesex Open, the only two players to win more than one event.

The Veterans' Singles title went to a Middlesex player when "Babs" Adedayo beat Peter D'Arcy of Cheshire.

For the record, here are some results:

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Parker (La) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 15, 20;
J. Souter (Mi) bt G. Lambert (Dv) 11, 13.
L. Smith (E) bt G. Sandley (Mi) 11, -15, 19;
K. Jackson (E) bt R. Potton (E) 17, -19, 17.

Semi-finals:

Souter bt Parker 22, -13, 18;
Jackson bt Smith 11, 11.

Final:

JACKSON bt Souter 16, 8.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

G. Pritchard (Dv) bt T. Short (Dv) 23, 16.
A. Gordon (Bk) bt A. Mitchell (Mi) 13, 13;
M. Hill (Y) bt M. Smith (Bk) 11, 17;
A. Stevenson (Le) bt L. Bellinger (Bd) 9, 13.

Semi-finals:

Gordon bt Pritchard 12, 17;
Hill bt Stevenson 25, 16.

Final:

GORDON bt Hill 5, 13.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

M. Mitchell (Mi)/Sandley bt R. Jermyn (He)/D. Wells (Mi) 17, -13, 19.
Jackson/Potton bt Parker/C. Wilson (Mi) -21, 23, 19.

Final:

MITCHELL/SANDLEY bt Jackson/Potton 20, 12.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Mitchell/H. Williams (Mi) bt S. Cain (St)/Stevenson 19, 19.
Hill/S. Midgley (Y) bt Gordon/Smith -15, 9, 21.

Final:

HILL/MIDGLEY bt Mitchell/Williams 20, -18, 15.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Potton/Stevenson bt D. Newman (E)/Smith 19, 11.
Sandley/Gordon bt Eckersley/Hill 11, -14, 18.

Final:

SANDLEY/GORDON bt Potton/Stevenson -11, 16, 11.

Veteran Singles Final:

"BABS" ADEDAYO (Mi) bt D'Arcy (C) 19, -13, 19.

To finish on rather a sad note, next year's event should be the Silver Jubilee of the Middlesex Open Championships, but the event cannot take place without considerable sponsorship. We know the players enjoy the event, and, despite all the hard work involved, we enjoy running it. The Middlesex Committee are doing all they can to find an adequate sponsor — so far without even a "nibble" — so how about the players seeing what they can do? I can promise that I will follow up any suggestions put to me and with nearly 300 participants, surely one of you knows some-one who might be interested? I hope some-one will help us and that in consequence I will be writing up the report on the 25th Middlesex Open at this time next year.

YORKSHIRE OPEN

REPEAT FORAY FOR CONSTANCE

by Rea Balmford

Bournemouth based David Constance obviously relishes the long journey from the south coast to the industrial North for, at the Yorkshire Open he tackled on the Men's Singles title to the parallel one which he had won earlier in the season at the West Yorkshire Open.

Seeded jointly in the No. 5 spot, he took advantage of the absence of the higher-ranked Steve Mills to take a semi-final place against Nigel Eckersley, seeded 2, and disposed of his Cheshire County colleague in straight games before ousting Chu Van Que, the top seed, in a final which kept the crowd on their toes.

Chu had no easy passage, beating Derek Schofield, Scotland's Keith Rodger and Chris Rogers on his way to the final, and the Vietnamese international must have made many friends through his sporting attitude and the way in which he so obviously enjoyed his table tennis.

I hope that all those who commented on this aspect at Featherstone Sports Centre will not only take note, but pass the lesson on far and wide.

A new name went on the Women's Singles trophy, the only title to be retained, and if this statement appears confusing, Yorkshire's own Melody, playing for the first time in the Open as Mrs. Hill, had a comfortable win over Julie McLean, who celebrated her first appearance in the senior rankings with a win over second-seeded Sally Midgley.

Eckersley gained some consolation for his singles defeat when he teamed with Kevin Beadsley to take the Men's Doubles at the expense of Richard Yule and Rodger, representing the Scottish contingent to whom we were delighted to play hosts in the county of the Broad Acres.

Helen Shields and Linda Hryszko beat the nationally-ranked pair of Hill-Midgley in an all-Bradford Women's Doubles final, while in the very popular Class 2 Mixed Singles (115 entries) the title remained in Sussex, passing from the no longer eligible Malcolm Francis to another rising star from the south coast county in Stephen Moore.

Our new venue at Featherstone proved very satisfactory despite problems in the gym — which will be obviated before next season's tournament! — and it was very appropriate that Alec Thompson, Manager of the Centre who, with his staff, had done so much to smooth the running of the event, should share the duties of presenting the prizes with County Chairman Geoff Scruton.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Constance (Do) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 19, 14;

Chu Van Que (Nd) bt C. Rogers (Le) 19, -16, 17.

Final:

CONSTANCE bt Chu Van Que -22, 15, 17.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Hill (Y) bt H. Shields (Y) 11, 18;

J. McLean (Y) bt S. Midgley (Y) -18, 19, 26.

Final:

HILL bt McLean 9, -17, 9.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

K. Beadsley (Y)/Eckersley bt G. Davies (Wal)/D. McIlroy (Sco) 16, 18;

K. Rodger/R. Yule (Sco) bt A. Fletcher (Y)/Rogers 21, -17, 17.

Final:

BEADSLEY/ECKERSLEY bt Rodger/Yule 15, -18, 18.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

L. Hryszko (Y)/Shields bt K. Cheung (Nd)/McLean 18, 18;

Hill/Midgley bt J. Deakin (Ch)/J. Harris (St) -11, 14, 19.

Final:

HRYSZKO/SHIELDS bt Hill/Midgley 16, 18.

Class 2 Mixed Singles Semi-finals:

S. Moore (Sx) bt M. Dainty (Y) 13, 13;

K. Paxton (Cv) bt W. Percival (Ch) 12, 17.

Final:

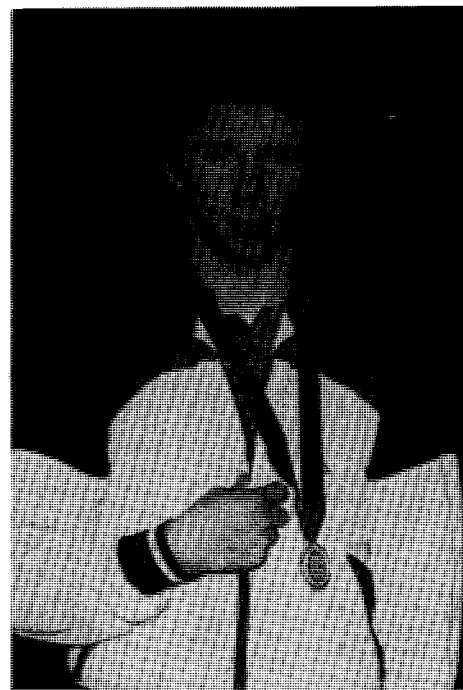
MOORE bt Paxton 20, 21.

NEW JUNIOR RANKINGS

The National Selection Committee have issued the first Junior Ranking list of the season following the completion of the English Junior Closed in December.

Heading the Boys' list is John Souter and, following his sensational Under-17 Boys' Singles win at the Closed over Souter, 13-year-old Carl Prean jumps from No. 7 to No. 2.

In the Girls, Joy Grundy takes over the No. 1 spot whilst Helen Williams drops from No. 2 to No. 3. Lisa Bellinger takes over at No. 2 following her excellent display at the English Junior whilst older sister Jackie moves up two places to No. 5.



JOHN SOUTER

(continued on page 16)

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Soviet 'Whitewash' at Basingstoke

by David Cosway

Again Hampshire Table-Tennis fans made a success of a European League match with 900 spectators at Basingstoke's marvellous central Sports Centre for the visit of Russia. J. Davy Limited, the Vauxhall, Bedford and Opel main car dealers, ensured the financial success of this match with their generous sponsorship.

First set on showed what a difference a year can make in Table Tennis. Last year John Hilton, in Hampshire for the France match, was somewhat of a "spare part" in the England team but now with the successful European Championships behind him he is playing with the confidence that success breeds. His opponent, the surprise Russian choice of 19-years-old Mickail Ovcharov showed his inexperience with the European Champion quickly going into a 15-7 lead. He was unable to read the Hilton spin with good returns interspersed with clean kills especially on his backhand giving Hilton the first game at 14. In the second the Russian started to get into the game, leading 9-5 before Hilton came back to square the points at 9-9 with a marvellous return of a vicious "net".

The Russian eased ahead to 14-12 but Hilton came back to lead 17-14 and took the game at 17. The knock-up prior to the second set with Valery Shevchenko opposed to Desmond Douglas wetted the spectators appetite for the encounter with Des casually blocking all the Russian could throw at him. This certainly took the heart out of the

Russian's play with the 21-11, 21-7 score line, clearly underlining Douglas' standing in Europe. Apart from a bad spell in the first which took him from 8-2 to 10-11 he was never in trouble.

And so, as they say, to the main event of the evening! Jill Hammersley back onto the European scene after her, fortunately, short retirement, the 1979 European champion straight in at the deep end against the 20-years-old Valentina Popova, fresh from her European championships success in Berne. A nervous Jill retrieving well the powerful Russian forehand but was snatching at the openings for her usually reliable backhand counter. The Russian European champion finishing the first game with an edge at 17. Jill was narrowly in the lead throughout the second game winning the point and game at 18 after a tremendous last rally. So into the third with Jill now getting the range of her hits and the Russian running out of steam and forced into errors even on her stronger forehand. Jill changed ends at 10-4 and won out at 14. One of the best women's singles set I have seen with even Peter Simpson sufficiently excited to reward the elated Jill with a kiss! Must have made it all worth while!

So to the men's doubles — not England's strongest event in the past and when Paul Day and Douglas dropped the first at 18 to Ovcharov and Shevchenko one feared for the worst. However, after words of advice from the NPC they came back to win the next at 4 and 14 to give England a winning 4-0 lead. Linda Jarvis partnered Douglas and a 15-3 lead led to a 21-10 opening game. Mistakes from both Russians, Igor Pogonov and Popova, and the English pair in the second game saw the Russians 19-16 up and a third game looked imminent. But a fine recovery by Des and Linda to eventually win at 27-25.

Two "dead" men's singles with England 5-0 up, but the Russians No. 1, Shevchenko certainly put up a fight against Hilton. John took the first but after dropping the second looked in trouble. His 10-3 lead at the change in the third was whittled back to 10-10 then again a 17-12 advantage was brought back to 18-18. The Russian held points for the match before Hilton eased out at 23-21. Douglas seemed in control all through the first game against Ovcharov but only narrowly won at 19. The second was more convincing at 14 to complete the 7-0 England win, surely a rare score in the Super Division!

Once again a well staged international in Hampshire to celebrate the Basingstoke League's Golden Jubilee year. Stan Hardman and his organising committee can be proud of their efforts.

SCORES

- J. Hilton bt M. Ovcharov 14, 17.
- D. Douglas bt V. Shevchenko 11, 7.
- Mrs. J. Hammersley bt Miss V. Popova -17, 18, 14.
- D. Douglas/P. Day bt M. Ovcharov/V. Shevchenko -18, 4, 14.
- D. Douglas/Mrs. L. Jarvis bt I. Pogonov/V. Popova 10, 25.
- J. Hilton bt V. Shevchenko 15, -17, 21.
- D. Douglas bt M. Ovcharov 19, 14.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. Karen Tonge, Cheshire TTA Coaching Secretary has changed her address from 39 Harrow Drive, Runcorn to 1 Malpas Road, Runcorn, Ches. WA7 4AD. Karen can still be contacted at Runcorn (Castlefields) County Youth Centre: 'Phone 64569 mornings and evenings.



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(continued from page 14)

In the Cadet lists, **Prean** and **Lisa Bellinger** are at No. 1 whilst a new name, **Billy Gleave**, appears at No. 2 in the Cadet Boys following his consistent performances culminating in his defeat of Prean at the Closed. Rankings (previous positions in brackets) are:-

- Boys**
- 1 John Souter (Mi) (3)
 - 2 Carl Prean (IOW) (7)
 - 3 Philip Bradbury (Bu) (4)
 - 4 Mark Oakley (Sy) (6)
 - 5 Paul Rainford (La) (10)
 - 6 Kevin Green (Cv) (—)
 - 7 Billy Gleave (Ch) (—)
 - 8 Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (—)
 - 9 Gary Lambert (Dv) (9)
 - 10 Anthony Stark (Mi) (—)
 - 11 Anthony Sanderson (Y) (—)
 - 12 Paul Namdjou (K) (—)
 - 13 Jeremy Duffield (Wo) (11)
 - 14 Adrian Moore (Sx) (18)
 - 15 David Dodd (K) (—)
 - 16 Paul Barnett (St) (—)

- Girls**
- 1 Joy Grundy (La) (4)
 - 2 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (8)
 - 3 Helen Williams (Mi) (2)
 - 4 Sarah Sandley (Mi) (—)
 - 5 Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (7)
 - 6 Carol Butler (Dv) (—)
 - 7 Jean Parker (La) (5)
 - 8 Gina Pritchard (Dv) (6)
 - 9 Helen Bardwell (He) (10)
 - 10 Julie Speight (Y) (—)
 - 11 Amanda Judd (Ca) (14)
 - 12 Tracy Lightfoot (Ch) (—)

Girls

- Susan Blackburn (Bk) (A)
- Denise Boughey (Sp)
- Lesley Broomhead (Y) (A)
- Susan Collier (Bk)
- Jennifer Collins (Bk)
- Cheryl Creasey (Do) (A)
- Mary Denbow (Ox)
- Lynn Fennah (Ch) (A)
- Helen Frost (La)
- Lorraine Garbet (Sy)
- Yvonne Hall (Le)
- Nikki Hamilton (Bu)
- Melanie Seaton (Y) (A)
- Nina Tsakaristianos (Gs)

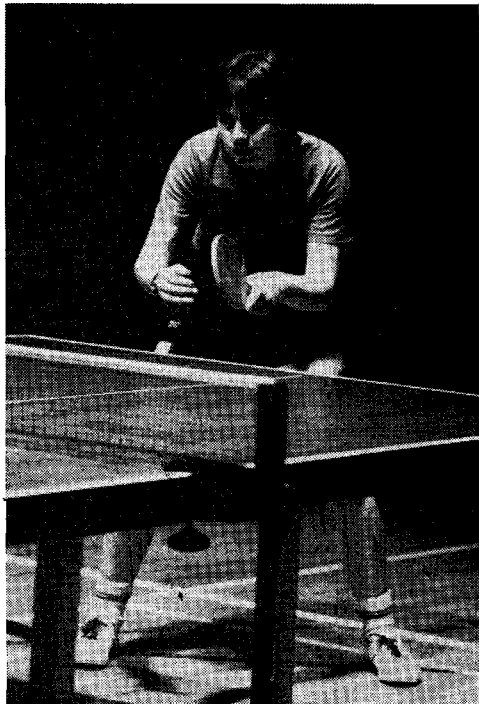
CADETS

Boys

- 1 Carl Prean (IOW) (2)
- 2 Billy Gleave (Ch) (—)
- 3 David Rook (Y) (10)
- 4 Ian McLoughlin (La) (16)
- 5 Nigel Tyler (Mi) (—)
- 6 Jonathan Bradbury (Bu) (—)
- 7 Adrian Dixon (St) (—)
- 8 Martin Firth (Y) (—)
- 9 Stephen Dorking (E) (—)
- 10 Philip Loggsden (Nk) (—)
- 11 Ivan Smith (Sp) (11)
- 12 David Slack (Dv) (—)

Girls

- 1 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (2)
- 2 Susan Collier (Bk) (8)
- 3 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (13)
- 4 Alison Barker (Sp) (12)
- 5 Teresa Moore (Sx) (20)
- 6 L. Popkiewicz (Sy) (—)
- 7 Alison Boxall (He) (—)
- 8 Lynne Bennett (Sy) (—)
- 9 Julie Woodward (Ox) (—)
- 10 Wendy Worthington (La) (—)
- 11 Louise Forster (Dy) (—)
- 12 Jane Mills (Sy) (—)



JOY GRUNDY
(Lancashire)

Photo by Stan Hilton, 15 Auckland Road, Billingham, Cleveland.

GROUP A

(in alphabetical order)

Boys

- Alan Cooke (Dy)
- Andrew Dixon (St) (A)
- Iain Fullerton (Bk)
- Nicky Hoare (Sy)
- David Illingsworth (Y)
- Paul Jackson (Av) (A)
- Frazer McEwen (La)
- Michael O'Leary (Mi)
- Stuart Palmer (Sk)
- David Pilcher (K)

IRISH AFFAIRS

by Willie Walsh

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Ireland's First Win

After the postponement of the match with Turkey, the walk-over through the withdrawal of Romania and their annihilation by Denmark, Ireland finally hit the big-time with a good 5-2 victory over Spain in Barcelona.

The match which was played before over 2,000 spectators in perfect conditions saw a changed Irish team — both in personnel and performance — lose the first set, but then win the next five to the dismay of the Spaniards.

Pat Glynn, the Birmingham Irishman, in this his first International opened the match very nervously against Jose Pales. Although he lost in straight games he did himself great credit.

Colum Slevin the 16-year-old 'veteran' levelled the proceedings when he beat Ismail Caymel.

Miss P. Lupon won the first game against Anne Leonard, but lost the second. The greater experience of Miss Leonard told in the third.

Slevin and Glynn made it 3-1 to Ireland when they won the Men's doubles.

Ireland reached an unassailable lead when Slevin and Leonard had a comfortable victory over the Lupon's in the mixed.

The reverse singles were shared — Slevin beating Pales and Caymel beating Glynn.

Full marks to the Spaniards for their arrangements and hospitality which were excellent.

SCORES

- Spain 2 Ireland 5
- J. Pales bt P. Glynn 10, 16.
- I. Caymel lost to C. Slevin -16, -16.

- P. Lupon lost to A. Leonard 14, -17, -16.
- Caymel/Calvo lost to Slevin/Glynn 20, -17, -13.
- P. Lupon/P. E. Lupon lost to Slevin/Leonard -13, -17
- Pales lost to Slevin -15, -15.
- Caymel bt Glynn 18, 10.

YULE TIME IN ULSTER

The nomadic and popular Richard Yule of Scotland made his annual pilgrimage to Belfast to retain the Men's singles at the Dale Farm Ulster Open Championships at the Valley Leisure Centre.

The Championships this year, through the generous sponsorship of Dale Farms, attracted players from England, Germany, Wales, Scotland and all over Ireland and consequently proved bigger and better than ever before.

Of course, like all good tournaments, there was a fair share of surprises. Part time player Roger Strong knocked out Ulster County singles champion and Irish International Thomas Heasley, and Jack Cash beat Jimmie Robinson.

The affable Welshman John Bloomer dropped a game to the little known Ivan Barton in the 1st Round, and that other great Welsh warrior and No. 2 seed, George Evans was also brought to 3 games by Ken Ginn. Evans went out in the semi-final to Glynn, but had some consolation in winning the veterans.

Ulster's Valerie Moore surprised Leinster's Geraldine Leonard, but was later beaten by Stephanie Jones of Wales. Karen Walker also received a mild shock when she dropped a game to Pat Hunter, but then went on to beat Miss Jones in the semi-final and Anne Leonard (holder) in the final. This was one of 3 good wins for Mrs. Walker and it's good to see her returning to her old form.

The Ulster Open is one of the Dale Farm tournaments and Ulster players were competing for valuable points to qualify for the Dale Farm Grand Prix.

Congratulations to Eddie Limberg, Mrs. Pat Hunter, Alan Strong and the rest of the Ulster Branch for their organisation and again — Dale Farm for making it possible.

Finals:

- Men's Singles:**
R. YULE bt P. Glynn 20, 9.
- Women's Singles:**
K. WALKER bt A. Leonard 19, 18.
- Men's Doubles:**
YULE/GLYNN bt G. Evans/G. Bloomes 18, 15.
- Women's Doubles:**
K. WALKER/S. JONES bt Leonard/I. Canavan 16, 14.
- Mixed Doubles:**
YULE/WALKER bt Evans/Jones 20, 16.

LEINSTER OPEN

The Leinster Open, which was held in St. Kierans College, Kilkenny for the first time, saw Slevin and Anne Leonard once again dominate a major Irish tournament. Miss Leonard beat Deirdre Kilpatrick in the women's final and Slevin widened the recent disparagement between himself and Kevin Keane with a rather facile victory in the men's final.

The only major surprise in the women's event was the elimination of Irish International Mary Sheehan by the youthful Patricia Blair.

The men's singles though had a plethora of shocks. Recently capped Glynn made an early exit when he was knocked-out by that 'non-respector-of-reputations' — Kieran Leonard — brother of Anne and Geraldine. Leonard then went on to beat another International Derek Weir before losing to Slevin in the semi-finals

Making a welcome comeback to the table tennis scene, Jim Langan beat Irish ranked No. 5, Heasley, and then went on to beat Leinster-ranked Dara Melinn in the quarters. He eventually lost to Keane in the semi-final.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

HAMPSHIRE CLOSED

A disappointingly low entry for this event held at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton, meant the finals could be staged and still finish well before 7 p.m. Not like the bad old days at all, — or were they that bad? One reason for non-entry was the inevitable clash with the National League where Generation II took first call on the services on last year's winner Trevor Smith and Martin Abbott.

Of the top eight seeds in the men's singles only five reached the quarters. The three who did not were Chris Wilshere who made an early exit to veteran Terry Duffield; Steve Wilson, surprisingly seeded at No. 2 out first round to George Webb and Chris Pickard went out to Andy Thomas. At the quarter-final stage Simon Heaps beat Rhamish Bhalla 20, 14. Chris Shetler beat John Robinson 4, 13. Derek Holman beat Thomas 17, 17 and junior champion Graham Toole beat Jason Creasey, 17, -20, 15. The semi-finals were to me a little disappointing. Heaps with his "funny bat" hardly got a game out of Shetler who just could not read his game, especially the service. The 15, 16 score line is if anything flattering to Shetler.

In the other semi Holman just knew too much for Toole and prevented him getting in his best shots to win comfortably. In the final Holman trailed 15-18 in the first game but talked his way to a 21-19 win by dominating the rallies before angling the ball out wide to the Heaps forehand. Derek continued these tactics in the second game, with his return of the Heaps service being particularly impressive and came out a 21-17 winner. It's strange how winners go in cycles.

Last season Trevor Smith won his first singles county title for 17 years. The next winner after Trevor was... yes, you've guessed it — Holman and he has not won this title in the intervening years. It is good to see a "Hampshire" player win the title, for Derek has certainly been a loyal supporter of the county and an inspiration to his team. I know proposals are being considered to limit entry to the county closed to players who are prepared to play for the county and exclude "outsiders". Whilst I have sympathy with these thoughts it is even better if the "outsiders" can be beaten!

The non-appearance of the seeded Joyce Coop gave Kathie Conlon a path to the semis with the other three seeds all reaching this stage. Cheryl Creasey had a close win over Julie Reading with the second game a see-saw affair all through. A major upset in the other semi with the unseeded Kathie Conlon winning the first 15 losing a good lead in the second game 20-22 and absolutely hitting off the holder Serina Sinanin 21-4 in the third! What a fighter Kathie is and she showed all these qualities to take the first game of the final over Cheryl. But what an improved player Cheryl is this season. She got back all the hits Kathie could throw at her before getting in with her own powerful hits on both wings to take the next two games.

With Jim Daley (Isle of Wight) not able to defend his veteran singles title, Ray Lush, the holder for the preceding seven years, was a hot favourite, but he lost to Dave Woodcock 19, -21, -14. In the other half an even longer expedite saga ended with Mike Barratt beating Bernie Harrison

-13, 19, 16. In the final Barratt was just too constant for Woodcock and gained his first county title.

All four seeds reached the men's doubles semi with Heaps and Pickard beating Holman and Toole and Creasey and Robinson beating Wilson and Mark Werner. So an all "Dorset" final to the Hampshire closed with Heaps/Pickard beating Creasey/Robinson.

Top seeds Julie Reading and Serina Sinanin beat Andrea Seagar and Mary Clegg to reach the women's doubles final. In the other half Avril Waters and Kathy Conlon put out No. 2 seeds Cheryl Creasey and Samantha Scott-Paulson. The Basingstoke pair however were no match for the No. 1 seeds in the final with the Reading/Sinanin partnership coming out on top. Another all "Dorset" final in the mixed with the Creaseys, Cheryl and Jason beating the No. 1 seeds, Heaps and Julie Reading.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

S. Heaps (BO) bt C. Shetler (S) 15, 16;
D. Holman (BO) bt G. Toole (GF) 10, 14.

Final:

HOLMAN bt Heaps 19, 17.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

C. Creasey (BO) bt J. Reading (BO) 14, 23;
K. Conlon (W) bt S. Sinanin (P) 15, 20, 4.

Final:

CREASEY bt Conlon -15, 13, 15.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Heaps/C. Pickard (BO) bt Holman/Toole 16, 12;

J. Creasey/J. Robinson (BO) bt S. Wilson/M. Werner (BO) 13, 19.

Final:

HEAPS/PICKARD bt Creasey/Robinson 21, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Reading/Sinanin bt A. Seagar/M. Clegg (AL);

A. Waters (BA)/C. Conlon (W) bt Creasey/S. Scott-Paulson.

Final:

READING/SINANIN bt Waters/Conlon 12, 17.

Mixed Doubles Final:

CREASEY/CREASEY bt Heaps/Reading 15, 18.

Veteran Singles Final:

M. BARRETT bt D. Woodcock 14, 14.

Key:

AL—Aldershot, BA—Basingstoke,

BO—Bournemouth, GF—Gosport &

Fareham, P—Portsmouth, S—Southampton,

W—Winchester.

HAMPSHIRE JUNIOR CLOSED

Again held at Redbridge Sports Centre and again a disappointing entry. In the Under-12 boys only three played on a group basis with Jason Heggarty (Bo) winning both his sets to take the title with Jason White (Ba) runner-up. In the U-12 girls' event only four played on a group basis. The inevitable happened with Tracey Scott-Paulson, Sarah Windmill and Elaine Salisbury all winning two and losing one. Tracey was the winner and Sarah the runner-up on sets average. Not a particularly satisfactory way of determining a championship.

In the Cadet boys' Mark Wilding (South East Hants), beat Tony Mogg (Ba) in the semis while Andrew Snellgrove (Andover) beat Tim Gray (S). In the final Snellgrove came through as champion 13, 14. In the Cadet girls' Samantha Scott-Paulson beat Kate Lines (Al) in the semis while Susan Heggarty (Bo) beat Samantha Lewis. The final saw Samantha win the first at 12 but Susan winning the next two both at 17.

So to the main Junior events with No. 3 seed Andy Ely going out early to Richard Walters. In the semis Toole (GF) beat Ian Whyton (Andover) 16, 17 in one semi while Andy Broughton (GF) beat Dave Collins (Ba) -11, 13, 17 in the other. In the final there was really only one player in it with the Hampshire No. 1, Toole beating his fellow Gosport and Fareham opponent Broughton 9, 17. In the girls' Tracey Kneller

(P) beat Kate Lines (Al) in one semi while Helen Frost (Andover) beat Hayley Barker (Ba) in the other. The final, a very see-saw affair, Tracey won the first 19, lost the 2nd -12 but came through 14 in the 3rd against Helen Frost.

In the open doubles event No. 1 seeds Broughton and Toole reached the final with a win over Whyton and Snellgrove. In the other half Paul Davies and Nigel Oh beat the No. 2 seeds Collins and Waters, but were no match for the top seeds in the final, going down -18, -14.

As with the senior closed tournament the County's thanks are due to secretary Harold Albery and referee Peter Thorne for the successful staging of these tournaments.

It was a good job we had two county closed tournaments and an international during the past month as there is very little else to report. In the County Championships, the first team have not played, but the second team after losing 3-7 to Sussex drew 5-5 with Kent 2. In the Sussex match Angela Gilbert, Gary Longland and Bhalla had singles wins, and against Kent Bhalla won two singles and Martin Gilbert and Avril Waters one apiece. A vital win for Hampshire in this match was the set that Rhamish won against Richard Beckman -18, 21, 14.

The first junior team went down 1-9 to Warwickshire and 2-8 to Avon. Tracey Kneller and Helen Frost won the girls' doubles in both matches while Toole gained the only boys' singles success against Avon. The junior second team made a belated start against Surrey and also went down 2-8 with Steve Snow winning a singles and Ely and Graham Smith winning the boys' doubles. The veteran team beat Hertfordshire 7-2 with Ged Holley winning two, Lush, Norman Stagg and Mary Clegg each winning singles. The Veteran team however went down 4-5 to Hertfordshire 2 with Harrison winning two singles. Danny Allan and Maurie Shave one each.

The veterans' ranking list has now been published and is:

Men

1 R. Lush, 2 M. Barratt, 3 M. Stagg,
4 M. Shave, 5 G. Holly, 6 B. Harrison,
7 K. Burton, 8 G. Philpot, 9 D. Ely,
10 J. Harvey, 11 D. Allan, 12 L. Plant.

Women

1A. Waters, 2 M. Clegg, 3 D. Windmill,
4 M. Allen, 5 K. Lyons, 6 B. Duffield,
7 M. Barron, 8 J. Palatzky.

Little action to report in the inter-town league with, I understand, only six matches played so far in the mixed division. In the men's division Bournemouth and Basingstoke have each won both their matches while champions Aldershot have won their only match to date. The junior A division champions Bournemouth "A" have won both their matches with all other teams having dropped points. Bournemouth "B" are the only 100% team in the Veterans' A division with champions Portsmouth "A" being one of their victims.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Mike Freeman

NEW LOOK TEAM

The County sides experienced mixed fortunes in recent weeks. With Nigel Eckersley unavailable, and Dave Constance moving to Dorset, it was a new look Cheshire first team that made the trip to Glamorgan only to lose 3-6.

Cheshire's wins came from Wayne Percival and Janet Deakin in the singles, and Janet partnered by Tony Boasman in the mixed. However Cheshire bounced back to defeat Staffordshire 5-4 at ICI with two very good wins for Boasman. Cheshire's other successes came from Brian Johns, Janet Deakin, and our doubles pair of Johns and Percival.

The second team had a disappointing 1-9 defeat away to Yorks II, with Tony Taylor gaining Cheshire's only victory. The Juniors avenged this defeat at their own level defeating the same county 6-4. Billy Gleave again led the way with two wins ably supported by Peter Flint, Tracy Lightfoot and Lynne Fennah. Rob Bevan also played very well and was unlucky not to record a win. The month was concluded with a 6-3 win for the veterans over Staffs.

Eckersley continued his good run on the tournament circuit taking the men's doubles title in the Midland Counties 3-Star, partnered by Kevin Beadsley. In the singles he defeated Graham Sandley before going down to Paul Day in three. This gives rise to a question mark against the latest English rankings. Nigel, previously ranked No. 11, has been dropped to No. 13 despite his record of no defeats against lower ranked players. Indeed his only defeats have been to Day, twice, and Donald Parker.

The Cheshire Closed Championships have been arranged for Sunday, Feb. 22 at Neston Recreation Centre on the Wirral. Entry forms are available from League Secretaries /County reps or from any Council member.

Obituary

S. L. PLASKETT

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Mr. S. L. Plaskett, Secretary of the Sandbach and District TT League. Mr. Plaskett was 79, and had held the post for 27 years. He took over the position in 1953 and worked tirelessly to bring the league to its present level. In 1977 he was the first man to be awarded the Congleton Borough Sports Council Award for his contribution to the world of sport in the Borough, an award he was very proud of.

OXFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Arthur Chilvers

DEATH OF JOHN LOCKEY

Just after posting my last article in which I reported the illness of John Lockey, I received a telephone call informing me that John's condition had deteriorated and in fact he passed away on Nov. 19.

The County committee join with me in offering our deepest condolences to John's family. John had been an active member and staunch supporter of the County Association for many years and was County umpires' secretary for the past six years. He was not afraid to speak his mind and often contributed to colourful discussion in committee. The RAOB organised a moving service for John and also provided a guard of honour for someone whom they considered to be a dear friend as well as a member of their order. God bless and give you peace John.

On the table there is hope yet for Oxon thanks to the efforts of Neil Hughes, Martin Higgins, Sanjay Kathuria and Peter Jones. Neil was the toast of the county in December. Playing in his first county matches against Beds and Berks he won three of his four singles and showed a spirit and maturity which far exceeded his 15 years. Close behind Neil was Martin who recorded his first victory at county level in the Junior I match against Kent.

The County has decided then when possible they will use the second teams to groom players for the future, hence the continued inclusion of Peter Jones in the senior second team. Peter turned in a Jekyll and Hyde performance in the senior II match against Bucks II. He won one singles in fine style but then played well below himself in losing the other and, in the match versus Worcs, he won both singles.

Cecil Jackson also showed his worth in these matches by winning games and generally helping to hold the team together. Kathuria was the only Oxon player to make headway in the Div. 2 South match against Surrey. He won both his singles whilst the rest of the team struggled to come to terms with the conditions. Sanjay and Neil Abbott combined to win the men's doubles giving the match a final scoreline of 7-3 to Surrey.

On Dec. 6 the Oxford and Dist. TTA were represented for the first time in the National Club Championships by Kiddlington Forum. The Forum travelled to take on the Aylesbury League champions, Haddenham, and triumphed 8-1.

Vikings Sports Club held their annual tournament on Dec. 7 and once again the general improvement in the standard of Oxon table tennis was displayed by the youngsters in particular. It has become a trait of this tournament that seeds fall as early as the preliminary round groups and on this occasion it was no different. In the men's singles Ian Caffel dumped Richard Denbow out and went on to account for Mark Buckland and Brian Hamilton on his way to the semis where he was stopped by Clive Alcock 14 and 12.

Despite these upsets the performance of the day must have been Richard Argyle's defeat of Stan Hahn 19 and 16. I believe this was the first time Stan has lost to a local junior since he himself left these ranks about 19 years ago. Unfortunately for Richard he then lost to Buckland.

There was a greater degree of sanity in the other half of the draw except for the intervention of Wally Allanson, a newcomer to the area. Wally has indifferent league results but once he acquired a feel for the extra space available, in which he could use his defensive skills, he reached the final taking care of Peter Jones, Andy Hammett (quarters) and yours truly (semis). Alcock, showing an overdue return to form, overpowered Wally in the final 12 and 11.

The women were in no mood for any such nonsense in their singles events and the final produced a confrontation between Mary Denbow and Eleanor Hughes. These two girls served up a humdinger of a battle contrasting skilled and careful pushing with all out counter hitting rallies. Eventually it had to end and the victor was Mary taking the title -15, 17 and 19. Other results:

Veteran Singles:

A. Evans bt A. Boone 19, 12.

Women's Doubles:

M. Denbow/J. Windle bt A. Hine/J.

Woodward -17, 9, 23.

Men's Doubles:

A. Chilvers/A. Hammett bt P. Jones/P.

Mabbutt 13, 11.

Mixed Doubles:

C. Morris/Woodward bt Jones/Hine

19, -9, 13.

DURHAM NOTES

by Ray Simpson

REPEAT TRIUMPH

The first tournaments of the season were held during November, and were well attended and competitive.

The South West Durham Closed, held at Woodham Comprehensive School Newton Aycliffe on Nov. 30 was a long day for both competitors and organisers. Players from the three South West Durham leagues, Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland, and Darlington participated.

A very competitive men's singles, in which only four of the seeds reached the last eight, was a repeat triumph for last year's winner John Crawford over Mike Sowerby in three straight. Crawford also combined with Keith Wilson to take the Men's doubles over Sowerby and Norman Chambers.

The junior singles final was between two

youngsters who both have National League experience, Gary Webstell and Martin Gent, and are ranked five and six respectively in the County junior list. On this occasion, Gent got the better of Webstell.

One of the pleasing aspects of the tournament was the rising standard of the novices. The two who played in the final, Graham Kavaner and Anthony Reeve produced an entertaining final, as well as making good progress in higher events.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

J. Crawford bt K. Wilson 10, -19, 16, 19:

M. Sowerby bt B. Powton 5, 14, 12.

Final:

CRAWFORD bt SOWERBY 17, 16, 18.

Men's Doubles:

CRAWFORD/WILSON bt Sowerby/N.

Chambers -19, 10, 17.

C2:

A. ORTON bt R. Simpson 16, -20, 14.

Novice Singles:

G. KAVANER bt A. Reeve -15, 20, 18.

Junior Singles:

M. GENT bt G. Webstell 22, 15.

Women's Singles Final:

Group Winner: L. WILSON.

Girls' Singles:

E. BLACKBURNE bt L. Wilson 15, 20.

Veteran Singles:

F. GRIMSHAW bt A. Orton 8, -19, 16.

Mixed Doubles:

WILSON/Miss S. PROCTOR bt Crawford/

Miss J. Wilson 16, 19.

Girls' Doubles:

WILSON/WILSON bt A. Heath/P. Liddle

9, -18, 17.

The Durham League also held its early season tournament at Belmont Community Centre on Nov. 17.

Winners were:

Division A Singles: Geoff Fletcher.

Division B Singles: Ray Simpson.

Division C Singles: Malcolm Brown.

An attractive feature of this tournament was the round-robin handicap between the three divisional winners, and this resulted in a victory for Brown with 94 points, 2 ahead of Simpson and 7 ahead of Fletcher.

The leaders in the leagues who have communicated with me are:

Aycliffe - Scandura Veterans

Bishop Auckland - SWD "B"

Darlington - DTTC "C"

Durham - Belmont CC "A"

In the County League, not unexpectedly the men's division is between Sunderland and Peterlee; Peterlee Juniors have disposed of their main rivals in the Junior Division; and Sunderland "A" lead the Ladies' Division.

In the National League, SWD's dismay continues, but they could have no complaints about a 9-0 drubbing by league leaders City of Newcastle. Only two sets went to more than two games, the doubles in which "Benny" Robertson and Keith Paxton defeated John Crawford and Tony Gelder -14, 14, 12 and Robertson's win over Bill Reay 16, -15, 14.

Potential entrants of the Durham Open are reminded to submit their entry forms to Don Charlton, 17 North Road, Hetton-le-hole, Tyne and Wear by Feb. 2. The draw takes place on Feb. 15.

It will be interesting to note Durham peoples' views on the number of County and National League fixtures over the Xmas period, and the long journeys involved. For example, Durham Seniors played Yorkshire II at home on Dec. 20, and were away to Cheshire on Jan. 3; Durham juniors were away to Cheshire on Dec. 20 and Cumbria on Jan. 3 while there were National League fixtures on each of the three festive Sundays with long trips also in some cases. Granted these dates are the only ones free in the already heavily committed calendar, but it must be worth bearing in mind when the fixtures are compiled that players and administrators usually prefer to be with

their families during the Christmas season, and could do without the long journeys to faraway places. Perhaps if more consideration is given, the players and organisers will have more relaxing Christmases.

With that off my chest, reports of all the above matches will be in next month's issue.

MIDLAND LEAGUE NOTES

by Ian E. McKelvey

OFTEN NEGLECTED

Let me begin this month with the Veterans, who are all too often neglected or even omitted in reports of this nature. Walsall have had an excellent month in Division I, which they now top. They first obtained a rare point from Nottingham, in a fine match in which the lead fluctuated throughout. Phil Canning and Tony Reeves each won two for Walsall and Don Pritchard one, but Nottingham's Ron Bolton was man of the match with a straight set maximum. Although John Ellis was not playing for Nottingham this should not detract from Walsall's good performance, which leaves them in a challenging position emphasised by their subsequent 7-3 win over Coventry "A", this being Coventry's first defeat. Canning won his three in this match and Reeves again won two. A particularly close set saw John Earles beat Pritchard -17, 21, 26 and Coventry's other two sets came from Roy Thomas.

Birmingham are also in a challenging position in this Division. They beat Oxford "A" 10-0 without any set going to three, and their team of Brian Belcher, Terry Bache and Arthur Sutton has dropped only one set this season. After strengthening their team by the recall of Alf Davies and Peter Benning, Oxford beat Gloucester 6-4, Davies being unbeaten. Leicester's first win of the season came over West Bromwich. Geoff Aldwinckle, Phil Overend and Bryan Hall put Leicester 6-0 up, but in a strange reversal of form Les Williams, Dennis Preston and Bill Horton took the last four sets. The same West Bromwich trio also lost 7-3 to Coventry "A", and will need some points soon to survive. Another team to lose 7-3 to Coventry was Kidderminster, who also need points quickly if they are not to make an immediate return to Division 2. Roy Thomas won maximums for Coventry in both these matches.

Cheltenham, Nuneaton and Derby "A" have each won their first two Veterans Div. 2 matches. The promotion race between these should be interesting, and Nottingham "B" need not be discounted since they have won twice, following their opening defeat by Derby "A".

Bristol are now the only 100% team in Men's Division 1. They beat a below strength Derby "A" team 9-1, with Kevin Satchell and Andy Creed unbeaten and Steve Yallop collecting Derby's only win over Martyn Smith in the first set of the match. Leicester lost their first point at Wolverhampton in a fine drawn match. Andy Bellingham won three for the home side, while Grahame Hall and Maurice Newman each won twice for Leicester and combined to take the doubles from Bellingham and Andy Rich. An out of form Keith Fellows found his one-time team-mates too good for him. Derby "A", this time at full strength, crushed Cheltenham 10-0, and the latter appear set to struggle unless David Harvey and Steve Moreman return to the team.

Nottingham "A" head the Men's Second Division but only Birmingham "A" have an unblemished record. Nottingham beat Coventry "A" 6-4. Alan Croome winning three and Robert Watson and reserve Terry Bramford each winning one in support. Kevin Pilgrim and Mark Dexter won two apiece for Coventry, although Watson took them both to 19 in the third. Potteries "B" recorded a 7-3 win over Wolverhampton

"B", getting off to a very good start through Phil Anderson beating Sid Hodgetts 4, 8 (!) and Steve Rowe's 15, 15 win over Chris Davies. But this was no easy match as the remaining seven singles all went the distance, and all but one of them was 17 or closer in the decider. Anderson won his three for Potteries.

The Men's Third Division is also headed by a Nottingham team, their "B" team. They look likely to stay there for the rest of the season following their 7-3 win over Shrewsbury. Trevor Kerry maintained his unbeaten record and was well supported by Terry Bramford and Orford Spencer with two each. Les and Ian Baker each won one for Shrewsbury, and also won the doubles. Oxford have moved up the table with 9-1 wins over Kidderminster and Derby "B", Peter Jones gaining a maximum in both these matches.

Junior Division I has split up into two distinct sections, with Coventry "A", Nottingham "A", Birmingham "A" and Gloucester all unbeaten, and Cheltenham, Nottingham "B" and Shrewsbury yet to gain a point. Between these two groups lie Chesterfield who got off the mark with a 7-3 win over Cheltenham. Darren Burton, David Hinchliffe and Nigel Hughes each won two, as did Richard Russell for Cheltenham. Wolverhampton have yet to play. Div. 2 is getting a little behindhand, with only one result received this month, an 8-2 win for leaders Birmingham "B" over Coventry "B". Birmingham's Rod Lewis and Craig Stevens were hardly extended in this match.

An important match in Junior Div. 3 resulted in a 6-4 win for Market Drayton "A" over Hinckley. Colin Jones won his three for Hinckley, and also the doubles with Andy Allen, but David Williams, Sean Groom and Colin Wilson each took two for Market Drayton. Colin Jones extended his unbeaten record to four matches when Hinckley beat Nuneaton 8-2. Andy Bache winning Nuneaton's two. Albrighton also have an unbeaten player, Martin Tufft, who helped his side to wins 6-4 over Kidderminster and 8-2 over Birmingham "C".

Hinckley are top of this division at the moment, with six points from four matches. Market Drayton are second with the same record but an inferior games average. However, Coventry "C" are ominously placed third, two points behind but with two games in hand. They must be the likely winners of the division having already beaten Market Drayton 9-1. The latter have played all the other teams in the top five and should be able to consolidate their position against the bottom five teams.

Junior Div. 4 leaders, Loughborough, were held to a draw by Chesterfield "B". Tony Porter and David Allison each won two for Chesterfield, but neither could prevent Paul Bumpus taking a two straight maximum for Loughborough. The North Derbyshire team inflicted an 8-2 defeat on Mansfield, their heaviest defeat of the season, with Allison and David Rhodes each winning three. Market Drayton "B" are also in the running, recording a very easy 10-0 win over their struggling "C" team and an 8-2 win over Stratford, whose two were won by Julian Strangward. Paul Fisher is unbeaten for Market Drayton "B" after four matches.

EAST MIDLAND CADETS LEAGUE

by Philip Reid

COVENTRY SUPREME

With two of the three sets of fixtures completed Coventry are the only 100% team remaining. Nottingham have a very useful team but could only manage one set and Lincoln, well clear of the bottom of the chart were 'whitewashed'. 100% David Aldwinckle also fell to Coventry when Leicester lost 2-8, losing to both Michael Thomas and Ian Davies. Thomas in fact

has played in three matches but only Aldwinckle has as much as taken him to three. Surprise packet are Loughborough who are proudly sitting in second spot. Their position is all the more remarkable in that practically all their sets have come from Paul Bumpus and Louise Forster. Their latest three victories — against Grantham, Hinckley and Lincoln were secured with only one set being gained by their No. 3 although the rich promise of Richard Grimley could bring them further success in the future.

Leamington Spa also brought off a couple of good wins. Whilst they could manage only one set against their near neighbours Coventry they had fine wins over both Nuneaton and Lincoln, both Colin Aston and Andrew Hewitt looking impressive. Leicester, well placed before the start of the session managed only two draws and a defeat from the day. Almost single-handed against Coventry II Aldwinckle rescued a point although Marcus Bellot showed a good temperament when it mattered beating David Tucker in the vital ninth game. Against Nottingham it was the turn of Joanne Murray to shine in a match where another Aldwinckle maximum secured a point.

Coventry II merely serve to show the depth of young players Coventry possess. With six wins out of nine Mark Randle was the architect of Coventry's great performance of draws with Nottingham and Leicester and a win over Nuneaton. Melanie McHale is another player who looked a good bet for the future. Nottingham, with two wins before the commencement of play, failed to add to that total, breaking even with Leicester and Coventry II and suffering the same fate as everyone else to Coventry I. They will though, be heartened by the continued improvement of Richard Tilford and Michael Archer.

Lincoln had three defeats to show for their efforts but here it was David Colam and Tim Davis who showed most promise. Cathy Bryan inspired Grantham to a fine win over Hinckley and she also looked good against Loughborough. Nuneaton's Chris Bache must be wondering what he must do to finish on the winning side. So far he has won all his 18 sets but the team are anchored bottom but one with one point from six outings. Finally — congratulations to Hinckley. After three 10-0 defeats first time round they took a point from Nuneaton in their second set of matches — well done K. Woodhead, J. Neville and D. Grundy.

1980-81 Second Session

Coventry II 5 Leicester 5
Hinckley 5 Nuneaton 5
Loughborough 6 Grantham 4
Leamington 7 Lincoln 3
Coventry I 9 Nottingham 1
Grantham 3 Leamington 7
Lincoln 0 Coventry I 10
Nuneaton 3 Coventry II 7
Leicester 5 Nottingham 5
Hinckley 2 Loughborough 8
Lincoln 3 Loughborough 7
Nottingham 5 Coventry II 5
Coventry I 8 Leicester 2
Grantham 7 Hinckley 3
Leamington 7 Nuneaton 3

Coventry I	6	6	0	0	52	8	12
Loughborough	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Leamington	6	4	0	2	38	24	8
Leicester	6	2	2	2	32	28	6
Coventry II	6	2	2	2	31	29	6
Nottingham	5	2	2	1	23	27	6
Derby	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Lincoln	6	2	0	4	25	35	4
Grantham	6	2	0	4	22	38	4
Nuneaton	6	0	1	5	21	39	1
Hinckley	6	0	1	5	10	50	1

Leading Averages

(Qualification - 3 matches)

Chris Bache (Nu)	18	18	100
Michael Thomas (Co)	9	9	100
Paul Bumpus (Lo)	15	14	93
David Aldwinckle (Le)	18	16	89

Clive Geelan (Co)	15	13	27
Louise Forster (Lo)	15	12	80
Mark Randle (Co)	18	14	78
Michael Archer (No)	15	11	73
Colin Aston (Ls)	18	12	67
Richard Tilford (No)	15	10	67

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

GOOD START MAINTAINED

Cambs Juniors continued their good start to the season in Junior 2 East of the County Championships with a 5-5 draw against Essex at Wisbech. Essex, who were relegated from the Premier Division for the first time last season are considered favourites for this division but Cambs were their equal and looked likely to win when they were 5-3 in the lead. Paul Stacey who has never fulfilled his potential at County level, at last came good and was the key figure in earning the home county a point. He beat Ian Attridge and Paul Sayer to complete his first double at first team level and Julian Wheel and Jamie Frost gave him good support with wins over Steve Dettmar. Ruth Hunter and Tracey Fisher, who played so well in the last match against Middlesex, were unable to win the singles on this occasion but they showed great fighting spirit to win the doubles 27-25 in the third game after trailing 15-20. With only Tracy Fisher of last season's Championship winning team still playing, this season was thought to be a transitional one for Cambs but with three points from four and a match to come against Oxfordshire, who lost 0-10 to Essex they could again be in the running for the title!

RESULTS

P. Stacey bt I. Attridge 19, -8, 19;
bt P. Sayer 18, 23.
J. Wheel lost to Attridge -17, 23, -18;
bt S. Dettmar -19, 16, 13.
J. Frost bt S. Dettmar 13, -14, 17;
lost to Sayer -16, -7.
R. Hunter lost to K. Mudge -21, -15.
T. Fisher lost to T. Taylor -9, -16.
Wheel/Frost lost to Attridge/Taylor -20, -16.
Hunter/Fisher bt Mudge/Taylor 19, -15, 25.

In the Wilmott and Carter Cup, Cambridge had successes when in the first round of each competition they beat Luton and Wisbech respectively by scores of 5-3 and 6-3. Cambridge Men's team of Albert Jackson, John Thurston and David Tiplady performed very well with Jackson and Thurston being unbeaten and Tiplady winning one. In the second round they are up against North Herts which will be a tough proposition with N. Herts being able to call on Mick Harper and Richard Jermy.

Cambridge Junior team of Julian Wheel, Martin Livermore and Tim Ashman performed very well and Wheel was successful in all three of his sets with Livermore getting two and Ashman one. Their next match is against March who include in their ranks three County players — Paul Stacey, Michael Lister and Paul Oldroyd.

In the South East Midlands League, Cambridge had a good 9-1 win against Bedford which should improve their position. Cambridge's only defeat came when Egert lost to David Beddall and in this match Cambridge included two University players — Walmsley and Egert for the first time. Cambridge Veterans had a good win over Northampton whom they beat 7-3 and so kept their position at the top of the league.

In the Cambridge and District League St. Ives went back to the top of Division 1 following wins of 9-1 over Swavesey I and 7-3 against Soham IV. They went two points ahead of N.C.I. I who won 7-3 against Soham II for whom Clive Woollard had a shock win over Thurston. N.C.I. II like their first team were unable to beat University II. Bob Parkins beat Ernst Egert and completed a hat trick of wins, but lacked support from his team mates. Wesley, top of

Div. II, increased their lead to 13 points by beating Telephones I 9-1 while second-placed Fisons could only manage to beat Torchbearers I 6-4. Police's 10-0 win over Telephones II puts them level on points with Fisons. Wesley II also increased their lead at the top of Div. IIIb by beating Saffrons II 9-1, while second-placed Shirehall were again struggling to draw with Haverhill II.

In Div. IVA only three points separate the first six teams. Joint leaders Titleist and St. George's III were both held to draws by teams in the bottom half of the division. Even with Gerald Coteman in the team Titleist could only manage a draw against Soham VI who had a family team of Chris. Everett and his two sons Alan and Tony. St. George's were held up by Roy Goodwin in their match against Impington III and were unable to improve on Titleist effort to take a clear lead at the top. A 9-1 win by Caravans International over South Cambs RDC took them level with the leaders to give three teams 43 points. CIBA who were in third place also drew with GORD to remain one point behind the top three. Torchbearers III with two 10-0 wins also join CIBA on 42 points while GORD drop to sixth place with 40 points.

The Cambs League KO Handicap Trophy which has now reached the third round contains 4 teams from Wesley and four from Soham. The results of second round matches were as follows:

General Accident 1 Wesley V 5
St. George's III 7 Haverhill II 2
CIBA I 3 Soham VI 6
CIBA III 4 Press II 5
Wesley VI 4 Impington V 5
Saffrons II 3 Fisons II 5
SRDC I 1 Chivers I 8
SRDC II 2 CIBA II 7
Impington II 1 MAFF 8
Netherhall 5 LPA I 2
Simplex II 3 Soham II 6
Torchbearers I 5 Guildhall 4
Saffrons IV 4 Impington III 5
NCI I 6 Electricity 2
Torchbearers III 1 Wesley II 8
St. George's VII 3 Haverhill I 6
Press III 2 Wesley III 7
Pye Unicam 9 St. Ives 0
Fulbourn Hospital 9 Soham VIII 0
LPA II 5 Hauxton 0
YMCA I 8 Telephones III 1
Telephones IV 9 Press I 0
Wesley I 5 Soham IV 3
Haslingfield 1 Caravans Int. 8

The Cambs Closed Championships are being held at the Cambridge Sports Hall on Saturday, Jan. 10 commencing at 9 a.m. A large entry is expected and there will certainly be some fine table tennis from the various members who are now playing in the 1st Division. There will be 11 tables in play and it is hoped that the events will go smoothly and well and so enable the Finals to be played at a reasonable hour.

At this half way stage of the season I must congratulate all club secretaries on their dedication to the game and but for their teams would not be able to exist in the league, so keep up the good work all of you! Congratulations must also go to all League Secretaries who have control of their various leagues and who are so essential for the working of the league. In some cases they are also treasurer, a post which also calls for the utmost conscientiousness.

Then, of course, there is the County Secretary Peter Diver who has just come into office and during the first few months of "his reign" he has proved himself most efficient. There are also Executive Committees, Selection Committees, Umpires Committees and Coaching Committees without which the smooth running of competitions would be most arduous. Thanks to all of you concerned and I am sure that all players and fans are only too aware of your work!

Contributions from leagues in Cambs are

most heartily welcome and I can assure them that I will do my utmost to include any items of local news that they have to offer me.

Happy New Year to everyone!

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

SERIOUS RISK

Against a Cheshire side weakened by the absence of Nigel Eckersley, England No. 13, Staffordshire were unable to consolidate their position in the Premier Division of the County Championships and now face a serious risk of relegation after only one year amongst the top counties. The match result was a tremendous disappointment, because at 3-1 up and with Jill Harris of Walsall, newly ranked at No. 18 in England, due to play unranked Jane Deakin, Staffs looked well set to gain both points. But Cheshire recovered with a run of four wins, gaining the men's doubles, women's singles, and then narrow victories by Brian Johns over Tony Isaac and Tony Boasman, the Norton player, over Andrew Bellingham.

The highlight of the earlier play was a remarkable recovery by Isaac who came back from 16-19 down in the third to pip Wayne Percival 22-20. Bellingham easily beat Johns and Andrew Rich and Jill Harris maintained their unbeaten record in the mixed doubles. Rich narrowed the final score to 5-4 with a clear victory over Percival, but it was little consolation to a team which has worked so hard together to take the County into the top division.

We must, however, congratulate Jill Harris on achieving National senior ranking. A fine performance, and the first Staffordshire senior ranking for quite a number of years.

The only other county team to be involved recently was the senior "B" side who comfortably beat Derbyshire to maintain their unbeaten record.

On the local tournament scene, let me first confirm that the County Closed will take place at Northwood Centre on Sunday, Mar. 8. Entry forms can be obtained through league representatives or from me, telephone Stafford 822013.

The Malcolm Scott Restricted was held at the Woodfield Club in Wolverhampton and juniors dominated both the men's and women's events. Group winners in the women's were Amanda Hegarty, Fiona Elliott, Rachel Roberts and Joanne Chubb and Fiona Elliot confirmed her county ranking by remaining unbeaten in the final group with Rachel Roberts runner-up. In the men's, group winners were as follows:

C. Bakewell, J. Riley, Andrew Dixon,
G. Platt
M. O'Sullivan, G. Dace, P. Dawes,
W. Bridgeman
Ray Dixon, P. Dilger, M. Harvey,
P. Chester

and from the above groups Andrew Dixon, Bill Bridgeman and Martin Harvey emerged as finalists. Martin did exceptionally well to reach this far, upsetting the rankings with a win over Paul Dilger and then beating Andrew Dixon to take the runner-up position. Andrew played well all day only to lose both his final matches but Bridgeman must now catch the selectors' eye with excellent wins against Peter Dawes and then the other two finalists to be worthy winner of this popular event. Scores in the final round were:

Bridgeman bt Harvey 20, 14;
bt Dixon 19, 17.
Harvey bt Dixon 12, 21.

Many thanks on behalf of the County to Jim and Joyce Hayward, Mr. and Mrs. McIlreath, Mr. Harvey and members of the Woodfield Club for the work put in to make the event a success.

Unfortunately we are losing the chairman of our selection committee. Dave Evans now finds his commitments as a coach taking up so much of his time that he is unable to do justice to the job. Hopefully, we will find another member of this committee will take over chairmanship until the end of the season.

Draw for the Beattie Trophy is as follows:

Cannock v Walsall "A"
Potteries v Lichfield "C"
Lichfield "A" v Lichfield "B"
Stafford v Walsall "B"

Regretfully, Cheadle League has decided against affiliation to the County and the ETTA. They are not a large league and they say they are unable to benefit from various County activities such as coaching and inter-league events, but I hope that none of their players will suffer from this estrangement which I trust will be temporary.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

FIRST POINTS FOR JUNIORS

The Northumberland County first team were without a match on Nov. 29, but the seconds won 7-3 at Byker Community Centre against a weak Cumbria side, and the juniors picked up their first points with an emphatic 8-2 win away to Derbyshire. Cumbria got a good start when Alan Fay beat Fred Short on expedite, but they failed to win another men's singles or either doubles, and it was left to their women, Bella Gray and Janet Sephton, to score the other victories over Caron Buglass and Shirley Laver respectively. Martin Young and Dave McAllister — the latter on his debut — were undefeated. In the junior match, Martin Schapira, David Maughan and Christine Burke were undefeated, but Neil McMaster lost his first singles of the season, and Clare Mouzon lost the second girls' singles.

New ranking lists have been issued, and it is quite unbelievable that John Burke, who started the season at No. 4, but slipped to No. 9, is now excluded completely.

Bob Dodds, who has one of the best League records in the Premier Division this season, moves up to No. 6, and Neil McMaster is now at No. 8, but his elder brother Malcolm slips from No. 8 to No. 13. The only new player to be ranked is Phil Stewart, who comes in at No. 14. The only change in the women's ranking list is that Susan Norris and Daphne Russell change places to become Nos. 7 and 8 respectively. Dean Hastie, No. 9 in the junior boys' list last month, has been omitted from the current list, but the biggest climbs have been made by Nicholas Ringrose to No. 7 (from No. 10) and Anjum Shakoor to No. 11 (from No. 15), while David Oxley comes back into the reckoning at No. 13. The junior girls' list shows little significant change in ranking order, but the Wilkinson sisters, Karen and Denise, are new additions this month at Nos. 7 and 8 respectively.

City of Newcastle are currently clear at the top of Div. 2 (North) in the National League, following Norton's defeat at the hands of Salford Select, and their own 9-0 victory away to South-West Durham, the successful team being Chu Van Que, Ian Robertson, Keith Paxton and Andrew Clark. Their next match will be at home to Norton on Dec. 21, so a big turnout is hoped for in this vital fixture, which will follow Chu Van Que's home County debut against Cleveland the previous day.

The Northumberland League side were without the services of Chu for the Wilmott Cup clash with the Sunderland League, but still ran out 5-2 winners. Ian Robertson (3), Andrew Clark and Fred Short gaining the winning points. The Tyneside Summer League played Stockton in the same com-

petition, but the young side of Dave Godbold, Cliff Olsson and Dave McAllister found the Teessiders too experienced and crashed 0-5.

Gladstone Terrace 'A' (Bob Dodds, Paul Said and Jimmy Scope) are still unbeaten in the Premier Division of the Northumberland League, with Electrics 'A' staying in second place, but a lot will obviously depend on how often Chu will be available for League matches. Other first and second placings as at Nov. 24 are as follows:

Div. 1 - North Shields E.E., Simonside 'A'.
Div. 2A - South Shields YMCA 'B', RGS 'A'.
Div. 2B - North Shields YMCA 'B', Delaval CC 'D'.
Div. 3A - Electrics 'D', DHSS 'B'.
Div. 3B - Ashington YMCA, BSRA 'A'.
Div. 3C - Whitehouse Lane 'A', West Allotment 'A'.
Div. 4A - St. Margaret's 'B', Byker CC 'H'.
Div. 4B - Tyne Gas 'B', East Cramlington 'C'.
Div. 4C - Delaval CC 'F', DHSS 'E'.

At that time, Andrew Clark (Premier), Mike Dunn (3A), Steve Allen (3C), Mark Patterson (4A) and John Bridges (4B) all had 100% records, while Ian Robertson (Premier), Fred Woodhouse (1), Michael Shorten (2B), Matty Clark (3A), Don Catley (3B), Jack Whitehouse (3C) and Andrew Drapkin, Steve Young, Alan Behrsing and Ken Wilson (all 4C) had each only lost one set.

The Crow's Transport Northumberland Junior Closed Tournament will take place at Scotswood Sports Centre on Saturday, Feb. 7, commencing at 09.30 hours. There will be boys' and girls' U-17 singles and doubles, cadet boys' and girls' U-14 singles, and cadet doubles and U-11 singles open to both sexes. The Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open Tournament will take place at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, on Saturday, May 2, and entry forms will be circulated as soon as available. We are once again indebted to our sponsors for making it possible to organise these tournaments on the scale which is now demanded at this level of table tennis.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Brian Halliday

TUG OF WAR

The tug of war that is going on between the National League clubs on the one hand and the County Associations on the other has hit Berkshire. The County have tried to keep a low profile on the problem but there is no doubt that now players loyalties are being stretched to the limit. Berkshire are fortunate that there are reserves of strength at present to ensure that our 2nd division title challenge is barely affected. However, if the County are fortunate enough to achieve a place in the Premier Division Play-Off matches, do they bring in their National League stars who were unavailable in several of the matches, or do they hold faith, with our reserve string performers.

There must be other counties who will have to face this difficult problem, either way it looks as if the County Selectors cannot win. If the Championships are to survive and they must, if only as a breeding ground for young talent to blossom in full team competition, then there would seem to be only two solutions. 1 - To hold all county matches on two weekends only or, 2 - ensure that County results are used for ranking purposes. The National League is here to stay, and it may be that the County Championships will have to alter both its approach and format if it is to survive.

Our senior team came back from their visit to Devon with both points. Sam Harmer was again at his dynamic best with two great wins, Iain Fullerton, drafted into the line up at the last minute won a vital singles on his senior debut. His perform-

ance certainly impressed the county selectors as he holds his place for the next match against Somerset. Well done Iain.

No joy for Berks II for their visit to Sussex where they found Puddock, Moore and Company too strong.

The junior first team have lost to Essex by 3-7 and Kent by 1-9. Both matches closer than the scores would suggest. The second team beat Bucks II easily but found Oxford II a little too experienced. Team selection problems in this match undoubtedly cost Berkshire a point.

Our veterans have been enjoying several tough competitive matches. Two excellent fixtures played in tremendous spirit against Sussex saw both counties emerge with honours even, both results being 5-4. Kerry Underwood, drafted in at the last moment, against Sussex I had a fine debut for the second team and should be selected on merit again before long.

Newbury confirmed their position as the top men's team, in the county when they won all their matches at this season's inter-town competition. Omega of Reading star, Dave Reeves led his team in inspired fashion with eight wins and had excellent support from Richard Kozlowski and Dave Wise. Slough claimed the runners-up spot but both Maidenhead and Reading had a disappointing day. Reading were forced to field a weaker note than usual and from being last season's champions they slumped to bottom place.

Reading 'B' did not fare much better in Div. 2 of the men's competition. This section was given added interest this year by the inclusion of guest teams from Gravesend and High Wycombe. The former sent a very useful note and they duly won the title only being extended by the eventual runners-up Bracknell. Steve Everand spearheaded the Bracknell challenge with eight wins from ten matches and has made an impressive return to form.

There was compensation for Reading in the veterans' competition with a resounding success against their five rival towns. Dave Jones, the current Berks No. 2 has six wins out of six but the top player proved to be the Gillette 1st Division player Felix Ziemba with eight successive victories.

Swindon brought a very strong ladies team to contest the Ladies Division and duly ran out deserved winners. They only conceded three sets all day and two of these were to Caroline Reeves of Newbury whose 100% record was mainly responsible for her side being in the eventual runners-up position.

The current position for the Barbara Peesley Cup is Reading 7 points Newbury 6, Bracknell 5, Maidenhead 4, Didcot 3. The junior sections take place in January and on these results will depend who is Champion town for 1980-81.

Dave Reeves scored yet another hat trick for Woolton Hill in the Newbury League. Their 5-5 draw with Thatcham 'A' means that both sides are unbeaten this season. These two sides have dominated the local Newbury scene for the past six seasons and last years double for Woolton Hill over their old rivals gave them the title by four points.

In the National Schools under-11 boys 1st round, Falkland Primary lost 3-5 to national champions Aldryngton of Earley. This was a fine performance by the Newbury side, as Aldryngton have a powerful talented squad under the direction of the current chairman of the England Selectors, Pete Charters.

Omega still lead the way in Reading but there is battle royal going on for the runners up spot with five teams all with chances.

The selectors have issued a revised Berkshire ranking list. There are no significant changes in the men's list from 1-10 but Simon Rowland comes straight in at No. 11 and 12-years-old Jimmy Stokes gets recog-

nition for a number of fine wins by being included at No. 15.

Two new names from the Omega stable feature prominently in the boys' list, Andrew Syed at No. 9 and Paul Savins at No. 12.

Men

1 A. Wellman (R) (1), 2 S. Harmer (R) (2), 3 D. Reeves (N) (3), 4 J. Stokes (Sen) (R) (4), 5 I. Fullerton (M) (5), 6 S. Montgomery (M) (6), 7 R. Kozlowski (N) (8), 8 G. Outrim (B) (9), 9 D. Gilham (B) (7), 10 P. Quoulin (B) (12), 11 S. Rowland (R) (—), 12 R. Mason (B) (13), 13 M. Dean (M) (11), 14 B. Halliday (B) (15), 15 J. Stokes (Jun) (R) (—), 16 D. Rose (R) (14), 17 S. Hodder (B) (—), 18 R. Davis (R) (—), 19 R. Chester (R) (16), 20 D. Wise (N) (10).

Women

1 A. Gordon (R) (1), 2 M. Smith (N) (2), 3 C. Reeves (N) (3), 4 S. Blackburn (M) (4), 5 J. Collins (R) (5), 6 S. Collier (M) (6), 7 J. Godwin (N) (8), 8 G. Knightley (M) (7), 9 T. Vallis (R) (9), 10 S. Killford (R) (10), 11 R. Champion (R) (11), 12 R. Purseglyde (R) (12), 13 L. Green (R) (14), 14 G. Davies (R) (13), 15 S. Richardson (N) (15), 16 J. Richardson (N) (16).

Boys

1 I. Fullerton (M) (1), 2 S. Rowland (R) (2), 3 J. Stokes (R) (3), 4 M. Childs (R) (4), 5 L. Russell (M) (5), 6 S. Miller (M) (6), 7 P. Halliday (R) (7), 8 A. Nash (B) (12), 9 A. Syed (R) (—), 10 M. King (N) (10), 11 A. Grant (M) (11), 12 P. Savins (R) (—), 13 K. Griffin (B) (13), 14 N. Langly (N) (14), 15 M. Ridley (B) (15), 16 G. Lovell (M) (16).

Veteran Men

1 A. Foster (R) (1), 2 D. Jones (R) (2), 3 P. Charters (R) (3), 4 B. Halliday (B) (4), 5 M. Dean (M) (5), 6 C. Finden (R) (8), 7 C. Dyke (M) (6), 8 E. Cripps (R) (7), 9 H. Bartholomew (12), 10 R. Holiday (R) (9), 11 T. Howie (M) (10), 12 K. Underwood (11), 13 A. Dines (R) (16), 14 R. Greaves (N) (14), 15 J. Lloyd (M) (15), 16 J. Legg (M) (13).

Cadet Boys

1 J. Stokes (Jun) (R) (1), 2 A. Syed (R) (2), 3 P. Savins (R) (4), 4 M. Syed (R) (5), 5 P. Andrews (R) (3), 6 P. Lewis (M) (8), 7 K. Hodder (R) (15), 8 S. Champion (R) (6), 9 M. Metcalfe (M) (7).

Girls

No Change.

Veteran Ladies

No Change.

Key:

R—Reading, B—Bracknell, N—Newbury, M—Maldenhead.

Finally Berkshire TTA join with Newbury TTA in having to report the very sad news of the death of Reg Baron. Reg was an excellent ETTA Student Coach and a man of cheerfulness and enthusiasm for the game. His sportsmanship was an example to the youngsters of the Newbury Junior Club and he will be missed not least by Newbury but by his old friends and colleagues in the Tunbridge Wells and London Banks Leagues. To his family and friends we express our deep sympathy.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Gerald Green

COUNTY CLOSED

Three in a row for Malcolm
— 'First' for Denise

For the second successive year County No. 1 Malcolm Green rose from a sick bed ('flu), to win the 'Closed' Championships. He was so unwell he played against his father's advice and was never able to reach anything like top form. However he proved too good for any of his Shropshire opponents, winning all his sets in straight games to take the title for the fifth time in six years, although still not 20.

Denise Boughey, one of the many promising youngsters from The Grove, Market Drayton, who would have been seeded 5, filled Alison Barker's place when she withdrew due to ligament trouble, then proceeded to justify the referee's decision by winning the title in the women's singles. She beat the holder and No. 4 seed Linda Degg, Shrewsbury, in the final—despite not being able to 'read' Linda's bat. Linda had completely fooled everyone else, including No. 2 seed Colette Soan.

Graham Cheetham, Shrewsbury, is the new Veterans' title holder, beating Bill Herbert, Telford, in a hard fought contest and despite a mid game change of bat by Bill. It is good to see increased entries for this event.

Inter League Secretary Martin Chambers, in partnership with Green, won the Men's Doubles—the first title he has ever won.

Linda Degg, with her usual partner Jane Cheetham, gained some consolation for her defeat in the singles, by winning the women's doubles title with no trouble at all.

There were no Mixed Doubles this year, which eased the task of referee Bill Harris and his assistant Barry Taylor, and the tournament was completed much earlier than in past years. County Association President Bill Harris presented trophies and cash prizes to the winners.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Green (S) bt Ivan Smith (P) 15, 15;
Ian Baker (S) bt Les Baker (S) 19, 10.

Final:

GREEN bt Baker 9, 13.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Green/Martin Chambers (S) bt Motto Jones (S)/Clive Roberts (O) -18, 13, 13;

Baker/Baker bt Malcolm Brown (S)/

Graham Cheetham (S) 14, 17.

Final:

GREEN/CHEETHAM bt Baker/Baker 16, 16.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

Linda Degg (S) bt Colette Soan (G) 8, 5;
Denise Boughey (G) bt Jane Cheetham (S)

-16, 15, 10.

Final:

BOUGHEY bt Degg 14, -18, 11.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Degg/Cheetham bt Boughey/Carol

Wickstead (G) 18, 10;

Soan/Dawn Wickstead (G) bt Alison

Stephens (P)/Joanne Smith (P) 13, 19.

Final:

DEGG/CHEETHAM bt Soan/Wickstead 5, 7.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

G. Cheetham bt Peter Morriss (G) 13, 8;

Bill Herbert (T) bt Motto Jones 20, 12.

Final:

CHEETHAM bt Herbert -18, 10, 14.

Key:

S—Shrewsbury, G—Grove, Market Drayton,

P—Pontesbury, T—Telford, O—Oswestry.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Moss

WISH APPRECIATED

The Association was fortunate in being able to fill the important posts without too much difficulty. It was disappointing that Janet Hunt gave up the Match Secretaryship but her wish for a rest after so many seasons good work was appreciated. Ken Jukes took on the role sharing some duties with Team Captains.

The Senior trials were arranged in Malvern but a number of players were distinguished by their absence! There were only 6 players present which was disappointing. Further disappointment occurred when, at short notice, Notts cancelled their visit to meet Worcs I team.

However, the 1st team got off to a good start when they visited Northants. The County was represented by Simon Claxton, Trevor Washington, Jeremy Duffield, Jenny Cornock and Mandy Mytton. Mandy is now

at Birmingham University where her studies include Physical Recreation. She is getting competitive play there and is still available to play for the County. The team won 8-2 with Claxton looking in a class of his own. More recently the team did very well to make a draw with Leics.

The 2nd team commenced their programme with a home match versus Shropshire and a good 7-3 win. With Bob Brown not available the team comprised Steve Moreman, Nick Bottomley, Simon Gray, Lynda Reid and Mandy Westwood. With ample chances to secure a win the II team have recently made a draw with Oxfords.

With Duffield promoted to the 1st team the Juniors have had to struggle. Murray Jukes has been doing well but has needed better support. It was disheartening to suffer a 10-0 defeat in the first match but there was a very good fight against Devon II and the team was unlucky to lose 4-6.

In contrast the Veterans team has been sweeping all before them. The team has the "old firm" of Brian Belcher and Mervyn Wood playing as well as ever. In the first match Derek Baddeley played as No. 1 v Bucks and Barry White came in against Herts III. Janet Hunt is now a regular member of the team and is playing very well. Both matches have been won 8-1 so the team is off to a good start.

Terry Round (Kidderminster) has got the County League running again this season with 8 teams, 3 of which are from Kidderminster! Other Leagues represented are Bromsgrove, Malvern, Dudley, Worcester and Droitwich Hardware, a very strong Worcester League club team have also been permitted to enter.

The County Teams K.O. Competitions are also well under way with Peter Bird again acting as Secretary. There are 30 teams from all the leagues in the Handicap competition. The range of handicapping for teams is Scratch up to rec. 280. Matches are 3-a-side with 18 singles events.

A great deal of interest this season is centred on Div. 1 of the Worcester League which has been transformed and must be one of the strongest in the Midlands. This started last season when a few very good players joined the League and many others have followed this season. These include Dave Harvey, Bryan Merrett, Bill Dawe and Darien Griffin (Glos.); Lester Bertie, A. Cockerill and Richard Tanner (Warwicks); Mark Owen and A. Castle (Herefords). In addition there are a number of top-ranked Worcs players including Claxton, Duffield, Moreman, Bottomley and Gray. Many of these players are playing regularly and therefore there should be some exceptional games in the Worcester League championships.

The County Closed Championships are to be played on Feb. 15, 1981 at the Winter Gardens, Malvern, which should be a marvellous venue with excellent facilities and give the Tournament some status.

Having made a financial loss the Association has more than recovered the situation as a result of a Christmas Draw and a Social. As always with such an event, Beryl Shammon was the organiser who encouraged many to help with prizes, sale of tickets, etc. Valuable assistance was given by Molly Hough, Diana Moss and Peggy Mytton.

The County Junior Closed Championships were held at Catshill School, Bromsgrove, on Nov. 30, with John Mytton (Referee), and Diana Moss (Tournament Sec.) in charge of events. Duffield, with still another season to go as a Junior, won the Boys' Singles for the fifth time. The finals resulted as follows:

Boys' Singles:

J. Duffield bt M. Jukes 11, 6.

Girls' Singles:

Debbie Hough bt Annette Snee 13, 10

Doubles:

Duffield/Jukes bt David Newbould/David Rattenbury 12, 21.

The Worcester League suffered a sad loss this season with the death of Mr. Dennis Rowley. He had given very long service having been Secretary of the Worcester League since the late 1920's and later served as Chairman until a few years ago.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Dimmock

YOUTH PLAYS ITS PART

County matches continue to be a bag of mixed results, the senior 1st away to Essex 2nd found it difficult enough getting to and finding the venue, mainly due to peak shopping and football crowd movement times. The Essex committee being very understanding allowed the match to get underway with the ladies doubles, Jackie and Lisa Bellinger went to the table and made it a win for Beds so the county were in front. This position did not last long as the experienced men from Essex quickly overcame the youthful visitors of David Beddall, David Sharpe and Colin Luscombe, it was left to Lisa to pick up the only other game making the final result Essex 8 Beds 2. The 2nd seniors at home to Herts 3rd also had a delayed start this time due to one of the visiting team "crying off" at the last minute, unable to find a replacement they played with a man short. Beds took both sets of doubles with good performances from the pairings of Dawn Campbell/Julie Dimmock and Ian Doughty/Andrew Conquest of the Leighton Buzzard League. Julie won her singles so it was left to Martin Verdon, who had patiently waited to play a game of TT to try and make it a match win, he did not succeed resulting in a match score of 5-5.

The veterans away to Oxford were represented by Jim Wooliscroft, Peter Cutting, Colin Gill and Audrey Robinson and what a "ding dong" match it turned out to be taking almost 5 hours to complete. Jim taking the first singles of the evening, it went to expedite!, followed by alternate wins for each county. Peter and Audrey won a singles each and then teamed up to take the mixed. At 4-all in the match Colin and P. Stanford agreed that the expedite rule should be in operation from the onset for the last game of the evening. The final result being 5-4 in Oxfords favour.

At the recent Schools Team Championships held at Youth House Luton, schools were competing for the privilege of representing the county in the next round of the English Schools Team Championships. Because of the number of teams competing it was necessary to run the tournament over two days, a task that was well controlled and organised by the committee of Linda and Tay Marton, Paul Birch and Dick Teague.

The successful schools were:

Boys' U-11: Bedford Modern.

Girls' U-11: Ramridge Junior, Luton.

Boys' U-13: Bedford Modern.

Girls' U-13: Putteridge High, Luton.

Boys' U-16: Vandyke Upper, Leighton

Buzzard.

Girls' U-16: Manshead Upper, Dunstable.

Boys' U-19: Bedford Modern.

Girls' U-19: Northfields Upper, Dunstable.

At the first Junior Select Tournament of the year, held in Cleveland, it was the ability of Lisa Bellinger, 13 years of age, that we in Bedfordshire can be proud of. Lisa won the U-14 title as was expected of her by beating the promising Susan Collier of Berkshire in straight games. Lisa then proceeded to leave in her wake many experienced girls including Jean Parker and Helen Williams on her way to the final of the U-17 event and it took the very experienced number one seed Joy Grundy,

to stop her from taking both age group titles.

Lisa this year is playing in a few senior tournaments, the latest being the Middlesex 3-star here she added two England ranked ladies to her growing list of fine achievements by beating Claire Maisey and Karen Rogers. Well done.

League Round-up

With the leagues all reaching the mid-way point of the season it is interesting to look at the front runners in the premier divisions.

Bedford

Bedford Modern after taking the title last year are the front runners this and have strength in depth to maintain their advantage over St. Neots 'A' and Goldington Electric who are the teams directly below them.

Dunstable

The newly elected Hunting Engineering side continue to be the pace setters and their recent 9-1 win over AC-Delco makes them firm favourites to carry off the title.

Leighton Buzzard

St. Christopher 'A' who made one or two shrewd signings at the start of the season are proving to be a fine side. Unbeaten, including a 7-3 victory over last years' champions Hall Club they are riding high at the top of the division and full of confidence to hold their position right to the end.

Luton

The two AC-Delco teams are first and second, with the 'A' team leading the way by merit of having played more games. The 1st Delco team have a blend of youth and experience and with two games in hand look a good bet for the title. But let's not forget Dunstable Y.P. Club who have games in hand of both teams and are very capable of pipping either at the post.

NORFOLK NOTES

by Neville Graver

DOUG'S TITLE HOPES BROADSIDE

In perhaps one of the biggest shocks of years, the men's singles title at the Broadside Norfolk Closed went to near veteran Mick Broughton (Great Yarmouth), after a close three-game final victory over County junior champion Richard Stevenson (Norwich). Broughton is having something of an indian summer to his career, having been recalled to the county team earlier this season after good local league results.

At the end of the day nobody could deny Broughton's value as champion, as he had performed consistently well throughout the day, and this was a just reward for a player who has put a great deal of hard work and dedication into his game. If Broughton's title was a surprise, this was at least equalled by the eclipse of Doug Bennett in the semis by Stevenson in another close three game. Of late Stevenson had been running into form, whilst Bennett had been slightly inconsistent. On the day, Stevenson's strong half volley game and quick reactions won through. This would have been Bennett's fourth consecutive title and fifth in total, both of which would have been county records. I have little doubt that he will be back.

Stevenson had consolation for his singles defeat in the two doubles events. In the men's doubles he partnered his twin brother Martyn to victory over Bennett and Paul Durrant, whilst in the mixed he and Joy Dixon defeated Margaret Hales and Neville Graver in straight games.

In the women's events Wendy Hogg won her fourth consecutive title in the singles with a repeat of last year's final against Margaret Hales, this was just as seeded, but Wendy had almost been the victim of another upset when beating Sue Hazel at 19 in the third in a very tense battle. Whilst

holding her singles title, she was unable to successfully defend her doubles title with mother Ruth. They were beaten 19 in the third by Joy Dixon and Glynis Pearson.

In the veterans' singles, Dave Hardy retained his title, by beating Dave Barnard in an all-Dereham final.

Trophies were presented by Mr. David Felton, President of the Association, and Mr. Ron Parish, Managing Director of Broadside Sports and Leisure, tournament sponsors.

On the county match scene, the senior first team picked up a useful point against Herts, despite the absence of Bennett and Margaret Hales. Star for Norfolk was Stevenson, who won both his singles. The second team meanwhile were awarded a 10-0 victory over Beds II, who were unable to field a team, but were defeated by Suffolk II 8-2.

The Junior first team continued their winning run with a 7-3 victory over Cambs II, the second team, however are still waiting to chalk up their first win, going down 3-7 to Bucks II.

On the club scene, the draw for the quarter-finals of the Broadside Club Knock-Out sees two of the top teams, Sprowston and Gothic, drawn together. Full draw is: Gothic v Sprowston, Fourways v BSC, Holt "B" v Electricity, Downham v Telephones.

From the leagues comes news that CEYMS are still leading in Norwich, with Costessey consolidating their position in Dereham. In Great Yarmouth, the junior championships were dominated by brother and sister Colin and Sue Jenkinson. Colin won the under-11 singles, and partnered Sue to victory in the U-13 doubles. In the U-15 event, R. Dexter beat A. Tennant, whilst A. Stone beat S. King in the U-17. The girls' singles was won by top county junior Sarah Bignell.

Fakenham staged an exhibition the day before the Norfolk Closed, and this featured John Hilton, Doug Johnson, Skylet Andrew, and Bob Tuckett. The evening included challenge matches against local players, and by all accounts was a great success.

Next big day in the county calendar is Sunday, Feb. 8, when the Junior Closed will again be staged at Neatherd High School, Dereham. Before then the East Anglian League Championships will be staged at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, on Saturday, Jan. 10.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

RECORDS RETAINED

Leicestershire's second and junior teams have retained their 100% records but the news is not quite so good about the other two teams. But first the good news. The 2nd team travelled to New Bradwell and dropped only one set in accounting for Bucks II with Grahame Hall and Alan Philpott both playing very well. Sandra Coulson made her debut for Leicestershire and looked very impressive indeed. Certainly at the moment we are very well-placed on the distaff side. The Juniors won again, this time by an 8-2 margin. Northants look to be a team of the future but on this occasion they could only manage two singles, the luckless Paul Brindley losing twice.

The improved form of Martin Pickles has brought him the No. 2 spot in the new ranking list, operable from January and certainly the continued good form of Jane Heath has been a real bonus. For too long Yvonne Hall has had to plough a lonely furrow but now she is getting the support her enthusiasm and ability warrants. Perhaps sometimes Yvonne's ever-willingness to turn out any time for any team has been rather taken for granted but no player over recent years has given more loyal and consistent service than Yvonne.

Now the news which is not quite so good. The 1st team could only draw at home to Worcestershire and in fact trailed 3-5 at one time. All five of Worcestershire's wins were in the third game, two after 20-all had been reached in the third and another at 21-19. Nonetheless with three sets in the bag before the start with the women's events almost certain home bankers a draw should hardly be regarded as a good result. Even this was nearly worse. It was five days later before the result was pushed through my letter-box rather than posted to the Administrator and we came near to losing the one point 'by default'.

The Veterans' lost 4-5 in a splendid match at Natland, near Kendal. Brian Mayfield and myself spent most of the preceding week getting together a team and finally we had two players making their debut at this level. Pat Kilsby, a former County Champion (in 1959 and 1970) stepped in at short notice and had a dream debut, beating Clarice Rose. Unfortunately Terry Yeomanson, perhaps the last person one would expect to suffer from nerves, had 'one of those matches' and lost easily but not for want of effort.

In the Leicester League 1st Division two players have really been turning it on — 15-year-old Simon Griew has beaten county stars Grahame Hall and Keith Fellows — as it was only the second defeat of the season for both of them it will give an indication how far the Knighton Park boy has come on. Whilst Magpie I look first division 'certainties' their second team are now in third position thanks largely to Alan Philpott who is having a magnificent season — he has been beaten only twice in 27 outings to date.

Leicester Building Society are still on maximum points in Div. 5 with Ian Simpson and Terry Highton showing good form but Brian Hollingworth is determined to keep Jones & Shipman in the reckoning. Jim O'Connor has taken over at the top of the averages in Div. 6 but the best performance in this section comes from Tim Odams (108) who beat John Reay who has a grading of 202. R. Machell (Desford Tubes) now leads the Div. 9 averages and his team have moved into second place. Belgrave Constitutional have lost a bit of lee-way in Div. 10 and it is now East Goscote who lead, one of the main reasons is the recent excellent form of Terry Mitchell.

The lead has changed hands in Div. 12 too. Groby Community Centre have taken over the lead with Keith Mullins and Mark Morley proving very consistent. Similarly in Div. 13 Netherhall have been toppled from first place — momentarily at least — by Bentleys who have Martin Dunn and John Fish showing good form. Bentleys are 100% at doubles and this important part of the game — often neglected — may well prove vital at the run-in at the end of the season.

Goodwin Barsby dropped a point in Div. 14 to their nearest challengers, Braunstone Avenue, but it looks unlikely to affect their hold on the top place in the division. Martin Hallam's 100% record in Div. 16 has gone and Derek Doherty (Guardian Royal Exchange) has taken over at the top, where his team are currently situated. S. P. Pan (University) has joined R. Pawley at the top of the Div. 18 averages but the latter only just retained his 100% against Shaun Kelly (Magpie) who actually had set point in the second game.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Smith

TITLE REGAINED

Cheltenham's Dave Harvey regained the Men's Singles title from Mark Owen in the Trustee Savings Bank Gloucestershire Closed Championships held at Stroud Leisure Centre. The Cheltenham man thus

gained revenge for his defeat in last year's final, both men reaching the final without dropping a game.

The young Gloucester boy, Darren Griffin had a good day, reaching the semi-final, before losing to Harvey, having beaten his clubmate at the Gordan League, William Dawe in the quarters, and Cheltenham's Paul Gleed in the previous round.

Darren made up for his defeat in the Men's by winning the Boys' title at the expense of Richard Russell from Cheltenham, who had earlier beaten the No. 2 seed, from Stroud, Andrew Golding.

The Cadet championships both went to Gloucester players, Arron Beckett following his first appearance for the County Junior team the previous week took the boys', while the girls' went to Clare Symonds.

On the distaff side, Pauline Townsend, the Wiltshire junior, completed the double by taking the women's and girls' titles.

Former England International and present National Coach, Bryan Merrett, retained his Veterans' title at the expense of Stroud coach, Alan Giles, while another former International, Molly Hawkins, making her first appearance in these championships for 25 years reached the final of the women's doubles, partnering Pauline Townsend before losing to the Stroud pair, Jean Golding and Sylvia Giles.

RESULTS

Cadet Boys Singles:

A. Beckett bt D. Smith 16, 14.

Cadet Girls' Singles:

1 Clare Symonds, 2 S. Webley (Played on a group basis).

Boys' Singles:

D. Griffin bt R. Russell -12, 13, 13.

Girls' Singles:

P. Townsend bt Webley 4, 9.

Women's Singles:

Townsend bt J. Towie -22, 17, 16.

Men's Singles:

D. Harvey bt M. Owen -17, 13, 12.

Veteran Singles:

B. Merrett bt A. Giles 8, 7.

Men's Doubles:

M. Lane/Owen bt Giles/A. Golding 19, 14.

Mixed Doubles:

Townsend/C. Pridgeon bt A. Golding/J. Golding 18, -17, 24.

Women's Doubles:

J. Golding/S. Giles bt Townsend/M. Hawkins -16, 16, 17.

On the County match scene, the seniors are having a poor season, losing their second match away to Derby 1-9, with Cathy Robb gaining the only success. The Juniors, after their fine win away to Devon in the opening match, suffered a shock home defeat at the hands of Avon going down 4-6, but then beating Worcester away by the same score. For the Worcester match, Arron Beckett (Gloucester) made his debut when Russell went down with 'flu. With none of the nominated reserves prepared to play, it makes one wonder if it is an honour to represent your county any more.

The first match has taken place in the Warner Shield, with Gloucester beating Stroud 7-2. Stroud wins coming when both Giles and Andrew Golding beat an off-form Dawe.

SUFFOLK SCENE

by Steve Richards

SENIORS DO WELL

The Senior County teams have turned in some good results with the first side drawing with Kent 5-5. They would have lost but owing to Kent playing one man out of order Suffolk returned home with a point. All the men won a set, and a doubles, while Julie Dowsett won her singles. Team: Mick Palmer, Stuart Palmer, John Kitchener,

Julie Dowsett and Sue Butcher.

The second team initially defeated Hunts 6-4 and then Norfolk 8-2. Against Hunts, Suffolk won the first four sets and looked set for a comfortable win but Norton and Gray fought back for Hunts. Debbie Hubble and Russell King each won the next two singles to give Suffolk victory. It was pleasing to see Debbie showing her best form since joining the senior ranks and combining well with Jane Leonard to win the women's doubles. Other members of the team were Terry Dowsett and Chris Shepherd.

By defeating Norfolk, Suffolk have now won each of their last three matches and are well in contention for honours. The team of Russell King, Terry Dowsett, Julian Hall, Kathy Brierley all played well but the star was Debbie Hubble who remains unbeaten this season.

The Juniors lost to Essex 3-7 and only Stuart Palmer (2 wins) along with the girls who won the doubles achieved success. Suffolk's team was Stuart Palmer, Ray Thorpe, Kevin Scott, Jane Richards and Jane Leonard.

With the season reaching halfway in the Bury League the leaders are WEG 'A', closely followed by Aitkens 'B' and Lakenheath. Div. 2 leaders are Newmarket Upper School 'A' who, however, lost their first match in 30 outings in November, with the American side Marauders a point behind.

WEG 'E' and WEG 'F' lead Div. 3 while in Div. 4 the leaders are Astley 'B' and Aitkens 'E'. Newmarket US 'C' lead the 5th division by four points and look set for honours. I heard from the Stowmarket League and learned that Conservative 'X' and Con. 'A' lead Div. 1 while Stowmarket 'B' and Baylham are the front runners in Div. 2.

Finally congratulations to John Kitchener who has jumped in the England rankings and good wishes to all table tennis players for 1981

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

STARTLING CHANGES

Sussex selectors made some startling changes at the top of the men's county rankings just before Christmas. Phil Smith (East Grinstead) retains the No. 1 spot, but the super-shock for the former England-ranked Stephen Moore is that he is the new No. 2, changing places with the Sussex champion Graham Gillett who drops down to No. 3.

Stephen has been in great form for the county, for Seagulls in the National League and in the recent Yorkshire 2-Star when he took the restricted singles title from Keith Paxton in the final.

This will be great news for his father Jimmy Moore, the former Sussex county player who is ill in Guy's Hospital, London. Roger Chandler, 12 times the Sussex champion is also moved down the list to No. 4 and has been asked to play a forthcoming match for Sussex in Division 3 (South) of the County Championships.

Tournament organisers in Sussex like most other counties are plagued by clashing events. Two pairs of tournaments are set to clash in March and April. One head-to-head collision is the Sussex junior championships and the popular Hollington (Hastings) tournament both arranged for the March 21-22 week-end.

Carol Hewett (Brighton) has returned to form in the County Championships, just in time for the Lombard Sussex Championships to be held at Brighton Corn Exchange on Feb. 1st, where the possible greatest rival will be Rachel Mackreill, the former Dorset and Warwickshire player who is now in Sussex for the next three years.



ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS



TITLE WINNERS AT HINCKLEY
by John Wright

Played at the Hinckley Leisure Centre on Saturday 13th/Sunday 14th December, the 12th English Junior Closed produced a major surprise in the Boys' Singles with a final victory for Carl Prean over top-seeded John Souter. Seeded 3=, Prean had been expected to do well and came through to the semi-finals without loss of a game to meet Philip Bradbury, the only semi-finalist to need a deciding game at any stage. Prean was always in command of this set and Bradbury, after loss of the first game, sought advice for the second which proved of limited value as he never really contested it. Souter had looked impressive throughout and his semi with doubles partner Mark Oakley was one of the best sets of the weekend with some spectacular play from both boys.

Few in the 200+ crowd would have thought the title would leave Middlesex (Graham Sandley having won on each of the two previous occasions) and Souter possibly underestimated his opponent and his flailing forehand drive. Even when trailing at the end of the first game Souter did not appear too concerned conceding the last point with a weak shot when a steadier approach might have levelled at 20-all. From then on, however, the crown looked to have only one destination as Prean went ahead by a large margin. At match point, a wild stroke from Souter struck Prean's bat well away from the table for a volley, Souter took half a dozen more with desperate play, but could not total more than 16. So young Carl became the first cadet to lift the Junior title and take it over the water to the Isle of Wight.

5= seeds Gary Lambert and Jeremy Duffield both fell at their first outing, the former to David Pilcher and the latter to Kevin Green who had a good tournament. Most of the other seeds reached their allotted places, the main exception being Adrian Moore who went out to Tony Stark 18, -10, -20 after Stark had walked the tightrope against Tony Sanderson before winning -16, 19, 20 from 16-19 in the 2nd.

ATTENTION

The quarter-final which attracted the most attention was that between Prean and Billy Gleave, a repeat of the previous evening's cadet semi-final. In the earlier set Prean lost the first easily with no idea of how to cope with Gleave's defence: he then won the 2nd but was forced to give best in the 3rd. Much thought was evidently given by his camp on Saturday night (when I was surprised not to see the Isle of Wight party at the finals) as the problems had been solved by the Sunday, at least for the present.

In fact, Ian McLoughlin caused Gleave most trouble in the cadets, but with frequent cries of "Good Boy" the Cheshire boy held on. Hard though David Rook fought in the final he did not know enough to penetrate the Gleave barriers but both he and the other semi-finalist Jonathan Bradbury look good prospects for the future.

All three doubles events were decided on the Saturday, the first being the Boys'



Twice ex-world champion Johnny Leach matches the smile of girls' singles champion Joy Grundy of Lancashire.

Photo by N. Lea, Hinckley.

taken by Stuart Palmer and Paul Rainford. Beaten finalists Green and Lindsay Taylor led all the way in the 1st to 18-all and were in with a real chance in the 2nd until 14-16 down. Then Rainford took charge, played 5 superb points, and the match was over. Big shock here was the 3rd round defeat of Oakley and Souter in straight games by Stephen Griew and Martin Pickles, the victors then going out to Green and Taylor.

ONLY TITLE

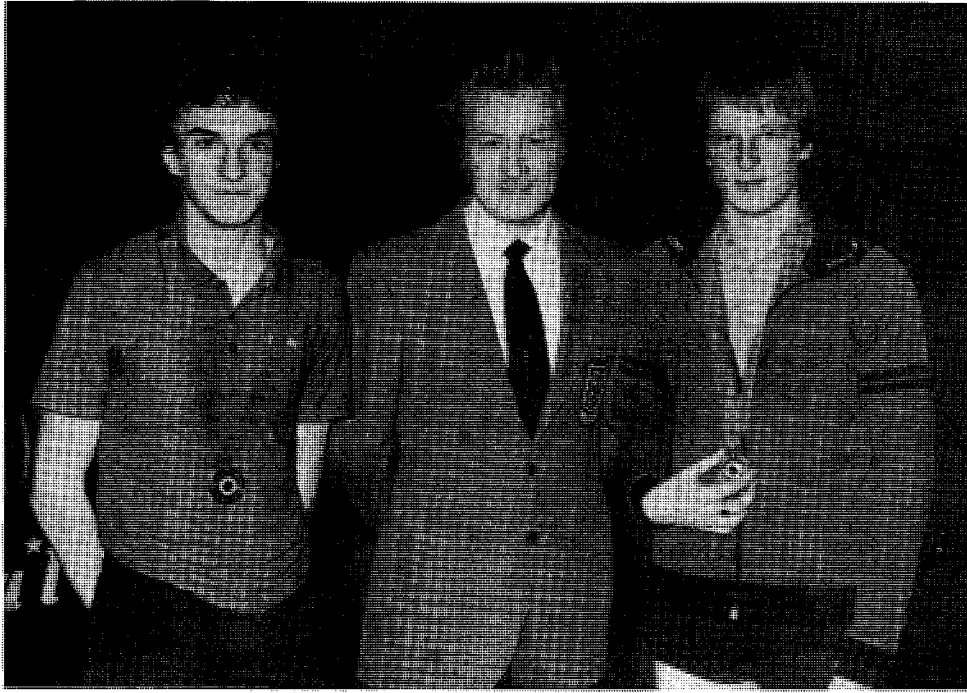
Helen Williams collected what was to be her only title of the weekend pairing with Gina Pritchard in the Girl's Doubles. A poor final saw them defeating the Red Rose pairing of Joy Grundy and Jean Parker — I was saddened to see the petulant way Grundy kicked the table leg and flung her bat into her case after defeat in a match which could and should have been won. The

only major surprise in this event was the win by Yvonne Hall and Julie Speight over the Bellinger sisters.

Jackie Bellinger, however, did collect a title when in partnership with Philip Bradbury they had a final victory in the Mixed over Souter and Williams. The latter had the narrowest of wins (8, -15, 22) over Tony Sanderson and Lesley Bromhead whilst the former were pushed by Andrew Sexton and Lorraine Garbet before winning -16, 15, 16 — Sexton and Garbet had a fine -16, 16, 19 win over Oakley and Grundy.

Lisa Bellinger also had her successes. Frankly, she was a class above the opposition in the Cadet Girls: Susan Collier stayed with her for a time in the final but there was no doubt in the minds of most watchers of the ultimate result.

Possibly the best set of the Champion-



Mike Watts, Deputy General Secretary of the ETTA lines up between the boys' doubles winners at Hinckley, Paul Rainford (1) and Stuart Palmer.

Photo by N. Lea, Hinckley.



And a smile too from ETTA President, Maurice Goldstein OBE, when presenting the boys' singles trophy to Carl Preat of the Isle of Wight.

Photo by N. Lea, Hinckley.

ships was Lisa's 3rd round Girls' Singles victory over Cheryl Creasey 11, -20, 17 with the Dorset girl in with a fine chance until a few points from the end. Lisa then removed Lynne Fennah and Pritchard for a semi-final meeting with top seed Williams who succumbed badly in the second after a close first game. Laura Goldsmith had been fortunate to get through her first round match with Rachel Roberts 13, -20, 21, then (in her next outing) found herself 19-16 up in the 3rd v 2nd seed Grundy. A simple smash missed by Grundy meant the Lancashire girl had 4 set points to save but, with her opponent very nervous saved they

were and overall victory came by -20, 17, 20. The final was good, with Grundy eventually getting the better of Bellinger often spreading her wide on the forehand with outright winners.

Overall, a most successful Championships at a venue the ETTA might well return to. The work of Mike Holt played a big part in the smooth running of things, and he was well aided by his helpers from the Hinckley League. The only major problem was a lighting failure which wiped out 4 tables for about 25 minutes on the Saturday, but this time was quickly made up (there were a lot of non-arrivals) and matches were close



Alan Ransome, Vice-Chairman (Development), takes his place between Helen Williams and John Souter, the losing finalists in the mixed doubles.

Photo by N. Lea, Hinckley.

to time apart from this. The announcement limitation system again proved a benefit but I would be interested to hear why some players think they are exempt from the rules on "knocking" which were clearly made known to all and which were observed, if reluctantly, by most.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Souter (MI) (1) bt L. Taylor (Cv) (9=) 16, 13;

M. Oakley (Sy) (3=) bt P. Rainford (La) (5=) 15, 15;

C. Preat (IOW) (3=) bt W. Gleave (Ch) (—) 18, 16;

P. Bradbury (Bu) (2) bt K. Green (Cv) (—) 9, 14.

Semi-finals:

Souter bt Oakley 17, -13, 16;

Preat bt Bradbury 18, 13.

Final:

PREAN bt Souter 19, 16.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

H. Williams (MI) (1) bt H. Bardwell (He) (5=) 19, 16;

L. Bellinger (Bd) (5=) bt G. Pritchard (Dv) (3=) 15, 12;

C. Butler (Dv) (—) bt J. Parker (La) (3=) 15, -19, 16;

J. Grundy (La) (2) bt J. Bellinger (Bd) (5=) 10, 17.

Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt Williams 19, 11;

Grundy bt Butler 14, -19, 12.

Final:

GRUNDY bt L. Bellinger 12, -15, 15.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

Preat (1) bt A. Dixon (St) (—) 6, 13;

Gleave (—) bt I. McLoughlin (La) (3=) -17, 13, 18;

J. Bradbury (Bu) (—) bt C. J. Wilson (Sp) (—) 13, -16, 10;

D. Rook*(Y) (2) bt N. Tyler (MI) (—) 16, 15.

Semi-finals:

Gleave bt Preat 9, -13, 15;

Rook bt Bradbury 18, -20, 16.

Final:

GLEAVE bt Rook 15, 15.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

L. Bellinger (1) bt W. Worthington (La) (—) 4, 8;

L. Goldsmith (MI) (3=) bt L. Forster (Dy) (—) 16, 12;

L. Bennett (Sy) (—) bt D. Malpas (Ch) (—) -18, 12, 18;

S. Collier (Bk) (2) bt S. New (Wl) (—) 13, 9.

Semi-finals:

Bellinger bt Goldsmith 12, 13;

Collier bt Bennett 9, 12.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Collier 10, 13.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Green/Taylor (5=) bt A. Sanderson/S. Sharpe (Y) (5=) 12, 19;

S. Palmer (Sk)/Rainford (2) bt A. Moore (Sx)/P. Bradbury (3=) 20, 23.

Final:

PALMER/RAINFORD bt Green/Taylor 18, 14.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Pritchard/Williams (1) bt C. Creasey (Do)/S. Sandley (MI) (3=) 18, -15, 11;

Grundy/Parker (2) bt M. Denbow (Ox)/N. Tsakarisianos (Gs) (—) 16, 18.

Final:

PRITCHARD/WILLIAMS bt Grundy/Parker -19, 17, 19.

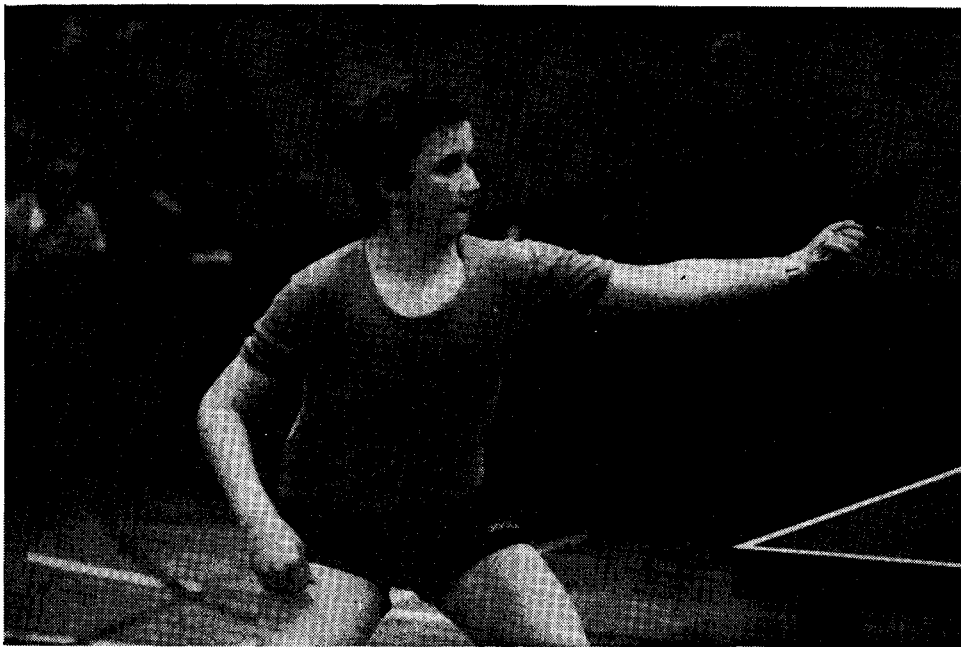
Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Souter/Williams (1) bt Moore/L. Bellinger (5=) 10, 16;

P. Bradbury/J. Bellinger (2) bt A. Sexton/L. Garbet (Sy) (—) -16, 15, 16.

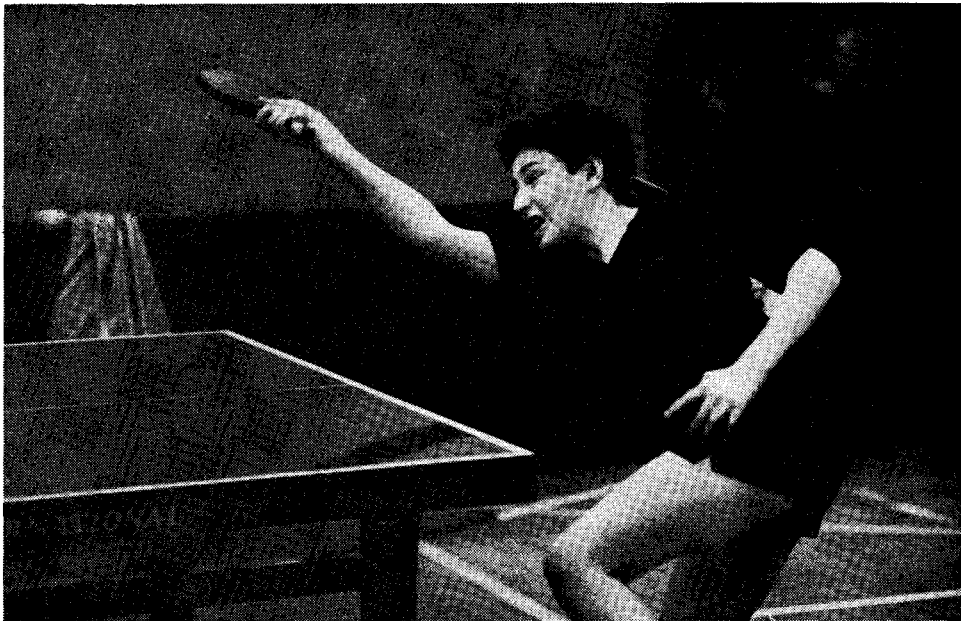
Final:

P. BRADBURY/J. BELLINGER bt Souter/Williams 15, -13, 13.



Take that, Souter!

Photo by Murray Corbin, Wimbledon, Surrey.



Billy "Good Boy" Gleave, winner of the Cadet Boys' Singles at Hinckley. Billy defeated Carl Prean in the semi-final of the Cadet Boys' Singles, but Carl got his revenge the following day during the U-17's.

Photo and caption by Murray Corbin, Wimbledon.

his broken thumb, leading the assault more than ably assisted by Clive Heap, Keith Williams, Jean Parker and Carolyn Scowcroft. On the receiving end were Tony Taylor, John and Ron Weatherby, Ann Heppell and M. Turner.

Away to Lincs the Juniors excelled in pulling off a 6-4 win with McLoughlin unbeaten in singles, and doubles with Frazer McEwen, whilst Michael Mercer contributed one singles as did Jackie Myers and Helen Frost. But, after the announcement of the new national rankings, both McLoughlin and McEwen blotted their copybooks when unsuccessful against, respectively, Neil Yardley and Tim Pachul, and Pachul and Stephen Dixon. Nor were the twosome any more successful in the doubles together against Dixon/Pachul.

Mercer on the other hand had two wins with Jackie Myers and Helen Frost winning their singles and Helen, with Beverley Hoyle, saving Lancashire's blushes with a girls' doubles win for a division of the spoils in a disappointing 5-5 home draw at Bamber Bridge against Cumbria.

In the women's first division of the Lincs and Ches League champions Stockport struck a telling blow in beating Preston 7-3 at Marple on Dec. 5 when Joy Grundy suffered a treble defeat at the hands of Di Johnson, Doreen Schofield and Debbie Coulthard. Jean Parker was Preston's only singles winner — beating Mrs. Johnson and Miss Coulthard — the visitors' other set coming in the doubles.

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stockport	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Preston	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Manchester	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Bury	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Warrington	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Liverpool	3	2	0	1	20	10	4

A superb fightback by Stephen Scowcroft gave him the Division 1 title in the Bolton League's individual divisional championships on Jan. 2. Having beaten his Cadost clubmate Clive Heap 21-11 in the first game of the final Scowcroft found himself trailing 2-12 in the second but despite levelling at 18-all had to give second best to an inspired opponent who was not to be denied.

But he was in the decider when Scowcroft again trailing 13-17, staged yet another recovery which carried him to a 21-19 victory.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

- January, 1981**
- 15 England v Czechoslovakia, European League (Beiper, Derbys).
 - 17/18 County of Cleveland 7th 3-Star Open Championships and Butterfly Cleveland International Team Championships. Thornaby Pavilion, Town Centre, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees. Team finals: Saturday 8 p.m. Individual finals: Sunday 6 p.m. MS Winner - £350, WS - Winner - £200, MT - £100, WT - £50.
 - 17 North Wales Junior Open (Deeside).
 - 17/18 ESTTA Team Area Finals.
 - 18 Scottish Closed (Meadowbank, Edinburgh).
 - 20 England v Czechoslovakia Friendly International (Coventry).
 - 22/24 STIGA WELSH OPEN (Sophia Gardens, Cardiff).
 - 24 Pontefract 1-Star Open (Pontefract, Yorks).
 - 24/25 Cotswold Junior 'Select' 2-Star (Gloucester).
 - 25 Edinburg 2-Star Open (Meadowbank Stadium).
 - 25 National League (10).
 - 31/
- February**
- 1 2nd Kirklees 2-Star Open, Batley Sports Centre, Windmill Lane, Batley. From 9 a.m. each day. Finals: 6 pm. Sunday.
 - 1 North Bournemouth 1-Star Open.
 - 7 Lancashire 2-Star Open, British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, Bolton. From 9.30 a.m. Finals: 7.30 p.m.
 - 7/8 Kent 2-Star Open (Folkestone).
 - 7 Glamorgan Open (Cardiff).
 - 8 National League (11).
 - 11 Sweden v England European League.
 - 12/14 THE NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS, The Black Lion Sports Centre, Mill Road, Gillingham, Kent. Finals: Saturday, Feb. 14 at 1.30 p.m.
 - 14 Exeter Junior 1-Star Open.
 - 15 Cheshire Junior 1-Star Open (Birkenhead). Lanarkshire Junior and Youth 2-Star.
 - 15 National League (12).

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

JUMPING FOR JOY

Lancashire can be justifiably proud that seven of their players are listed in the new national junior rankings. Following her success in winning the English Junior Closed girls' singles title at Hinckley, Joy Grundy (Preston) heads the female U-17 section with Jean Parker (Preston) figuring at No. 7 while included in the "A" category is Helen Frost (Bury).

Preston's Paul Rainford occupies the No. 5 position in the counterpart boys' section, the surprise inclusion in the "A" category being Frazer McEwen of Bury. In the Cadet classifications Ian McLoughlin (Bury) is listed at No. 4 while in the girls' section Wendy Worthington (Preston) comes in for the first time at No. 10.

Following on their 5-4 defeat at the hands

of Essex in the Premier Division of the County Championships the senior first team have subsequently beaten Staffs (5-4) and Cheshire (6-3). Against Staffs young Rainford had a field day beating Andrew Rich and Tony Isaac whilst further combining, with Steve Turner, to beat Andrew Bellingham and Isaac in the men's doubles. The other Red Rose wins came from Donald Parker, who beat Isaac — losing to Bellingham — and from Joy Grundy who had a 15, 14 win over Janet Dunning.

More recently Parker carried the flag, against Cheshire, beating Tony Boasman and Mark Hankey and sharing in a doubles win with Miss Grundy who herself accounted for Janet Deakin. Rainford and Turner maintained their winning ways in the men's doubles, beating Hankey and Brian Johns with Rainford initially successful against Johns.

The second senior team, away to Cheshire II on Dec. 20, stormed home 10-0 with Stephen Scowcroft, happily recovered from

INVITATION EXTENDED

After a two year search, Crusaders TT Club of Lincoln found new and larger premises during the summer of 1980, with the aid of a £3,000 grant from the Sports Council.

The former Mission Hall was in excellent condition but the interior had to be ripped apart so as to make it suitable for table tennis. Old and young members of the club did a marvellous job in ripping up staging and carpeting and were sometimes busy until midnight on work which was very hard.

When the destroying was finished the walls were painted, and floor laid on top of terrazzo tiles, giving a playing area of approximately 48ft. x 31ft. It was decided to have three areas of 31ft. x 16ft. with netting to separate them at the start and partitions to be added later.

As all the club's former premises had been small, only one Jaques table was available, so the secretary acquired another second hand one in good order. Then to make up the three, the Vietnamese boat people situated just outside the city, loaned one. They had just got two new ones!!

Obviously many teething problems arose, some have been solved and others will be as time and money become available.

Many people have been helpful with small donations and in other ways and recently a Lincoln organisation of sportsmen made a grant of £200 towards a new table and this should arrive any day. A table is also being rented under the ETTA scheme.

The committee under the chairmanship of Barry Johnson backed by a very energetic fund-raising committee are most forward looking and hope to make great strides particularly in relation to refreshments, in the remainder of the 66ft. long hall.

The club would like to extend its competitive area outside Lincoln and seek to hear from any clubs in South Yorkshire, the Midlands and Eastern England who fancy three matches on a weekend afternoon or evening. The fixtures could include teams of veterans, club standard, junior or cadet level.

Anyone interested should contact Eric HURFORD, 83 GREETWELL ROAD, LINCOLN. He will be delighted to hear from you.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NOTES

by Dennis Millman

MEDIOCRE SEASON

February 28th will hopefully prove to be the most encouraging day of what can so far be described as a mediocre season, for the promised return of Gary Alden could well coincide with a first victory at senior level for one, or even both of our County Championship teams.

It would perhaps be kindest to draw a veil over the activities of the County Firsts this season, but with heavy defeats sustained against the three strongest sides in the Second Division Midland, things can only get better in the fixtures yet to come.

The Seconds have fared little better, for after starting with a draw against Bucks II, thanks to some spirited play from Ken Nicoll and Helen Cottier, they have been beaten on three subsequent outings, despite sound performances, all on separate occasions, from Dave Marsh, Steve West and Romano Gallo. However the final match with Oxfordshire II on the aforesaid date, could enable the season to finish on a victorious note.

The Juniors have performed well up to expectation, beating Warwickshire II in the opening match, losing to Leicestershire, and then the late withdrawal through illness of Graeme McKim causing them to go down narrowly to Staffordshire II in a contest of fluctuating fortunes, containing some scintillating clashes, none more so than Richard Malfait's 31-33, 23-21, 16-21 defeat at the hands of Adrian Dixon. Individually Ian Hawes, Malfait and McKim have all had their moments, while Gillian Philpot has proved a competent No. 2 on the distaff side.

The Veterans have proved the most successful side at County level, but with Marsh and John Palmer only able to synchronize their availability on one occasion, points have been squandered which could well have put them in reach of the likely champions Worcestershire. So far Palmer and Joyce Porter have proved most successful, with Mrs. Porter yet to taste defeat since making her Veteran debut.

Results from the South East Midlands League have as always been difficult to obtain, and even harder to assess, but some honours seem certain to come Northants way, with Kettering almost home and dry in the Men's Second Division, having won all five matches to date with a total of forty one points.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by P. Taylor

HAVE A BREAK AND REACH THE SEMIS!

My apologies for the absence of last month's notes. This was due to the fact that I had broken my arm on Nov. 1. I didn't know it was broken until after the Lincs Closed — I still reached the semis in the men's doubles, thanks to my partner Andy Dibdin.

On the county scene, the seniors played Staffs II and lost 4-6. Dave Skerratt at No. 2 took both his singles and Sue Radley maintained her unbeaten record at singles. Chris Bryan, making his senior debut, took one singles and went to three in his other set. The veterans continue their winning ways taking maximum points from their four matches. Their last two however have been hard-fought affairs with Lincs just winning 5-4 in each case, their opponents being Notts and Staffs. The Junior 1st team have made a very satisfactory start, taking 5 points from 4 matches. The match against Lancashire in particular proved very close with every rubber going to 3, Lancs just winning 6-4. The Junior 2nds yet again lost

by a considerable margin this time 2-8 to Norfolk. However they faced a strong side and are gaining experience. Cathy Bryan maintained her singles record by beating their No. 2 girl.

The Lincs Senior Closed once again was well supported but several problems occurred which caused great difficulty. The tournament did run late but the attitude of many of the players and spectators makes one wonder whether or not the hard work done by the few is worthwhile. The lack of help in umpiring and in clearing the hall in preparation for the finals — in order I may add to enable the spectators to see the matches better was a disgrace. Without a lot of unseen work — and for that matter unappreciated work — by the various officials no tournaments would be held. To run a tournament requires a lot of effort and it is not easy. Many of the officials were working for more than 8 hours on behalf of the players and I do not feel that 10 to 15 minutes is a great deal to ask in return. Brian Hill retained his men's singles but probably had his hardest final yet when he beat Chris Bryan our No. 1 junior in a very good match. Gillian Sharpe won the women's title and the Under 21 event proved very successful with over 40 entries.

AVON NOTES

by Paul F. Hewitt

GREAT IMPROVEMENT

In the couple of months up to Christmas there was a great improvement over what can only be described as the worst possible start to a season when all teams lost their first matches. In the last three rounds of county matches up to the new year the County record reads an impressive 7 wins, 1 draw and only two defeats and yet in one of those defeats, the 2-8 loss against Wiltshire the standard of table tennis was as high as had been seen for some time with Andy Creed playing some superb stuff. Since this match there has been a significant change at the top of the men's rankings with ex-champion Martin Smith coming back in at the top. This has not only strengthened the Senior first team but taken a bit of the pressure from current champion Creed and the evidence is there for all to see.

The other success story so far in Avon is that of Bristol Cashmans in the National League Second Div. South. At the half-way mark they were proudly sitting at the top of the Division with only one defeat from their six matches and they have a clear two-points advantage over their closest rivals. Creed and Smith have been playing well when joined by Kevin Satchell from Wilts. Dave Harvey (Gloucester), Gary Lambert (Devon) and Steve Moreman (Worcs). However a note of caution is necessary. Most of the teams in the division have made mid-term signings to strengthen their squads though to date Cashmans have been unable to do so. We shall see the effects before too long.

Most of the top players in the county congregate in the Bristol league as a matter of natural progression, and as a result Bristol have a strong representative side to their organisation, and this season they have been very successful. Their Midland League side has started with two wins in convincing style 9-1 and 8-2 against Derby and Hinckley respectively.

The Western League side has three wins from four matches beating Bridgwater and Yeovil 8-1 and Torbay 5-4 but went down by the same margin to a very strong Plymouth side.

Bristol has two teams in the Cotswold Ladies' League and their 'A' team beat Worcester and Oxford 9-1 and 7-3 respectively but went down narrowly to Swindon. The 'B' team in the second division have maximum points from four matches.

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THIS AND THAT IN SURREY



by Murray Corbin

Despite the top Senior and Junior players being occupied elsewhere, mainly on County duty, the Senior Surrey Closed Championships were well attended and completed successfully. Amongst the men, I noted very good performances from two newcomers — Farhat Rasul of Wandsworth and David Madden from Croydon, while Susan Tame, the all-action-bionica, made her formal return to the game after taking a few years off to pursue a nursing career.

The Men's Singles was won by John Payne after an exciting match against Martin Shuttle, who was outclassed and outplayed in both technique and strategy. To reach the final, John had to overcome the advances of Mick Nash, Mark Bottle, David Dewsbury, Peter McQueen and Glen Baker, while Martin was leaving behind him the beaten souls of Andrew Browne, Lenny Leow, John Chamberlain, Steve Hoskins and Steve Holloway.

In the Women's Singles, the seeded Jayne Mitchell, Michele Hams, Jenny Webster, Sarah Cresswell, Susan Head and Kerry Merritt kicked off from Round 2, but the long-shots and dark horses — Suzanne Roebuck and Susan Tame, had to begin their fight from Round 1. Suzanne quickly disposed of Janice "Umpire" Seabrook, Geraldine Page, and Michele Hams, before meeting and beating Sarah Cresswell in the third game of a well contested final. Sarah had previously been victorious over Nellie Mohadjeri, Heather Payce-Drury, with whom I was very impressed, and in the semi, Susan Tame, who had come straight from duty and was feeling the pace which was admirably set by Sarah.

Seeded in the Men's Restricted were Paul Holloway, Frank Hams, Graham Russell — whose best performances may be behind him — Farhat Rasul, John Garland and Paul Smith. The final was a battle of nerves between Smith and Rasul, with Paul pulling himself together in the third, while Rasul was still bothering about the crowd watching.

The Women's Doubles was also decided in the third, when Suzanne Roebuck/Jayne Mitchell managed to hold off Susan Tame/Heather Payce-Drury. In the Men's Doubles, Payne/McQueen had the final say in the third against David Harding/Baker, but in the Mixed final, where Payne/Jenny Webster defeated Harding/Susan Tame, they had previously made lighter work of David Seaward/Barbara Clark, Mike Kercher/Michele Hams and Steve Woodgate/Sue Roebuck. Harding/Tame had had impressive wins over Graham Bateman/Amanda Chapman, Peter Matthews/Heather Payce-Drury and McQueen/Jayne Mitchell.

When the Veterans Singles are played in any part of the land, one can see the influence of the late Victor Barna. Many of these players have not bothered to move with the modern game. In this instance, too few of the competitors had the skill to put away the high ball. As an alternative, the disciplined push or chop was employed. It is much more interesting to watch Mike

Kercher, Trevor Seymour and Gordon Chapman — the eventual winner over Trevor. These guys have skills and reserves they can call upon. I would really like to see Frank Hams take a little time out to practise hitting the high ball. Frank is more than a good player, but he could be a lot more successful and attractive to watch. On the other hand, if an opponent knows that you cannot hit a ball, he can take more chances with you.

THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE ROUND-UP

At the six week stage in Division 5, Graham Spicer 7 had opened up a 16 points lead and look like Champions. This strong team consists of the unbeaten Cy Burman plus Tony Gallop, Peter McLoughlin and Dave Dymott. Seven other teams are fighting for second place, but the Hawker team of Bert Street, Mike Jasper and Bob Simmonds, look most likely to succeed.

In Division 3, the unbeaten Surbiton Town maintained their lead by a 5-4 victory over Graham Spicer 4, when the unbeaten record of Stuart Grinter of Surbiton Town, was messed up by Frank Hams of Spicers, who won his three. Alexandra went to the top of Div. 7 after whipping Taverner House 7-2. Surbiton Postal are second and Decca 4 third.

The League's PETER JOHNSON CUP match against Sutton resulted in a 9-nil clean sweep in its favour when Paul Smith, Mike Hammond and the often reckless Rupert Bole found few problems against Sutton's Sue Tame, Om Sareen and Ingram Gavin.

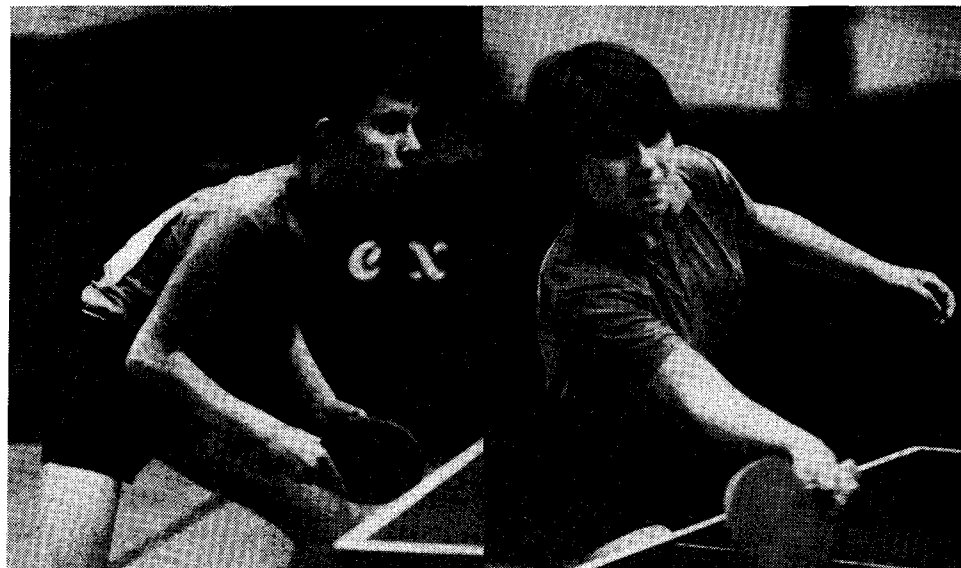
In the first round of the WILMOTT CUP, Thames Valley, this time with a steadier Rue Bole plus Paul Smith and Peter Matthews, scraped home 5-4 against St. Alban's Phil Spencer, Geoff Bax and F. Nilan.

SUTTON YOUTH SERVICE TT LEAGUE

The top 3 Clubs in Division 1 in mid-December were Culvers Sports Boys' Club, Sutton Youth Centre "A" and Holy Cross Youth Club "B". Top performances came from J. Denman and Young of Culvers and C. Alder of Sutton Youth. In Div. 2, Rosehill "B", Club Constellation and Carshalton Boys' Club "B" are riding high and the best or most successful players seem to be P. Taffarelli and C. Selby of Rosehill, with T. Harwood from Century Youth Centre on their tails. Wallington Crusaders "B", St. Helier "B" and Club 74 are in this order in Div. 3. The top performers being J. & K. Burgess of Wallington and A. Strange of St. Helier. Thank you D. Beesley for this information.



JOHN PAYNE, winner of the Senior Closed Men's Singles over Martin Shuttle. **MARK OAKLEY**, seen here in action, could not be present at these Championships. However, he is maintaining a very good standard in Junior Competitions.



GRAHAM BATEMAN: Intelligent, conversant and ambitious. He realises that he lacks certain skills and is willing to work on these. **MICHELE HAMS**: Well mannered young lady who could mature into a very good player. Her skills are often set aside because of nervous tension.

28th French Open Championships

JUST ONE CRUMB AT EVRY

by George R. Yates

In winning six of the seven titles at stake in the 28th French Open Championships, played in the Arenes de L'Augora, Evry Ville Nouvelle over the three days, Dec. 4/7, the only crumb to fall from China's table of plenty was the men's doubles in the final of which event Jacques Secretin and Patrick Birocheau took on and beat their French compatriot Christian Martin paired with China's Huang Liang.

Otherwise it was complete domination by the players of the People's Republic of China with World Cup winners Guo Yuehua taking the men's title and the counterpart women's event being won by Cao Yanhua, the former also figuring as mixed doubles champion, with Zhang Deying, and the latter picking up her second title in the women's doubles also with Zhang.

And, in the team events in which the host country had no less than seven teams in each category, China took both titles, the men beating France I (3-0) and the women Korea DPR by a like score.

But, in this star-studded company, England had no cause to be other than proud of their achievements with three players figuring in the last sixteen of the men's singles and two, Desmond Douglas and John Hilton, going on to contest the quarters and, the former, the semis.

Doggie Johnson was the faller in Round 3 to Leszek Kucharski of Poland after the Birmingham defender had worn down Alain Cruchaudet of France and, believe it or not, the Czech Josef Dvoracek!

Douglas had begun with a 3-straight win over Franck Vinitski of France and, in like manner, next disposed of Hong Chol (Korea DPR) and the ace Pole Andrzej Grubba before bowing out to the eventual winner Guo.

Hilton, our reigning European champion, seeded No. 2 behind Guo, had victories over Poland's Stefan Dryszel and Cho Yong Ho (Korea DPR) before being ousted, over five fluctuating games, by the beaten finalist Huang Liang, -19 in the fifth!

Linda Jarvis and Karen Witt, our two representatives in the women's singles, had successful opening encounters against French girls with Karen beating Michele Gourmelon and Linda getting the better of Sylvia Grillet. But, in their next rounds, Karen fell to China's Tong Ling and Linda to that all-action Dutch girl Bettine Vriesekoop who went on to beat Zhang Deying before falling to the former world champion Pak Yung Sun of Korea DPR, the beaten finalist.

In the men's doubles Douglas and Paul Day — the Cambs man having lost to Guo -15, -10, -11 in single combat — reached the quarters losing to the Poles, Grubba and Kucharski, over five, whilst Hilton and Johnson fell to the Czech combine Dvoracek and Jindrich Pansky (-17, 19, -12, -12). Karen and Linda after an opening win over Yveline Lecler and Laurence Saunot (France) were then beaten, over four games, by the winners Cao and Zhang (-9, -12, 16, -14).

But, in the mixed, a second bronze award came our way with Des and Linda reaching the semi losing to Guo and Zhang after ousting Milan Orlovski and Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia.

John and Karen also distinguished themselves in this event with a win over former world champions Secretin and Claude Bergeret before losing, in the quarters, to Teng Yi — remember him at Brighton

figuring in that epic men's singles final with Li Chen-shih — and Cao.

Paul was given Eva Ferenczi of Rumania as his partner but, after an initial win over the Swedes Niklas Persson and Anita Jonsson, they just failed, -18 in the fifth, to beat Orlovski/Hrachova, denying themselves a crack at Des and Linda.

Doggie also had a Rumanian partner in Liana Urzica-Macean but they fell at the first hurdle to Beatrice Abgrall and Patrick Renverse.

TEAM EVENTS

In the team events England I, represented by Douglas and Day, had an opening win over Sweden II (Jeppsson and Persson) by 3-0 but were subsequently taken out by Korea DPR 3-2 with Douglas beating Hong Chol but losing to Cho Yong Ho after a doubles victory.

Hilton and Johnson figured as England II and began with a 3-0 win over France VIII (Constant/Hatem) before going down 2-3 to Sweden I whose young Erik Lindh basked in the glory of a win over Hilton (21, 15) having been taken to three by Johnson who lost (17, -9, -13). Curtains came in the final set when Johnson lost to Roger Lagerfeldt -16, -14.

In the counterpart women's event Linda and Karen fell at the first hurdle when beaten 3-1 by France V represented by no less personalities than Bergeret and Nadine Daviaud with Corinne and Patricia Germain figuring as France III!

But however France deploy their players should not detract from their ability to run a first class tournament which attracted some 4,000 spectators to the Sunday afternoon final session. From the moment I entered the stadium to be greeted by their ruddy-faced umpire Raymond Ferauge I knew that I was with friends from their President, Jean-Paul Courtier downwards. And at the Sunday evening party in the Novotel, seated between Jean and Marta Mercier, it was just as pleasurable.

And we had our moment of glory, as well as hilarity, when two English umpires, Doug Young and Eric Pentland, officiated for the men's doubles final with Doug, first mispronouncing then subsequently rectifying Martin's name to the French version, bringing forth laughter and applause.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Round 3:

Guo Yuehua (CHN) bt R. Lagerfeldt (SWE) 13, 11, 10;

P. Birocheau (FRA) bt J. Pansky (CZE) 12, 20, 8;

A. Grubba (POL) bt M. Orlovski (CZE) 10, 16, -13, 11;

D. Douglas (ENG) bt Hong Chol (KDR) 16, 15, 17;

J. Secretin (FRA) bt Teng Yi (CHN) 17, -10, 19, -18, 14;

L. Kucharski (POL) bt D. Johnson (ENG) -18, 10, 11, 13;

Huang Liang (CHN) bt P. Renverse (FRA) 15, -15, 20, 15;

J. Hilton (ENG) bt Cho Yong Ho (KDR) 17, 14, 11.

Quarter-finals:

Guo Yuehua bt Birocheau 19, 11, 5;

Douglas bt Grubba 18, 20, 14;

Secretin bt Kucharski 17, 7, -11, -7, 18;

Huang Liang bt Hilton 19, -19, 17, -17, 18.

Semi-finals:

Guo Yuehua bt Douglas 11, 12, 14;

Huang Liang bt Secretin 13, -19, -13, 17, 18.

Final:

GUO YUEHUA bt Huang Liang 10, 10, 14.

Women's Singles Round 3:

Li Song Suk (KDR) bt H. Lindvall (SWE) 9, 8, 13;

Cao Yanhua (CHN) bt M. Kloppenburg (NET) 4, 17, 7;

M. Hrachova (CZE) bt M. Domonkos (CAN) -16, -16, 13, 10, 14;

Tong Ling (CHN) bt K. Witt (ENG) 16, 11, 13;

Pak Yung Sun (KDR) bt N. Daviaud (FRA) 10, 16, 17;

B. Silhanova (CZE) bt E. Ferenczi (RUM)

15, 12, 17;

B. Vriesekoop (NET) bt B. Thiriet (FRA) 14, -21, 15, 8;

Zhang Deying (CHN) bt T. Folkesson (NOR) 15, 16, 17.

Quarter-finals:

Cao Yanhua bt Li Song Suk 12, 15, 5;

Tong Ling bt Hrachova 16, -12, 11, 14;

Pak Yung Sun bt Silhanova -18, 13, 13, -16, 18;

Vriesekoop bt Zhang Deying -12, 21, 19, 16.

Semi-finals:

Cao Yanhua bt Tong Ling 19, -21, 8, 13;

Pak Yung Sun bt Vriesekoop 19, 18, 18.

Final:

CAO YANHUA bt Pak Yung Sun 15, -14, 16, 19.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Birocheau/Secretin bt J.-D. Constant/R. Hatem (FRA) 7, 15, 12;

Grubba/Kucharski bt P. Day (ENG)/Douglas -16, 11, 15, -15, 15;

Huang Liang/C. Martin (FRA) bt J. Dvoracek (CZE)/Pansky 10, 12, 14;

E. Lindh/N. Persson (SWE) bt Guo Yuehua/Teng Yi -23, 17, 17, -12, 20.

Semi-finals:

Birocheau/Secretin bt Grubba/Kucharski 17, 16, -20, 16;

Huang Liang/Martin bt Lindh/Persson 9, 14, -21, 13.

Final:

BIROCHEAU/SECRETIN bt Huang Liang/Martin -16, 18, -12, 17, 19.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Cao Yanhua/Zhang Deying bt B. Abgrall/S. Javerliac (FRA) 10, 15, 14;

Hrachova/Silhanova bt Kloppenburg/Vriesekoop 19, 11, 14;

C. Courteau/N. Pierrettes (FRA) bt Folkesson/K. Hagen (NOR) -17, -19, 16, 17, 11;

Jang Yon Ok (KDR)/Li Song Suk bt A. Jonsson/L. Waller (SWE) 19, 8, 12.

Semi-finals:

Cao Yanhua/Zhang Deying bt Hrachova/Silhanova -16, 19, 9, 17;

Jang Yon Ok/Li Song Suk bt Courteau/Pierrettes 7, 7, 9.

Final:

CAO YANHUA/ZHANG DEYING bt Jang Yon Ok/Li Song Suk 7, 18, 17.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:

Teng Yi/Cao Yanhua bt Hilton/Witt 17, -22, 14, 15;

Huang Liang/Tong Ling bt Cho Yang Ho (KDR)/Pak Yung Sun 17, -13, 12, 12;

Douglas/L. Jarvis (ENG) bt Orlovski/Hrachova 18, 21, 6;

Guo Yuehua/Zhang Deying bt Grubba/Vriesekoop 15, 17, -12, 11.

Semi-finals:

Teng Yi/Cao Yanhua bt Huang Liang/Tong Ling 16, -15, 14, 13;

Guo Yuehua/Zhang Deying bt Douglas/Jarvis 21, 10, 17.

Final:

GUO YUEHUA/ZHANG DEYING bt Teng Yi/Cao Yanhua -18, 21, 21, -18, 16.

TEAM EVENTS

Men's Final:

CHINA 3 France I 0

Huang Liang bt Birocheau 19, 19;

Guo Yuehua bt Secretin 11, 20;

Guo/Huang bt Birocheau/Secretin -14, 15, 12.

Women's Final:

CHINA 3 Korea DPR 0

Cao Yanhua bt Pak Yung Sun 18, 24;

Tong Ling bt Li Song Suk 18, 19;

Cao/Tong bt Li/Pak 9, 13.

QUIETER LIFE

Edgar Reay, a Life Member of the ETTA has resigned from the Sunderland and District TTA after 45 years as Hon. Sec., following his marriage at Kettering on Dec. 12/80 to Sally, a friend of many years. Sally, a widow of seven years with two sons, both married, and five grandchildren provides Edgar with a ready-made family.

Our congratulations go to Edgar and Sally whose address is: 11 Elm Avenue, Burton Latimer, Kettering, Northants NN15 5NF.

CLEVELAND JUNIOR 'SELECT'

CLASS OF HIS OWN

by Alan Ransome

Soham National League player John Souter was in a class of his own at the Cleveland Junior Select Championships played at Eston Leisure Centre over the weekend of Nov. 22/23.

Souter won the boys' singles without being pressed, winning through a far from easy field he beat Andrew Dixon, David Dodd, Scotland's David Campbell and his doubles partner Mark Oakley. Then in the final, Carl Prean.

Souter also won the team event partnered by Prean in which he was by far the mainstay.

In the singles final Souter was just too steady for Prean. For most of the set he played safe, watching carefully the Prean combination bat, keeping the ball on the table and looking for the opening to attack.

In the other half of the draw Prean did particularly well to win through. He beat Lindsay Taylor and Welsh seed Mark Thomas without the loss of a game and then pipped Philip Bradbury at the post 18 in the third in a set that could have gone either way.

Earlier in the day Prean won the Cadet boys' singles without the loss of a game. However in the final, Nigel Tyler came close in the first game assisted by three fault services given against Prean.

Billy Gleave, up-and-coming Cheshire cadet, ousted second seed David Rook of Yorkshire but found Tyler a little too consistent in the semi-final.

The girls' singles produced a number of shocks but the winner, Joy Grundy, fully deserved her title. The first shock was the defeat of Gina Pritchard at the hands of Sarah Sandley. Sarah had a good run going on to beat Jackie Bellinger before coming up against Miss Grundy in the semi-final.

Top seed Helen Williams had a comfortable run through to the semi-final where she found the mixed play of Lisa Bellinger awkward to cope with. Lisa having a round earlier beaten Jean Parker in three games.

Joy Grundy picked up her second title with the girls' team event, partnered by Jean Parker. In the final they proved a little too steady for Helen Williams and Gina Pritchard running out 3-1 winners.

Lisa Bellinger gained some consolation in winning the Cadet girls' singles where, like Prean she appeared to be in a class of her own. No one got near taking a game from the Bedfordshire girl. The closest score in fact was Susan Collier of Berkshire who managed to get 8 and 16 in the final having beaten Laura Goldsmith in the semi.

Boys' Team Event

Semi-finals:

M. Oakley (Sy)/J. Souter (Mi) bt M. Thomas/A. Jones (Wal) 3-0.

P. Rainford (La)/A. Sanderson (Y) bt P. Bradbury/A. Moore (Sx) 3-2.

Final:

Oakley lost to Rainford -15, 18, -15;

Souter bt Sanderson 17, 17;

Oakley/Souter lost to Rainford/Sanderson -18, -19;

Souter bt Rainford 10, 12;

Oakley bt Sanderson 6, 7.

Girls' Team Event

Semi-finals:

G. Pritchard (Dv)/H. Williams (Mi) bt C. Butler (Dv)/L. Garbet (Sy) 3-1.

J. Grundy/J. Parker (La) bt J. Bellinger/L. Bellinger (Bd) 3-1.

Final:

Parker lost to Williams 16, -17, -13;

Grundy bt Pritchard 14, 15;
Grundy/Parker bt Pritchard/Williams -18, 12, 17;

Grundy bt Williams 10, 15.

Cadet Boys' Team Event

Semi-finals:
C. Prean (IOW)/N. Tyler (Mi) bt I. Davies/Michael Thomas (Wal) 3-1.

I. McLoughlin/I. Smith (Sp) bt M. Firth/D. Rook (Y) 3-2.

Final:

Tyler lost to McLoughlin -18, -15;

Prean bt Smith 11, 6;

Prean/Tyler bt McLoughlin/Smith -14, 15, 18;

Prean bt McLoughlin 15, 10.

Cadet Girls' Team Event

Semi-finals:

L. Goldsmith (Mi)/T. Moore (Sx) bt A. Boxall/L. Popkiewicz (Sy) 3-2.

A. Barker/C. Wickstead (Sp) bt M. McHale (Wa)/C. Mouzon (Nd) 3-0.

Final:

Goldsmith bt Wickstead 18, 15;

Moore bt Barker 18, 15;

Goldsmith/Moore lost to Barker/Wickstead 14, -17, -14;

Goldsmith lost to Barker 11, -19, -17;

Moore bt Wickstead 9, 15.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

Souter bt D. Campbell (Sco) 18, -19, 9;

Oakley bt G. Lambert (Dv) 10, 14;

Prean bt Thomas 14, 19;

Bradbury bt Rainford -15, 14, 9.

Semi-finals:

Souter bt Oakley 14, 14;

Prean bt Bradbury -18, 20, 18.

Final:

SOUTER bt Prean 18, 17.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt Williams 19, 13;

Grundy bt S. Sandley (Mi) 17, 12.

Final:

GRUNDY bt Bellinger 19, 18.

Cadet Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Prean bt McLoughlin 16, 10;

Tyler bt W. Gleave (Ch) 15, -17, 18.

Final:

PREAN bt Tyler 18, 10.

Cadet Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt Barker 11, 11;

S. Collier (Bk) bt Goldsmith 15, 18.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Collier 8, 16.

U-11 Boys' Singles Final:

I. CORCORAN (Sp) bt D. Smedley (Dy) -10, 19, 18.

U-11 Girls' Singles Final:

C. POTTS (Ch) bt J. Bloore (Sp) 12, 12.



Clare Potts of Cheshire and Ian Corcoran of Shropshire with their statuettes as winners of the Under-11 events at Eston.

Photo by Stan Hilton, 15 Auckland Road, Billingham, Cleveland.

SOMERSET AND AVON INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

by Mike Baker

PREMIER DIVISION

Last year's champions Bridgwater 'A' are going to be hard pressed to retain their title this season. They have lost the full time service of Somerset county players Graham Green, Jill Green and Betty Norman, and although Somerset youngsters David Lee and David Wilson show considerable promise they lack experience at this level.

Failand 'A' must have a good chance with their Somerset trio of Brian and Pat Reeves and Colin Feltham all unbeaten as yet. Bath 'A' have only dropped one point so far and John Higgs has yet to lose a singles. Promoted Taunton 'A' have made an encouraging return and have chalked up two wins, with junior Dean Sully only losing one singles and forming a so far unbeaten doubles combination with Vic Jackson.

At the other end of the table there are no obvious candidates for relegation and losses have been by the narrowest of margins.

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Failand 'A'	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Taunton 'A'	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Bridgwater 'A'	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Bath 'A'	2	1	1	0	14	6	3

DIVISION ONE

Knowle and Brislington (Bristol) have confirmed themselves as firm favourites for promotion with three wins out of three. One would hardly expect differently when they can field Avon's Tony Brown, Andy Creed and Paul Jackson!

Yeovil 'A' having lost narrowly to Knowle and Brislington 4-6 look set for runners-up spot once again.

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Knowle and Brislington	3	3	0	0	15	5	6
Taunton 'B'	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Yeovil 'A'	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Bath 'C'	3	1	0	2	9	21	2

DIVISION TWO

Yeovil 'B', with a hat-trick of wins look a good bet for promotion, but Nailsea (Bristol) are also unbeaten as yet.

We have a fund of experience in this division as well. Three ladies pool, dare I say, 200 years between them! Nellie Mason, in her 75th year is still going strong for Failand 'B'; Betty Bonner has returned to Yeovil's ranks and Somerset Veterans; and Maidee Waller plays for Chard and Somerset Veterans. Long may you enjoy your table tennis ladies!

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yeovil 'B'	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Nailsea	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Chard	2	1	0	1	11	9	2

JUNIOR DIVISION

This division looks to be the most competitive with three teams in with a chance of finishing top and taking the Reg Williams cup.

Taunton are the only unbeaten team, but still have to play both Bristol and Bridgwater. Dean Sully and Martin Wilde still have 100% records intact for Taunton.

The Bridgwater versus Bristol match was very much a ding-dong battle, with Bristol clinching the last singles to earn a draw. Paul Hooper and Shaun Khan with two singles wins each and a doubles, scored Bristol's five sets, while David Lee and Mark Bryant each took a singles for Bridgwater; but it was Wendy Payne who won her singles and helped win both the mixed doubles that did most to earn a draw for Bridgwater.

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bristol	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Bridgwater	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Taunton	2	2	0	0	13	7	4

CLWYD NOTES

by Roy Williams

NEW PROGRAMME

At a special general meeting of the Rhyl and District League, held at Rhyl Labour Club on Dec. 10, it was decided to start the league and cup programme again on Jan. 12. Due to the withdrawal of three clubs (nine teams) invitations have gone out both to old and new clubs to join the new league programme and, with luck, Rhyl can return to enjoy playing competitive table tennis once more.

New officials elected at the meeting were:- Chairman-Philip Overson, Vice-Chairman-Roy Williams, Hon. Sec.-Mrs. Margaret Hook, Hon. Treasurer-Mrs. Barbara Williams, Fixture Sec.-Geoffrey Hollis and Welsh League Sec.-Malcolm Hook.

Queens Park O.B. 'A' have opened up a 10 pt. lead on their nearest rivals in Div. 1 of the Wrexham League after nine matches. Queens Park O.B. 'B' also lead in Div. 2 but Dobson and Crowther are 5 pts. in front of Telecomms in the third division. Clwyd, without county teams this season, have released North Wales champion Trevor Manning to Cheshire. We hope he will return to us in future seasons. Congratulations to Christine Watkins, the Wrexham League Hon. Sec., on her recent marriage.

HOOK CHAMPION

Llandudno held their closed championships at the Quinton Hazell canteen, Mochdre on Nov. 29. Cricket Club's John Hook emerged as the new champion with a fine final victory over Roger Isherwood (North Western), the 1978 champion. In the semis John defeated Emlyn Williams (Colwyn Bay TTC) and Roger beat Lansdowne's Ken Jones.

We also hail a new women's champion in Debbie Jones (CBTTC) who beat the holder clubmate Wendy Jones 14, 16 in the final. The veterans' final, or as billed the senior citizens singles, was won by yours truly with a final victory in straight games over Alf Hardman (Lansdowne).

Roger Isherwood won the junior singles with a fine win over Derek Butterworth (CBTTC) in the final. In the semis he beat Glen Jackson (CBTTC) whilst Derek ousted Bradley Dyson (CBTTC). Colwyn Bay TTC won the Cadet championship being represented by Andrew Holmes who beat Steven Rushton (Llandudno Junction YC). Neil Dutton and Kevin Jones reached the semi-final stage.

Isherwood gained further revenge from his men's singles defeat when he joined his teammate Arthur Roberts in defeating Hook and Stephen Strange in the men's doubles final. John and Stephen reached the final by beating Glyn Gibbons and Alf Hardman in the semis whilst Roger and Arthur disposed of Roy Williams and Emlyn Williams 18 in the third. Dyson beat Alan Edwards in the consolation final.

Arrangements are well in hand for the Wales v Ireland Junior international on Jan. 16 at the Arcadia Theatre, Llandudno. Ireland will have 45 supporters who, the following day, will compete in the North Wales Junior Open at Deeside Leisure Centre. Dave Tapp and Mike Holden tell me that for the third year the tournament has a bumper entry.

LLANDUDNO CLOSED

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Hook bt A. Roberts;
E. Williams bt S. Strange;
R. Isherwood bt R. Williams;
K. Jones bt G. Gibbon (holder).

Semi-finals:

Hook bt Williams 2-0;
Isherwood bt Jones 2-0.

Final:

HOOK bt Isherwood 2-0.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Jones bt Karen Ashton 2-1;
W. Jones (holder) bt Kath Ashton 2-0.

Final:

D. JONES bt W. Jones 2-0.

Veteran Singles:

R. WILLIAMS bt A. Hardman 2-0.

Junior Singles:

R. ISHERWOOD bt D. Butterworth 2-0.

Consolation Singles:

A. HOLMES bt S. Rushton 2-0.

Open Doubles:

ISHERWOOD/ROBERTS bt Hook/Strange 2-0.

ANGLESEY LEAGUE

Last season Anglesey had their first division but Div. 2 was split into two sections, East and West of the island. This season Fixture Sec. Ian Hargreaves has had to revert to the normal two division system.

After five matches WYLFA 'A', the champions, are again the pacesetters followed by St. Mary's and Holyhead 'A'. Llangejni 'C'

have a good lead from Bangor University in Div. 2 who, in turn, are being chased by Holyhead "D" and Bangor Normal College. The Anglesey League champions and runners-up for last season were:-

Div. 1

Winners: WYLFA 'A'.
Runners-up: Llangejni 'A'.

Div. 2 (E)

Winners: WYLFA 'B'.
Runners-up: St. Mary's.

Div. 2 (W)

Winners: Bangor PO.
Runners-up: Benllich.

EXCHANGE WANTED

Finnish correspondent Claus von Heiroth (pp16 December issue) wishes it to be known that his telephone number should be 358-0-8016525 and not as given in the December magazine.

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Welsh Corner

H. ROY EVANS

DIFFERENCES RESOLVED

We go into 1981 with the prospect of a much better international performance than we suffered in the 1979/80 season. Differences with our No. 1 player Alan Griffiths, which prevented his appearance in our teams in the past season now happily appear to be resolved, and he leads our team in the European League Division Three matches which take place as a curtain raiser to the Stiga Welsh Open.

Dave Welsman gets the No. 2 spot, and our young players Nigel and Mark Thomas make up the male side of the squad. Lesley Tyler, whose Father used to play in the Newport League, is selected No. 1 woman, and she is supported by Susan Jones, whose better performances lately have secured preference over Cathryn Jones.

Alan and Dave in the "A" Team, and Nigel and Mark in the "B" team with Jeff Morgan as reserve, also play in the international team event on Jan. 22. Cathryn Jones joins Lesley and Susan for the women's team event.

We have a second international junior encounter fixed for Llandudno on Jan. 16 when we meet Ireland. Mark Thomas, Andrew Jones and Gary Wilkins are retained after the match against Scotland, whilst Jeremy Hobbs from Tredegar is given a chance at No. 4. David Griffiths moves down to reserve.

The Top Twelve on Nov. 29/30 provided some excellent table tennis. Griffiths was unable to play because of a commitment in Germany, but Welsman confirmed his success in the earlier Assessment Round Robin by edging in front of George Evans in the Top Twelve. Although there was only a game's difference between the two, Dave easily beat George in their clash.

Nigel Thomas came third, losing to Dave and George, but also being beaten by Mark Thomas. The latter was fourth, surprisingly losing matches to Andrew Jones and Andrew Evans. John Bloomer earned a fifth place mostly by virtue of a surprise win over Welsman, the latter's only failure. Andrew Jones was sixth, and the surprise occupier of seventh place was the coloured player from North Wales Trevor Manning, who must have been quite surprised to find how few people, even amongst those at the top, like playing against chop defence. Jeff Morgan was next, and would have been higher had he not let slip a golden opportunity to beat George Evans. Andrew Evans came ninth, Gary Wilkins a somewhat disappointing tenth, and Tony Healan was eleventh.

Lesley Tyler came out top of the women's section, despite a last game display of better form by Cathryn Jones, who was nevertheless forced down to third place by Susan Jones. Sue Powell was fourth, and she and Jayne Sully, who was next, are showing signs of improvement. Cadet Heidi Cotter from North Wales was next, followed by Vicky Skeats who had a fine day. Linda Leggett was a bit below her usual form and dropped below Vicky, Pamela Grant was

next, the two Sellick sisters Helen and Lynne in disappointing tenth and eleventh places, and Chantall Nicholls undismayed on the bottom.

There was some fine play in the Cardiff Open, the strongest tournament staged in Wales so far this season. Nigel Eckersley won the singles, but he was mightily relieved to withstand a tremendous fight back by Welsman in the semi. Strangely enough Nigel had far less trouble with Alan Fletcher in the final, after the latter had completely dominated Griffiths in the semi. True Alan was somewhat handicapped by a torn neck muscle, but the No. 1 Welshman had survived a tremendous battle against Kevin Beadsley winning from 20-all in the third.

Stephanie Jones, playing her first competitive table tennis in Wales, took the women's singles, although Brenda Annand shook her from 20-all in the third in a first round encounter. Stephanie's final victim was Karen Groves, who had come through at 20-all against Lesley Tyler in her semi. Mark Thomas took the boys' event, whilst Linda Leggett played well to beat Jayne Sully in a good girls' final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

N. Eckersley bt D. Welsman -16, 12, 19;

A Fletcher bt A. Griffiths 17, -13, 10.

Final:

ECKERSLEY bt Fletcher 9, -21, 12.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

S. Jones bt J. New 19, 22;

K. Groves bt L. Tyler 18, -18, 23.

Final:

JONES bt Groves 18, 17.

Men's Doubles Final:

ECKERSLEY/BEADSLEY bt Fletcher/Satchell 18, 16.

Women's Doubles Final:

S. JONES/NEW bt Hardy/Groves 12, 22.

Junior Boys' Singles Final:

M. THOMAS bt A. Jones 8, 11.

Junior Girls' Singles Final:

L. LEGGETT bt J. Sully 17, 21.

Consolation Boys' Singles Final:

J. HOOK bt W. Campbell -14, 18, 15.

Consolation Girls' Singles Final:

SULLY bt H. Cotter 17, 13.

Stiga Welsh Open Preview

England's John Hilton, currently ranked No 5 in the World, is the No. 1 seed in the prestigious Stiga Welsh Open Championships in Cardiff (January 22/24).

Tibor Klampar of Hungary, probably Europe's most successful player at the moment, is seeded into the No. 2 position at the bottom of the draw. Ex-World champion Stellan Bengtsson of Sweden is at the bottom of Hilton's half, whilst England's top-ranked player, Desmond Douglas, is seeded at the top of Klampar's half.

The popular Czechoslovak, Milan Orlowski, and his compatriot Josef Dvoracek are the next seeds, with Orlowski likely to meet ex-World champion Istvan Jonyer of Hungary for a chance to reach the quarters. Hilton will have to contend with the fast-improving Ulf Carlsson of Sweden if he is to meet either Orlowski or Jonyer.

Dvoracek is at the bottom of Douglas's quarter, with the best South Korean, Lee San Sook as his challenger for a quarter-final place, whilst Douglas has the Federal German Peter Stellwag and another South Korean in his path to the quarters.

Ulf Thorsell of Sweden is at the top of Klampar's quarter, and will find the top Polish player Andrzej Grubba as his obstacle to a quarter-final clash with Klampar who will find opposition from Tetsuo Inoue of Japan and Ralf Wosik (Federal Germany) not to mention the young Swede Mikael Appelgren.

Jill Hammersley, now making an im-

pressive comeback, heads the women's seeds, with her old rival Ann-Christin Hellman of Sweden at the bottom of the draw. Sweden's Marie Lindblad is at the bottom of Jill's half, but both face opposition from the South Koreans, who are in the top bracket of World women's table tennis. Jill is likely to meet An Hae Sook, and Lindblad should come through to play Hwang Nam Sook.

The Czech girl, Marie Hrachova is at the top of Hellman's half, but again the South Korean challenge is there for both — Lee Soo Ja is Lindblad's threat, whilst Hellman will probably meet Kim Kyung Ja.

In the men's team event Hungary are the No. 1 seeds, and Czechoslovakia are seeded No. 2. The England "A" team of Douglas and Paul Day are at the top of the Czech half with Federal Germany "A" as likely quarter-final opponents. Poland, with Grubba and Leszek Kucharski, will be Czechoslovakia's challengers for a semi-final place.

Sweden should be Hungary's semi-final opponents, but Hungary have South Korea, and the England "B" team of Hilton and Duggie Johnson in their quarter. Sweden have the easiest quarter with Denmark as their biggest threat.

In the women's team event, Sweden "A" have top place, with Czechoslovakia at the bottom. England "A", with Jill and Linda Jarvis are at the top of the Czech half, whilst Federal Germany are seeded to meet Sweden in the other half. The England "B" team of Karen Witt and Alison Gordon should come through to meet Sweden in the quarters.

SEALINK

AGREE TO TRANSFER POTTON

National titleholders Sealink Milton Keynes have reluctantly agreed to transfer their No. 1 player and England International Bob Potton to Dutch Club Niccor. Cameras provided they agree to the transfer fee involved.

Said Club General Manager Brian Ashton, "Naturally, I am very disappointed at the possibility of losing such a talented player as Bob and the move will be a tragedy not only for us but also for English table tennis.

The player is under contract with us but has made up his mind to play in Holland and I see little point in holding him here against his will. What I want now is a quick settlement of the matter so that the team can concentrate fully on winning our remaining National League fixtures because we can still finish in the top three despite losing Bob".

Potton was Sealink's only winner against Spartacus Budapest at Milton Keynes on Dec. 20 when the Hungarians, represented by Tibor Klampar, Istvan Jonyer and Zsolt Kriston, won their Europe Club Cup of Champions 6-1 Potton beating Kriston.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

by Robert Oldfield

SOHAM GO CLEAR

After three matches on consecutive Sundays Soham, the club based in a village in Cambridgeshire, emerged triumphant from the Christmas period. Even the most confident of Soham supporters must have been surprised by the news of such a lead and Soham are now clear favourites for the title.

PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Soham	8	7	1	51	21	14
Ellenborough	9	7	2	48	33	14
Sealink Milton Keynes	9	6	3	57	24	12
Macleans Maidenhead	9	5	4	43	38	10
Ormesby I	9	4	5	42	39	8
Fellows Cranleigh (Newham)	9	4	5	32	49	8
Unity	9	2	7	25	56	4
Dunlop Sports (Birmingham)	8	0	8	17	55	0

Soham's run of success began just before Christmas, with Paul Day leading his team to a 6-3 victory on Sealink's home ground. Serving notice on the occupant of his former England No. 3 ranking, Day destroyed Bob Potton by the emphatic scores of 12 and 5 and had earlier defeated Douggie Johnson in a decisive revenge for the defeat which proved so costly in the championship — deciding clash at the end of last season.

Macleans Maidenhead were next on Soham's list and, at four sets all, the experience of David Wells was too much for the 16 year old Philip Bradbury. Bradbury had kept his place thanks to some excellent wins against Fellows Cranleigh and Ormesby and the following Sunday he showed remarkable composure in winning the deciding game and set against Sealink Milton Keynes' Bob Tuckett. Sealink's chances of retaining the championship are now slim, if not non-existent, particularly with the news of an imminent transfer of Potton to the Dutch club, Nikon. As one of the leading players in the League, Potton will be greatly missed by the team if the clubs can agree terms and he has already begun a job associated with the Dutch club's offer. The disappointing news and results for the Milton Keynes club have been immediately offset by their latest signing, Barry Griffiths of New Zealand. Griffiths, although just 16 years old is already the No. 3 senior for his country and is hoping to be selected for the National League team to gain competitive experience before his participation in the World Championships in April.

Nonetheless, the title must surely now go to Soham or Ellenborough. Graham Sandley's club, having failed to complete the double over Ormesby, have points and sets to claw back and the Enfield club, will draw a large crowd on Sunday, 25th January when they attempt to inflict a second defeat on Soham. Ellenborough have been fielding Leon Smith in recent matches but their No. 4 position is not an easy place to fill and Colin Wilson could return to the team.

In the bottom half of the Premier Division, Fellows Cranleigh, strengthened by the addition of Peter McQueen have been enjoying more success recently. McQueen is undefeated in both his matches so far but even without his services Fellows Cranleigh had an exciting 6-3 victory over Unity. No fewer than six of the nine sets required a third and deciding game.

SIGNINGS IN SECOND SOUTH

New signings for the second half of the season could drastically affect the struggle in Second Division South and Bristol Cashmans were the first to suffer at the hands of the new Generation II. The addition of Simon Heaps, playing with a tackiness/anti-

loop combination, has clearly helped the Fareham club and they raced into a winning 5-0 lead before Kevin Satchell stopped the slide, and David Hannah. Cashmans now lie in third place with vital matches against March and Seagulls on 25th January and 8th February respectively. First the high-flying Seagulls must concentrate on their visit to St. Neots and, strengthened by the addition of the popular Sussex player, Roger Chandler, will be seeking a convincing victory.

SECOND SOUTH LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Seagulls	8	6	2	49	23	12
Generation II	8	6	2	44	28	12
Bristol Cashmans	7	5	2	42	21	10
St. Neots	8	5	3	42	30	10
March Town	8	3	5	32	40	6
Gunnersbury Triangle	8	2	6	29	43	4
Prudential Ibis	7	0	7	5	80	0

WIN FOR S.W. DURHAM AT LAST!

South West Durham, having looked as though they might support the Second Division North all season, received a tremendous boost for their confidence in the New Year. Two wins for Keith Wilson, the doubles and one each from John Crawford, Tony Gelder and Bill Reay brought the club their first victory in the National League, by six sets to three, and sent Billingham/J. D. White Group to the bottom.

Otherwise, as expected, City of Newcastle shrugged off the challenge of Norton just before Christmas and they play their nearest challengers, Salford Select, in the next round of matches.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
City of Newcastle	9	9	0	68	13	18
Salford Select	9	8	1	59	22	16
Norton	9	6	3	51	30	12
Tarmac/W'hampton	9	5	4	44	37	10
Ormesby II	9	4	5	35	46	8
Stockton Select	9	2	7	24	57	4
South West Durham	9	1	8	24	57	2
Billingham/J. D. White Group	9	1	8	19	62	2

NATIONAL LEAGUE RESULTS

21.12.80

PREMIER DIVISION

SOHAM 6 SEALINK MILTON KEYNES 3
MACLEANS MAIDENHEAD 6 ORMESBY 3
UNITY 3 FELLOWS CRANLEIGH 6
DUNLOP 3 ELLENBOROUGH 6

28.12.80

PREMIER DIVISION

ELLENBOROUGH 5 SCIMITAR FELLOWS
CRANLEIGH 4

UNITY 6 ORMESBY 3
SOHAM 5 MACLEANS MAIDENHEAD 4
DUNLOP SPORTS BIRMINGHAM 0
SEALINK MILTON KEYNES 9

4.1.81

PREMIER DIVISION

SCIMITAR FELLOWS CRANLEIGH 5
DUNLOP SPORTS BIRMINGHAM 4

SOHAM 7 UNITY 2
MACLEANS MAIDENHEAD 5 SEALINK
MILTON KEYNES 4

21.12.80

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

City of Newcastle 6 Norton 3
Ormesby II 7 S.W. Durham 2
Stockton Select 6 Billingham 3
Salford Select 6 Tarmac Wolverhampton 3

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Seagulls 7 March 2
Gunnersbury Triangle 2 Generation II 7
Prudential Ibis 1 Bristol 8

28.12.80

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Ormesby II 2 Norton 7
Billingham 3 Wolverhampton 6
Stockton Select 0 City of Newcastle 9
Salford Select 8 S.W. Durham 1

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Prudential Ibis 1 Seagulls 8
Gunnersbury 5 March 4
St. Neots 4 Generation II 5

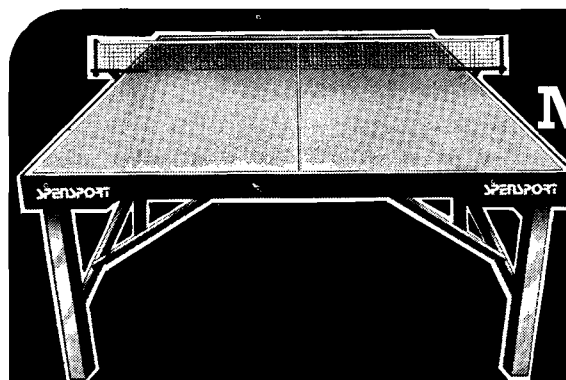
4.1.81

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Norton 2 Salford Select 7
S.W. Durham 6 Billingham 3
City of Newcastle 8 Ormesby II 1
Tarmac Wolverhampton 7 Stockton Select 2

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Seagulls 7 Gunnersbury Triangle 2
Generation II 6 Bristol 3



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(continued from page 39)

playing well for the winners. Richard Stevenson's scores for Norfolk -6, 12, 9, 14 speak for themselves.

DIVISION JUNIOR 3 (North Midlands)

Northamptonshire 2 Leicestershire 8
Warwickshire II 3 Shropshire 7

DIVISION JUNIOR (South Midlands)

Norfolk II 3 Buckinghamshire II 7

Oxfordshire 6 Berkshire 4

Peter Crabb and Mark Ball the inspiration behind Oxon win. Debbie Simmonds and Linda Phelps starred in Bucks win.

VETERANS South (A) DIVISION

Middlesex I 8 Hertfordshire II 1

Essex II 5 Kent I 4

Berkshire II 5 Sussex I 4

Gerry Batt-Rowden's two could not prevent Berks recording their first win of the season. Essex-Kent took 3½ hours to settle their match. Dave Finlayson won the final set 18 after trailing 10-5 at change. Middlesex only lost WS where Mary Simes lost to Daphne Baines.

VETERANS South (B) DIVISION

Hertfordshire I 2 Middlesex II 7

Kent II 1 Essex 8

Sussex II 5 Berkshire I 4

J. Smith impressed for Middlesex whilst Essex, without Bobby Stevens won easily. Stan Battrick on tremendous form for them. J. Barry unbeaten for Sussex II — again.

VETERANS (Midland) DIVISION

Hertfordshire III 3 Northamptonshire 6

Oxfordshire 5 Bedfordshire 4

VETERANS (West) DIVISION

Somerset II 3 Isle of Wight 6

Avon 6 Somerset 3

Dorset I 4 Wiltshire 5

Somerset led 3-2 but Jim Daley easily the best player. Colin Feltham's two to no avail for Somerset. Joan Collier looked sound for Avon. Cyril Bush won two easily enough for Dorset only to see his side lose. A good win for Gwen Hazell 18, -10, 19 over Joyce Coop.

VETERANS (North) DIVISION

Cheshire II 6 Staffordshire 3

Cumbria 5 Leicestershire 4

Lincolnshire 5 Nottinghamshire 4

Cumbria had a good win over Leics but a good debut for Mrs. Pat Kilsby (Leics) in beating Clarice Rose. Lincs win over Notts could decide the championship. Ron Bolton two for Notts . . . again. M. Tew star of Cheshire win.

The Junior and Veterans Challenge matches will take place on April 11/12, 1981, followed by the Senior Challenge matches on April 25/26. Any County or organisation interested in staging any of the above events should contact Stan Parr, 7 Ennerdale Crescent, Nuneaton (Tel. 0682-385580).

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS TABLES

as at 1st December, 1980

Prepared by A. DRAPKIN

Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	19	8	6
Warwicks	3	2	0	1	17	10	4
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	14	13	4
Essex	3	2	0	1	14	13	4
Lancs	3	1	0	2	12	15	2
Staffs	3	1	0	2	12	15	2
Glamorgan	3	1	0	2	9	18	2
Middlesex	3	0	0	3	11	16	0
2 South							
Surrey	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Dorset	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Bucks	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Sussex	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Hants	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Middlesex II	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Oxon	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

2 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancs II	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Northumberland	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Durham	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Yorks II	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Cleveland	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Cheshire II	1	0	0	1	1	9	0

2 West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Berkshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Gwent	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Devon	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Somerset	2	0	0	2	6	14	2
Avon	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

2 Midland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwickshire II	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Leics	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Worcs	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Notts	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Derbyshire	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Northants	3	0	0	3	4	26	0
Gloucs	1	0	0	1	1	9	0

2 East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambs	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Essex II	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Herts	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Kent	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Suffolk	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Norfolk	2	0	1	1	5	15	1
Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

3 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Staffs II	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Lincs	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Northumberland II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Derbys II	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Cumbria	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

3 South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sussex II	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Herts II	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Kent II	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Hants II	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Surrey II	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Berks II	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

3 East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Suffolk II	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Cambs II	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Norfolk II	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Beds II	3	0	2	1	10	20	2
Hunts	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Herts III	2	0	1	1	8	12	1

3 Midland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leics II	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Worcs II	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Bucks II	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Shropshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Oxon II	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Northants II	3	0	1	2	9	21	1

3 West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Isle of Wight	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Dorset II	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Avon II	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Cornwall	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Herefordshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Somerset II	1	0	0	1	3	7	0

Junior Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Beds	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Surrey	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Middlesex	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Staffs	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Bucks	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Sussex	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Devon	3	0	1	2	12	18	1

Junior 2 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Yorks II	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Lincs	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Lancs	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Cleveland	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Derbyshire	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Cumbria	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

Junior 2 West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwicks	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Wiltshire	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Glous	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Avon	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Devon II	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Glamorgan	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Worcestershire	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Hants	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

Junior 2 East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Essex	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Herts	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Cambs	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Berks	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Middlesex II	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Oxon	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

Junior 3 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Notts	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Durham	1	1	0	0	10	0	2
Cheshire II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Cleveland II	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Cumbria II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Shropshire II	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

Junior 3 South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Surrey II	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Essex II	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Sussex II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Hants II	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Dorset II	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

Junior 3 West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dorset	2	1	1	0	15	5	3
Gwent	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Devon III	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Cornwall	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Somerset	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Avon II	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

County Championships Round-up

by PHILIP REID

TYKES LEAD

Yorkshire the only unbeaten team. Steve Mills still 100% and they have also won all women's events. At the other end Middlesex — who have used 8 men and 3 women in three matches are still pointless. Glamorgan obviously miss Alan Griffiths when he is unavailable. Lancs just lost to Essex. The very first set — where Horsham beat Turner 19, -14, 20 was decisive. Tony Boasman on great form for Cheshire against Staffs but Staffs Rich/Miss Harris still unbeaten at XD.

PREMIER DIVISION

Yorkshire 9 Glamorgan 0

K. Beadsley bt J. Morgan 16, 15;
bt T. Healan 18, 13.

A. Clayton bt Morgan 17, 15;
bt R. Bishop 19, 17.

S. Mills bt Healan 11, 14;
bt Bishop 20, 13.

Miss S. Midgley bt Miss S. Jones 15, 13.

Beadsley/Mills bt Healan/Bishop 14, 13.

Clayton/Miss Midgley bt Morgan/Miss Jones 14, 19.

Yorkshire 5 Middlesex 4

K. Beadsley lost to D. Wells -18, 9, -18;
bt J. Souter 12, 17.

S. Mills bt Wells -15, 15, 10;
bt J. Payne 9, 16.

T. Bottomley lost to Souter -13, -15;
lost to Payne -20, -10.

Mrs. M. Hill bt Miss H. Williams 17, 16.

Bottomley/Mills lost to Wells/Payne

-17, 17, -9.

Beadsley/Mrs. Hill bt Souter/Miss Williams

14, -14, 21.

Lancashire 4 Essex 5

D. Parker lost to I. Horsham -17, -13;
bt D. Newman -17, 17, 15.

S. Turner lost to Horsham -19, 14, -20;
bt S. Gibbs 15, 18.

P. Rainford lost to Newman -10, 17, -18;
lost to Gibbs -22, -11.

Miss J. Grundy bt Mrs. E. Foulds 12, -20, 13.

Turner/Rainford lost to Horsham/Newman

-15, 20, -12.

Parker/Miss Grundy bt Gibbs/Mrs. Foulds

8, -17, 11.

Cheshire 5 Staffordshire 4

A. Boasman bt A. Bellingham -15, 18, 19;
bt A. Rich 13, 14.

B. Johns lost to Bellingham -10, -14;
bt A. Isaac -10, 18, 17.

W. Percival lost to Isaac 18, -12, -20;
lost to Rich -16, -14.

Miss J. Deakin bt Miss J. Harris 19, 18;
Johns/Percival bt Isaac/Bellingham 14, 16;

Boasman/Miss Deakin lost to Rich/Miss

Harris 21, -18, -17.

Glamorgan 3 Warwickshire 6

G. Evans lost to P. Glynn -12, -14;
lost to D. Munt -13, 17, -17.

J. Morgan bt Glynn -18, 18, 18;
lost to B. Johnson -16, -17.

A. Healan lost to Munt -12, -13;
lost to Johnson -15, -11.

Miss C. Jones lost to Miss K. Groves

16, -10, -18.

Evans/Morgan bt Munt/Johnson 14, 13.

Healan/Miss Jones bt Glynn/Miss Groves

-18, 25, 5.

DIVISION 2 (South)

Dorset 6 Sussex 4

Middlesex II 3 Buckinghamshire 7

Oxfordshire 3 Surrey 7

Dorset had Simon Heaps to thank for their win — they lost the other four MS.

J. Kathuria unbeaten for Oxon, but had no support against Surrey for whom Peter McQueen won two. Phillip Bradbury and Ian Haines played well for Bucks against Middlesex where only Sarah Sandley looked to be Div. 2 standard.

DIVISION 2 (North)

Yorkshire II 9 Cheshire II 1

Lancashire II 8 Cleveland 2

Cleveland, who brought only three men and no women players never in it against Lancs where K. Williams shone. Yorkshire won all but the last set against Cheshire.

DIVISION 2 (West)

Devon 3 Berkshire 7

Somerset 4 Gwent 6

Berkshire's Sam Harmer on tremendous form, including a 12, 6 win over Gary Lambert. Gwent won six of the seven Men's events against Somerset with Brian Jeanes and Andrew Evans both winning two. Jill Green and Pat Reeves easily took care of the Women's events.

DIVISION 2 (Midland)

Warwickshire II 8 Northamptonshire 2

Leicestershire 5 Worcestershire 5

Mandy Wallis involved in both Northants' wins but Paul Judd once again on great form for Warwicks. Leics surprised by dropping a home point to Worcs for whom Simon Claxton and Jeremy Duffield were unbeaten.

DIVISION 2 (East)

Norfolk 5 Hertfordshire 5

Essex II 8 Bedfordshire 2

Essex men too strong — no MS going closer than 15. Jackie Bellinger lost a cliff-hanger to Linda Barrow -22, 20, -18.

Norfolk without Doug Bennett did well to take a point from Herts. Richard Stevenson won two but Richard Jermyn (Herts) easily the outstanding player.

DIVISION 3 (North)

Northumberland II 7 Cumbria 3

Staffordshire II 8 Derbyshire II 2

Cumbria could only manage two WS (B. Gray and J. Sephton) and the opening set when A. Fay beat M. Short. Steve McCarthy best of Derbys side but Staffs never looked like losing after the first set. Junior Paul Barnett looks to be a really great prospect.

DIVISION 3 (South)

Hampshire II 5 Kent II 5

Sussex II 8 Berkshire II 2

Ramish Bhalla gave another competent display for Hants with Avril Waters also on form. All Kent men took a MS. Sussex starting to look favourites in this division. Peter Puddock extended to double figures only once but a nice win for Gill Knightley over Teresa Moore.

DIVISION 3 (East)

Suffolk II 8 Norfolk II 2

Bedfordshire II 5 Hertfordshire III 5

Suffolk looked well set for promotion in this division. Jane Burbage won only singles for Norfolk but the Suffolk trio of Julian Hall, Russell King and Terry Dowsett looks very sound indeed. Herts, a player short did well to draw with Beds. Alan Lamprell and Geoff Bax unbeaten whilst Dimmock gave another promising display for the home side.

DIVISION 3 (Midland)

Shropshire 8 Northamptonshire II 2

Buckinghamshire II 1 Leicestershire II 9

Worcestershire II 5 Oxfordshire II 5

Shropshire, without Malcolm Green still too strong for Northants, where Les Baker was particularly impressive. I hope I will not be accused of bias if I say Leics look good promotion prospects — great debut for Sandra Coulson. S. Moreman (Worcs) and P. Jones (Oxon) the stars of their match.

DIVISION 3 (West)

Herefordshire 5 Cornwall 5

Isle of Wight 6 Dorset II 4

Michael Owens and Mark Owen collected the five Herefords sets but S. James had a good win over Miss Owen -16, 18, 19 to win the vital ninth set for Cornwall. Carl Preat (IOW) taken to three by Jason Creasey and Chris Pickard but he eventually won both. Incidentally congratulations Carl on your great Boys' Singles win at the English Junior Closed and what a marvellous temperament! But back to the Dorset match — Joyce Applin impressed for that county against IOW.

DIVISION JUNIOR 2 (North)

Derbyshire 2 Northumberland 8

Cheshire 6 Yorkshire II 4

Cumbria 4 Cleveland 6

Lincolnshire 4 Lancashire 6

Martin Shapira outstanding in Northumberland's first win of the season. Louise Brocklebank and Debbie Soothill won all girls' events for Cumbria but Cleveland boys, particularly Kevin Green and David Polasek too sharp for Cumbria. Two wins by Chris Bryan not enough for Lincs to secure a point against Lancs for whom Helen Frost played well. Billy Gleave made all the difference in the Cheshire-Yorkshire match. What a great future this left-handed defender seems to have!

DIVISION JUNIOR 2 (West)

Wiltshire 3 Warwickshire 7

Hampshire 2 Avon 8

Worcestershire 4 Gloucestershire 6

Warwickshire look favourites for this division following their win over previously unbeaten Wiltshire. Only S. McBean managed a BS win for Wilts — P. Gunn kept up his 100% record for Warwicks. T. Watkins and P. Townsend will lose few (if any) GS for Wilts. The two Pauls — Hooper and Jackson on form for Avon. Glos beat Worcs in a match where there was never more than one set in it until the last. Darren Griffin and Andrew Golding swayed match in favour of Glos.

DIVISION JUNIOR 2 (East)

Hertfordshire 9 Middlesex II 1

Berkshire 1 Kent 9

Cambridgeshire 5 Essex 5

Kent look favourites here — dropped only one set against Berks when Taryn Vallis beat Sharon Clark -20, 14, 16. David Dodd is still 100% — just. In opening set beat Michael Childs -23, 18, 21. Keith Samuels led Herts to a 9-1 win over Middlesex II. Mike O'Leary surprisingly beat Roger Pyle 13, 9. In the opening set for Middlesex — but that was all. Paul Stacey starred for Cambs, but Essex girls K. Mudge and T. Taylor ensured they collected a point.

DIVISION JUNIOR 3 (North)

Shropshire II 1 Nottinghamshire 9

Notts must be favourites to top this division. Only one set dropped here — when Jane Collins lost -5, -6 to Julie Ballard!

DIVISION JUNIOR 3 (South)

Surrey II 8 Hampshire II 2

Dorset II 2 Sussex II 8

Andrew Sexton and David Dewsbury had little trouble in recording wins against Hants. B. Marshall and A. Walker were never bothered for Sussex.

DIVISION JUNIOR 3 (West)

Avon II 0 Dorset 10

Dorset's M. Werner still 100%. G. Plutz on tremendous form.

DIVISION JUNIOR 3 (East)

Norfolk 7 Cambridgeshire II 3

Essex III 7 Suffolk 3

Even without Peter Haydon, Essex won comfortably against Suffolk. Stuart Palmer won two for Suffolk with Andrew Barker

(continued on page 38)