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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Prophet Without Honour

Once again the lure of Federal German money is tempting Jill Hammersley to engage in another contractual obligation to commute, this time to and from Kiel.

Last season's staggering financial deficit incurred by the ETТА, cannot be made good overnight and with monies still owing to the City of Birmingham in respect of the 34th World Championships, the Association simply cannot counter the Kiel club's offer from its own slender resources.

There is little doubt that Jill, by her own success has contributed largely to England's standing especially in the European theatre of operations. And so too have Desmond Douglas and John Hilton.

And yet, unlike a cricketing beneficiary, there is really no tangible financial recognition from sources other than commercial.

Professionalism, so far as table tennis is concerned in this country, is far removed from the lucrative income of a top golfer, lawn tennis, snooker or darts player.

Yet players who have propelled England to within grasping distance of the Jupp Schlaf Cup as winners of the Super Division of the European League must, perforce, seek their fortunes (!) elsewhere.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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On the International Front by The Editor

ONE MORE RIVER

Following up their magnificent 4-3 win over Sweden, in Boras on Feb. 11, England have just one more river to cross to become the champions, for the first time, of the Super Division of the European League.

But that final river will need some fording as it will involve the division's only other unbeaten team, Hungary, who with the likes of Tibor Klampar, Istvan Jonyer, Gabor Gergely, Judit Magos and Zsuzsa Olah to call on form a formidable barrier.

Still, the visit to Sweden was not undertaken without trepidation. But lo and behold look what we did with Desmond Douglas at his demon best beating both Stellan Bengtsson and Ulf Carlsson and then combining with Linda Jarvis to win the mixed against Bengtsson and Marie Lindblad, this after Jill Hammersley had beaten Miss Lindblad in single combat. But that penultimate set was a nail-biter!

Sadly it was only John Hilton who was out of touch for Douglas and Paul Day did stretch Bengtsson and Carlsson to a third game decider before conceding defeat.

SCORES

U. Carlsson bt J. Hilton 13, 12;

S. Bengtsson lost to D. Douglas -18, -19;

M. Lindblad lost to J. Hammersley -21, -10;

Bengtsson/Carlsson bt P. Day/Douglas

-20, 17, 16;

Bengtsson/Lindblad lost to Douglas/L.

Jarvis -15, 19, -13;

Carlsson lost to Douglas -18, 16, -20;

Bengtsson bt Hilton 10, 14.



Meantime, in Budapest, Hungary came back from a 2-3 deficit to beat neighbours Czechoslovakia 4-3 those last two wins coming from Klampar, who beat Milan Orlovski, and from Tibor Klampar, who beat Josef Dvoracek, both in three games.

SCORES

T. Klampar bt J. Dvoracek 13, -23, 17;

T. Kreisz lost to M. Orlovski 19, -14, -16;

J. Magos bt M. Hrachova 9, 13;

I. Jonyer/Klampar lost to Orlovski/J.

Pansky 22, -18, -13;

Kreisz/B. Kishazi lost to Pansky/Hrachova

-17, -16;

Klampar bt Orlovski -19, 15, 9;

Kreisz bt Dvoracek 10, -20, 17.

At the bottom end of the scale Federal Germany brought relief to their Association by beating the Soviet Union 6-1 in Hamburg the "whitewash" being saved, but very little else, in the last set when Valerij Shevchenko beat Peter Stellweg.

SCORES

R. Wosik bt V. Shevchenko 15, 16;

P. Stellweg bt I. Solopov 12, 13;

U. Kamizuru bt V. Popova 19, 19;

H-J. Nolten/Wosik bt I. Pogonov/

Shevchenko 17, 17;

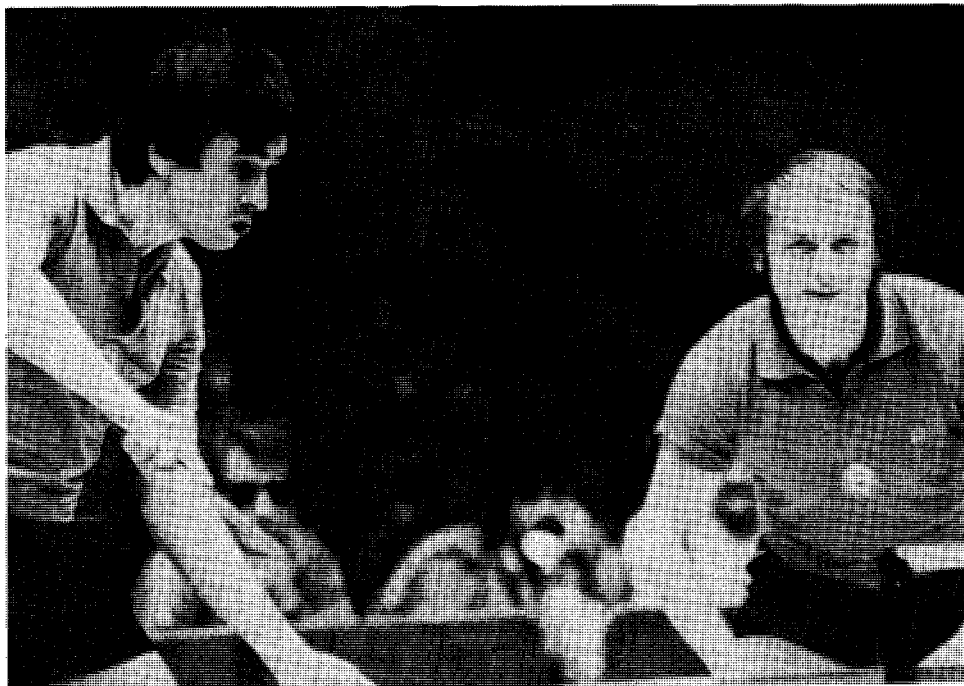
Wosik/Kamizuru bt Solopov/F. Bulatova

8, 19;

Wosik bt Solopov 13, 15;

Stellweg lost to Shevchenko -15, -19.

Against Yugoslavia, in Varazdin, France paid the penalty of not calling on Jacques Secretin for singles and were beaten 5-2 with Christian Martin their only singles



Hungary's ace doubles men Tibor Klampar (1) and Istvan Jonyer.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London.

winner, Secretin and Patrick Birocheau adding the doubles.

Penholder Milivoj Karakasevic took the scalps of both Martin and Birocheau the former beating Zoran Kosanovic.

SCORES

Z. Kosanovic bt P. Birocheau 12, 15;
M. Karakasevic bt C. Martin 16, 15;
B. Batinic bt C. Bergeret 18, 11;
Karakasevic/Kosanovic lost to Birocheau/
J. Secretin 13, -12, -13;
Kosanovic/Batinic bt Secretin/Bergeret
19, -20, 17;
Kosanovic lost to Martin -22, -9;
Karakasevic bt Birocheau 18, 20.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
ENGLAND	6	6	0	28	14	6
Hungary	6	6	0	27	15	6
Sweden	6	4	2	24	18	4
Czechoslovakia	6	3	3	25	17	3
Yugoslavia	6	2	4	22	20	2
France	6	2	4	19	23	2
Federal Germany	6	1	5	14	28	1
Soviet Union	6	0	6	9	33	0

Fixtures for March 12/'81 are:

ENGLAND v Hungary (Corn Exchange, Ipswich)

France v Sweden
Czechoslovakia v Federal Germany
Yugoslavia v Soviet Union

DIVISION ONE

Poland must be grateful that their last match, against Finland, is on Polish soil for just one set separates them with Poland unbeaten and the Finns having lost but once . . . to Bulgaria.

On Feb. 12, away to Luxembourg in Grevenmacher, Poland dropped two sets when Malgorzata Urbanska was beaten by Carine Risch and Stefan Dryszel and Miss Urbanska were beaten in the mixed by Andre Hartmann and Miss Risch. But in men's singles the Poles reigned supreme with both Andrzej Grubba and Dryszel unbeaten.

SCORES

A. Hartmann lost to S. Dryszel -15, -17;
Y. Mass lost to A. Grubba -14, -12;
C. Risch bt M. Urbanska -17, 23, 12;

Hartmann/Maas lost to Dryszel/A. Jakubowicz -15, -17;
Hartmann/Risch bt Dryszel/Urbanska 15, -20, 19;
Hartmann lost to Grubba 19, -16, -16;
Maas lost to Dryszel -17, -17.

On the same night, in far away Helsinki, the Finns took on and beat the Netherlands 6-1 only the men's doubles evading the home team with Anne Vlieg and Patrick Swier beating Jukka Ikonen and Jarmo Jokinen.

SCORES

J. Ikonen bt A. Vlieg -18, 12, 19;
J. Jokinen bt P. Swier 18, 16;
S. Grefberg bt S. de Kruiff 19, 17;
Ikonen/Jokinen lost to Swier/Vlieg -18, -14, -19;
Jokinen/Grefberg bt Swier/de Kruiff 18, 14;
Ikonen bt Swier 13, -19, 16;
Jokinen bt Vlieg 18, -19, 19.

Bulgaria, away to Austria in Stockerau, won 5-2 but despite having lost only one match, when beaten by Poland, have no chance of the title with their set analysis being inferior to both Poland and Finland.

SCORES in Stockerau were:

G. Bar bt I. Stoyanov 16, -15, 18;
E. Amplatz lost to D. Hassanov -16, -11;
D. Fetter lost to D. Guergueltcheva -16, -16;
Amplatz/G. Muller bt Hassanov/Lukov 12, 18;
Muller/Fetter lost to Stoyanov/
Guergueltcheva 17, -18, -10;
Bar lost to Hassanov -15, -18;
Amplatz lost to Stoyanov -18, 14, -13.

Greece pulled off their second win of the season in beating Italy 4-3 in Parma where, for the visitors, Dimitrios Zikos won the last vital set against Paolo Bargagli.

SCORES

M. Constantini lost to P. Zikos -17, -13;
P. Bargagli lost to C. Priftis 16, -11, -8;
M. Cergol bt L. Skrivanou 15, 17;
Constantini/Cergol bt Zikos/Skrivanou 22, 17;
Constantini bt Priftis 19, 18;
Bargagli lost to Zikos -22, -13.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Poland	6	6	0	32	10	6
Finland	6	5	1	31	11	5
Bulgaria	6	5	1	26	16	5
Austria	6	3	3	19	23	3
Netherlands	6	2	4	17	25	2
Greece	6	2	4	16	26	2
Italy	6	1	5	15	27	1
Luxembourg	6	0	6	12	30	0

Fixtures for Mar. 12 are:

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

DIVISION TWO

Belgium's 2-5 defeat by Spain in Seilles has set Ireland a target of at least 2 sets away to Switzerland in their final match to escape relegation. Marie-France Germinat was Belgium's only singles winner the other success coming in the mixed doubles with Didier Leroy and Barbara Lippens beating Jose Maria Pales and Dolores Uribe.

SCORES

D. Nassaux lost to I. Caymel -15, 15, -15;
R. Schalley lost to J.M. Pales 14, -16, -13;
M-F. Germinat bt D. Uribe 8, 6;
Nassaux/Schalley lost to Caymel/Pales -17, -18;
D. Leroy/B. Lippens bt Pales/Uribe 17, 19;
Nassaux lost to Pales -16, -13;
Schalley lost to Caymel 19, -9, -17.

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Denmark	4	4	0	25	3	4
Spain	3	2	1	13	8	2
Norway	4	2	2	16	12	2
Switzerland	4	2	3	10	18	2
Ireland	4	1	3	9	19	1
Belgium	5	1	4	11	24	1

Fixtures for Mar. 12 are:
Switzerland v Ireland
Spain v Denmark

**FROM THE PRESIDENT
of the ITTF - H. Roy Evans**

Preparations for SPENS '81, the 36th World Table Tennis Championships, are now well advanced, as indeed they must be with the great event only two months away.

There is every reason to believe that it will be the largest Championships ever. The Associations sending teams are listed elsewhere in this Bulletin, and we know of some others whose Entry Forms are delayed. Anyway, the previous record of 57 Associations whose teams played in Birmingham in 1977 is almost certain to be broken, and we shall retain our position as the International Federation whose World Championships are the largest single-sport event of any in the world.

The Organisers are responding as we expected to the challenge. The ITTF Secretariat is in almost daily contact with the SPENS '81 office in Novi Sad, who appear to be handling their preliminary contracts with participating Associations with exemplary promptness and efficiency. I have every confidence that when I visit Novi Sad with the Secretary-General next month for the Draw, we shall find that their preparations in the town are equally satisfactory.

Apart from what happens on the twenty tables in the Main Hall of the splendid new Vojvodina Sports Centre, many of us have to think also of the fact that the World Championships are the opportunity for us to meet together to carry on the work of the International Federation, and to plan for the future of table tennis. Most Associations will by now have received from the Secretariat some fifty pages of Agenda and reports as background to the matters we shall have to discuss in Novi Sad. We shall need all the excellent facilities which are being provided there in order to accomplish our tasks. Let us hope that we shall once again be able to formulate our projects and resolve our differences in the friendly spirit which has contributed so much to the world-wide success of our sport.

**OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
36TH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS,
NOVI SAD**

The closing date for receipt of Entry Forms was 31st January.

By Feb. 10 entries had been received from the following Associations:

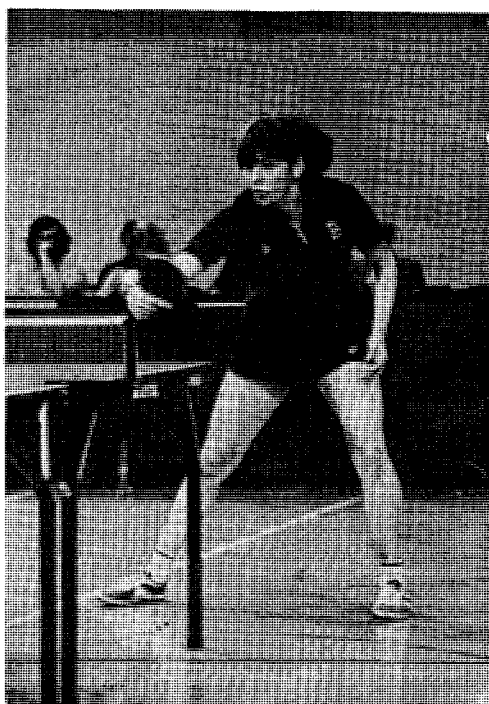
Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, Finland, France, Germany FR, Ghana, Greece, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Korea DPR, Korea R, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Scotland, Singapore, Somali Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay, USA, USSR, Wales, Yugoslavia.
Total: 63.

The following Associations have told us that they are not sending teams, but will send delegates to the B.G.M.:
Germany DR, Guatemala, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen PDR.

Foreign Umpires

The Organising Committee has invited about 50 foreign umpires (from at least 16 Associations) to officiate at the World Championships. This is well in excess of the ITTF requirement, and more than at any previous World Championships.

Associations who may have been disappointed not to have received an invitation



England's Karen Witt who reached the final of the women's singles in the Czech Open in Prague losing to Ann-Christin Hellman of Sweden.

Photo by Malcolm Anderson, Cicero, IL, USA.

to send umpires should bear in mind that there are now over 600 ITTF qualified International Umpires in the world from 33 Associations, and it is clearly not possible for more than a fraction of them to be invited to any one World Championships.

SUNFLEX RUBBER

The ITTF Equipment Committee has examined Sunflex Soft Rubber Star quality and find that it has less than 10 pimples per square centimetre. This therefore makes it illegal under ITTF Regulations.

SUSPENSION

The Mexican Federation announce that their player Roberto Otero Cossio has been suspended from national and international play for one year.

HONOUR

Mr. Dick Rassic, President of the Auckland Table Tennis Association and Vice-President of the New Zealand Table Tennis Association, has been awarded the MBE for services to sport, in particular table tennis.

REVISED WORLD RANKINGS

A revision of the world rankings undertaken by the Classification Committee of the ITTF for use in seeding for the 36th World Championships in Novi Sad has resulted in England's European champion, John Hilton, being demoted from No. 5 to No. 28.

This follows the Mancunian's lack of success both in the European League, and more recently, in the Europe Top 12 tournament in Miskolc, Hungary, where John finished twelfth and last.

Both Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley, the English national champions, retain their previous positions at No. 11 and 8 respectively. Mrs. Hammersley excelling in Miskolc, finishing first and Douglas sixth.

Reigning world champion, Seiji Ono of Japan, still occupies the No. 1 spot in the men's list, in front of Guo Yuehua of China, but the new No. 1 woman is Zhang Deying (China), who takes over from her compatriot Ge Xinal.

The new rankings (previous positions in brackets) are:

Men

- 1 Seiji Ono (JAP) (1)
- 2 Guo Yuehua (CHN) (2)
- 3 Shi Zhihao (CHN) (3)
- 4 Wang Huiyuan (CHN) (4)
- 5 Tibor Klampar (HUN) (=6)
- 6 Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) (=6)
- 7 Cai Zhenhua (CHN) (28)
- 8 Xie Saik (CHN) (9)
- 9 Josef Dvoracek (CZE) (13)
- 10 Li Zhenshi (CHN) (8)
- 11 Desmond Douglas (ENG) (11)
- 12 Norio Takashima (JAP) (12)
- 13 Lu Yaohua (CHN) (=18)
- 14 Jacques Secretin (FRA) (10)
- 15 Milan Orlovski (CZE) (14)
- 16 Teng Yi (CHN) (—)
- 17 Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (16)
- 18 Huang Liang (CHN) (20)
- 19 Hiroyuki Abe (JAP) (—)
- 20 Gabor Gergely (HUN) (17)
- 21 Ulf Thorsell (SWE) (=18)
- 22 Cho Yong Ho (KDR) (26)
- 23 Ulf Carlsson (SWE) (29)
- 24 Shen Yinhu (CHN) (—)
- 25 Hong Chol (KDR) (34)
- 26 Eric Boggan (USS) (—)
- 27 Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (=24)
- 28 John Hilton (ENG) (5)
- 29 Andrzej Grubba (POL) (27)
- 30 Kenichi Sakamoto (JAP) (—)
- 31 Patrick Brocheau (FRA) (=24)
- 32 Peter Stellwag (GFR) (21)
- 33 Leszek Kurcharski (POL) (35)
- 34 Christian Martin (FRA) (=32)
- 35 Masahiro Maehara (JAP) (31)

Women

- 1 Zhang Deying (CHN) (3)
- 2 Cao Yanhua (CHN) (15)
- 3 Qi Baoxiang (CHN) (4)
- 4 Tong Ling (CHN) (—)
- 5 Pak Yung Sun (KDR) (6)
- 6 Li Song Suk (KDR) (2)
- 7 An Hae Suk (KRR) (—)
- 8 Jill Hammersley (ENG) (8)
- 9 Geng Lijuan (CHN) (—)
- 10 Bettine Vriesekoop (NET) (12)
- 11 Shen Jianping (CHN) (27)
- 12 Kayoko Kawahigashi (JAP) (10)
- 13 Valentina Popova (USS) (7)
- 14 Judit Magos (HUN) (17)
- 15 Kim Kyung Ja (KRR) (—)
- 16 Ilona Uhlíkova (CZE) (14)
- 17 Marie Hrachova (CZE) (35)
- 18 Ann-Christin Hellman (SWE) (19)
- 19 Gordana Perkucin (YUG) (11)
- 20 Marie Lindblad (SWE) (34)
- 21 Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) (24)

Out from the previous classifications, which numbered 40 in each category, are:

Men

Liang Geliang (CHN) (15), Engelbert Hugging (GFR) (22), Wilfried Lieck (GFR) (23), Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (30), Jindrich Pansky (CZE) (=32), Tibor Kreisz (HUN) (36), Jochen Leiss (GFR) (37), Janos Takacs (HUN) (25), Lu Qiwei (CHN) (39) and Anton Stipanec (YUG) (40).

Women

Ge Xinal (CHN) (1), Tong Ling (CHN) (5), Zhang Li (CHN) (9), Shako Takahashi (JAP) (13), Bu Qiyuan (CHN) (16), Gabrielle Szabo (HUN) (18), Yoshiko Shimauchi (JAP) (20), Tian Ying (CHN) (21), Liu Yang (CHN) (22), Ursula Kamizuru (GFR) (23), Pak Yong Ok (KDR) (25), Erzebet Palatinus (YUG) (26), Maria Alexandru (RUM) (28), Blanka Silhanova (CZE) (29), Ludmilla Bakshutova (USS) (30), Yang Ying (CHN) (31), Nadine Antonian (USS) (32), Claude Bergeret (FRA) (33), Kim Chang Ae (KDR) (36), Huang Xiping (CHN) (37), Eva Ferenczi (RUM) (38), Beatrix Kishazi (HUN) (39) and Carole Knight (ENG) (40).

POLAND PROMOTED

Brought forward from the March date to coincide with the Polish Open, the Division 1 European League match between Poland and Finland resulted in a 6-1 win for the Poles who thus championed the division with maximum points and gained promotion to the Super Division for next season.

E.T.T.U.

There will be an informal General Meeting of all ETTU member Associations present during the World Championships in Novi Sad from April 14-26. This Meeting will take place at 9.30 a.m., on Sunday, April 19, in the same hall as will be used for the First Session of the ITTF Congress on the day before, and with the use of the same simultaneous translation system.

No proposals for changes in Rules or Regulations can be dealt with at this meeting, but there will be plenty of opportunity for informal discussion on various points.

European Associations are reminded in respect to Item 18 of the ITTF Agenda — Election of Council — that at the ETTU's Biennial General Meeting in Berne, and by subsequent postal vote, the following will be ETTU nominees for the ITTF Council: M. Kapetanic (Yugoslavia), L. Hammerlund (Sweden), H. van Dilst (Netherlands), G. R. Yates (England), L. van Gelder (Belgium) and V. Palecek (Czechoslovakia).

OXFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Arthur Chilvers

BRILLIANT RECOVERY

The Oxon Juniors second team came through brilliantly to draw their fixture against Herts after trailing 1-5. Helen

Beckett won the all-important seventh set which gave her teammates hope. Peter Crabb, Alison Hine and then Nigel Hughes won the remaining sets.

Helen suffers badly from a lack of confidence but should be able to build on this fine personal win plus the contribution she has made to the Junior II team.

The Junior first team won for the first time this season by beating Middlesex 6-4 on Feb. 7 in a re-arranged match. Despite collecting both points the team performance was an indifferent one. For the first time this season Richard Denbow won both his singles in fine style only to see his fellow boys struggle. Fortunately the girls had the stomach for battle and won all their sets. The sixth set was won by Paul Mabbutt in an encounter, the outcome of which seemed to be decided by which boy wanted to lose the most!

MID-SEASON ROUND-UP

Oxon County League

This league is being dominated by M. G. Athletic who are in fact the defending champions. It had been hoped that this kind of domination would not occur in this league. However, this term's poor entry has no doubt contributed to the present anomaly.

Vikings "B" team always threaten to overrun their opponents but cannot produce the results when they are up against better opposition. This was the case when they entertained the M.G. team. M.G.'s ran out comfortable 7-3 winners despite a fine display by Peter Jones in winning his two singles. Come on Vikings, sort this problem out. People want to see the youngsters win but they are not going to let you without a fight.

Oxford and District League

Kidlington Forum "A" have established a lead at the top of the division with maximum points from their fixtures to date. Forum's nearest rivals for the title are Morris Motors who are 3 pts. adrift with Blechington another 2 pts. behind them. The Forum, however, have not had things as easy as the positions indicate. Members of their team have struggled with prolonged injuries and ailments which have led to a number of scrambled 6-4 wins.

Vikings Sports Club decided to split their top players between two first division teams. Many people, myself included, were disappointed by this decision as by fielding their top three players in one team they would have been very strong title contenders.

Witney League

Witney have a way of throwing up a close finish to the season and this one looks to be heading for another. Three teams, Jesters X and Y together with defending champions Thames Valley Police, are currently contesting top spot.

The closeness of the tussle was highlighted in a recent match between TVP and Jesters Y. The first six sets went to a third game decider and Trevor Smith put an end to Mary Denbow's unbeaten run by winning the second and third games on "deuce". The outcome of the match was an 8-2 win for TVP. Trevor is the most improved player in the Witney League this season and is one of a number of young players making their presence felt.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Oxford League champions Kidlington Forum were engaged in one of the most exciting matches to have been staged in the area for many years when they were hosts to the Slough League champions Cippenham. The quality, sportsmanship and competitiveness of the table tennis produced by these two teams was a terrific advertisement for the sport.

In the early stages it was Chilvers who

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 4)

kept Forum in the match. With the score at 3-2 in Forum's favour Clive Morris produced the outstanding game of his short career to beat Dave Pountney 22-20 in the third game of a tremendously exciting encounter.

Andy Hamnett and John Barton then engaged themselves in a marathon counter-hitting battle with the Cippenham man eventually outwitting Andy to win 24-22 in the third. Chilvers then clinched the match 5-3 with a surprisingly comfortable win over Pountney. Teams:

Forum: A. Hamnett (1), C. Morris (1),

A. Chilvers (3).

Cippenham: D. Pountney (1), J. Barton (2),

V. McCarthy (0).

VIKINGS TOURNAMENT

I must apologise to Eleanor Hughes for my error in my report on the results of this event. In fact Eleanor beat Mary Denbow in the final of the women's singles and not the other way round as I reported. Sorry Eleanor.



Welsh Corner

H. ROY EVANS

ANTI-CLIMAX

Coming soon after the Stiga Welsh Open, the Glamorgan Open on Feb. 7 was perhaps something of an anti-climax, and indeed there was no significant "outside" entry. Nevertheless there was plenty of good table tennis and some surprises.

The title went to No. 2 Dave Welsman, who beat Nigel Thomas in a final which might conceivably have gone the latter's way if he had taken the first game instead of losing it 24-26. But there was drama before Dave's win, because No. 1 seed and favourite for the event Alan Griffiths had been eliminated in the quarters by Brian Jeanes. Brian is both brilliant and erratic, and his win was worthy enough, but the histrionics were quite unnecessary. Nigel beat him two straight in the semi-final.

Welsman survived a challenge by Kevin Satchell in his quarter, then went on to beat Devonian Gary Lambert, who had previously beaten Welsh No. 1 Junior Mark Thomas. Nigel had done well to beat George Evans in the quarters, and his win over Jeanes was fairly comfortable.

Devon's Gina Pritchard took the women's title, beating Stephanie Jones in a three-game semi-final, and then following with a more convincing two-straight win over Diane Hardy of Birmingham in the final.

Griffiths and Evans beat off another West Country challenge when they beat Paul Whiting and Mike Shearman in the doubles, whilst Stephanie Jones found some consolation in taking the women's doubles title in a made-up partnership with London's Laura Goldsmith.

Mark Thomas survived a three-game challenge by Nigel Tyler before beating Gary Wilkins in the final of the Boys'. The latter had won a tense and close duel with Andrew Jones, and it is frustrating for both these two that whilst they fight hard battles between themselves, the winner rarely does

well against Mark. Gary had done very well to beat Lambert.

Predictably Gina Pritchard beat Laura Goldsmith in the girls' event — Susan Jones and Sue Powell were semi-finalists, whilst Jayne Sully was runner-up to Laura Goldsmith in the Cadet girls' event. Mark Freeman found Nigel Tyler rather too strong for him in the cadet boys'.

Welsh Closed - Feb. 21, 1981

Alan Griffiths retained his Welsh native title, but young Mark Thomas made a brave try to deprive him of it. After a depressing period of uncertainty, Mark seems to have recovered his earlier zest, and his much improved all round concept of the game brought out the best in Alan.

Mark had previously beaten No. 2 seed Dave Welsman with unexpected conviction, and started off the final against Alan as if he was about to repeat the giant killing. He lost the first at -24, but played really well to take the second at 19. Alan then found some extra experience to come home with a bigger margin in the third.

Alan had previously disposed of George Evans, who had been let off the hook by Nigel Thomas, who lead all the way in the third, only to lose after 20-all.

Stephanie Jones, much improved from her last season's form, took all three women's titles. Stephanie was for most of the time in control of the final against Lesley Tyler, and the latter has to eradicate unforced errors in her game if she is to succeed in the top bracket. This was Stephanie's problem hitherto, but she seems to have tightened up this aspect of her game.

Bob Bishop and Tony Healan, after a good win against top seeds Griffiths and Evans, went on to beat Jeff Morgan and Brian Jeanes, and then survived a first game loss against juniors Gary Wilkins and Andrew Jones to take the next two and the title.

Stephanie Jones was partnered with "veteran" Audrey Coombs-Jones in the doubles, and they hit it off to such effect that they beat all comers. Stephanie teamed up with George Evans in the mixed, and they had a ding-dong final before winning at 22-20 in the third against Welsman and Lesley Tyler.

As expected Mark Thomas took the boys' event, with a two-straight win over Wilkins which was no reflection of the excellent play by the challenger, who had survived a hard battle with Andrew Jones.

Another North Wales win came when Sue Powell beat Susan Jones in the girls' final. Sue has been so near on many occasions, and although she had lost to Susan in the women's event, she was very much on top in her second meeting, and attacked really well for a well deserved title.

Heidi Cotter, playing well all day, beat Jayne Sully in the cadet girls', and the final was a good one between these two Welsh prospects for the future.

Mark Freeman won his first title when a set of great "ups and downs" against Anthony Jones went his way.

Welsh Closed

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

A. Griffiths bt G. Evans 11, 18;

M. Thomas bt D. Welsman 12, 18.

Final:

GRIFFITHS bt Thomas 24, -19, 16.

Women's Singles Final:

STEPHANIE JONES bt L. Tyler 11, 19.

Men's Doubles Final:

R. BISHOP/A. HEALAN bt G. Wilkins/A. Jones -19, 15, 14.

Women's Doubles Final:

STEPHANIE JONES/A. COOMBS-JONES bt Tyler/S. Powell 15, 11.

Mixed Doubles Final:

EVANS/STEPHANIE JONES bt Welsman, Tyler -17, 16, 20.

Boys' Singles Final:

M. THOMAS bt G. Wilkins 18, 15.

Girls' Singles Final:

POWELL bt Susan Jones 12, 16.

Consolation Boys' Singles:

M. FREEMAN bt A. Jones 13, -8, 9.

Consolation Girls' Singles:

H. COTTER bt J. Sully -18, 19, 17.

Glamorgan Open

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

Welsman bt G. Lambert (Dv) 16, 8;

N. Thomas bt B. Jeanes 16, 18.

Final:

WELSMAN bt Thomas 24, 17.

Women's Singles Final:

G. PRITCHARD (Dv) bt D. Hardy (St) 15, 11.

Men's Doubles Final:

GRIFFITHS/EVANS bt P. Whiting/Mike Shearman (Dv) 16, 16.

Womens' Doubles Final:

STEPHANIE JONES/L. GOLDSMITH (Mi) bt Hardy/S. Peakman 17, -20, 16.

Boys' Singles Final:

M. THOMAS bt G. Wilkins (Wa) 12, 15.

Girls' Singles Final:

PRITCHARD bt Goldsmith 11, 7.

Consolation Boys' Singles:

N. TYLER bt M. Freeman 13, 15.

Consolation Girls' Singles:

GOLDSMITH bt J. Sully 12, 8.

HOW'S YOUR I.Q.?

by TOM MATTHEWS

President, English Schools' TTA

With a slight sense of mischief and a tongue in cheek approach, I once set a written assignment to some thirty B.A.Hons. students who were doing a three year course in Games, Leisure Services and Administration. These students were in fact following at this time a ten hour introductory course to Table Tennis. The title I gave them was: "Bat and ball games, in the main, are for intelligent performers. Discuss this with special reference to Table Tennis".

While the essays returned varied in some respects there were a number of common points which seemed to indicate a general consensus, that good Table Tennis players are a pretty bright lot. 'Intelligent' was generally construed as 'alert, bright, quick of mind'.

Bat and ball games they argued are played on fairly restricted areas, e.g. Table Tennis Table - 9ft. x 5ft.; Soccer ground 120 yds x 80 yds. Therefore responses have to be very quick as the ball/shuttle etc. travels short distances before being returned. Rapid responses, mental or physical, are not characteristics of the average or below average person.

In Table Tennis a very small light ball (38mm diameter and 2.4gm in weight) has to be hit accurately and correctly with a quite small striking implement - 150mm wide, 160mm long and total weight about 6oz. This requires skill, speed and exquisite timing. Co-ordination between eye, mind and muscle has to be of the highest quality. How easy to boot a soccer ball, the relation of which in size to a table tennis ball is like that of the sun to the earth.

There is a great variety of possible skills in bat and ball games, much more than say rugby union which has three only - kicking, running and passing. I was almost tempted to include scrummaging as a skill, but I fear it stretches the meaning of the word too far. In Table Tennis there are at least twenty four basic strokes, each of which can be played in ten or so different ways. Such subtleties as 'middle' or defensive play with push, chop, float, block, reflective and deflective, and high lob retrieving have to

be mastered. Equally the speed, strength, determined savagery of attacking play with loop forehand and backhand, and the smashing kill needs to be developed; as well as the art of changing instantly, in split seconds, from one to the other. To acquire this mass of skill and to be able to recall correctly a particular stroke, requires a powerful and lightning memory. To choose the perfect stroke for that occasion requires tremendous flair as well. Dull people are noticeably lacking both in memory and flair.

The more skills that are required, the greater amount of training and learning has to be done. Table Tennis and indeed Lawn Tennis are 'slow reward games' — that is you have to spend a long time practising before you can play even a reasonable game. Top players in both these bat and ball games have to devote about five hours every day to practice or play. On the other hand professional soccer players train about 6-8 hours per week plus one, one and a half hour match. Rugby players of both codes, Union and League, train no more than two hours one night per week with one 80 minute match. To work so hard at Table Tennis needs dogged determination of a high order over a long period. Average or below average pupils are well known for not staying the course.

Most bat and ball games, tennis, table tennis, badminton, squash, and to some extent cricket, present a one to one confrontation. Out there on the court, pitch or table you are on your own. There is no hiding behind ten other colleagues, or being fed and insured by them. You are totally dependent on your own skills and temperament — this kind of situation needs determination, courage and coolness — qualities of the bright performer.

Bat and ball games, that is taking one game at a time, are of short duration — especially in Table Tennis. Therefore a very quick appreciation of tactics is needed. You have to weigh up the situation, the conditions, but especially your opponent and produce an instant solution if you are going to win.

Dull people do not think very quickly — if they think at all.

So the students felt that because of these points Table Tennis is for intelligent people. Are we? Fair? - Specious? - Pompous? - Egotist? I tried some research to back up or disprove this contention. Detailed and individual inquiries were sadly not possible, but I did talk to a large number of teachers in three big local school leagues and to others in the National School Team Competition run by ESTTA. None could recall any pupil from a remedial department playing in a team and most were sure that their players came from the top two streams or sets in their schools. Practically all were involved in external examination courses, CSE, 'O' level or 'A' level.

I also investigated a highly thought of England junior group. Without exception all were on 'A' or 'O' level courses. One of the younger ones was described to me as the most intelligent person ever met anywhere — a genius.

In my own experience, locally and nationally, I have met most of the best school players. Quite a number achieved high grades in three or four 'A' levels and are now in Universities.

So there!

SUFFOLK SCENE

by Steve Richards

DOUBLE DERBY DEFEAT

In the local derby county match Suffolk went down to Cambs 2-8. Although it seems a convincing win for our opponents, no less than six sets went to three games. Julian Hall along with John Kitchener won for

Suffolk. Other members of the team were Mick Palmer, Sue Butcher and Julie Dowsett. Our second team also lost to Cambs II, I hear the score was 3-7.

Congratulations to the Juniors who defeated Cambs 6-4. Stuart Palmer played well to win both his singles and a doubles with Raymond Thorpe. Kevin Scott won a set whilst Jane Richards won her singles and the doubles with Jane Leonard.

I liked the style of young Neil Burgess who won both his singles for his side. Congratulations also to the girls of Ipswich High who represented us in the National Schools' Team Championships at Under-13.

The Suffolk Senior Closed was played at Ipswich in February and the results were:

Men's Singles:

S. Palmer bt M. Palmer.

Women's Singles:

J. Dowsett bt S. Welham.

Men's Doubles:

Palmer/Palmer bt D. Henderson/R. King.

Women's Doubles:

S. Butcher/Dowsett bt K. Brierley/Welham.

Mixed Doubles:

T. Dowsett/Dowsett bt A. Hopper/Welham.

Veterans' Singles:

R. Milne bt T. Kirby.

The member leagues are now entering the final stages of the season and I hear that the newly formed Woodbridge League's Premier Division favourites are Legion "C" and Eyke. In the first division Haskerton should win the honours while Div. 2 lies between Framlington and Beaumont.

Three teams are concerned with the first division title of the Stowmarket League namely Conservation "X" and "A" and Con. Wanderers. Div. 2 is between O.B.H. "A" and Stowupland. Cons Juniors should win the 3rd while Gosbeck are well placed to win the 4th.

The Secretary of the Bury League informs me that most divisions lie between two teams:

Div. 1 - Lakenheath and W.E.G. "A".

Div. 2 - Newmarket U. School and Marauders.

Div. 3 - W.E.G. "E" and Treats.

Div. 4 - Astley and Aitkens.

Div. 5 - Newmarket U.S. and Thorpal.

The Bury League are holding their Dinner/Disco evening in March and hear it is a sell-out!

One of Suffolk's organisers for many years has been Cecil Hall and I am sure all connected with the game wish him a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

CELTIC SPORTS GWENT CLOSED

by STEPHEN GIBBS

Gary Wilkins of Abergavenny won all the events open to him in the Celtic Sports Gwent Closed at Fairwater Leisure Centre, Cwmbran on Feb. 15. Wilkins, Wales No. 3 Junior, won the Men's Singles title after three very tough sets. In the quarters he met Kevin Phillips (East Valley), a player he had only once before defeated. Although he lost the second game, Wilkins won the first and third to move on to the semis and another tough set against Gwent No. 2 John Bloomer.

Bloomer won the first, narrowly, but Wilkins won the next two quite comfortably. The beaten finalist was Brian Jeanes, promoted to top seed after defending champion Andrew Evans withdrew from the event due to family illness. He fought his way to the semi-final stage sweeping aside all challengers until he met fellow Newport player Michael Nocivelli. Nocivelli took the first game easily but Jeanes fought back to win the next two; his sights set on becoming the new Gwent champion and thus justifying his No. 1 Gwent ranking.

In an absorbing final Wilkins attacked Jeanes from the outset and those who stayed on to see the final were treated to one of the most exciting and highly polished performances seen in the county for a long time. Both players threw aside all inhibitions and battled out three closely fought games. In the opening one Wilkins went into a 6-0 lead and although Jeanes tried to claw back the difference Wilkins held on to win. It was the turn of Jeanes in the second to lead the way. He made a good, positive start and held on to 16-16. From here Wilkins had the chance to win the title in two but Jeanes just squeezed him out to win. In the decider Wilkins again took the initiative. He held quite a comfortable lead in the early stages which Jeanes gradually ate away. At 16-14 with Wilkins serving. It was up to Jeanes

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Mr. Emlyn Jones of Celtic Sports, Llanyraron, Cwmbran presents the Celtic Sports Plaque to Gary Wilkins (Abergavenny), winner of the 1981 Gwent Closed. Wilkins also won the Boys' Singles and both Men's and Boys' Doubles partnered by Jeremy Hobbs (Tredegar).

to wrest the initiative from Wilkins but Gary cleverly won 4 pts. from his five serves and at 15-20 with Jeanes serving, spectators knew that 17-year-old Wilkins would soon be the new Champion. He took the first point from Brian's service to win the title.

Earlier in the day Wilkins won the Boys' title having disposed of Gareth Aviss in the semis. Aviss surprisingly took the first game but Wilkins soon dished out some severe retribution to win the next two. In the final Wilkins met fellow Welsh International Junior, Jeremy Hobbs of Tredegar but Hobbs was little match.

The Wilkins-Hobbs partnership never looked in danger in the Boys' Doubles and they eventually beat Aviss and Mark Hawkes of Eastern Valley in the final.

As the Wilkins-Hobbs partnership ventured into the Men's Doubles, some felt they would be a troublesome partnership but few imagined that they could win it. In a weakened field with the Bloomer-Evans, Phillips-Boalch duos split up due to illness, the new favourites were Jeanes and Nocivelli who, as expected, reached the final losing only one game on the way, in the first round to Powell and Smith of Abergavenny. Meanwhile Wilkins and Hobbs overcame Bob Swain and Graham Sell in the quarters before facing Bloomer and Boalch in the semis. This set was an extremely tough one for the Junior champions and had Bloomer been playing with his regular partner, it could well have been the end of the line for the youngsters. However, they "shaded" the third at 19 to take on Jeanes and Nocivelli in the final. The latter pair won the first but again the Juniors would not lie down and fought their way back to win the second. They took a long early lead in the decider and all Nocivelli's guile and Jeanes's talent failed to make any impression.

In the Women's Singles, Brenda Annand won her third successive title. It was an unimpressive display against Janet Helps and indeed Janet led by some distance in the first game but lost it. Janet won the second and led 13-10 in the decider but Brenda fought back and her extra experience enabled her to go into an 18-14 lead. Janet tried hard to counter, and got back to 18-20 before conceding victory to Brenda, who had the superior weaponry.

The Celtic Sports Gwent Closed was the third of its kind and its most successful so far. Junior players won every title. At the

end of the day winners and runners-up alike were presented with attractive trophies presented by Mr. Emlyn Jones of Celtic Sports, Llanyraron, Cwmbran, who sponsored the event.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:
G. Wilkins bt G. Aviss -20, 13, 8;
J. Hobbs bt M. Hawkes 16, 19.

Final:
WILKINS bt Hobbs 16, 10.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:
Wilkins/Hobbs bt M. Powell/G. Smith 9, 8;
Aviss/Hawkes bt M. Turner/P. Williamson
17, 16.

Final:
WILKINS/HOBBS bt Aviss/Hawkes 16, 7.

Women's Singles Final:
B. ANNAND bt J. Helps 17, -16, 18.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:
Wilkins/Hobbs bt J. Bloomer/K. Boalch
18, -19, 19.

B. Jeanes/M. Nocivelli bt K. Phillips/A.
Waters 15, 18.

Final:
WILKINS/HOBBS bt Jeanes/Nocivelli
-19, 19, 14.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:
Jeanes bt Nocivelli -16, 16, 12;
Wilkins bt Bloomer -21, 11, 16.

Final:
WILKINS bt Jeanes 16, -19, 15.

35th CZECHOSLOVAKIAN OPEN

PRAGUE FINAL FOR KAREN

by George R. Yates

Other than Karen Witt, who did extraordinarily well to reach the final of the women's singles, and our "A" team getting to the semi-final of the women's team event, England's five other representatives failed to make any impact on the 35th Czech Open played in Prague over the period Feb. 20/22.

Titles were well scattered with France "A" (Jacques Secretin and Patrick Brocheau) winning the men's team event and Sweden

"A" (Ann-Christin Hellman and Marie Lindblad) the women's.

Back to his impressive best, after finishing third in the Europe Top 12 in Miskolc, Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia won the men's singles final coming back from a 0-2 deficit to beat Secretin 22-20 in the fifth!

Sweden's Hellman was the 3-1 winner over Karen in the final of the women's singles after the Berkshire girl had begun with an impressive 3-2 win over Lindblad, this after being 1-2 down.

Subsequent successes over Bayerova (Cze), Edit Urban (Hun), Zapjevalova (USS) and Kristen Kruger (GFR) carried the English No. 3 to a memorable final appearance after Jill Hammersley had withdrawn from the individual events.

Poland's Andrzej Grubba and Leszek Kucharski carried on their good work from the Stiga Welsh by beating Sweden's Stellan Bengtsson and Ulf Carlsson in the final of the men's doubles.

But Sweden came out top in the women's doubles when Hellman and Lindblad had a final win over Russian newcomers Kutergina and Zapjevalova. Only in the mixed did the host country meet with success with Milan Orlovski and Iona Uhlíkova beating their compatriots Jindrich Pansky and Marie Hrachova.

In the men's team event, England "A" (Paul Day and Bob Potton) had a 3-0 first round win over Cuba's Bravo and Navaro but were then seen off by Yugoslavia "B" (Milivoj Karakasevic and Zoran Kosanovic) by a like score.

England "B" (Doggie Johnson and Graham Sandley) took a first round fall when beaten 3-2 by Sweden "B" (Mikael Appelgren and Ulf Thorsell) but Johnson's victory over Appelgren was commendable as was the doubles success.

Jill Hammersley and Linda Jarvis (England "A") began with a 3-0 win over France "B" (Muriel Monteux and Brigitte Thiriet) following up with a 3-1 success over Yugoslavia (Branka Batinic and Ojstersek) Linda losing to Batinic.

Jill maintained her unbeaten record against Sweden "A" in the semis but Linda failed to contribute although taking Lindblad to 18 and 20 in the first set.

Karen and Alison Gordon (England "B") recovered from a first round 1-2 deficit to beat Austria 3-2 with Karen beating Dolores Fetter and Barbara Wilsche and Alison the latter in the deciding set.

But up against the redoubtable Maria Alexandru and the younger Eva Ferenczi of Rumania the English duo made their exit without registering a win.

QUALIFYING

In the men's singles Day was beaten 3-2 by Miroslav Shenk (Cze) in the qualifying round and only Johnson, after beating Tibor Nagy (Cze), got past the first round. Potton went down 0-3 to Secretin and Sandley 1-3 to Djevat Hassanov (Bul). Johnson being beaten 3-0 by Kucharski in Round 2.

Both Linda and Alison were first round fallers in the women's singles the former 1-3 to Monika Stork (GFR) and the latter to Narine Antonian (USS).

Round 1 of the men's and women's doubles saw the despatch of Day and Sandley 0-2 by Stefan Dryszel and Andrzej Jakubowicz (Pol), Johnson and Potton 0-2 by Grubba and Kucharski whilst Karen and Alison lost to Hrachova/Smidova (Cze) 1-2.

Sandley and Linda did manage Rd. 3 in the mixed, losing 1-2 to Ralf Wosik and Kruger (GFR). Potton and Karen fell to Kosanovic and Fazlic (Yug) whilst, because of Jill's indisposition, she and Johnson conceded a walk-over to the Russians Igor Solopov and Fliura Bulatova in Rd. 3.

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 8)

Of the big names in the men's singles, Gabor Gergely went out to Appelgren and Thorsell to Karakasevic, in Rd. 1, whilst Bengtsson fell to Grubba and Carlsson to Surbek in Rd. 3.

Valentina Popova (USS) the European champion, was taken out of the women's singles in Rd. 2 by Stork whilst Rd. 3 saw the demise of Uhlíkova, beaten by Zapjevalova, Judit Magos by Kruger and Zsuzsa Olah by Batinic.

RESULTS

Men's Team

Semi-finals:

Sweden "B" 3 Czechoslovakia "A" 0

M. Appelgren bt M. Orłowski -16, 14, 22;

U. Thorsell bt J. Dvoracek 18, -17, 20;

Appelgren/Thorsell bt Orłowski/J. Pansky 18, 19.

France "A" 3 Hungary 1

J. Secretin bt T. Kreisz 18, -19, 16;

P. Birocheau lost to G. Gergely -17, -9;

Birocheau/Secretin bt Gergely/Z. Kriston 15, -19, 17;

Secretin bt Gergely 13, -17, 13.

Final:

FRANCE "A" 3 Sweden "B" 1

Secretin bt Appelgren 13, 19;

Birocheau lost to Thorsell -14, -18;

Birocheau/Secretin bt Appelgren/Thorsell -24, 11, 15;

Secretin bt Thorsell 17, 12.

Women's Team

Semi-finals:

Sweden "A" 3 England "A" 2

M. Lindblad bt L. Jarvis 18, 20;

A-C. Hellman lost to J. Hammersley

-11, -15;

Hellman/Lindblad bt Hammersley/Jarvis

19, 22;

Lindblad lost to Hammersley -9, -9;

Hellman bt Jarvis 15, 17.

USSR "A" 3 Czechoslovakia "A" 1

N. Antonian lost to I. Uhlíkova 10, -20, -19;

V. Popova bt M. Hrachova 16, 21;

Antonian/Popova bt Hrachova/Uhlíkova 13, 16;

Popova bt Uhlíkova 10, 9.

Final:

SWEDEN "A" 3 USSR "A" 1

Lindblad lost to Popova -15, -16;

Hellman bt Antonian 11, 17;

Hellman/Lindblad bt Antonian/Popova -15, 12, 19;

Lindblad bt Antonian 12, 11.

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Secretin bt Orłowski -19, -15, 19, 17;

A. Grubba (POL) bt T. Inoue (JAP)

-17, 18, 12, 18;

D. Surbek (YUG) bt I. Solopov (USS)

12, -20, 14, 10;

M. Karakasevic (YUG) bt Dvoracek

-18, 15, 16, 15.

Semi-finals:

Secretin bt Grubba 19, 12, 9;

Surbek bt Karakasevic 14, 15, -13, -17, 17.

Final:

SURBEK bt Secretin -17, -19, 18, 9, 20.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Witt (ENG) bt Zapjevalova 16, -14, 17, 9;

K. Kruger (GFR) bt Bolvari (HUN)

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

Hellman bt B. Batinic (YUG) -17, 16, 12, 20;

M. Stork (GFR) bt B. Silhanova (CZE)

-11, 18, 15, -13, 15.

Semi-finals:

Witt bt Kruger 9, -18, -19, 17, 9;

Hellman bt Stork 5, 19, -8, 13.

Final:

HELLMAN bt Witt 10, 18, -19, 12.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Bengtsson/U. Carlsson (SWE) bt Inoue/

Morishita (JAP) 13, 16;

A. Grubba/L. Kucharski (POL) bt

Karakasevic/Z. Kosanovic (YUG) 18, 16.

Final:

GRUBBA/KUCHARSKI bt Bengtsson/

Carlsson 19, 17.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hellman/Lindblad bt F. Bulatova (USS)/

Popova 18, -14, 12;

Kutergina (USS)/Zapjevalova bt Freiberg

(GFR)/Kruger 16, 15.

Final:

HELLMAN/LINDBLAD bt Kutergina/

Zapjevalova 19, 15.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Pansky/Hrachova bt Appelgren/Lindblad

-14, 13, 8;

Orłowski/Uhlíkova bt Solopov/Bulatova

13, 16.

Final:

ORŁOWSKI/UHLIKOVA bt Pansky/

Hrachova 17, 13.

Letter to the Editor

"VALUE OUR SPORT"

One major reason why Table Tennis lacks any feeling of status and importance by the "Media" and the public is basically that it does not gain any from the majority of players themselves. We do not "Value our Sport". Until we give Table Tennis prestige ourselves, certainly no one outside of the sport, with very limited knowledge will.

What must be done starting at the root of the problem is with the "League Clubs". Make players fight for the honour of even playing — Yes honour! Too many players get into their club team without competing at all for a position in the team and play in so many matches they do not even know the name of the opponent. If we want Table Tennis to become a "Leading Sport", with the Media and Public we must fully value Table Tennis ourselves and give it our fullest attention at every level. Do not say "I am a County Player", I am much too important to stop practising while a mere "Borough" match is in progress. Work together everyone.

Local County associations must restrict players from fitting around playing in one league one night, then possibly playing against their own Club mates the next in another league or borough. This does not restrict practise or friendly matches against anyone.

Many youngsters are helped for many of their early playing years by Clubs and Leagues then just when they are of use, representatively speaking, they defect to other Boroughs. No thoughts of loyalties. These problems could be stopped by Counties taking a closer look at leagues within their boundaries. Then the old Club and League loyalties will return to table tennis.

Another point is do not read papers during matches, many players do and then get annoyed when no one watches them when they play.

Watch the local representative teams play acknowledge the high skills of top players within our leagues — then and only then can we say "Why does no one acknowledge us".

V. L. ELSTON,

Ilford League Press Officer.

30 Belvedere Road,
Leyton, London E.10.

Vice-President Dies

It is with regret that we report the death, at Wallington, Surrey, of Daisy Bunbury, aged 88, widow of Hugh Miles Bunbury, M.Sc., who was, whilst resident in Prestwich, Lancs, the successor to Ivor Montagu as Chairman of the English Table Tennis Assn. for seasons 1929-32. Latterly living with her daughter, to whom we send our condolences, Mrs. Bunbury was a Vice-President of the ETTA.

HOLIDAY CAMP CHAMPIONS



Wakefield's Steven Sharpe (15), Yorkshire's No. 1 ranked boy, Claudia Oakes (14), also of Wakefield, and Andrew Gee (12) of Halifax, winners of the Butlin's "Boys and Girls of the Year" competition for 1980/81.

Pictured (l to r) are: Andrew, Claudia and Steven after their presentation.

Photo by courtesy of Yorkshire Weekly Newspaper Group Ltd., Wakefield.

AVON NOTES

by Paul F. Hewitt

BATH AND BRISTOL CLOSED

The past month in Avon has been notable for the absence of County activity, the emphasis being switched to the two major league's local tournaments. The only county matches since the last notes resulted in a 9-0 hiding the Veterans received at the hands of Dorset and an 8-2 beating the Second senior team had when they entertained Cornwall at Nailsea. Winners for Avon were a singles from John Higgs, who should have got both, and a men's doubles that he shared with Clive Ellison. Bath and Bristol have had their own Closed Championships which differ both in numbers participating and method of staging being fundamentally different.

Bristol stage theirs over a weekend with the normal range of events i.e. men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed with veterans and a range of junior events to make up the programme. The Bath tournament is staged over eight days using every evening and one complete day and with the above events also have a full range of handicap tournaments to provide interest and participation for those players who would not otherwise enter.

The Bristol Tournament attracted a disappointingly low entry of less than 10% of the league and in the end it turned out to be the Paul Jackson Benefit Weekend with the 15-year-old winning all five events he entered without dropping a game in any of them. In the process he beat a number of notable names especially in the men's singles when he accounted for Avon Champion, Andy Creed, in the semis and No. 1 Martin Smith in the final. Paul's ranking of

No. 3 in the county might now need looking at. In the Men's Doubles he was partnered by fellow Junior Andrew Golding and in the final they accounted for Creed and Paul Hooper. In the Mixed he was partnered by Junior Rebecca Russe who is ranked No. 2 in the county and they beat husband and wife team of Brian and Pat Reeves.

In the Junior Doubles the same partnership won as in the Men's and the singles event found Jackson and Golding at opposite ends of the table. Jackson's five titles managed to put Tina Shortman in the shade a bit despite her three titles. The women's title was won when Pat Reeves succumbed to Shortman and she was on the losing side again when, partnered by Muriel Lewis, they were beaten by Shortman and Russe. Tina's third title came in the girls' singles when she beat Russe.

It was nice to see someone else get a look in, the rest of the junior results being . . .

Boys' U-15: M. Nicholls bt M. Coles;
Girls' U-15: Helen Perrott bt Michelle Cohen;
Boys' U-13: Colin Jackson bt Simon Brown;
Girls' U-13: Cohen bt Perrott.

At the other end of the age scale the Veterans' title went to Colin Feltham who beat Ken Watts in what was only the second 3-game set of the complete finals programme.

The Bath Championships are a completely different affair because of their format, the duration, and also because for the past two years they have been supported by commercial sponsorship, this season by over £1,100 which makes the event financially secure before it even starts. In the main events Jerry Musslewhite had a notable doubles when he won the Chronicle Cup for the third time and also took the Men's Singles for the first time. His victims

in two one-sided finals were Paul Ethrington and Mike Baker respectively. In contrast the Men's doubles was a close affair with the title going to Tony Brown and Chris Curl at 23-21 in the third, the unfortunate pair being Ellison and Mike Bridgeman. The women's singles was won by the unseeded Joanna Bush a first year Maths Student at the University who comes from Bournemouth and she beat off the challenge of Avon No. 3 Geraldine Sandford. Sandford had the consolation of the doubles when partnered by Linda Porter they beat defending champions Judy Higgs and Julie Cruse. Higgs and Cruse were in opposition when partnered by John Higgs and Musslewhite respectively in the Mixed final which went to the holders Higgs and Higgs after their opponents took the first.

This was the only title of the 20 competed for that stayed in the same hands as last season. Baker lost his three years' hold on the Veterans' title when he lost to George Sanders in the quarters but Sanders lost in the final to Joe Analts.

Andrew Barnes lost the first game of the Junior final but came back to beat Chris Holley in what was probably the best set on the Finals night to take the Junior title for the first time. Holley gave ample notice that in his next two years as a junior he will be there or thereabouts when it comes to honours.

Other winners and runners-up were:

Junior Doubles:

Ian Holley/Andrew Barnes bt Wayne Coombes/Richard Hawker.

Lucky Pairs Doubles Handicap:

Ellison/Sanders bt Graham Chun/Nigel Ball.

Men's Singles Handicap:

Mark Ball bt Sanders.



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Women's Singles Handicap:

Bush bt Jo Pritchard.

Men's Doubles Handicap:

W. Dave Hockney/Roger Galea bt M. Ball/
Marc Cotton.

Womens Doubles Handicap:

Nora Pitman/Debbie Brooks bt Linda
Trump/Cheryl Dowding.

Divisional Handicaps: (All winners)

Premier - Coombes, Div. 1 - Colin Carson,
Div. 2 - Mike Heigho, Div. 3 - Geoff
Broadway, Div. 4 - Chris Dunn, Div. 5 -
James Stevens, Div. 6 - Stephen Lewis,
Div. 7 - Mark Keen.

On Sunday, Feb. 15, there was a new innovation with the introduction of a singles handicap American style tournament sponsored by the local branch of Anglian Windows who also donated a fine trophy for the winner to keep until next year. At the end of a gruelling day's play it was nice to see that of the eight quarter-finalists, seven were juniors currently receiving coaching. The winner of the fine trophy, plus a shield and a voucher for sports equipment was Nigel Ball who beat Tim Edwards in the final. Chris Holley beat clubmate Mark Ball in the third place play-off, with all the last four winning something. The Bath Tournament attracted 50% of the league membership to enter at least one event with some players entering as many as seven and provided nearly one thousand sets throughout the week, being thoroughly enjoyed by participants, organisers, sports centre staff and the 200 or so crowd that watched the finals night and presentation.

Within Avon, at the top end playing wise, it is nice to report the continuing success of Bristol Cashmans in the National League Second Division South. They signed Ian Kenyon who is ranked in the top three in Kent just prior to their match with Seagulls. This was very significant as he was an integral part of Cashmans win that knocked Seagulls off the top and put Cashmans back there and they followed this up by a surprisingly narrow win over Gunnersbury, but win it was and they are now in with a great chance of winning the title and going to the play-off for the one promotion spot to the top division and the big time.

Table tennis seems to be well on the move locally with a new coaching centre, with eight tables, being set up in connection with the local YMCA in Bath and this is likely to be starting the first week in April. This is the first venture of its type in Bath to become complimentary to a similar set-up in Bristol thus giving Avon a fuller coverage of coaching. All this, with moves to reintroduce the Bath Open next season, shows that Avon may be one of the youngest counties in the country but it certainly seems to be wasting little time in making its presence felt in the community at large.

BOOK REVIEW

WINNING AT TABLE TENNIS with DESMOND DOUGLAS

Published by Cassell Ltd.

In a relatively short time the name of Desmond Douglas has become synonymous with table tennis to the peoples of at least two European countries, the first Englishman since Johnny Leach to attain such eminence. In this slim publication he tells his story from the days he was a bus mechanic in Birmingham and his rise to sporting stardom. It is not one of the usual run-of-the-mill instruction books but a sincere, straightforward story written in collaboration with professional journalist Richard Eaton.

Desmond emphasises how he taught himself the rudiments of the game and developed along his own lines. He is of the

opinion that coaching can be of great help to a beginner but criticizes several aspects of the game with a reasoning that carries authority. I was pleased however, that he did not involve himself in scandal or sensationalism. He discusses the various types of bats and rubbers and how each demands a different approach to a particular stroke. The section on materials I found especially interesting and his observations on how players seek to bend and overcome the rules most revealing. Desmond I know is not one of those players who has ever been under suspicion so I must accept he must have been mis-quoted when he states — "I like the rubber to be quite hard, 2 or 2.5 millimetres thickness on the sponge". The rules actually limit the thickness of pimped rubber on sponge (cellular rubber) to 2 millimetres!!

Although in real life Desmond is not very vocal he comes through in this book with little gems that had me nodding my head in agreement. One of his main criticisms about some of the top players, concerned their obsession with flash strokes and the lack of real thought given to application. I particularly liked this advice to the young player when he states "Think for yourself and watch and learn". How important this is.

As expected Desmond does some plain speaking about professionalism and the need for players to receive greater monetary reward. Most will agree with him but I would like to have heard his views as to where the money is coming from and the reasons why sponsors are not lining up with bulging coffers. Could the uncomfortable seating and lack of atmosphere of Sports Halls have something to do with it?

The book is lavishly illustrated although I found many of the photographs to be badly reproduced, being far too dark. However, be that as it may the publication makes interesting reading and is reasonably priced at £2.95. A good buy for all those interested in the game of table tennis.

RON CRAYDEN.

Pontefract 1-Star Open

OUTSTANDING DAY FOR ANDY

by Organiser R. B. Govan

This popular event was again staged at Featherstone Sports Centre, near Pontefract and attracted 156 competitors for the eight events. Outstanding players of the day were Andy Bellingham, Kevin Beadsley and Jill Harris.

Bellingham's performance brought him the men's singles title beating Beadsley in one of the best-ever finals. The losing semi-finalists were Mark Illingsworth, last year's boys' singles winner, and Steve Wathey who also reached the semis of the men's doubles.

Bellingham and his partner, Tony Isaac, had the tables reversed when they lost to Beadsley and Steve Kosmowsky in a 3-game men's doubles final. Again this was a show-piece which followed some extremely good semis including Davies and Yeats of Bradford who were unlucky to lose to the event winners.

Beadsley's second title came when he partnered Linda Hryszko in yet another win over Bellingham and Jill Harris in the Mixed. In the women's singles Miss Harris got the edge over Miss Hryszko to take the title from her, after the Bradford girl had put paid to Julie McLean, the No. 1 seed.

Miss Harris had disposed of a very good junior from Caistor, Lincs — Gillian Sharpe,

who had earlier knocked out Helen Shields in the quarters.

In the boys' singles David Illingsworth, the No. 1 seed, was surprisingly beaten by the No. 10 Yorks junior R. Whiteley of Harrogate, whilst the No. 2 seed Frazer McEwen of Bury went out to a very impressive G. Roberts of Doncaster. Melanie Seaton, also of Doncaster, excelled in taking the girls' singles beating Christine Burke of Northumberland having earlier ousted Miss Sharpe.

Notable player in the female events was 13-years-old Joanne Shaw from Normanton, West Yorks, who reached the quarters in both the women's and girls' singles and knocked out last years girls' singles winner in the women's singles eventually bowing out to Miss McLean. In the women's doubles Harris/McLean powered their way to the final and easily disposed of Miss Seaton and Julie Woodcock, the No. 1 Cleveland junior, after the latter pair had surprisingly beaten No. 2 seeds Hryszko/Shields.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

S. Wathey (Y) bt T. Williams (Y) 18, 12;
K. Beadsley (Y) bt T. Taylor (Ch) 13, 14;
M. Illingsworth (Y) bt M. Laird (Cv) 26, 17;
A. Bellingham (St) bt R. Weatherby (Ch)
16, 12.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Illingsworth 14, 12;
Bellingham bt Wathey 6, 12.

Final:

BELLINGHAM bt Beadsley 20, -22, 17.

Womens' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. McLean (Y) bt J. Shaw (Y) 15, 8;
L. Hryszko (Y) bt K. Burrows (Y) 14, 19;
J. Harris (St) bt R. Brook (Y) 9, 13;
G. Sharpe (Li) bt H. Shields (Y) 11, -14, 15.

Semi-finals:

Hryszko bt McLean -14, 18, 18;
Harris bt Sharpe 17, 17.

Final:

HARRIS bt Hryszko 17, -10, 13.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Beadsley/S. Kosmowsky (Y) bt I. Denton
(Y)/Wathey 17, 17;
Bellingham/T. Isaac (St) bt N. Davies/
J. Yeats (Y) -17, 16, 22.

Final:

BEADSLEY/KOSMOWSKY bt Bellingham/
Isaac -18, 14, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Harris/McLean bt J. Evans/J. Evans (Y)
18, 15;

M. Seaton (Y)/J. Woodcock (Cv) bt
Hryszko/Shields 22, 17.

Final:

HARRIS/McLEAN bt Seaton/Woodcock
11, 13.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Bellingham/Harris bt R. Priestley (Y)/
Shields 12, 16;

Beadsley/Hryszko bt M. Stephenson/
McLean 10, -18, 12.

Final:

BEADSLEY/HRYSZKO bt Bellingham/
Harris -9, 17, 18.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Illingsworth (Y) bt J. Thatcher (Y)
9, 16;

N. McMaster (Nd) bt N. Pennock (Y) 18, 16;
R. Whiteley (Y) bt P. Mann (Y) 14, 14;
K. Eden (La) bt G. Roberts (Y) -19, 18, 18.

Semi-finals:

Whiteley bt Eden 15, 15;
Illingsworth bt McMaster 11, 11.

Final:

WHITELEY bt Illingsworth 17, -12, 10.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Seaton bt Sharpe 15, 14;
C. Burke (Nd) bt S. Kallianpur (Y) 12, 20.

Final:

SEATON bt Burke 14, 14.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

B. Allison (Li) bt M. Shearer (Li) 20, 13;
T. Moran (Dy) bt J. Walton (Y) 7, 15.

Final:

ALLISON bt Moran 17, 17.

A YOUNG MAN ACCEPTS LIFE'S CHALLENGE

by LES D'ARCY

In this 'Year of the Disabled' Yorkshire has several physically handicapped players of whom the county can be justly proud. Such a young man is David Hope, a player with a major physical disability, who could not be more appropriately named. In early life David must have spent many dark hours, lightened only by the hope that one day he would be able to overcome his handicap and join in some kind of sport with his friends.

Most physical contact sports were out, but David was determined to find an activity which would enable him to give expression to his talent and fighting spirit. With only a thumb on his right hand and a thumb and two fingers on his left he was unsuccessful at first, but spurred on by a faith in himself which must have been extremely difficult to generate, David continued his search. Even games like cricket and tennis were almost impossible to play because of lack of grip, and his schoolboy ambition to play football was crushed when he found that his balance was also affected.

One day, David picked up a table tennis bat and discovered that it was small enough for him to hold without too much discomfort. A profound change took place in David's life, for, not only did he find a sport which has since given him countless happy hours, but he also found himself. With an enthusiasm which knows no bounds and a compelling desire to improve, his metamorphosis from beginner to expert was swift and sure. His 1980 achievements included: winning the Yorkshire League 3rd Division title with team mates Stewart Milnes and Frank Lockwood, Dewsbury's 1st team; the Yorkshire Summer League title with Stewart Milnes and David Lamb (the same team leads Yorkshire League Division 2). In individual competition he won the Yorkshire (Summer) League Consolation Singles and the men's doubles with Stewart Milnes.

Not content with just playing in seven leagues, David has recently found the time to qualify as an international table tennis umpire. He is also Dewsbury's Yorkshire League Secretary.

This young man's example is an inspiration to all, especially those who may feel that life has cheated them. He has proved, like his biblical namesake, that the fearsome handicaps of life, which may at times appear like the all-powerful Goliath, can be beaten with courage and determination, whatever the odds. Well done David and may we wish you continued success in the future.



Left to right: David Lamb, Stewart Milnes and David Hope.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

TRIPLE DEFEAT

Lancashire suffered a triple defeat on Feb. 28 in the County Championships, the first team losing 3-6 to Yorkshire at Clitheroe, the seconds defeated 7-3 by Northumberland and the Juniors 6-4 by Cleveland.

In the first team match, admirably staged before a more than average crowd by the Ribblesdale League, the Red Rose wins came initially from Stephen Turner and Stephen Scowcroft in the men's doubles, followed by a singles success by Turner over the debutant junior Tony Sanderson and by Donald Parker, earlier a victim of Kevin Beadsley, bringing to an end the undefeated run of Steve Mills.

Only Lancashire's girls met with success on Tyneside where both Jean Parker and Helen Frost had singles wins and the pair combined to take the women's doubles. Lancashire's male trio of Keith Williams, Brian Carney and Kevin Walsh got very little change from Chu Van Que, Andrew Clark and Ian Robertson.

And it was mainly the girls, Jackie Myers and Caroline Hemming, who made a fight of it on Teesside where Michael Mercer was the only Lancastrian boy to record a win, over J. Chan.

Preston would appear to be all set to recapture the first division title of the Lancashire and Cheshire League they lost to Manchester last season following their 10-0 victory over Liverpool on Jan. 30.

The "whitewash" occurred at the premises of Baxi Fires at Bamber Bridge where the heat was too hot for Keith Williams, Wayne Percival and Malcolm Pu as applied by Don Parker, Paul Rainford and Steve Turner.

Farnworth's home match against Stockport, scheduled for Feb. 20, was postponed because of the Cheshire team's involvement in the semi-final of the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy.

But, as last season, trouble was again encountered with Stockport's late arrival at the Preston venue resulting in their disqualification and the match being awarded to Lytham.

In the other semi-final Fleetwood, with their team of former Blackpool players, beat Macclesfield but because of a protest lodged by Stockport the final, which should have been played on Feb. 27, has been postponed pending the outcome of the appeal.

Meantime, in the league, Farnworth have lost the services of Denis Neale following the retirement of this most capped English international. It would be churlish not to wish Denis, despite his frequent altercations with the establishment, all success in his full time employment which has written finis to his chequered playing career. Current positions in Div. 1:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Preston	6	5	1	0	48	12	11
Salford	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Manchester	7	3	0	4	27	43	6
Farnworth	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Stockport	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Rochdale *	6	1	2	3	24	36	4
Bury *	6	1	1	4	22	38	3
Liverpool	5	1	0	4	16	34	2

* Promotees
Blackburn and Wirral are the favourites for promotion from the regional second divisions whilst in Junior Div. 1 St. Helens, with Michael Mercer and Paul Ashcroft at the helm, have the title well in their sights.

Stockport, with recent wins over Blackpool (10-0) and Manchester (8-2), look more than capable of retaining their Women's Div. 1 title especially when one takes into consideration their 7-3 home win over Preston.

In this latter encounter the visitors'

English Junior champion, Joy Grundy, lost all her three singles to Di Johnson, Doreen Schofield and Debbie Coulthard. And, in the Preston v Bury match Helen Frost also chalked up a victory over Joy.

Victories over Tony Boasman, in the semis, and Phil Bowen, in the final, brought victory for Bolton inter-league player Stephen Scowcroft in the Salford League's closed championships men's singles.

NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S COMPETITION SEASON 1980-81

Draw for the Fourth Round and the Quarter-finals of the Men's Competition for the Ormesby Cup:

Round 4

- Closing date: 22nd March, 1981
- Netherfield (Westmorland) v
Thornaby Youth Club (Stockton) (1)
Wavertree Labour (Liverpool) v
Savoy (Fleetwood) (2)
Penmaen (Wyberton) v
Sheepbridge 'A' (Chesterfield) (3)
South Yardley (Birmingham) v
Phoenix (Coventry) (4)
Fellows Cranleigh (Barking) v
Dagenham Dock (Dagenham) (5)
Kidlington Forum (Oxford) v
Ellenborough (North Middlesex) (6)
Civil Service (Hastings) v
Sturdee (Medway) (7)
Saints (Exeter) v Omega (Reading) (8)

Quarter-final Draw

Closing date: 26th April, 1981

1 v 2 4 v 3 5 v 6 8 v 7

3rd Round Results

- Savoy (Fleetwood) 8 Alderley (Wirral) 1
Wavertree Labour (Liverpool) 5
Flixton C.C. (Sale) 1
Nottingham YMCA (Nottingham) 1
Sheepbridge 'A' (Chesterfield) 5
Penmaen (Wyberton) 5
Ruston Bucyrus (Lincoln) 2
St. Andrews (Derby) 0
South Yardley (Birmingham) 6
Grove School (Market Drayton) 1
Phoenix (Coventry) 5
Dagenham Dock (Dagenham) 5
Maldon (Chelmsford) 2
Soham (Cambridge) 2
Fellows Cranleigh (Barking) 5
Kidlington Forum (Oxford) 5
Exiles (Central London) 3
Goffs Oak (Cheshunt) 0
Ellenborough (North Middlesex) 9
Sturdee (Medway) 8
Lloyds Register (Reigate, Redhill) 1
Shoreham TTC (Brighton) 4
Civil Service (Hastings) 5
RCT (Aldershot) 1 Saints (Exeter) 8
Lytchett (Poole) 2 Omega (Reading) 5

Draw for the Semi-finals of the Women's Competition for the Gainsford Cup:

Semi-finals

- Closing date: 22nd March, 1981
- Ellenborough (North Middlesex) v
Clayton Heights (Bradford)
Chilton (Bridgwater) v
Merton (Bournemouth) or
Omega (Reading)

Quarter-final Results

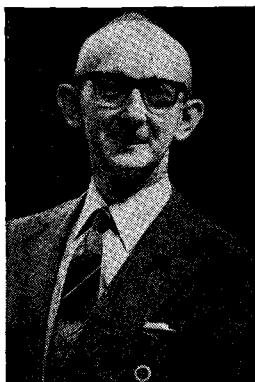
- Grove School (Market Drayton) 2
Clayton Heights (Bradford) 5
Fellows Cranleigh (Barking) 2
Ellenborough (North Middlesex) 5
Chilton (Bridgwater) 8
Exeter Community Centre (Exeter) 1

E.T.T.A. "100 CLUB"

At the reception following the finals of the Norwich Union English Championships at Gillingham, a draw for the three major prizes was made. The only unusual feature was that two out of the three winners were present!

- £100 - Derek Tremayne
£50 - Johnny Leach
£10 - Aubrey Drapkin

MORE ON VAT



by Tom Blunn, Chairman ETTA

The incidence of VAT is felt by the ETTA in several ways, some of which work to our advantage. By being registered the ETTA can recover all the input tax paid on such major items of expenditure as telephones, printing and stationery and hospitality. On the other hand the ETTA has to collect tax from its members on all affiliation fees. This particular aspect has been under review for some time now but a decision received from Customs and Excise has confirmed that the payment of VAT on affiliation fees is quite legal and necessary. The main reason for this decision is that the payment of a fee entitles members to exclusive services which are not available to non-members. These include the right to play with other affiliated members, the use of exclusive fixture lists, the use of the coaching scheme and the table hire facilities and sundry other benefits. Whilst this particular aspect of VAT does not cost the ETTA anything it is a heavy burden to the member leagues who have to pay it.

Sponsors who assist the ETTA have to pay VAT on the sponsorship money but most of them are registered themselves and can therefore recover what they pay to the ETTA. In return of course the ETTA has to hand over all such tax received from the sponsors. It is the usual swings and roundabouts. It is unfortunate that those sponsors such as Insurance Companies and Banks are classed as exempt from VAT and although this sounds to be an advantage, in actual fact it means they have to pay VAT input tax but cannot recover it from output tax because, being exempt, they do not charge output tax on the cost of their services. This puts certain sponsors at a disadvantage though it is possible to mitigate the cost by the formation of a separate company which could be registered for VAT.

Another effect of VAT on the ETTA has only recently come to light. This is VAT on all entry fees paid to the ETTA for all competitions. This tax is to be levied from 1st Jan., 1981 and the entry forms for the Norwich Union English Championships has an extra fee included for VAT. This is a further burden on the members and there is more to come as this will affect all national competitions. These include the new National League, the County Championships, the well-established national league and club competitions and the English Championships both senior and junior. This new development has been the subject of representation recently in and out of parliament and some concessions have been granted. These have still to be considered and it seems there will be some relief if we can organise ourselves to fit in with the new conditions. The main conditions being that all monies received from entry fees must be returned in prize money

or for the purchase of prizes and awards. It is a matter which requires some thought but at least there appears to be some room for manoeuvre.

Yet another new imposition is the refusal to allow input tax on the cost of entertainment, to be deducted from output tax. This does not sound too much of an imposition at first but the crunch is that the cost of hospitality paid for overseas competitors is to be classed as entertainment from 1st Jan., 1981. This will have a serious effect on our two international events the Norwich Union International Championships and the English Junior Open and of course any other international event that we may organise in future.

There may be a remote possibility of some way out but it will require an arrangement with the hotels and to confirm the positions with the Customs and Excise.

The imposition of VAT also falls on our coaching staff who have always been treated as self-employed and thus liable to registration if their total income from all sources reaches the limit. The current limit of £13,500 seems rather beyond them at the present time but when the limit was much lower they were vulnerable and indeed one coach has been required to register retrospectively from Jan., 1976. As a result he was charged back VAT amounting to over £3,000. Fortunately for the coach, the ETTA is able to accept the back assessment of input tax as we can recover it from our collection of output tax. I say fortunately for the coach because had he been engaged by a non-registered body, it is hardly likely that such a body would have accepted the assessment of back tax and paid it for him; he would have been left to pay it himself and would not have been able to recover it from anyone.

Another effect of VAT on the ETTA is the fact that with the coaches being self-employed the ETTA cannot recover the VAT input tax paid by the coaches and charged to the ETTA by the coaches in the recovery of their normal expenses. The main amounts involved is VAT input tax on petrol, telephones and hotel charges. The loss to the ETTA is between £800 and £1,000 p.a. This particular impact of VAT has only recently been felt by the ETTA.

So, having started with apparently little impact, VAT has gradually grown to become a material expense to the ETTA with only a remote possibility of mitigation in the future. In the first instance it was of great benefit to the ETTA to be registered and indeed it still is but it is very expensive for the players, clubs and leagues.

The tax on affiliation fees alone costs the leagues over £6,000 each season and added to this now will be the tax on all entry fees paid for the national competitions, unless there is some relief following the recent concessions announced by the Chancellor. The tax on overseas competitors' hospitality could well cost the ETTA another £1,000 and the loss of the recoverable tax on the coaches expenses, yet another £1,000. What the members pay each season in VAT on equipment and clothing hardly bears thinking about; it must be many thousands of pounds.

The plain fact is that the government must raise money by taxes and if it was not by VAT it would be by some other method but certainly the way the law governing VAT is interpreted has an adverse effect on sport generally and it is a sad fact that sport in our country is a very poor relation.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLOSED (15/2/81)

RESULTS
Men's Singles Semi-finals:
Simon Claxton bt Bob Brown 14, 17;
Jeremy Duffield bt Trevor Washington 6, 18.

Final:
DUFFIELD bt Claxton -17, 17, 21.
(Jeremy holds the Junior and Senior titles)
Women's Singles Semi-finals:
Lynda Reid bt Jenny Cornock 16, -11, 19;
Mandy Mytton bt Alison Westwood 20, 16.
Final:
MYTTON bt Reid 14, 10.
Veteran Men's Singles Final:
BRIAN BELCHER bt Mervyn Wood 11, 16.
Veteran Women's Singles Final:
JANET HUNT bt Vera Royal 16, 9.
Men's Doubles Final:
CLAXTON/STEVE MOREMAN bt Simon Gray/Jeff Nix -19, 15, 25.
Women's Doubles Final:
CORNOCK/SHEILA POWELL bt Mytton/Reid 13, 11.
Veterans' Doubles Final:
JANET HUNT/BRIAN THOMPSON bt Belcher/Wood -11, 19, 20.
Mixed Doubles Final:
DUFFIELD/MYTTON bt Moreman/Reid 16, 15.

IRISH AFFAIRS

by Willie Walsh

Friday, Feb. 13 certainly proved to be unlucky for Ireland, when they were extensively trounced by Norway in Athlone.

Before I write about that Friday's disaster, let us go back to the previous Thursday night's disaster.

The match was scheduled for Thursday night Feb. 12 in Athlone. On Wednesday night Feb. 11, two cars arrived at Dublin airport to collect the Norwegians from the 21.05 plane and drive them the 80 miles to Athlone. Alas — no sign of the Norwegians. Phone calls were made all round. On Thursday morning phone calls were made and the Irish non-playing captain took up duty at Dublin Airport at 1 p.m. with the intention of driving them to the venue. As the afternoon wore on, more panic, more phone calls. The Norwegian Vice-Consul was by now fully involved. No one could say what happened.

7 p.m. there were over 600 people in the hall in Athlone waiting to see the match. As this was the first International scheduled for Athlone, the majority of spectators had hoped to see their first Table Tennis International. 7.30 p.m. Mr. Ray O'Connell, Chairman of the ITTA addressed the masses and apologised, promising them an immediate exhibition with the Irish players and the match would take place the following night. He said they would be admitted free or they could have their money refunded there and then. Some could not come the following night, so they had their money refunded.

9.05 p.m. five happy members of the Norwegian team arrived. Their happiness soon turned to shock when it was explained to them by a frustrated Irish Non-Playing Captain that the match should have taken place on that night 80 miles away.

A rational discussion took place and it was agreed Ireland would not claim the badly needed point, the Norwegians could stay in Dublin for that night and travel to Athlone the following morning and play the match on the Friday. So eventually the match took place on the Friday night before a smaller audience, though still approx. 400 people, at an enormous extra cost to the local organisers who were stuck with Hotel bookings, meals, an after-match dinner, and a second fee for the hall.

The unsolved mystery at the time of going to Press is how the Norwegians thought the match was on the 13th, when all other European League matches were scheduled for the 12th, and no request was sought or granted nor was Mrs. Nancy Evans notified.

They had suggested the match be played in Cardiff at the time of the Stiga Welsh Open, but the ITTA never agreed to this. The second mystery is how they intended to play in Athlone on the Friday night and also play in Lisburn in the North of Ireland on the same night, as they were entered, and the tournament was on Friday night and Saturday.

There is very little to be said about the match as with the exception of Pat Glynn's good win over Paul Guttormsen to level at one set each, the rest was just another and further disaster to a twice disappointed crowd.

For the benefit of readers of this magazine who knew Paul Guttormsen during his sojourn in England it is enough to say he has not changed.

RESULTS

Colm Slevin lost to T. Johansen -15, -14.
Pat Glynn bt P. Guttormsen 21, 20.
Liz Cheevers lost to T. Folkesson -8, -12.
Glynn/Slevin lost to Johansen/Guttormsen -19, -10.
Glynn/Cheevers lost to Folkesson/Guttormsen -18, -9.
Slevin lost to Guttormsen -17, -9.
Glynn lost to Johansen -12, -14.
Winner: NORWAY 6-1.

JAPANESE VISIT

The Japanese women's team had little difficulty in beating the Irish women in Dublin, as they strolled to a facile 7-0 "whitewash", but the Irish girls improved out of all proportion when Anne Leonard won two singles and she teamed up with Karen Walker to win the doubles in the second match in Belfast.

The Dublin match which was sponsored by the Irish Datsun Company and watched by a large crowd, saw the Japanese girls give their Irish counterparts a lesson in how table tennis should be played. The Irish were good pupils as their improved performance in Belfast proved. Liz Cheevers was the only member of the Dublin quartet to rise to the occasion. She was subsequently rewarded by being selected for her first European League cap against Norway.

In Belfast, Anne Leonard was the star, but unfortunately she is since out of the game with a leg injury.

"All in all", a good time was had by everyone.

RESULTS

Dublin
Japan 7 Ireland 0
A. Inamori bt A. Leonard 11, 10.
Y. Hayashi bt D. Kilpatrick 13, 7.
H. Fukukana bt L. Cheevers 16, 18.
Y. Hoshino bt G. Leonard 11, 6.
K. Maeda bt A. Leonard 8, 9.
K. Nura bt Kilpatrick 11, 10.
Maeda/Tsunakawa bt A. Leonard/Cheevers 20, 17.

Belfast

Japan 5 Ireland 3
A. Inamori bt K. Walker 16, 18.
Y. Hayashi lost to A. Leonard 16, -16, -11.
K. Tsunakawa bt L. Cheevers 13, 12.
H. Furukawa bt M. Sheehan 16, 10.
Inamori/Hayashi lost to Walker/Leonard -18, 18, -11.
Y. Hosino bt Cheevers 14, 15.
K. Ura lost to A. Leonard -17, 10, -11.
K. Maeda bt Walker -15, 20, 15.

IRISH RANKING: 7/2/81
(previous ranking in brackets)

Men

1 C. Slevin (1); 2 P. Glynn (4),
3 K. Keane (2), 4 D. Weir (8),
5 T. Caffrey (—), 6 = T. Heasley (5),
6 = K. Leonard (—), 8 J. Hamill (6),
9 J. Langan (—), 10 J. Cash (—),
11 J. Robinson (7).

Women

1 A. Leonard (1), 2 L. Cheevers (4),
3 D. Kilpatrick (3), 4 M. Sheehan (6),
5 G. Leonard (5), 6 P. Hunter (6),

7 = H. Walsh (—), 7 = M. Martin (9),
9 A. Kelly (—), 10 E. Tuohy (—),
11 = P. Blair (—), 11 = M. McMullan (—).

KEVIN KEANE SUSPENDED

At a meeting of the General Council of the Irish TTA held on Feb. 8/81, the newspaper article attributed to an interview given by Kevin Keane was discussed.

The meeting gave its full backing to the Irish Selectors. In view of the fact that the Association's letter to Kevin Keane was not replied to, he was suspended from all International Table Tennis and tournament play — with the exception of domestic league fixtures — for the remainder of the current season.

China's New Stars

by Lars Wollentin
of Switzerland

The following four players are the big hopes of the Peoples Republic of China in the 1981 table tennis season.

Hszie Sai-ke (19)

Hszie, representing the typical Chinese table tennis, prefers the penholder. His force lies in the very quick attack from near the table. This is even more dangerous for his opponents as Hszie hits the ball immediately after its touch on the table, thus neutralizing the top-spins almost completely. Like many great champions, Hszie plays with the left hand.

Chai Yen-hua (20)

He is a left-hand player, too, but wielding the bat the orthodox way instead of the Asian penholder. His top-spins are as well-known as feared. The fact that, at the beginning of his table tennis career, Chai used to play defensively makes him a very efficient all-round player.

Kui Bao-chang (20)

Miss Kui is considered today's best female player in China. She plays with penhold and is far superior to the opponents by her tall stature (170 cm), which — as compared with her compatriots — can be called extra-

ordinary in China. One of her special features is her service, called "high-toss" in Britain: she tosses the ball up very high, and the service itself — beaten very hard — occurs immediately after the ball has touched down on the table's surface.

Liu Yang (18)

Miss Liu, a right-hand player with classical bat-holding, has a complete repertoire of table tennis, which is rare to find in China. Dropping is one of her special virtues. Besides this, she plays cleverly and she can rapidly recognize and exploit the weak points of her opponents.

As we have just read, two of the mentioned players are dedicated to the penholder, while the others wield the bat the classical way. The world famous and feared Asian feature of the past, i.e. the penholder-play, has lost its popularity in China. Most great tournaments and Cups are won by players preferring the orthodox bat-holding. Since the leaders of the Chinese Table Tennis Association know it, however, exactly that European players have hardly the opportunity to play against rivals with penholder, they act very tactically: it is still the penholder-specialists whom they delegate to international tournaments and great Championships.

After all, the Chinese find themselves in an odd situation: their great champions who earned fame all round the world have hardly the chance to win any tournament in China itself. In an important National Tournament in 1980, five out of the eight players in the quarter-finals wielded the bat with the classical holding.

The coach of the Chinese female National Team, Sun Mei-ying, published recently an article in the magazine "China Sports". In this article, Mr. Sun declares that despite the undisputable advantages of the classical bat-holding, the Chinese and the Japanese are determined to keep in honour the old tradition, i.e. the typical Asian penholder. They will do their best to improve Asian style and Asian technique of table tennis — because one knows in the Far East, too, that World Championships can be won with every kind of style: with the Hungarians' top-spin as well as with the mere defensive play a la Bergman, or by the Asian penholder.

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TITLE REGAINED

by Malcolm Anderson

Chairman, Photographic Committee, USTTA

Dan Seemiller finally regained the US Closed Men's title, after two years of frustration. In the final, Danny easily beat Eric Boggan (who upset Dan in the final two years ago, and beat him in the US Open Team Championships three weeks earlier) 16, 14, 13.

Semis:

D. Seemiller bt Rey Domingo 18, 8, 5;

E. Boggan bt Ricky Seemiller 19, -18, 18, 10.

Quarters:

D. Seemiller bt D. J. Lee 9, 14, 9;

Domingo bt David Sakai 9, 12, 16;

Rick Seemiller bt Attila Malek (defending champion) 9, 16, -14, -19, 15;

Boggan bt Mike Bush 15, 12, -15, 20.

Upsets:

Lim Ming Chui bt Ray Guillen 15, 13, -16, 7.

Jerry Thresher bt Scott Boggan -12, 12, -16, 17, 17.

Women's Singles Final:

He-ja Lee bt Judy Bochenski Hoarfrost 14, 18, 19.

Semis:

Lee bt Carol Davidson 19, -19, -15, 17, 10;

Hoarfrost bt Alice Green 13, -8, 17, 15.

Quarters:

Lee bt Kasia Dewidowicz Gaca -17, 16, 18, 11;

Davidson bt Angelita Sistrunk -17, 16, 14, 16;

Hoarfrost bt Faan Yeen Liu -18, 14, 19, 13;

Green bt Sheila O'Dougherty -13, 18, -14, 14, 18;

Men's Doubles Final:

D. and R. Seemiller bt Lee/Malek 10, withdrawal at 15-10. Lee injured his leg.

Women's Doubles Final:

Lee/Sistrunk bt O'Dougherty/Hoarfrost -18, 21, 13, 16.

Mixed Doubles Final:

R. Seemiller/Dadian bt Bush/Hoarfrost 20, 17, 9.

Men's Amateur Singles Final:

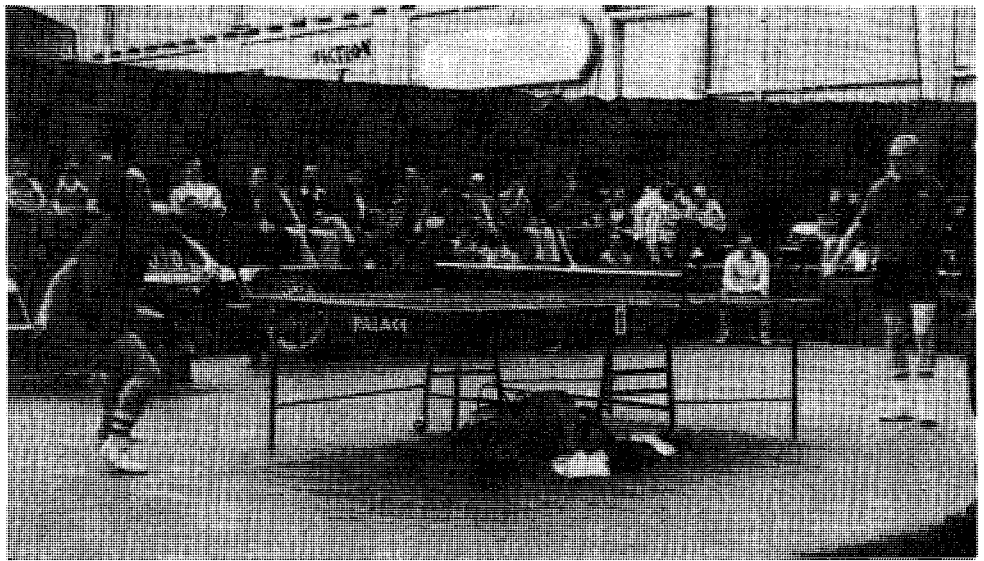
Dean Doyle bt Brian Masters 17, 18, 16.

Women's Amateur Singles Final:

Cheryl Dadian bt Liu -16, -19, 18, 19, 21.

Boys' -17 Singles Final:

E. Boggan bt Masters 17, -13, 7, 10.



Bearded Tim Boggan no less successful than his son, Eric, in the final of the men's +40 singles against Dal Joon Lee.

Photo by Malcolm Anderson

Semis:

Boggan bt S. Butler -15, 15, 16, 9;

Masters bt Brandon Olson -19, 16, 7, 16.

Girls' -17 Singles Final:

Dadian bt Diana Gee -20, 17, 9, 11.

Semis:

Dadian bt Lisa Gee 19, 18, 14;

Diana Gee bt Ai-Ju Wu 10, -19, 18, 19.

Men's +40 Singles Final:

D. J. Lee bt Tim Boggan 14, -10, 13, 12.

Lee played with his injured leg heavily bandaged.

Semis:

Lee bt Bernie Bukiet 14, 16;

Boggan bt Marty Prager 14, 15.

Women's +40 Singles Final:

Patty Hodgins bt Yvonne Kronlage

-7, -18, 22, 18, 19.

Semis:

Hodgins bt Evelyn Zakarin 15, 8;

Kronlage bt Margery Wilcox 23, 14.

Men's +50 Singles Final:

Tim Boggan bt Leon Ruderman 14, 17, 15.

Semis:

Boggan bt Dan Banach 14, 18;

Ruderman bt Mike Lieberman -18, 17, 17.

Boys' -15 Singles Final:

Butler bt O'Neill 19, 14, 24.

Girls' -15 Singles Final:

Diana Gee bt Lisa Gee -13, 14, -19, 18, 18.

Men's +50 Doubles Final:

Mike Lieberman and George Hendry bt

Bob Partridge and Ron Afdal 18, 20, 9.

Men's +60 Singles Final:

Lieberman bt Hendry 17, 15, -17, -16, 13.

Boys' -13 Singles Final:

Butler bt O'Neill 13, 13, 9.

Girls' -13 Singles Final:

Diana Gee bt Lisa Gee -19, -14, 18, 16, 11.

Men's +70 Singles Final:

Oliver Nicholas bt C. H. McCallister -18, 20, -19, 14, 16.

Juniors' -11 Singles:

Round Robin: 1 Jim Butler, 2 Huong Tran, 3 Michelle Mantel, 4 Homer Gayanne.

Hard-Rubber Singles Final:

Dean Doyle bt Scott Boggan -17, 16, 19, 18.

US Team Trials December 15-17

Men's Trial (Final Round Robin of 12 players):

1. Danny Seemiller 9-2. Lost to Eric Boggan 19, 17 and to Ricky Seemiller -13, 21, 19. Danny was undefeated in our last three Worlds Team Trials, and has finished 1st in all five of them.

2. Eric Boggan 9-2. Lost to Jim Lane -10, 15, 18 and to Mike Bush 19, -12, 18. Eric's game ratio of 20/8 was far behind Danny's ratio of 19/4.

3. Ricky Seemiller 8-3. Lost to Scott Boggan 13, 19; to Eric Boggan 13, 16 and to Attila Malek -18, 15, 18.

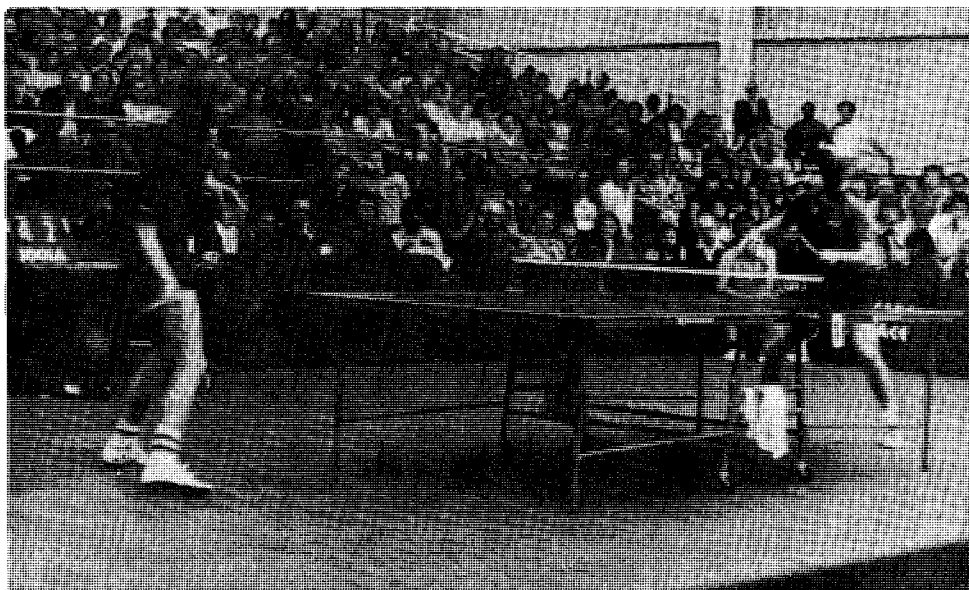
4. Scott Boggan 7-4 (17/10). Lost to Dan Seemiller 7, -18, 9; to Rey Domingo -16, 8, 17; to Mike Bush 19, 19; and to Eric Boggan -12, 19, 18.

5. Mike Bush 7-4 (15/9). Lost to D. Seemiller 8, 17; to Rick Seemiller 9, 12; to Attila Malek -20, 19, 11; and to Quang Bui 16, 19.

6. Attila Malek 7-4 (17/12). Lost to D. Seemiller 5, 15; to Scott Boggan -18, 19, 16; to Jim Lane -17, 11, 15; and to Eric Boggan -19, 18, 17.

The US Men's Team to the 1981 World Championships is Danny and Ricky Seemiller. Eric and Scott Boggan, and Mike Bush. Reserves are Attila Malek and Jim Lane.

The US Women's Team to the 1981 World Championships is Sheila O'Dougherty, Angelita Sistrunk, Carol Davidson and Faan Yeen Liu. Reserves are Alice Green and Cheryl Dadian.



Dan Seemiller (r) on his way to victory over Eric Boggan in the final of the men's singles.

Photo by Malcolm Anderson

CUMBRIAN MOVE

Ron Rigg, Hon. Treasurer of the Cumbria TTA and past organiser of the Cumbria Open has moved to "Mechlin", Inkerman Terrace, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 7TY. Phone: 0946-3739.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

DURHAM NOTES

by Ray Simpson

NEW NAMES ADDED

A successful County Closed was held at Lowhills Road Sports Centre, Peterlee on Feb. 1. Some new names were added to the winners' trophies and some exciting table tennis was played.

Nigel Jobling from South Shields upset the seedings to win the men's singles, and showed tremendous character to come from behind in the final to do so. He was a game and 15-18 down in the second end to Tony Gelder, but he managed to keep his game together to take the next six points, and then made Gelder work very hard in the third end, before winning 21-16.

The champion had earlier seen off the Svenson twins, David and Ian, both in three close games, while Gelder had defeated SWD team-mate John Crawford and David Godbold.

It wasn't Gelder's day. He also lost out in the Mixed final with his wife Shirley against Ian Svenson and Julie Smith and in the Men's doubles semi, with Robert Reed, against Paul Smith and Bill Reay, with Reay taking everybody by surprise by ending the first game with two uncharacteristic loops. Shirley made up for her husband's disappointments by partnering Lynne Bainbridge to the Women's Doubles title against Julie Smith and Julie Chambers.

The men's doubles provided a lot of excitement and an amazing comeback by the Svenson twins in the third game of the final against Smith and Reay. Lying 3-11 and 6-14 down, all seemed lost, but they forced mistakes out of their opponents to draw level at 17-all, and then saved five match points in a very tense deuce situation before winning 27-25!

Michael Polkinghorne, in his final junior season, defeated top seed Barrie Gill in the Boys' singles, while Darren McVitie justified his top ranking in the U-15 Boys' with a win over David Blackburne. McVitie and Gill combined to take the boys' doubles over an overcome Martin Gent and Gary Webstell partnership.

In the Women's events, Lynne Bainbridge retained her singles title by defeating Julie Smith by slowly wearing down her opponent with her chopping style.

Lorna Wilson missed out on a dual junior singles success, for after taking the U-15's in a final group with Helen Dowson and Andrea Davison, she could not recover from a disastrous first end against Lyn Yarnell in the U-17's and went down 1, 17. Miss Yarnell then combined with Julie Chambers in the Girls' doubles, against Miss Dowson and Debra Armstrong.

Eric Minto won the Veteran Singles title against Alan Jenkins after a bad first end which he did well to overcome.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Crawford bt B. Reay 9, -12, 13;
D. Svenson bt C. Olsson 13, 15;
T. Gelder bt D. Godbold 15, 7;
N. Jobling bt I. Svenson -17, 16, 18.

Semi-finals:

Jobling bt Svenson 20, -14, 20;
Gelder bt Crawford 17, 17.

Final:

JOBLING bt Gelder -15, 18, 16.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

P. Smith/Reay bt Gelder/R. Reed 19, 13;

Svenson/Svenson bt D. McVitie/B. Gill 16, 14.

Final:

SVENSON/SVENSON bt Smith/Reay -24, 15, 25.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

L. Bainbridge bt L. Yarnell 16, 19;
J. Smith bt S. Proctor 6, 11;

Final:

BAINBRIDGE bt Smith -13, 12, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Bainbridge/S. Gelder bt J. Wilson/Proctor 12, 17.

Smith/J. Chambers bt L. Wilson/L. Alcock 16, 6.

Final:

BAINBRIDGE/GELDER bt Smith/Chambers 16, -17, 22.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

M. Polkinghorne bt McVitie 11, 17;
Gill bt M. Gent 17, 15.

Final:

POLKINGHORNE bt Gill 16, 13.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

L. Wilson bt A. Currie 13, 10;
Yarnell bt J. Chambers -20, 4, 10.

Final:

YARNELL bt Wilson 1, 17.

U-15 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

McVitie bt P. Stafford 9, 17;
D. Blackburne bt P. Currie -10, 15, 13.

Final:

McVITIE bt Blackburne 17, 14.

U-15 Girls' Singles FG:

L. Wilson bt H. Dowson 17, 15;
bt A. Davison -19, 20, 14;
A. Davison bt Dowson 16, -17, 20.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

McVitie/Gill bt Williams/Blackburne 18, 16;
G. Webstell/M. Gent bt C. Slowther/A. Thorpe 9, -12, 14.

Final:

McVITIE/GILL bt Webstell/Gent 11, 11.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

H. Dowson/D. Armstrong bt A. Currie/E. Blackburne 21, -11, 20;

Yarnell/Chambers bt Wilson/Davison 12, 7.

Final:

YARNELL/CHAMBERS bt Dowson/Armstrong 8, 11.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

I. Svenson/Smith bt D. Svenson/Yarnell 15, 19;

Gelder/Gelder bt T. Bainbridge/Bainbridge 19, 19.

Final:

SVENSON/SMITH bt Gelder/Gelder 11, 17.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

E. Minto bt R. Stafford 10, 14;
A. Jenkins bt D. Carney 16, 19.

Final:

MINTO bt Jenkins -9, 17, 17.

The next big tournament to be held in Durham will be the County Open on March 7/8.

In the National League, SWD have suffered three defeats in a row, but with a little more luck, two of these could have been turned into victories. They came back from Tarmac Wolverhampton on the wrong end of a 6-3 result, but with a little more luck the result could have been in their favour as six sets went to three. Victories came from Keith Wilson who defeated Trevor Washington -11, 19, 16, John Crawford who beat Tony Isaac 18, 18 and Tony Gelder against the unfortunate Washington -15, 14, 20. I must record SWD's thanks here to Tarmac for some great hospitality and a very enjoyable day.

SWD's second hard-luck story came a week later against Stockton Select, and for the second time this season the result was 5-4 in favour of the Cleveland club, and as before the result depended on the last set. SWD's wins came from Crawford against Stephen Souter 17, 20, Gelder against Terry Murphy 13, 14, Bill Reay against Graham Walker -18, 18, 7 and an 18, 16 doubles win.

In their other match, SWD defeated

by a stronger Norton team. Crawford put SWD into an early lead against Peter D'Arcy by -10, 18, 17, but Norton then reeled off eight sets in a row, with only the doubles going into a third end. A useful debut though for David Blackburne.

The need for a sponsor for the League has now become more obvious as there are more and more matches played with relatively nothing at stake. One idea which I would like to suggest — if a sponsor is found — is to give an amount of money for every set won by each club, therefore giving clubs something to play for in the twilight of the season, as well as boosting club funds.

There are a spate of league tournaments coming up in March and April. Bishop Auckland hold theirs on March 14, Aycliffe March 22, Sunderland April 4 and Durham April 12.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

A STEP NEARER

Cambs took a step nearer to the championship of Div. II East when they beat Suffolk 8-2 at Ipswich. This was their fourth successive win and three points from their last two matches will see them gain the title.

Once again the win was a great team effort with every player winning at least one set. Geoff Davies, however, was the star with a great win over England No. 10 John Kitchener in the third set. This win put Cambs into the lead which they never lost. Davies also beat Julian Hall and partnered Keith Richardson to win the men's doubles against Kitchener and Mick Palmer. Mandy Judd and Joanne Palmer won all three women's sets for the third consecutive match, with Judd beating former Essex star Julie Dowsett 21 in the third. Cambs two defeats came in the second and seventh sets when Robert Swift lost to Hall and Richardson lost to Kitchener.

SCORES

K. Richardson bt M. Palmer 20, -19, 16;
lost to J. Kitchener 19, -12, -12.

G. Davies bt J. Kitchener 19, 19;
bt J. Hall 13, -13, 18.

R. Swift lost to J. Hall -11, -19;
bt Palmer -18, 19, 19.

A. Judd bt J. Dowsett -16, 9, 21.

J. Palmer bt S. Butcher -14, 9, 10.

Richardson/Davies bt Kitchener/Palmer 16, 17.

Judd/Palmer bt Dowsett/Butcher 11, 17.

Cambs Juniors were beaten for the first time since March, 1979, when they crashed 2-8 against Berks in a Junior 2 East match at Owlstone Croft. Berkshire had not won a point in three matches, but if Cambs thought they were in for two easy points they were soon proved wrong as a Jamie Frost singles win was all they had to show from the first four sets. It was Frost again, in partnership with Julian Wheel, who raised hopes of a revival with a boys' doubles win in the fifth set.

This win, however, proved to be the home county's last as Berkshire took the next five sets. Paul Stacey was very unlucky against Iain Fullerton pulling back from 13-19 to lead 20-19 only to be beaten with a shot that just chipped the table. Even Mandy Judd, who was playing her first match of the season, could not stop the rot and went down to Susan Blackburn. The defeat ends any realistic hope of Cambs now winning the division and probably their chance of the promotion "play-offs".

SCORES

P. Stacey lost to J. Stokes -8, -19;
lost to I. Fullerton 15, -11, -20.

J. Wheel lost to I. Fullerton -14, -13;
lost to S. Rowlands -19, -17.

J. Frost bt S. Rowlands 16, 10;

lost to Stokes -13, -17.

A. Judd lost to S. Blackburn -11, 14, -15.
R. Hunter lost to J. Collins -7, -6.
Wheel/Frost bt Stokes/Rowlands -18, 18, 14.
Judd/Hunter lost to Blackburn/Collins
-13, -20.

In the Premier Division of the National League Soham are now odds-on favourites after beating Ellenborough, their closest rivals, 6-3 at Enfield. This win enabled Soham to establish a two points lead with a match in hand and five to play. Two of these, however, are against bottom-of-the-table Dunlop Sports who have yet to win a point.

As expected the North London team gave them a hard fight and early wins from Graham Sandley and Colin Wilson had enabled Ellenborough to draw level after Paul Day and Dave Wells had beaten John Kitchener and Mark Mitchell.

The doubles gave Soham the lead again and then Day put them two up for the first time with a revenge win over Sandley, the only player to have beaten him in the league this season. Kitchener beat John Souter to close the gap but wins from Kenny Jackson and Wells over Mitchell and Wilson saw Soham home.

SCORES

P. Day bt J. Kitchener 11, 17;
bt G. Sandley 20, 17.
K. Jackson lost to G. Sandley -10, 17, -18;
bt Mitchell 18, 9
J. Souter lost to C. Wilson -17, -14;
lost to Kitchener -14, -17.
D. Wells bt Mitchell 18, -15, 12;
bt Wilson 15, 9.
Day/Jackson bt Sandley/Mitchell -19, 14, 15.

In a further match against Scimitar Fellows Cranleigh, Soham had a magnificent 8-1 victory which put them in an almost impregnable position for the title. The visitors were without recent signing Peter McQueen but they put up stubborn resistance and were not as bad as the score-line suggests. Five of the nine sets went to three and Wells won "deuce" games on three occasions. The luck finally went Cranleigh's way in the eighth set when Dave Newman beat Souter in the third with Souter volleying the ball at 19-19. Day was taken to three in both his sets against Newman and Ian Horsham but won comfortably in both cases. Jackson also won both against Horsham and Charlery.

SCORES

P. Day bt D. Newman -11, 10, 14;
bt I. Horsham 17, -18, 10.
K. Jackson bt I. Horsham 17, 11;
bt D. Charlery 18, -22, 14.
J. Souter bt T. Penny 15, -16, 17;
lost to Newman -11, 17, -19.
D. Wells bt Charlery 20, 19;
bt Penny 23, 21.
Day/Jackson bt Horsham/Newman 16, 8.

St. Neots reached fourth position in Div. II (South) of the National League after beating Gunnersbury Triangle 7-2. With matches against Prudential (bottom of the League) and Bristol (second at the moment) they have high hopes of being in the top three at the end of the season with Peter Taylor, Mick Harper, Simon Proffitt and Gavin Booth in good form.

In the Cambridge & Dist. League there was an upset in the first division when Mick Palmer of Soham I, previously unbeaten, was defeated by women's singles champion Mandy Judd. It was a close affair but Mandy got home 18 in the third and this must be one of her finest wins. Although she won this singles for Guildhall it was their only win against Soham I who consolidated their position at the top of the table.

Wesley I consolidated their position at the top of the second division with a 7-3 win over YMCA.

In Div. IIIB Wesley II have an almost unassailable lead at the top with St. George's I in second position after a 6-4 win over Shire Hall. St. George's, the late Frank

Pettitt founded just after the War, have fallen away during the last few seasons and, once being in Div. I, they now have to settle for Div. III so that success is badly needed this season to restore their prestige. Their second team are at present joint third in Div. IIIA and had a good win over General Accident who seemed doomed at the bottom.

The KO Handicap Trophy has reached the quarter-final stage and two Soham and two Wesley teams are involved. Soham I again have a good chance of winning but one can never tell with the lesser teams who may spring some surprises including Netherhall and Titleist.

AROUND THE LEAGUES

WISBECH

The Wisbech & Dist. Closed Championships were held on Feb. 1 at Hudsons Sports Centre. The event was dominated by two players, Mick Palmer and Tracy Fisher. Palmer won three men's events including a win over Geoff Davies 14, 19 to retain the title he won last year. In the Men's Doubles final, partnered by Garry Jordan, they won a very exciting set against Davies and Robert Swift 24, -21, 17. Palmer gained his third title beating Alison Edge and David Brammer 11, -14, 13.

Tracy was even more successful as she won five events including wins over Alison Edge in the Girls' Singles (11, -14, 15) and the Women's Singles (20, 10). Tracy took her third singles title when she beat Helen Smith in the Cadet Girls' Singles. The fifth title came when Tracy, partnered by Alison Edge, took the Women's Doubles by beating Helen Smith and Louise Ward 11, 14. The only time that Tracy was beaten was when she was partnered by Joanne Thurston and they lost to Alison Edge and Jane Burbage -16, -19. This was badly needed consolation for Alison who is such a fine player and fighter. All tribute though to Tracy who had her "finest hour" at such an early age.

In the Boys' events Paul Stacey and Tim Spurr shared most of the honours. Stacey beat Spurr in the singles 10, -17, 14 and together in the doubles they beat Paul Oldroyd and Nicky Watson 13, 14. Paul had the consolation of winning the Cadet Boys' Singles when he beat Paul Holliday 15, -13, 17 and he also took the Div. 2 singles title by beating Keith Burlington -16, 20, 22.

In the Veterans Singles final the No. 1 seed, popular Cyril Halstead, beat Peter Scates 12, 8.

MARCH

The March League this season has decreased slightly to three divisions totalling some 33 teams. It is, however, encouraging to see the number of juniors now playing in the Senior League and several have produced some very good results. Div. I at the moment makes very interesting reading with three teams all vying for top position namely TSB Soham and the two March-based Spartan teams. Soham held a slight advantage at mid-season but anything can happen here. In Div. II Centurians hold a slight lead over Fenman and Police "A".

March have teams in the East Anglian League at senior and junior level meeting with mixed success. The Senior side is finding the going a little tough with one victory so far. The Juniors have fared a little better with the "A" side so far unbeaten and the "B" lying mid-table. The Boys' team of Stacey, Michael Lister and Paul Oldroyd have produced two very good results in the Carter Cup with victories over St. Ives (7-2) and Cambridge (5-4). In the next round March were due to play Luton at home.

March have also produced three more County Champions with Stacey taking the Boys' title, Oldroyd the Cadets' and Tracy Fisher having a walk-over in the "U-14" Girls event. Congratulations to all concerned! The same three also returned home from the Wisbech Closed with more titles. A heartening result for Derek Stacey their coach who puts in so much hard work.

Finally, it is very pleasing to see some 24 youngsters from 10 to 11 years taking part in this season's Junior League.

ELY

Ely are doing well in the Mens Section of the SEM League and look like retaining their hold on the championship. For the past few seasons they have monopolised the league and it seems that unless another team like Milton Keynes or North Herts take a turn for the better then Ely may take some dislodging during the next few seasons. They have many good players and Keith Richardson looks likely to be their mainstay for some time to come.

HAVERHILL

For the past few seasons Haverhill have not had the best of luck in the Cambridge & Dist. League due perhaps to administrative difficulties but at the moment they are operating in the third division of the league and one can only hope that with Bob Withers, a very good worker, they will once again be the force they were in the past. One must remember that Andy Withers came from Haverhill and he has had much success with league and county play.

MIDLAND LEAGUE NOTES

by Ian E. McKelvey

OPEN AS EVER

The only division in which there is no 100% team is Junior Div. 4. Whilst the remainder of the divisions have now produced "certain" winners, the championship and promotion places in this division are as open as ever. Chesterfield "B" have shot to the top with wins over Walsall "B" (8-2), Stratford-upon-Avon (9-1) and Market Drayton "C" by default (10-0), and have ten points from six matches. David Allison and Tony Porter each won six sets in these matches and have eleven out of twelve altogether.

Hot on their heels, however, are Loughborough and Market Drayton "B", with nine points from six matches. Loughborough have not played since my last report, but the Shropshire town secured a draw with fourth placed Bromsgrove, only one point behind them, largely due to 12-year-old Paul Fisher extending his unbeaten record to five matches. Earlier, Bromsgrove had also drawn with the dark horses, Pontesbury, who now lie fifth on seven points but with only four matches played. Determined to keep their true strength unknown (their three wins being over the bottom three teams), Pontesbury omitted two of their regular players in this match. Their remaining one, Brian Andrews, won his three.

Significant events have been taking place in the Veterans Divisions, none more so than Birmingham's 7-3 win over Nottingham "A" in Div. 1. To describe this result as the end of an era may seem melodramatic, but then it was Nottingham's first defeat since 1973. The match lasted five hours, three sets needing expedite, and Arthur Sutton emerged as Birmingham's hero with three wins. Terry Bache added two, but lost his unbeaten record to Alf Saunders playing his first match for Nottingham this season. And if you think that match was long, it is recorded that Nottingham's draw with Oxford "A" a week earlier lasted six hours, with five expedite sets! With a 5.30 start Oxford must have been rather late home.

On the same day as Birmingham's triumph, Walsall, the other contenders, were surprisingly held to a draw by Leicester. Surprisingly, because Leicester, although last year's runners-up, were not even at full strength, and because Walsall had taken a 3-0 lead. Bryan Hall and Phil Overend then won two each for Leicester and together took the doubles. Tony Reeves and Phil Canning each won two for Walsall. These results leave Birmingham in a commanding

position, two points up on Walsall with a considerable sets advantage. West Bromwich and Kidderminster, both without any points yet, are in deep trouble at the foot of the division.

Nuneaton's prospects of replacing one of them in Div. 1 were virtually obliterated when they lost 2-8 at home to Stratford-upon-Avon in their Div. 2 match. The Stratford team's form has improved steadily through the season, and their fourth consecutive win lifted them into second place, albeit temporarily. Dave Williams won his three, all two-straight, and was well supported by Ron Keyte and Bob Price. Nuneaton, however, regained second place when they beat Derby "B" 9-1, dropping only the last set of the evening. Derby "A" remain at the top, ending Stratford's run with a 6-4 win. The first six sets of this match went the distance, and the score was three-all before Derby pulled away. Brian Webster put Derby 4-3 up with a win over Bob Price and clinched it by beating Ron Keyte in the tenth set, but Dave Stills was Derby's top player winning all three. Surprisingly, Roland Hutchinson lost all three after being previously unbeaten in this division.

Cheltenham, presently only sixth in the table, should nevertheless join Derby "A" in the top flight. They have games in hand against two of the weaker teams, Stroud and Coventry "B", which they should win. Peter Slack led Cheltenham to a 6-4 win over Nottingham "B" in a see-saw match. He won three and Roy Fowler two, whilst Alan Jesson won two for Nottingham. Oxford "B" have had two 10-0 wins over Derby "B" and Stroud, Wally Ladmore, Alan Boone and Alun Evans thereby lifting themselves into fifth place. Stroud at least have enjoyed themselves in this division. They found their match with Coventry "B" very congenial and are already looking forward to the return next season. Well they might be, after an 8-2 win with three for Joe Mason.

Only three matches have been played this month in Junior Div. 1, but one of them was vital. The two teams at the top of the division met, and although Adrian Pilgrim won three for Coventry "A" it was Birmingham "A"'s greater all-round strength that won the day. Phil Gunn and Ian Smith each won two, and together just won the doubles at 21 in the third. Birmingham should now go on to take the championship leaving Coventry and Wolverhampton "A" to dispute the runners-up position. Shrewsbury, rather behind in their matches, got off the mark with a 6-4 win over Chesterfield "A", for whom Alan Cooke won three with ease. Ivan Smith and Dean Pountney took two each for Shrewsbury and Peter Hyde one.

Men's Div. 3, which has several "B" teams, has seen too many matches decided by the rules, rather than the players. I must draw attention to Rule 14, which states quite clearly that a player who has played singles twice in the "A" team is not eligible for the "B" team. Application of this rule has resulted in Derby "B"'s "draw" with Stroud and "win" over Shrewsbury both being converted to defeats, as a result of which Derby are in serious relegation difficulties. Cheltenham "B" have also been found guilty. Stroud, Oxford and Shrewsbury are now clustered together on eight points behind the presumed champions, Nottingham "B", who have ten. Stroud have the advantage of a match in hand, but have yet to play the leaders, as have Oxford; Shrewsbury have the easiest run-in. My guess is that it will be close between Shrewsbury and Stroud with a slight advantage to the latter. Theirs is a team effort as none of their team of Andrew Golding, Alan Giles and Peter Harris has yet recorded a maximum.

Another rule 14 infringement gave both points to Nottingham in a Women's Division match against Birmingham "B", when Ann Lloyd's two singles wins and the doubles

were forfeited to them. The same Nottingham team of Paula Reddish, Angela Brettell and Mabs Gardner lost 1-9 to leaders Birmingham "A", who are now very close to the title. Wolverhampton (Janet Dunning, Joanne Chubb and Fiona Elliot) beat Market Drayton "A" 10-0, although Joanne Chubb only just got her three, beating Colette Soan 22 in the third and Denise Boughey 20 in the third. The same Market Drayton team had no difficulty in beating Kidderminster 10-0, which shows the discrepancy in standard in this division.

Bristol go top of Men's Div. 1 with a 6-4 win over Wolverhampton "A", in which Kevin Satchell won three and Martyn Smith two. Andy Rich won two for the Midlands team. Cheltenham "A" and Hinckley "A" remain the prime relegation candidates, the former going down 0-10 to Chesterfield "A" and the latter 1-9 to Derby "A".

There has been a lot of activity in Men's Division 2, although it doesn't seem to have made much difference to the positions in the chart. Nottingham "A" still lead despite losing to Birmingham "A" who will doubtless overhaul them eventually, when they complete their games in hand. Barry Hayward chopped his way to three wins, supported by two from left-hander Paul Judd and one from Lester Bertie. Kevin Edwards won two for Nottingham, but unusually Alan Croome was unable to contribute to his side's cause. That was not the case when Nottingham beat Birmingham "B" 6-4, as Croome then won three and gave young defender Phil Gunn a lesson he will remember for some time, winning by 4, 10. Despite this, Gunn won his other two. Potteries "B" move up to third place after also beating Birmingham "B" 6-4 with three from Steve Rowe. Their further 7-3 win over Leicester "B", for whom Phil Smith won three, has pushed that team down to fourth place even though they comfortably beat Wolverhampton "B" 9-1. Hinckley "B" remain totally outclassed, and after six matches have yet to win a set. Potteries "A" and Nottingham "A" were their most recent executioners.

Wolverhampton "C" continue to lead the Men's fourth division, beating Worcester 10-0 and Lichfield 9-1. Tony Davies won Lichfield's only set, beating Dave Jenkin 27 in the third! Rugby now look to be the next best team, despite dropping a point to Nuneaton. Pat McCabe won three for Rugby. This was Nuneaton's third match in seven days, and using seven players in these three matches is not likely to be a recipe for success. They now have five points from six matches. Leamington are presently second on eight points, after beating Market Drayton 7-3, but with only one match to play are unlikely to retain that position. Eight sets went the distance in this match. Every team is off the mark in this division.

Birmingham "B" continue their winning ways in Junior Div. 2, with Roderick Lewis, Craig Stevens and Colin Higgins beating West Bromwich "A" 9-1. Murray Jukes lost each of his three sets in this match 16 in the third, and only the doubles was gained by West Bromwich. They subsequently lost by the same score to Leicester. John Ford beating Yvonne Hall but Simon Griew and Martin Pickles being untroubled. Derby "A" recorded a good win over Wolverhampton "B" by 8-2. Paul Druce winning three, but lost 1-9 to Coventry "B". A weakened Coventry "B" side only just beat Derby "B" 6-4. Either Coventry "B" or Leicester could be runners-up, although Oxford still have a chance.

Junior Div. 3 continues largely to run according to established form. Albrighton's Martin Tufft was beaten for the first time this season by Coventry "C"'s Ian Flower, but nevertheless inflicted second defeats of the season on Ian Davies and Ian Randle. This, however, was all his team collected from the leaders. Second placed Market Drayton "A" beat Kidderminster 7-3 and

Worcester 10-0 to remain on the heels of Coventry, David Williams winning six and Sean Green and Colin Wilson five each. Kidderminster's David Newbould won two of his side's three and a further three against West Bromwich "B" in a 7-3 win for Kidderminster. Worcester, still without a win, held West Bromwich to 4-6 despite being 0-4 at one stage. Jeremy Clutterbuck won two for them.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

REVISED RANKINGS

Revised County ranking lists were recently issued by the Selection Committee. Andrew Clark now becomes the new No. 2 in the men's list, replacing Ian Robertson, who slips to third. Fred Short and Bob Dodds move up to fourth and fifth respectively, with Martin Young dropping down to No. 6. Malcolm McMaster is omitted completely, as is Phil Stewart, who made a brief appearance in the previous rankings.

David Maughan's recent fine performances see him elevated to the No. 2 spot behind Neil McMaster in the junior boys' list, followed by Martin Moore and Martin Schapira. Christine Burke and Clare Mouzon still head the junior girls' list, and the women's list is yet again unchanged, as are both cadet lists.

Men

- 1 Chu Van Que (1), 2 A. Clark (3), 3 I. Robertson (2), 4 F. Short (5), 5 R. Dodds (6), 6 M. Young (4), 7 D. Armstrong (7), 8 N. McMaster (8), 9 S. Robinson (10), 10 D. McAllister (11), 11 P. Whiteman (12), 12 C. Shepherd (9), 13 R. Scott (15).

Boys

- 1 McMaster (1), 2 D. Maughan (3), 3 M. Moore (4), 4 M. Schapira (2), 5 M. Tate (6), 6 J. Brumby (5), 7 N. Ringrose (7), 8 S. Montague (8), 9 N. Jeffreys (9), 10 S. Allen (10), 11 A. Shakoar (11), 12 D. O'Neil (12), 13 D. Oxley (13), 14 D. Singh (14), 15 B. Bell (15), 16 G. Watson (16).

Girls

- 1 C. Burke (1), 2 C. Mouzon (2), 3 L. Jackman (3), 4 G. Curry (6), 5 D. Campbell (4), 6 T. Cramman (5), 7 J. Drapkin (7), 8 K. Wilkinson (8), 9 D. Wilkinson (9), 10 M. Lee (10).

In the National team knock-out competitions, both the Wilmott Cup men's team and the Bromfield Trophy junior girls' team were weakened by late withdrawals, but fortunately both overcame this handicap to make progress into the third round. The men's team that visited Stockton had to bring in Fred Short to replace Ian Robertson, and with Malcolm Corking in good form for the home side Northumberland had a hard fight before winning 5-3. Chu Van Que had no trouble in winning all three of his matches, and Andrew Clark, having lost to Corking, beat Glen Skipp and Ian Plummer. They will travel to either Bradford or Huddersfield in the next round.

The junior girls' team were at home to the Sunderland League, and already had Lindsey Jackman making her debut when Clare Mouzon pulled out because of illness on the day of the match. With the official reserve also unable to play, 11 year old Judith Drapkin was brought into the team, and both debutants played their part in a 5-2 victory. Christine Burke won all three of her sets, and Lindsey and Judith one each. In the next round, they will travel to meet Ormesby.

It was not, however, a success story for the two Carter Cup junior boys' teams. The Northumberland team had Stockton as their visitors, but in spite of an excellent performance from David Maughan, who had three good wins, and one from Martin Moore

the team went out 4-5. A below-par Neil McMaster (a 'flu victim during the week) unusually failed to get his name on the score sheet. The Tyneside Summer League team of Nicholas Ringrose, Nicholas Jeffreys and Steve Allen were no match for their visitors, Ormesby, who fielded England-ranked juniors Kevin Green and Lindsay Taylor as well as England-ranked cadet David Polasek, and although they fought well, they eventually lost 0-6.

The City of Newcastle National League team certainly made their presence felt in the men's team event at the Cleveland Open tournament on Jan. 17/18. They claimed the prestigious scalp of the Canadian national team in the first round, with Chu Van Que beating Joe Eng 13 in the third, Keith Paxton winning against Eddie Lo in two straight, and finally Paxton and Ian Robertson taking the doubles for an excellent 3-0 victory. The second round meant opposition in the form of the England team of No. 5 ranked Graham Sandley and No. 7 ranked Dougie Johnson, and although the Newcastle team were expected to be beaten out of sight, this turned out to be an excellent match. Chu was first to the table to play Johnson, and after losing the first end, easily took the second and eventually won 14 in the third for an excellent performance against a player generally recognised as England's best defender. The scores were soon equated when Robertson lost to Sandley, and the England side then went 2-1 ahead with a comfortable win in the doubles. However, Chu was not finished yet, and although he lost the first game against Sandley and was seven points down in the second, he somehow dramatically raised his game to eventually come through to equalise. The third was a ding-dong battle and went to 19-19 before Sandley eventually won at 22-20 to take the match for England.

Just under 100 competitors took part in the Crow's Transport Northumberland Junior Closed tournament, which was held at Scotswood Sports Centre on Feb. 7, and all the favourites eventually came through to win their respective events. We are grateful to Crow's Transport for enabling us to stage this event.

RESULTS

Boys' U-17 Singles:
N. McMASTER bt D. Maughan -16, 16, 8.
Girls' U-17 Singles:
C. BURKE bt C. Mouzon 13, 13.
Cadet Boys' U-14 Singles:
M. SCHAPIRA bt E. Smith 9, 6.
Cadet Girls' U-14 Singles:
MOUZON bt D. Campbell 15, 5.
U-11 Open Singles:
D. WATSON bt D. Shaw 14, 17.
Boys' Doubles:
McMASTER/MAUGHAN bt Schapira/M. Tate 17, 15.
Girls' Doubles:
BURKE/MOUZON bt G. Curry/J. Drapkin 9, 7.
Cadet Doubles:
SCHAPIRA/J. MILLER bt Watson/P. Curry -10, 9, 12.

And finally, best wishes go to Janice Fowles and Julie Hobson on their respective engagements. I am sure that everyone will want to send them every good wish for their future happiness.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Gerald Green

'AS EXPECTED' IN LOCAL EVENTS

Top-ranked players Malcolm Green (Seniors), Ivan Smith (Juniors) and Alison Barker (Women/Girls) continue to dominate local events in Shropshire. All retained their titles at the Shrewsbury 'Closed' and the Juniors did well in Schools 'Individuals'. It was Malcolm's fourth singles title in the Shrewsbury Championships and it completed a hat-trick of county and local

'doubles', having won both the Shropshire County Men's Singles title and the Shrewsbury titles for three successive years.

It also completed another 'double', for he had earlier won the Doubles title with Harlescott TTC colleague Martin Chambers and these two were already holders of the County title. Ivan completed a 'hat-trick' of titles this year when he won the Junior event, beating in the final another very promising County youngster David Williams of Market Drayton. Although only 13 Alison completed a double 'double', retaining her Singles title and with Grove clubmate Colette Soan winning the Women's Doubles for the second successive year.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:
Malcolm Green bt Ian Baker 4, 17;
Les Baker bt Ivan Smith 22, 15.
Final:
GREEN bt Baker (L.) 7, 9.
Men's Doubles Semi-finals:
Green/Martin Chambers bt Ian Baker/Dean Pountney -17, 17, 12;
Les Baker/Peter Hyde bt Motto Jones/Clive Roberts 18, 13.
Final:
GREEN/CHAMBERS bt Baker/Hyde 19, 13.
Women's Singles Semi-finals:
Alison Barker bt Denise Boughey -11, 19, 14;
Colette Soan bt Carol Wickstead 13, 15.
Final:
BARKER bt Soan 16, 15.
Women's Doubles Semi-finals:
Barker/Soan bt Alison Stephens/Joanne Smith 15, 13;
Boughey/Wickstead bt Sandra Nevett/Pam Bailey 17, 15.
Final:
BARKER/SOAN bt Boughey/Wickstead -9, 17, 20.
Junior Boys' Semi-finals:
Ivan Smith bt Peter Hyde 16, -19, 10;
David Williams bt Dean Pountney 19, 18.
Final:
SMITH bt Williams 17, 10.
Veteran Singles Semi-finals:
Bill Herbert bt John Morris 19, 15;
Tony Smith bt Motto Jones 9, 10.
Final:
HERBERT bt Smith 12, 16.
Women's Plate Final:
DAWN WICKSTEAD bt Stephanie Thorneycroft 19, 25.
Men's Plate Final:
SEAN GROOM bt Paul Fisher 14, 18.

Four titles were retained in the Shropshire Schools TTA Individual Championships.

Ivan Smith (Mary Webb School, Pontesbury) retained his U-19 and U-16 titles and will represent Shropshire in the National Finals at U-16.

David Williams (Grove, Market Drayton) retained his U-13 title.

Alison Barker (Grove, Market Drayton) retained her U-16 title but lost her U-19 crown to Denise Boughey (Grove).

Dawn Wickstead (Market Drayton Jnr.) won both the U-13 and U-11 titles and will represent her county at U-11.

Ian Corcoran (Market Drayton Jnr.) won the Boys' U-11 title.

There were record entries of 365 for the Championships which were staged at two venues for the first time. The Boys were at Sundorne Games Hall and the Girls at Harlescott County School. Ian Cossor (Priory) did his usual marathon job with organising, ably assisted this year by Ian Marshall (Grove).

Shropshire Schools will be represented by five teams in the regional finals of the Schools Team Championships and they are all from Market Drayton.

One of these teams, the Boys' U-13 side of Sean Groom, David Williams, Adrian Bloore and Graham Walwyn, from the Grove School will be favourites to win the Regionals and so go forward to the

Nationals. They will in fact, be aiming to win their third successive National title for they won the U-11 two years ago and last year were the U-13 winners.

COUNTY RANKINGS

New lists issued with effect from 1st March 1981 show quite a few changes and are as follows:

Men

1 M. Green, 2 I. Baker, 3 L. Baker, 4 I. Smith, 5 M. Chambers, 6 K. Sillitoe, 7 M. Brown, 8 B. Herbert, 9 M. Allcock, 10 = D. Williams, 10 = M. Tufft.

Women

1 A. Barker, 2 D. Boughey, 3 C. Soan, 4 C. Wickstead, 5 J. Ballard, 6 A. Stephens, 7 D. Wickstead, 8 N. Thorneycroft, 9 J. Bloore, 10 J. Smith.

Boys

1 Smith, 2 = Tufft, 2 = Williams, 4 S. Groom, 5 P. Fisher, 6 = P. Hyde, 6 = C. Wilson, 8 D. Pountney, 9 P. Thomas, 10 J. Rea.

Girls

As Women.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

GREAT SOCIAL EVENT

One of the great social events on the local calendar, the Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy was this season competed for by twenty ladies. The event, a Ladies' Handicap competition has attracted varied entries during the past twenty years but one which has not varied is the organiser, Mrs. Audrey Watson, herself a former County Champion. The entry fee of 30p includes an excellent buffet besides suitable trophies for the winner and runner-up. The final was battled between the experienced Glenys Odams and the promising junior Jane Heath, who apart from having a fine loop and devastating kill, also received five points. This combination proved too much for the previous holder Pat Kilsby in the semi-final but Glenys, playing her best table tennis for some time, won in two straight. Mrs. Lillian Williamson, daughter of the late Mrs. Rose Johnson once again graced us with her presence and presented the trophy to the winner. There was a large number of spectators present and a popular guest umpire from Cambridge in Mr. Mike (Expedite) Jackson. Whilst none of the games reached expedite Mike thoroughly enjoyed the event. He was in fact more successful from the expedite angle the previous evening when the very first set — Aldwinckle v Thomas — went to expedite, with Aldwinckle emerging a close winner although Coventry went on to beat Leicester 6-4.

The Rose Johnson Bowl — the team handicap competition organised by the Leicestershire TTA — has now reached the latter stages. The Knighton Park second team, of Gavin Green, Martin Pickles, Tony Pickles and Tim Odams has youth and experience (in the case of Martin Pickles both) and this side will certainly take some beating.

In the Leicester League Magpie appear to have things sewn up in Division One. Paul Randell had intended to play only occasionally but in fact he has been almost an 'ever-present'. With a 100% record and his two most likely challengers Chris Rogers and David Gannon studying at Sheffield and Lancaster respectively it seems unlikely anybody will upset either Magpie's or Randell's progress. Barwell Liberal III have youth and experience in their table-topping Div. 2 team. There can be little doubt the enthusiasm and ability of John Iliffe has brushed off on to Colin Jones and Baz Grant whilst Knighton Park's win over Leicester Building Society makes them virtual certainties to top the third division.

The Knighton Park skipper, Geoff Aldwinckle tops the divisional averages although he has lost twice this season to British Shoe's Alan Bell, a useful player but having only a very average season. Geoff, I'm sure will be happy not to have to face up to Alan again this season although Geoff's two team mates, his son David and Shayne Murray both beat Alan easily enough. Leicester Building Society look to have things settled in Div. 5 with Ian Simpson and Terry Highton leading their challenge. Div. 4 should finish in the hands of Magpie. Few players if any have improved more this season than Stuart Wilford whose ability is unquestioned and his attitude to the game absolutely right. He tops the averages and such is his improvement that a place in a Div. One side next season should not be beyond the realm of possibility — and he still has another season as a junior.

AEI, led by Jim O'Connor, lead the way in Div. 6 and, despite the form of Leicester Building Society, should stay there. O'Connor, a player who never gives less than 100% may be surprised to find himself on top of the averages but he is there on merit. The diminutive Paul Bumpus (aged 12) continues to enjoy great success for Swithland Motors who top Div. 8 but his 100% record came unstuck when he lost to the league's youngest skipper, Marcus Bellot, who is all of 14. Having beaten Bevans twice, Police look to have no real challengers to top spot in Div. II although Bevans should finish second (Terry Bown tells me). If there was a prize for the most enthusiastic player in Div. 11 then it would be surely won by British Rail's Derek Mayes who recently recorded his first maximum and continues to improve in leaps and bounds (Terry Bown tells me).

Grobby lead the way in Div. 12 and here Keith Mullins, who has played in the league for many years is now getting the results his enthusiasm merits. It has taken Keith some time to establish himself and he has got there by the dint of hard work and dedication. Goodwin Barsby's supremacy has not really been challenged in Div. 14 but with a player like Alan Chapman, who could easily hold his own in several divisions higher it is not really surprising. Back to Div. 12 for a moment. Those who think table tennis is essentially a young man's game would have got a shock in the fixture between Electricity and Rank Taylor Hobson — the combined ages totalled 303 — just over 50 years each!

In Div. 15 the leadership never stays in the same hands for long but R. & J. Hill must now have a good chance of topping the chart. Wigston Fields and Jan Fura were both unbeaten but R. & J. Hill's Roger Tuck scored a maximum against them and in so doing broke both records. County Hall and Great Glen continue to fight it out in Div. 17 where Mike Harris and David Wood continue to play well. S. P. Pan's consistency is keeping University in with a chance of taking Div. 18 but Thorn Lighting must still be favourites. St. Cuthbert's supremacy in Div. 19 had never been challenged until Epworth held them to a draw. It was a fine performance, particularly by Dipak Patel who won two and almost dented the 100% record of Alex Mason.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

NOT VERY ENCOURAGING

Not a great deal to report on as far as the County teams are concerned, and what has happened is not very encouraging news. Neither of the senior teams, neither of the junior teams and the Veteran 'B' team have yet to record a victory between them with two thirds of the season over.

Since my last report the senior 'A' team

have lost 3-7 to both Dorset and Sussex. Against Dorset good wins for the women with Serina Sinanan beating Julie Reading and Cathy Conlon getting the better of Joyce Coop. The other win for the County was Derek Holman's 25-23 in the third against Martin Abbott. In the Sussex match Serina and Cathy won the women's doubles, Holman and Steve won the men's doubles and again Derek won the only men's singles with a good victory over Phil Smith. The senior second team's draw with Hertford II with Ramish Bhalla and Martin Gilbert each winning two singles and Barbara Clark of Aldershot, making her county debut, combining with Angie Gilbert, to win the women's doubles.

The junior first teams' draw with Gloucester was notable for the two boys' singles wins by Graham Toole. The 0-10 reversal against Wiltshire can only be described as a disaster. A 2-8 defeat by Glamorgan with some close games, but the experience of the Welsh Internationals showed through when the going got tight. Toole and David Collins each gained one singles win in this match. Steve Snow gained the county 'B' team's only win in the 1-9 defeat by Essex II. The only team to record victories so far this season for the county is the veterans 'A' team and they gained 6-3 wins against both Sussex and Berkshire, with Ray Lush and Mike Barrett the team's backbone. Danny Allan outstanding for the county veteran 'B' team in their narrow 4-5 defeat against Sussex II.

Not a lot to report on inter-town matches either but a regrettable feature is the number of void matches. Lack of interest from top players coupled with lack of venues leads one to the conclusion that the present set-up for these matches is outdated and requires a complete re-think. Many association's major expenditure is the running of inter-town teams for the benefit of a handful of players. In many cases these players, to be honest, are not the town's best but those who are prepared to give up a Saturday evening to complete the fixtures. Is the playing once or twice a season at a central venue the answer or would it be better for the matches to be played at a club rather than a town level? I hope some constructive ideas will be put forward by the County Committee or town associations to the AGM to enable this matter to be fully discussed.

In the mixed division Portsmouth "A"'s 8-4 victory over Bournemouth "A" put them at the top with a good chance of retaining their title. Bournemouth "A" and Aldershot "A", both have ten points at the top of the men's division but Bournemouth are unbeaten while champions last season Aldershot had played a match more and conceded a 0-10 walk-over to their rivals earlier in the season. In the Junior "A" division Aldershot "A" lead the table but a 4-6 defeat to Southampton "A" by Aldershot in the latest round of matches with Andrew Ely winning two singles and two doubles may alter the situation when unbeaten Bournemouth "A" make up their matches in hand.

A very close Veteran "A" division with Southampton "A" on 7 points, Bournemouth "A" on 6, and Portsmouth "A" and Bournemouth "B" both on 5 points with no team unbeaten. Basingstoke "A" lead the Veteran B division.

In the Hampshire Schools' individual championships held at Redbridge, Southampton, the various winners were:

- U-11 Boys:**
Phillip Townsend (Pennington School, Lymington).
- U-11 Girls:**
Sarah Wilson (Bassett Green, Southampton).
- U-13 Boys:**
Shean Pickin (Richard Aldworth, Basingstoke).
- U-13 Girls:**
Sarah Hammond (Glen Eyre, Southampton).

- U-16 Boys:**
Graham Toole (Fareham Park).
- U-16 Girls:**
Samantha Lewis (Crofton, Stubbington).
- U-19 Boys:**
David Collins (Queens Mary College, Basingstoke).
- U-19 Girls:**
Tracey Knellor (Portsmouth High School).

The area finals of the schools' championships saw the exit of Bournemouth School for Girls, the winners for the last two seasons of the U-19 event when they were defeated by Itchen College, Southampton. The score was at 4-4 so a final doubles set was played as a decider which went to Itchen. The Itchen team was Janet Andrews, Alison Foss, Elaine Allen and Carol Norman. The U-19 boys' title went to Portsmouth Grammar's team of Timothy Farmer, Peter Yearworth, Andrew Pitts and Julian Richards.

The new improved "21-up", the Bournemouth Association's "monthly" magazine continues to keep me informed as to the happenings to the west of the County — or is it to the east of the county (of Dorset)? Merton "A" top the town premier division with an unbeaten record including a 7-3 win over their closest rivals Bournemouth YMCA. In this match Simon Heaps was unbeaten including a win over Tony Clayton who was also beaten by Trevor Smith. In the individual championships I have no individual scores but the results were as follows:

- Men's Singles:**
J. Creasey bt M. Hughes.
- Women's Singles:**
C. Creasey bt J. Reading.
- Men's Doubles:**
M. Abbott/A. Clayton bt S. Heaps/C. Pickard.
- Women's Doubles:**
Creasey/Reading bt L. Harman/B. Brislane.
- Mixed Doubles:**
Heaps/Reading bt S. Davies/E. Carrington.
- Veterans' Singles:**
N. Sugarhood bt R. Fairhall.
- Handicap Singles:**
J. Russell bt Reading.
- U-13 Singles:**
R. Thomas bt J. Hegarty.
- U-15 Singles:**
L. Harman bt J. Allman.
- U-17 Singles:**
M. Werner bt C. Creasey.
- Premier Division:**
Clayton bt Abbott.
- Division 1:**
M. Toole bt M. Pope.
- Division 2:**
D. Thrower bt R. Thomas.
- Division 3:**
M. Player bt R. Waterhouse.
- Division 4:**
C. Milton bt R. Fagan.
- Division 5:**
S. Crossley bt D. Robinson.
- Division 6:**
I. King bt D. Blunden.

In Southampton the John Jaques premier division looked settled with Snows "A" the defending champions beating their closest rivals Lyndhurst "A". Alpha "B", however, put a cat amongst the pigeons with a 7-3 win over Snows with Norman Staggs unbeaten. This throws the championships wide open again. The individual championships are to be held at Southampton University on Sunday, March 29 with a separate finals night, Saturday, April 4 at Redbridge Sports Centre.

In Winchester, champions Hursley "A" lead the first division with a 6-4 win over their closest rivals Winnall "A" in the first half. The closed tournament is to be held at the Lido sports centre on Sunday, April 5 and 12, with the finals at Winnall Community Centre.

I hear rumours that both Southampton and Bournemouth have been giving thought to entering the National League next season.

but the availability of suitable sponsorship is the stumbling block.

No such problems it would appear for the county's only current National League team, Generation II. After a bad start with two defeats, new signings David Hannah, and Simon Heaps have strengthened the team with an unbeaten run of seven wins taking them into contention for the championship and the promotion play-off. At the time of writing however it looks as if Bristol Cashmans could well take the title on sets average.

The Rose Bowl clash between Portsmouth and Bournemouth gave Bournemouth a 5-4 victory but the star of the match was Portsmouth's Serina Sinanan with victories over leading Dorset stars Cheryl Creasey, Julie Reading and Joyce Coop. Incidentally Serina has just received the fully deserved honour of becoming Portsmouth's "Sports-woman of the Year".

NORFOLK NOTES

by Neville Graver

PHILIP UP AND DOWN

Philip Logsdon has had an interesting season to date, marked most notably by his England Cadet Ranking of 10, and an unbeaten record in the county at the moment, but, having said that, he did not have things all his own way at the Junior Closed Championships, held at Neatherd High School, Dereham. Phil was No. 1 seed in the U-15 singles, and No. 2 for the U-17 event.

However, results went against the form book in all boys' singles events. In the U-15s Philip was surprisingly defeated in the semi-final by Paul Rich (Cromer), who in turn was beaten in the U-13 final by young Steven Fox, son of ex-Norfolk senior champion, Tony Fox. Rich was also beaten in the U-15 final by Chris Rayment, son of county coach Les Logsdon, having been on the receiving end of an upset, finally made amends by taking the U-17 title when beating Roger Margetson.

Family connections were continued in the girls' events, with Sue Jenkinson (Great Yarmouth), daughter of ex-Yarmouth town player Derek, winning both the U-13 and 15 events. In the former she had a comfortable win over Carolyn Chamberlyn (Norwich), but in the U-15, she had a tense three games against Kings Lynn's Karen Burkett, which could have gone either way. The match in fact ended with Miss Burkett in considerable pain from a leg injury. Ironically, Miss Burkett had defeated Miss Jenkinson in the U-17 singles. This event went much more with the form book, with Sarah Bignell beating Zoe Nichols in the final.

Another local tournament which produced surprises was the Kings Lynn Closed, held at the Corn Exchange. This was sponsored by West Norfolk Sports and Dow Chemicals and, spread over two days, covered 450 sets. The big surprise was the men's singles, where unseeded Peter Vertigan, an ex-county junior, carried all before him, beating champion Chuck Hewitt in the final. On his way he had also accounted for No. 4 seed Jim Defty, and No. 2 Graham Archer.

The women's singles also went against the seedings, although the outcome was always open to conjecture. Top seed was Jane Burbage, currently elevated to the Norfolk first team, and ex-Notts junior player, who met Cambridgeshire county player Ruth Hunter in the final. Jane had lost to Ruth in a recent county match, but did not let this upset her, taking the first game at 15. Jane had match point in the second, leading 21-20, but Ruth came back to level it. Jane still looked the more likely winner when leading 7-1 in the third, but Ruth came back yet again to eventually win 21-18.

In other events, Dave Shaw and Steve

Barrett won the men's doubles against Jim Defty and Hewitt, whilst Ruth Hunter and Anthea Judd beat Jane Burbage and Pauline Bond in the women's. Jane finally won a title, in the mixed, partnering Defty to victory over Ruth Hunter and Jim Parkin. The U-17 event was won by Ruth Hunter, with Karen Burkett taking the U-14 title. The veterans' was won by Pete Saunders over Pete Hawksworth. Divisional titles went to: Div. 1 D. Kiddle, Div. 2 P. Dennis, Div. 3 E. Ward, Div. 4 L. Walden, Div. 5 R. Leslie, Div. 6 S. Nobes.

In the Broadside Club KO, one of the best matches to date featured champions Gothic (Norwich) against Sprowston, also of Norwich. Well led by county veteran champion Dave Hardy, Sprowston ran out 5-3 winners. Semi-final draw is: Downham Market v Holt "B" Sprowston v B.S.C.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NOTES

by Dennis Millman

LOCAL FAILING

A shortage of tournament entries is rapidly becoming a local failing, for the County Closed paved the way, and now Northampton, Kettering and Wellingborough have all suffered a similar decline. This can hardly be attributed to a lack of publicity, or a lack of effort on the part of four different committees, so it would appear that the reasons are more insidious.

Does it show a lack of interest in a sport becoming more popular elsewhere? Or is the sad loss of secure employment locally, helping to promote apathy? Or perhaps the somewhat traditional format of local events is not keeping pace, with the recently more progressive image at national and international level?

Certainly the Kettering Closed, held at a Recreation Centre closely resembling a gigantic but sparsely populated deep freeze, did little to improve the situation, neither did the record low of some twenty spectators, at all times evenly distributed between the bar, and the finals playing area. Even the two prospective principals, Keith Nicoll and Mandy Wallis were seemingly out of tune with the proceedings, going through the motions, without enhancing their reputations, although Miss Wallis did enough to retain her title against the spirited and diminutive Jane Nicoll, having earlier been joined by Miss Nicoll to take the Women's Doubles against some indeterminate opposition.

The participants in the Men's Singles proved to be the same pair who had earlier fought out the County final at the same venue, but there the similarity ended. Indeed Ken Nicoll was somewhat fortunate to survive his earlier matches, as he dropped ends to Dick Cole, Mick Deacon and Ian Hawes, before battling through with performances that did little to inspire confidence. Twin brother Keith had few difficulties until the unorthodox Mick Hawes fully extended him at the semi-final stage, but with Keith overcoming this hurdle, a fifth successive title seemed on the cards.

Keith started the final in his customary flamboyant style, with Ken adopting accurate blocking tactics to beat Keith from time to time with some finely angled returns. After a commanding start, Keith began to fall away, and Ken took the first game as Keith's dubious temperament again got the better of him. With Keith unable to pull himself together, Ken raced through the second game to take the title for the first time.

Earlier Keith had partnered Geoff Atkinson to a third consecutive Mens Doubles win, against the Junior Doubles champions Ian Hawes and Steve Kendall,

who held long leads in both ends only for the experience of Atkinson and Nicoll to enable the holders to draw level and then surge ahead, although the younger pair took the second to the bitter end before going under.

Hawes turned the tables in the Mixed when partnered by Glennis Hooper for the first time, the Wellingborough pair held and finally outplayed Nicoll and Mandy Wallis, who had hoped to complete a hat-trick of wins in this event.

John Palmer duly completed his fourth Veterans' title without undue discomfort, while junior honours went to Hawes and Jane Nicoll thus completing a successful day for the leading County juniors.

'It's an ill wind that blows no-one any good', for the lack of entries plus late withdrawals through illness and injury created a bonus for the hard-working Tournament Organiser Jim Chatburn and his equally industrious assistants Ian Nicoll, Mike Scott and Dick Cole with an early finish much appreciated by them, but missed by all those whose earlier exits had been achieved long before most of the finals had got under way.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

Ken Nicoll bt Steve West 19, 13;
Keith Nicoll bt Mick Hawes 12, -15, 14.

Final:

KEN NICOLL bt Keith Nicoll 17, 4.

Womens Singles Semi-finals:

Jane Nicoll bt Glennis Hooper 10, -19, 18;
Mandy Wallis bt Debbie Kimbell 6, 8.

Final:

WALLIS bt Nicoll -17, 7, 5.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Keith Nicoll/Geoff Atkinson bt John Sanders/Ken Nicoll 13, 10;
Ian Hawes/Steve Kendall bt Mick Hawes/
Ian Baldock -17, 7, 11.

Final:

NICOLL/ATKINSON bt Hawes/Kendall 11, 24.

Womens' Doubles Final:

WALLIS/NICOLL bt Shirley Everard/Ann Woolston 12, 12.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

I. Hawes/Hooper bt Neil Ridge/Gillian Philpot 13, 21;
Keith Nicoll/Wallis bt Mark Nannery/Sue Nannery 11, 16.

Final:

HAWES/HOOPER bt Nicoll/Wallis 16, -9, 14.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

John Palmer bt Dick Cole 10, 12;
Mike Cryer bt Terry Walklate 15, 13.

Final:

PALMER bt Cryer 13, 14.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

I. Hawes bt Ridge 11, 11;
Andy Kimbell bt Terry Cardwell 13, -23, 14.

Final:

HAWES bt Kimbell 10, 17.

Girls' Singles Final:

NICOLL bt Melanie Brooks 12, 22.

Junior Doubles Semi-finals:

I. Hawes/Steve Kendall bt Ridge/Jane Nicoll 8, 14;
Kimbell/Nannery bt Cardwell/Ian Berryman 17, 12.

Final:

HAWES/KENDALL bt Kimbell/Nannery 13, 11.

U-15 Singles Final:

STEPHEN ROGERS bt Kevin Elsworth 6, 10.

U-13 Singles Final:

ELSWORTH bt Maxine Shears 13, 10.

Men's Singles Consolation:

STEVE LONG bt Louis Mann 16, -17, 17.

Premier Division Handicap:

IAN HAWES (+2) bt Steve West (+1) 10, -14, 14.

First Division Handicap:

DICK COLE (+2) bt Terry Walklate (+6) 15, -8, 17.

Second Division Handicap:
DEREK MUGGLETON (+6) bt Andy
Chester (+4) 8, 15.

Third Division Handicap:
NEIL ROBINSON (+4) bt Debbie Kimbell
(+11) 15, 20.

The Northampton Closed, held for the first time at the Kingsthorpe headquarters of the Northants County Schools' TTA, met equally arctic conditions, with the additional hazards of lack of atmosphere and dismal lighting, problems that not even that experienced and enthusiastic organiser Phil Slade could rectify.

Fortunately the youthful Tim Forster and the even younger Graeme McKim enlivened the entertainment with a series of giant killing performances, with Forster putting an end to John Horne and joint No. 1 seed Romano Gallo, and the unseeded McKim going one better to despatch in quick succession, Steve Lyon, David Gallo and the other No. 1 Brian Wooding, albeit at the semi-final stage.

Meanwhile former Middlesex County cricketer Keith Jones was also making progress, using a purpose built bat as replacement for the tried and trusted one he had had stolen some weeks before. On his way to a semi-final meeting with Forster, Jones accounted for holder Tim Chamberlain and neither Forster, nor McKim in the final, was able to cope with his defensive expertise, and Jones ran out an easy if unexpected winner of the Men's Singles.

A change of marital status seems to have suited Stephanie Dunkley, for as Stephanie Lines, she failed at the final hurdle last year, but on this occasion she had no difficulty in taking the Women's Singles, and the Mixed in partnership with Wooding, who must be the most improved player in the Northampton League.

However the Women's Doubles eluded Mrs. Dunkley, and went instead to last year's runners-up, Joyce Porter and Margaret Maltby.

McKim also had a field day, for in addition to reaching the Mens final, he won the Boys' Singles, the Junior Doubles with Richard Malfait, and the Divisional Singles, with each win an obvious answer to the strange decision not to seed the County No. 2 Junior Boy.

Finally, Lyon and Dave Marsh re-established themselves as genuine County players by retaining the Men's Doubles title, and Marsh went one better by retaining his Veterans' Singles championship for a second year.

RESULTS

Men's Singles:

KEITH JONES bt Graeme McKim 8, 14.

Women's Singles:

STEPHANIE DUNKLEY bt Helen Cottier 8, 9.

Men's Doubles:

STEVE LYON/DAVE MARSH bt Brian D'Hooghe/Jones 17, 16.

Women's Doubles:

JOYCE PORTER/MARGARET MALTBY bt Dunkley/Marcia Bane 11, 10.

Mixed Doubles:

BRIAN WOODING/DUNKLEY bt Jones/Cottier 17, 11.

Veterans' Singles:

MARSH bt Ron Reed 12, 16.

Junior Singles:

McKIM bt Ashley Bennett 7, 14.

Junior Doubles:

McKIM/RICHARD MALFAIT bt Bennett/Richard Bashford 14, -18, 15.

Girls' Singles:

Winner: BANE. Runner-up: E. Hogg.

U-14 Singles:

BASHFORD bt Nigel Metcalfe 9, 17.

Division 1-3 Singles:

McKIM bt M. Hall 6, 8.

Division 4-7 Singles:

CHRIS HANDSHAW bt A. Marriott 13, 11.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

LOMBARD STRIKE FOR ADRIAN

With Top-Spin Loop and series of violent forehand drives 16-year-old Adrian Moore (Bexhill) broke through John Clarke's cunning spins to win the £600 Lombard Sussex Championships at Brighton Corn Exchange on Feb. 1.

Adrian, No. 14 on the England junior list had beaten earlier his brother Stephen, in the quarters, and the legendary but injured Roger Chandler in the semis, to win the final 14, 18. Clarke was the man who provided the biggest singles shock of the day when his techniques and materials fooled the holder Graham Gillett (Bexhill) who went under 11, -11, -10.

In the first few minutes of the men's singles final it looked as though it was Clarke's day as he matched point for point. But then Adrian struck like lightning — just as he had done earlier against his brother — and it was all over, the former Lancashire man's threat as a Sussex champion at 32 was over as he began to run all over the back of the court in a game effort to stop the flood of attacking shots that made Adrian an England cadet international.

Rachel Mackreill, formerly with Dorset and Warwickshire is the new Sussex women's champion. She had to struggle hard to beat Teresa Moore 18 in the third and in the final gave her Eastbourne club supporters the trembles by losing the first to Carol Hewitt, the ace counter-hitter. Rachel, who thinks well, figured that if she could pile on the top-spin with high loops and even lobs, then Carole would eventually overhit, and that is what happened. Once again Miss Mackreill triumphed, better late than never — 17, 16.

Stephen and Adrian Moore captured the men's doubles title without trouble, whilst Mackreill and Angela Maskell beat the sisters combination of Carol Hewitt and Christine Randall in the women's doubles final round. Carol found consolation in the mixed final with Peter Pudduck when they disposed of Mackreill and Danny Penfold. The biggest mixed doubles shock I can ever recall in Sussex came in Round 2 when Andy Walker and Karen Peters (Lancing) knocked down the No. 2 seeds Gillett and Sheila King (Hastings) in three games.

Walker is a rated youngster but his partner had so little experience at any level that their survival is a miracle or Gillett was half asleep. The gallant Miss Peters through her lack of expertise at tournaments was capable of losing five points out of five on service, which she did in the next round against Mackreill and Penfold. There is just no way that Gillett's top-spin should have been ineffective against such lack of experience, but that's table tennis, every now and again the giants fall down, one of the fascinating factors of the sport.

SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE

by Leslie Constable

In Division I of the Men's Section Ely are at the top with a lead of four points over Milton Keynes so that anything could happen by the end of the season although I sense that Ely should retain their title. These two teams are easily ahead of the rest of the division and although Wisbech lie bottom, they have so far only played three matches. In the Men's Div. II Kettering have an enormous lead having played six matches and won them all with 48 points and they have indeed won the division as no other team can catch them. Well done Kettering and good hunting in Div. I next season.

In Junior Div. I Dunstable also have a very good lead of 11 points over Milton Keynes, the only team who can catch them and at this juncture Dunstable must be very happy with their position although I am sure that Milton Keynes will fight hard to catch them. Wellingborough have virtually won Junior Div. II as they have a 15 point lead over St. Neots with same number of matches. It is possible, although improbable, that Cambridge, Hunts Central and Ely can catch them.

In the Ladies' Section Northampton are at the top with 18 points from two matches. Cambridge have retained their title in the Veterans' Div. I having beaten Milton Keynes by two points with all other teams far behind. Northampton are at the bottom and will be relegated. Wellingborough head Div. II of the Veterans' Section with a two point lead over Milton Keynes and this is another interesting position which could go either way by the end of the season. Peterborough are wooden spoonists with 13 points.

LEADING POSITIONS

Men's Division 1

	P	W	D	L	P
Ely	4	4	0	0	34
Milton Keynes	4	3	1	0	32
Cambridge	5	3	0	2	24
North Herts	5	1	2	2	24
Northampton	3	2	0	1	21

Junior Division 1

Dunstable	6	5	0	1	47
Milton Keynes	5	4	0	1	38
Northampton	7	3	0	4	37
Kettering	6	3	0	3	34

Ladies' Division

Northampton	2	2	0	0	18
Luton	2	1	0	1	12
St. Neots	3	1	1	1	11
Wellingborough	1	1	0	0	7

Veterans' Division 1

Cambridge	5	5	0	0	36
North Herts	5	3	1	1	32
Bedford	5	1	2	2	26
Peterborough	5	2	1	2	21

NORTH WALES ROUND-UP

by Roy Williams

COMPLETE PICTURE

With news from all leagues in North Wales now to hand we can at last give a complete picture of table tennis in this area and may press secretaries keep up the good work.

Wylfa Power Station lead Div. 1 of the Anglesey League from St. Mary's "A" and Llangefni "A" with Holyhead "A" and "B" in hot pursuit. At the foot of the table Bangor P.O. look destined to drop down to Div. 2. RAF Valley, Benllech and Llangefni "B" — take your pick who could join the postmen.

Civil Service top Div. 2 followed by Llangefni "C" and U.C.N.W. Bangor. Holyhead "A", Bangor University and RAF Valley won their first round matches in the handicap cup.

East Flintshire League champions Connahs Quay PS lost their unbeaten record and Caergwrle Boys' Brigade retained theirs when the two teams clashed in a top-of-the-table battle. Caergwrle go top and their second string just edge out the Power Station into third place. Colin Powell won three with Trevor Manning and Richard Lloyd two each.

Colwyn Bay Cricket Club (John Hook, Roy Williams and Steve Strange) are well ahead of the first division in the Llandudno League and looking favourites to retain their title North Western, Lansdown and CBTT "A" are all in contention for runners-up spot.

Schooner "A" lead Clwyd "A" in the first division of the newly formed Rhyl League

programme (from Jan. 12) due to the break-away by four clubs involving 11 teams.

The Rhyl closed was held at the Coventry Co-op Holiday Camp, Kinmel Bay on Feb. 8. John Hook won the men's singles with a final victory over Keith Fitzsimmons. Ray Howard and Karl Harrison were the semi-final victims. Sue Powell beat holder, Barbara Williams, to win the women's title. Sue also won the junior singles beating Andrew Halsall. Roy Williams won the veterans' event and a much improved Andrew Harrison won the cadet singles.

Ian Wooley and Kevin McGuire are the key men for Malpas in their bid to catch Queens Park OB who top Div. 1 of the Wrexham League. The Queens Park team of Peter Williams, Haydn Young and Neil James look a good side.

Veteran, seeded No. 8, were minor details for Peter Williams as he stormed to a surprise win in the men's singles of the Wrexham Closed. No fluke this as Peter was in rare form and also took the vets' title for good measure. Nalda Holden won the women's event and Simon Roberts captured the junior singles title.

WELSH LEAGUE (NORTH)

The first series of matches in the Welsh League (North) resulted:-

Seniors

Rhyl "B" 3 Wrexham 7
Rhyl "A" 7 Llandudno 3
East Flint 5 Wrexham 5

Juniors

Lian Wells 0 East Flint "A" 10
Lian Wells 8 Anglesey 2
Rhyl 6 East Flint "B" 4
East Flint "A" 7 Llandudno "A" 3
East Flint "B" 0 Wrexham 10
East Flint "B" 2 Llandudno 8
Wrexham 10 Anglesey 0

Veterans

Anglesey 4 Wrexham 6
Wrexham 4 East Flint "A" 6
Anglesey 7 Rhyl "B" 3
East Flint "A" 3 Llandudno "B" 7
Llandudno "B" 8 Rhyl "B" 2
Llandudno "A" 7 Llandudno "B" 3

JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL

North Wales seems to be a happy hunting ground for the Welsh Juniors who are unbeaten in their three matches played in the area. At Liay 1965 Wales beat Scotland 6-3, at St. Asaph in 1980 we drew 6-6 with Ireland and on Jan. 16 this year at the Arcadia Theatre, Llandudno Wales beat Ireland 5-3.

Nearly 400 spectators watched this match and the Llandudno League can be proud of the way they organised the match which once again had TV coverage.

WELSH RANKING

Rhyl's Mark Thomas is ranked No. 4 in the Welsh men's rankings and No. 1 Junior. Liay's Trevor Manning is No. 10, Flint's Paul Griffiths is No. 9 Junior but the North's only female is Sue Powell (Rhyl) who is at No. 5. Congratulations to all four players especially to Mark who is in the Welsh squad for the forthcoming World Championships in Novi Sad.

Tunbridge Wells Junior Open

by Chris Wright

The Third Junior Open, again afforded "2-Star" status by the governing body, is being held at Sandown Court School over the weekend of April 24/26 with a 9 a.m. start each day and the finals scheduled to commence at 7 p.m. on both evenings. The Mayor of Tunbridge Wells, Cllr. Shepperd has graciously agreed to attend the Junior Finals on the Sunday evening and assist in the presentations.

This year finds the tournament supported by stockbrokers Grieveeson, Grant and Co.

who have offices in Tunbridge Wells and London thus enabling us to keep the "Local" association with companies flourishing.

It is hoped that some of the nationally-ranked Juniors will be attracted to the Tournament as a prize fund in excess of £300 is on offer, with the U-17 singles events receiving in total around £100.

From a local standpoint, Tunbridge Wells Juniors ("Hickey's Hamsters") will be hoping to give good accounts to prove to themselves how much they have improved over the past year. Local interest in the U-12 Boys' singles event will be carried by 12-year-old Gregory Barden of Countrymen "B", who, with a reasonable position in the draw, could well reach the quarter-finals.

Our hopes however will not rest solely on Greg's young shoulders as the challenge in all age groups will be strong. The U-17 singles should produce some interesting battles and our flag could be carried high by the likes of John Hanna (Crowborough) Peter Stace and David Champneys of Pioneers and the latest addition to the "Hamsters" 14-year-old Martin Llewellyn. An invitation is again being extended to the Table Tennis Association of Wales, which if accepted would retain the "International" flavour gained from last year.

Whitbread Cotswold Junior 'Select'

PREAN SUPREME

by Leslie Smith

Carl Prean, the top seed, took the Whitbread Cotswold Junior Select tournament by storm over the weekend of Jan. 24/25. The event, staged at Gloucester Leisure Centre on 15 tables, saw Prean reach the final of the Boys singles without the loss of a game, but Paul Rainford (Lancashire) made the No. 1 seed come from behind to take the title, 19 in the 3rd.

Prean was also successful in the Under-14's beating the unseeded Michael Thomas from Warwick in the final. Prean obviously likes the Gloucester air, for he won the U-14 and U-12 titles at last year's championships.

The top girl seed, Joy Grundy (Lancs) went out 2-straight -13, -16 to Cadet Susan Collier (Berks) in the 3rd round, the title going to the No. 3 seed Helen Williams (Midxx) who was also taken to a deciding game by Gina Pritchard (Devon).

The tournament was honoured with the presence of the Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor Freda Wilton for the finals on Saturday, with the trophies being presented on the Sunday by representatives of Whitbread Flowers, the tournament sponsors, without whose help the tournament would not be possible.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Prean (IOW) bt A. Moore (Sx) 16, 18;
M. Oakley (Sy) bt J. Duffield (Wo) 12, 15;
P. Rainford (La) bt D. Dodd (K) -22, 15, 12;
M. Thomas (Wal) bt P. Bradbury (Bu) 22, 17.

Semi-finals:

Prean bt Oakley 14, 18;
Rainford bt Thomas 22, 17.

Final:

PREAN bt Rainford -15, 15, 19.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

G. Pritchard (Dv) bt S. Collier (Bk) 7, 8;
H. Williams (Mi) bt J. Parker (La) 20, 11.

Final:

WILLIAMS bt Pritchard 15, -11, 10.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Oakley/Prean bt M. Ellett/G. Lambert (Dv) -20, 15, 13;

Bradbury/Moore bt S. Palmer (Sk)/Rainford -9, 14, 18.

Final:

OAKLEY/PREAN bt Bradbury/Moore 7, 17.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Pritchard/Williams bt M. Denbow (Ox)/N. Tsakarisanos (Gs) 12, 18;
Grundy (La)/Parker bt L. & J. Bellinger (Bd) -17, 9, 16.

Final:

GRUNDY/PARKER bt Pritchard/Williams -17, 7, 19.

Cadet Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Prean bt I. McLoughlin (La) 13, 12;
M. Thomas (Wa) bt D. Rook (Y) -12, 17, 15.

Final:

PREAN bt Thomas 7, 10.

Cadet Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt A. Barker (Sp) 14, 8;
Collier bt L. Goldsmith (Mi) 17, 28.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Collier 10, 9.

Cadet Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

J. Bradbury (Bu)/C. Wilson (Sp) bt P. Hyde/G. Thompson (Sp) 17, 17;
A. Barker/S. Dorking (E) bt I. Davies (Wa)/Thomas 24, 17.

Final:

BARKER/DORKING bt Bradbury/Wilson 13, -13, 11.

Cadet Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Barker/C. Wickstead (Sp) bt Collier/Goldsmith 9, 21;
A. Boxall (He)/L. Popkewitz (K) bt L. Bellinger/H. Broomhead (Y) 14, 13.

Final:

BOXALL/POPKIEWITZ bt Barker/Wickstead 17, -15, 11.

Boys' U-12 Singles Semi-finals:

J. Stokes (Bk) bt A. Dixon (St) 11, 14;
A. Syed (Bk) bt S. Craggs (Cv) 12, 17.

Final:

STOKES bt Syed 16, 19.

Girls' U-12 Singles Semi-finals:

D. Soothill (Cu) bt Broomhead 11, 19;
R. Knight (Mi) bt H. Perrott (Av) 13, -16, 9.

Final:

KNIGHT bt Soothill -14, 18, 17.

North Bournemouth 1-Star Open

SPLENDID FORM

by C. B. Cashell

Tournament Secretary

Paul Namdjou was in splendid form winning the men's singles and doubles, partnered by Malcolm Francis. The women's singles produced an exciting final with Mary Denbow winning in straight games from K. Conlon. There was a large entry for the boys' singles which resulted in Gary Lambert beating Namdjou in the final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

P. Namdjou (K) bt G. Lambert (Dv) 19, 19;
L. Bertie (Wa) bt M. Owen (Wo) 18, -13, 17.

Final:

NAMDJOU bt Bertie 12, -15, 12.

Womens' Singles Semi-finals:

M. Denbow (Ox) bt E. Hughes (Ox) 6, -19, 14;

K. Conlon (Bk) bt T. Vallis (Bk) 11, 14.

Final:

DENBOW bt Conlon 14, 14.

Men's Doubles Final:

M. Francis (Sx)/Namdjou bt M. Abbott/S. Heaps (Do) -7, 19, 17.

Women's Doubles Final:

Conlon/L. Harman (Do) bt C. Creasey (Do)/S. Sinanan (Ha) 9, -16, 19.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Abbott/Conlon bt R. Denbow (Ox)/Denbow 13, 16.

Boys' Singles Final:

Lambert bt Namdjou 10, 14.

Girls' Singles Final:

Harman bt J. Windle (Ox) 18, 19.



NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

RECORD FOR JILL

by George R. Yates



The performance of **Desmond Douglas** in winning the men's singles title of the Norwich Union English Championships for a third consecutive time, and four in all, was somewhat eclipsed statistically by **Jill Hammersley** who, in regaining the women's singles title from **Carole Knight** chalked up a record seven successes in this event — one more than **Mary (Shannon) Wright**.

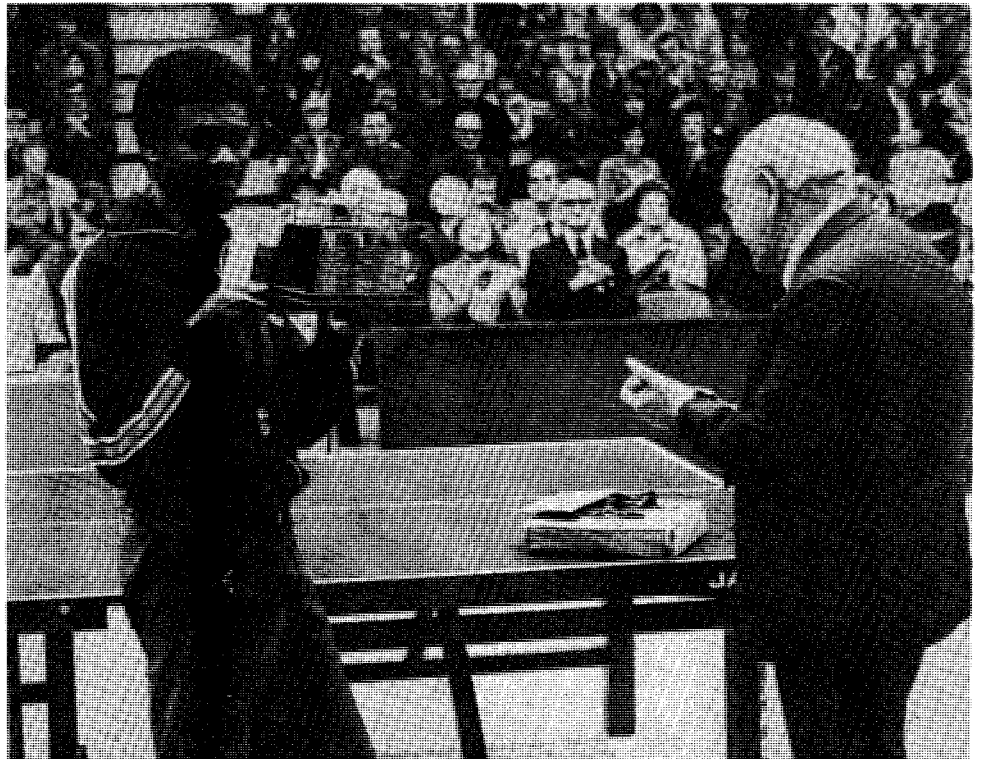
Nor were the appetites of these two super stars appeased for Douglas added both the men's and mixed doubles titles, in partnership with **Paul Day** and **Linda Jarvis**, whilst Mrs. Hammersley contented herself with the addition of the women's doubles which also provided a second top award for Mrs. Jarvis.

Douglas, in the men's doubles, celebrated his fourth success — two previously with **Denis Neale** and one with **Jimmy Walker** — whilst Day registered a hat-trick all with different partners, his previous two being **Andy Barden** and **Nicky Jarvis**.

Jill and Linda have now won the women's doubles title five times in the last six seasons, the former boasting two previous successes, in 1970/71 and 1971/72 with **Karenza Mathews**.

Douglas and Mrs. Jarvis have won the mixed title on three occasions, the latter being also successful in 72/73 when partnered by **Alan Hydes**. So much for statistics.

In this season's championships, however,



ETTA President Maurice Goldstein pays his tribute as Desmond Douglas displays the Guernsey Trophy after his third successive win — four in all — in the men's singles event.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec.

played at the Black Lion Sports Centre, Gillingham, Kent, over the period Feb. 12/14, Mrs. Jarvis, in receipt of a first round bye, found defeat hard to swallow when, after losing 2-0 she was ousted by **Angela Mitchell** in Round 2.

TUMBLE

Karen Witt, the other seed in the top half of the draw, also took a tumble, but narrowly -20 in the fifth, to **Miss Knight**, the defending champion and beaten finalist.

But Mrs. Hammersley, without ever engaging a higher gear, swept past **Helen Williams**, **Mandy Smith** and **Alison Gordon** in majestic fashion as indeed did **Miss Knight** in her penultimate encounter with **Karen Smith (nee Rogers)** who had previously halted the run of **Miss Mitchell**.

The final lived up to all expectations with Jill a little more than hard-pressed in the first three games, which gave her a 2-1 lead, but as **Carole** finally ran out of the necessary steam to sustain her topspin onslaught, the record breaker had it comparatively easy in the fourth.

In the counterpart men's event Douglas dropped but one game — to **Kenny Jackson** in the quarters — in lifting the title once again and the Guernsey Trophy that went with it. His final opponent, **John Hilton**, had gone to five both with **Douggie Johnson** and **Bob Potton**, the latter given to a show of vexation at his dismissal.

HANDS AND KNEES

But what of Day who was on his hands

and knees offering up prayers after being let off the hook by **Max Crimmins** in the quarters when the Surrey man, 2-1 up, led 20-14 in the fourth.

Ten match points were squandered by **Crimmins** in this titanic struggle with Day ultimately winning, 21 in the fifth, only for Douglas to contemptuously sweep the **Soham** left-hander from the galaxy in the semis.

Graham Sandley, seeded No. 5, was ousted by **Donald Parker** in Rd. 2 the Lancastrian going on to defeat **Mark Mitchell** before falling to **Potton**.

Deeds of note otherwise were performed by veteran **Babs Adedayo** in taking **Ian Horsham** to five and by **Richard Jermyn** in beating **David Barr** in three, the latter, with **Douggie Johnson**, reaching the final of the men's doubles.

Junior national champion **Carl Prean** would have had no difficulty in catching the last ferry to the Isle of Wight being removed in the first round of the men's singles by **John Payne**, 15 in the fifth.

SCRUFF OF THE NECK

Albeit the top seeds in the men's doubles, Douglas and Day, took the event by the scruff of the neck, second-seeded **Hilton** and **Potton** went out to the beaten finalists, **Johnson** and **Barr**. **Crimmins** and **Jackson**, seeded No. 3, fell to **Parker** and **Colin Wilson** whilst **Sandley** and **Mitchell**, seeded No. 4, were removed by **Mark Oakley** and **John Souter**.



Every picture tells a story, but it was one of defeat for Carole Knight in the final of the women's singles.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec.

There were no surprises in the women's doubles, with only eight pairs answering the starter's gun, whilst the only seeds to prematurely fall in the mixed were No. 3 Sandley and Alison Gordon to Alan Fletcher and Mandy Smith.

Spectatorwise the new venue attracted no more spectators than to Woking previously and the question must now be posed as to whether it would not be in the better interests of both players and spectators to try for a central London venue.

Not that one could fault the Black Lion Centre or its willing helpful staff, under the management of Derek Sheriff.

A good job was done by one and all not least by John M. McDonnell, Public Relations Manager of Norwich Union Insurance Group, whose happy association was highlighted by a gift to the ETTA of the film "Battle of the Bats" which traces the build-up to the finals of the 34th World Championships in Birmingham and features the world's leading players.

Tom Blunn, the ETTA Chairman, was the delighted recipient on behalf of the Association. Could it be for showing at the Odeon, Gilberdyke?

RESULTS

Men's Singles Round 2:

D. Douglas (Wa) bt G. Lambert (Dv) 11, 18, 6;
 N. Eckersley (Ch) bt A. Fletcher (Y) 15, -10, 16, -15, 16;
 M. Francis (K) bt L. Smith (Mi) 9, 6, 19;
 K. Jackson (E) bt J. Payne (Mi) -17, 7, 14, 17;
 P. Day (Ca) bt R. Oldfield (Sx) 9, 12, 10;
 N. Jarvis (Cv) bt D. Dodd (K) 11, 11, 13;
 I. Horsham (E) bt J. Souter 9, -17, 14, -16, 11;
 M. Crimmins (Sy) bt K. Fellows (Le) 13, 10, 21;
 R. Potton (E) bt R. Jermyn (He) 23, 18, 8;
 J. Walker (Cv) bt B. Johnson (Wa) 16, 12, 20;
 M. Mitchell (Mi) bt P. McQueen (Sy) 12, 10, -17, 15;
 D. Parker (La) bt G. Sandley (Mi) -19, 17, -14, 18, 12;
 D. Johnson (Wa) bt K. Richardson (Ca) -19, 14, 15, 18;
 S. Mills (Y) bt J. Kitchener (Sk) -22, 20, 18, 13;
 K. Satchell (Wi) bt J. Proffitt (He) 11, 17, -15, 9;
 J. Hilton (La) bt D. Wells (Sy) 13, 19, 17.

Round 3:

Douglas bt Eckersley 11, 8, 6;
 Jackson bt Francis 18, 16, 19;
 Day bt Jarvis 9, -11, 13, 15;
 Crimmins bt Horsham 16, 18, 16;
 Potton bt Walker 17, 14, 19;
 Parker bt Mitchell 17, 11, 16;
 Johnson bt Mills -10, 10, 7, 9;
 Hilton bt Satchell 15, 19, 8.

Quarter-finals:

Douglas bt Jackson 19, 15, -16, 12;
 Day bt Crimmins 16, -11, -12, 23, 21;



David Barr doing his bit along with Duggie Johnson in the men's doubles final won by Douglas and Day.

Photo by James Dunlop, Pinner, Middx.

Potton bt Parker -20, 19, 12, 13;
 Hilton bt Johnson -16, 11, 16, -18, 8.

Semi-finals:

Douglas bt Day 6, 9, 12;
 Hilton bt Potton -16, 15, -12, 16, 17.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Hilton 9, 18, 12.

Women's Singles Round 3:

A. Mitchell (Mi) bt L. Jarvis (Sy) -18, -25, 17, 16, 14;
 K. Smith (Le) bt C. Maisey (Wi) 15, -18, 17, 7;
 C. Knight (Cv) bt A. Stevenson (Le) 19, 18, 14;
 K. Witt (Bk) bt L. Bellinger (Bd) 15, 10, 13;
 A. Gordon (Bk) bt M. Reeves (Mi) -18, 14, 7, 14;
 S. Hunt (Li) bt M. Hill (Y) 19, -9, 15, 9;
 M. Smith (Bk) bt S. Sandley (Mi) 17, -17, -11, 14, 15;
 J. Hammersley (Bu) bt H. Williams (Mi) 19, 6, 14.

Quarter-finals:

Smith bt Mitchell 19, -12, 14, 18;

Knight bt Witt -13, 18, -17, 18, 20;
 Gordon bt Hunt 20, 7, 18;
 Hammersley bt Smith 3, 10, 5.

Semi-finals:

Knight bt Smith 14, 12, 19;
 Hammersley bt Gordon 7, 8, 9.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY bt Knight 16, -17, 19, 13.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Day/Douglas bt J. Kennedy/I. Kenyon (K) w.o.;
 Parker/C. Wilson (Mi) bt G. Baker (Sy)/Lambert 6, 18, 19;
 M. Oakley (Sy)/Souter bt Mitchell/Sandley 17, -17, -19, 18, 17;

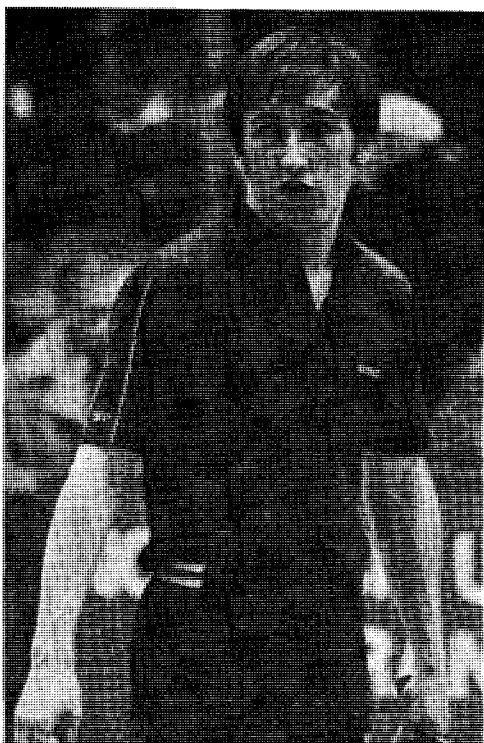
D. Barr (Bk)/D. Johnson bt Hilton/Potton 14, 13, 15.

Semi-finals:

Day/Douglas bt Parker/Wilson 6, 18, 19;
 Barr/Jackson bt Oakley/Souter 13, -18, 13, 13.

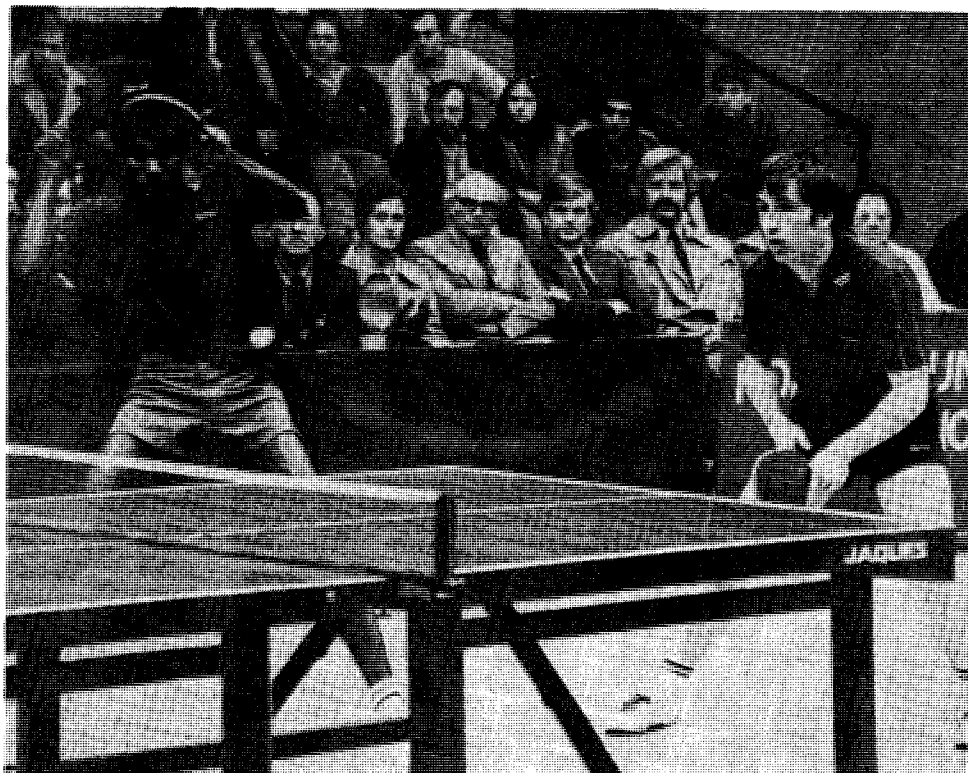
Final:

DAY/DOUGLAS bt Barr/Johnson 18, 12, -5, 12.



A somewhat disgruntled Paul Day beaten in the semi-final of the men's singles by Des Douglas.

Photo by James Dunlop, Pinner, Middx.



Douglas and Day on their way to victory in the men's doubles at Gillingham's Black Lion Sports Centre.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec.

WINNERS IN ACTION

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:
Hammersley/Jarvis bt Hunt/K. Smith 13, 13, 10;
Gordon/M. Smith bt S. Midgley/H. Shields (Y)
13, -15, 14, -17, 21;
Hill/Witt bt J. Heath/J. Heath (Le) w.o.;
Knight/Stevenson bt Reeves/Sandley 11, -19, 18, 12.

Semi-finals:
Hammersley/Jarvis bt Gordon/M. Smith 15, 18, 10;
Knight/Stevenson bt Hill/Witt -16, 17, 15, 19.

Final:
HAMMERSLEY/JARVIS bt Knight/Stevenson
16, 13, -18, -19, 17.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:
Douglas/Jarvis bt S. Andrew (E)/K. Smith -17, 15, 14, 13;
Day/Hill bt Jarvis/Stevenson 16, 21, 12;
Fletcher/M. Smith bt Sandley/Gordon 20, 16, -14, -17, 21;
Hilton/Hammersley bt Potton/Knight 15, 21, 16.

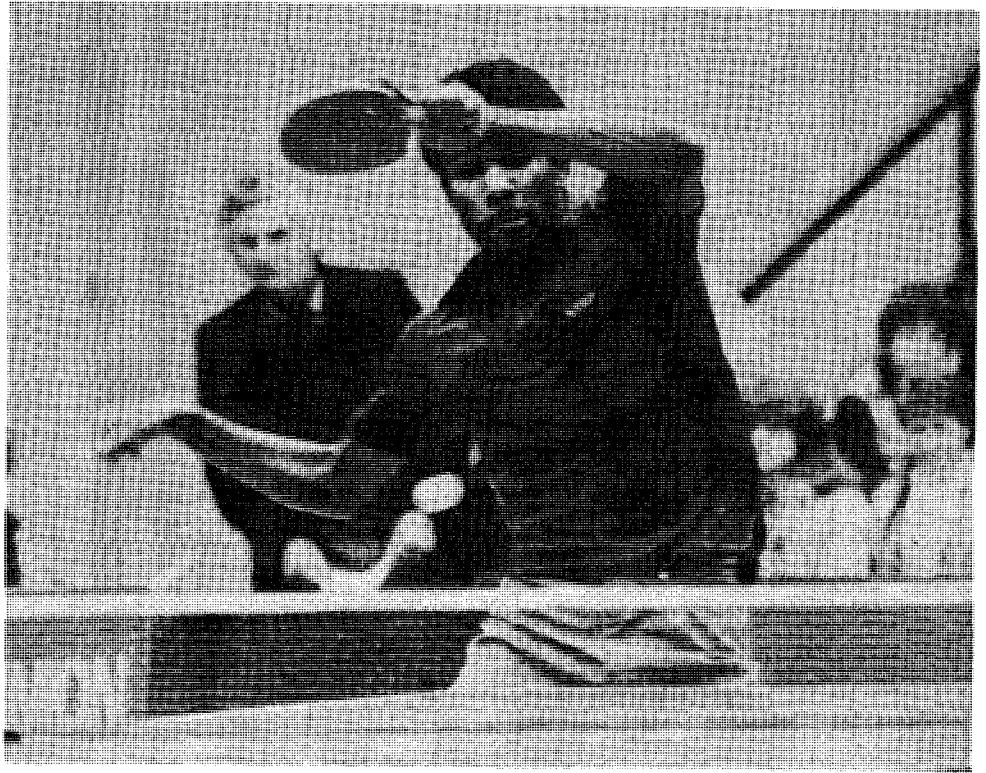
Semi-finals:
Douglas/Jarvis bt Day/Hill 18, 19, 17;
Hilton/Hammersley bt Fletcher/Smith 5, 21, 23.

Final:
DOUGLAS/JARVIS bt Hilton/Hammersley
-19, 11, 13, -18, 20.

Veteran Singles Quarter-finals:
B. Adedayo (Mi) bt R. Hawkins (K) 11, 14;
R. Dixon (St) bt D. Caulder (He) 11, 13;
H. Buist (K) bt S. Battrick (E) 12, 12;
G. Chapman (Sy) bt M. Watts (Sx) 18, 9.

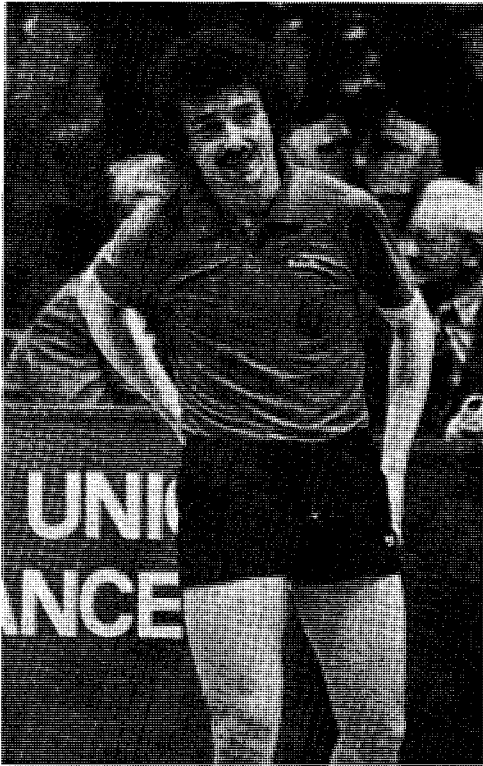
Semi-finals:
Adedayo bt Dixon -13, 14, 19;
Buist bt Chapman 16, 16.

Final:
BUIST bt Adedayo -15, 17, 13.



DES DOUGLAS

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec.



Losing with a grin is the motto of Duggie Johnson.

Photo by James Dunlop, Pinner, Middx.

COVER PICTURE

ETTA Chairman Tom Blunn lends a hand in lifting aloft the women's singles trophy of the Norwich Union English Championships won, for a record seven times, by Jill Hammersley.

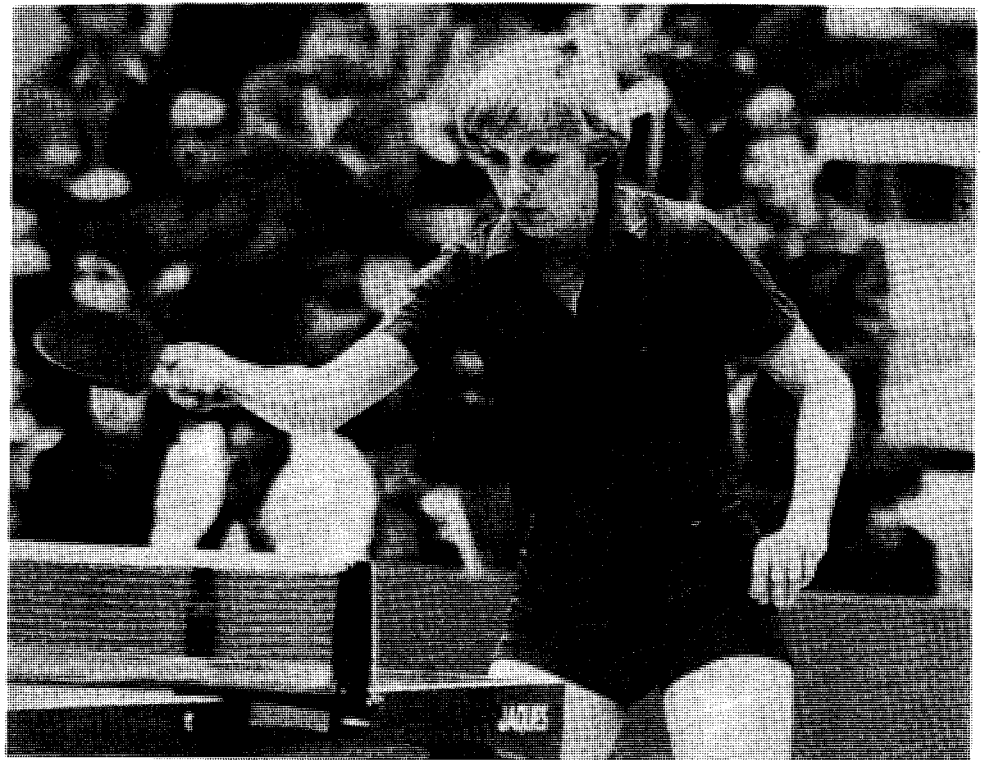
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Bob Oldfield, the ETTA's Development and Press Officer is now located at 6 Pitt Court, 84/88 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, East Sussex BN6 9PY. 'Phone: 0273-834774.

SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1981

Due to the lack of television coverage and subsequent withdrawal of sponsor, the Scottish Open Championships have had to be cancelled.

The Open will go ahead as agreed in season 1982/83.



JILL HAMMERSLEY

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec.

UNDER-13 RANKING TRIAL

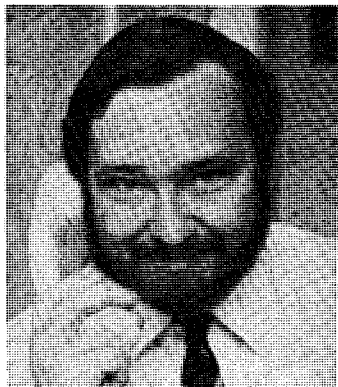
The Management Committee and the Calendar Working Party have approved the running of a national under-13 ranking trial sponsored by Gillette on Sunday, 24th May, 1981, at the Meadway Sports Centre, Reading, Berks. The purpose of this, as well as giving extra competition for girls and boys of this age bracket, is to produce

sufficient results for the first cadet ranking list for next season.

Regional chairmen have been requested to produce an under-13 regional ranking list, to include name, address and date of birth, by Friday, 10th April, 1981.

New regional boundaries can apply, i.e. Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire to Region 2, and only eight boys and eight girls are required.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



**David Lomas reports
ON THE REGIONAL FINALS**

Although some teams were unable to travel because of overnight snowfalls the Regional Finals of the National School Team Championships went ahead on Sunday, Feb. 22.

Worst affected by absentees was the Midlands & West Region event which took place at Stroud Leisure Centre. The Championships Committee soon decided that teams unable to travel would not automatically be eliminated and at the time of writing arrangements were being made for four play-offs to take place to determine overall winners and qualifiers for the Grand Finals which are due to take place at Lea Green, Matlock, on Saturday, April 4.

RESULTS

NORTH REGION (at Moor Grange High School, Leeds).

Boys' U-19:
Allerton Grange, Leeds (West Yorkshire).
Girls' U-19:
Millom (Cumbria).
Boys' U-16:
Queen Katherine, Kendal (Cumbria).
Girls' U-16:
Tupton Hall, Chesterfield (Derbyshire).
Boys' U-13:
Sandal Endowed, Wakefield (West Yorks.).
Girls' U-13:
Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside).
Boys' U-11:
Staveley Junior (Derbyshire).

Allerton Grange have a useful quartet led by Neil Edgecock. They defeated Culcheth 5-3, Frank Wheldon (Nottingham), 6-2 and drew with Newcastle Royal Grammar, 4-4, in a tight competition.

The Under-19 Girls' team headed by Bella Gray kept the Millom flag flying with wins over Buttershaw Upper (Bradford) and St. Helena (Derby). This was a 3-cornered event because of the withdrawal of Woodham (Newton Aycliffe).

The Boys' Under-16 looks like being a very good competition with all three regions putting forward strongly-fancied combatants. Queen Katherine, Kendal, is a new name but it is the new name for the ex-Longlands team who are the current holders. They had decisive wins over Ryhope (Sunderland) 8-0, Grange (Bradford) 7-1, and Tupton Hall (Chesterfield) 5-3. But Tupton Hall had some consolation in winning the Under-16 Girls' competition. A 4-4 draw with Lawnswood (Leeds) meant a doubles tie-breaker which Tupton won easily. Apparently the Leeds girls lost one of their vital games after being 20-15 up. Just what their coach, ESTTA President Tom Matthews said about that is unprintable!

And writing about ESTTA officers brings me on to the U-13 Boys' winners, Sandal

endowed C.E. Middle School, Wakefield. Their headmaster is ESTTA Chairman John Arnold. Two years ago the Sandal team narrowly lost the U-13 Girls' National Final in which Karen Arnold and Bridget Leggetter played. Now their brothers — Simond Arnold and Adrian Leggetter step up for the big one.

Wold Junior High, Hull won the Girls' U-11 title last year and the same team now return to Lea Green to contest the Girls' U-13 category. They had three 8-0 returns at Leeds. They are led by Alison Evans, and the Bray twins at 3 and 4.

Organiser John Arnold reports that Staveley have a good all-round side which won the Boys' U-11 event but it is always difficult to forecast U-11 prospects because there is so little form-guide.

RESULTS

MIDLANDS & WEST REGION (Stroud)

Boys' U-19:
Cheltenham Grammar (Gloucestershire).
Girls' U-19:
Stroud High (Gloucestershire) *
Boys' U-16:
Exmouth (Devon) *
Girls' U-16:
The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire).
Boys' U-13:
The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire) *
Girls' U-13:
The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire) *
Boys' U-11:
Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire).

(The teams marked * were winners on the day but will have to undergo challenges before national qualifiers are decided).

First-ever Gloucestershire finalists Cheltenham Grammar had 8-0 wins over Portsmouth Grammar and Millfield and beat Sheldon Heath (Birmingham) 5-3. And Gloucestershire could have two teams in the final if local team Stroud High can overcome a challenge from Walton High (Stafford) who were unable to travel. However organiser Ann Durnall told me that she was disappointed with the standard of play in both senior events.

Exmouth also face a challenge from Moseley Park (Bilston). Their No. 1, Gary Lambert, lost to Gary Bonner of Ifield; he will have to do better against Andrew Dixon of Moseley Park if the Devonians are to qualify.

The Grove, Market Drayton, finished with three winners on the day but their U-13 winners face challenges from Sladen, Kidderminster. Both Grove teams are current holders.

Their Girls' team just had the edge on sole West Sussex reps Ifield (Crawley). The Ifield No. 1, Debbie Ballard, although on the losing side at Stroud was unbeaten in the competition.

Former champions Market Drayton were taken to another doubles decider against Cornish hopes, Camborne. The Shropshire lads came out on top with a score of 18, 19.

RESULTS

SOUTH & EAST REGION (Orpington)

Boys' U-19:
Stepney Green (Inner London).
Girls' U-19:
Goff's Cheshunt (Herts).
Boys' U-16:
Rutlish High, Merton (Surrey Metropolitan).
Girls' U-16:
Manshead, Dunstable (Bedfordshire).
Boys' U-13:
Bedford Modern (Bedfordshire).
Girls' U-13:
Putteridge, Luton (Bedfordshire).
Boys' U-11:
Wallop, Weybridge (Surrey County).

Bedfordshire teams were a tough nut to crack at the South & East Region event at the Walnuts Sports Centre, Orpington. The two teams from Gosford Hill, Kidlington (Oxfordshire) were unable to travel but

subsequently turned down the chance to challenge in the Under-16 events.

A 4-4 draw against St. John the Baptist, Woking was enough to see Stepney Green through in a closely-contested Boys' U-19 event. No scores were better than 6-2.

Goff's (Cheshunt) defeated three former National finalists in Tolworth, Longsands and Brampton Manor to win the Girls' U-19 title. Sarah Sandley (brother of Graham) was in good form and was well supported by sister Alison and Caroline Boxall.

Both U-16 events were reduced to three-cornered contests. Rutlish High (Merton) consists of the former Hillcross Middle boys who won the National Boys' U-13 event two years ago. They were in no trouble against St. Martin's (Brentwood) and Van Dyke (Leighton Buzzard) although Andrew Sexton went down against Van Dyke's Ian Doughty.

What could be interpreted as a major understatement is my rare prediction that Manshead (Dunstable) are hot favourites to win the Girls' U-16 title. Their team includes Lisa and Jackie Bellinger and Julie Dimmock.

The Under-13 events were twin successes for Bedfordshire teams. Putteridge (Luton) came home first. Both Brampton Manor and Putteridge defeated Maiden Erlegh (Reading) 8-0. Because they drew with each other the matches against Ipswich High were the deciding factor. Putteridge went through because they had a maximum 8-0 win whereas Brampton Manor dropped a set. Without looking through the records I am fairly certain that this means that for the first time since the Championships began in 1967 there will be no Newham representatives in the National Finals — quite a record!

The Boys' Under-11 was a closely-contested event. When the final series of matches began three teams were in with a shout. Bedford Modern's draw with Otford (Sevenoaks) ruled them out shortly before Lyndhurst House lost the last two sets against Wallop school (Weybridge) to put the Essex side through. A sure case of crash, bang - wallop!

The North Region U-11 Girls' event was held at Wakefield on Saturday, Feb. 21. Wold Junior High School, Hull beat Caistor Methodist/C.E. Junior School to qualify for the National Finals.

Harry Elliott — headmaster of Wold Junior High School, Hull, and secretary of the Humberside Schools' Association, died suddenly in January. The ESTTA wishes to express its condolences to Mrs. Elliott and family.

The selectors for the Stiga Schools' International at Gloucester on July 3/5 are: - Rea Balmford (Humberside) (Chairman), Eddie Mitchell (Hereford and Worcester) (Secretary), Ann Durnall (West Midlands), Bob Wood (Lancashire) and Dennis Worrell (Lincolnshire).

Saturday, May 2, is the date for the Stiga English Schools' Individual Championships at Mansfield Leisure Centre.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND CHANGES

The Surrey Table Tennis Association is pleased to announce that the South of England 2-Star Open Championships will be held this season, despite the tragic death in August last year of the previous organiser, Trevor Channing. Under the sponsorship of several local companies, the tournament will be held on the new date of 23rd and 24th May, 1981, at the Woking Leisure Centre. Chris Wright NR will again be the referee, but the new organiser is Norman Hooper of 107 Largewood Avenue, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 7NX. Entry forms are now available and can be obtained from the assistant organiser Mike Gorman, telephone no. Worplesdon 233132.

Lancashire 2-Star Open

SEED RESHUFFLE AT LOSTOCK

by Geo. R. Yates

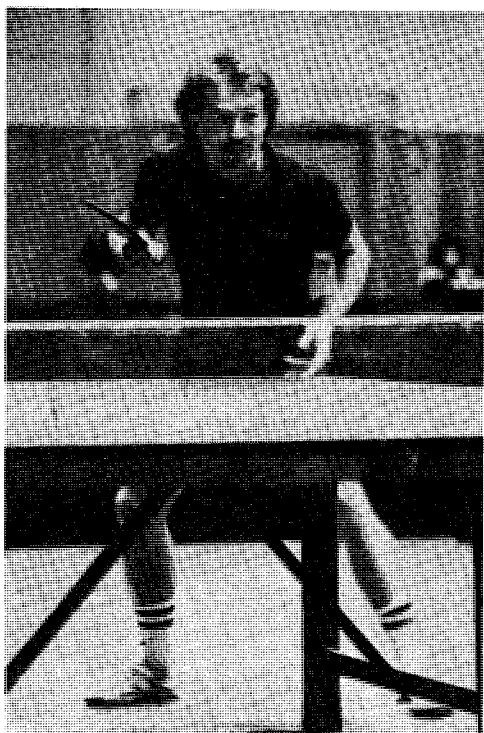
The eleventh hour withdrawal of Australian Bob Tuckett on the advice of his club Sealink Milton Keynes, on the eve of their National League match against Ellenborough, removed the top men's singles seed in the Lancashire Open championships played at British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock on Feb. 7.

But his subsequent replacement by Nigel Eckersley, together with Kevin Beadsley, as replacement for New Zealander Barry Griffiths — another Sealink player — alleviated the anxieties of the Bolton League organisers.

Indeed, the final between the two stand-ins was one of the best seen at Lostock with Beadsley recovering from an 11-20 opening game deficit to win 23-21 only for Eckersley to recover his composure, and over emphasis of the towel, to take the next two games for victory.

Twice over the seedings had to be changed, firstly when Donald Parker withdrew when called on as n.p.c. along with Peter Simpson for the Top 12 tournament in Miskolc and, subsequently, when Tuckett and Griffiths called off their intended visit. And, even then, yet another seed, Pat Glynn, failed to put in an appearance. But there was no truth in the rumour that he had been selected for an Irish darts team opposed to the Red Arrows!

Carole Knight was to have been the top seed in the women's singles but she had overlooked her sister's wedding! But, in her stead, Melody Hill came through giving England's junior champion, Joy Grundy, a game start then winning most comfortably. Melody's Bradford teammate, Helen Shields, was taken out by Jean Parker but otherwise the seedings ran true to form.



NIGEL ECKERSLEY, winner of the Lancashire Open at Bolton

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17.

Best sets of the day were the two semi-finals of the men's doubles in which the eventual winners Eckersley/Beadsley just made it 24-22 in the third, against Brian Johns and Wayne Percival, and the beaten finalists, Alan Fletcher and Stephen Scowcroft, had a similar hard tussle with Phil Bowen and Tony Boasman, the latter not noted for his even temper. But what a way for Scowcroft to finish them off with a return par excellence off a "winner" if I ever saw one.

Young Billy Gleave, the English Cadet champion, reached the fourth round losing -7, -8 to Beadsley at which stage the local hero, Scowcroft, fell to Scotland's Anwar Majid and Graham Slack of Gloucs lost to Tony Isaac. Second-seeded Steve Mills had wins over Brian Kean and Andrew Rich before losing, -19 in the third to Bowen the beaten finalist in the Kirklees tournament.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

N. Eckersley (Ch) bt A. Bellingham (St) 8, -12, 12;

A. Fletcher (Y) bt S. Turner (La) 17, 9;
K. Beadsley (Y) bt A. Isaac (St) 13, 16;

A. Majid (Co) bt P. Bowen (La) 15, 17;

Semi-finals:

Eckersley bt Fletcher -19, 10, 15;

Beadsley bt Majid 10, 13.

Final:

ECKERSLEY bt Beadsley -21, 12, 18.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Hill (Y) bt D. Schofield (Ch) 15, 18;

J. Harris (St) bt H. Frost (La) 9, 13;

J. Parker (La) bt H. Shields (Y) 19, 17;

J. Grundy (La) bt K. Hulmes (La) 10, 5.

Semi-finals:

Hill bt Harris 9, 16;

Grundy bt Parker 15, 18.

Final:

HILL bt Grundy -17, 14, 9.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Beadsley/Eckersley bt B. Johns/W. Percival

(Ch) -9, 20, 22;

Fletcher/S. Scowcroft (La) bt A. Boasman

(Ch) -19, 21, 18.

Final:

BEADSLEY/ECKERSLEY bt Fletcher/

Scowcroft 12, 12.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hill/Shields bt K. Groves (Wa)/Schofield

13, 12;

J. Deakin (Ch)/Harris bt Frost/B. Hoyle

(La) 10, 18.

Final:

HILL/SCHIELDS bt Deakin/Harris 10, 17.

Veteran Singles Quarter-finals:

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt T. Donlon (Ch) 16, 15;

A. Lord (La) bt W. Holt (La) 19, 15;

G. Lynch (Y) bt N. Deakin (Ch) 16, -14, 17;

D. Schofield (Ch) bt J. Evans (La) 14, 11.

Semi-final:

D'Arcy bt Lord 11, 11;

Schofield bt Lynch 11, 20.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 7, 13.

Flint, seeded No. 9, in the final. Flint disposed of the No. 3 seed Frazer McEwen.

In the girls' events, Alison Barker made a clean sweep of all four titles. In the girls' singles unseeded Christine Peacock defeated the No. 2 seed Denise Boughey before being beaten in the final. Over 300 entries were received for Halton's first 1-Star tournament.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

P. Flint (Ch) w.o. W. Gleave (Ch) disqualified;

R. Whiteley (Y) bt D. Illingsworth (Y) -13, 14, 17.

Final:

FLINT bt Whiteley 18, 17.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

C. Peacock (La) bt C. Hemming (La) 7, 8;

A. Barker (Sp) bt M. Kirkham (Ch) 18, 10.

Final:

BARKER bt Peacock 19, -20, 17.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

P. Gunn/I. Smith (Wa) bt K. Eden (Ch)/

Gleave -14, 7, 22;

F. McEwen (La)/I. Smith (Sp) bt R. Bevan (Ch)/Flint 14, -21, 16.

Final:

GUNN/SMITH bt McEwen/Smith -16, 13, 15.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Barker/C. Soan (Sp) bt D. Boughey/C.

Wickstead (Sp) -19, 12, 10;

S. Roden/T. Spencer (St) bt Y. Cox/K.

Whiston (La) 14, 11.

Final:

BARKER/SOAN bt Roden/Spencer 14, 19.

Consolation Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Gleave bt D. Williams (Sp) -18, 12, 13;

S. Groom (Sp) bt S. Morris (Sp) 15, 14.

Final:

GLEAVE bt Groom 13, 19.

Consolation Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

G. Dickson (Ch)/Gleave bt Groom/Williams

17, 13;

Morris/C. Wilson (Sp) bt C. Guest/T.

Walton (Y) 14, 15.

Final:

MORRIS/WILSON bt Dickson/Gleave

16, -14, 16.

Consolation Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Barker/Wickstead bt C. Clarke/C. Potts

(Ch) 15, 15;

J. Ballard (Sp)/D. Soothill (Cu) bt J. Hope

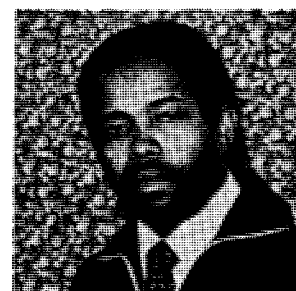
(Ch)//L. McEwen (La) 4, 11.

Final:

BARKER/WICKSTEAD bt Ballard/Soothill

15, 10.

THIS AND THAT IN SURREY



by Murray Corbin

HALTON 1-STAR JUNIOR OPEN

GLEAVE DISQUALIFIED

by S. Phillips

Tournament Organiser

Peter Flint emerged the winner of the boys' singles in the Halton 1-Star Junior Open, played at Norton Recreation Centre, Runcorn, on Feb. 21 after the No. 1 seed, Billy Gleave, had been disqualified by Referee Mrs. Karen Tonge, for ungentlemanly conduct.

The disqualification came in semi-final when Gleave led Flint -22, 12, 18-12. Richard Whiteley knocked out several seeds including No. 2 Paul Namdjou before losing to

The TSB Surrey Closed Junior Championships were held recently at Elmbridge Leisure Centre, Walton-on-Thames. The two-day event was so well organised by Norman Hooper and his staff that, the finals were concluded each evening, by what may be called "a more respectable hour". Bravo!!

SATURDAY'S EVENTS

U-12 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Derren Hams v Simon Wilson

Richard Jones v Peter Galica

Final:
HAMS bt Galica 16, 18.
U-12 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
Karen Wilde v Susan Vigor
Cheryl Bateman v Jackie Wright
Final:
WILDE bt Wright 11, 9.
U-14 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:
John Cornelius v Derren Hams
Graham Vigor v David Baker
Final:
CORNELIUS bt Baker 7, 19.

U-14 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
Lesley Popkiewicz v Nicola Taylor
Lynne Bennett v Jane Mills
Final:
POPKIEWICZ bt Mills 12, 12.
U-14 Boys' Doubles Final:
VIGOR/GALICA bt Baker/Cornelius 12, 20.
U-14 Girls' Doubles Final:
POPKIEWICZ/BENNETT bt Mills/Taylor
19, 17.

SUNDAY'S EVENTS
U-17 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:
Mark Oakley v Michael Hammond
Paul Holloway v Nicky Hoare
Final:
OAKLEY bt Hoare 8, -13, 18.
U-17 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
Lorraine Garbet v Lesley Popkiewicz
Michele Hams v Sarah Cresswell
Final:
GARBET bt Cresswell 15, 17.
U-17 Boys' Doubles Final:
HOARE/OAKLEY bt Campbell/Faure 15, 15.
U-17 Girls' Doubles Final:
Cresswell/Garbet bt Hams/Popkiewicz
15, -13, 16.
U-17 Mixed Doubles Final:
GARBET/OAKLEY bt Hams/Hoare 18, 18.
U-17 Girls' Singles Consolation Final:
KAREN WILDE bt Christine Ward 17, 13.
U-17 Boys' Singles Consolation Final:
COLIN OH bt Derren Hams 20, 9.

Ron Tilbury, Chairman of the TSB Board, presented the prizes and trophies on the second day, while Eric Austin - Head of TSB Public Relations Department and his lovely wife Janet sat among the spectators. I only hope that Eric will be able to persuade his Board to renew the sponsorship with Surrey TTA to promote these championships for at least another three years. Also present on Sunday evening were Ron Crayden and Syd Morton, President and Vice-President, respectively, of Surrey TTA

BITS AND PIECES

Congratulations to Neil Sutton, Andrew Sexton, Nicky Hoare and Martin Jones of Rutlish School, Wimbledon Chase, for reaching the Schools Teams Finals play-off at Matlock, Derbyshire on April 4th.

John Byles of Thames Valley and Lenny Leow of Croydon are probably the most illegal servers of the ball. Robert Campbell is not quite in their class. Who else can you think of?

Can Emil Emeex be persuaded to display his talent with the bat in a few major tournaments next season?

After winning the Class 2 Singles at Cardiff, the Kent 2-Star and the recent Essex 3-Star Class 2 Singles, many players expect to see John Payne in the National Top 50. I do feel that his girlfriend has had a very calming influence on him.

WRIGHT by name and RIGHT by deed: that is our JOHN from Kingston. You all should admire and appreciate him 'a lot more'.

After a very long break during the match between Lesley Popkiewicz and Lorraine Garbett in the Surrey Juniors, many of the spectators felt that the match should not have recommenced because (1) it placed Lesley at a disadvantage (2) Lorraine had not recovered from the fall she had sustained which resulted in the suspension of this match, and (3) if it had happened to a non-established player, that player would have been "retired" from the match.

Please note that the SOUTH OF ENGLAND 2-STAR will be held at Woking Leisure Centre on May 23/24. Entry forms should already be in circulation. However, you may contact Mike Gorman in the evening by phone at Guildford (0483) 233132 for forms, in an emergency.

It was nice to see Robert Smith "having-a-go" at the Essex 3-Star.

March is the birthday month of Jenny Webster, 10th; Susan Vigor, 14th; Peter Galica, 19th; and Mike Hammond, 21st, to name a few. Well even if it is a little late for some of you: Happy Birthday!!

Jane Mills must now tidy up her back-hand push. At the moment, because it is pushed forward too much, recovery is too slow. She lost quite a few points at the Surrey's on account of this.

Well done Malcolm Wilde for winning the Surrey Comet.

Mark Oakley was a member of a four-man group of Juniors which represented the ETTA on a short trip to Holland recently. I understand that the team was invited before the trip, to join the Dutch Training Camp and to play matches against the National Team.

Regarding the County Matches that were played at the beginning of this month, our Senior 1st Team of Max Crimmins, Peter McQueen, David Hannah, Lorraine Garbet and Susan Tame, beat Sussex 1st, 6-4. Max losing to Stephen Moore and Phil Smith: the Senior 2nd Team of Jane Mitchell, Kerry Merritt, Gordon Chapman, Steve Holloway and David Harding lost 4-6 to Kent 2nds, while our little darlings — Jane Barella and Jane Mills, by winning their three, pulled our lads in the 2nd Junior Team — Andrew Sexton, Graham Russell and Lionel Faure, to a 6-4 victory over Sussex Junior 2nd team. Perhaps I may add that this team was chosen not to interfere with some of the players who had entered the Surrey Schools Competition, which was being played on the same day, co-incidentally.

Adios!

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

March

- 14—County Championships (7).
- 14/15—Junior Premier Weekend (St. Neots).
- 15—East of England 2-Star Open, North Kesteven Sports Centre, North Hykeham, Lincoln.
- 21—Cornish Junior 1-Star Open, Carnbrea Leisure Centre, Station Road, Pool, Redruth.
- 27/28—Merseyside 2-Star Open, Kirkby Sports Centre, Valley Road, Liverpool.
- 28/29—Lincolnshire Junior 2-Star Open (venue as for East of England 2-Star).
- 29—National League (14).

April

- 4—South Yorkshire 2-Star (Sheffield).
- 4—ESTTA National Team Finals (Lea Green, Derbyshire).
- 5—Bedford 1-Star and Derby Junior 2-Star.
- 11—National Council (London).
- 11/12—County Championships Junior and Veteran Challenge.
- 14/26—36th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Novi Sad, Yugoslavia).
- 18/19—Yorkshire Junior 2-Star "Select", YPI Ferens Recreation Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North, Hull.
- 25—Cheshunt 1-Star Open (Waltham Abbey).
- 25/26—Grieverson, Grant Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-Star Open, Sandown Court School, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Closing date: Apl. 1/81 to Mr. C. Wright, Pinehurst Cottage, Old Lane, St. Johns, Crowborough, East Sussex.
- 25/26—County Championships Senior Play-off.
- 26—10th International Club Hard Rubber Bat Open, Barnet Table Tennis Centre, Barnet Lane, Barnet, Herts. Closing date: Apl. 9/81 to Mr. L. F. Landry, 3 Osney Way, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2NB (Phone: 0474-534908).



Some of the STARS of this Year's TSB SURREY JUNIOR CLOSED.
Top: KAREN & MALCOLM WILDE, LESLEY POPKIEWICZ and GRAHAM VIGOR. Bottom: JOHN CORNELIUS, LIONEL FAURE, JANE MILLS and PETER GALICA.

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Novi Sad before the World Championships

by MIHALY KOZAK

Secretary, Table Tennis Section (AIPS)

The Yugoslavs are always ready to arrange major table tennis competitions, and in this they have notched up a unique "record" during the past ten years. Europe "TOP 12" competitions were staged in Zadar in 1971, and in Zagreb a year later. In Sarajevo the World Championships were held in 1973. Novi Sad played host to the European Championships in 1974. Another "TOP 12" was arranged in Sarajevo in 1977, and the next, the sixth major competition, the 36th World Championships are due to be played at the new sports hall of Novi Sad, April 14 to 26.

I had the opportunity to spend two days in Novi Sad in the second half of January at the invitation of the Yugoslav organising committee. I met Mr. Dusan Acimovic, director of the organising committee, Andras Mucsi, chairman of the organising committee, Gyula Karoly, press chief of the world championships, Slobodan Jeremic, General Secretary of the Yugoslav Table Tennis Federation, and naturally Stojan Protic, the Yugoslav chairman of AIPS (table tennis section). Our discussions covered the ways and means of promoting the work of 400 correspondents — newsmen, radio, television and photo reporters, who are expected to attend the world event — and the possibilities of their accommodation. As a matter of course, I visited the sports hall whose construction is under way.

Let me first report on the sports hall whose construction seems to lag behind, but the Yugoslavs are convinced that it will be completed right on time. Hundreds of people are working round the clock on both the internal and the external construction sites, and the sports hall is expected to be one of the most beautiful sports establishments in Europe. The sports hall is the first building of a huge sports complex now under construction. 20 tables will be set up in the 70 by 40 m arena of the sports hall, and there will be seats for 8,000 spectators on the stands.

Next to the arena is another hall with 20 tables, for training sessions with a seating capacity of 2,000 spectators. Only the outlines of a press centre were all I could see at the time, but my escort Gyula Karoly showed me on a design where the working tables, the telephone and teleprinter exchanges, the photo laboratory, and the booths of the radio and television reporters would be placed. Directly in front of the press centre on the floor along the length of the sports hall, tables will be ensured for over 100 newsmen, while the other newsmen will be able to work in a separate sector in a stand under the press centre. The announcement of the results is expected to be faster than ever before.

As far as accommodations of the correspondents are concerned, three hotels have been picked for them in Novi Sad (250,000 inhabitants). Hotel Garni located about 1,200 to 1,500 m from the sports hall in the city centre, near the railway station, is making preparations for the world event. The Putnik and Vojvodina are old hotels, but both of them have been closed for months as they are renewed, modernised and extended. These two hotels have the edge over the Garni as they are only 600 m from the sports hall, and have a restaurant. Hotel Garni, only serves breakfast. This is all the more noteworthy because there is no restaurant in the sports hall either, only

buffets. To be sure, there are a number of first rate restaurants across the town available for foreigners.

What may, however, be rather unpleasant for many correspondents, is that the price of hotel rooms will be nearly doubled during the world championships. A room per person in each of the three aforesaid hotels will cost 60 Swiss francs. Asked whether the organisers could ensure cheaper rooms for correspondents during the world event, they replied in the negative, explaining that all three hotels are in category B, being on the same level. But they added that the correspondents covering the event could be accommodated somewhere else through a travel agency. Those who wish to reserve rooms through the travel agency, should write to the following address:

Vojvodina Tours
Novi Sad, Borisza Kidrica 8
Tel. 38-21-52831 or 29282.
Telex: 14478.

The final schedule of the world championship has been released. Accordingly the competition of teams of 70 countries expected to take part will start at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14. The afternoon matches will start at 3 p.m. The opening ceremony will take place from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., while the teams will resume play at 8 p.m. The competition of the men's teams for the Swaythling Cup, and of the women's teams for the Corbillon Cup will resume on April 15, and end on April 20, with the men's and women's teams finals to be played at two tables at 7 p.m.

The players will have a day of rest on Tuesday, April 21. The singles and doubles competitions will start at 9 a.m. on April 22. The final of the mixed doubles will be staged at 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 25. The finals of the women's singles, the men's singles, the women's doubles and the men's doubles, to be followed by the closing ceremony will start at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 26. A number of international meetings including the congress of the International Table Tennis Federation will be held during the world championships.

In the second half of January when I saw the sports hall at Novi Sad I wondered if it would be completed for the world championships. When I said good-bye to my hosts, press chief Gyula Karoly told me this:

"It may happen that the last scaffoldings will be taken away during the opening ceremony, but the sports hall will be completed, and all visitors will be welcome".

ESSEX NOTES

by Alan Shepherd

ALIVE AND WELL

Despite the rumours that we have ceased to exist, I can confirm that the County of Essex is alive and well and trying hard to retain its title, hard won last season, as County Champions. We got off to a bad start, when lacking the services of Bob Potton, we went down 3-6 to Cheshire. Victories over Staffs, Lancs and Glamorgan followed, with David Newman twice going to the table at 4-4 and gaining victory for his team.

In the Glamorgan match Kevin Caldon made his first team debut and contributed to the win by beating Jeffrey Morgan. Sadly the latest match, against the all-out defending Warwickshire team, with Potton again missing and Caldon retained, saw Essex on the wrong end of a 5-4 scoreline. This was a very disappointing result for the County squad and appears to end its chance of winning the title this year.

It is rather ironic that with players of the calibre of Potton, Kenny Jackson and Skylet Andrew theoretically available to Essex, we are now struggling to get results. Obviously

the changed face of the game nationally is responsible for this situation, with the financial lures of the National League and foreign contracts counterbalancing County loyalties.

Incidentally, among the many thousands of words which have been written by me and others on the subject of the National League, perhaps the daftest were those which appeared under John Woodford's by-line in the Daily Telegraph on Dec. 20. In previewing a match at Milton Keynes featuring Tibor Klampar and Istvan Jonyer, John spoke of an expected "huge" crowd of 500 as being "proof that in terms of crowd support the National League is gaining support at the expense of the County Championships". I could hardly believe my eyes when I read that. Now I read in John's column in the March "Table Tennis" that only 250 turned up. The reason — a County match down the road!

I hope to be able to write about our second senior team and our veterans in my next contribution but would like to enthuse this month on the efforts of our juniors to regain their rightful place in the Premier Division. The team of Ian Attridge, Paul Sayer, Steve Dettmar, Kim Mudge and Tricia Taylor has completed its programme unbeaten, and is virtually certain now of being able to challenge for promotion on April 11/12. That point we lost at Wisbech back in November, ably reported by Leslie Constable in the January Cambs notes can be said to have been regained twice over in two epic matches against Herts and Kent.

On these occasions our much maligned girls, neither of whom can boast so much as a Group A ranking won 5 sets out of six. Herts were beaten 6-4, Dettmar taking the last vital set against Roger Pyle to ensure victory, while in a marvellous match down at Ramsgate our team became the first to take a point from Kent. Probably the key performance was that by Kim Mudge in beating Manja Ball. The powerful play of David Dodd and Ray Namdjou, who were both unbeaten, made a draw look unlikely, but singles wins by Sayer and Dettmar, plus those girls' wins did the trick. Now we are looking forward to a tremendous effort in the Challenge matches, although replacements under the Rules will have to be found for Attridge, Kim and Tricia, which will not be easy, to say the least.

We have been using our second and third team fixtures to blood our younger contingent, and we are looking to the likes of Peter Hayden, John Sparks, Dennis Hendricks, Stephen Dorking, Mark Taylor, Andrew Barker, Susan Cole and Linda Crawford to complete our squad for the Challenge matches. Peter Hayden is in fact our County junior champion, since he seized the opportunity presented to him when Attridge and Dettmar were away at the Cleveland 'Select' to win the County Closed!

Finally, how about ex-Essex first team star David Iszatt, who has just returned from New Zealand having retained his Moth Class world yachting championship! Funnily enough, when I play with him in the Dagenham League he only boasts about what a good table tennis player he is!

NORTHUMBERLAND 2-STAR OPEN

The Northumberland 2-Star Open has once again been sponsored by the local newspaper, Newcastle Evening Chronicle, and will take place on Saturday, May 2/81. The venue is Concordia Leisure Centre which is easily accessible from Newcastle-on-Tyne and which proved to be very popular with competitors last year. The prize fund totals £750 with £170 going to the men's singles winner and £75 for the women's singles. Entries close on April 6 and forms are available from the organiser, Aubrey Drapkin, 6 Northfield Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, NE3 3UL. (Phone: 853878).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

SOHAM ARE CHAMPIONS

by Robert Oldfield

Soham have won the National League. Last year's runners-up, the club from the tiny village in Cambridgeshire sealed this year's championship with two matches to spare and emphasised their domination of the League with a conclusive 8-1 victory that sent Dunlop Sports into the Second Division. The difficulty in choosing an effective doubles combination was again apparent, but, by then, nobody cared anyway. Victory was virtually assured and the next set Paul Day, whose fine captaincy has played such a vital role throughout the season, clinched The Alan Ransome Cup — for the first time in his club's history.

Soham's team manager, Eric Day, was absolutely delighted "We feel great", he said.

"It's been a really good team effort from all the players involved". Modestly, he refused to dwell on his son's fantastic reward of 23 wins out of 24 this season. "We've got good players right down the line, Look at Kenny Jackson. When Kenny came back from Japan he had a few disappointing results but now I think he's settled down and playing exceedingly well — he'll soon be playing for England. Then there's John Souter who's playing very well at the moment, although he has been a bit erratic, and Dave Wells — he's a class player to be at No. 4".

Thus Soham go into the Europe Club Cup in which last year's champions, Sealink Milton Keynes, had such a good run this year. "We're looking forward to Europe now" said Eric Day. "As it's only a three-man team we would normally play John with Kenny and Paul but at other times we could consider Dave or possibly Carl Pream. We hope that we can keep the same team. Kenny is going to be off to Japan again this summer, thanks to Stiga — hopefully he'll come back and play for us again next season".

Apart from the players there can be no doubt that a great deal of credit for the team's victory goes to the club's committee. Soham had no sponsor and were forced to raise "a helluva lot of money by sheer hard work". Using the village hall as their venue, each home match meant the erection of advertising hoardings around all the walls, on which the club's financial support depended. Surely a marvellous example of the will to succeed in the top division of the National League.

Meanwhile, at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, it was the turn of Sealink Milton Keynes to receive a set-back before their Ormesby match. With Dougie Johnson rupturing a tendon in his neck the day before, the Sealink team were forced to move up a place and lost to Ormesby by five sets to four. Although the match result was already decided, the best set came right at the end — when Sealink's New Zealand signing, Barry Griffiths, played a great match to defeat the Ormesby twiddler Malcolm Francis. Will he be back next year? Sealink have made it widely known that they are intending to acquire new players and release others, and the summer break is sure to bring transfer news.

Sealink now drop to fourth place, behind Macleans Maidenhead and Ellenborough. Both teams had good wins on 1st March but Ellenborough must be favourites to take

second place as they play Dunlop Sports at home on 29th March while Macleans visit Ormesby. Their 7-2 win over Unity included a two-straight win by John Kitchener over Steven Mills but the improvement the Sheffield boy has shown over this season has been remarkable and a success story for Unity in their first year in the Premier Division.

Current League Table

Soham	12	11	1	80	28	22
Macleans M'head .	13	9	4	68	49	81
Ellenborough	13	9	4	67	50	18
Sealink M K	13	8	5	79	38	16
Ormesby I	13	7	6	62	55	14
Fellows Cranleigh .	13	4	9	39	78	8
Unity	13	3	10	38	79	6
Dunlop Sports	12	0	12	26	82	0

NEWCASTLE CONFIRMED

In Second Division North the City of Newcastle club massacred South West Durham on 1st March to seal up a victory that has always looked likely. Lead by Chu Van Que, who has been undefeated all season, the Newcastle players have all returned excellent results: Keith Paxton, 23 wins out of 26; Ian Robertson 17 out of 22 and Andrew Clarke 12 out of 18. They have yet to learn of their opponents in the promotion play-offs but must be clear favourites to stave off the Southern challenge as the nearest the "Geordies" have come to defeat this season was against their nearest challengers, Salford Select who gave them a close shave at the end of January with a 5-4 result.

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Current League Table

	P	W	L	F	A	P
City of Newcastle	13	13	0	98	19	24
Salford Select	13	11	2	86	31	22
Norton	13	10	3	82	35	20
Tarmac W'ampton	13	7	6	60	57	14
Ormesby II	13	5	8	53	64	10
Stockton Select	13	4	9	38	79	8
S.W. Durham	13	1	12	32	85	2
B'ham J. D. White	13	1	12	19	98	2

CASHMANS ALMOST THERE

Certainly there has been no such domination in the Second Division South! Finishing the season with a 6-3 victory over Bristol Cashmans, St. Neots brought four teams level on points — with only sets differences keeping them apart. Former international, Peter Taylor was instrumental in the shock defeat and his two wins over Ian Kenyon and Kevin Satchell gives him the best results in the division — 19 wins out of 22 singles played.

However, Cashmans must still be the firmest bet for the divisional title. They play the lowly Prudential Ibis on Sunday, 29th March and it would take a major upset for Seagulls to claw back the two sets advantage. The two Moore brothers, Stephen and Adrian, were in superb form against Generation II and took five sets between them in the Brighton club's 6-3 victory on 15th February.

Current League Table

Bristol Cashmans	11	8	3	65	34	16
Seagulls	11	8	3	63	36	16
St. Neots	12	8	4	66	42	16
Generation II	11	8	3	60	39	16
March Town	11	4	7	41	58	8
G'sbury Triangle	11	3	8	42	57	6
Prudential Ibis	11	0	11	14	85	0

NEW APPLICATIONS

Although the season is drawing to a close, applications to join next season's National League are continuing to pour in to the League administrator, Keith Ponting. Some indicate definite commitments; others merely request information; but all illustrate a widespread growing enthusiasm for the National League. New applications will be dealt with in April, but, as some of you may have heard through the regular coverage in 'The Times', Cardiff and Gwent could be in next season — in line with their present involvement in the County Championships. This season — three divisions. Next season —

NATIONAL LEAGUE RESULTS

(8/2/81)

PREMIER DIVISION

Soham 8 Fellows Cranleigh 1
 P. Day bt D. Newman -11, 10, 14.
 K. Jackson bt I. Horsham 17, 11.
 J. Souter bt T. Penny 15, -16, 17.
 D. Wells bt D. Charley 20, 19.
 Day/Jackson bt Horsham/Newman 16, 8.
 Day bt Horsham 17, -18, 10.
 Jackson bt Charley 18, -22, 14.
 Souter lost to Newman -11, 17, -19.
 Wells bt Penny 23, 21.

Macleans Maidenhead 5 Unity 4
 M. Crimmins lost to C. Rogers 19, -18, -13.
 D. Barr lost to S. Mills -16, -16.
 A. Wellman bt A. Sanderson 15, 9.
 P. Bradbury bt S. Turner 14, -18, 5.
 Crimmins/Wellman lost to Mills/Rogers -16, -14.
 Crimmins bt Mills 17, 11.
 Barr bt Turner 10, 17.
 Wellman lost to Rogers -17, 14, -19.
 Bradbury bt Sanderson 17, 9.

Sealink Milton Keynes 4 Ellenborough 5
 D. Johnson bt J. Kitchener 11, 8.
 R. Yule bt G. Sandley 15, 19.
 R. Tuckett bt C. Wilson 16, 11.
 S. Andrew lost to M. Mitchell 23, -20, -8.
 Tuckett/Yule lost to Kitchener/Wilson -17, -12.
 Johnson bt Sandley 17, 18.
 Yule lost to Mitchell 17, -18, -18.
 Tuckett lost to Kitchener 22, -18, -12.
 Andrew lost to Wilson -16, 19, -20.

Dunlop Sports 3 Ormesby 6

A. Bellingham bt D. Neale 22, 23.
 D. Munt lost to N. Jarvis -19, -14.
 B. Johnson lost to M. Francis -15, 15, -14.
 B. Hayward lost to K. Rodger 14, -12, -12.
 Bellingham/Gunnion lost to Jarvis/Rodger -15, -12.
 Bellingham lost to Jarvis -15, 16, -11.
 Munt lost to Rodger -15, -15.
 Johnson bt Neale 10, 16.
 Hayward bt Francis -18, 14, 20.

(15/2/81)

PREMIER DIVISION

Unity 6 Dunlop Sports 3
 Mills lost to Kathuria -15, -18.
 Rogers bt Bellingham -16, 15, 12.
 Turner bt Johnson 19, -13, 18.
 Sanderson lost to Munt 17, -20, -21.
 Mills/Rogers bt Kathuria/Bellingham 16, -19, 16.
 Mills bt Bellingham 10, 15.
 Rogers bt Munt 9, 6.
 Turner bt Kathuria 13, 19.
 Sanderson lost to Johnson -11, -17.

Ormesby 2 Soham 7
 D. Parker lost to Jackson 19, -13, -12.
 Jarvis lost to Day -10, -18.
 Rodger bt Wells 8, -21, 17.
 Francis lost to Souter -15, -13.
 Parker/Jarvis lost to Day/Jackson 14, -16, -16.
 Parker lost to Day -19, -18.
 Jarvis bt Souter 17, 15.
 Rodger lost to Jackson -20, -20.
 Francis lost to Wells -15, -9.

Ellenborough 4 Macleans Maidenhead 5
 Sandley bt Barr 17, 12.
 Kitchener lost to Crimmins -17, -19.
 Mitchell bt Bradbury 13, 9.
 Wilson lost to Wellman -12, -16.
 Kitchener/Wilson bt Crimmins/Wellman -11, 10, 9.
 Sandley lost to Crimmins -13, 9, -13.
 Kitchener bt Wellman -15, 21, 13.
 Mitchell lost to Barr -14, -19.
 Wilson lost to Bradbury -17, 13, -18.

Fellows Cranleigh 3 Sealink Milton Keynes 6
 Horsham bt Yule 10, -15, 20.
 Newman lost to Johnson -20, -7.
 P. McQueen lost to Andrews -17, -18.
 Penny lost to Tuckett 10, -18, -16.
 Horsham/Newman bt Andrews/Johnson -13, 15, 24.
 Horsham lost to Johnson -15, 17, -16.
 Newman lost to Tuckett -13, 12, -18.
 McQueen lost to Yule -19, -14.
 Penny bt Andrews 16, -19, 16.

(1/3/81)

PREMIER DIVISION

Dunlop Birmingham 1 Soham 8
Macleans Maidenhead 8 Fellows Cranleigh 1
Unity 2 Ellenborough 7
Sealink Milton Keynes 4 Ormesby 5

(8/2/81)

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Norton 7 Tarmac Wolverhampton 2
 Stockton Select 5 South West Durham 4
 City of Newcastle 9 Billingham J. D. White 0
 Ormesby II 3 Salford Select 6

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Seagulls 3 Bristol Cashmans 6
 Prudential Ibis 2 Generation II 7
 Gunnersbury Triangle 2 St. Neots 7

(15/2/81)

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Salford Select 8 Stockton 1
 Billingham J. D. White 0 Ormesby II 9
 South West Durham 1 Norton 8
 Tarmac Wolverhampton 2 Newcastle 7

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Bristol Cashmans 5 Gunnersbury Triangle 4
 Generation II 6 March 3
 St. Neots 7 Prudential Ibis 2

(1/3/81)

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

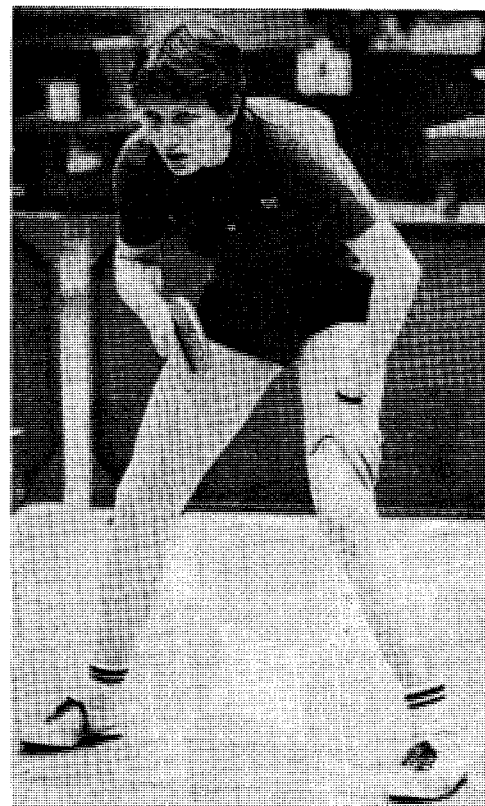
City of Newcastle 9 South West Durham 0
 Stockton Select 2 Norton 7

Salford Select 9 Billingham J. D. White 0
 Ormesby II 3 Tarmac Wolverhampton 6

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Seagulls 6 Generation II 3
 Prudential Ibis 3 March 6
 St. Neots 6 Bristol Cashmans 3

News from the Trade



ALISON GORDON JOINS BUTTERFLY

Butterfly Table Tennis (U.K.) Ltd., are pleased to announce the signing of a contract with England's latest international star, 18-year-old ALISON GORDON of Reading.

Alison, whose selection to the England team for the forthcoming World Championships in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, has charted a steady course of accomplishment since she started playing at the age of 10, including English Schools' titles in Under-11, 13, 16 and 19 age levels, all three English Junior Closed titles in her last year as a junior, and two of the all important 3-Star tournaments this season. Her first junior international was gained at the age of 14 in the European Youth Championships in France, and while still a junior she played for the England team in the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh.

Having been named to the England team for the World Championships, Alison's immediate aim is to perform well in Novi Sad. A dedicated sportswoman, Alison who completed a year's secretarial course after leaving school, has recently given up working in a sports shop in order to concentrate on her training for the Worlds. In addition to the vital preparation with the England squad at Lilleshall, Alison will be working out at her own club, Omega, and at the Reading Centre of Excellence.

Alison plays a modern attacking topspin game and has selected a Butterfly Power-spin blade with Sriver rubbers to help her performance in Novi Sad.



Arthur Graham, the Leeds United footballer, was recently presented with a Dunlop table tennis bat for winning the team's table tennis tournament. Arthur, who defeated Eddie Gray in the final, is seen here with Alan Hydes (left), Dunlop Table Tennis Manager, and Allan Clarke, the Leeds Manager looking on.

EUROPE TOP 12 Title Retention For Jill

by George Yates

Losing only to Judit Magos of Hungary and Gordana Perkucin of Yugoslavia, **Jill Hammersley** of England retained her Europe Top 12 title in Miskolc, Hungary over the period Feb. 6/8, 1981 and thus completed a hat-trick of victories in this event.

Her first was in Prague, in 1978, her second last year in Munich and now, in Miskolc, with one win more than Holland's Bettine Vriesekoop, she has made it three out of four with one more win needed to equal the record of Hungary's Beatrix Kishazi.

In the men's section Desmond Douglas finished sixth, losing to Dragutin Surbek, Stellan Bengtsson, Gabor Gergely, Josef Dvoracek and Jacques Secretin yet beating the winner, **Tibor Klampar** in three straight games in his penultimate round.

John Hilton, our other male representative, had a traumatic time in suffering ten losses beating only the Stiga Welsh champion Ulf Thorsell of Sweden who finished seventh.

Both Klampar and the defending champion, Bengtsson, finished up with 9 wins and 2 losses, Klampar to Thorsell and Douglas, and Bengtsson to Josef Dvoracek and Klampar but the Hungarian had slightly the better set analysis 27-16 to 29-19 and in the meeting between the pair, in the final round, Klampar just had the edge over Bengtsson winning 19 in the fifth!

ENGLISH RESULTS

Women

Jill Hammersley

bt V. Popova (USS) 11, 16;
bt A-C. Hellman (SWE) 11, 10;
bt M. Lindblad (SWE) 19, 19;
lost to J. Magos (HUN) 15, -20, -13;
bt Z. Olah (HUN) 7, 14;
lost to G. Perkucin (YUG) 14, -19, -14;
bt M. Hrachova (CZE) 12, 16;

bt I. Uhlíkova (CZE) 17, -14, 17;
bt B. Silhanova (CZE) 11, 13;
bt E. Palatinus -18, 20, 17;
bt B. Vriesekoop (NET) 24, -18, 17.

Men

Desmond Douglas

bt J. Hilton (ENG) 9, 15, 8;
bt U. Thorsell (SWE) -19, 20, 16, 12;
lost to D. Surbek (YUG) 9, -12, -14, 16, -21;
lost to S. Bengtsson (SWE) 20, -18, -19, -17;
bt U. Carlsson (SWE) -14, 19, 13, 18;

lost to G. Gergely (HUN) 12, -18, -19, -9;
bt I. Jonyer (HUN) 14, 18, 13;
bt M. Orłowski (CZE) 14, 18, 18;
lost to J. Dvoracek (CZE) 12, 19, -12, -7, -9;
bt T. Klampar (HUN) 23, 20, 13;
lost to J. Secretin (FRA) 4, -20, -11, -15.

John Hilton

lost to D. Douglas (ENG) -9, -15, -8;
lost to Surbek -15, -18, -13;
lost to Carlsson 19, 12, -15, -18, -18;
bt Thorsell 17, 18, -9, 16;
lost to Bengtsson -17, 14, 19, -6, -10;
lost to Secretin -15, -12, -12;
lost to Orłowski 15, 20, -17, -17, -18;
lost to Jonyer 19, 16, -14, -16, -13;
lost to Klampar -15, 15, -7, -9;
lost to Dvoracek 9, -13, -18, -10.

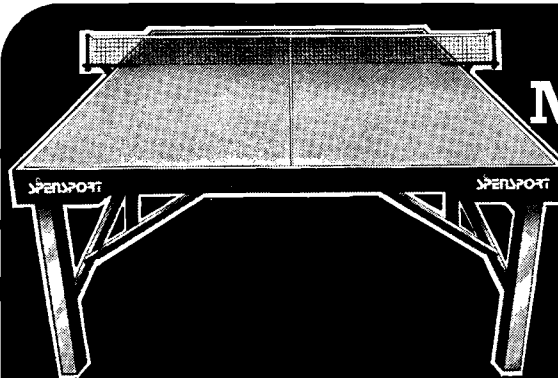
FINISHING POSITIONS

Men

	W	L
1 Tibor Klampar (HUN)	9	2
2 Stellan Bengtsson (SWE)	9	2
3 Dragutin Surbek (YUG)	8	3
4 Josef Dvoracek (CZE)	8	3
5 Jacques Secretin (FRA)	7	4
6 Desmond Douglas (ENG)	6	5
7 Ulf Thorsell (SWE)	5	6
8 Milan Orłowski (CZE)	4	7
9 Gabor Gergely (HUN)	4	7
10 Ulf Carlsson (SWE)	3	8
11 Istvan Jonyer (HUN)	2	9
12 John Hilton (Eng)	1	10

Women

	W	L
1 Jill Hammersley (ENG)	9	2
2 Bettine Vriesekoop (NET)	8	3
3 Valentina Popova (USS)	7	4
4 Judit Magos (HUN)	7	4
5 Iona Uhlíkova (CZE)	6	5
6 Ann-Christin Hellman (SWE)	6	5
7 Marie Hrachova (CZE)	5	6
8 Gordana Perkucin (YUG)	4	7
9 Marie Lindblad (SWE)	2:1, 4:2,	123:109
	4	7
10 Zsuzsa Olah (HUN)	2:1, 4:2,	109:114
	4	7
11 Erzebet Palatinus (YUG)	1:2, 2:4	114:108
	4	7
12 Blanka Silhanova (CZE)	1:2, 2:4,	94:109
	2	9



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YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Les D'Arcy

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE TABLE TENNIS

In the Yorkshire League many of the divisions are being keenly contested for top places. Three teams have already won their divisional championship: BRADFORD (Division 1 Cadets), SHEFFIELD (Division 2 Cadets) and SHEFFIELD I JUNIORS (Division 1A Jnr.). Sheffield Cadets: R. THOMPSON, J. GREAVES, C. GUEST and DONNA HALL have the additional distinction of not dropping a set in their five match programme, winning 45 for none against.

Another team with a chance of achieving a similar outstanding performance is Barnsley Vets I (Vets Div. 1) M. CARR, B. STARKEY and F. WESSON, have won each of their four matches 10 nil. The task of continuing this record will not be easy, the defending champions, Airedale and Wharfedale I, who are equal to Barnsley on points, but have dropped eleven sets of the forty played, have yet to be met, in what could be the vets match of the season.

The current leaders of the other divisions are as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Men's Div. 1a							
Barnsley	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Men's Div. 1b							
Huddersfield	4	3	1	0	23	17	7
Men's Div. 2							
Dewsbury	5	5	0	0	37	13	10
Men's Div. 3							
Rotherham	6	6	0	0	45	15	12
Men's Div. 4							
Huddersfield II ...	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Men's Div. 5							
Airedale/Wh'dale .	5	4	1	0	38	12	9
Women's Div. 1							
Bradford	5	3	1	1	33	17	7
Women's Div. 2							
Barnsley	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
Junior Div. 1b							
Bradford	4	4	0	0	32	4	8
Junior Div. 2							
Leeds II	4	4	0	0	29	7	8
Junior Div. 3							
Dewsbury	4	4	0	0	27	9	8
Veterans' Div. 2							
Huddersfield	5	5	0	0	41	9	10

COACHING

Two important coaching events have taken place recently. The first one which was organised by Dewsbury TT League's Coaching Secretary, Mr. Ray Burch, was held at Batley Sports Centre. National Coach for the N. of England, Donald Parker, Australian No. 1, Bob Tuckett and Yorkshire's No. 3, Kevin Beadsley, took part in an exhibition evening when about a hundred people enjoyed watching the players in competition against one another and also the demonstration of basic and advanced strokes. Part of the session was spent on questions about equipment and other aspects of the game, but the most enjoyable part for some of the younger members of the audience was when they were able to play short games against the experts.

The second coaching course was at Moor Grange School, Leeds, where 32 of the county's top players in the under-14 years age group took part in a full day session organised by YTTA Coaching Secretary Mrs. Sheila Atkinson, husband Owen and ESTTA Chairman, Mr. John Arnold. Wakefield League coaches staffed the course which was used partly as an assessment guide for future rankings. Mr. Geoff Scruton, Yorkshire TTA's Chairman, who attended the session, was impressed with the purposeful activity and will be giving his support to this type of course in the future programme.

RADIO LEEDS

A good proportion of leagues have been

represented on the "Match Point" programme which is broadcast each Friday at 6.40 p.m. Three of the TT personalities who will be appearing in the near future are Alan Hydes, former England No. 1 Junior and 3 Senior who represented England at three world championships and is now a sales manager with Dunlop Sports. Alan visited China on the famous "Ping Pong Diplomacy" tour which did so much good for East-West international understanding and mutual respect. Peter Simpson, England's team manager and coach will be with us to talk about the England v Hungary Super Division clash for the European Championship and, towards the end of the season, Raymond Hinchliffe, Huddersfield's former international, who has a record eighty appearances for Yorkshire to his credit and is now doing commendable work coaching and as press secretary for the Huddersfield League.

Please remember that the programme is there to serve all Yorkshire leagues, just ring me at 0924-66420.



Some of Yorkshire's top young players (Juniors and Cadets). Back l to r: Julie Speight (Doncaster), Yorkshire No. 1 girl England No. 10; Steven Sharpe (Wakefield), Yorkshire No. 1 boy, National Award (Butlins); Lesley Broomhead (Sheffield), Yorkshire No. 2 girl, England 'A' group. Front l to r: Tony Sanderson (York), Yorkshire No. 2 boy, England No. 11; Martin Firth (Bradford), Yorkshire No. 2 cadet, England No. 8; David Rook (Bradford), Yorkshire No. 1 cadet, England No. 3.

Photo by kind permission of Yorkshire Post Newspapers Ltd.

ROUND AND ABOUT

Harrogate's Richard Whiteley, ranked 10 in the Yorkshire Junior boys' list, is beginning to make his presence felt. He recently won the Pontefract Open junior title, defeating David Illingsworth (England 'A' Group) in the final. Playing for Harrogate 2nds in the Yorkshire League Division 2 he defeated the formidable Summerscales — father George and son Alan — as part of his hat-trick of singles in his team's 8-2 win over Wakefield II. Richard has earned himself a place in the Yorkshire Junior 2nds v Cumbria in their next match.

Steven Wathey (Doncaster), who has been very active on the tournament scene in recent months, wins a place in the Yorkshire senior 2nd team. He will make his debut against Cleveland. Steve takes the

place of Tony Sanderson (York) who will be assisting Steve Sharpe, David Illingsworth, David Rook, Julie Speight, Melanie Seaton and Lesley Broomhead at the Junior Premier Week-end against Devon, Staffs, Bucks and Beds, Mar. 14/15.

Ian Gomersal (Bradford) reached his centenary of Yorkshire league appearances when he scored a hat-trick of wins for Bradford II against Sheffield II which Bradford won 9-1. Bradford women, Helen Shields (2), Sylvia Broadbent (1) and Linda Hryszko (2) defeated Liverpool 5-0 in the 3rd round of the National Women's Rose Bowl competition which Bradford won in 1979, but were knocked out by Liverpool last season. Helen also won the Women's doubles at the Lancashire Open with the Women's singles winner Melody Hill. A player who has appeared in the Guinness Book of Records by winning an Open competition for eating fish and chips could soon be in the record books again. Stewart Milnes (Dewsbury) in the course of a year will have played in no less than twelve (12) leagues. They are: Dewsbury, Wakefield, Selby, Doncaster, Bradford, Harrogate, Leeds, York, Pontefract, Huddersfield, the Yorkshire League for Dewsbury 1st team, the Yorkshire Summer League and the Bradford Summer League. In his spare time he enters tournaments and has watched the Nolan's more than a hundred times. It's a tiring life for Stewart, but with fish and chips to give him energy, a game to play which he thoroughly enjoys and a hundred and fifty trophies on his shelves, he isn't complaining as he prepares for yet another match.

CORNISH LANDMARK

A major landmark in the 30 year history of the Cornwall County Table Tennis Association will be reached on 21st March when the county stages its first ever open tournament. The Cornish Junior Open Championships although only qualifying for 'One Star' ETTA status, will offer facilities of the highest standard with the whole of the leisure centre at Carn Brae, Camborne being in use for the day. Ten Jaques tables will be used with each court having a 40ft. x 20ft. playing area. Tiered seating will ensure excellent viewing for spectators and with full refreshment facilities being available players and non players will be well catered for.

Being well aware of the need to keep everyone well informed of all progress, all players will be numbered so that all matches and scores can be followed on a master scoreboard. In addition visual score indicators will be in use during the later rounds.

The whole concept of the tournament came into being following a suggestion from John Crocker of Tuckingmill TTC at Camborne who felt that the development of the sport in the county would benefit from such a venture. Supported by an enthusiastic sub committee of the County Executive, plans were quickly drawn up and the proposals were attractive enough to gain the invaluable sponsorship of Midland Bank. There is no doubt that this backing has enabled such an ambitious venture to get off the ground and it is hoped that this will be the start of a long association between table tennis and the world of finance.

Events to be run during the Championships will be under 17, under 14 and under 12 singles for boys and girls with an open age doubles. In addition to perpetual trophies, prize money of almost £200 will be at stake and as a result entries are being anticipated from many parts of the country.

Entry forms can be obtained from John Crocker, 'Falaise', Cliff View Road, Camborne.

ROGER JACOBS,
Press Officer.

STANDARDIZATION

As we know, it is very difficult to get a total standardization of the bat in table tennis, chiefly of the rubber. The bat's weight, size, shape or form aren't important because that's a personal preference.

The main discussions, the queries and divergences are especially about the rubber and principally concerning the rubber's characteristics, the sponge. This is the only weak point in table tennis. We must finish with those discussions for the good and beauty of the game, becoming table tennis a true sport. It's a hard polemic, I know, but it's necessary for a final and decisive definition. I hope for the best.

In my opinion, it's impossible to standardize the sponges type due to the diverse patterns in different countries. I think the easiest and most simple thing would be the standardization of the ordinary pimped-rubber bat exclusively, with the thickness of rubber not exceeding two millimetres and with the same rubber and colour on both faces, as in lawn tennis. It's the better way and there's no other, as I think.

So, we would get 95% of standardization which would lead to more uniformity in the game and coaching would become easier. Table tennis will benefit from such a change and this is not a plot to rob the dominance of some countries or player. Far from it! Fair play!

Besides, the change will increase the value of the game and its popularity because the players will compete under same conditions, with the same weapons. In table tennis it is not the material that makes champions but the personal qualities and performance.

Sooner or later the standardization will have to come, I do hope so.

We **MUST** obtain that in the next Congress in Yugoslavia during the 36th World Championships, NOW!

Major **JOAQUIM T. LIBANIO**,
Caixa postal 115
12460 - Campos do Jordao, S.P.
BRAZIL, South America.

BUSF Championships 1981

by **DEREK OLDMAN**

The splendid facilities at Strathclyde University Sports Centre provided the ideal venue for this year's Championships over the weekend of Jan. 31 - Feb. 1.

The smaller entry than usual was further depleted, especially in the Women's and Mixed events, by late withdrawals. However, the standard of play was still very high, especially since four players had previously represented Great Britain in the recent World Student Championships in Middlesbrough.

Men's Singles

With all eight seeds in attendance, it proved to be a tough competition. Although the No. 1 seed, Sanjay Kathuria (Oxford) looked comfortable in the early rounds, he was narrowly beaten by David Gannon (Lancaster) in the semi-finals. Chris Rogers (Sheffield), whose No. 2 seeding was the result of his defeat by Kathuria in the final of the UAU Championships, was on top form throughout. Having beaten Kevin Edwards in the semi-final, he outplayed Gannon in the final to take the gold medal without losing a game throughout the Championships. A fitting performance for a World Student bronze medalist.

Women's Singles

The withdrawal of the first two seeds

made the competition far more open than it might have been. Indeed, Alison Burke (London) sailed through to the final from an unseeded position. Vanessa Cruwys (Hull) justified her No. 3 seeding by easily reaching the final. In the final, Miss Cruwys just had the edge to win. But surely we will hear more of Miss Burke!

Men's Doubles

The first four seeds played true to form to reach the semi-finals. In a close set, the fourth seeds Edwards and Proffitt (Nottingham) beat the No. 1 seeds Kathuria and Hammett (Oxford) and Rogers and Ah-Chong (Sheffield), the No. 2 seeds beat Gerrard and Jarvis (Aberdeen). Continuing his good form Rogers with partner Ah-

Chong, gained victory over the Nottingham pair in the final.

Women's Doubles

In a small draw, Vanessa Cruwys and R. Dudman (Hull) and J. Hannah and H. Dorman (Heriot-Watt) comfortably won through to the final with the former gaining victory.

Mixed Doubles

A small entry, and withdrawal of several seeds, allowed C. Irwin and A. Burke (London) to reach the final unseeded. Rogers, partnered by I. Forquay reached his third final to complete a successful Tournament. However, they had to settle for the silver medal after losing to opponents who had played throughout with confidence and great skill.

THE BRITISH PETROLEUM ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN

Harlow Sports Centre
(Feb. 21/22)

WORRIES BANISHED
by Alan Shepherd

With their financial worries banished at the last minute by substantial sponsorship from Fairy Godmother "B.P." the Essex Tournament Organiser Clive Oakman stage-managed a brilliantly successful event. Excellent scheduling by Referee Peter Roden meant that when Sunday evening came round a perfectly prepared arena was ready, tiered seating surrounding the table, and banks of flowers producing that last touch, for the Finals Session to start promptly on time.

The Men's Singles was a benefit for Essex star **Kenny Jackson**, who sadly limits his team appearances to the National League, and for some reason of his own does not wish to figure in the County Championships — which he would surely grace. In the absence of the England Squad in Czechoslovakia Kenny was seeded to add this title to the Middlesex one he had gained in December, but nobody could say he had an easy passage.

Barring his way to the quarter-final, and beaten by Kenny were Mick Harper, Peter McQueen, David Wells and Bob Tuckett but only his Soham team-mate Wells really extended him and it was only late in the deciding game that Kenny edged home. In the second quarter the surprising winner was group winner Ian Kenyon but he ousted both seeds, namely Nicky Jarvis and John Souter so could hardly be called lucky.

Steve Mills came through the third quarter, as he was supposed to do, being No. 3 seed, but Martin Les made him pull out all the stops in Round 4. Andy Wellman was



Nigel Eckersley and Kevin Beadsley share a mutual pleasure after winning the Men's Doubles Final of The Essex 3-Star Championships.

Photo by Murray Corbin of Wimbledon.

the other seed in this quarter, but after surviving a titanic struggle with Kevin Beadsley in Rd. 3 he went out in straight games to Steve Turner. The last quarter also saw the two seeds getting through to the quarter-final, where Nigel Eckersley won a tense battle with Ian Horsham. The semi-finals and the final itself were surprisingly tame affairs, Jackson being under no apparent pressure from Kenyon, while Eckersley was baffled by the crouching, leaping Mills in the second semi-final. Any thoughts of an upset in the final were quickly dispelled as Jackson went into a vast lead and came home comfortably.

Most of the drama in the Women's Singles came in the quarter-finals where **Angela Mitchell** and Carole Knight engaged in an absolutely heart-stopping clash of epic proportions. There was no suggestion of what was to follow as Carole won the first game to 10, and even when Angela scraped home a bit luckily at 19 in the second. However the crowd around Table 9 seethed with excitement as Angela held match points in the third at 20-18. Carole saved these and fortunes wavered as far as 26-26. Finally Angela won a fantastic game (and the match) at 28-26! Meanwhile Helen Williams was doing herself no harm at all by ousting No. 3 seed Anita Stevenson by 23-21. 22-20 and her County colleague Mandy Reeves, who had already disposed of an off-form Mandy Smith (seeded No. 4) was narrowly overcoming the precocious skills of Jackie Bellinger (Beds) by 15, -17, 22! In the final Angela, who had not been seeded (!) had another marvellous win, again by the narrowest possible margin, over Melody Hill.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Jackson (E) bt R. Tuckett (Aul) 16, 14;
I. Kenyon (K) bt J. Souter (Mi) -13, 19, 14;
S. Mills (Y) bt S. Turner (La) 12, 19;
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt I. Horsham (E)
12, -14, 16.

Semi-finals:

Jackson bt Kenyon 12, 11;
Mills bt Eckersley 17, 18.

Final:

JACKSON bt Mills 12, 12.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

A. Mitchell (Mi) bt H. Williams (Mi) 12, 16;
M. Hill (Y) bt M. Reeves (Middx) 16, 11.

Final:

MITCHELL bt Hill -16, 14, 20.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

J. Kitchener (Sk)/K. Richardson (Ca) bt
Mills/C. Rogers (Le) 12, -14, 18;

Eckersley/K. Beadsley (Y) bt Jackson/
S. Andrew (E) 21, 18.

Final:

ECKERSLEY/BEADSLEY bt Kitchener/
Richardson 12, -14, 18.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

C. Knight (Cv)/A. Stevenson (Le) bt
Mitchell/Williams 14, 16;
J. Revill (Le)/J. Harris (St) bt Hill/
H. Shields (Y) 20, 19.

Final:

KNIGHT/STEVENSON bt Revill/Harris
10, 19.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

N. Jarvis (Cv)/Stevenson bt Eckersley/Hill
18, 12;
Andrew/Knight bt A. Fletcher (Y)/Mitchell
22, -21, 16.

Final:

JARVIS/STEVENSON bt Andrew/Knight
21, 20.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

R. Murray (E) bt D. Caulder (He) 11, 17;
M. Adedayo (Mi) bt G. Lynch (Dy) 16, 14.

Final:

MURRAY bt Adedayo 15, 11.

COTSWOLD LADIES' LEAGUE

by George O'Brien

With the continued expansion of this league, the ladies have clearly indicated their enthusiasm for more competitive play apart from the minor role usually afforded to them in mixed teams.

In the first Division three teams are still unbeaten at the half way stage, Swindon 'A' (last season's champions) Evesham 'A' and Bath 'A'. For Swindon Tracy Watkins has dropped but one set from 12 whilst for Evesham Lynda Reid and Gill Stride have each won 8 out of 9. Bath, however, have relied in the main on team consistency to gain them their two wins and three draws.

The leading places in the First Division are:

	P	W	D	L	P
Bath 'A'	6	2	4	0	8
Evesham 'A'	3	3	0	0	6
Bristol 'A'	4	3	0	1	6
Swindon	4	2	2	0	6
Worcester 'A'	5	1	3	1	5

In the Second Division only Bristol 'B' are unbeaten with the combination of Muriel Hooker and Muriel Lewis providing the foundation of a team that is destined to return to the First Division.



After defeating Steven Mills in the Final of the Men's Singles, Kenny Jackson receives his cheque from Mrs. Joan Cluff, Public Relations Officer of B.P. Trading & Co., the sponsors of the Championships.

Photo by Murray Corbin of Wimbledon.

County Championships Round-up

by PHILIP REID

CAMBS FAVOURITES

DIVISION 2 (East)

Suffolk 2 Cambridgeshire 8

Cambs now strong favourites for the title. Geoff Davies starred in this match, beating both John Kitchener and Julian Hall (who each won his other set).

DIVISION 3 (West)

Avon II 2 Cornwall 8

John Williams and John Bassett good for Cornwall. New MD partnership — Cornelius/Williams — brought their first win of the season.

JUNIOR 2 (North)

Northumberland 4 Cheshire 6

This win keeps Cheshire firmly in contention for the championship. Billy Gleave two more comfortable wins for Cheshire.

JUNIOR 2 (East)

Middlesex II 4 Oxfordshire 6

Cambridgeshire 2 Berkshire 8

What a shock here! Cambs, with five points out of six lost to the previously pointless Berks. Both counties fielded their regular teams. Geoff Waters (who always includes some interesting notes) tells me what a delight it was to watch Berks' Jimmy Stokes — a really great prospect. Susan Blackburn had a fine win over Mandy Judd. Oxon broke their duck when they visited Middx. Richard and Mary Denbow involved in four of Oxon's six wins with Richard Mabutt and Julie Woodward each winning a singles. M. Hall impressive for Middx.

JUNIOR 2 (West)

Hampshire 2 Glamorgan 8

Even without Andrew Jones Glam too strong for Hants. Ceri Phillips, playing No. 1 for the first time, won two.

JUNIOR 3 (South)

Hampshire II 3 Sussex II 7

Sussex conceded two sets for playing unregistered player but still won. Paul Caczi impressive, winning with scores of 11, 7, 19, 9.

JUNIOR 3 (West)

Cornwall 7 Devon III 3

Jeremy Williams and John Woollins took Cornwall to a good victory.

VETERANS (West)

Dorset I 9 Avon 0

This division looks likely to rest on the IOW-Dorset match. IOW could win . . . but this Dorset team does look strong.

boast flags, crests and colours and, in my opinion, should continue to be an entity to be proudly represented. But again to keep pace with the times, county representative matches need to be moved out of the "Saturday evening at the local village hall" image and turned into a prestigious competition in which the top players want to be involved.

I would like to put forward a suggestion to elevate the image of County Championships, but first I would like to comment that in my opinion there is something lacking also in the English Senior and Junior Championships, except for the finals of the Norwich Union English Championships which are staged for television . . . the atmosphere is too "ordinary", too much like regular 3-Star events and certainly lacking in enthusiastic entries.

Perhaps England should look at how events are staged in other countries, some of the countries which for so many years depended on knowledge and example from the ETTA.

IN CANADA

In Canada, for example, National Championships are run over a long weekend. The National Championships encompass the Inter-Provincial Team Championships (separate 3-player events for men and women for a total of 24 teams), plus Men's, Women's and Senior Men's Singles, Men's and Women's and Mixed Doubles. Play starts on the Friday of a long weekend with two team events, and concludes on the Bank Holiday Monday afternoon with the Individual finals. But there is much ceremony to the National Championships in addition to the play. The event actually gets underway on the Thursday evening with a reception for the players and officials, and this is followed by an official jury meeting for all provincial representatives. Team Managers also have a meeting to ensure that all rules and regulations are understood.

There is a staged Opening Ceremony when all teams march in smartly dressed in their Provincial Uniforms and carrying their flags and banners, and a Welcome speech made by a prominent figure in the province hosting the Championships. Following the finals of the team event, or at another appropriate time depending on the organization, there is a Provincial Dinner for all the teams, perhaps a disco too, plus staged finals and prize giving for the team and individual events, which usually attract television coverage. And there is a great deal of pride in representing one's province, even by the top players. It is an event to look forward to and back on.

There are obvious difficulties in Canada, the main one being in distance to be travelled, strength of some provinces compared to others, lack of trained officials and umpires in some areas, etc. But these have gradually been overcome and as necessary the Association adjusts the format to meet the need. The National Junior Championships are held over another long weekend, with much the same programme.

IN NEW ZEALAND

In New Zealand they have an even more ambitious National Championships run over a ten day period. The events include Inter-Association team events in Grades A and B, Men's Singles and Doubles, Women's Singles and Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Men over 35, 45, 55, Women over 35, 45 plus Men's and Women's Doubles over 45. There are Inter Association team events for Men and Women Under-18 and Boys and Girls Under-15, plus the whole range of events in

the age groups Under 18, 16, 14 and 12. Last year they had entries from 46 senior teams and 71 junior teams. And, like Canada, they produce a comprehensive programme containing all the draws, past records, articles and advertising. The players are keen and geared to take their holidays to play in the National Championships.

My suggestion is to stage a combined team and individual NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, providing a great opportunity to restore County pride and present a showcase of English Table Tennis which should attract county authorities, spectators, media coverage and sponsorship. It could be run during the Easter or Whitsun holidays for the Premier Divisions of the Senior and Junior County Championships (other divisions would continue to be played on a home and away basis or in group weekend competitions with winners qualifying for the Premier Division). Counties without premier division teams but with players in the ranking lists would gain eligibility for their players in the individual events and strong counties with more players in the ranking lists than needed for the teams would also be allowed extra individual competitors. Why should there not be some basic qualification for National Championships?

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Hopefully the Championships would be moved around the country each year, being hosted by the various counties. The cost of travel and accommodation, for currently it costs a player in the region of £100 to compete in the English Championships, would be shared by the County associations and players and I doubt if, with special rates obtained, this would amount to more than is currently being spent over a season.

I envisage an Opening Ceremony with marching music, teams dressed in their county colours and welcoming speeches; all participants invited to a county reception or dinner and busloads of supporters driving in to cheer their side on! Team matches are usually exciting and I believe that England is missing out in not utilizing this event to promote table tennis to the general public. Compared to other countries the travel should not present a problem, nor is there any lack of competent officials to run such an event. In fact, the running of National Championships in this manner would be positive training for the organizers of any future international event.

The foregoing has only touched on the proposal. There are, of course, many aspects to be considered and I would further suggest that the ETTA take a positive attitude about saving the traditional County Championships and obtain information from other countries and other sports who run National Championships along these lines and perhaps appoint a committee of interested persons to study the material and prepare a viable proposal. Ontario, for instance, made a 16 mm film of the National Championships held in Toronto in the mid-'70's which would make interesting viewing for such a committee, and I am sure there would be a great deal of other material available in order to consider something positive rather than bemoaning the current state of affairs.

JUNIOR EXCHANGE WITH SWEDISH CLUB

Solvesborgs Bordtennisklubb in Sweden wish to organise an exchange visit for a party of 15-20 juniors with an English Club for purposes of training, competition, etc. Their idea is for each visit to be for one week with the youngsters staying with families, during the coming summer. Any Club interested should contact Mr. Lasse Sundberg, Solvesborgs Bordtennisklubb, Box 105, 29401 Solvesborg, Sweden; telephone 456-280-00 (office) or 456-250-36 (home).

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

: NEW HORIZONS :

by JOSE RANSOME

Much has been written in the last few months about the effect on the County Championships through the introduction of the National League. It is a fact that England is located in Europe, and Club teams are part of the scene in Europe at this time, so much so that many of England's leading players have been lured to the Continent to the detriment of the "league" game in England. Realistically, the ETTA must try to keep pace with the times and provide the type of competition the players want.

However, on the other hand, Counties are by tradition organizational units, both from the table tennis and other sporting bodies viewpoint, and in local government. They