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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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HELPING HAND FROM JILL



Photo by courtesy of Les D'Arcy, Wakefield

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CORRIDORS OF POWER

Once more the clans are due to gather for a European Championships, this time the 13th, to be staged in Budapest, by the Hungarian Association, over the period April 17-25.

The resignation of Herr Jupp Schlaf as President of the European Table Tennis Union, following his departure as General Secretary of the Federal German Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund, will doubtless concern those with political ambitions.

It follows, therefore, a deal of lobbying will take place prior to the BGM which is scheduled for Thursday, April 22 and prior to Item 17 on the agenda which reads: "Election of Officers and Committee" followed by 18: "Election of Nominees to the ITTF Council — Tokyo 1983".

Other than the President, the other officer positions are Deputy President (Dr. G. Lakatos, Hungary), Hon. Treasurer (Henk van Dilst, Netherlands), the same forming the Executive Committee.

And beneath them a further seven administrators form the Management Committee each becoming Chairman of the various sub-committees.

As with the recent contest for the Chairmanship of the ETTA so it will be for all the foregoing positions on the ETTU and may the best man, or woman, win.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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On the International Front

by The Editor

YUGOSLAVIA CHAMPIONS —

DENMARK AND NORWAY PROMOTED

By virtue of a superior set analysis following their 6-1 win over Poland in Warsaw on March 10, Yugoslavia have pipped the defending champions, Hungary, for the championship of the Super Division of the European League.

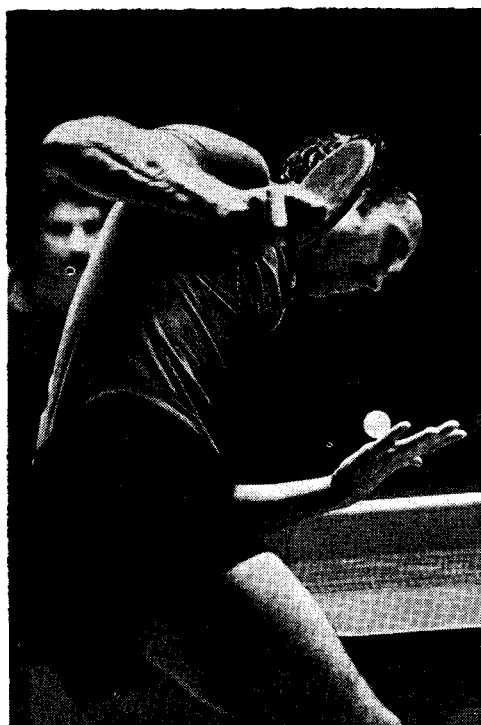
Spearheaded by their recently promoted Dragutin Surbek to the No. 1 position in the European rankings, Yugoslavia only slipped in the mixed doubles in Warsaw where Surbek and Branka Batinic lost to Andrzej Grubba and Jolanta Szatko.

SCORES

A. Grubba lost to D. Surbek 17, -12, -16;
S. Dryszel lost to Z. Kalinic -24, -18;
D. Calinska lost to B. Batinic -16, -12;
Dryszel/A. Jakubowicz lost to Kalinic/
Surbek -10, -15;
Grubba/J. Szatko bt Surbek/Batinic
-14, 15, 19;
Grubba lost to Kalinic -18, -17;
Dryszel lost to Surbek -15, -20.

Meantime in Budapest, Hungary were seeing off England to the tune of 5-2 but, as it happened, a 7-0 victory would not have been enough for them to retain their title so dramatically won against England in Ipswich last season.

On this most recent occasion only two



Yugoslavia's Dragutin Surbek who led his country to the championship of the European League's Super Division.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.



sets went England's way when, after Hungary had taken a 5-0 lead, Desmond Douglas beat Tibor Klampar and Paul Day accounted for Gabor Gergely.

SCORES

T. Klampar bt P. Day 18, 12;
G. Gergely bt D. Douglas -13, 16, 13;
J. Magos bt J. Hammersley 18, -17, 18;
Klampar/Z. Kriston bt Day/Douglas 10, 20;
Kriston/G. Szabo bt Douglas/L. Jarvis
12, -16, 9;
Klampar lost to Douglas -16, -9;
Gergely lost to Day 12, -18, -12.

At the other end of the scale France slipped to oblivion when Sweden beat them 4-3 in Kristianstad thus casting their visitors to relegation. Doomed before this encounter, having lacked the services of Jacques Secretin all season, wins for Christian Martin, over Jan-Ove Waldner, by Nadine Daviaud over Menni Weizades, and by Miss Daviaud and Bruno Parietti in the mixed counted for nought in the final analysis.

SCORES

E. Lindh bt C. Martin 14, -21, 18;
J-O. Waldner bt P. Birocheau 14, -17, 21;
M. Weizades lost to N. Daviaud -12, -17;
U. Bengtsson/Lindh bt Birocheau/
B. Parietti 20, 20;
Lindh/Weizades lost to Parietti/Daviaud
-16, -25;
Lindh bt Birocheau 12, -20, 18;
Waldner lost to Martin 8, -19, -20.

Like France, with only one win to their name, Federal Germany were beaten for a sixth time at home to Czechoslovakia in the Hanauerland Halle, Willstatt. 6-1 was the scoreline in favour of the Czechs whose only defeat was incurred in the women's singles when Ursula Kamizuru beat Marie Hrachova 22-20 in the third.

SCORES

R. Wosik lost to J. Pansky -13, -10;
E. Hugging lost to M. Orlovski -15, 15, -14;
U. Kamizuru bt M. Hrachova -14, 10, 20;
P. Engel/Wosik lost to Orlovski/Pansky
-14, -17;
Wosik/Kamizuru lost to Pansky/Hrachova
15, -21, -20;
Wosik lost to Orlovski 18, -16, -16;
Hugging lost to Pansky 14, -14, -18.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Yugoslavia	7	6	1	33	16	6
Hungary *	7	6	1	30	19	6
Czechoslovakia	7	4	3	30	19	4
Sweden	6	3	3	23	19	3
England	6	3	3	22	20	3
Poland †	5	2	3	16	19	2
Federal Germany	7	1	6	17	32	1
France	7	1	6	11	38	1

* Defending champions † Promotees

Unable to get the necessary visas allowing them to come and engage England in a match arranged to be played at the Concord Leisure Centre, Sheffield on March 17, Poland have also an unplayed fixture away to Sweden. It is now unlikely, with neither a championship or a relegation

issue at stake, that these two matches will be played. But this will be confirmed in Budapest during the 13th European Championships when the Executive and Management committees next meet.

DANES BRING HOME THE BACON

Beating Greece 5-2 in Athens (no score sheet yet received) Denmark have won promotion from Division 1, and this having been promoted from Division 2 the previous season! The Danish success coincided with the shock result from Helmond where the Netherlands, in a reversed fixture, beat the Soviet Union 4-3 and this despite being without Bettine Vrieskoop the Top 12 winner!

SCORES in Helmond were:

I. Solopov bt P. Swier -11, 15, 16;
I. Podnosov lost to H. van Spanje -21, -17;
V. Bulatova bt S. de Kruiff -17, 16, 15;
M. Ovcharov/Podnosov lost to R. van Spanje/A. Vlieg -18, -22;
Ovcharov/V. Popova lost to Swier/de Kruiff -9, -19;
Solopov lost to H. van Spanje -17, 14, -19;
Podnosov bt Swier -20, 11, 12.

Elsewhere, in Enna, Austria beat Italy 5-2 but Greece go down.

SCORES in Enna were:

G. Bisi lost to G. Bar -8, 15, -13;
M. Costantini bt E. Amplatz -21, 13, 17;
A. Bottiglieri lost to D. Fetter -10, -11;
Bisi/Costantini lost to Amplatz/G. Muller 18, -9, -17;
Costantini/Bottiglieri lost to Muller/Fetter 16, -11, -13;
Bisi lost to Amplatz -14, -14;
Costantini bt Bar 14, 15.

DIVISION 1

(Final Table)

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Denmark *	6	5	1	28	14	5
Soviet Union †	6	4	2	30	12	4
Finland	6	4	2	25	17	4
Netherlands	6	4	2	24	18	4
Austria	6	2	4	18	24	2
Italy	6	1	5	13	29	1
Greece	6	1	5	9	33	1

* Promotees † Demotees

N.B. Bulgaria withdrawn.

TIGHT FINISH

It is likely, following the withdrawal of Bulgaria and the relegation of Greece, that both Norway, the champions, and Belgium, the runners-up, will be promoted from Division 2 for next season.

Norway completed an unblemished record away to Switzerland in Kaiseraugst with a 4-3 victory accomplished in the final set when Tom Johansen beat Martin Hafen.

SCORES

T. Busin bt T. Johansen 16, 16;
M. Hafen bt P. Guttormsen -21, 18, 19;
Brutsch lost to T. Folkesson -16, -15;
Hafen/Renold lost to Guttormsen/Johansen -17, -12;
Busin/Witte lost to Johansen/Folkesson -13, -15;
Busin bt Guttormsen 13, 14;
Hafen lost to Johansen -15, -16.

Meanwhile Belgium away to Spain in Reus won 5-2 with Remo De Prophetis supplying two singles, Thierry Cabrera one, and Barbara Lippens one.

SCORES

J.M. Pales lost to T. Cabrera 22, -15, -20;
Y. Caymel lost to R. De Prophetis -16, -19;
P. Lupon lost to B. Lippens -8, -13;
Caymel/Pales bt Cabrera/De Prophetis 16, 19;
Caymel/Lupon lost to D. Leroy/Lippens -14, -6;
Pales lost to De Prophetis -17, 14, -19;
Caymel bt Cabrera 23, -18, 21.

Scotland hauled themselves well clear of the relegation zone with successive victories over Wales (4-3) and more recently over Ireland (6-1) to finish in a creditable fourth position with poor old Ireland taking the

wooden spoon down into Division 3 to be replaced by Turkey. In their final match, at home to Luxembourg, Ireland were beaten 4-3.

DIVISION 2

(Final Table)

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Norway	7	7	0	37	12	7
Belgium	7	6	1	36	13	6
Spain	7	4	3	27	22	4
Scotland *	7	4	3	24	25	4
Luxembourg †	7	4	3	21	28	4
Switzerland	7	2	5	22	27	2
Wales *	7	1	6	18	31	1
Ireland	7	0	7	11	38	0

* Promotees † Demotees

Disabled and Able-bodied Coaching Project

by Les D'Arcy

Jill Hammersley and Donald Parker, National Coach (North), were two of the guests who took part in a coaching and T.T. exhibition organised to integrate disabled and able-bodied players and coaches at the Ings Road T.T. Coaching Centre on March 7.

The event, which was supported by the Yorkshire TTA and the Wakefield TTL was organised by Mr. Owen Atkinson, coach in charge of the Centre and his wife Shiela, Yorkshire TTA Coaching Secretary, in conjunction with myself, Yorkshire TTA, P.R.O.

The main objective of the morning session was to involve disabled and able-bodied players in a joint coaching session led by local coaches John Arnold and Roden Fullen. This was followed by a demonstration of basic strokes and an exhibition of table tennis by Mrs. Hammersley and Don Parker.

Two top class disabled players: Billy Leake, team bronze medalist in the 1976 Paraplegic Olympics, and David Hope, Yorkshire League Div. 1 player and international umpire, took part in the exhibitions: David v Jill and Billy v Donald.

This was a great boost for the young disabled players present who soon realised that it was possible to play table tennis to a very high standard — in spite of major disabilities.

In the afternoon session advanced players were given a demonstration of advanced strokes and an exhibition by Jill and Don which held the audience spell-bound. Jill made one incredible retrieve after another from Don's all-out attack and finished some rallies by running in from deep to backhand flick several winners.

Final session of the day was a coaching seminar for Yorkshire and Humberside coaches, impressively taken by the National Coach, Kirklees Sports Assn. for the Disabled officials, Jacque Barnes and Judy Burke, took an active part in some of the activities and exchange of ideas which could soon be fruitful.

The organisers, who were delighted with the success of this first venture of able-bodied and disabled integration, wish to record their thanks to the players, coaches and refreshment officials: Mrs. Margaret Arnold and Mrs. Doreen O'Keefe with an extra vote of thanks to Jill Hammersley and Donald Parker who somehow found the time, in their busy schedules, to entertain and instruct us with their special brand of magic which will have inspired some of the young players — and the not so young for years to come.

Cover Picture

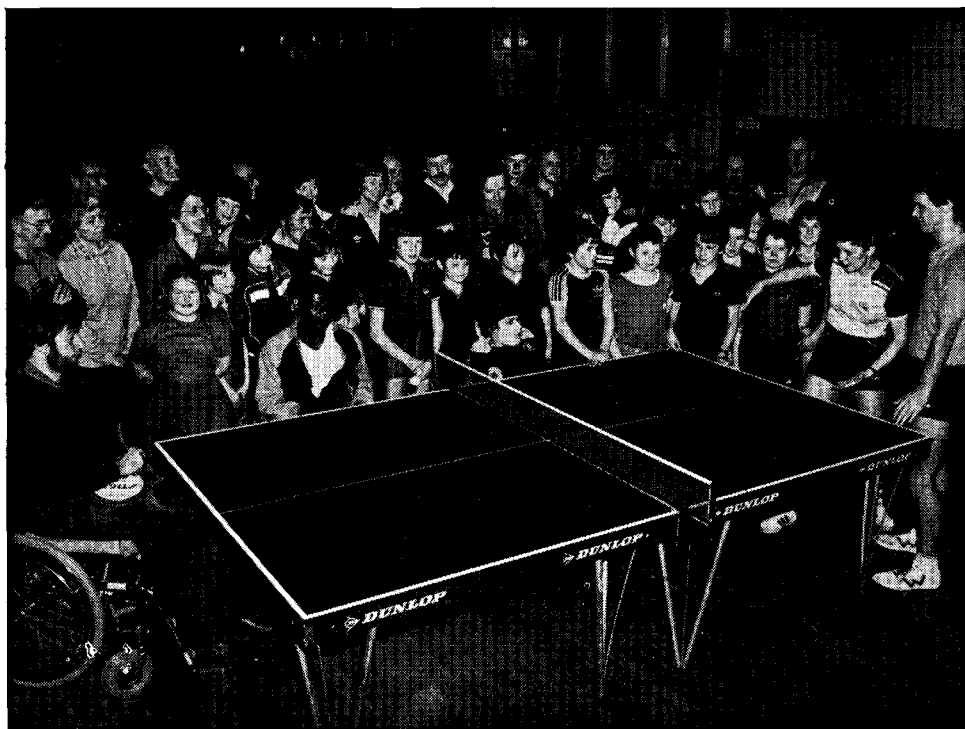
Able-bodied friends look on as Jonathan Burke, Yorkshire's junior disabled table tennis champion, receives coaching from Jill Hammersley at Wakefield's Ings Road Coaching Centre in a project for disabled and able-bodied — which was a great success.

Iris Moss reports from . . .

MIDDLESEX

BRIDGE SPANNED

So after a break of 11 years, Middlesex have once again won the Premier Division of the County Championships. I had a



Billy Leake, Wakefield, bronze medal, Paraplegic Olympics 1976) team event) receiving from Jill Hammersley. Donald Parker far right.

phone call during the morning of Sunday Feb. 28 from an ebullient Len Pilditch to say that having beaten Warwickshire and Lancashire (and with Cheshire having failed to arrive) our team was leading 5-0 against Berkshire. In fact our team beat their fellow contenders for the title by 9-0, the best result they had in any match.

If ever a County won the Championship through team spirit, Middlesex did so this season. Our "second strings" having fought like mad to win their matches over the first week-end, our stronger team went out for the second week-end determined that they would not let down their colleagues and they carried off the trophy in grand style. Our congratulations and thanks go to the 8 players who between them made up our two winning teams.

Although our other teams have done well, it does not appear that they have brought home any "cups".

This season, because we had difficulty in finding a suitable week-end for the Middlesex Closed, we played the Senior and Junior events over two week-ends, which also enabled us to introduce Cadet events. Although our top-ranked senior players were unable (or unwilling) to take part in our Closed Championships, both week-ends went off well with about 100 players competing in each.

The winners and runners-up were:-
Winners: Runners-up:
Men's Singles: T. Stark. E. Gorniak.
Women's Singles: S. Prowen. S. Adamson.
Men's Doubles: J. McCance/N. Stratton.
 W. Brookman/I. Graham.

Women's Doubles: L. Lloyd/Prowen. K. Nunn/L. Souter.
Mixed Doubles: M. Close/M. Symes. I. Graham/Adamson.
Men's Veteran Singles: Brookman. J. R. Smith.
Women's Veteran Singles: E. Britton. Symes.
Boys' Singles: Gorniak. D. Goode.
Girls' Singles: L. Goldsmith. M. Williams.
Boys' Doubles: M. Hall/N. Tyler. D. & J. Goode.
Girls' Doubles: Goldsmith/Williams. R. & Y. Knight.
Junior Mixed Doubles: Tyler/Goldsmith. D. Topiwala/Williams.
Cadet Boys' Singles: J. Goode. K. King.
Cadet Girls' Singles: R. Knight. Souter.
Cadet Boys' Doubles: P. Szekeres/D. Rawlings.
 J. Mansfield/J. O'Connor.
Cadet Girls' Doubles: K. Baker/Souter. R. Knight/R. Skinner.

THE INNER GAME OF TABLE TENNIS

by DAVID FAIRHOLM
 National Coach

During my year as an enthusiastic young club coach back in the early seventies, my Wednesday evenings were spent in an Army social club just outside the historic town of Newark.

The standard varied from pure novice to modest, the ages from fifteen to fifty with both sexes being represented.

It was a social evening really with the order of emphasis being a. exercise, b. fun, and c. learning.

After a period of about six months one

of the members who was a middle age lady approached me.

She sighed, 'I love table tennis, especially when you're coaching, you're so explicit, so precise, so articulate. Every little detail is covered from head to toe.'

'The trouble is when I concentrate on my bat angle I forget about my feet. I'm conscious about bending my knees then mis-time the ball. I position my feet the correct distance apart, but not my elbow from my body, then it all goes wrong. I must be a bad student'.

I asked myself, is she a bad student? She is fairly well co-ordinated — with an obvious ball sense. What was her problem? Is she a bad student? or could it be that I'm a bad coach?

I came away that evening rather confused, deciding that a thorough investigation into my coaching methods was a matter of urgency.

When I sat and reviewed the techniques I employed in teaching, it didn't take me too long to realise where I was going wrong.

I thought back to our lady in Newark. What I had already done was absolutely confused her, she had been told more than was necessary, more than she could take in. She was being taught 'blackboard Table Tennis' all mind and theory, and too much at that.

If I was to be totally honest she would have fared far better without any formal tuition. She would have picked it up quite naturally, I'm sure!

Yet then I was only admitting to a problem, which is a beginning, not really the beginning of the end, more an end to the beginning. I must search for the answers or rather some of them.

A couple of years later the then National Coach Peter Simpson presented a lecture at a coaches' refresher course titled 'Mental Practice'.

He spoke of a different and new way of learning and relearning; he said that we could learn from images, good sharp images. We would observe a stroke or sequence, then replay it in our mind's eye time and time again, until we could close our eyes and see a perfect action replay.

Then we would perform the task first shadow-like then with a ball.

Typically, 70% dismissed the theory at source, without a rhyme without reason. Or was the reason, which in my opinion, why so many coaches fall down, psychologically their saying 'It doesn't suit me therefore it won't suit my pupils'.

I wasn't going to let it rest, it was new, it was exciting, I would search for the truth.

Plenty of water had passed under the bridge when the coaching areas amalgamated and became regions.

During that transformation period, we inherited a new National Coach namely Peter Hirst.

Peter's opening remarks when addressing the coaches of the regions were very punchy and precise. He stressed the need for keeping it simple, he said we must simplify learning making it idiot proof for both coaches and players.

Peter with his revolutionary 'nine point teaching plan' went on to describe the methods working around the nine points how we really can simplify learning, and let's be honest, it really does work! My outlook on coaching was now changing by the day.

In the wake of the '77 World Championships the then aspiring Donald Parker wrote a brilliant report on physiology in the 'World Study Group Manual'. Don concluded his article with a list of books for further reference.

One of these bore the title 'Acquiring Ball Skill' which made a fair impact on me. Especially the paragraph in which it stated that on average we are not capable of learning more than three things at any one time. This took me right back to those early days in Newark and my infamous novice. I was giving her an absolute galaxy of information to absorb and to perform. Yes the jig-saw was beginning to take shape.

The completion came, the final piece in the form of a TV transmission titled 'The Inner Game of Tennis', the theory seemed to connect all the incidentals together, a complete way of teaching, not THE way, A way.

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One of the beauties of the IG is its versatility for both young and old from novice to expert, can be taught both in group or on an individual basis.

I followed the film up with the book, and have this to reveal.

What is the Inner Game?

Although we may not be aware two games take place every time we go to the table. An outer game played with our external opponent, with its external goals, including physical skills and instructions which are somehow easier to remember than to execute. But there is an inner game as well, it takes place in the mind and is played against such elusive opponents as nervousness, self-doubt and lapse of concentration.

As we know we are playing well we don't worry how and when we are going to play the next ball, concentration becomes effortless and our conscious self doesn't interfere, the mind is quiet. So just to simplify things consider the mind as self 1 and self 2 the body.

The basic aim of the IG is to unite self one with self two. The mind then if united (self one) would simply have the job of observing the outer game this being the application of tactics and the tactical situation. Self two (the body) simply is left to perform the task.

The IG helps us to build up concentration, an essential ingredient to sport and every day life. When we ask ourselves or one another to concentrate, what are we really saying.

Concentration is the awareness of now, nothing more nothing less.

To put this into perspective, during a table tennis match we're so busy thinking about the point we've just won or lost, fear we might lose, wondering whether our next loop will be as good or as bad as our last. Possibly 'now' is the last thing on our minds.

What is the Inner Game used for

The IG basically simplifies learning, we are natural learners and we all have a ball game potential. The IG helps us to achieve that potential in a child like fashion. It will amplify the usage of our three senses connected with Table Tennis, Sound, Sight, and Touch.

The IG will teach us concentration, erase bad habits, it will help us to learn and re-learn in a more spontaneous relaxed manner.

As children we used a similar method to the IG when first learning to walk and talk, before the self-conscious habits of learning had a chance to disruptively settle in.

How do we teach the Inner Game

Basically we're teaching two things, one is concentration, the other is the uniting of self one and self two.

We will begin by looking at self one.

Self One is the mind, the teller, the critic, the balley, the judge and the jury. Very egoistic, full of praise and in doing so normally breaks up concentration. He doesn't trust self two at all, he is continually assessing every move the body makes and more often than not is likely to stunt any rhythmic pattern that may have developed.

Self Two is the body, the real expert, along with his senses can perform almost anything within reason. Just for the purpose of experiment place a weighted object in either hand, without any formal tuition in mathematics it will give you answer to which is the heaviest. Try another, close your eyes and contort yourself into any conceivable position. Again without any help what so ever, the computer mechanism in the body will inform you exactly where every component is, in relation with one another.

There's thousands of other marvellous natural wonders the body is capable of without any help or interference from the mind.

The body is the doer, unthinking and spontaneous, a natural corrector of errors, capable of additions, subtractions, adjustments, purely by observation if relaxed and allowed.

Concentration

As said previously, is the awareness of now and not the tensing up of all the muscle groups. A relaxed form of concentration, is to be savoured and enjoyed.

Life can be so much nearer to fulfilment just by appreciating now.

The method I adopt when putting the IG into practise is this one:

1. I begin with a slightly heavier than usual warm up. As well as the usual benefits of a warm up, it will take away the feeling of restlessness which in turn will help relaxation and concentration.

The players are then instructed to lie on their backs and obtain comfort. To avoid external distractions they are encouraged to close their eyes. The coach then authorises his instructions with a 30 second pause between each. He commences in isolation with the head he informs his pupils to concentrate on relaxing their head, and their head only. The same procedure is carried throughout the body in this order: 1 head, 2 neck and shoulders, 3 chest and arms, 4 back and stomach, 5 legs and calf with the relevant 30 sec. pause between each one.

The players then are to relax the whole body and concentrate solely on their breathing for a period of two minutes. Maybe matching their breath in rhythmic fashion with the edge of the sea, rushing to the sands and retreating back to the sea.

2. When the two minutes expire the players normally feeling clearer in mind and body, are given an image of the stroke they are to perform, for a two minute period.

During that two minutes, the players close their eyes at frequent intervals, listening only to the ball and trying to match it up with a mental picture of the task being performed. Then by opening their eyes, they can check and recheck, to see they have obtained that picture.

In fact if breakdowns occur, always revert back to method 2. Remember images are better than words, the sight is stronger than the sound. Ask yourself how many coaches get so wrapped up in their adjectives, they forget or don't intend showing the pupil the task ahead.

3. Practical

The player now attempts the stroke, first in shadow form, from his mental picture.

The point must be stressed that when the coach identifies continual breakdown it's back to number 2.

The player is now ready for table play. Ideally the feed to be 'multiball' or 'robot' but it's not essential.

The coach describes nothing as good, bad, right or wrong; praise and criticism are evaded, the ego mind isn't knocked over or erected, he simply observes the situation for what it is.

Let is a key word; our player must let it happen and let the body learn, have confidence in thyself.

Conscious efforts at this stage will only cause tenseness and hesitant play, again if the coach spots this, it's back to number 2.

With practice the unconscious body will correct, quite naturally in a flowing fashion.

There's nothing magical, no twists. Learning simply becomes child like. Our player at this stage doesn't notice his or her improvement and quite rightly so, if he is beginning to master the IG. By now his

only formal verbal instruction, is to focus his concentration on the ball, and then to try to read the name on the ball, whilst in motion. Two reasons for doing this:

1. to sidetrack the mind from the body's activities.
2. concentration becomes easier when we have something, say an object, to concentrate on.

The next line of progression, when ready and only when ready is that of feelmages. One player is made aware of the feel of the racket, the feel of the ball, the feel when they come into contact with each other. Isn't it true to say we feel a good shot? We know the moment the ball grips the racket whether it's right or wrong.

Learning will remain relaxed which is a pleasure in itself, also one can practise for longer periods as this is a form of none pressure practice.

My own experience in the teaching of the IG have been alarming to put it mildly.

On a number of occasions novices have portrayed the near perfect stroke without any verbal instructions, others need minor adjustments and some it just hasn't worked. Over the few years though, I can honestly say it has worked for me as a coach. It is another string to my bow, another dimension in coaching.

To help you achieve a better understanding into the IG. The feeling is that of the tune your playing well your 15-3 up in the second after winning the first.

Everything you attempt comes off, the ball seems as big as a football, you fail to notice anybody or anything in the room. You don't doubt or question yourself, you simply enjoy it while it lasts and anything you attempt comes off. For that period in time you were playing the IG.

On the other side of the coin there are those days when your opponent seems to do everything right.

If this happens tell him what a marvellous loop he has got, ask him how he does it, do it when you change ends. When he becomes aware and thinks about it, the odds are that it will stop working for him.

The IG has come through the teething stages without scars, so far it has stood the test of time.

Household names such as Arthur Ashe, Dave Hemery and Tony Jacklin have all experienced success with the IG.

To those who doubt, I put the ball back into your own court and ask you this. Explain to me the dividing line between riding a bicycle and not being able to, or when you acquired your first strokes in swimming, what was it preventing you from doing so before. I believe it was the IG, remember, the one played against self-doubt, nervousness and hesitancy.

I believe as coaches we must search down every avenue, look up every street. We cannot afford to assume or take anything for granted. I feel a big mistake we make in coaching is that we expect and sometimes demand that our players fit the programme.

Shouldn't we really try and fit the programme, to suit the players?

The IG may hold nothing for you, but for your players it might — and there's only one way you can tell:

My lady from Newark — well — she no longer plays the game, had the IG been around then, who knows? She may still be playing now.

Let me say this though, her efforts were not in vain, she alone has left an engrain memory that will stay with me for ever.

One of the biggest impacts in my coaching career, that the methods I adopt must suit the player. My lady from Newark or anyone else, shouldn't have to suit the methods.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IDEA SUPPORTED

In response to Ken Muhr's letter in the March issue of Table Tennis News regarding the promotion of Table Tennis to unemployed youngsters and adults, I would like to support his ideas and also take the opportunity of expressing some of my own.

As a junior, many moons ago, all my energies and leisure time were spent playing table tennis. At that time I derived enormous benefits and skills, which were not obvious to me then. On reflection I realise how valuable those benefits and skills were to enable me to cope with life, not least of which was how to integrate and make friends with people from a very wide cross section. Participation in sport offers tremendous advantages, both physically and mentally. It enables an individual to develop qualities and skills which are a necessary prerequisite for living and coping with life generally.

I, therefore, feel very sorry for some of the youth today who are unable not only to find work, but are also restricted in their leisure activities. How are they to learn?

Would it not be possible for the ETTA to make a worthwhile and valuable contribution to alleviating the plight of the unemployed by taking an initiative? It could organise and set up schemes whereby facilities could be provided for playing table tennis during the day time. Maybe a day-time league. As a result of moves in this direction, it could mean the start of an upsurge of interest in table tennis as a whole.

JACKIE REDFERN,

113 Wood Lane,
Isleworth,
Middx.

OVER TO YOU VINCE!!

Table Tennis News No. 124 January 1982
Vince Hankey reports from Cheshire

Quote . . . "What's wrong with Cheshire? From past Champions to a no-win weekend in the Premier Division County Championships . . . One thing certain, the next Premier County weekend will be different, wins by opposition counties will be over dead bodies".

Table Tennis News No 126 March 1982
County Championships Round-up

Quote . . . "There was a sensation before play started when Cheshire decided not to come across the Pennines and conceded their place in the Premier Division".

Over to you Vince!!

JOHN CROWTHER,

3 Hill Drive,
Handforth,
Wilmslow, Cheshire.

DRAW SEEDING IN JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

How often have keen youngsters joined the tournament circuit with the intention of gaining valuable playing experience against a variety of styles and players, some travelling with their coaches or parents considerable distances in all weathers with all the expense and tiredness this entails?

Then, when they arrive they find, after seeing the draw, that they might just as well have stayed home because they are drawn to play their club-mate or own county player in the first round.

I know that it is not always practicable, but I would appeal to all tournament organisers in the interests of competition to take a closer look at the entries they receive

which, in some cases, will give county or regional ranking to help them arrange seeding, and also consider the results of previous tournaments in their areas where the same competitors took part.

This I feel would help to promote a feeling of fairness amongst the youngsters who are, after all, the future of table tennis.

A. G. CAREY,
Somerset Press Officer,

10 Waterloo Close,
Puriton,
Nr. Bridgwater,
Somerset.

OPEN LETTER TO EDDIE BROWN

I was delighted to read (somewhat belatedly) about your being under the spotlight in Table Tennis News in January. You may not remember me but I was your opponent in the Manchester Closed veterans' singles final in 1957. I was playing very well at the time and got through to the final in fine style.

I was quite confident I was going to win but I did not know about your bat — thick sponge rubber. Hard as I tried I was completely baffled and you won, depriving me of what would have been the peak of my career(?).

Next season, following your example, I played with a thick sponge bat. This improved my performance quite considerably — until it was banned!

You will be pleased to know that I am still playing (in the Worthing League this season) and enter the occasional tournament, though not with your success. The only seasons I have missed were the war years (1940/45) so I still have some way to go to catch up with you.

My first season (after your first) was 1936 or 1937 in the Manchester League, 2nd Division, and I am only 68 (younger than you). So I am trailing behind you all the way; nevertheless I will endeavour to keep going as you do. My best wishes to you for the future and if, perhaps, I am in Manchester sometime, we could have a replay of that 1957 Vets final!

DENNIS S. CLARE,

40 Pentlands Rise,
Steyning, West Sussex,
BN4 3PJ.

P.S. The next time I was in the Vets final it was against Benny Casofsky and possibly you could guess the result!!

STAMPING FARCE

At that controversial English Junior Closed of the Hammond/Scruton incident one could also note a strong and determined, anti-stamping drive which event I, not a stamping enthusiast, thought went a little far as pale-faced children felt haunted by the fear of expulsion. Not only combination bat twiddlers were censored, but conventional players with Srivier 2mm on both sides, who surely had nothing to disguise by stamping. I thought, quite frankly, that some officials overdid things a bit.

Imagine my surprise then at a later Senior Tournament when, still outside the hall, I could hear what I took as the tom-tom of jungle drums. As I entered the arena I realized that a stamping epidemic had broken out, not very noisy at first as competitors stamped quietly to test reactions, reaching new crescendos as it became obvious that we were in a stamping zone. Even the presence of an injured stamper, his leg heavily bandaged, failed to deter the still uninjured stampers.

So loud, insistent and regular was the stamping that, echoing Bob Hope on another topic, I could not help remarking:

'Let's get out of here before they make it compulsory'.

Whether stamping is good or bad you can have two opinions about, but what cannot be right is such a determined anti-stamping stance at junior level and such a leniency at senior level. That is not the way officials will earn the respect of the young, nor in the end of the old and the last thing our Sport needs in the face of so many other problems is to make itself look ridiculous.

JOHN PREAN,

12 Marlborough Road,
Kyde, Isle of Wight,
PO33 1AA.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by David Lomas

Honours were evenly shared when the Finals of the National School Team Championships (organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association and sponsored by Stiga (U.K.) Ltd.) took place at Lea Green Centre, Matlock, Derbyshire on Saturday, March 20th.

Leading a trio of schools who added to previous titles were The Grove School, Market Drayton. They won the Girls' U-16 (Mick Betts Memorial Cup) and U-13 (Hartshill Cup) events whilst Wold Junior High School, Hull regained the Girls' U-11 title. Goff's School, Cheshunt were the only team to retain a title when their strong quartet led by Sarah Sandley won the Claud Kichenside Cup (Girls' U-19).

But in addition to former winners there were some new names to be engraved on the trophies. The victories by local teams Dronfield Junior (Boys' U-11) and Tupton Hall (Boys' U-16) were warmly applauded by an appreciative audience headed by the Chairman of Derbyshire County Council, Councillor S. Collins. It is the first time that Derbyshire schools have pulled off two victories in the same year.

The senior (Boys' U-19) title went to a Lincolnshire school for the first time when King's School, Grantham "poached" the Norman Cook Cup in an unusual contest where each team won one match and lost one. Superior sets ratio saw them through even though they lost to Bournemouth School for Boys.

Although the finals have always been well supported by parents and others I certainly got the impression this year that there was more than the usual number of spectators present. The standard of play in the younger events was very encouraging and there were some close encounters which certainly meant that some of the less experienced players were up against pressures which were new.

Market Drayton Junior School had to be content with two runners-up spots in the Under-11 events. No prizes for guessing the team with the greatest charisma: Orwell Park Boys' Under-11 team finished third and then took a plane back to Ipswich! Their coach, Peter Mornard, thought he had an insurmountable problem when he discovered that his responsibilities as producer of the school play might rule him out of the Finals. But in stepped a parent with an anonymous offer of hiring a plane. Peter flew to Castle Donnington on Saturday morning and then took the team back by plane on Saturday afternoon.

Thanks are extended to all who made the day such a success; in particular thanks to the Staff at Lea Green led by the Principal, Peter Townend.

The awards for the best individual performances went to Alan Cooke (Tupton Hall B. U-16) and Alison Evans (Wold G. U-13).

RESULTS

Boys' U-19

- KING'S GRANTHAM** (Lincolnshire)
(Christopher Bryan, Simon Pullen, Nigel Edley, Peter Chalk).
 - Bournemouth School for Boys (Dorset)
(Mark Werner, Rodney Thomas, Raymond Fairhall, Matthew Poulson).
 - Stepney Green, Bow (Inner London)
(Alan Atkins, Chris Herbert, Kevin King, Lee Noakes)
- King's 6 Stepney Green 2
Stepney Green 5 Bournemouth 3
Bournemouth 5 King's 3

Girls' U-19

- GOFF'S, CHESHUNT** (Hertfordshire)
(Sarah Sandley, Alison Boxall, Caroline Boxall, Christine Muskett)
 - equal Buttershaw Upper, Bradford (West Yorkshire)
(Julie Todd, Julie Stocks, Rachel Beaumont, Tanya Pinter, Caroline Stocks)
 - equal Colton Hills, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
(Fiona Elliot, Gillian Evans, Alison Evans, Ruth Howard)
- Goff's 6 Colton Hills 2
Colton Hills 4 Buttershaw 4
Buttershaw 2 Goff's 6

Boys' U-16

- TUPTON HALL, CHESTERFIELD** (Derbyshire)
(Alan Cooke, Andrew Henry, Chris Clay, Chris Glossop)
 - Rutlish High, Merton (Surrey Met.)
(Andrew Sexton, Neil Sutton, Martin Jones, Melville Taylor)
 - Exmouth (Devon)
(Gary Lambert, Mark Ellett, Francis Treece, Martin Carder)
- Tupton Hall 5 Rutlish 3
Rutlish 5 Exmouth 3
Exmouth 4 Tupton Hall 4

Girls' U-16

- THE GROVE, MARKET DRAYTON** (Shropshire)
(Alison Barker, Carol Wickstead, Denise Boughey, Nicola Thorneycroft)
 - Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Met.)
(Jane Billings, Karen Alder, Gillian Patten, Joanne Chandler, Janice Deal)
 - Tupton Hall, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
(Tracey Golding, Mandy West, Sarah Padley, Debbie Holmes)
- Tupton Hall 3 Brampton Manor 5
The Grove 7 Tupton Hall 1
Brampton Manor 0 The Grove 8

Boys' U-13

- BEDFORD MODERN** (Bedfordshire)
(Andrew Trott, Gavin Black, Nicholas Apps, Nigel Ali)
 - Bury Grammar (Gtr. Manchester)
(Simon Brown, Lee Brown, Ian Thorpe, Christopher Allen)
 - The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
(Stephen Morrison, Ian Corcoran, Adrian Birchall, Ian Stanworth, Peter Renouf)
- Bury 5 The Grove 3
The Grove 2 Bedford Modern 6
Bedford Modern 7 Bury 1

Girls' U-13

- THE GROVE, MARKET DRAYTON** (Shropshire)
(Dawn Wickstead, Julie Bloore, Stephanie Thorneycroft, Jeanette Roberts)
 - Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)
(Alison Evans, Ruth Bray, Kathryn Bray, Jill Fewlass, Ann Boanas)
 - Stanford Middle, Norbury (Surrey Met.)
(Sharwiz Rasheed, Joanna Binks, Catherine Binks, Maxine Hill)
- The Grove 7 Stanford 1
Stanford 2 Wold 6
Wold 3 The Grove 5

Boys' U-11

- DRONFIELD JUNIOR** (Derbyshire)
(Richard Francis, Neil Cooper, Julian Watts, Stephen Hawley)



Girls' U-19 winners: **GOFF'S SCHOOL, CHESHUNT** (Herts). 1 to r: Christine Muskett, Caroline Boxall, Sarah Sandley, Alison Boxall, with Brian Hearn (Director, Stiga U.K. Ltd.). Photo by John O'Sullivan.

- Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)
(Peter Giles, Brian Mansell, Neil Martin, Steven Eaton)
- Orwell Park, Ipswich (Suffolk)
(William Rowe, Charles Foster, Alastair Shaw, Rupert Thompson)
- Orwell Park 1 Market Drayton 7
Dronfield 6 Orwell Park 2
Market Drayton 2 Dronfield 6

Girls' U-11

- WOLD JUNIOR HIGH, HULL** (Humberside)
(Paula Hooken, Rachel Metcalfe, Kerry Jackson, Deborah Leyland)
 - Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)
(Rebecca Pitt, Vicki Boyd, Joanne Dyke, Sharon Edwards)
 - Ramridge Junior, Luton (Bedfordshire)
(Hazel Lawrence, Caroline Imber, Sarra Odell, Amanda Cotterill)
- Wold 6 Market Drayton 2
Market Drayton 5 Ramridge 3
Ramridge 2 Wold 6

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN and TREASURER for E.T.T.A. - SEASON 1982/83

CHAIRMAN:

T. BLUNN 205 votes (110 papers) **ELECTED**
L. Hoffman 120 votes (62 papers) not elected

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

G. R. YATES unopposed **ELECTED**

TREASURER:

A. DRAPKIN unopposed **ELECTED**

The Electoral Register contains 339 electors, a total of 613 votes.

183 ballot papers were received by the due date, Thursday 1st April, 1982, of which 11 were held by the Scrutineers to be invalid.

The elected officers take this opportunity to thank those counties and leagues who nominated and cast votes for them.

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PLEASE QUOTE TABLE TENNIS NEWS IN REPLYING

LEICESTERSHIRE CLOSED

HECTIC EVENT AND INCONCLUSIVE

by Philip Reid

The 50th Leicestershire Closed, staged at the Granby Halls resulted in a hectic time for Organiser Ian McKelvey and his committee, eleven hours on twelve tables being insufficient to conclude the event.

Big shock was in the Cadet Singles where the diminutive Michael Gillet, unseeded, removed Mark Laywood (No. 3) and Joanne Murray (No. 2) before ousting top seed Paul Henry in straight games.

The hard bat singles produced a shock winner in veteran Philip Overend who defeated Maurice Newman, himself earlier involved in a titanic struggle with Chris Rogers. The Girls' singles produced a winner in Yvonne Hall who has thus taken the title five years - an incredible record in this event.

Phil Powell won the veterans' singles in a long battle with Bryan Hall whilst Karen Smith sailed through the women's singles and doubles (with Eileen Shaler). The Junior and Intermediate singles were won by top seeds, Simon Griew and Martin Pickles respectively.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

C. Rogers bt S. Kenney 16, 10;

K. Fellows bt G. Hall 19, 19.

Final:

Rogers bt Fellows 14, 13.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Smith bt J. Heath 14, 9;

Y. Hall bt J. Heath 16, 15.

Final:

Smith bt Hall 14, 18.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Iliffe/Rogers bt Fellows/Wilford 15, 7;

Hall/Newman bt Kenny/Smith 19, -19, 9.

Women's Doubles Final:

E. Shaler/Smith bt S. & Y. Hall 17, 6.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Fellows/Heath bt Hall/S. Hall -18, 19, 17.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

C. Jones bt S. Wilford 11, 15;

S. Griew bt D. Aldwinckle 19, -21, 14.

Final:

Griew bt Jones 9, 5.

Girls' Singles Final:

Y. Hall bt Heath 6, 7.

Consolation Singles Semi-finals:

P. Henry bt Miss T. Clark 16, 21;

M. Gillet bt Miss J. Murray 17, 21.

Final:

Gillet bt Henry 17, 21.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

P. Powell bt A. Wilson 15, 17;

B. Hall bt B. Thompson 11, 14.

Final:

Powell bt Hall -17, 11, 17.

Intermediate Singles Semi-finals:

M. Pickles bt Aldwinckle 11, 8;

B. Grant bt Griew 19, 9.

Final:

Pickles bt Grant 18, 13.

Junior Doubles Final:

Griew/Miss Hall bt Wilford/Miss Heath 14, -12, 15.

Hard Bat Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Newman bt G. Hall 16, 16;

P. Overend bt Griew 10, 11;

Rogers bt Pickles 10, 15;

P. Smith bt M. James 14, -14, 19.

Semi-finals:

Newman bt Rogers 13, -18, 18;

Overend bt Smith 19, 16.

Final:

Overend bt Newman 16, 21.

CANCELLED

The English Junior Open, scheduled for May 15/16, has been cancelled due to lack of a sponsor.

COMMONWEALTH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION CLASSIFICATION

1982

Men

- 1 Atanda Musa (NIG)
- 2 Zoran Kosanovic (CAN)
- 3 Chiu Man Kuen (HKG)
- 4 V. Chandrasekhar (IND)
- 5 Nigel Eckersley (ENG)
- 6 Vong Iu Veng (HKG)
- 7 Paul Day (ENG)
- 8 Manjit Dua (IND)
- 9 Manmeet Singh (IND)
- 10 Chen Scheng Shien (HKG)
- 11 Francis Sule (NIG)
- 12 Arif Khan (PAK)
- 13 Arif Nakhuda (PAK)
- 14 Keith Rodger (SCO)
- 15 Kamlesh Mehta (IND)
- 16 Sunday Eboh (NIG)

Women

- 1 Carole Knight (ENG)
- 2 Indu Puri (IND)
- 3 Alison Gordon (ENG)
- 4 Olawunmi Majekodunmi (NIG)
- 5 Mariann Domonkos (CAN)
- 6 Joy Grundy (ENG)
- 7 Carole Dalrymple (SCO)
- 8 Lakshmi Karanth (IND)
- 9 Gloria Hsu (CAN)
- 10 Jan G. Morris (NZ)
- 11 Snigdha Mehta (IND)
- 12 Vyoma Shah (IND)

T.S.B. FAKENHAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

by David Ashmore

This season the Fakenham Closed Championships were sponsored by the Trustee Savings Bank which enabled the league to hire 8 top class tables for the first time and also purchase excellent trophies for all events. The venue was the Airmen's Mess, R.A.F., West Raynham.

RESULTS

Men's Singles:

David Ashmore bt Paul Rich 13, -11, 15.

Women's Singles:

Sue Hazell bt Mary Ashmore 11, -16, 11.

Men's Doubles:

Richard Mussett/Jim Parkin bt Ashmore/Hilary Howlett 17, 16.

Mixed Doubles:

Jim Defty/Ashmore bt Mussett/Hazel 20, 14.

Div. 2:

Paul Storey bt Nick Franks 16, 14.

Div. 3:

Neil Howell bt David Harris 12, 9.

Handicap Singles:

Julie Sewell (35) bt Paul Storey (17) 51-44.

Veteran Singles:

Bill Seed bt Alan Petts 13, -16, 17.

Youth Singles:

Rich bt Richard May 16, 11.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

- April
- 17/18 Unigate Esser Junior 'Select' Open, Harlow Sports Centre, Hammarskjold Road, Harlow, Essex. Staged Finals, Sunday, Apr. 18 at 6.30 p.m.
- 17/25 13th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Budapest, Hungary).
- 24/25 Grieveson, Grant Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-Star Open, Sandown Court School, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
- 25 Edinburgh Youth & Junior Open, Meadowbank Sports Centre, London Road, Edinburgh.
- May
- 1 Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open, (Prize Fund £1,005), Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, Northumberland.
- 1/2 Hollington 1-Star Open, Organiser: S. Godfrey, 29 Marlne Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.
- 2 11th International Club Hard Rubber Bat Open, Barnet TT Centre, Barnet Lane, Barnet, Herts (from 9.30 a.m.).
- 8/9 South of England 2-Star Open (Woking).
- 22 Millom Junior 1-Star Open (Millom School, Cumbria).

THE 2nd CORNISH JUNIOR OPEN

PAT TAKES CHARGE

by Jeremy Williams

The upgraded Cornish Open which this year fell into the more realistic 2-star category, attracted an entry of well over 100 players from as far afield as Middlesex when it was played at Cam Brea Leisure Centre, Cambourne on Saturday, March 20.

In the absence of referee Stanford, due to ill health, assistant Pat Archdale took charge and with an army of stewards, play flowed so quickly on the 10 tables that the tournament finished ahead of schedule, before the finals at 7.30 p.m.

The U-17 singles events were played off in groups enabling competitors to have at least 3 sets. With the exception of Jon Woollins and Alison Clemens, these events were dominated by players from outside Cornwall.

The finals were attended by the sponsors of many of the events and with the band of umpires from Bristol, the tournament ran smoothly.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

G. Wilson (Dv) bt T. Silcott (Bu) -16, 8, 7.

S. McBean (Wi) bt A. Oxley (Wi) 11, 18;

M. Coles (Av) bt R. Waters (Ha) 14, 18;

J. Woollins (Co) bt M. Butler (Bu) 22, 22.

Semi-finals:

Wilson bt McBean 15, 10;

Coles bt Woollins -18, 19, 17.

Final:

WILSON bt Coles 17, 6.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

R. Russe (Av) bt A. Clemens (Co) 10, 10;

D. Kratochvila (Dv) bt J. Mills (Sy) -22, 14, 19.

Final:

RUSSE bt Kratochvila 5, 18.

Cadet Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

G. Reed (Co) bt M. James (Co) -16, 14, 10;

L. Jose (Co) bt A. Sainsbury (Dv) 14, 18.

Final:

JOSE bt Reed -15, 18, 17.

Cadet Girls' Singles Final:

S. BUTLER (Dv) bt E. Stevenson (Co) 5, 10.

Boys' U-12 Singles Final:

L. JOSE (Co) bt R. Aitken (Dv) 9, 12.

Girls' U-12 Winner:

K. BROCZEK (Co).

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Wilson/Woollins bt C. Smith (Mi)/

K. Buddell (Dv) 13, 9;

Butler/Silcott bt McBean/R. Vowells (Wi)

21, 11.

Final:

WILSON/WOOLLINS bt Butler/Silcott

-19, 13, 17.

Girls' Doubles Final:

KRATOCHVILA/BUTLER bt Mills/J.

Barella (Sy) 21, -16, 17.

Consolation Boys' U-14:

I. Neate (Wi).

Consolation Girls' U-14:

R. Averill (Co).

Les D'Arcy reports from . . .

YORKSHIRE

2nd PREMIER DIVISION WEEKEND -
BATLEY SPORTS CENTRE - FEB. 27-28

Kevin Beadsley, Alan Fletcher, Steve Mills and Melody Hill along with young Michael Stead, who played in one match, can be proud of the effort they made to try to retain Yorkshire's title as National Champions. The team had to defeat Essex, Northumberland and Berkshire in convincing fashion to try to overtake Middlesex who carried a two points lead after defeating Yorkshire 5-4 at the 1st weekend. Unbeaten Berkshire, with David Barr playing brilliantly, also looked good. Middlesex took

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 10)

a further two points lead when they defeated Warwickshire 6-3 whilst Yorkshire had to sit out the first session because Cheshire did not arrive and had to be excluded from the Competition. Berkshire remained in contention with a 7-2 win over Lancashire and Essex improved their chances with a 5-4 decision over Northumberland. In the next session Yorkshire pulled back with a 6-3 win over Essex only to see Berkshire defeat Northumberland 6-3 and Middlesex kept top place with a 7-2 result against Lancashire.

Beadsley returned to the Yorkshire team after fire-service duty and proved, with the rest of his team, to be too hot for Northumberland. Yorkshire's 8-1 win was prevented from being a "whitewash" by Chu Van Que, of boatman fame, defeating Fletcher. Middlesex also turned on the heat to charge their way to a 9-nil eclipse of Berkshire and into an unassailable position at the top of the ladder with 12 points. Now, it was all about who would come second. This was soon resolved when Yorkshire (8 pts.) met Berkshire (8 pts.) with Yorkshire pulling out all the stops to register another outstanding performance and win 7-2 for a fine all round team effort.

In spite of one or two set-backs the weekend was a great success with full marks to Eric Hill and his team of Yorkshire T.T.A. and Dewsbury T.T.L. officials. It was excellent value for money with so much talent under one roof — I couldn't even drag myself away for refreshments. With thirty or so of the best players in the land in combat it was a feast of table tennis not to be missed. One disappointment was the handful of young players who attended. Coaches, youth leaders and school teachers missed a splendid opportunity of inspiring their youngsters with this galaxy of talent. Many players also missed the chance of seeing the battle of the bats with some of the strongest loopers in the land being kept in check by the defensive skills of Dougie Johnson, Barr, Barry Hayward and others using combination bats of varying degree of "funniness".

JUNIOR PREMIER WEEK-END

David Illingsworth (Barnsley) produced one of his best ever performances to win 8 out of 8 singles at the Junior Premier Week-end in St. Neots. Playing at No. 3, David won six of his eight singles in straight games to help Yorkshire defeat Sussex 9-1, Staffordshire 8-2 and Warwickshire 6-4. He also recorded his usual two wins in the 6-4 defeat by Surrey. Steven Sharpe at No. 1 and David Rook, No. 3, also performed creditably to each win four out of eight singles. Both defeated Adrian Moore, England No. 2 — Sharpe an emphatic 21-6, 22-20 and Rook 18 in the third. The Yorkshire pair were even more successful in the doubles: Rook winning four out of four — two with Sharpe and two with Richard Whiteley (Harrogate) who made his Premier debut at the week-end. Other successes came from Josette Ryalls, 2 out of 3 singles; Lesley Broomhead, 2 out of 2 singles and Rachel Brook (debut), 1 out of 1 and with Josette gained Yorkshire's only win in the girls' doubles.

Yorkshire II Juniors v Gloucestershire

In a very equally-balanced match in which the lead changed five times the Junior 2nd team finally gained a 5-5 result

against a team spearheaded by stylish England-ranked juniors and Jackson and Darren Griffin. Rachel Brook and Joanne Shaw each won their respective singles and the girls' doubles in convincing fashion. Jeff Thatcher bounced back after losing to Jackson in the opening set to defeat A. Beckett 11 and 10. Michael Emmerson (Selby) making his debut, impressed with his fluent attack to win one of his two singles. Whiteley played some excellent table tennis with nothing to show for his efforts. Against Griffin he won the first game 21-16; was twice penalised, without warning, for service faults in the second, to go down -19 and -16 in the third. He also went out -19 in the third with Thatcher to Jackson and Griffin in the boys' doubles and to Jackson -18, -26 after a terrific battle in his final singles.

Whiteley grew in stature and gained the respect of these present by the uncomplaining way which he accepted the umpire's decisions which undoubtedly affected the result of the first set — and possibly — those following.

JUNIOR AND CADET RANKING TRIALS

Congratulations to Martin Firth (Bradford) 7 wins out of 9 and Joanne Shaw (Wakefield) also 7 out of 9 at the England Top Ten Cadet Rankings at St. Neots. Joanne finished first in the girls' and Martin 2nd in the boys'. Sharpe won 4 out of 11 at the Junior Ranking Trials at Market Drayton. His successes included wins over Billy Gleave and Adrian Moore.

Congratulations also to David Scruton, son of Y.T.T.A. Chairman and International Umpire, on becoming the youngest qualified umpire in the county at 14 years 5 months — is this a record? Also best wishes to Lewis Ward who has taken his National Umpires' Exam.

John Rawnsley, Hermits T.T.C. is the winner of the Y.T.T.A.'s Grand Raffle, a £250 T.T. Table donated by Dunlop Sports Co.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LEAGUES

Dewsbury

This season marks the 50th Anniversary of the Dewsbury League and a number of special events have been organised. A 'Jubilee Trophy' was competed for at the Dewsbury Closed on Sunday, March 28 at Batley Sports Centre.

A number of past players and officials will be attending the Trophy Presentation evening on April 30. Amongst those invited is Norman Fisher, the very first secretary of the league in 1931.

The leading team in the league is Batley S.C. 'A' who seem destined to retain the Div. 1 title they won last season. The team comprises young players from the Wakefield area, Phil Tomlinson, Trevor Watson, John Atkinson and P. Leyshon.

Dewsbury's Senior team in the Yorkshire League, David Lamb, Stewart Milnes and David Hope have enjoyed a successful season in Div. 1. They need to win their remaining match to gain promotion to the Premier Division.

The Dewsbury Senior League comprises 32 clubs with 60 teams competing in 5 Divisions. In addition we boast both a Junior and Cadet League, which, when formed 4 years ago, was the only one of its kind in Yorkshire. The formation of these Youth

leagues was a direct result of a vigorous coaching policy launched 6 years ago which is now paying off with Junior players competing in all divisions of the league.

Coaching is carried out at three main centres: Manorcroft Youth Club, Battyeford Boys' Club and Batley Sports Centre. A number of other boys' clubs play fine supporting roles.

To date the coaching policy, whilst working admirably for the league, has only produced one County player, 16-years-old Rachel Brook. Rachel tops the Junior ranking list at local level, closely followed by Richard Lightowler, Darren Page and Neil Keyworth. These 4 players form the Junior team competing in the Junior Premier Division of the Yorkshire League. Richard attends the Centre of Excellence Feeder Squad.

Competitive play in the Cadet League is producing a number of talented 10-year-olds. 'Leading the field' are Michael O'Driscoll (No. 1 Cadet and No. 6 Junior), Nick Ryder and Kevin Sangster. At recent Cadet trials these 3 players so impressed County officials that Michael and Nick were immediately invited to the Centre of Excellence Cadet Feeder Squad; Kevin joins at Easter.

Michael is already regarded as a star in the making, so watch out for the name O'Driscoll during the next 2/3 years.

Batley Sports Centre has also become established as a leading venue for the staging of top table tennis. Events include:

Kirklees 2-Star Open
International
County Match — highest attendance ever in Yorkshire
Chinese Exhibition
Premier Division County Matches
and next — National League.

No small wonder that Dewsbury are well satisfied with the progress being made and with the continued efforts of a small band of dedicated organisers the future is bright.

I.T.T.F. COUNCIL

Hangzhou, in the People's Republic of China, is where the ITTF Council will next meet over the period May 12-15, 1982. Council members George Yates and Colin Clemett of the ETTA will be making the journey.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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AGENTS WANTED ON A COMMISSION BASIS TO SELL TABLE TENNIS NEWS SEASON 1982/83

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at 43 Knowsley Road, Bolton BL1 6JH. 'Phone: Bolton 42223.

MERSEYSIDE 2-STAR OPEN

ILL-TEMPERED FINAL

by Geo. R. Yates

Sponsored by Baldwins of Wigan, BL Car Distributors, and with special acknowledgement to Merseyside County Council who guaranteed to underwrite any loss, the 1982 Merseyside 2-Star Open held at Kirkby Sports Centre on March 27 was blessed with sunshine and 138 entries for the men's singles event.

Regrettably the Nos. 1 and 4 seeds, Nigel Eckersley and Alan Fletcher, were absentees the former suffering from an injured elbow and from whose quarter the prince of veterans, Derek Schofield, emerged only to bow out in the semis to young Billy Gleave, the enfant terrible.

The Sale Moor junior had earlier accounted for Tony Isaac and Kevin Beadsley but, in an ill-tempered final was beaten by Steve Mills after the Yorkshire man had ousted the holder, Andy Bellingham, in the other semi.

Bellingham had cause to pull out all the stops in a titanic struggle with young Alan Cooke who in the boys' singles had started off his final encounter with Gleave in workman-like style to the tune of 8 in the first game.

But then the stamping began, by Gleave, and the Chesterfield lad despite a tremendous fightback in the third game decider was just edged out at 19.

Top seed Anita Stevenson was an absentee from the women's singles but Melody Hill, seeded No. 2, was surprisingly taken out by Jill Harris who succumbed to Joy Grundy in the final.

There were only 29 entries for the boys' singles and insufficient to run a girls' event which was rather surprising and disappointing for the organisers. But 19 entries for the veteran singles was encouraging with Schofield adding yet another title to his string with a final victory over the national champion Peter D'Arcy after the latter had eliminated the holder Graham Lynch in the semis.

D'Arcy also reached the final of the men's doubles, with Stephen Scowercroft, but again the immaculate Pete had to be content with the runner-up award when beaten by Philip Gunn and Andy Rich who had eliminated top seeds Beadsley and Mills.

The Lancastrian duo of Miss Grundy and Jean Parker won the counterpart women's event with a final win over Jenny Cornock and Janet Dunning, the latter having overcome Mrs. Hill and Helen Shields. All in all a reasonable tournament but the final session played in the gymnasium, was far too protracted to hold an audience but all credit to Brian Leeson, the Referee, who stuck to his task manfully.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Schofield (Ch) bt G. Hallom (St) 15, 15;
W. Gleave (Ch) bt K. Beadsley (Y)
11, -16, 17;

A. Bellinger (St) bt A. Cooke (Dv)
19, -18, 20;

S. Mills (Y) bt A. Creed (Av) 17, -14, 16.

Semi-finals:

Gleave bt Schofield 17, 10;
Mills bt Bellingham 11, 12.

Final:

MILLS bt Gleave 14, -18, 17.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Maisey (Wi) w.o. A. Stevenson (scr);
J. Grundy (La) bt H. Shields (Y) 9, 17;
J. Harris (St) bt J. Parker (La) 18, 16;
M. Hill (Y) bt J. Cornock (St) 17, 10.

Semi-finals:

Grundy bt Maisey 17, 17;
Harris bt Hill 16, 11.

Final:

GRUNDY bt Harris -14, 8, 11.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

P. Gunn (Wa)/A. Rich (St) bt Cooke/Creed
22, 11;

P. D'Arcy (Ch)/S. Scowercroft (La) bt
B. Johns/W. Percival (Ch) 19, 20.

Final:

GUNN/RICH bt D'Arcy/Scowercroft 21, 9.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Cornock/J. Dunning (St) bt Hill/Shields
19, 19;

Grundy/Parker bt J. Deakin (Ch)/Harris
16, 19.

Final:

GRUNDY/PARKER 11, 19.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

Gleave bt P. Aspinall (La) 19, 19;

D. Illingsworth (Y) bt C. Render (Y)
19, 11;

Gunn bt P. Ashcroft (La) 19, 16;

Cooke bt J. Murdoch (Ch) 17, -19, 13.

Semi-finals:

Gleave bt Illingsworth 16, 3;

Cooke bt Gunn 19, 14.

Final:

GLEAVE bt Cooke -8, 11, 19.

Veteran Singles Quarter-finals:

Schofield bt S. Render (Y) 11, 1;

J. Evans (La) bt W. Allanson (Ox) 17, 11;

G. Lynch (Y) bt T. Donlon (Ch) 14, 19;

D'Arcy bt P. Turtle (La) 16, 18.

Semi-finals:

Schofield bt Evans 16, 17;

D'Arcy bt Lynch 18, 15.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy -19, 15, 18.

Letters to the Editor

TEAM EFFORT

It was extremely kind of Philip Reid to give me the credit for the County Championship Weekend at Batley being well organised but it was a team effort by the Yorkshire Committee. I was only the figure-head. My thanks are due to Eric Hill, Yorkshire's hard working County Championships Sec., Bevan Walker of the Dewsbury League and his team for setting up and taking down the arena, to Frank Briggs, Yorks Sec., and Evelyn Hart, Minute Sec., for producing updates and all other admin work, to the Umpires of Yorkshire for a job well done and finally to Ian Firth the Manager at Batley for his help in so many ways.

Yorkshire have tried hard this season to 'Present' County Championship matches with Music, entry of the teams, introducing the players, presentation of County badges, etc., and the weekend was the finale of all our efforts. We look forward to the 'same again' next season.

G. T. SCRUTON,

96 Forest Lane,
Harrogate,
N. Yorks.

POOR COVERAGE

I have been a reader of Table Tennis News for 14 years, and always enjoy reading the magazine.

I think as I believe many others do, that our Sport is very poorly reported on T.V., Radio, and most of all the National Press. Why can't more space be given to the National League, The County Matches, and most of all the European League and also coverage given to Coaching facilities that are available etc. Surely it's about time that people were made to realize that Table Tennis is not just a game of Ping Pong, but a very skillful and entertaining game at every level.

Having said all this, perhaps an idea would be for the E.T.T.A. to organise with all the Leagues a petition to be signed by all players and interested people and copies sent to the T.V., Radio, and National Press to let them know that Table Tennis is one of the most popular and widely played games in the Country. By more coverage it would also let more people know of our Sport, encourage more people into the game, improve the standard of play, possibly bring more Cash into the game, which would mean that our top players would be able to stay in England.

I would be interested to hear what other readers think of the above idea, nothing would please me more than to see and hear people talking about Desmond Douglas and the England team, instead of Football's World Cup.

COLIN McLEAN,

19 Aurelia Road,
Croydon,
Surrey, CR0 3BE.

RETROGRADE STEP

Some of the suggestions by Tom Blunn in the March edition of Table Tennis News would appear to enhance the retrograde trend in the sport of the importance of service.

Rubber technology has increased the amount of spin imparted to the ball at the serve, this results in players from both club and international level with a very good serve but little else, an advantage and level of performance their general ability does not warrant.

Any suggestion that points towards enhancing this position such as the badminton type scoring where points can only be won with service is therefore a retrograde step.

Moves should be made towards reducing the importance of the serve by imposing stricter limits on rubbers, and altering the rules so that a point cannot be won direct from a service. This will extend rallies and encourage stroke variation and placement, which is certainly what is required to enhance the sport's spectator appeal.

It was to eliminate the service dominance that the rule to throw up the ball at service was first introduced.

M. G. LANGDON,

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Ken Green reports from . . .

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

WHO IS THIS MAN 'HENRY'?

Such was the question being asked at St. Neots over the weekend of Feb. 13/14 over which period the County Closed Championships were held. Douglas Henry, a 19-year-old ex-Essex County Junior, almost completely walked away with every event in which he entered. From the moment when he romped home with the Lower Division Singles on Sunday morning we could see problems ahead for all Open Singles entrants in the same half of the Draw as Douglas. How right we were, but more about his performances later. If this was the main taking point, there were more and perhaps none more gratifying than to see a young man by the name of Simon Pryke from the outbacks of Ramsey, making his presence felt in the two Boys' Events. Simon took up table tennis through his father who also plays, and at an early age got more interested at Butlins mainly with ex-England Junior Andy Barden, although at the time he wasn't all that enthusiastic. He started playing competitively in the Peterborough lower divisions and now plays with much success in Division 3 of the Hunts Central League. He seems to have the ingredients for a successful player and with the right coaching and encouragement he will undoubtedly mature into a very good player. Perhaps the same could also be said for young Andrew Hillyard of St. Neots who didn't let Simon have all his own way as we can see from the results.

Lower Division Singles Final:

D. Henry bt J. Tee 12, 15.

Boys' and Girls' U-12 Semi-finals:

S. Pryke bt A. Lee 15, 16;

A. Hillyard bt R. Matthews 3, 15.

Final:

Hillyard bt Pryke 15, 6.

Boys' U-14 Quarter-finals:

M. Hampson bt A. Steel 18, 11;

Hillyard bt N. Stewart 11, 10;

I. Chambers bt Matthews -14, 19, 21;

Pryke - bye.

Semi-finals:

Pryke bt Hampson 18, 9;

Hillyard bt Chambers 16, 6.

Final:

Pryke bt Hillyard 16, 19.

Girls' U-12 Final:

K. Coady bt J. McReady 16, 19.

Junior Boys' Semi-finals:

P. Jackson bt A. McIlhagga 16, 9;

P. Saywell bt J. Tee 20, -18, 16.

Final:

Jackson bt Saywell 18, -16, 17.

Junior Girls - One Group of 5:

Winner: A. Hillard.

Runner-up: J. Randall.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

L. Saywell bt K. Green 17, 18;

A. Albon bt C. Dale 16, 17.

Final:

Saywell bt Albon 16, -15, 16.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hillard/J. Randall bt P. Baker/C. Leak

15, 15;

E. Allinson/J. Allinson bt Stanley/Barnett

10, 17.

Final:

Hillard/Randall bt Allinson/Allinson 13, 14.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Saywell/Hillard bt Carroll/Leak 12, 15;

Norton/Randall bt Brammer/Fellows 17, 14.

Final:

Saywell/Hillard bt Norton/Randall

-17, 12, 17.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Albon/Kennedy bt Haslop/Saywell

18, -14, 16.

Norton/Willett bt Rogers/Thorogood

12, 11.

Final:

Norton/Willett bt Albon/Kennedy 15, 16.

Paul Charlton Memorial Singles

Semi-finals:

K. Willett bt R. Wells 11, 12;

D. Henry bt M. Fisher 17, 17.

Final:

Henry bt Willett 12, -11, 11.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

Hillard bt E. Allinson 12, 9;

Randall bt J. Allinson 17, 18.

Final:

Hillard bt Randall 18, 14.

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Fisher bt P. Berna 18, 19;

K. Willett bt L. Saywell 11, -17, 8;

D. Henry bt S. Burgess -16, 17, 16;

R. Norton bt A. Albon 12, 19.

Semi-finals:

Henry bt Fisher 20, 17;

Willett bt Norton 11, -19, 13.

Final:

Willett bt Henry 19, 18.

In the Girls' Under-12, Kiara Coady and Joanne McReady, both members of the St. Neots Club, entered the tournament only after a great deal of persuading. The Junior Boys' brought about the surprising elimination of County Junior Richard Ballard by his clubmate at St. Ives Alasdair McIlhagga. Perhaps a question of knowing too much about each others game proving Richards downfall. Alasdair's success was soon brought to an end by Paul Jackson another member of the St. Ives Club and a County player who went on to win the final, his first tournament success. On to the Junior Girls' and a predictable win for the ebullient Alison Hillard in what was to be the start to a most successful weekend. I can't help thinking how much young Alison reminds me both in her mannerisms and her play of Carole Knight this year's Commonwealth Champion. Hope you don't mind the comparison Alison. Janet Randall put up a sterling fight and her steady play for one so young is quite remarkable.

Not since the days of Gordon Cockram has the Veterans' title been a foregone conclusion. Three past winners contested the semi-finals together with newly-qualified Gus Albon. Gus beat Colin Dale in a long battle in one semi while Len Saywell beat yours truly in the other. Len's consistent looping game seemed to suggest that he would win the final in two easy games when he took the first quite comfortably, but Gus got into his rhythm and came back to square the match at one game all only to come out the loser in the third for Len to take the title for the third time. The Women's Doubles proved no contest with Alison Hillard and Janet Randall cruising home to win the final against the Allinsons quite comfortably and giving Alison her second success in as many events. The

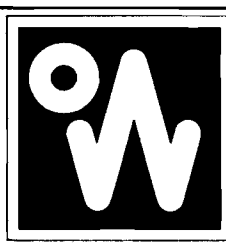
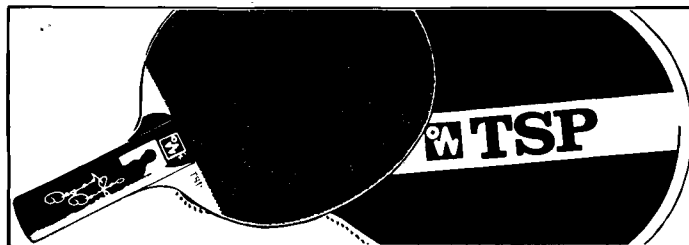
Mixed Doubles brought three fairly easy Quarter-final matches, the fourth between Brammer/Fellows and Burgess/Allinson being the only one to go the full distance and a surprise win for the former. The final proved to be an exciting match leaving Saywell/Hillard winners at 17 in the third.



Keith Willett and Alison Hillard with their haul of trophies.

Another trophy for Alison Hillard, her third of the Championships. The Men's Doubles saw Leon Rogers and Veteran Joe Thorogood reaching the semis after surviving a crisis in Round I by just overcoming the Ramsey pair Carroll and Pryke 21, 20 but really excelling themselves in Round 2 in defeating the seeded Fisher/Burgess pairing 17, 17. Their luck was not to be continued as they met their Waterloo in the semi-final. The final was not as one sided as the scores suggest but the steadiness of Roy Norton coupled with many winners from impossible situations by Keith Willett saw this pair home with Roy Norton surprisingly hitting as many winners as his partner. The Paul Charlton always attracts a good entry and this year was no exception. Dark horse (sorry Douglas), Douglas Henry romped home 11 in the third against County No. 2 Willett and proving quite a handful indeed with his quickfire hitting. What odds now on him taking the overall Men's title later.

On to the Women's Singles and a disappointingly low entry of only twelve contestants. No upsets here except at the semi-final stage when Jean Allinson's experience was overcome by Junior Janet Randall which took her into the final against her clubmate — yes you've guessed it, Alison Hillard. Who won? Right again and Alison's fourth and final success of the tournament. I must look up the records to see if anyone so young has ever won so many Hunts



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County titles previously. Well done Alison.

Finally the Men's Singles and everybody had a good look at the Draw hoping they were in the other half to Henry. Unfortunately half the contestants were unlucky. We arrived at Round 2 before any seeds encountered trouble and it was up to No. 8 Saywell to call on all his experience before overcoming the much improved Tom Lawlor of Peterborough 19 in the third. Syd Burgess of St. Ives came through to the Quarters to face Henry and an upset seemed likely when Syd took the first leg to 16 but eventually to lose in three when in fact he should have won two straight. Norton won the pushing match with Gus Albon after going to expedite at 12-9 in the second. So to the semis where Henry beat Mark Fisher in a close encounter and Willett put an end to Norton. Where we now to witness a similar result in the final as that between the same two in the final of the Paul Charlton earlier. Willett had other ideas and must have surprised his opponent by his determination and the Men's title went to Keith for the first time making up for the disaster of last year.

The only County Match on which to report is the one against Durham on Jan. 23 which turned out to be quite eventful for the Juniors Janet Randall travelled with a swollen foot and on arrival at the venue found that she couldn't get her shoe on. The home officials called in a Doctor who lanced her foot and gave her drugs in an effort to see her through the match. We must express our thanks to those Officials who went out of their way to be helpful. The least we can do is to give them a mention whoever they are. Alison Hillard and Janet won all their matches and Philip Cole his two which included a win over D. McVitie. The final result a commendable 5-all draw. We cannot praise Janet too

highly for performing so well under the circumstances.

Finally, Bill Walker of the Peterborough League has asked me to mention that their League will attain its 50th birthday in 1983. Officials intend to mark the occasion with something special and Bill would like to hear from anyone associated with the League over the years who is able to provide any useful information about the early days of the League. Please contact Bill direct at 114 Chestnut Avenue, Peterborough. Tel. No. Peterborough (STD 0733)-52280.

Sponsorship for 'Dolphins'

by Alan Beames
Hon. Sec. Brighton & Dist. T.T.L.

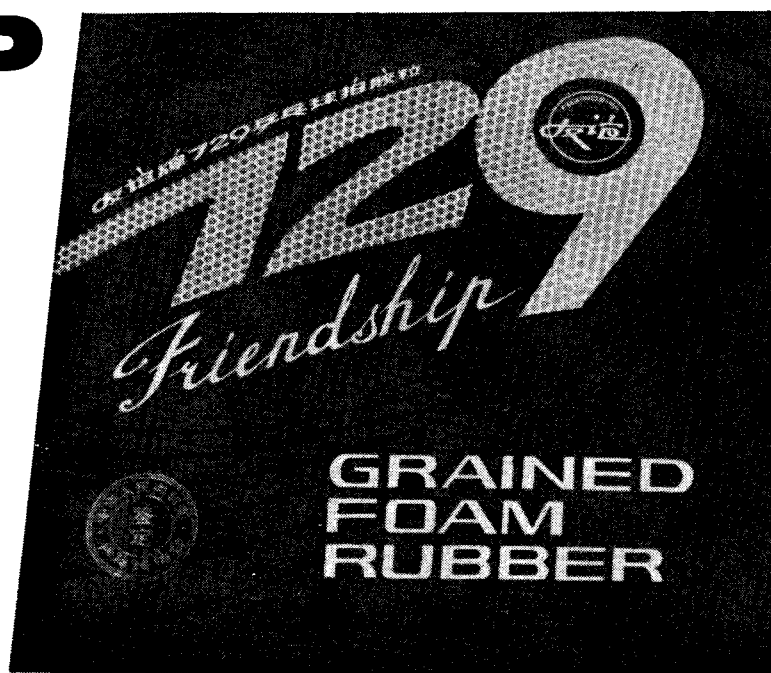
Sussex table tennis received a timely and welcome boost this week with the news that TCB Limited (formerly Twentieth Century Banking Corporation) has agreed to sponsor the Dolphins Table Tennis Club next season. The "Dolphins" (originally known as "Seagulls") were founder members of the National League and compete in the Second Division. In the first season, they finished a respectable 3rd and last year improved to runners-up. Although disappointed to miss — by a "whisker" — the right to play-off for promotion to the Premier Division, the club was nevertheless grateful to earn a share of the prize money, thus ensuring participation this season. Rivalry for Premier status has been even more fierce this year and one or two loose results have made it unlikely that the "Dolphins" will top the Table. As they have relied, almost entirely, on fund raising by a small band of enthusiasts, the news that

the National League is unlikely to be regionalised next season had been a matter of considerable concern. The prospect of most 'away' matches involving long journeys and, possibly, the added expense of over-night accommodation, threatened to stretch the club's resources beyond hope and reason. "The National League has been an outstanding success, as I knew it would be", said John Clarke, Manager, coach and co-founder of the "Dolphins". "Table tennis at a high level, as television has shown, is an exciting spectator sport with much to offer commercial interests and I am only surprised that we had not been snapped up by a sponsor before now". "That the "Dolphins" should cease to be a part of the National League", says John, "was unthinkable and it's great to find a locally based firm who believe in us". Club Secretary, Carol Beames, while no less excited with the club's new prospects next season, somewhat prosaically adds, "I am just glad that the sponsor has a short name!"

Well, who are the "Dolphins" and who is the sponsor? Drawn from the most talented T.T. players in Sussex, the team includes: Malcolm Francis (19), nationally ranked and triple champion at the all Sussex Championships. Controversial, but a crowd pleaser, Malcolm is famous for his bat 'twiddling'. Stephen Moore (18) Sussex No. 2 formerly an English junior, Stephen has been going through a 'lean' spell, after obtaining senior national ranking. A recent victory over top ranked Stephen Mills suggests a return to form. Stephen is an attacking player and exponent of the 'fast loop'. Adrian Moore (16) No. 2 England junior and an International at 'cadet' and 'junior' level. Like his brother, Stephen, Adrian is an attacking player and is brilliant against defenders. Last year he became the

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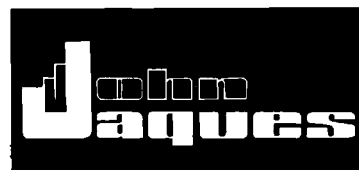
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youngest ever Sussex Champion and it is unfortunate that the calendar prevented him from defending his title this year. Peter Pudduck (18) West Sussex Champion and all Sussex semi-finalist where he lost to Francis. Peter is one of the most improved players in the area, which he confirmed by winning the 'Seaman' Invitation Cup. A model of stroke production and temperament. Roger Chandler (36) formerly England ranked and winner of the Sussex singles title on no less than 12 occasions — a record which is unlikely to be matched. Nicky Standen (18) Sussex No. 7 and another vastly improved player this season. John Clarke (35) also a former Sussex Champion. An ETTA 2-star coach, with the gift of bringing the best out of the players, John still turns out for the team when his experience is required — "when we are desperate", he says. This year the "Dolphins" lost the services of Graham Gillett (18), formerly a top England junior, Graham is undoubtedly one of the most naturally talented players in the country but he is also a talented musician and he decided to devote his energies to that field. Such is his talent that with little practice behind him, Graham made a rare appearance in the Sussex Championships where he reached the final and only narrowly lost to Francis. Has resisted all attempts to persuade him to return to the fold but "we are working on it . . .".

The sponsors TCB, are a relatively new bank, having been founded in Sussex 38 years ago. Although it has operated on a national basis for many years, it has always maintained its headquarters in the centre of Brighton. A member of the P & O Group, it takes pride in its quick, straight forward commercial approach to business life and its growth has been remarkable. TCB has played an active part in the community life of Brighton and the rest of Sussex by helping to promote charity concerts and providing sponsorship for various sporting events. Managing Director, Peter Gordon, was impressed with the ambitious "Dolphins" organisation and, in keeping with his bank's image, made a quick decision to offer sponsorship. He believes that table tennis is a growing sport and is glad to be able to help promote it. Watch out for TCB Dolphins next season — they are bankers for promotion!

SELBY JUNIOR OPEN

The Yorkshire challenge was swept aside by Cheshire's Billy Gleave in the Yorkshire Evening Press Selby Junior Open on Feb. 27.

The England No. 5 junior romped to a straight games win over Richard Whiteley of Harrogate in the boys' final at Selby High School.

Sharpe and Illingsworth gained compensation for defeat in the singles semi-finals by beating Gleave and Gavin Dickson to win the boys' doubles.

Melanie Seaton from Doncaster confirmed her top seeding by beating Joanne Shaw (Wakefield) in the girls' singles final.

Melanie and Joanne met again in the doubles final, the Doncaster girl coming out on top again with her partner Jane Roberts though Joanne and Ruth Baxter (Leeds) went down only 20-22 in the third.

Joanne and Ruth were in opposition in the under-14 girls singles final, with Joanne winning in straight games.

The first open championships to be held in Selby, the event attracted over 180 competitors from all over England and Wales and were organised by Selby League.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

B. Gleave (Ch) bt D. Illingsworth (Y) 15, 6;
R. Whiteley (Y) bt S. Sharpe (Y) 11, 18.

Final:

GLEAVE bt Whiteley 4, 11.

Girls' Singles Final:

M. SEATON (Y) bt J. Shaw (Y) 14, -13, 9.

Consolation Boys' Singles Final:

A. CUNNINGHAM (K) bt B. Wentworth (Ch) 12, 3.

Consolation Girls' Singles Final:

SHAW bt R. Baxter (Y) 14, 13.

U-12 Boys' Singles Final:

C. GLOSSOP (Dy) bt B. Billington (Dy) 19, -19, 20.

U-12 Girls' Singles Final:

A. HOLT (Ch) bt K. Mayall (Dy) 14, 15.

Boys' Doubles Final:

ILLINGSWORTH/SHARPE bt G. Dickinson (Ch)/Gleave 17, 14.

Girls' Doubles Final:

J. ROBERTS (Y)/SEATON bt Baxter/Shaw 16, -17, 20.



Welsh Corner

by H. ROY EVANS

WALES v SCOTLAND EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Bridgend - March 8th

This was the one that got away! Wales seemed always poised for victory in this, their last European League match of the season. Scotland can of course claim that under pressure they came through best, but they were definitely let off the hook twice.

Wales took the first two men's singles, Alan Griffiths beating David Hannah two-straight although the Scot took the game to 21-all in the second. Nigel Thomas followed with a convincing win over Keith Rodger, and when Lesley Tyler, playing her best yet, lead Carole Dalrymple 20-15 in the second, a Welsh win was definitely on. But then Lesley managed to lose 7 points in a row, and Carole won 22-20. Just to show that her first game form was not a flash in the pan, Lesley built up a 15-10 lead in the second, and then proceeded to lose 21-18. Chance No. 1 gone!

Followed the doubles, with Alan and Nigel looking good against David and Keith, good enough to lead 20-17. Then — collapse, and the Scots ran out winners. In the second Alan became completely passive, letting the aggressive Scots develop their attack to the extent that the Welsh pair ended in complete disarray.

Nigel and Lesley were nowhere in the mixed against Keith and Carole, but when Alan, as expected, completely crushed Rodger, a 4-3 Welsh win was still on the cards.

Nigel played well to lead Hannah 16-14 in the first game of the decider, but David produced a stream of point winning shots to win a nail-biting 27-25. In the second, Nigel never really got into contention, and he lost at 14. So Scotland breathed again, and Welsh heads wagged sorrowfully at what might, or rather — should have been.

SCORES

A. Griffiths bt Keith Rodger 9, 9;
bt Hannah 15, 21.

N. Thomas lost to Hannah -18, -14;

bt Rodger 9, 18.

L. Tyler lost to C. Dalrymple -20, -18.

Griffiths/Thomas lost to Hannah/Rodger -25, -14.

Thomas/Tyler lost to Rodger/Dalrymple -13, -16.

HATS OFF TO THE WELSH YOUNGSTERS

If the Senior team's loss to Scotland was a disappointment, Welsh juniors and cadets kept our heads high in matches against Ireland and Scotland. Following the Welsh juniors' fine win over an Irish team containing Colm Slevin up at Deeside, we sent teams of cadet boys and girls and junior boys and girls to Dublin, and a 12-8 result in the composite match was the satisfying result.

Andrew Jones and Nigel Tyler won the junior 5-0, although Slevin was not in the Irish team. Rachel Roberts and Heidi Cotter lost the junior girls 1-4, but the new "chopping" fourteen-year-old from North Wales, Evelyn Wright was the chief architect of a girls' cadet 3-2 win. Although she lost her singles, Joanne Lee was a good support in the doubles.

Anthony Jones and Jeff Turner both won one and lost one in the cadet boys but they took the all important doubles to run out 3-2 winners.

In Abercynon, Wales met Scotland in the junior girls' match postponed from snow bound North Wales earlier in the season. The 5-3 win by the Welsh girls came as the result of two fine wins each by Jayne Sully and Heidi Cotter. Welsh No. 1 Rachel Roberts, won one and lost one, whilst Helen Sellick, nervously playing in front of relations and friends, didn't do herself justice.

SCORES

Rachel Roberts lost to Diane Greig 18, -13, -18;

bt Lynn Johnston 11, 20.

Heidi Cotter bt Johnston 12, 18;

bt Alison Cook 16, 16.

Jayne Sully bt Aileen Bennett 17, 8;

bt Greig 5, -19, 11.

Helen Sellick lost to Cook -4, -5;
lost to Bennett -15, -19.

New ground was broken when an all cadet team of boys and girls went up to Stirling to play Scotland. Again there was a 5-3 result, and again for Wales, Evelyn Wright did her stuff with two wins, and Joanne Lee won an all-important set. Anthony Jones and Jeff Turner won one each.

Welsh Juniors also did well in tournaments. In the Irish Open, Nigel Tyler put up a fine semi-final fight before losing to Slevin. Rachel Roberts won the junior girls, with Evelyn Wright giving her a fine semi-final fight. Heidi Cotter reached the other semi.

Nigel has done well again since, with a fine win in the Essex Open restricted event, whilst Evelyn Wright and Heidi Cotter got to the final of the East of England 2-star junior event, Evelyn coming out eventual winner. Evelyn then accomplished her best performance, taking Melody Hill (Ludi) to 16 in the third in the senior event.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Both Butterfly Cardiff and Cranfield Colours have suffered set-backs in their promotion bids. Butterfly, weakened by the last moment withdrawal of George Evans, for reasons best known to himself, lost badly to Generation II, strengthened by the signing of Carl Preat, and later to Dunlop Birmingham, where the Cardiff players for the most part made ineffectual attempts to cope with the Dunlop choppers in their slow conditions.

Cranfield, perhaps now resigned to not being promoted, have lost their No. 1 Brian Jeanes, who has departed to play for Lauenburg in Germany. It is to be hoped that the unpredictable Jeanes will find the consistency in Germany which, allied to his fine game, will earn him that Welsh cap he so much wants.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Dennis Millman reports from . . .

NORTHANTS

COOKE IMPRESSES

The Kettering Closed, preceded by much speculation regarding the entries of Keystone's northern quartet of stars — Steve Mills, Alan Cooke, Graham Lynch and Trevor Williams, proved much more entertaining than usual despite the eventual non-arrival of Mills and Lynch, and much of this interest was created by the flair, poise and artistry of young Alan Cooke who impressed all who saw him, not only by his calm assurance and his courteous demeanour, but also by his full range of perfectly executed shots.

It was not surprising that he went through the day undefeated, and it is easy to conjecture that he may have done so even if his senior colleagues had been present. His demolition of Williams 3, 15, in the semi-final demonstrated the difference in class, that was still apparent when Keith Nicoll opposed him in a fiercely-fought final. Cooke and Williams took the doubles in similar fashion against Ian Hawes and Steve Kendall, who had earlier dismissed three times winners Nicoll and Geoff Atkinson. Finally as back-marker Cooke even found time to take the Premier Division Handicap Singles, and so complete a successful and rewarding day, not only for himself, but also for those who were fortunate enough to be present.

The women's events were dominated as usual by Mandy Wallis who gained her third successive victory when she accounted for Jane Nicoll in the singles, before joining her victim to take the doubles event. Miss Nicoll also added the Girls' Singles, and with the pair in direct opposition in the Mixed it was the Wallis-Nicoll pairing who regained the title when coming from behind to beat Miss Nicoll and Hawes.

Hawes also had a good day, taking both boys' singles and doubles events with Kendall featured as runner-up and partner respectively, while another youngster to impress was Andrew Edmonds who collected the Under-15 Singles, the Men's Consolation Singles and the First Division Handicap event, perhaps collectively the best individual achievement of the day.

In the Veterans event, John Palmer made it five wins in a row, with Dennis Millman, who won the first of his three titles in 1971, a most reluctant victim, and Mike Jackson of Cambridge an expectant umpire, whose penchant for expedite situations was doomed to disappointment on this occasion, although the final did outlast two doubles finals played simultaneously. However Mike's journey was not entirely without reward for earlier in the day he had officiated at a Consolation Singles set which went the full course in which Chris Millman had finally gone down to 15-year-old Matthew Hughes, with both players getting Mike's approval for the way they had applied themselves to the intricacies of 'expedite'.

Other winners included Ian Bird in the U-13 Singles, Owen Humphries and Maxine Shears in the Junior Mixed, veteran Shirley Everard in the Second Division Handicap and Humphries in the corresponding Third Division event.

On the County Championships scene, Shropshire's unfortunate withdrawal and our Juniors 7-3 win over Warwickshire II

has assured us of promotion and at the same time given us hope for the future. As in the previous encounters it was the consistent ability of the boys Hawes, Graeme McKim and Kendall which carried the side through and they together with Sue Nannery and Donna Furniss took all ten against Herefordshire to finish on a high note. This stirring finish gave McKim a 100% record for the season in both singles and doubles, with Hawes and Kendall both losing just once.

In the First's clash with Oxfordshire, Mandy Wallis lost her unbeaten record in both singles and doubles, and this turned out to be the margin between defeat and victory, for despite wins from Gary Alden, Steve Lyon and Dorothy Marsh and an Alden-Nicoll doubles, Oxford got home 6-4. However in the final match of the season the First's carried all before them to beat Worcestershire II 10-0 with all five of the Northants players in fine form.

The County Seconds suffered a similar fate against Norfolk despite an outstanding performance from John Sanders, a win for Brian Wooding and a winning senior season's debut for Jane Nicoll, but the Veterans margin of defeat against Cheshire was much greater with the unbeaten Cliff Bull-Joyce Porter partnership and Dennis Millman providing some small consolation.

Wellingborough's best tournament for many years attracted a big entry to reward the strenuous efforts of organiser Mick Morris and League Chairman, Arthur Palmer, and for once there was plenty of atmosphere at Weavers Sports Centre, with additional lighting again giving a boost to playing conditions. It was also nice to see former League and County Chairman, and the new League President Don Perkins back on familiar territory to present the awards.

Determined to make the most of an ideal situation was 15-years-old Hawes, who was quick to retain his junior titles, the doubles coming in collaboration with Kendall against the talented young pairing of Ian Bird and Stephen Rogers, and then with Kendall on the opposite side of the net Hawes added the singles 6, -17 and 9.

Meanwhile he had also been making steady progress in the Men's Singles, and in the semi-final he gained a 13, 15 win over Chris Handshaw, while No. 1 seed John Sanders was narrowly losing -16, 12, 19 to Ian's County Junior colleague McKim.

Before the singles final Hawes found time to team up with Glennis Hooper, in a repeat of last season's win at Kettering, to take the mixed event and finally he completed a brilliant display and became the youngest winner of the Men's Singles when he finally outplayed McKim to win 15 and 18.

Anne Wallis made all the headlines in the women's events, for after going down -19, 15, 19 with McKim in the final of the mixed, she teamed up with sister Mandy to take their sixth doubles title 9 and 10 against Glennis Hooper and Dorothy Marsh. Then in this her first tournament for two years, Anne played with the utmost composure in the women's final against a rather tense sister Mandy, using her greater all-round game to full advantage to win 18 and 19.

The Men's Doubles was again closely fought throughout the later stages, with Palmer and Millman coming through to face Geoff Atkinson and Chris Handshaw in the final. In a close finish the steadiness and long understanding of Palmer and Millman finally triumphed 11, 20 to give the pair the one title to have eluded them.

When Palmer and Millman, playing in his tenth consecutive final, took the floor for the final of the Veterans' Singles, there was an immediate and obvious move towards the adjacent bar, with a typical dour display anticipated, but a contest of high quality and a third end 20-15 lead for

Millman saw everyone desert their drinks to see an indomitable Palmer claw his way back to take the title -18, 12, 23.

Other results saw Andrew Trott beat Stephen Rogers 17, 10 to regain the U-14 title he last won in 1980, with Trott also scoring off the back mark in the Division Three Handicap Singles, while the remaining handicap events went to Simon Towler (+9) (Premier), Andrew Edmonds (+3) (Div. 1), Ian Fensone (+15) (Div. 2), Tony Scanlon (+12) (Div. 4) and Kevin Mason (+8) (in Div. 5).

Mary Rose & Ray H. Barton
report from . . .

WARWICKSHIRE

WEST WARWICKSHIRE 'INVITATION'

It's back — forced to abandon last season's tournament due to lack of financial support, the ever popular West Warwickshire Invitation Tournament has at last found a sponsor.

The Alliance Building Society has come forward with a superb sponsorship for the tournament, to take place from Sept. 5-11, 1982.

Mr. Graeme Farrell, Branch Manager of the Shirley-based Alliance Building Society, himself a very keen and competent table tennis player, has offered sponsorship which will enable the West Warwickshire Club to offer £200 in cash prizes, coupled with magnificent trophies, for the events which will include Men's Singles, Women's Singles and Drawn Doubles events.

Always a very popular venue, this pre-season tournament, should attract all the very best players in the Midlands area, and with the backing of the Alliance Building Society, guarantee complete success, for the West Warwickshire Club offers a magnificent clubhouse, three superb bars, colour television, showers and of course, playing conditions second to none.

The multi-purpose Sports Club, boasts numerous squash and tennis courts, hockey and two cricket pitches, enjoying a rural setting, even though it is only two miles from the busy Solihull Shopping Centre, with plenty of well-planned car park spaces, for competitors.

It is hoped to impose on Mr. Farrell, the job to present the cheques and prizes to the winners of the tournament.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Firmly planted at the foot of the table Barry Johnson, Warwickshire's County captain brilliantly led the squad away from relegation, as Cheshire elected relegation and withdrew from the Championships, and in the final match of the series, beat Northumberland 8-1.

Although Middlesex took the opening match of the series 6-3, both Johnson and Barry Hayward notched noteworthy victories, as they clawed their way back from a deficit of 0-4!

Combining well the Warwickshire duo beat the indomitable pairing of Graham Sandley/Colin Wilson 19, -15, 16.

Warwickshire went further behind as Karen Groves, narrowly lost to Angela Mitchell, having taken the first game 21-15. Angela came back strongly to take the second by 23-21, and the third by the identical score.

Again it was Johnson who achieved a breakthrough for Warwickshire as he defeated Wilson in straight games.

Hayward followed his skipper's example, 'going one better' with an incredible victory over Sandley, -12, 11, 20!

John Souter, made the match score impressive as he put on a very efficient display to dispose of Derek Munt.

Strengthened by the inclusion of Bob Potton the Essex squad of Dave Newman, Ian Horsham and Elaine Foulds, took an early 2-0 lead as Potton beat Hayward but Newman was made to struggle against Munt but came through -19, 8, 19, before Dougie Johnson beat Horsham. Although Dougie lost the first game he won the second 21-5, and the third 21-12, before joining forces with Karen Groves to level the match score with a victory over Elaine Foulds and Horsham.

Essex took the men's doubles, and then went further ahead as Elaine beat Karen -17, 15, 19, before Hayward secured his second singles triumph as he beat Newman 11, 14, to put Warwicks back in the fight.

Dougie Johnson, celebrating his inclusion in the elite European Ranking List at No. 23 with a resounding 15, 7 victory over Potton, emphasising the improvement of the England No. 3 this season, to level the match score.

Munt v Horsham, to save relegation for Warwickshire.

Derek took the first 23-21, lost the second 14-21, but Ian was to deny Derek the glory of victory as he took the third 21-19.

The final match of the series was against Northumberland. For the victor, another year in the prestigious Premier Division, for the loser, relegation.

Northumberland won the opening set with a win by Chu Van Que over Hayward. Barry Johnson levelled the match score with a win over Ian Robertson. Dougie made it 2-1, as he trounced Andrew Clarke signalling a remarkable landslide victory for Warwicks as the County side took all 6 remaining sets to take the match 8-1.

And so we live to fight another day, but our commiserations go to both Cheshire and Northumberland.

JUNIOR PREMIER

St. Neots, were again the gracious hosts for the Second Junior Premier Division week-end, as Warwickshire, third from the bottom of the table, strove to avoid relegation.

Hopes were high as Warwickshire tackled Sussex, a place above us in the table, and although Phil Gunn's win over Gary Bonner saw us off to a great start, Rod Lewis, lost to Richie Venner 19 in the third, to even the match score.

Dave Rudge was beaten by England No. 2 Junior Adrian Moore but Fiona Sutton and Melanie McHale hoisted Warwickshire's hopes with a doubles win over Teresa Moore and Sally Weston. Gunn/Steve Bertie could not hold Adrian Moore and Bonner, as Sussex took a 3-2 lead.

Bonner beat Lewis, again in the third, and Sally Weston proved too strong for Melanie to put Sussex into an unbeatable position.

Gunn beat Adrian Moore, but both Fiona and Dave Rudge lost their remaining singles as Sussex gained victory by 7-3.

The evening session, against Kent saw us again on the wrong end of a 7-3 result, as we substituted Bertie for Lewis to contest the singles.

Hopes were diminishing as we were the next to play Middlesex, who were at the foot of the table at the start of the week-end. They had achieved tremendous wins over Staffordshire (7-3) and Sussex (9-1).

Our worst fears were soon to be realised, as our trio of Gunn, Rudge and Bertie, all lost their singles encounters, and the doubles pairing of Fiona and Melanie, previously unbeaten, crashed to Michelle Williams and Laura Goldsmith to put Middlesex 4-0 up.

Lewis paired with Gunn to earn our first win, followed by a very close win by Rudge over Nigel Tyler.

Any hopes of survival faded as Melanie lost to Laura Goldsmith, for although Gunn was to earn a short reprieve with a win over Michael O'Leary, both Fiona and Bertie lost close encounters to Michelle Williams and Eddie Gorniak.

With relegation now almost a certainty we entered the final stages but Gunn, as he had done on all three previous occasions, put us one up as he beat David Rook, of Yorkshire. Lewis gave our hopes a boost as he took the first game against David Illingsworth, but David came back to take the next two. Rudge put us in front by winning his encounter with Stephen Sharp and our doubles combination of Fiona and Melanie, made it 3 out of 4 wins, with a victory over Josette Ryalls and Rachael Brook.

Yorkshire pulled the match score back to 2-3, with a win over Rudge/Bertie, and the match score was levelled as Rook beat Lewis.

Gunn again gave us the lead with a win over Sharpe, but Yorkshire again went level as both Melanie and Fiona lost their singles and Illingsworth gave Yorkshire victory with a win over Rudge.

And so our brief encounter with the elite came to an end, for although our hopes were high at the outset of the week-end, we had failed to win a single match.

Gunn was again our most successful player taking 6 wins from his 8 encounters. Rudge could only manage 2 wins from his 8, with both Lewis and Bertie, having played 4 singles each, returned blank sheets.

Fiona Sutton won only 1 out of her 4 encounters, with Melanie McHale failing in all her 4, although together they won 3 of their doubles. Much thought needs to be given into re-building the side with the 'coming of age' of most of our top junior players.

Pauline Long reports from . . .

NORTHUMBERLAND

BACK TO DIVISION 2

The County senior and junior teams were both in action during the weekend Feb. 27/28. The senior team of Chu Van Que, Ian Robertson, Andrew Clark and Clare Mouzon — a last minute replacement for Barbara Young who withdrew because of illness — were involved in the second round of the Premier Division play-offs at Batley.

Cheshire, because of administrative problems, withdrew from the event at the last minute, so all of their matches were declared void and they were placed in bottom position. As Northumberland had beaten them in the first session for their only win, this left them pointless along with Essex and Warwickshire.

The first session on the Sunday saw Northumberland facing Yorkshire, but they were never in the hunt, with their only success coming when Chu beat Alan Fletcher. At the same time, Warwickshire narrowly lost to Essex, leaving the final match between Warwickshire and Northumberland to decide which county would be relegated. Chu gave Northumberland the start they desired by beating Barry Hayward, but Warwickshire then took a 3-1 lead before a desperately close men's doubles involving Chu and Robertson saw them lose 24-26 in the third, and from then on Warwickshire took charge to record an 8-1 victory to send Northumberland back into the Second Division.

The juniors lost to Lancashire in an important Div. 3A match. The promotion of Clare Mouzon to the senior squad, together with the unavailability of Christine Burke, meant that Denise Campbell and Judith Drapkin were drafted into the team, the

latter for her County debut. As expected, Lancashire's girls proved to be too strong, and it was left to the boys to try to win the match, but unfortunately they lost 3-7, with Neil McMaster and Martin Tate winning one singles each and combining to take the doubles.

The Northumberland League men's team, who last year reached the final of the Wilmott Cup, are being made to struggle in the early rounds of this season's competition. Having scraped home 5-4 against Stockton, they were back to full strength for the visit to Sunderland. Chu Van Que was, as expected, unbeaten, but Clark and Robertson both succumbed to Keith Paxton and Tony Gelder, making the final score 5-4 in favour of Northumberland.

All three of the Royal Grammar School Teams travelled to Leeds to take part in the English Schools Regional play-offs, but sadly none of them managed to achieve any success.

Chu Van Que reached the semi-finals of the men's singles at the Durham 2-Star Open tournament on March 7, but narrowly lost to Yorkshire's Kevin Beadsley at that stage. Northumberland coach Peter McQueen contested the other semi-final against another Yorkshireman, Steve Mills, but he too was beaten. The Yorkshire pair also went on to win the men's doubles against Chu and McQueen in the final. Clare Mouzon captured the Junior Girls' title with a straight games win over Angela Wattis of Cleveland.

Aubrey Drapkin was unopposed in the recent National election, and will continue as Hon. Treasurer of the ETTA for next season.

The Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open tournament, to be held at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, on May 1, last year attracted entries from 21 counties with many of their top players, and it is hoped that this year's event will be just as successful. The prize fund stands at £1,005, including £225 for the winner of the men's singles.

Geoff Waters reports from . . .

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

LITTLE CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION

Another season of County Championships matches has drawn to a close and only the senior first team results give any cause for satisfaction.

Their last two matches were both won to give them five wins from their seven matches, which should leave them no lower than third place in Division 2A. On Feb. 27 they entertained Warwickshire II at Impington Village College canteen and won 6-4. Mick Harper was in irresistible form and his two singles wins were mainly instrumental in earning Cambs the two points. He had good support, however, from Keith Richardson, Andy Withers and Joanne Palmer all of whom won a singles, while Joanne and Mandy Judd also won the women's doubles.

They followed this up with a 7-3 win over Derbyshire at Burton-on-Trent on March 13. Ironically, Harper, the hero of the previous match, was involved in all three defeats this time. He was beaten in the singles by Alan Cooke and David Yallop and also went down in the men's doubles in partnership with Richardson.

The second team had two disastrous results in Division 3D, losing 1-9 to both Kent II and Middlesex II.

Martin Livermore, from the Cambridge club Wesley, made his debut in the Kent match but was unfortunate in finding Kent fielding their best team of the season.

The county's sole success came in the

men's doubles where Robert Swift and Tony Holmes were victorious.

Although also heavily beaten by Middlesex, the match was not as one-sided as the score would indicate. Ten of the twenty-four games played were won by only a two point margin. However, Cambs could only manage the one set and that was won by Holmes over Bryn Tyler.

This team have finished their fixtures with just three points from seven matches and look likely to finish next to bottom.

The juniors have had a somewhat disappointing season in Junior 3D with three wins from six matches. At the time of writing they still have to play Sussex II in a match re-arranged because of the bad weather in December. They beat Hertfordshire II 7-3 and lost 2-8 to Bedfordshire II in their last two fixtures.

In the match against Herts at Impington Julian Wheel, Jamie Frost and Cameron Alexander won all six boys' singles, while Mandy Judd, playing in her first junior match of the season also won her singles.

In the Beds match at Luton, where I'm told that the whole team played badly, Wheel and Frost each won a singles.

The junior second team concluded their season in Junior 4, with the long trek to play Cumbria II. Cumbria very sportingly staged the match at Melling, which I believe is actually in Lancashire, thus reducing the round trip to a mere 510 miles. A journey of that distance is not conducive to bringing out the best in players and Cambridgeshire went down 0-5. However, they rallied well and took the next three sets with singles wins from Paul Oldroyd, Louise Ward and Peter Holliday.

Unfortunately, the last two sets, although close, eluded us and Cumbria finally won 7-3. With just one point from their six matches, this team will finish bottom of the division.

MARCH LEAGUE

At halfway mark of the season in March & District League, Rokewood and TSB Soham stand in first and second positions respectively in Division 1. Rokewood hold a 20 points lead but Soham have one match in hand and they have to meet for a second time at Wisbech. In Div. 2, March Youth Club hold a 13 points lead over Chatteris Youth Club. Div. 3 leaders are White Hart, who have a slender one point lead over Chatteris Chequers.

The March National League team after a somewhat quiet first half of the season started the second half in good form.

They travelled to Salford and Stockton and came away with a point on each occasion and followed this up with a fine 5-3 win over Tarmac Wolverhampton. Tony Holmes came into the team after skipper Geoff Davies had been injured in a car accident and has scored four wins in three matches, which included a double in the Wolverhampton match. Both these sets were won 19 in the third after being behind.

Mick Miles reports from . . .

BEDFORDSHIRE

LUTON ENCOURAGED

The Luton League held their main tournaments in February and in contrast to the poor response to the County tournaments, the Luton committee were so encouraged by the number of entries received (especially from the lower divisions) that they have decided to hold an additional handicap tournament after the league programme is completed.

The results at Luton were:

Divs. 6 to 9:
John Gillespie bt Kenroy Huggins

Divs. 2 to 5:
Steve Buckley bt Roy Cowlard

Girls' Singles:
Mary Jarrett bt Julie Miles

Women's Doubles:
Dawn Campbell/Julie Dimmock bt Nikki Hamilton/Audrey Robinson

Boys' Doubles:
Duncan Adams/Ian Doughty bt Darren Barton/David Sharpe

Girls' Doubles:
Jarrett/Alex Lyons bt Michelle Hollick/Christine Lawrence

Junior Mixed:
Doughty/Miles bt Sharpe/Michelle Norris.

The following matches were held over for Finals Night scheduled for Mar. 25:

Men's Singles:
Sharpe v Doughty

Women's Singles:
Dimmock v Hamilton

Veterans' Singles:
Jim Wooliscroft v Tony Dimmock

Men's Doubles:
Keith Thompson/Wooliscroft v David Cartwright/Sharpe

Mixed Doubles:
Doughty/Dimmock v Cartwright/Hamilton

Boys' Singles:
Doughty v Sharpe

David Sharpe gave the County senior team selectors a "Harvey Smith" in the best possible way, when he won both his sets at Northants on Feb. 28. Originally omitted from the team, he was recalled after his selected replacement cried off. David's contribution helped the team to secure a 6-4 victory that has virtually assured us of promotion now that Shropshire have sadly withdrawn from the competition. Jackie and Lisa Bellinger gave us the women's sets and a singles from Gavin Booth made up the winning sets.

The Junior 2nd team of Andy Conquest, Andy James, Lee Holmes, Julie Miles and Mary Jarrett entertained Suffolk on the same day and enjoyed a comfortable 8-2 win. But fate had a hand in the Junior 1st team line-up for the Premier weekend on Mar. 6/7 at St. Neots.

Ian Doughty, our No. 2, was involved in an accident whilst crossing the road just before the team set off on the Saturday morning. Although, happily, Ian's injuries were not too serious, they were sufficient to prevent him from participating.

Fortunately with Conquest at No. 4 the team was not weakened, but tactically it did mean that we could not select the most effective side for each match. And, although we beat Kent (with Sharpe having successes over David Dodd and Ray Namdjou) and Staffs (8-2) we narrowly lost to Sussex and Surrey to finish in a very creditable 3rd position.

A special mention for Jackie and Lisa Bellinger who finished the competition undefeated in both singles and doubles (I wonder if that's a record for the Junior Premier?). They also reached the doubles semi-final of the English Closed and Lisa was a quarter-finalist in the singles.

Lisa Robins must have reached more girls' U-12 finals than anyone else this season, without actually winning the title. In the Yorkshire Junior, she reached the final for the sixth time this season and again finished runner-up. Keep going Lisa!

Bedford Modern U-13 boys' team have won through to the ESTTA finals to join our other representatives Rambridge Girls' U-11 at Lea Green. The Beds Schools' Individual Championships once again attracted over 200 entrants.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles U-19:
Colin Luscombe (Lea Manor) bt Andrew James (Bedford Mod.).

Boys' Singles U-16:
Keith Samuels (Samuel Whitbread) bt

Garry Turner (Samuel Whitbread).

Boys' Singles U-13:
Andrew Trott (Bedford Mod.) bt Cuang Van Cao (Lea Manor).

Boys' Singles U-11:
Tim Harris (Bedford Mod.) bt Mark Simmonds (Bedford Mod.).

Girls' Singles U-19:
Jackie Bellinger (Dunstable College) bt Julie Dimmock (Dunstable College).

Girls' Singles U-16:
Lisa Bellinger (Mansfield) bt Mary Jarrett (Northfields).

Girls' Singles U-13:
Joyce Mitchell (Putteridge High) bt Lisa Robins (Challney).

Girls' Singles U-11:
Hazel Lawrence (Rambridge) bt Caroline Buckley (Norton Road).

Gerald Green reports from . . .

SHROPSHIRE

JUNIOR 'CLOSED' — GROVE SWEEP UP

Mary Webb School, Pontesbury, this year were hosts for the first time for Shropshire TTA's Junior 'Closed' Championships, with Pontesbury TTA making local arrangements, including the provision of light refreshments for the all day Sunday session.

They were duly rewarded by their top player Ivan Smith (although playing for Grove TTA this year) winning the U-17 boys' title. In the final Smith beat Belle Vue Youth Club's Peter Hyde, who was making his first appearance in a singles final. Smith partnered Grove colleague Colin Wilson to win the boys' doubles beating Pontesbury lads Peter Thomas and Ian Garrett in the final.

All the titles in fact went to the Grove Club, with Alison Barker winner of both the Cadet and Junior girls' titles although she had to be satisfied with a runners-up place in the doubles when, with Denise Boughey, she lost to Grove pair Colette Soan and Carol Wickstead.

David Williams won the boys' Cadet title, beating Pontesbury's Peter Thomas in the final.

Although entries were slightly down on last year the new format for singles events — group matches where everyone played each other with the winner going through to a knock-out tournament — proved popular. Trophies were presented by Association President Bill Harris and Chairman Cyril Stannett. Peter Groom was the referee with considerable assistance from other Committee and non committee members — all of whom were thanked by the President.

FINALS RESULTS

U-17 Boys' Singles:
Ivan Smith (Grove) bt Peter Hyde (Belle Vue) 12, 15.

U-17 Girls' Singles:
Alison Barker (Grove) bt Carol Wickstead (Grove) -18, 17, 8.

U-14 Boys' Singles:
David Williams (Grove) bt Peter Thomas (Pontesbury) 13, 19.

U-14 Girls' Singles:
Alison Barker (Grove) bt Nicola Thorneycroft (Grove) 10, 15.

Boys' Doubles:
Smith/Colin Wilson (Grove) bt Thomas/Ian Garrett (Pontesbury) 13, 11.

Girls' Doubles:
Wickstead/Colette Soan (Grove) bt Barker/Denise Boughey (Grove) 17, 16.

Defeat opens up title chase

A good win against Stockton in a hard-fought match, followed by defeat against St. Neots has opened up the Second Division North of the National League.

Against Stockton the match started badly for Grove, with Tony Boasman below his

best form losing to an impressive Ian Plummer. Mark Hankey levelled the match with a fine win over the hard-hitting Malcolm Corking and a brilliant display by Malcolm Green demolished Graham Walker to give Grove the lead. Phil Bowen, nursing stitches in a thumb, struggled against Terry Murphy and lost in straight games. Boasman came to the rescue with a better performance, showing more determination in beating Corking. Hankey demolished Murphy and Green did the same to Plummer so that Bowen only had to conclude the proceeding by beating Walker to give Grove a 6-2 win.

Another bad start against St. Neots could not be overcome this time and resulted in a 3-5 defeat. Boasman was unable to handle the top spin of Keith Richardson and was beaten comfortably. A controlled display by Hankey accounted for Peter Taylor and a fine effort by Green gave the home side the lead as Mick Harper was beaten in straight games. However, the in-form Paul Randall beat Bowen, Taylor beat Boasman, a luckless Green fell to Richardson and Randall comfortably disposed of Hankey as St. Neots stormed to a 5-2 lead. It was left to Bowen to make the score look respectable when beating Harper in the final game.

Pontesbury pull off national 'scoop'

Pontesbury TTA have pulled off a major scoop by being chosen to stage the national Junior Cadet Ranking Tournament in April. Coach and organiser John Morris said the Association were absolutely delighted to be given the honour of staging an event of national importance. The cream of England's Cadet players will converge on the Mary Webb School for the event which takes place on Saturday and Sunday, April 10/11. "When you look at the map and where we are, it is really a fantastic tribute and we are all excited that the ETTA have seen fit to let us organise and stage it", said John. Describing the Easter competition as "undoubtedly the biggest event in the Association's history", John said the decision underlined just how far the Association had progressed since table tennis first took off at Pontesbury just before the war. They started in humble fashion at the Railway Inn before they were taken under the wing of the local cricket club. Eventually they amalgamated with the Mary Webb School and haven't looked back. In the last two years they have organised an invitation team tournament in June and last April staged an exhibition match by the England National Team.

A fair selection of local players will be in action and when you couple this event with the National Junior Ranking event recently held at The Grove it can now fairly be said that when it comes to table tennis Shropshire is no longer a backwater. Let's get a bit of money in the kitty then how about a County Championships comeback?

Roy Williams reports from . . .

NORTH WALES

RADCLIFFE CUP

Teams from Rhyl and Wrexham contest the final of the North Wales Team Championship for the Radcliffe Cup which is scheduled to be held on Apl. 14 at Colwyn Bay Cricket Club.

In the semi-final Clwyd (Rhyl) beat Colwyn Bay TTC whilst Wylfa P.S. (Anglesey) made the long journey to Wrexham's Gwersallt club and even though Don Hobbs was unbeaten he could not prevent his team's defeat.

WYLFA TOPPLED

Sealink Holyhead with only one defeat in fourteen matches have taken the top spot in Div. 1 of the Anglesey League

from Wylfa P.S. who have led the way all season long. Llangefni "A" who upset Wylfa's record are in third place with only one defeat in twelve outings equal with the powermen. In Div. 2 unbeaten Wylfa P.S. "B" only need three points to win promotion.

Defending champions Colwyn Bay C.C. "A" away to unbeaten Lansdowne in the Llandudno League repeated their cup victory by 6 sets to 4 in one of the best matches played for many a year. Cricket Club now need but 2 points for the title.

Cricket Club "B" have won Div. 2 with Llandudno Junction certain to be runners-up. Junction beat Cricket Club in the League Cup semi-final. Friendship "A" and Lansdowne "C" are still fighting it out for the top place followed by Tech College and Junction "C". British Telecom have won the fourth division title with Tech College "C" as runners-up.

The battle of who wins the 5th Division is between Woodlands and Hotpoint with the former having a set advantage at present. Clwyd "A" retained their Div. 1 title in the Rhyl League with Schooner "A" their only serious challengers falling away in the latter stages of the season to finish second.

Clwyd "B" pipped Rhyl Labour Club for the Div. 2 title. Gwersallt still top the first division in Wrexham but all the other divisions remain open.

HOOK WINS

John Hook retained his Rhyl Closed men's singles title with a final victory over G. Hollis. Other results:

Women's Singles:

Mrs. B. Williams bt Mrs. P. Oakes.

Veterans' Singles:

M. Williams bt R. Howland.

Junior Singles:

Mark Williams bt A. Harrison.

Consolation Singles:

Harrison bt L. Jackson.

Division 2 Singles:

C. Parry bt M. Hook.

Handicap Singles:

I. Preston bt Hollis.

Men's Doubles:

K. Fitzsimmons/Hook bt A. Halsall/
M. Williams.

Women's Doubles:

P. Oakes/B. Williams bt S. Halsall/
D. Howland.

Mixed Doubles:

Hook/Oakes bt M. and B. Williams.

Junior Doubles:

Jackson/M. Williams bt Harrison/
C. Thomas.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Rhyl's Mark Thomas who represents Wales in Budapest this month and to Les Jones from Llandudno who is a member of the Welsh Umpires squad.

John Woodford reports from . . .

SUSSEX

PUDDUCK TO THROW FOR THE 180!

Controversial Malcolm Francis is finishing the season with mixed fortunes. The Uckfield defender has been scraping balls off the floor most of the time with some good results — the Sussex men's singles title he captured for the first time — and a few losses he would rather forget.

His current England ranking of 34 is creditable but he has shown vulnerability to accurate attackers — Peter Pudduck (Littlehampton) the most improved Sussex player of the campaign grabbed the prestigious Brighton singles crown from him in a spectacular final at Southwick.

In fact Pudduck collected three major titles — the West Sussex, the Seaman cup

for the Top 8 and the Brighton trophy. Now Pudduck is talking about retiring for a year to take four A-levels and relaxing to play darts at a high standard in West Sussex.

Rachel Mackriell, with one more season to go at Brighton Polytechnic still dominates the Sussex women's field thoroughly enjoying her open style of play lobbing from the back of the court on many occasions. She came into the table however, to lose -19, -16 to her main rival Sheila King (Hastings) as Eastbourne were heaved out of the Rose Bowl zone final 5-4 by Hastings — a match in which England No. 16 junior Teresa Moore impressed by stopping Angela Maskell and Sue Haifenden.

Next season's junior hopes will rest it seems, with Garry Bonner, the Crawley boy who has an England No. 44 rating. He retained the Sussex junior title, beating Richie Venner, son of Harry Venner, in the final. Richie is rewarded by coincidence, by the England No. 50 junior rating.

Teresa Moore seems set to dominate the Sussex girls' scene until 1985. In the Sussex girls' final she smashed Nina Williams 2 (no mis-print), 10!

Dolphins will finish mid-table in the Division 2 (South) National League after a rift with Francis. Stephen Moore, Adrian Moore, Pudduck and a formidable No. 4. Roger Chandler will go confidently forward in the National League next season with a new sponsorship from TCB.

Obituary

FREDERICK GEORGE MANNOOCH

Died 12 Mar., 1982, aged 83.

Funeral took place at Sittingbourne 19 Mar.

"Jimmy" Mannooch was a native of Sittingbourne. On leaving school he joined the Post Office at Sittingbourne, where he spent all his working life, retiring in 1958 with the rank of Assistant Postmaster.

During the 1914-18 war he served in the Army, and during the second world war he was loaned to the Admiralty wireless section for a period.

He was best known, however, for his services to table tennis, both locally and nationally. Although a regular player, he never made the top grade in the local league, but more than made up for this in his enthusiasm and organising ability. Many people owe their interest in the game to his influence.

As Honorary Secretary of Sittingbourne Postals club he was instrumental in founding the Sittingbourne and District Table Tennis Association in 1930, became their first Honorary Secretary and continued in this post for 40 years with one short break. The strength of the Association today is largely due to the strong foundations laid down under his guidance.

In 1936 it was he who was mainly responsible for the formation of the Kent County Table Tennis Association, and he remained as Honorary Secretary for some years. He also served many years on the National Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Association in 1960. He was a Life Vice-President of the Kent County TTA and a Vice-President and Honorary Life Member of the Sittingbourne and District TTA.

In 1952 he founded the Crescent Club to provide table tennis for girls and ran it almost single-handed for over 20 years. The annual Crescent Club Invitation Tournament became one of the most important table tennis tournaments in the country, attracting all the leading junior girl players. In later years he added swimming to the club's activities, organising a number of galas. The Crescent Club is still flourishing as a swimming club.

Jack Chalkley reports from . . .

STAFFORDSHIRE

DETERMINED STAFFS

By the time you read this, the battle for top position in Division 2A of the County Championships will have been decided, but at the time of their penultimate match against Lancashire, the contest was finely balanced, with Staffordshire needing a good win to catch up with Leicestershire on sets average. Although Lancs fielded a weakened side, nothing can detract from the determination and effort put in by the Staffs team, and the resultant 9-1 win was a deserved victory, taking them to the top of the division by one set. No one in the Staffs team will begrudge special mention being made of Lancs young junior star, Philip Huggon, who came in as a late replacement. Although he plays with a 'combination bat' which I personally dislike, I must compliment him on his composure and good temperament throughout his games — a credit to table tennis and an example to many of his ill-tempered seniors. His efforts resulted in his capture of the last set of the evening, an exciting win over Andy Rich on "deuce" in the third.

Earlier in the match, Mark Evans, a Potteries player in his first season with the County senior side, confirmed his selection by a well-structured win over Huggon and a competent defeat of Paul Hutchings. Jill Harris' victory over the highly-skilled Jean Parker was perhaps the outstanding Staffs performance. After losing the first game, she proceeded to reach her top form for the County with crushing 15, 11 wins in the remaining two. All is now set for the final match against Worcestershire, mention of which I might be able to squeeze in as a 'stop press' item at the end of this column.

RESULTS (Lancs player first)

Brian Carney lost to Andrew Bellingham -17, -13;
lost to Rich 18, -9, -15.
Paul Hutchings lost to Bellingham - walkover, late arrival;
lost to Evans -20, -17.
Huggon lost to Evans 14, -18, -18;
bt Rich -16, 14, 21.
Carney/Hutchings lost to Bellingham/Rich -17, 14, -14.
Parker lost to Harris 15, -15, -11.
Sue Hughes lost to Janet Dunning -10, -17.
Parker/Hughes lost to Harris/Dunning 17, -18, -16.

Finally, many thanks to Lancashire for the friendly welcome they gave us.

Staffs II entertained a Durham team minus Keith Paxton and recorded a 7-3 victory. Greg Hallam, Craig Bakewell (both of whom had good wins against Tony Gelder) and Fiona Elliot were unbeaten. John Hancock gained one win but Vicki Bellingham for once failed in both her singles and the doubles with Fiona.

The Staffs Junior "B" side of Kevin Cartwright, Roderick Heap, Matthew Harvey, Tracey Spencer and Angela Sanders gained a commendable 9-1 win away to an older and more experienced Bucks "B" team.

Now we come to the Junior Premier weekend. Sad to say, we lost all four matches and so after two seasons at top level we return to the struggle for promotion in the second division next season. No matter, I think we will be back. The detailed results will appear elsewhere in the magazine, but I would like to record the commendable efforts of Andrew Dixon, cadets Adrian Dixon and Richard Hayward, and the girls Fiona Elliot and Vicki Bellingham. Looking to the future, however, if our younger juniors and cadets make the progress we hope for, there is no reason to be depressed about the result. They have the incentive now to achieve something for the County

and for themselves, and the county coaches and officials will, I am sure, give them every support.

Several County-ranked players figured in the individual finals of the Staffs Schools' Tournament. The two Stafford players, Paul Dilger and Bill Bridgeman continued their ding-dong battle, this time Paul coming out on top to take the under-19's event. In the Stafford Tournament earlier this year, Bill won the Men's singles after Paul had beaten him in the Intermediates. In the schools' event, Bridgeman gained a good win over Paul Barnett, who, as reported below, later won the Potteries men's singles title.

Lynn Burgess beat Rachel Roberts in the girls' U-19's, Stephanie Hadley and Adrian Hough were the U-16's winners over Angela Billings and Stephen Meigh to give Stafford schools four winners, but the remaining events went to other parts of the County.

U-13 Girls':

Jill Powis (Codsall) bt Karen Rogers (Pott.).

U-13 Boys':

Mark Riley (Pott.) bt Nigel Tongue (Stafford).

U-11 winners:

Natalie Riley (Pott.) and Gary Knights (Burton).

Winners go forward to the National finals at Mansfield on May 1st.

Following my remarks about the visit of our Senior "B" side to Lincolnshire, I loosely referred to the County town instead of the County, thus inferring the match was played in Lincoln. I gather that this was not the case, and Mr. Hurford of the Crusaders Club there has asked me to point out that their club was not the venue about which complaints were made. I do apologise if I misled anyone, or caused any embarrassment to the officials of that club.

The Potteries Closed had particular interest for those who follow County rankings. There is so little to choose between several players in the men's rankings, and with most of them competing in the Potteries league, we were sure to be in for an interesting time. In the quarter-finals, Evans beat Steve Rowe (a fast and furious feast of table tennis), Barnett beat Hallam, Bakewell beat Ivan Wain and Bridgeman beat John Riley. In the semis, Barnett beat Evans 19, 11 and Bridgeman beat Bakewell 18, 18, and then Barnett triumphed in the final 20, 17, to win the Finney Cup.

Other results were:

Baker Cup (Women):

C. Rowe bt A. Billings -20, 19, 6.

Beryl Broad Trophy (Juniors):

S. Rogers bt D. Haines -18, 17, 20.

Leading Trophy (Men's Doubles):

Barnett/Bridgeman bt J. Deakin/S. Deakin -18, 7, 14.

Upton Cup (Ladies' Doubles):

J. Blair/M. Peake lost to P. Brookes/C. Rowe 18, 20.

Proctor Cup (Mixed Doubles):

Miss C. Rowe/S. Rowe bt Miss A. Barnett/P. Barnett 5, -17, 14.

Veterans:

John Riley bt Reg Wain 13, 10.

STOP PRESS:

Worcestershire 0 Staffordshire 10

A sound display which, by our reckoning, gives us promotion to the Premier Division.

Staffs II 8 Derbyshire II 2

If Cheshire are relegated from the Premier it looks as though Staffs II move up into Division 2A.

STAFFS CLOSED

Bellingham beaten by Stan Deakin in the 3rd round of the men's, but wins the Intermediates, beating Rich in final. Adrian Hough and Angela Sanders with the Cadet titles. John Riley retains the Veterans. The Women's Doubles holders, Janet Dunning and Joanne Chubb are beaten by Jill

Harris and Shirley Cain in the final. Top seeds in the Junior girls' go out and Amanda Hegarty beats Stephanie Hadley in the final. Jill Harris retained the Women's title and Andrew Dixon the Boys' as well as the Junior Doubles with Alan Trubshaw. Jill Harris and Bellingham retain the Mixed against Hallam and Janet Dunning so Jill has collected all three women's titles.

Surprise of the day, following Bellingham's exit from the Men's, was Evans' victory over Rich, 17 in the third after Rich was leading 15-10. The final event of the day was the all-Potteries Men's Doubles in which Evans and John Hancock beat Bakewell and Hallam, the holders. Full details next month.

Tony Carey reports from . . .

SOMERSET

MORALE-BOOSTING WIN

Somerset Juniors finished their 1981/82 fixtures with a resounding morale-boosting 9-1 win over a good Dorset II team at Westlands Sports Club, Yeovil on Saturday, March 13.

There were two changes from the team which gained a very creditable draw against Cornwall, Lee Sadler on his home ground coming in for Mark Nicholls and Melonie Carey in place of Wendy Payne.

Although the scoreline looks like a walk-over, this was not the true picture, as Dorset made our team fight for every point and gave some indication of the good coaching they must have had, with some very good stroke play showing their potential for the future.

This was also true of our team's performance. It was good to see David Lee, our No. 1 junior, although troubled by a long-lasting knee injury which has restricted his performance this season, producing some of his best strokes again. This was also the end of David's County matches as a Junior, and I know that all the table tennis fraternity of Somerset and others who know David will wish him good luck next season when he competes as a Senior. These wishes will be tinged with a slight regret. I know, that due to a series of unfortunate injuries and illness at crucial times in his career, he was unable to break into the England rankings which would have been a fitting reward for all his hard work. However, I know this disappointment will not affect him as he faces the challenge ahead.

We had a view of his successor for next season at least in Russi Captain, the very talented 16-year-old student from Millfield School, Street, who has such a fine touch in his play.

Sadler gave full justification for his home debut, producing a performance of good strokes and controlled play, which we know he has worked hard on. This will be further improved, I am sure, if he competes with John Smeeton and Ian Dicken, his Yeovil club-mates, in the Bridgwater and District League next season, as I am told they will, if they can find a local home venue.

Not to be out-done by the Boys, our two young Girls, Melonie Carey and Fiona Stuart, gave us indications of their future potential as good Juniors with inspired stroke play when under pressure, complementing each other's play in the doubles, and showing definite indications in their singles that they are developing confidence in going for their best strokes. Their opponents were the Scott-Powson sisters, Samantha and Tracey. Melonie won her set with Tracy after a nervous start, winning two-straight, but Samantha proved to be too experienced for Fiona, also winning two-straight.

To follow this fine Junior match, in the evening we had the Somerset Senior Team playing their great rivals, Avon. I only wish that we could have put this on video and persuaded the TV companies to screen it, as I am sure this would have gone a long way to bring back the spectators. After each game I almost expected the players to be wiping off sweated blood, they were putting so much effort into it. Making his debut for the Seniors was young Russi Captain and he rose to the occasion very well against the Avon No. 1, Andrew Creed, a very fine player. But this did not deter Russi, who proceeded to give a display of good attacking play which had Andrew on the defence, blunting his attack. However, Russi relaxed slightly, and Andrew came back to win 21-19.

The second game gave the Somerset team hope for a surprise win when Russi won 21-17 with some superb strokes to move Andrew around before hitting the kill shot. This prompted some urgent consultations in the Avon camp between Andrew and Team Coach, the experienced Mike Lewis. Perhaps Mike will tell us sometime what he advised, as it worked well, with Andrew winning the 3rd 21-14. But I am sure all who saw the set will agree that Russi will win far more in the future, especially when his studies allow him to practice, his play this season being confined to a match night once a week.

To follow this contest we had another between old rivals David Wilson of Somerset and Paul Hooper, which again had us all on the edge of our seats after David won the 1st 21-12, hoping for a win to level the match score at one-all. But it was not to be, as Paul won the next 2, 18 and 15, and I know he will agree that it was not an easy win against an inspired David, playing some of his best shots.

The 3rd set gave the Somerset team their expected win with Brian Reeves winning 15 and 7 against Cris Ross.

It was the turn of the Ladies, Jill Green and Judy Craig, in the 4th set, to level the scores with a fine win over the strong Avon pairing of Rebecca Russe and Stephanie Jones. It was hoped that this would be repeated in the Men's Doubles played next with a fresh John Hartry partnering Brian. But it was not to be, as the Avon pairing of Creed and Ross won two straight 16-16. Set 6 levelled the score at 3-all with Russi gaining his first win, over 3 games, against Hooper. Another bloodsweating set!

The next set, a women's singles between Judy Craig and Stephanie Jones, resulted in a win for Avon, Stephanie proving too experienced and strong for Judy, although she never gave up. This took them into the lead again.

The 8th set was a repeat of the Western Counties final the previous Saturday. Although not going to 3, it still produced a classic display of loop attack from Andrew and chop defence from Brian, who although restricted by the run back, still managed to return the ball from impossible angles to drop close to Andrew's side of the net, making him pull out all the stops to run out the winner 17 and 17.

If this match had been shown on TV the British public would realise that not only the Chinese and Japanese can retrieve from outside the court.

In the penultimate set it was the women's turn again with a repeat performance of loop and smash against defensive chop with experienced Jill Green repeating the tactics of Andrew against an improving young Rebecca Russe and winning in 3 after losing the 1st -13, but recovering to take the next 13 and 15.

I know Jill will welcome this win as it reversed a win by Rebecca in the Rose Bowl Match between Bridgwater Town and Bristol last month. With the score now at

5-4 to Avon, the last set still had an element of importance attached to it, with both teams aware that the result was still there to be played for. For Somerset the hope was for a win to achieve a creditable draw and for Avon the chance to go for a clear win. The players were Wilson and Ross who realised the responsibility they had and this produced a fitting finale with a hard-fought set which swung both ways with the final game going to Chris. And what a high note to end on! Although this match had an element of keen rivalry and needle, it did not prevent good sportsmanship prevailing with the only shouting being that from the supporters for their team and applause given in appreciation of excellent play, whoever produced it.

I hope that I will be reporting on similar standards of play in future matches.

WESTERN COUNTIES TOURNAMENT WESTLANDS SPORTS CLUB, YEOVIL SATURDAY, 6 MARCH, 1982

It was the turn of Somerset to stage this very popular annual event for Senior and Junior teams, and a very good job they made of it too, thanks to the Westlands Sports Club Secretary, Mr. Cyril Heywood, who provided the use of their excellent facilities, both for players and spectators, and much hard work was also put in by the many helpers who set the stage. Also, with the experience of Mrs. Pat Archdale as referee conducting the proceedings everything ran like clockwork, smoothly and to time.

Six counties provided teams for both the Junior and Senior events, some putting in two of each, these being Somerset, Avon, Cornwall, Gloucester, Dorset and Hampshire.

Two teams, Wiltshire and Devon, were missing this year, due to other commitments, but this did not detract from the standard, as I am sure all will agree that Hampshire honoured their invitation very well by providing some very good opposition in both events, taking the title in the Seniors and runners-up in the Junior team events, and also winning the individual Women's and Girls' titles.

Nearer home, Gloucester won the Junior Team title and Avon were runners-up in the Senior.

Somerset were not to be outdone, though, on their own ground. They provided one of the finalists in the Boys' and Men's events — this being Russi Captain, a 16-year-old student at Millfield School, Street, who produced one of the shocks of the Tournament in the semi-final, beating the England-ranked Junior from Gloucester, Paul Jackson, but he unfortunately lost to D. Griffin of the same county in the final. However, I am sure we will see more good wins from this talented player as he gains in experience.

GO WEST AND MULTIPLY

On Saturday, Feb. 13, all roads in the west for Junior T.T. players led to Exeter for their Open Tournament.

Somerset provided their largest contingent for some years, 22 players, boys and girls, of ages ranging from 10-17 years, who travelled from Bridgwater, Yeovil, Weston-Super-Mare and Millfield School, Street.

It was a welcome sight for the Somerset coaches to see this turn out and the results in the individual competitions were very encouraging with good displays with varying success.

All in all, though, it was a good baptism of fire for the newcomers to Open Tournaments and increased experience for the seasoned circuit travellers.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, Somerset Senior 1st Team defeated Isle of Wight 9-1 at Westlands Sports Club, Yeovil — a good result and morale booster for us, although

their opponents fielded a weaker team than we expected.

Also on the same day, the Junior Team had a good result against Cornwall away recording a creditable draw which could have been a 6-4 victory to us, but Dave Lee sustained an injury to his knee after winning the 1st game and leading in the second against the Cornwall No. 1.

Philip Reid reports from . . .

LEICESTERSHIRE

THWARTED BY STAFFS

Leicestershire for the second division again. That is the gloomy news I have to open with. Despite beating Lancashire 7-3, they lost on sets aggregate to Staffordshire who were beating Worcestershire 10-0 at the same time, to finish four sets ahead. This is the second time Staffordshire have thwarted us — they did so in 1980 at the Play-offs, with Andy Rich beating Maurice Newman in the vital set, but hope springs eternal and next season we shall have to go one better. Our troubles emanate from Yorkshire's thrashing of us early in the season but Leicestershire beat Staffs who were handicapped by the illness of Rich so things more or less balance themselves out.

The never-ending search for a No. 3 will probably be resolved by the inclusion of Martin Pickles, a young defender who has given some very consistent displays in the Leicester League 1st division this season. He was to have been rewarded with his county debut for the 2nd team against Cumbria but illness forestalled what can only be a matter of time. The Junior 1st team surprisingly lost 4-6 to Durham, despite having three start in the girls' events. Trouble was expected from the brilliant Darren McVitie, who won two but the Durham gamble of playing Martin Gent in his first — and last — match came off when he beat Stuart Wilford in the "decider". David Blackburne also won two for the first time so it was a joyful trip back to Stanley that the Durham team made. In passing I must comment on the determination and sportsmanship shown by the Durham team, no doubt instilled by genial non-playing captain Mr. T. Kerry.

On the Midland League front, the juniors are doing well and the Veterans badly. The juniors, Simon Griew, Stuart Wilford and David Aldwinckle beat Derby to make certain of being champions but the Veterans lost their match with Walsall to endanger their chances of survival. A consistent team would be an asset here; instead skipper Geoff Aldwinckle has to bravely soldier on with whoever is available . . . surely some Leicester veterans would like a game at league level? And whilst on about league level — the Leicestershire Inter-Towns events have both been cancelled, the Seniors and Juniors that is. Apathy all round must be the main reason but this is no reflection on Geoff Aldwinckle who has tackled the job with rare enthusiasm. It is to be hoped that next season will see the resumption of these events, together with the Rose Johnson Bowl, when a fit Philip Reid will be at the helm.

The 'Leicestershire Closed' (results elsewhere in this issue) went off smoothly thanks to the efforts of Geoff Aldwinckle, Ian McKelvey, Ted Collins, Pat Pickles, Eileen Shaler, Terry Yeomanson and Tony Lillierapp. None the less, the tournament as such has seven un-finished matches, which will be staged at Knighton Park TT Club on April 19. I have in front of me a copy of the Hinckley League's magazine, "The Hinckley Loop". The Holt Trophy will be contested by Kingscroft, who beat Ferry Pickering 9-0, and either Barwell Liberals

"A" and "C" teams. Barwell Liberals "A" lead the 1st division, with John Veasey and Tony Lillicrapp prominent but John Iliffe leads the divisional averages, still unbeaten. Division 2 sees Ferry Pickering holding forth, easily topping the league by 22 points but Ray Greaves (Barwell Libs) tops the averages. In the 3rd division Brockington hold the fort whilst Div. 4 is led by Ferry Pickering for whom Martin Hobday is the averages-leader. Even Martin, however, had to give second best to Barwell Liberal's Andrew Mee who recorded a brilliant treble. Westfield lead the Junior Division but Dave Ison (John Cleveland College) took three from Westfield, the only player to do so this season and not surprisingly he tops the divisional averages.

In the Leicester League the Frith Trophy will be played between Bentley Engineering and Anstey WMC with many close battles taking part in the league itself. Top 10 winners (to date) and top of the averages are as follows:

- 1 Great Glen Philip Smith (J.&S.), 2 Thorn 1, John Veasey (Barwell Libs), 3 Thurnby/Northwood, John Davis (LBS), 4 Jones & Shipman, Bob Davies (AEI), 5 Wadkin, Nigel Burke (LUCA), 6 Bentley Engineering, Vijay Sheth (Bentley), 7 Wyvern, Charlie Wong (University), 8 Goodwin Barsby, Victor Chin (Belgrave Libs), 9 County Hall, Peter Cruse (County Hall), 10 Bentley Engineering, Dave Roache (Rolls Royce).

George Yates reports from . . .

LANCASHIRE

HUGGON THE STAR

Young Philip Huggon from Chipping, nr. Preston, who celebrated his fifteenth birthday on Feb. 26, was Lancashire's star performer on Mar. 13 when, playing for the County Juniors in Div. 3A he figured in the 10-0 'whitewash' over Cleveland II and later in the day for the Red Rose 2nds he won two of the three sets taken from Leicestershire in the Senior Div. 2A.

In this latter engagement he accounted for those two stalwarts from the hunting county, Maurice Newman and Paul Randell. And another smart performance was that of Liverpool's Paul Hutchings who beat Chris Rogers in the opening set. How was that for starters?

Congratulations to Lancs juniors who romped away with the Div. 3A title the players concerned being Huggon, Michael Mercer, Philip Aspinall, Shaun Browne, Christine Peacock and Caroline Hemming.

Both the senior team in the Premier Division and the 2nds, in Div. 2A finished mid table but it was a creditable performance on the part of the 1st team at Batley to account for Essex without Don Parker (in Portugal) and Steve Turner (sick).

Preston, with one match to play in Div. 1 of the Lancs and Ches League are all set to retain their title having won all their six matches to date and only Rochdale to play. Looking set for demotion are Blackburn (promoted last season) and Salford.

Table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Preston	6	6	0	0	52	8	12
Stockport	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Manchester	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
Rochdale	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Liverpool	6	3	0	3	30	30	6
Wirral	6	2	1	3	31	29	5
Blackburn	5	0	1	4	9	41	1
Salford	5	0	0	5	1	49	0

Likely contenders for promotion are Bolton (2N) and Bury (2S). Preston's women are on target to take over the women's first division title from Stockport with just one point dropped from 6 matches this to Southport when without Jean

Parker. Joy Grundy spearheads the team. Table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Preston	6	5	1	0	45	15	11
Bury	6	4	1	1	35	25	9
Liverpool	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
Salford	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Warrington	6	2	0	4	28	32	4
Oldham	6	2	0	4	21	39	4
Manchester	7	1	2	4	24	46	4
Southport	5	1	1	3	17	33	3
Stockport	4	0	1	3	17	23	1

In line for promotion from Div. 2 are Liverpool Business Houses and Macclesfield the former having an unblemished record from 6 matches with Julie Ralph, Sue Hughes, Sandra Bennett, Sue Smith and Sylvia Graham responsible.

Making towards a triple crown for Preston their juniors have won Div. 1 Jnr. with but one point dropped in 7 matches and that to Barrow in their opening match last September.

Table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Preston	7	6	1	0	52	18	13
Bury	7	6	0	1	56	14	12
Warrington	6	4	0	2	37	23	8
Salford	7	2	2	3	32	38	6
Bolton	7	1	3	3	24	46	5
Barrow	6	1	2	3	28	32	4
Mid-Lancs	6	1	1	4	18	42	3
Rochdale	6	0	1	5	13	47	1

Congratulations to Philip Aspinall of Oldham who won the boys' singles title in the Cheshire Junior 1-Star Open at Birkenhead and to Joy Grundy on her latest success in winning the women's singles at the Merseyside 2-Star Open . . . and the doubles with Preston teammate Jean Parker.

A date for your diary, Tuesday, May 18 at the East Lancs Paper Mills Social Club, Radcliffe for the AGMs of the LTTA and the L&CTTL. See you there.

Ian E. McKelvey reports on the . . .

MIDLAND LEAGUE

TRIUMPH FOR CROOKED SPIRE

Four of the divisions have now produced champion teams. Chesterfield "A" have clinched Men's Division 1, while Potteries "A" take Men's Div. 2, Junior Div. 2 goes to Leicester and Junior Div. 5 to Leamington. Several other teams have secured promotion, Coventry "B" being runners-up in Junior Div. 2, Walsall "B" runners-up in Junior Div. 5 and Loughborough and Market Drayton both being assured of promotion from Junior Div. 4, although they have yet to play one another to determine the destiny of the top spot. Market Drayton "A" also go up from Junior Div. 3.

Less happily there are the relegations to report. Out of Men's Div. 1 go Leicester "A", last season's champions. Chesterfield "B" go down from Men's Div. 3, as do Walsall "A" from Junior Div. 3. Coventry "A" from Veterans' Div. 1 and Cheltenham from Junior Div. 2.

The Women's division is beginning to sort itself out a bit more, although there are many matches left. Wolverhampton installed themselves as favourites when they beat Birmingham "A" 6-4. Jill Harris took three for Wolverhampton, including the unbeaten record of Karen Groves, and was well supported by Janet Dunning with two and in the doubles. A week earlier, Birmingham "A" had beaten Market Drayton "A" 8-2, with only Alison Barker able to take a singles for the Shropshire team. Birmingham "A" retain the leadership, but only by sets average from Wolverhampton who now have a match in hand. Nottingham remain undefeated with an impressive sets record, but have yet to play the stronger teams. Their team of Pauline

Simpson, Angela Brettell and Paula Reddish beat Birmingham "B" 9-1.

A division where a close finish is in prospect is Veterans Div. 2. Three teams are in contention, Leamington, Oxford "B" and Birmingham "B". The latter two played out a close draw with seven sets going the distance. Gerry Collins maintained his unbeaten record for Oxford, but Frank Norton and Mervyn Wood took two each for Birmingham and combined to win the doubles. Oxford now take over at the top with fourteen points from eight matches, followed by Birmingham with thirteen from eight and Leamington with twelve from seven. Birmingham have the easiest match remaining against Coventry "B", whilst both Oxford and Leamington have to play fourth placed Kidderminster and Leamington also have Stroud. It looks like Oxford and Leamington to go up but any slip by either would let in Birmingham.

Nottingham "A" moved within a point of the title when beating West Bromwich 8-2 in Veterans' Div. 1. Gloucester have had a good run recently, with wins over Leicester "A" 7-3, Walsall 6-4 and Coventry "A" by default. They now take over third position at the expense of Leicester who have struggled with players unavailable, losing to Walsall 3-7 and Cheltenham 4-6 besides Gloucester. Geoff Aldwinckle, however, took eight out of nine in these three matches. Closest match was Oxford "A" at home to Walsall, 6-4 to the visitors but four sets at "deuce" in the third. Alf Davies will prefer to forget this match — he lost three times which is almost unprecedented. Derby moved off the bottom with a win 7-3 over relegated Coventry "A", but still have much to do to avoid the drop themselves.

Gloucester dropped their first point in Junior Div. 1 when they entertained Wolverhampton. Paul Jackson won three easily, but could only gain support from Darren Griffin with two. Murray Jukes won two for Wolverhampton. Coventry "A" have moved up four places with wins over Nottingham "A" 8-2, Chesterfield "A" by the same score and Oxford 9-1. Micky Thomas winning all his nine singles, but are not in a position to challenge the top two. The match between Birmingham "A" and Gloucester will be decisive, and Gloucester's dropped point shades the odds to Birmingham who now only need the draw. Oxford and Shrewsbury have much ground to make up to avoid the drop.

Whoever comes down from Junior Div. 1 will be replaced by Leicester and Coventry "B". Leicester have run into crushing form, dropping just one set in their last three matches. West Bromwich, Derby and Cheltenham. These wide margins have ensured that Coventry "B", who finished long ago, cannot be caught for second place. Derby and Albrighton both recorded 6-4 wins over Nottingham "B" who have disappointed after early promise, although Paul Summers has continued to do well and is fourth in the averages.

In Junior Div. 4, Loughborough have to meet Market Drayton "B" to determine who wins the championship. Both go up anyway. Loughborough beat Worcester "A" 8-2, whilst Market Drayton went one better against the same team. Worcester did, however, beat bottom team Rugby by 9-1, and should finish third. Junior Div. 5 is complete but for one match in which the "C" teams of Walsall and Market Drayton meet to contest the wooden spoon. Walsall "B" secured second place by recovering from 1-3 down to beat Stratford 6-4. A draw would have seen Stratford into second place and the critical set was at 4-all when Andrew Stokes beat Steven Swallow 17, 20 to complete a maximum. Worcester "B" are fourth and Pontesbury "B" fifth.

Market Drayton "A" go top of Junior

Div. 3 with 10-0 wins over Walsall "A" and Chesterfield "B". They are as near to the championship as it is possible to be without winning it, for Sean Groom, David Williams and Colin Wilson now need just one set from their last match.

Coventry "B" look finally to have settled the question of who accompanies Potteries "A" from Men's Div. 2 to the top flight. They beat Potteries "B" by the very good score of 8-2, with three from Adrian Pilgrim and two each from Chris Martin and Mark Dexter. Another win over Stroud (three each from Pilgrim and Dexter) gives them the chance to play bottom team Nottingham "B" for the remaining two points that would secure them promotion. Potteries "A" won the division with wins over Cheltenham 9-1, despite the latter being reinforced by the return of Dave Harvey and Steve Moreman, and their own "B" team also 9-1. Birmingham "B" beat Leicester "B" 6-4 although Keith Fellows won three for Leicester and shared in the doubles win. No-one else could give support, as Andy Cockerill, Richard Tanner and Ian Smith won two each.

Chesterfield "A"s win, 9-1 over Leicester "A", simultaneously gave the crooked spire town the Men's Div. 1 title, and relegated Leicester. Alan Cooke and Maurice Billington won three each for Chesterfield, and only Grahame Hall could win for Leicester. Leicester finished a dismal season with a 3-7 defeat by Nottingham "A", although Hall gained another two. Kevin Edwards won all his for Nottingham. Gloucester "whitewashed" Wolverhampton "A", who may well be relegated despite a draw with Derby "A".

Men's Div. 3, on the other hand, remains wide open. Rugby boosted their chances with a marvellous win 9-1 over second placed Coventry "B", Pat McCabe and Greg Saville winning three each and Stuart Lines losing only to Micky Thomas. Oxford, however, take over at the top following their 8-2 win over Cheltenham "B" by virtue of three each from Peter Jones and Richard Denbow. Wolverhampton "B" are lurking in the sidelines having dropped only one point, and they beat Coventry 6-4 this month, Ray Dixon winning three.

Market Drayton are now top of Men's Div. 4 and should stay there, with Nuneaton as the most likely runners-up. Stan Deakin kept his 100% record as the Shropshire town beat Lichfield 7-3.

Vic Elston reports from ...

ESSEX

THE ILFORD LEAGUE

This season sees a change in the fortunes of the Ilford League, maybe not at the very highest level of play, then the league's standards are always of a very good level, in representative League and in competitions we hold our own very well.

Regarding the Ilford Representative Squads, it is good to see the new wave of enthusiasm. Strong backing from the Ilford Police Club is gratefully received by the Ilford Team Manager — Barry Granger — yet another one of his "hats". Indeed my job as the Press and Publicity Officer would fall far short without our weekly telephone sessions — Thanks Barry.

With the representative retirement of our old stalwart Mike Lissen, after many years loyal service, and the unavailability of Paul Fuller to play for Ilford this season, it is good to see a pool of familiar faces eager to play for Ilford. Ian James and Neil Shaw of the Police are both doing a wonderful job for the Men's "A" team. John Tendler of St. Marks TTC has been appointed Captain and as always gives a source of strength and confidence to the side.

The Ladies are also charged with renewed strength and vigor. Pam Anker the Ladies Manager and Senior Coach has managed to entice Ann Fearnley back to the representative scene, as well as herself, of course, to which we are all very pleased about. Miss S. Liebig of the Mossford TTC has already made a strong impact and should prove a success. I cannot mention all our other regular team members, but you are all highly valued for keeping the good name of Ilford upheld.

Peter Rainbird is once again directing our Veterans' Teams in the right direction. So far the Veterans have won 6 matches, and only lost one — keep it up Vets — that is tremendous.

On the Junior front — Jack Anker has really got things moving, experimenting with fresh talent and getting some good results. It will take time, but it is not only winning that counts. The Junior ranks are the life-blood of the sport, and the Ilford League cares about progression — and so does Jack our Junior Manager.

The League Chairman Tony Gold has tried to encourage many varied issues this season. The dream project — Our Own Headquarters — a subject discussed frequently by our last three Chairmen for at least a decade. Fund raising and a projects sub-committee has been formed within the committee, but we cannot do it all. You can help — Yes You!!! — not reading newspapers when you are supposed to be watching the match — support your own teams.

David Lander of Cranbrook Castle TTC was invited to address the Committee with regard to Fund Raising and all that goes with it, from his varied experience on the Cranbrook Castle re-building projects. We are indebted to Mr. Lander for his most detailed information and help.

Our Chairman is particularly pleased with the high degree of Sportsmanship shown throughout the League — so far. As you know it is our "Year of Sportsmanship" this season, and a greater effort is required by all.

Play-wise, the other important issue the Chairman is keen to promote, is "Four or Five Player teams". This he would like to be adopted by every League in the County, particularly Essex. He would like the Essex County Inter-League to use the format of larger teams within their competitions. A formal proposal advocating this is being considered by the Ilford League. With halls expensive to hire and fewer suitable premises available — it surely makes good sense.

Once again we are indebted to our "Sponsors" — David Humble Insurance and Archer Blanes Estate Agents for sponsoring the Ilford Closed on Apr. 4/5.

Last year's championships were held at Berger Paints with great success. We must — as a committee — and the players thank Berger Paints for the use of their wonderful facilities, and the use for many Representative matches there. This goes for all other League Clubs who likewise lend us their halls. It was also an honour for the League to have present the Essex Officials, which added prestige to the Championships.

A more sad aspect — the resignation of Sue Fuller our very able Cup and Competitions Secretary. This being for health and personal reasons, Sue felt she could not continue, as her fullest attention could not be guaranteed for the job. Sue has done excellently for the past three years, her lively manner, good ideas and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. There will always be a place for you on the Committee — maybe in the near future. Best of luck and thanks from us all.

Pam Anker kindly agreed to stand in as Competitions Secretary for the Championships.

Nat Simon the Chairman of Wanstead and Woodford TTC died suddenly after playing against Unigate in January. Since knowing Nat for some twenty years I and all the members of Wanstead and Woodford will miss Nat greatly — not only as a fine player but a very good friend. Before joining us he played Representative standard table tennis for Willesden. Nat, Chairman of Wanstead and Woodford TTC for the past 12 years played a major role in the rise from Div. 8 to the success for a small club to Div. 1. Recently coming back after a stomach operation this summer, he surprised us all, turned the clock back, and played superb Table Tennis and won the Wanstead and Woodford Club Championships 1980/81. Table Tennis was not the only interest Nat excelled in — he was involved with Handicapped Children and as a Taxi driver helped to organise yearly events and fund raising for their cause. Whatever is said cannot express the great loss we all feel, words are not enough. Our deepest sympathy is — I know — expressed from everyone in the League to Melody, his wife and Elaine his daughter. Melody insisted play must "go on" as Nat would have wished. We shall at Wanstead try to follow a man who was an example to us all — that is indeed hard to follow.

EAST MIDLANDS CADET LEAGUE

by Philip Reid

In the latest series of East Midlands Cadets League fixtures, Coventry played only one match but it was a significant one, overhauling Pontesbury by two sets by virtue of their 9-1 win over Nuneaton. Loughborough, lying in third spot had two 7-3 wins, their dynamic duo of Paul Bumpus and Louise Forster being unbeaten. Chesterfield, with Chris Glossop and Bradley Billington secured fourth spot by virtue of an 8-2 win over Leicester, who have Mark Laywood improving with every match. Derby, with Andrew Stills and Paul Harvey, occupy a mid-table position, along with Nottingham, who have Adrian Bolton on form. Lincoln had P. Wilkinson a lone winner against Chesterfield whilst Steve Risdale's two were not enough for Nuneaton to secure a point against Derby. The final matches at Loughborough on April 25 will decide the destiny of the league, when champions will be settled between Coventry and Pontesbury, whilst the unenviable post of wooden-spoonists will be between Nuneaton and Hinckley.

Loughborough 7 Leicester 3
Nuneaton 1 Coventry 9
Leicester 2 Chesterfield 8
Derby 7 Leicester 3
Nuneaton 3 Loughborough 7
Nottingham 7 Leicester 3
Chesterfield 9 Lincoln 1
Derby 6 Nuneaton 4

TABLE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Coventry I	9	9	0	0	85	5	18
Pontesbury	9	9	0	0	83	7	18
Loughborough	8	7	1	0	59	21	15
Chesterfield	9	6	2	1	61	29	14
Derby	8	6	1	1	55	25	13
Nottingham	9	4	0	5	42	48	8
Coventry II	9	4	0	5	41	49	8
Grantham	9	3	1	5	37	53	7
Lincoln	10	3	1	6	35	65	7
Leicester	10	2	0	8	36	64	4
Leamington	8	1	0	7	16	64	2
Nuneaton	9	0	0	9	18	72	0
Hinckley	7	0	0	7	2	68	0

TOP AVERAGES

(Qualification - 5 matches)

	P	W	%
Peter Thomas (Po)	27	27	100
Paul Bumpus (Lo)	24	24	100
Mark Randle (Co)	15	15	100
Louise Forster (Lo)	24	23	96
Gary Woodcock (Co)	21	20	95

T.S.B. DURHAM COUNTY 2 STAR OPEN

Steve Mills from Yorkshire won the men's singles at the TSB Durham County 2-Star Open held at Easington District Leisure Centre, Peterlee on March 7 against his county colleague Kevin Beadsley.

In a rather anti-climatic final which lost some of its gloss after the two fairly local players, Peter McQueen and Chu Van Que, were knocked out in the semis, Mills defeated his doubles partner in three after having to work hard in the third, during which both managed to negate the other's play through their mutual familiarity.

In the semis, Beadsley saw off Chu, after losing the first end, then winning the next two, mainly due to the effectiveness of his loop against the penholder. Mills, meanwhile defeated McQueen, who was searching for his second successive final appearance.

The four semi-finalists also clashed in the final of the doubles. After two fairly well contested ends, Beadsley and Mills took full advantage in the third and found several holes in their opponents' defences and finally won with plenty in hand.

Durham's interests in the day's spoils was confined to the women's events, where Julie Smith and Lynne Bainbridge did the county proud. Miss Smith after defeating No. 1 seed Helen Shields in the semis, just failed to add the scalp of the other Yorkshire lady Julie McLean and went down in three hard-fought and entertaining ends, with neither lady prepared to cast aside her attacking play. In the doubles, the Durham pairing went down to McLean and Shields, but in both ends held leads, which they just failed to cling on to at the death.

The Class 2 singles semi also saw the end



Mayor Kirkup of Easington District Council presents the women's singles winner's cheque to Julie McLean of Yorkshire watched by Durham County T.T.A. Chairman, Ken Taylor.

of Durham hopes when Nigel Jobling and Darren McVitie both fell, with McVitie being especially unfortunate to go out at "deuce" to Wayne Percival in the third. The final proved to be a fairly comfortable victory for Tony Sanderson in straight ends — Sanderson, in fact dropped only one end in the competition.

The junior events included the usual win for Lindsay Taylor who maintained his good record in tournament play this season. Taylor disposed of fellow Clevelander Jevan Chan in three after a near match-winning comeback by Chan in the third. McVitie, incidentally, also lost in the semi-final of this event, to the eventual winner.

The girls' event saw a victory for 14-year-old Clare Mouzon from Northumberland, who certainly confirmed her potential in this event. She and her opponent, Angela Wattis put on a good display, and both are certainly players for the future.



Steve Mills of Yorkshire receives his men's singles winner's cheque from Mayor Kirkup.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

Chu Van Que (Nd) bt K. Paxton (Du) 6, 21;
K. Beadsley (Y) bt L. Taylor (Cv) 20, 10;
S. Mills (Y) bt P D'Arcy (Ch) -18, 16, 19;
P. McQueen (Sy) bt P. Rainford (La) 23, 13.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley bt Chu Van Que -19, 17, 18;
Mills bt McQueen 12, 18.

Final:

MILLS bt Beadsley 18, -19, 17.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

J. Smith (Du) bt H. Shields (Y) 19, -8, 12;
J. McLean (Y) bt S. Gelder (Du) 15, 11.

Final:

McLEAN bt Smith 20, -19, 12.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Beadsley/Mills bt Paxton/I. Robertson (Nd) 19, -19, 8;

Chu Van Que/McQueen bt D'Arcy/
S. Scowcroft (La) 16, 15.

Final:

BEADSLEY/MILLS bt Chu Van Que/
McQueen 18, -15, 13.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

McLean/Shields bt D. Armstrong/L. Wilson (Du) 3, 8;

L. Bainbridge (Du)/Smith bt Gelder/
L. Yarnall (Du) -15, 13, 16.

Final:

McLEAN/SHIELDS bt Bainbridge/Smith 18, 16.

Class 2 Singles Semi-finals:

A. Sanderson (Y) bt N. Jobling (Du) 15, 13;
W. Percival (Ch) bt D. McVitie (Du) 19, -17 21.

Final:

SANDERSON bt Percival 10, 10.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Taylor bt McVitie -22, 9, 14;
J. Chan (Cv) bt J. Thatcher (Y) 16, -14, 16.

Final:

TAYLOR bt Chan -17, 12, 17.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

C. Mouzon (Nd) bt Wilson 6, 13;
A. Wattis (Cv) w.o. R. Brook (Y) scr.

Final:

MOUZON bt Wattis 19, 8.

Thanks go to TSB and the Easington District Council as well as to all officials and volunteers.

Jeremy Williams reports from . . .

CORNWALL

ON THE MAP

On behalf of the Cornish Association welcome to the first ever Cornwall Notes. It is intended to put Cornwall on the table tennis map as the county has for so long lived in the shadow of the neighbouring counties, and because of the geographical position, communications and transport have been difficult. In fact, the standard of table tennis in Cornwall is remarkably high considering its isolation and relatively sparse population. With even harder work being put in by the administrators and more commitment from the younger players, the county is only just beginning to reap the benefits.

At present, only Mark Jones (Camborne) features in the national rankings, at 18 in the cadet list. However, I am convinced that many of Cornwall's players both in the past and present could have gained national rankings if they had not travelled at 4 o'clock in the morning to an open tournament! Despite the long journeys, the early mornings as well as the expense — Cornish players get around to tournaments and with a new 2-year sponsorship deal the prospects are enhanced. Mr. Brian Baker of the White Hart Hotel in Launceston has agreed to lend his 15 seater mini bus to the association free of charge, to travel to all away county matches and 6 open tournaments a year. In return, Mr. Baker just requires half of the home county matches to be played at the excellent facilities of the White Hart Hotel. The county officials and players alike are very appreciative of the generous offer.

Cornwall has within it 3 leagues, namely: the Launceston and District, the Mid-Cornwall and the West Cornwall, of which the latter has always been accepted as the strongest. The Launceston and District is developing rapidly since its affiliation in 1980. Cornwall now has its own 2-Star Junior Open which was initiated by Mr. John Crocker last year and ably backed by a flood of officials. With the possibility of National League table tennis next season together with the proposed Inter-town league, there is further indication of the development taking place.

Cornwall enters 1 junior and 1 senior team in the County Championships each year — this season has not been one of the most successful but the opposition has been a lot tougher than in recent seasons. The new look junior team, combining youth and experience have been on the whole quite successful winning 2, drawing 1 and losing 4. The team of Jon Woollins, Mark James, Graham Reed, Alison Clemens and Patricia Green, have secured Cornwall's place in Division 3C next season, although Jon and

Patricia will progress into the senior ranks next season.

However, the seniors have been a case of what might have been, achieving just a draw against the Isle of Wight. But 6-4 defeats against both Avon and Somerset could have gone our way and maintained our Division 3B status as opposed to relegation. This year's team was Barry Cornelius, Jeremy Williams, Ian James, Sharon James and Shirley Collins. This season saw the retirement from county matches of the legendary John Bassett yet again! — despite his 100% record in the West Cornwall League.

The results of the last junior and senior matches are shown here against Berkshire II and Isle of Wight, respectively. These round off county action for our players this season.

Seniors:

Isle of Wight 5 Cornwall 5

C. Prean bt B. Cornelius 5, 9;
bt J. Williams 6, 10.

J. Daly bt Cornelius 19, 18;
bt I. James 23, 19.

R. Hookey lost to Williams -12, -14;
lost to James -10, -12.

Mrs. R. Grimaldi lost to Miss S. James
-17, -8.

Miss J. Babcock lost to Miss S. Collins.
-16, 17, -11.

Prean/Daly bt Cornelius/Williams 14, 10.
Grimaldi/Babcock lost to James/Collins
19, -18, -13.

Juniors:

Cornwall 7 Berkshire II 3

J. Woollins bt M. Syed 17, 25;
bt P. Savins 19, 7.

M. James bt P. Andrew 17, 20;
bt Savins 19, 18.

G. Reed lost to Andrew -19, 19, -12;
lost to Syed -18, -16.

Miss A. Clemens bt Miss W. Godfrey 13, 9.

Miss P. Green bt Miss J. Norman 10, 19.

Woollins/James lost to Syed/Savins
13, -21, -11.

Clemens/Green bt Godfrey/Norman 14, 18.

The unofficial county rankings this season, according to the selection committee are shown below. Because of this season's tight programme an assessment has not taken place but the need for one next season has been strongly underlined as there is some uncertainty in some of the county places.

Men:

1 B. Cornelius (St. Austell), 2 J. Bassett (St. Ives), 3 J. Williams (Falmouth), 4 I. James (Falmouth), 5 J. Woollins (Callington), 6 R. Jacobs (Truro), 7 R. Bunt (St. Austell), 8 N. Cock (St. Ives), 9 S. Lobb (Redruth), 10 D. Williams (Falmouth).

Women:

1 S. James (St. Ives), 2 S. Rapsey (Truro), 3 S. Collins (Callington), 4 B. Rapsey (Truro), 5 A. Clemens (Camborne), 6 P. Green (Launceston).

Boys:

1 Woollins, 2 M. James (Camborne), 3 G. Reed (Helston), 4 L. Jose (Camborne), 5 M. Noel-Johnson (Callington), 6 A. Vingoe (Camborne), 7 K. Allen (Gwennap), 8 P. Rees (St. Austell).

Girls:

1 Clemens, 2 Green, 3 K. Brown (St. Austell), 4 A. Bunt (Truro), 5 K. Broczek (Launceston).

On a more local front, the county's principle league, the West Cornwall Premier seems to be heading towards St. Ives yet again. St. Ives No. 1, John, "I'll 'ave 'ee' next time". Bassett has had no need to use his famous catch phrase this season as no one has broken his 100% record to date. In fact Rednith's Austin Chapman is the only person to take an end from him.

However, in this year's county closed, Barry Cornelius (St. Austell) defeated

Bassett in the final over 3 games and likewise did the same in the West Cornwall championships. Despite some rather poor league form, Cornelius is the undisputed Cornish No. 1 at present.

In the National Club Championships, St. Ives 'A' progressed several rounds to earn a home draw against V.R.S. Stiga Portsmouth. Bassett's opening win over Miki Sinanin promised much for the home side but Portsmouth's Dave Constance and Dave Hannah ensured that St. Ives didn't win another set, to make the score 8-1 in favour of Portsmouth.

Likewise in the Wilmott Cup, West Cornwall entertained Bristol and went into a 2-0 lead before losing rather unjustifiably 2-5. Bristol, whose No. 1 Andy Creed had lost to an in-form Jeremy Williams, seemed a little tentative, but Jon Chandler ensured their victory.

SCORES

B. Cornelius bt C. Ross 13, 13;
lost to A. Creed -18, 19, -17.

J. Williams lost to J. Chandler 18, -8, 13;
bt A. Creed -11, 19, 13.

R. Bunt lost to Ross -20, 17, -10;
lost to Creed -17, -21;
lost to Chandler -17, -14.

After a season of intense activity, the season in Cornwall is now drawing to a close, the players need a well-earned rest before next season. These notes have been the first from Cornwall and from the beginning of next season will hopefully claim a regular place in the supplement.

Halton 1-Star Junior Open

by S. PHILLIPS
Tournament Organiser

On Feb. 20 the Halton One Star Junior Open was held at Norton Recreation Centre. The organisers were extremely pleased that this year Midland Bank had stepped in with a generous offer to sponsor the Tournament by helping to offset the costs and by providing awards for successful players.

Over 300 entries had been received from all parts of the country for what is now an established event in the junior table tennis calendar. Play was started at 9.30 a.m. and the matches, which were played on fifteen tables, were of a very high standard right up until the last point was won at 8.30 p.m. There were many England-ranked players in action and for most of them it was a long and tiring day (but an enjoyable one).

In the Boys' Singles Bernard Wentworth, the 14-year-old from Behington knocked out James Treweek (No. 4 seed) and Gavin Lidson (No. 7 seed) before going out in the Semi-final to the eventual winner Philip Gunn (the No. 1 seed from Warwickshire). Clifford Grant (Staffs) who was unseeded did exceptionally well to reach the Final.

Ten-year-old Claire Potts of Chester reached the final of the Girls' Singles and defeated No. 4 seed Alison Barker in the process. But Alison got her revenge in the Under-14 Girls' Singles by beating Claire in the semis.

Mrs. Karen Tonge who runs the Castlefields County Youth Centre was Tournament Referee and she carried out the job extremely efficiently.

In attendance throughout the day was Mr. Colin Nutt, Regional Marketing Assistant for Midland Bank who presented awards and certificates to the successful competitors.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

C. Grant (St) bt M. Mkandla (Y) 21, 14;

P. Gunn (Wa) bt B. Wentworth (Ch) 4, 9.

Final:

GUNN bt Grant 13, 18.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Gunn/Bertie (Wa) bt Render/Mkandla (Y)
19, 12;

McEwen/Smith (La) bt Treweek/Wilson
(Ch) 17, 16.

Final:

McEWEN/SMITH bt Gunn/Bertie 16, -15, 21.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

C. Peacock (La) bt C. Wickstead (Sp) 6, 14;
C. Potts (Ch) bt J. Powis (St) -18, 12, 13.

Final:

PEACOCK bt Potts 15, 14.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Powis (St)/Clarke (Ch) bt Boughey/Barker
(Sp) -18, 15, 17;

Peacock/Hemming (La) bt Wickstead/Soan
(Sp) 21, 10.

Final:

PEACOCK/HEMMING bt Powis/Clarke
13, 18.

U-14 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

D. Williams (Sp) bt M. Campbell (Wa)
13, 18;

S. Groom (Sp) bt C. Hogarth (La) 10, 15.

Final:

WILLIAMS bt Groom -14, 8, 18.

U-14 Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Groom/Williams bt Morris/Thompson (Sp)
16, 16;

Simon/Campbell (Wa) bt Colclough/Terry
(Ch) 11, 19.

Final:

SIMON/CAMPBELL bt Groom/Williams
-10, 19, 19.

U-14 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

A. Barker (Sp) bt Potts 16, 10;

D. Soothill (Cu) bt Powis 21, -9, 16.

Final:

BARKER bt Soothill 19, 19.

U-14 Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Powis/Clarke bt Banter (Y)/Sanders (St)
12, 17;

Soothill/Potts bt Wickstead/Thornycroft
(Sp) 16, 14.

Final:

SOOTHILL/POTTS bt Powis/Clarke
-8, 14, 18.

Fourth Annual

GWENT CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

held at Fairwater Leisure Centre, Cwmbran
on Sunday 28th February, 1982

by Stephen Gibbs

As St. David's Day dawned Gary Wilkins woke up in possession of a heavy trophy which hails him as Gwent Champion for 1982. Wilkins became the first player to win the title twice, and in consecutive years at that.

While all six of the National League players from Cranfield Colours were showing their wares there was little doubt that it would be a final between Wilkins and Brian Jeanes that would emerge at the close of the day. Wilkins reached his final spot by dismissing John Bloomer in the quarters quite easily but he was stretched to the limit by Andrew Evans in the semis before winning 19 in the third. Meanwhile in the other half of the draw Jeanes also dismissed two Eastern Valley hopefuls in Kevin Phillips in the quarters and then smashing his bogey opponent Ron Vose.

Jeanes has recorded a number of wins over Wilkins this season and at one stage in a local league match even led Wilkins 14-1 but it was Wilkins who showed severity in this final. The slim Wilkins had been concentrating hard in every event of the day, including the handicap tournament, while Jeanes had bowed out of the handicap event in round one choosing to spend the day watching and waiting. But

it was Wilkins' method that brought the bacon home. He opened up a 9-1 lead in the first game and that effectively finished Jeanes who only managed to reach 14 points. His head went down and although he led early in the second he soon fell behind when Wilkins struck back from 10-13 to lead 16-14. This broke Jeanes. Wilkins went on to 19-16 and then after a last fling from Jeanes took the title by winning 21-18, which must please both the Welsh selectors and himself as he prepares for his trip to Budapest and the European Championships.

The doubles event brought together five pairs who all had a chance of taking the title. Wilkins, partnered by Jeremy Hobbs, was defending the title while in the other half Jeanes and Mike Nocivelli were making steady progress. One pair they had yet to meet were Bloomer and Andrew Evans and when both Hobbs and Wilkins in the semis and Jeanes and Nocivelli in the final did meet the former champions they were soon put in their places. Bloomer and Evans were champions two years ago but were unable to defend their title last year due to illness. This year they approached the doubles with a new enthusiasm and were in devastating form.

The Junior singles was marred by a small entry. Even so there was some quality play from the top five juniors. Phil Elliott dismissed John Case (Abergavenny) in three hard fought games in the quarters before the Pontypool boy himself was beaten by the speed of Paul Williamson in the semi-final. The favourite, Mark Hawkes, had little trouble in reaching the semis before he met Welsh cadet Jeff Turner. Hawkes was too strong for Turner and he progressed to the final to meet Williamson. Williamson battled hard against Hawkes and saved two match points in the second game before going on to level the match at one game all. Hawkes proved too good for the Tredegar boy in the decider.

The fourth and final event of the day had been responsible for drawing the largest entry yet for a Gwent Championship. The Handicap singles was fought out from sixty entrants and whoever was to win it had to play six sets. It was former Welsh International Junior of twenty years ago, Jeff Buck of Cranfield Colours who had the dubious honour of taking the title.

Not that Jeff made it easy for himself. In his six rounds he played four three enders. He won three after "deuce" had been reached in the third and also beat his employer in the semi-final. In the final Buck beat the talented Nocivelli thanks to an 11 point start. Nocivelli chased the defender Buck very hard but Buck's mean style saw him win.

RESULTS

Open Singles Semi-finals:

G. Wilkins (Abergavenny) bt A. Evans (E. Valley) 11, -13, 19;

B. Jeanes (Newport) bt R. Vose (E. Valley) 3, 16.

Final:

WILKINS bt JEANES 14, 18.

Open Doubles Semi-finals:

J. Bloomer (E. Valley)/Evans bt Wilkins/J. Hobbs (Tredegar) 14, 16;

Jeanes/M. Nocivelli (Newport) bt G. Sell (Newport)/Vose 22, 14.

Final:

BLOOMER/EVANS bt JEANES/NOCIVELLI 14, 14.

Junior Singles Semi-finals:

M. Hawkes (Newport) bt J. Turner (Tredegar) 13, 19;

P. Williamson (Tredegar) bt P. Elliott (Abergavenny) 12, 17.

Final:

HAWKES bt WILLIAMSON 17, -20, 13.

Handicap Singles Semi-finals:

Nocivelli (plus 4) bt Wilkins -19, 17, 17;

J. Buck (E. Valley) (Plus 3) bt P. Pitfield (E. Valley) -20, 19, 17.

Final:

BUCK (Plus 11) bt Nocivelli 20, 17.

Lentec Junior Rankings

METEORIC RISE FOR JOANNE

by MIKE WATTS

The National Selection Committee on March 23 issued the second Junior Ranking Lists of the season. There are no significant changes in the Boys' list, but it is interesting to note that the Bellinger sisters from Dunstable, Lisa and Jackie, now stand at 1 and 2 in the Girls' lists — has this ever happened before?

In the Cadet lists the boys remain reasonably static but Joanne Shaw from Normanton continues her meteoric rise to fame, having risen from No. 21 to No. 6 last December and now to No. 1. The revised rankings with previous positions in brackets are:

	Boys	Juniors
1	Carl Prean (IOW) (1)	
2	Adrian Moore (Sx) (2)	
3	Nicky Hoare (Sy) (5)	
4	Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (7)	
5	Billy Gleave (Ch) (3)	
6	Alan Cooke (Dy) (4)	
7	David Dodd (K) (6)	
8	Phillip Gunn (Wa) (12)	
9	Iain Fullerton (Bk) (11)	
10	Raymond Namdjou (K) (8)	
11	Steven Sharpe (Y) (13)	
12	Andrew Sexton (Sy) (10)	
13	Gary Lambert (Dv) (15)	
14	Steven Dettmar (E) (9)	
15	Paul Jackson (Av) (14)	
16	Michael Hammond (Sy) (17)	
17	Michael O'Leary (Mi) (16)	
18	Darren Griffin (Gs) (18)	
19	Shaun Browne (La) (19)	

20	Mark Werner (Do) (24)
21	Jeremy Duffield (Wo) (20)
22	David Illingsworth (Y) (22)
23	David Rook (Y) (21)
24	Stuart Worrall (Li) (25)
25	Mark Ellett (Dv) (27)
26	David Rudge (Wa) (23)
27	Eddie Gorniak (Mi) (28)
28	Peter Hayden (E) (26)
29	Darren McVitie (Du) (29)
30	Roderick Lewis (Wa) (30)
31	Michael Thomas (Wa) (32)
32	Jeffrey Thatcher (Y) (31)
33	David Dewsbury (Sy) (33)
34	Phillip Cole (Hu) (35)
35	Andrew Dixon (St) (34)
36	David Sharpe (Bd) (43)
37	Colin Luscombe (Bd) (36)
38	Gary Wilson (Dv) (37)
39	Paul Sayer (E) (38)
40	Keith Samuels (He) (41)
41	Richard Whiteley (Y) (39)
42	Julian Wheel (Ca) (40)
43	Ian Doughty (Bd) (42)
44	Garry Bonner (Sy) (44)
45	Paul Ashcroft (La) (45)
46	Andrew Dodd (K) (47)
47	Phillip Logsdon (Nk) (46)
48	Lionel Faure (Sy) (48)
49	Richard Tilford (Ng) (—)
50	Richie Venner (Sx) (—)

Omitted from the previous list are: Richard Hayward (St) (49) and Alan Longhurst (K) (50).

Girls

1	Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (1)
2	Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (3)
3	Jean Parker (La) (2)
4	Susan Collier (Bk) (5)
5	Helen Bardwell (He) (4)
6	Christine Peacock (La) (11)
7	Tracy Lightfoot (Ch) (9)
8	Lesley Broomhead (Y) (10)
9	Melanie Seaton (Y) (6)
10	Nina Tsakarisianos (Gs) (7)
11	Josette Ryalls (Y) (8)
12	Nikki Hamilton (Bu) (14)
13	Fiona Elliot (St) (12)
14	Vicki Bellingham (St) (13)
15	Michelle Williams (Mi) (15)
16	Amanda Judd (Ca) (21)
17	Teresa Moore (Sx) (16)

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- 18 Michelle Hams (Sy) (20)
- 19 Mary Denbow (Ox) (18)
- 20 Julie Dimmock (Bd) (19)
- 21 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (17)
- 22 Rebecca Russe (Av) (22)
- 23 Jeanine Smith (He) (23)
- 24 Thuy Dung To (Dy) (24)
- 25 Jackie Myers (La) (25)
- 26 Alison Boxall (He) (27)
- 27 Ruth Hunter (Ca) (28)
- 28 Lisa Hayden (E) (30)
- 29 Carol Wickstead (Sp) (—)
- 30 Amanda Hegarty (St) (—)

Omitted from the previous list are: Karen Wild (E) (26) and Dawn Wickstead (Sp) (29).



Yorkshire's meteoric girl Joanne Shaw from Normanton.
Photo by Leo Black, London W1.



Nikki Hamilton of Milton Keynes, up from No. 14 to No. 12 in the Girls' list.
Photo by Leo Black, London W1.

Cadets

Boys

- 1 Carl Preat (IOW) (1)
- 2 Martin Firth (Y) (2)
- 3 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (5)
- 4 Murray Jukes (Wo) (4)
- 5 Andrew Syed (Bk) (3)
- 6 Andrew Cunningham (K) (9)
- 7 Adrian Dixon (St) (7)
- 8 Stuart Craggs (Cv) (6)
- 9 Richard Hayward (St) (11)
- 10 Mark Randle (Wa) (10)
- 11 David Williams (Sp) (8)
- 12 Tony Suggett (Cv) (13)
- 13 Andrew Henry (Dy) (12)
- 14 Martyn Campbell (Wa) (16)
- 15 Sean Groom (Sp) (14)
- 16 Jonathan Goode (Mi) (17)
- 17 Matthew Syed (Bk) (15)
- 18 Mark James (Co) (18)
- 19 Paul Savins (Bk) (19)
- 20 Paul Browne (Cv) (20)
- 21 Colin Hogarth (La) (21)
- 22 Rodney Thomas (Do) (25)
- 23 Kevin King (E) (22)
- 24 Paul Bumpus (Le) (24)
- 25 Wayne Harrison (Ch) (23)
- 26 Adrian Hough (St) (27)
- 27 Tony West (St) (26)
- 28 Paul Andrews (Bk) (28)
- 29 Peter Thomas (Sp) (—)
- 30 Russell Thompson (Y) (29)

Omitted from the previous list is: Ian Sharpe (Cu) (30).

Girls

- 1 Joanne Shaw (Y) (6)
- 2 Alison Barker (Sp) (2)
- 3 Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy) (1)
- 4 Jill Powis (St) (4)
- 5 Clare Mouzon (Nd) (3)
- 6 Lisa Hayden (E) (9)
- 7 Alison Boxall (He) (7)
- 8 Louise Forster (Le) (8)
- 9 Diane Malpass (Y) (5)
- 10 Debbie Soothill (Cu) (11)
- 11 Deborah Simmonds (Bu) (10)
- 12 Lesley Souter (Mi) (14)
- 13 Rachel Knight (Mi) (13)
- 14 Ruth Baxter (Y) (18)
- 15 Susan Butler (Dv) (12)
- 16 Clare Potts (Ch) (15)
- 17 Helen Perrott (Av) (17)
- 18 Michelle Cohen (Av) (16)
- 19 Angela Sanders (St) (19)
- 20 Tanya Holland (E) (21)
- 21 Cheryl Clarke (Ch) (20)
- 22 Karen Testa (Av) (22)
- 23 Helen Broomhead (Y) (24)
- 24 Alison Evans (Y) (23)
- 25 Jenny Ellery (Gs) (25)
- 26 Karen Wild (E) (26)
- 27 Jane Kimber (Av) (27)
- 28 Nicola Thorneycroft (Sp) (30)
- 29 Dawn Wickstead (Sp) (29)
- 30 Julie Stocks (Y) (28)

Ray Simpson reports from . . .

DURHAM

REVISED RANKINGS

The county selection committee revised the rankings in February and they are:

Men

- 1 K. Paxton, 2 T. Gelder, 3 D. Godbold, 4 T. Robson, 5 W. Reay, 6 N. Jobling, 7 C. Olsson.

Women

- 1 L. Spensley, 2 J. Smith, 3 L. Yarnell, 4 L. Bainbridge, 5 S. Gelder, 6 J. Suddick,

Boys

- 1 D. McVitie, 2 M. Gent, 3 D. Blackburne, 4 G. Webstell, 5 S. Crosby, 6 N. Herrington.

Girls

- 1 E. Blackburne, 2 L. Wilson, 3 A. Davison, 4 D. Armstrong, 5 P. Liddle, 6 J. Mallam.

Durham seniors travelled to Staffs, but came away pointless after going down 3-7.

SCORES (Staffs first)

- C. Bakewell bt T. Gelder 9, -10, 18;
bt Robson 9, -20, 18.

J. Hancock lost to Robson 18, -16, -13;

bt N. Jobling 18, -19, 18.

G. Hallam bt Jobling 10, 20;
bt Gelder 15, 20.

Hallam/Bakewell bt Gelder/Jobling 12, 23.

V. Bellingham lost to J. Smith -16, 13, -19.

F. Elliott bt L. Yarnell 10, 16.

Bellingham/Elliott lost to Yarnell/Smith
-20, 16, -15.

The Juniors, meanwhile continued their recent revival by defeating Bucks 6-4 at Thornley, despite a fighting comeback by the away side which nearly saved them the match.

D. Blackburne bt J. Bradbury -12, 17, 18;
bt C. Haines 19, 15.

G. Webstell bt Haines 16, 17;
bt M. Butler 17, -19, 16.

D. McVitie bt Butler 12, 19;

lost to Bradbury 14, -15, -14.

McVitie/Webstell bt Bradbury/Butler
11, -23, 18.

A. Davison lost to C. Brown -12, -20.

L. Wilson lost to D. Robbind -20, 19, -20.

Wilson/Davison lost to Robbins/Brown
-11, -12.

A most interesting umpires seminar was held at the Ramside Hall Hotel on Sat., Mar. 6th, with guest speakers being George White, Alan Porter, Colin Clemett and Geoffrey James. Umpires from all over the North of England attended, with the delicate issues of service law, players' conduct, the role of the assistant umpire as well as several other relative matters were fully discussed.

Most leagues are now nearing their climax, with the leaders of the various leagues being the same as last month.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT SO MUCH A JUNIOR SPORT, MORE A VICTORIAN TREADMILL

Though my recollections on a number of points differ from those of Donald Parker, it is right that we should now explore common ground and his well reasoned and conciliatory article offers encouragement. I understand the problem of Coaches and having only two for 11 players at Topolcany and two for 19 players at the last training camp places them in a near impossible position. Having recognised the parent/supporter contribution to the junior game so handsomely I hope that they will not be denied the opportunity to be of help on future international trips.

I hope it is accepted that my efforts, both in these columns and in the National Council, have only one purpose: to lift the junior game out of its Victorian treadmill into an enjoyable modern sport that will be remembered with affection: to avoid conflict with school and work prospects to provide a fuller rather than emptier life from which so many retire with bitterness.

Donald pays tribute to the dedication of players, parents and coaches. What I now want to see is the same dedicated professionalism applied to the whole junior game, top to bottom, so that all youngsters have the chance to reach their full potential. A drastic overhaul of the coaching system and tournament schedules (graded tournaments?), earlier finishes to avoid the desperately late nights, the clashes with education that undermine career prospects. By treating these vital questions lightly we undermine the future and encourage the drift towards other sports and the decline of ours.

ERICA PREAN,

12 Marlborough Road,
Ryde,
Isle of Wight,
PO33 1AA.

The lady has the last word on the Topolcany issue. Ed.

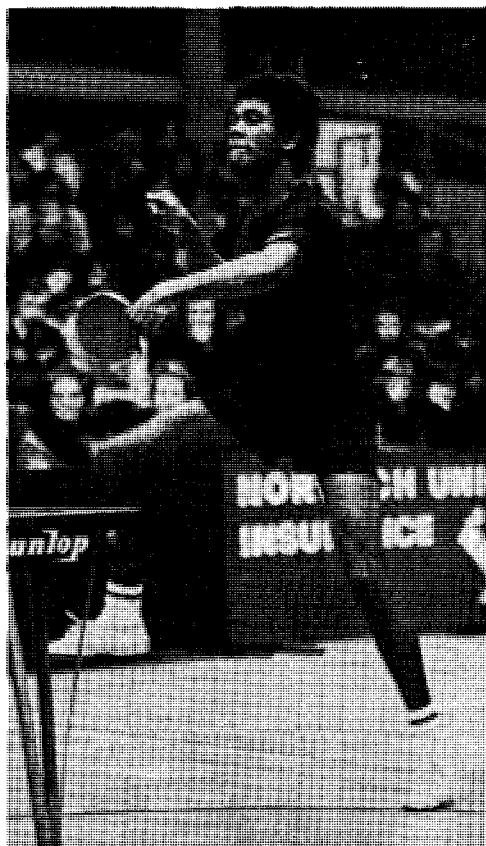
European Championships Draw

by Robert Oldfield

The Draw for the 13th European Championships, to be played in Budapest, Hungary, over the period Apl. 17-25 took place in Hungary on March 6.

As always, the twists of fate make fascinating reading. Is this the year for Desmond Douglas? — The draw has kept him away from his difficult opponents. Can John Hilton put up a spirited defence of his European title? He could meet the gifted Jacques Secretin in Rd. 3 (his semi-final opponent in Berne two years ago).

What, also, of Jill Hammersley's chances? She is seeded No. 2 but could face a tough quarter-final challenge from either of the two players who have beaten her this season, Kristen Kruger (Federal Germany) and Hungary's Judit Magos. The Commonwealth and Norwich Union English Closed champion, Carole Knight, could cause the first round departure of the No. 5 seed, Ann-Christin Hellman of Sweden. It is, therefore, an interesting draw.



Desmond Douglas — is this his year?

Photo by T. Edenden, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

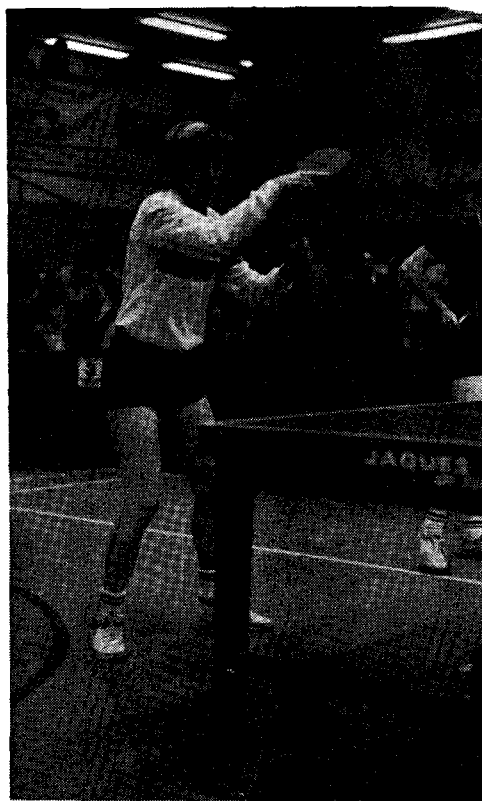
MEN'S TEAM

First Category

Group A
Sweden SWE
England ENG
Czechoslovakia CZE
Poland POL
Denmark DEN
Austria AUT

Group B

Federal Germany FGR
Hungary HUN
France FRA
Soviet Union USS
Yugoslavia YUG
Bulgaria BUL



Jill Hammersley, seeded No. 2 but has a difficult draw.

Second Category

Group A

Italy ITA
Netherlands NET
Luxembourg LUX
Switzerland SWI
Spain SPA
Turkey TUR
Portugal POR

Group B

Finland FIN
Norway NOR
Greece GRE
Scotland SCO
Belgium BEL
Wales WAL

WOMEN'S TEAM

First Category

Group A

Soviet Union USS
England ENG
Yugoslavia YUG
Sweden SWE
Federal Germany FRG
Netherlands NET

Group B

Hungary HUN
Rumania RUM
France FRA
Czechoslovakia CZE
Bulgaria BUL
Finland FIN

Second Category

Group A

Poland POL
Denmark DEN
Greece GRE
Norway NOR
Turkey TUR
Spain SPA

Group B

Luxembourg LUX
Switzerland SWI
Austria AUT
Scotland SCO
Belgium BEL
Italy ITA

The team events are scheduled to start at 9 a.m., on Saturday, Apl 17 with the finals on Tuesday, Apl. 20.

ENGLAND TEAM RECORDS

Men

Highest Ever: 2nd (1978 Duisburg)
Last Championships: 3rd (1980 Berne)

Women

Highest Ever: 2nd (1976 Prague)
Last Championships: 4th (1980 Berne)

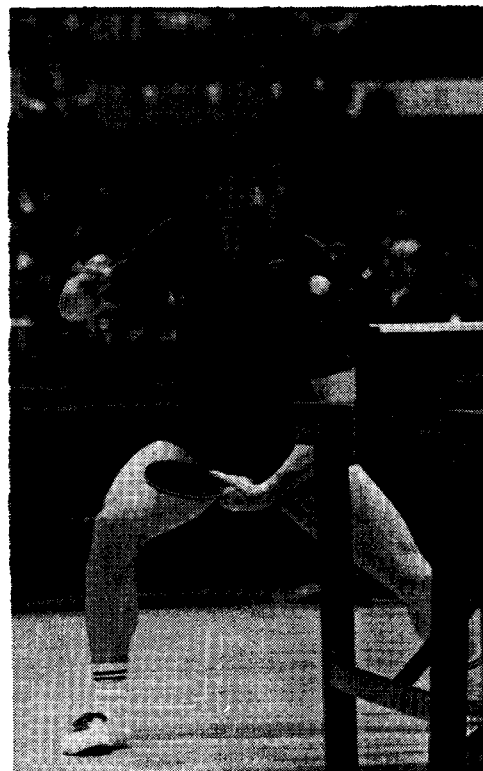
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

MEN

Desmond Douglas

26-years-old, from Birmingham. European No. 4 and World No. 8, he has met many of these players in the Bundesliga of Federal Germany where he plays for PSV Borussia Dusseldorf. 1981 Lambert and Butler champion. 1982 Norwich Union English Closed triple champion. Quarter-finalist in the 1980 European Championships, where he lost to Josef Dvoracek. Runner-up in the XD of 1980 European Championships with Linda Jarvis.

Prospects - No. 4 seed, due to meet Tibor Klampar of Hungary in the semis, a player he beat in the European League this season and in the semi-final of the Lambert and Butler event last November. Earlier opponent likely to be the brilliant Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden, who played so well in the Norwich Union English Open in January, in the third round. But the experience of Douglas should be able to cope with the challenge of the 16-year-old. In the fourth round he is likely to meet Yugoslavia's Zoran Kalinic, last year's Belgian Open winner. Stellan Bengtsson, the former world champion, has an easy section and must be favourite to meet Douglas in the quarters.



Paul Day, unseeded, but guaranteed to give 100%.

Photo by Malcolm Anderson, Cicero, United States.

John Hilton

34-years-old, formerly from Flixton, Manchester, now in Sarrbrucken but contemplating a return to table tennis in England. Shock winner of the European men's singles title in 1980 and is, therefore, the defending champion. Unranked in England due to lack of results but is still part of England's first team squad. European No. 24, World No 29.

Prospects - Unseeded, the draw has given him the Europe No. 29 Tibor Kreisz of Hungary. If he wins this first round match he should beat Igor Podnosov in the 2nd round and could meet the No. 5 seed, Secretin, with his confidence restored.

Paul Day

23-years-old from Soham, Cambs. Has recovered from a shoulder injury sustained earlier in the season. Part of England's European League team and has formed a strong doubles partnership with Douglas (1982 English Closed champions). England No. 2, European No. 28 and World No. 50. Reached third round in the 1980 European Championships where he lost narrowly to Anton Stipanovic of Yugoslavia.

Prospects - Unseeded, he is almost certain to meet Jurgen Rebel in the 2nd round, before the No. 2 seed, Klampar.

Douggie Johnson

Also 23 from Birmingham. Plays for Sealink Ormesby in the National League. Has had many good wins this season against European players, particularly in the Belgian Open where he reached the semi-final. England's combination-bat-playing surprise packet. England No. 3, European No. 23.

Prospects - Seems certain to reach the 2nd round where he will probably play Peter Engel (FRG) and, if successful, a chance to challenge the No. 8 seed, Grubba of Poland.

Graham Sandley

19-years-old from Potters Bar, Herts but a Middlesex county player. Possibly England's finest prospect for many years who has had a tremendous season. He plays particularly well against fellow left handers - he beat Day in the semis before so

narrowly losing to Douglas in the English Closed at Basingstoke. Has played against Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Sweden in the European League this year.

Prospects - Unseeded, but could reach the 3rd round for a meeting with Bengtsson. He played well against the Swede in February's European League match in Macclesfield.

WOMEN

Jill Hammersley

32-years-old, now living in Preston, Lancs. Double European champion in 1976 (women's singles and doubles, with Linda Jarvis). Three times winner of the Europe Top 12, just lost in the final this year against Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands. England No. 1, European No. 2, World No. 15.

Prospects - Ilona Uhlikova of Czechoslovakia, the nearest seed in the draw, is not a difficult opponent for Jill and her quarter-final seems certain to be either Magos or Kruger. Magos, Hungary's 32-year-old penholder, is the European player Jill fears most, having lost to her twice this year - in the Europe Top 12 in Nantes, in February, and, more recently, in the European League match in Budapest. But Federal Germany's Kruger has also beaten Jill this season and her win in the European League match last September inspired Germany to a surprise 5-2 victory.

Carole Knight

24-years-old, from Middlesbrough. 1977 and 1982 English Closed champion and the 1982 Commonwealth champion. Apart from the Commonwealth Championships, held in February in Bombay, Carole has hardly played at international level this season and needs some good victories in the Europeans.

Prospects - Her first round opponent is the No. 5 seed, Ann-Christin Hellman. Although Hellman has an ideal game to control Carole's loop, at her best, the Cleveland girl could beat the 26-year-old Swede.

Karen Witt

England No. 2 from Earley, nr. Reading, Berks could use the European Championships to take a leap up the European

rankings - she is currently No. 27 in Europe and 46 in the World. Last season she became Mrs. Hammersley's replacement in the European League team and, in February, reached the final of the Czech Open.

Prospects - Karen must be pleased with her draw against the No. 10 seed, Marie Lindblad of Sweden, having beaten her on several occasions. Should she win, the No. 1 seed, Vriesekoop - her prospective opponent in the third round - is another story. The Dutch girl won easily in their last encounter at the Novi Sad World Championships last year.

Linda Jarvis

26-years-old, now living in Guisborough, Cleveland. Linda is renowned as a doubles specialist but also has some good singles wins, particularly in team events. With Douglas she reached the final of the mixed in the 1980 European Championships and they have an outstanding record in the European League. They must therefore, be disappointed to be only seeded 6th in the mixed in Budapest. Linda was European women's doubles champion, with Jill, in 1976. England No. 4, World No. 41.

Prospects - Linda has a good draw in the women's singles: Menni Weizades of Sweden will test her in the first round and will provide good preparation for the No. 14 seed Gabriella Szabo. Should she win, the Ursula Kamizuru/Jarvis third round match would be extremely interesting.

E.S.T.T.A.

The Stiga English Schools' Individual Championships are due to take place at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday, May 1st, 1982. The AGM of the ESTTA takes place at Curdworth Community Centre, Sutton Coldfield, on Sunday, May 16, 1982 at 2.15 p.m.

E.T.T.A. MANAGEMENT

The next meeting of the ETTA Management Committee is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 1982 in London.



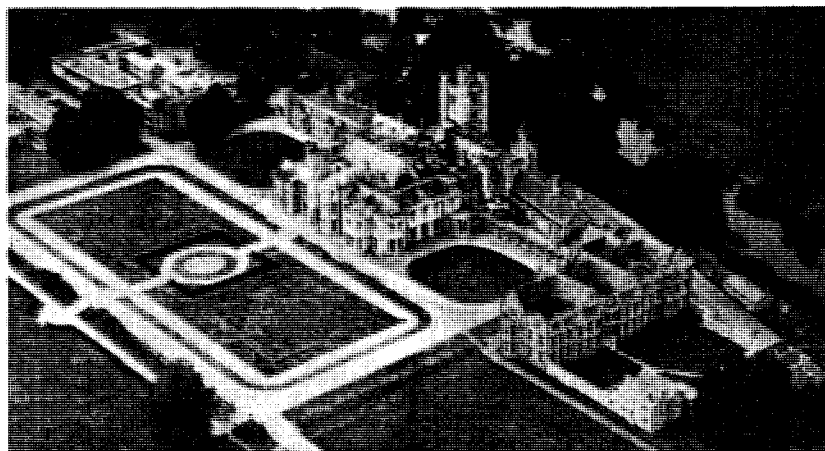
Dave Constance Sports Holidays

Bournemouth '82



GREAT - VALUE
- COACHING
- FUN

GREAT - FACILITIES
- LOCATION
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SQUASH



TENNIS

Swimming Pool
Royal Tennis Court
Fives Courts

Tennis Courts
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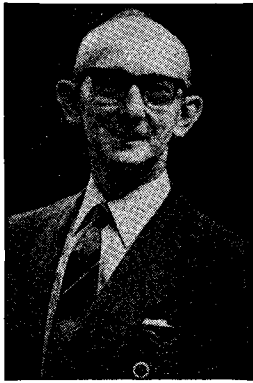
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CURRENT AFFAIRS



by **TOM BLUNN**
Chairman, E.T.T.A.

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Last month I tried to take a look at ourselves and put the members in the seat of the spectator and the viewer. The conclusion seemed to me to be that there was room for change but fortunately the problem was acknowledged and the need to make changes recognised. It will take time but the destiny of our game is not wholly in our own hands — the laws under which the game is played are determined by international agreement and we can only put forward our own suggestions and work hard for their acceptance.

There is another area where changes can be made if indeed they are considered to be necessary and beneficial to the progress of our game. I refer to the field of administration by which I mean all those activities under the control of the association other than the actual play.

In this respect we are the masters of our own destiny.

We have had our share of criticism over the past few years, not all of it justified, but sufficient to require the officers to give consideration to the various points raised.

In recent weeks I have talked to many people and I have been told on some occasions that there is much discontent in the country of the way things are going. It is difficult to actually pin-point what is considered to be going wrong, and not going at all, but suffice to say that there are rumblings.

Change for change's sake will produce nothing. If there are any necessary changes to be introduced, there is only one way to go about it. That way is the constitutional way by a change in the rules or the regulations. It is first necessary to identify the problem area, then to consider the necessary improvements and draft suggested changes to the constitution. This is not easy for the member who although an official in a league or a county, is not accustomed to dealing with what is generally considered to be the legal side of the administration.

In spite of the rumblings there has been no proposals put forward for any changes in the rules of the association at the next annual general meeting in July, 1982, other than those initiated by the council. It could well be that members have difficulty in putting their ideas into the correct language or may not be certain of the way to go about getting changes made. To change the rules requires an understanding of the rules in the first place. There are time schedules to observe if adequate notice of any proposed change is to be given to the members who will be voting at the AGM. Changes in the regulations can be

made by the national council, usually at their first meeting of the season, two weeks after the AGM. It is the regulations that govern all the competitions and many other aspects of the administration.

The rules are basic and have evolved over the years through experience and the need to protect the interests of the association and its members. So to summarise, changes in the laws of the game, take a long time with experimental periods and the ITTF congress meeting only every two years. Changes in the rules of the ETTA can only be made once a year at the AGM, with proposals having to be formulated and put forward by a closing date in February. Changes in the regulations of the ETTA can be made by the council at any time though usually once a year, with a much less restricted time table.

Changes in the policies of the association can be made only by the national council which meets four times each year. No matter how genuine are the aspirations of any particular person it is necessary, in any democratic association, to abide by the accepted process for change, even though it may take some time. Going about it the wrong way or trying to by-pass the system, only prolongs the process and causes irritation and is unlikely to achieve the objective.

Let us accept that there is a mood for some change, then it is policies, rules or regulations that will need to be changed rather than people. No one person can dictate to the council or to the AGM, but ideas can be propounded and campaigns organised in support of any idea.

Ideas have to be circulated and opinions for and against assessed before taking the positive action. A good idea can be lost through a mis-interpretation of the intentions because the written proposals were badly or incorrectly worded. Whether it be a proposal for a change in the rules or in the regulations the ETTA rules committee will advise on wording and on any consequential revisions. Proposals are considered by the management committee and recommendations made to the national council for a decision as to how to proceed with the matter at the AGM.

Any member leagues or county can submit a proposal for discussion at the AGM but it is far better to enlist the support of the council in the first place. If a proposal has the backing of the council it will have a much better chance of success. The reverse of course applies, and for a proposal to change the rules to be successful it must obtain at least 66% of the votes cast.

A proposal to change the regulations requires only a simple majority at the council meeting.

Whilst discussions by members are not difficult at local level there is very little opportunity for such discussions at the national level. To provide a wider area for discussion I would recommend the long standing practice of a letter to the Times, in our case though "the Times" means the official magazine "Table Tennis News".

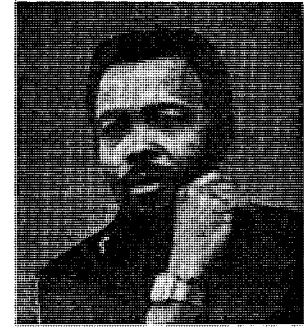
The magazine is circulated throughout the country and is particularly popular amongst the officials of the leagues and counties, who are the people most concerned about changes in the rules and regulations.

Such a letter should state clearly the need for a change and invite comments from other members. If a copy of the letter is sent to the ETTA office it will be possible for an early consideration to be given to the matter.

A quick way of dealing with the problem of a change is to convince the county committee of the merits of the case so that the county councillor can raise the matter at the next council meeting and can ask for the support of other councillors.

If any particular matter creates sufficient interest to arouse indignation or concern then talk about it and write about it. The association can be governed only by the will of the members.

THIS & THAT IN SURREY



by **MURRAY CORBIN**

A JUNIOR PREMIER TRIUMPH

Our Junior Premier Team of NICHOLAS HOARE, ANDREW SEXTON, MICHAEL HAMMOND, MICHELE HAMS and JANE MILLS, recreated a piece of history recently, when they brought back the Junior Premier Championship trophy to Surrey — a feat last accomplished 29 years ago. This season, the competition was held over two weekends — 21/22 November and 6/7 March, at St. Neots TT Club, Cambridgeshire. Surrey finished well clear of Bedfordshire, Yorkshire, Middlesex, Kent, Sussex, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. Our final analysis showed 7 Played, 6 Won, 1 Draw, 51 games for, 13 against, a tally of 13 points, with Bedfordshire second, on 9 points.

We should be made to approach each and every one of our team and tell them, "Well done on your Junior Premier achievement! I am proud of you". These words have already been echoed by Non-playing Captain, Paul Smith and his Assistant, Peter Matthews. If one player had to be singled out for major honours, it would be Nicholas, who won twelve out of his fourteen games. However, it is worthy to note that the girls more than held their own by recording quite a few splendid wins themselves. Mike Hammond has now played his last junior premier game for Surrey. During this stage he has been an excellent player, a fierce competitor and a very good teammate; not always the model of good behaviour, but has any of us always been? Michael now moves into the most important era of his career and I hope that you will join me in wishing him good health and continued success in this exacting period. Bravo, Mike!

SURREY SENIOR CLOSED

This competition was held at Elmbridge Leisure Centre on the 27 March, and I must admit to being very pleased on seeing the large number of juniors who had the courage to enter to gain experience at this level. Unfortunately, I was unable to stay for the playing off of the finals: I am therefore grateful to Norman Hooper for giving me the necessary background, from which I have drafted the following:

This year, with financial support from CHARLES CHURCH DEVELOPMENTS LTD., one of a group of professional building and engineering companies in Camberley, the Championships attracted a large entry from all over the County. If the trend of increasing entries continues and financial support from local business is again forthcoming, consideration may well have to be given to playing these championships over two days.

As to the results, in the Men's Singles,

the absence of the top seed David Hannah - the current Scottish No. 1, left the former junior boys' champion MARK OAKLEY and the current junior champion NICHOLAS HOARE, as favourites. Two surprise quarter finalists were RUPERT BOLE, who defeated his Chessington club-mate - Michael Hammond, the seventh seed, and ANDREW SEXTON who gained a victory over the eighth seed - Brian Garraway. This stage of the competition proved to be the end of the line for both players however, with Bole going down to CONNIE WARREN, Hannah's late replacement, while Sexton experienced difficulty in coping with the left-handed attacks of STEVE HOLLOWAY. The other two quarter-finals produced wins for NICHOLAS HOARE over Glen Baker and by MARK OAKLEY over the ever-green veteran - Gordon Chapman.

In the semis, HOARE defeated Warren and HOLLOWAY caused an upset by beating Oakley. The final between HOLLOWAY and HOARE was one of the best ever seen at these Championships for many years, with both players favouring a fast attacking game. Hoare won the first at 10, but Holloway hit back to win a cliff hanger of a second game at 20. The deciding game produced many long exciting rallies with both players going for their shots, but it was HOLLOWAY who, being forced to raise his game, took the third at 17, and the Men's Singles Championship. To round off a splendid day, Steve was awarded the FRED JOYCE MEMORIAL TROPHY. This honour is bestowed upon the player, who in the eyes of the adjudicators gave the best performance during the day.

In the WOMEN'S SINGLES, the top three seeds reached the semis without much trouble, but the fourth seed - KERRY MERRITT, went out to the exploding forehand of LINDA CLEMETT, who went on to claim a semi-final place by outmanoeuvring the improving Jane Barella, who had previously smashed Jane Mills into submission. Top seed LORRAINE GARBET put a stop to Clemett's run in the first semi, while in the second, the experience of SUSAN TAME was too much for the current junior girls champion - Michele Hams. The final produced a good clash of styles with Miss Tame's big attacking game, against the more defensive style of Miss Garbet. The first game went to the attacker at 17, who

also had match point in the second, before losing on 20. In the third, both players had chances to establish a commanding lead, but it was Miss Garbet who got in front at the vital time and went on to win at 17, to become Women Singles Champion.

The defending Veteran Singles Champion - GORDON CHAMPION, retained his title by defeating Emil Emecz, 21 and 18, in a hard fought final. The new Restricted Singles Champion is JOHN TENDLER, who hails from Gants Hill but plays in one of our leagues. John had an easy win in the first game at 10 over Lionel Faure, who, in the second, was 19-14 up, but lost it at 26. Let us hope that Lionel may have learnt quite a lot from the experience of playing John, with his abundance of patience and

determination.

The MEN'S DOUBLES went to OAKLEY/HOARE with a scrappy win over Steve and Paul Hollaway. The WOMEN'S DOUBLES was an easy win for TAME/GARBET over Hams/Webster, while the MIXED saw SEXTON/GARBET victorious over Hoare/Hams, by a pair of eighteens.

Other players, to name a few who caught my eyes, were ANTHONY NEVILLE, MICK PEARSON, ANDREW HARDY - who plays in patches; he could become a very good player, but would have to concentrate on his speed, lack of meanness and concentration. I was also impressed with COLIN and MARINA McLEAN of the Eldon Phab Club, LENNY LEO, the conning style of CONNIE WARREN, and EMIL EMECZ.



Hats off to STEVE HOLLOWAY for splendid performances, leading up to winning the SURREY SENIOR CLOSED Men's Singles. Kadanga!!

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County Championships Round-up

by PHILIP REID

EASY, EASY FOR SURREY

Surrey easily won the Junior Premier Division, dropping only 1 point - to Middlesex — on the way. Nobody could match their strength in depth, consisting of Nicky Hoare, Michael Hammond, Michelle Hams and Jane Mills although Yorkshire, runners-up, took them to a 6-4 decision thanks to David Illingsworth who not only won two against Surrey but emerged throughout the day unbeaten. Yorkshire look doomed to be the proverbial bridesmaid. They were runners-up last season and their senior team were runners-up in the Premier Division. This term, however, it was only games difference that gave them the No. 2 spot, Bedfordshire almost pipping them. The Bellinger sisters, Jackie and Lisa, emerged undefeated in both singles and doubles but the boys could not quite back them up.

Middlesex, with virtually the same team as before, recorded two good wins, their stars being Michelle Williams and Laura Goldsmith who, between them took three sets in almost every match. Kent had David Dodd in their side, which got them a point against Middlesex and two against Warwickshire but even he couldn't keep out Surrey or Bedfordshire. Sussex, with seven points from a like number of outings finished sixth. They had Adrian and Tina Moore but they received very little support. The two Midlands sides, Warwickshire and Staffordshire, suffered the indignity of being relegated. Philip Gunn finished the season well, but lack of support, particularly in the distaff section, was Warwickshire's undoing. Staffordshire managed only a draw (against Warwickshire) and in their case the reverse was true. Fiona Elliot and Vicki Bellingham tried hard but the boys, inexperienced though they were, were just not up to it.

SCORES

Sussex 4 Yorkshire 6

A. Moore lost to S. Sharpe -6, -20;
lost to D. Rook -11, 10, -18.
G. Bonner lost to Sharpe -15, -9;
lost to D. Illingsworth -13, -16.
R. Venner lost to Rook 21, -14, -14;
lost to Illingsworth -12, -18.
Miss T. Moore bt Miss M. Seaton 18, -16, 16.
Miss S. Weston lost to Miss J. Ryalls
-12, 16, -12.
Moore/Bonner lost to Sharpe/Rook -18, -10.
Miss Moore/Miss Weston lost to Miss
Ryalls/Miss Brook -13, -17.

Only Teresa Moore's fine win over Melanie Seaton provided any comfort for Sussex.

Surrey 10 Kent 0

N. Hoare bt D. Dodd 14, -22, 11;
bt R. Namdjou 7, 16.
M. Hammond bt D. Dodd -12, 14, 16;
bt A. Dodd 15, 17.
A. Sexton bt R. Namdjou 7, 11;
bt A. Dodd 18, 17.
Miss M. Hams bt Miss J. Smith -16, 18, 16.
Miss J. Mills bt Miss J. Houghton 14, 22.
Hoare/Hammond bt D. Dodd/Namdjou
12, 20.
Miss Hams/Miss Mills bt Miss Smith/Miss
Houghton -12, 19, 21.

An overwhelming win for Surrey. Only GD could have gone other way.

Warwickshire 3 Middlesex 7

P. Gunn bt M. O'Leary -18, 19, 15;
lost to E. Gorniak -14, -18.
D. Rudge lost to O'Leary -15, -17;
bt N. Tyler 11, -16, 20.
S. Bertie lost to Gorniak -15, -16, -21;
lost to Tyler 19, -16, -19.
Miss F. Sutton lost to Miss M. Williams
-9, 17, -12.

Miss M. McHale lost to Miss L. Goldsmith
-18, -18.

Gunn/R. Lewis bt Gorniak/Tyler -19, 12, 14.
Miss Sutton/Miss McHale lost to Miss
Williams/Miss Goldsmith -16, -13.

Three sets at -19 or closer in the third,
which indicates how close the match was.

Staffordshire 2 Bedfordshire 8

Andrew Dixon lost to Sharpe -12, 19, -11;
bt C. Luscombe -15, 20, 17.
Adrian Dixon lost to Sharpe -12, -14;
bt A. Conquest 18, 15.
R. Haywood lost to Luscombe -19, -14;
lost to Conquest -14, -15.
Miss F. Elliot lost to Miss L. Bellinger
-14, -12.
Miss V. Bellingham lost to Miss J. Bellinger
-12, -13.
Dixon/Dixon lost to Sharpe/Luscombe
-13, -19.

Miss Elliot/Miss Bellingham lost to Miss
Bellinger/Miss Bellinger -10, -16.

David Sharpe and the Bellinger sisters
sparkled.

Middlesex 9 Sussex 1

O'Leary lost to Moore -10, -7;
bt Bonner -21, 15, 11.
Gorniak bt Moore -19, 19, 19;
bt Venner 16, -19, 20.
Tyler bt Bonner 21, -19, 21;
bt Venner 15, 18.
Miss Williams bt Miss Moore 13, -15, 14.
Miss Goldsmith bt Miss Weston 19, 11.
Gorniak/Tyler bt Moore/Bonner -15, 19, 18.
Miss Williams/Miss Goldsmith bt Miss
Moore/Miss Weston 18, 18.

No fewer than four of Sussex losses were
18 or more in the third, including two
titanic battles involving Eddie Gorniak.

Kent 7 Warwickshire 3

D. Dodd bt Gunn 12, 19;
bt Rudge -19, 13, 14.
R. Namdjou lost to Gunn -15, -18;
bt Bertie 12, 21.
A. Dodd bt Rudge -12, 14;
bt Bertie 18, 19.
Miss Smith lost to Miss Sutton -12, -17.
Miss Houghton bt Miss McHale -12, 8, 16.
D. Dodd/Namdjou bt Gunn/Lewis -17, 13, 20.
Miss Smith/Miss Houghton lost to Miss
Sutton/Miss McHale -19, -9.

Only Warwick's girls kept Kent out, for
whom David Dodd was form.

Bedfordshire 3 Surrey 7

Sharpe lost to Hoare -17, -12;
lost to Hammond 22, -17, -16.
Luscombe lost to Hoare -15, -11;
lost to Sexton -12, -13.
Conquest lost to Hammond -18, -18;
lost to Sexton -20, -12.
Miss L. Bellinger bt Miss Hams 14, 17.
Miss J. Bellinger bt Miss Mills 11, 18.
Sharpe/Luscombe lost to Hoare/Hammond
-21, -18.
Miss Bellinger/Miss Bellinger bt Miss Hams/
Miss Mills 12, 12.

Even the Bellinger sisters couldn't save
Beds this time! They took three but Surrey
very impressive in boys' events.

Yorkshire 8 Staffordshire 2

Sharpe bt Andrew Dixon 15, 17;
bt Adrian Dixon 16, 15.
Rook bt Andrew Dixon -18, 11, 24;
bt Hayward 17, 8.
Illingsworth bt Adrian Dixon 9, 14;
bt Hayward 17, 9.
Miss Ryalls lost to Miss Elliot -19, 19, -14.
Miss L. Broomhead bt Miss Bellingham
-15, 14, 15.
Rook/R. Whiteley bt Dixon/Dixon 21, 12.
Miss Ryalls/Miss Seaton lost to Miss Elliot/
Miss Bellingham -11, 12, -17.

Fiona Elliot stood out for Staffs as did
Stephen Sharpe for Yorks.

Surrey 6 Yorkshire 4

Hoare bt Sharpe 17, 15;
bt Rook 14, 19.
Hammond bt Sharpe -16, 15, 19;
lost to Illingsworth -11, 19, -15.
Sexton bt Rook 13, -13, 13;
lost to Illingsworth -13, -15.
Miss Hams bt Miss Seaton 14, -13, 18.
Miss Mills lost to Miss Ryalls -16, -17.
Hoare/Hammond lost to Rook/Whiteley
-16, -23.
Miss Hams/Miss Mills bt Miss Seaton/Miss
Ryalls 13, -18, 19.

Three stars in this championship
'decider', Nicky Hoare and Michelle Hams
for Surrey and David Illingsworth for York-
shire.

Staffordshire 3 Middlesex 7

Andrew Dixon lost to O'Leary -16, -19;
lost to Gorniak -14, -19.
Adrian Dixon lost to O'Leary -18, -16;
lost to Tyler -14, -19.
Haywood lost to Gorniak 6, -9, -19;
lost to Tyler -6, -8.
Miss Elliot bt Miss Williams 15, 9.
Miss Bellingham bt Miss Goldsmith 16, 19.
Andrew Dixon/Haywood lost to Gorniak/
Tyler -14, -10.
Miss Elliot/Miss Bellingham bt Miss
Williams/Miss Goldsmith 20, -14, 13.
A treble by the Staffs girls to no avail.

Sussex 7 Warwickshire 3

Moore lost to Gunn 13, -17, -19;
bt Rudge 10, 12.
Bonner lost to Gunn -19, -15;
bt Lewis 19, -16, 11.
Venner bt Rudge 11, -14, 18;
bt Lewis 16, 16.
Miss Moore bt Miss Sutton 14, 8.
Miss Weston bt Miss McHale 16, 19.
Moore/Bonner bt Gunn/S. Bertie 13, 18.
Miss Moore/Miss Weston lost to Miss
Sutton/Miss McHale -16, 17, -18.

Philip Gunn's defence shone for Warwick's.

Kent 2 Bedfordshire 8

D. Dodd lost to Sharpe -16, -12;
bt Luscombe 11, 20.
R. Namdjou lost to Sharpe -9, 21, -19;
bt Conquest 17, 18.
N. Harris lost to Luscombe 18, -17, -15;
lost to Conquest -22, -20.
Miss Smith lost to Miss L. Bellinger -15, -11.
Miss Houghton lost to Miss J. Bellinger
-16, -13.
Dodd/Namdjou lost to Sharpe/Luscombe
-14, 17, -14.
Miss Smith/Miss Houghton lost to Miss
Bellinger/Miss Bellinger -13, -9.

For once the Bellinger sisters were out-
shone — well done David Sharpe!

Yorkshire 6 Warwickshire 4

Sharpe lost to Gunn 16, -14, -18;
lost to Rudge 7, -19, -19.
Rook lost to Gunn -16, 14, -17;
bt Lewis 16, -15, 16.
Illingsworth bt Rudge 13, 11;
bt Lewis -14, 16, 16.
Miss Broomhead bt Miss Sutton -13, 14, 18.
Miss R. Brook bt Miss McHale 18, 21.
Sharpe/Rook bt Rudge/Bertie 13, 22.
Miss Ryalls/Miss Brook lost to Miss Sutton/
Miss McHale -9, -14.

Once again Philip Gunn starred for
Warwick's but Yorkshire, particularly David
Illingsworth, better all-round.

Surrey 6 Staffordshire 4

Hoare bt Andrew Dixon 11, 9;
bt Adrian Dixon 4, 14.
Hammond lost to Andrew Dixon 13, -18, -18;
bt Haywood -19, 12, 13.
Sexton bt Adrian Dixon 16, 15;
lost to Haywood 15, -16, -15.
Miss Hams lost to Miss Elliot -11, 18, -9.
Miss Mills lost to Miss Bellinger 20, -11, -15.
Hoare/Hammond bt Dixon/Dixon 8, 15.
Miss Hams/Miss Mills bt Miss Elliot/Miss
Bellingham -18, 15, 14.

A remarkably close match in this top v

bottom clash. Staffs led 2-0 but GD saved Surrey.

Middlesex 5 Kent 5

O'Leary lost to D. Dodd 19, -18, 21;

bt Harris 7, 17.

Gorniak lost to D. Dodd -14, -20;

bt A. Dodd 17, 11.

D. Topiwala lost to Harris -18, 6, -18;

lost to A. Dodd -11, -15.

Miss Williams bt Miss Smith 18, 17.

Miss Goldsmith bt Miss Houghton 16, 17.

Gorniak/N. Tyler lost to D. Dodd/

P. Namdjou 15, -18, -20.

Miss Williams/Miss Goldsmith bt Miss

Smith/Miss Houghton 17, 20.

The Middlesex girls (Michelle Williams and Laura Goldsmith) saved them from a thrashing by this Kent side.

Bedfordshire 4 Sussex 6

Sharpe lost to A. Moore -13, -18;

bt Bonner 14, 14.

Luscombe lost to Moore -19, -16;

lost to Venner -16, -14.

Conquest lost to Bonner 13, -18, -17;

lost to Venner -18, -19.

Miss L. Bellinger bt Miss Moore 14, 14.

Miss J. Bellinger bt Miss Weston 18, 9.

Sharpe/Luscombe lost to Moore/Bonner

-15, -17.

Miss Bellinger/Miss Bellinger bt Miss

Moore/Miss Weston 12, 20.

Once again Beds boys not good enough to back Bellinger sisters. Adrian Moore and Richie Venner good for Sussex.

LEADING AVERAGES

	P	W	L	%
Boys' Singles				
P. Gunn (Warwicks)	14	12	2	85.7
N. Hoare (Surrey)	14	12	2	85.7
M. Hammond (Surrey) ...	14	11	3	78.4
A. Sexton (Surrey)	14	11	3	78.4
Girls' Singles				
J. Bellinger (Beds)	7	7	0	100
L. Bellinger (Beds)	7	7	0	100
F. Elliot (Staffs)	7	6	1	85.7
Girls' Doubles				
Bellinger/Bellinger (Beds) .	7	7	0	100

DIVISION 2A

- Lancashire II 1 Staffordshire 9
- Cambridgeshire 6 Warwickshire II 4
- Derbyshire 6 Worcestershire 4
- Worcestershire 0 Staffordshire 10
- Lancashire II 3 Leicestershire 7
- Warwickshire II 4 Yorkshire II 6
- Derbyshire 3 Cambridgeshire 7

Staffs have won the division on sets aggregate. In Andy Bellingham, Jill Harris and Janet Dunning they have real match-winners. Leics tried unavailingly against Lancs, for whom young Philip Huggon shone. Yorks juniors Steven Sharpe and Michael Stead also did well to emerge unbeaten against Warwicks. Keith Richardson brilliant for Cambs.

DIVISION 2B

- Sussex 3 Devon 7
- Kent 7 Hertfordshire 3
- Wiltshire 7 Surrey 3
- Surrey 8 Devon 2
- Essex II 1 Dorset 9
- Dorset 8 Kent 2
- Surrey 9 Essex II 1
- Sussex 9 Hertfordshire 1

Dorset almost there in this promotion battle with Kent. Their men (David Constance, Simon Heaps and Tony Clayton) especially strong. Mark Oakley outstanding for Surrey (v Essex II) and Philip Smith inspired Sussex (v Herts).

DIVISION 3A

- Staffordshire II 7 Durham 3
- Derbyshire II 5 Leicestershire II 5
- Leicestershire II 6 Cumbria 4
- Staffordshire II 8 Derbyshire II 2
- Durham 7 Lincolnshire 3

Neil Smith's trio futile for Cumbria. J. Hancock shone for Staffs, with Gelder and Cobold the men in form for Durham.

DIVISION 3B

- Gloucestershire 8 Dorset II 2
- Avon 5 Gloucestershire 5
- Cornwall 1 Hampshire 9
- Dorset II 3 Berkshire II 7
- Somerset 9 Isle of Wight 1
- Somerset 4 Avon 6
- Isle of Wight 5 Cornwall 5
- Dorset II 3 Hampshire 7
- Gloucestershire 5 Berkshire II 5

Hants win over Dorset II spearheaded by Derek Holman, makes them champions. Andy Creed (Avon) prominent in win over Somerset. Carl Prean (IOW) helped his team avoid relegation against Cornwall.

DIVISION 3C

- Herefordshire 7 Buckinghamshire 3
- Northamptonshire 4 Bedfordshire 6
- Huntingdonshire 4 Worcestershire 6
- Huntingdonshire 4 Herefordshire 6
- Worcestershire II 0 Northamptonshire 10
- Buckinghamshire 2 Oxfordshire 8

Oxon ensured runners-up, despite two from Philip Bradbury. Mark Owen prominent in Hereford win against Hunts.

DIVISION 3D

- Middlesex II 5 Hertfordshire II 5
- Surrey II 4 Suffolk 6
- Sussex II 5 Norfolk 5
- Kent II 9 Cambridgeshire II 1
- Norfolk 2 Kent II 8
- Suffolk 7 Sussex II 3
- Hertfordshire II 5 Surrey II 5
- Cambridgeshire II 1 Middlesex II 9

Keith Rudd spearheaded Kent win over Norfolk. Tony Holmes only Cambs win (against Bryn Tyler). Stuart Palmer excelled for Suffolk (v Sussex) and Glenn Baker for Surrey (v Herts).

DIVISION 4B

- Northamptonshire II 3 Suffolk II 7
- Oxfordshire II 3 Buckinghamshire II 7
- Oxfordshire II 8 Norfolk II 2
- Buckinghamshire II 5 Northants II 5

Oxon finished runners-up, thanks to 100% Arthur Chilvers. Northants had Brian Wooding to thank for their point with Bucks.

JUNIOR 2A

- Lincolnshire 4 Gloucestershire 6
- Gloucestershire 4 Cleveland 6
- Huntingdonshire 4 Cleveland 6
- Durham 6 Buckinghamshire 4
- Huntingdonshire 5 Buckinghamshire 5
- Yorkshire II 5 Gloucestershire 5
- Leicestershire 4 Durham 6
- Cleveland 8 Lincolnshire 2

Cleveland champions — not surprising with Lindsay Taylor, Jevon Chan and Glen Skipp in their side. Philip Cole and girls (Alison Hillard and Janet Randall) won all Hunts sets (v Bucks) — so did Darren Griffin and Paul Jackson for Gloucs (v Yorks II). Leics disappointing against a Darren McVitie-inspired Durham side.

JUNIOR 2B

- Wiltshire 4 Glamorgan 6 P
- Avon 0 Devon 10
- Dorset 5 Berkshire 5
- Hertfordshire 4 Essex 8
- Devon 9 Wiltshire 1
- Essex 8 Dorset 2
- Glamorgan 7 Hertfordshire 3
- Avon 7 Berkshire 3

Devon champions with No. 1 Gary Lambert undefeated. Avon's only win — thanks to Martin Coles. Essex, runners-up, had Paul Sayer on form against Dorset whilst Glamorgan's new boy, Byron Davies, stopped Herts gallop.

JUNIOR 3A

- Lancashire 7 Northumberland 3
- Cleveland II 5 Cumbria 5
- Cheshire 6 Nottinghamshire 4
- Derbyshire 8 Lincolnshire II 2
- Northumberland 5 Derbyshire 5
- Lancashire 10 Cleveland II 0
- Lincolnshire II 4 Nottinghamshire 6

Lancs champions celebrated in style against Cleveland II. Neil McMaster prominent for Northumberland against Derbys. Notts just home against Lines II thanks to Lee Neil.

JUNIOR 3B

- Warwickshire II 4 Worcestershire 6
- Northamptonshire 10 Herefordshire 0



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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

(to 20th March)

Seniors

Premier Division (Final Table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	6	6	0	0	42	12	12
Yorkshire	6	5	0	1	38	16	10
Berkshire	6	4	0	2	29	25	8
Lancashire	6	3	0	3	29	26	6
Essex	6	2	0	4	18	36	4
Warwickshire	6	1	0	5	19	35	2
Northumberland	6	0	0	6	15	39	0

Cheshire record deleted.

Division 2A (Final Table)

Staffordshire	7	6	0	1	49	21	12
Leicestershire	7	6	0	1	45	25	12
Cambridgeshire	7	5	0	2	38	32	10
Yorkshire II	7	4	0	3	34	36	8
Lancashire II	7	3	1	3	38	32	7
Derbyshire	7	1	2	4	28	42	4
Warwickshire II	7	1	1	5	28	42	3
Worcestershire	7	0	0	7	20	50	0

Division 2B

Dorset	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Sussex	6	4	0	2	35	25	8
Wiltshire	6	4	0	2	34	26	8
Kent	7	4	0	3	36	34	8
Surrey	7	3	1	3	39	31	7
Hertfordshire	6	2	1	3	25	35	5
Devon	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Essex II	7	1	0	6	23	47	2

Division 3A

Staffordshire II	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Cheshire II	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Durham	5	3	0	2	31	19	6
Derbyshire II	6	2	2	2	25	35	6
Leicestershire II	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Lincolnshire	5	1	0	4	20	30	2
Cumbria	6	0	0	6	16	44	0

Division 3B

Hampshire	7	6	0	1	51	19	12
Gloucestershire	7	3	3	1	40	30	9
Avon	6	4	1	1	33	27	9
Dorset II	7	4	0	3	35	35	8
Berkshire II	7	2	3	2	39	31	7
Somerset	7	2	1	4	31	39	5
Isle of Wight	6	0	3	3	22	38	3
Cornwall	7	0	1	6	19	51	1

Division 3C

Bedfordshire	5	4	1	0	31	19	9
Oxfordshire	6	4	0	2	35	25	8
Northamptonshire	6	3	1	2	37	23	7
Herefordshire	5	2	2	1	26	24	6
Worcestershire II	6	2	1	3	24	36	5
Huntingdonshire	6	1	1	4	22	38	3
Buckinghamshire	6	1	0	5	25	35	2

Division 3D (Final Table)

Sussex II	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
Middlesex II	7	5	1	1	42	28	11
Suffolk	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Kent II	7	4	0	3	38	32	8
Surrey II	7	3	1	3	34	36	7
Hertfordshire II	7	1	4	2	33	37	6
Cambridgeshire II	7	1	1	5	21	49	3
Norfolk	7	0	1	6	23	47	1

Division 4A (Final Table)

Wiltshire II	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Hampshire II	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Staffordshire III	4	1	2	1	14	26	3
Somerset II	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Avon II	4	1	0	3	14	26	2

Division 4B (Final Table)

Suffolk II	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Oxfordshire II	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Buckinghamshire II	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Northamptonshire II	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Norfolk II	4	1	0	3	15	25	2

Juniors

Premier Division (Final Table)

Surrey	7	6	1	0	51	19	13
Yorkshire	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Bedfordshire	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Middlesex	7	3	2	2	39	31	8
Kent	7	2	3	2	30	40	7
Sussex	7	3	1	3	27	43	7
Warwickshire	7	0	2	5	25	45	2
Staffordshire	7	0	1	6	24	46	1

form for Middlesex, Brian Parrish for Essex. Only Ron Fairhall — with 19, -17, 22 victory over M. Shave troubled Hants.

VETERANS 3B

Kent II 5 Berkshire II 4
Sussex II 8 Wiltshire II 1
Hampshire II 6 Hertfordshire III 3
Wiltshire II 3 Berkshire II 6
Hertfordshire III 1 Kent II 8
Somerset 4 Hampshire II 5

Herts beaten at the post by Hants, who narrowly beat Somerset, despite the unbeaten Joe Garland. Kent were already assured of the points against Herts, made to look more of a landslide by the ineligibility of a Herts player. Berks, with R. Holliday on form, beat lowly but fighting Wilts

LEADING AVERAGES

DIVISION 2A

	P	W	L	%
Men's Singles				
A. Bellingham (St)	13	11	2	84.6
A. Cooke (Dy)	14	11	3	78.6
C. Rogers (Le)	14	11	3	78.6
Women's Singles				
Miss J. Harris (St)	7	7	0	100
Mrs. K. Smith (Le)	6	6	0	100
Mrs. J. Dunning (St)	7	6	1	85.7
Men's Doubles				
Randell/Rogers (Le)	6	5	1	83.3
Women's Doubles				
Dunning/Harris (St)	7	7	0	100
Smith/Miss J. Revill (Le)	5	4	1	80

DIVISION 3D

Men's Singles				
A. Stark (Mi)	12	10	2	83.3
Women's Singles				
J. Mitchell (Sy)	5	4	1	80

DIVISION 4B

Men's Singles				
A. Chilvers (Ox)	8	8	0	100
R. King (Sk)	8	7	1	87.5
Women's Singles				
G. Hooper (Np)	4	3	1	75

JUNIOR 2B

Boys' Singles				
G. Lambert (Dv)	12	12	0	100
M. Ellett (Dv)	12	11	1	92.9
Girls' Singles				
S. Collier (Bk)	5	5	0	100
D. Kratochivlia (Dv)	5	4	1	80
Boys' Doubles				
Lambert/Ellett (Dv)	6	6	0	100
Girls' Doubles				
Miss Hayden/Miss Crawford (E)	4	3	1	75

JUNIOR 3C

Boys' Singles				
D. Topiwala (Mi)	14	13	1	92.9
L. Faure (Sy)	12	11	1	91.7
D. Dewsbury (Sy)	14	12	2	85.7
Girls' Singles				
L. Souter (Mi)	7	7	0	100
L. Popkiewicz (Sy)	5	4	1	80
J. Kimber (Av)	5	4	1	80

JUNIOR 3B

Boys' Singles				
I. Davies (Wa)	8	8	0	100
G. McKim (Np)	12	12	0	100
S. Kendall (Np)	12	11	1	91.7
I. Hawes (Np)	12	11	1	91.7
M. Dukes (Wo)	10	9	1	90
C. Geelan (Wa)	8	7	1	87.5

DIVISION 4

Boys' Singles				
S. Dorking (E)	8	7	1	87.5

VETERANS DIVISION 2A

Men's Singles:				
R. Bolton (Ng)	12	11	1	91.7
A. Saunders (Ng)	10	9	1	90
Women's Singles				
Mrs. P. Hammond (Ng)	6	5	1	83.3
Men's Doubles:				
Saunders/Jesson (Ng)	5	5	0	100
Mixed Doubles				
Bax/Mrs. Tyler (He)	5	5	0	100

Buckinghamshire II 1 Staffordshire II 9
Staffordshire II 6 Oxfordshire 4
Worcestershire 10 Buckinghamshire II 0
Herefordshire 0 Warwickshire II 10

Poor Herefordshire outclassed by Warwick. Kevin Cartwright and Brian Hough saw Staffs home against Oxon.

JUNIOR 3C

Surrey II 7 Avon II 3
Cornwall 5 Somerset 5
Dorset II 1 Middlesex II 9
Berkshire II 4 Hampshire 6
Cornwall 7 Berkshire II 3
Avon II 5 Hampshire 5
Somerset 9 Dorset II 1
Middlesex II 6 Surrey II 4

Middlesex II on top of table following exciting match with Surrey: David Topiwala excelled. Avon hung on to a point despite efforts of Hants' Mark Wilding. Congratulations Somerset on your first win (R. Captain brilliant). Cornwall's win (v Berks II) due to Jon Woolins and Mark James.

JUNIOR 3D

Kent II 8 Norfolk 2
Cambridgeshire 7 Herefordshire II 3
Sussex II 1 Essex II 9
Bedfordshire II 8 Suffolk 2
Essex II 10 Hertfordshire II 0
Suffolk 8 Kent II 2
Bedfordshire II 8 Cambridgeshire 2
Norfolk 3 Sussex II 7

Essex easily champions. Their trio of John Sparks, Paul Stephens and Andrew Barker virtually untouchable. Andy Conquest (Beds) too good for Cambs. Graham Barnes shone for Sussex against Norfolk.

JUNIOR 4

Cumbria II 7 Cambridgeshire II 3
Norfolk II 7 Leicestershire II 3
Hampshire II 2 Essex III 8
Hampshire II 7 Norfolk II 3
Essex III 10 Cumbria II 0

Despite brilliant debut by Neil Pickard, Norfolk unable to hold Hants for whom Richard Waters good.

VETERAN PREMIER

Lincolnshire 7 Dorset 2
Middlesex 2 Cheshire 7
Essex 2 Cheshire 7
Worcestershire 3 Huntingdonshire 6
Middlesex 8 Worcestershire 1
Huntingdonshire 3 Lincolnshire 6
Dorset 2 Cheshire 7

Cheshire deservedly champions but Cyril Bush and Joyce Coop kept up their amazing XD run. Lincs safe thanks to Brian Edlington and Matt Shearer. Worcs only managed MD against Middx.

VETERANS 2A

Hertfordshire 4 Avon 5
Buckinghamshire 5 Northamptonshire 4
Oxfordshire 7 Cheshire II 2
Nottinghamshire 8 Oxfordshire 1
Cheshire II 1 Hertfordshire 8
Northamptonshire 2 Avon 7

Notts with Alf Saunders, Ron Bolton and Pat Hammond all in the averages top division despite a good Herts challenge, led by Alan Lamprell and David Seaholme. Northants lost relegation decider to Avon, for whom M. Baker and C. Ticknell played well.

VETERANS 2B

Hampshire 1 Kent 8
Essex II 3 Sussex 6
Berkshire 7 Dorset II 2
Middlesex II 9 Wiltshire 0
Middlesex II 6 Berkshire 3
Wiltshire 0 Essex II 9
Sussex 4 Kent 5
Hampshire 8 Dorset II 1

Sussex beaten for first time — by Kent. Must now wait to see if Kent can beat Wilts 7-2 or easier before the destiny of the championship is known. Henry Buist's forehand played havoc with Sussex. J. Smith on

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cleveland	7	7	0	0	46	24	14
Yorkshire II	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
Gloucestershire	7	3	3	1	39	31	9
Lincolnshire	7	4	0	4	32	38	6
Leicestershire	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Durham	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Huntingdonshire	6	0	2	4	23	37	2
Buckinghamshire	7	0	2	5	22	48	2

Division 2B (Final Table)	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Devon	7	6	1	0	52	18	13
Essex	7	6	0	1	44	26	12
Glamorgan	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Hertfordshire	7	3	1	3	39	31	7
Berkshire	7	1	3	3	32	38	5
Wiltshire	7	2	0	5	26	44	4
Dorset	7	0	3	4	27	43	3
Avon	7	1	1	5	18	52	3

Division 3A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancashire	7	7	0	0	60	10	14
Cheshire	6	5	0	1	35	25	10
Northumberland	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Derbyshire	6	2	2	2	31	29	6
Cumbria	5	2	1	2	22	28	5
Nottinghamshire	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Cleveland II	7	1	1	5	23	47	3
Lincolnshire II	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

Division 3B (Final Table)	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Northamptonshire	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Worcestershire	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Warwickshire II	6	4	0	2	37	23	8
Staffordshire II	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
Oxfordshire	6	2	0	4	31	29	4
Buckinghamshire II	6	1	0	5	15	45	2
Herefordshire	6	0	0	6	4	56	0

Shropshire record deleted.

Division 3C (Final Table)	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex II	7	7	0	0	54	16	14
Surrey II	7	6	0	1	53	17	12
Hampshire	7	4	1	2	41	29	9
Berkshire II	7	3	0	4	38	32	6
Cornwall	7	2	1	4	28	42	5
Avon II	7	1	2	4	26	44	4
Somerset	7	1	2	4	25	45	4
Dorset II	7	1	0	6	15	55	2

Division 3D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex II	7	7	0	0	61	9	14
Kent II	7	5	0	2	42	28	10
Bedfordshire II	7	4	1	2	41	29	9
Cambridgeshire	6	3	0	3	27	33	6
Hertfordshire II	7	2	1	4	31	39	5
Sussex II	6	1	2	3	25	35	4
Suffolk	7	2	0	5	23	47	4
Norfolk	7	1	0	6	20	50	2

Division 4 (Final Table)	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex III	5	5	0	0	44	6	10
Norfolk II	5	3	0	2	24	26	6
Hampshire II	5	3	0	2	23	27	6
Cumbria II	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Leicestershire II	5	0	2	3	19	31	2
Cambridgeshire II	5	0	1	4	14	36	1

Shropshire record deleted.

Veterans Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	6	6	0	0	44	10	12
Middlesex	6	4	2	0	37	17	8
Essex	6	3	3	0	27	27	6
Dorset	6	3	3	0	21	33	6
Lincolnshire	5	2	3	0	19	26	4
Worcestershire	5	1	4	0	15	30	2
Huntingdonshire	6	1	5	0	17	37	2

Division 2A (Final Table)	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Nottinghamshire	6	5	1	0	40	14	10
Hertfordshire	6	5	1	0	37	17	10
Oxfordshire	6	3	3	0	25	29	6
Cheshire II	6	3	3	0	24	30	6
Buckinghamshire	6	3	3	0	22	32	6
Avon	6	2	4	0	28	26	4
Northamptonshire	6	0	6	0	13	41	0

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sussex	7	6	1	0	45	18	12
Kent	6	5	1	0	39	15	10
Middlesex II	7	4	3	0	37	26	8
Berkshire	7	4	3	0	34	29	8
Hampshire	7	4	3	0	33	30	8
Essex II	7	3	4	0	38	25	6
Dorset II	7	1	6	0	12	51	2
Wiltshire	6	0	6	0	5	49	0

Division 3A (Final Table)	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leicestershire	4	4	0	0	28	8	8
Bedfordshire	4	2	2	0	18	18	4
Hertfordshire II	4	2	2	0	14	22	4
Clwyd	4	1	3	0	15	21	2

Cumbria	4	1	3	0	15	21	2
						(37-48)	
						21	2
						(35-47)	

Division 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hampshire II	6	5	1	0	34	20	10
Hertfordshire II	6	4	2	0	33	21	8
Sussex II	6	4	2	0	32	22	8
Kent II	6	4	2	0	27	27	8
Berkshire II	6	2	4	0	30	24	4
Somerset	5	1	4	0	14	31	2
Wiltshire II	5	0	5	0	10	35	0

MARTIN ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN

by RON FOSKER

REPUTATION ENHANCED

Graham Sandley enhanced his growing reputation with a well-placed victory in the Martin Essex 3-Star held at Harlow Sports Centre on Feb. 13/14. And for good measure he also took home the men's doubles trophy.

He was made to fight hard throughout the day — Des Charlery took him to 15 in the third, Colin Wilson 18 in the third and Phil Bradbury 11 in the third — and then faced his stiffest test against Douggie Johnson in the semi-final.

Initially none too happy against Johnson's subtle twiddling, it all seemed to click into place at the start of the third and he raced away to a comfortable victory.

And that led him to a final appearance against the surprise packet of the tournament, 14-year-old Carl Prean. In the absence of both top seed Paul Day and No. 4 Don Parker, Prean came through an empty looking top half but the way he grabbed his opportunity can win him nothing but praise.

He disposed of No. 16 seed Dave Newman

and No. 6 Nigel Eckersley in straight games before overcoming a fighting Chris Rogers — himself enjoying one of his best ever tournaments — at 19 in the third in the semi-final.

It was Prean's first senior 3-Star semi-final, and in his first final he equipped himself well but not quite well enough against a top form Sandley.

The absence of No. 1 Jill Hammersley also left a hole at the top of the women's section which Sarah Sandley filled with a quarter-final defeat of Gina Pritchard. Linda Jarvis failed to fill the other spot when Anita Stevenson removed her, as she had removed Mandy Smith in her group and holder Angela Mitchell 8, 13 in an earlier round.

Stevenson's run was finally ended when Karen Witt emphatically took the title 14, 15 after a tougher -12, 19, 19 win over Alison Gordon in the semi-final.

The men's doubles was given a bit of colour by the appearance in the final of the Johnson brothers. This time there was no half-time advice from Barry to Douggie as he was doing his best to beat him!

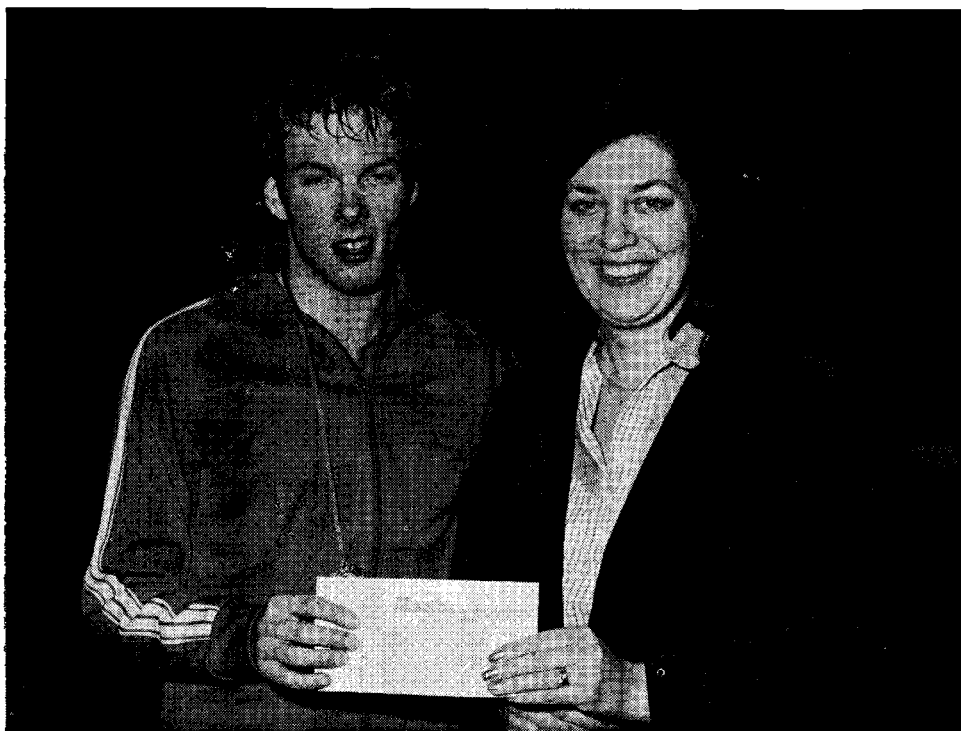
Johnson senior was teamed with Mark Mitchell for the first time while his younger brother was playing as usual with Sandley.

And a partnership that can beat the likes of Carlsson and Bengtsson is not going to be too put out by a confrontation with a scratch pairing. So it proved, 9, 15.

Sandley and Johnson's toughest fight came from behind in the first to beat Ian Horsham, returning to the game after a period of inaction, and Dave Newman, who had knocked out the Nos. 3 and 8 seeds.

The women's doubles gave further proof of the country's burgeoning junior talent when the Bellinger sisters reached their second 3-Star final of the season. They beat Angela Mitchell and Sarah Sandley in the quarters and Witt and Gordon in the semis, curiously by the identical scores 20, -16, 17.

The veterans' singles was the only event where the No. 1 seed turned up and he, George Evans, duly won with a final victory over Peter D'Arcy. Evans won at least one game at 10 or under in every set, but he



Graham Sandley, winner of the men's singles, with Mrs. Sue Martin, wife of the Marketing Director of Martin the Newsagent.

Photo by Michael Johnson, Ingatestone, Essex.

was taken to three by both Stan Battrick and John Holland.

The Class two singles offered some of the best games of the weekend. Both semi-finals went to three and two quarter-finals were decided by two points in the third.

Again the final was a bit of an anti-climax, but again the loser had done his bit by getting there.

Prizes were presented by David Martin, Marketing Director of Martin the Newsagent, the sponsors.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Rogers (Le) bt M. Mitchell (Mi) 21, 15;
C. Prean (IOW) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 18, 10;
G. Sandley (Mi) bt P. Bradbury (Bu)
-16, 15, 11;

D. Johnson (Wa) bt S. Andrew (E)
-11, 9, 14.

Semi-finals:

Prean bt Rogers 15, -16, 19;
Sandley bt Johnson 20, -17, 10.

Final:

SANDLEY bt Prean 16, 19.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

S. Sandley (Mi) bt G. Pritchard (Dv) 10, 8;
A. Stevenson (Le) bt L. Jarvis (Cv)
21, -24, 16;

A. Gordon (Bk) bt M. Reeves (Bk) 6, 10;
K. Witt (Bk) bt L. Bellinger (Bd) 17, 12.

Semi-finals:

Stevenson bt Sandley 13, 14;
Witt bt Gordon -12, 19, 19.

Final:

WITT bt Stevenson 14, 15.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

B. Johnson (Wa)/Mitchell bt K. Beadsley
(Y)/Eckersley 17, -10, 16;

D. Johnson/Sandley bt I. Horsham/
D. Newman (E) 19, 17.

Final:

JOHNSON/SANDLEY bt Johnson/Mitchell
9, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Jarvis/Stevenson bt S. Midgley (Y)/
M. Smith (Bk) 13, 14;

J. Bellinger (Bd)/Bellinger bt Gordon/Witt
20, -16, 17.

Final:

JARVIS/STEVENSON bt Bellinger/
Bellinger 17, 18.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

G. Evans (Wal) bt J. Holland 7, -19, 9;
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt H. Buist (K) 5, 8.

Final:

EVANS bt D'Arcy 12, 10.

Class 2 Singles Semi-finals:

K. Richardson (Ca) bt G. Baker (Sy)
-14, 17, 10;

N. Tyler (Mi) bt M. Oakley (Sy) -16, 24, 16.

Final:

RICHARDSON bt Tyler 11, 14.

**NORWICH UNION
MASTERS - 1982**

The European No. 1 ranked player Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia has confirmed his participation in the prestigious Norwich Union Masters to be held at the Etobicoke Olympium in Toronto from 2nd - 6th June.

Surbek, a former European Champion, shared the top place in the Norwich Union Grand Prix with Jiang Jialiang, having reached the final of the Belgian and the Scandinavian Opens this season. In the latter he lost narrowly to Jiang Jialiang.

Surbek, who last year reached the semi-final of the World Championships, is ranked No. 5 in the world and was the very first Norwich Union Master in 1979.

Accompanying Surbek will be his Yugoslav team mate, the European ranked No 9, Zoran Kalinic who this year won the Belgian Open and reached the last 16 in the Scandinavian and Federal German Opens.

Surbek and Kalinic made up the Yugoslav team which won this year's European League Super Division.

**SUBSTITUTE MATCH AT
SHEFFIELD**

It was not until the eleventh hour that word was received from Poland that they would not be able to honour their Super Division European League match at Sheffield's Concord Leisure Centre on Mar. 17.

Problems in obtaining the necessary visas was the root of the trouble but in an effort to keep faith with the promoters, the Sheffield and District TTL, the call went

out for additional English players to attend the venue with Paul Day, Douggie Johnson and Karen Witt responding.

Accordingly a match was set up involving John Hilton, Day and Jill Hammersley, representing England "A" against Johnson, Graham Sandley and Miss Witt as England "B".

And the match was a cracker despite England "A" winning 5-2. They did not start in a manner indicating such a result for in the very first set Hilton went under to Sandley who further enjoyed a doubles success, with Johnson, against Hilton and Day.

But that was the sum total of the "B" team's successes with Day winning his two singles, Hilton beating Johnson, Mrs. Hammersley accounting for Miss Witt and a mixed success for Hilton/Hammersley over Sandley/Witt.

SCORES

J. Hilton lost to G. Sandley -15, -14;
P. Day bt D. Johnson 19, 20;

Mrs. J. Hammersley bt Miss K. Witt
15, -16, 16;

Hilton/Day lost to Johnson/Sandley
-21, -17;

Hilton/Mrs. Hammersley bt Sandley/Miss
Witt 14, 20;

Hilton bt Johnson 19, 25;

Day bt Sandley 17, 22.

CADET RANKING TRIALS

St. Neots TT Centre was the venue for the England Cadet Ranking Trials on Sunday, Mar. 14, the organiser being Ken Chamberlain and the Referee Ken Green. Dunlop tables were used with Ascot T.S.P. 3-Star balls.

In the boys' section Jimmy Stokes and Martin Firth finished up winning 7 sets and losing 2 but as the former beat the latter when they met it was the Berkshire lad who took first place.

But the clear cut winner in the girls' section was Joanne Shaw her record of 7 wins against 2 losses being unequalled.

PLACINGS

	W	L	
Boys			
1 Jimmy Stokes (Bk)	7	2	(2-0)
2 Martin Firth (Y)	7	2	(0-2)
3 Murray Jukes (Wo)	6	3	
4 Richard Hayward (St) ...	5	4	(4-1)
5 Andrew Cunningham (K) 5	4		(2-2)
6 Adrian Dixon (St)	5	4	(1-4)
7 Stuart Craggs (Cv)	4	5	
8 Andrew Syed (Bk)	3	6	
9 Mark Randle (Wa)	2	7	
10 David Williams (Sp)	1	8	
Girls			
1 Joanne Shaw (Y)	7	2	
2 Lisa Hayden (E)	6	3	(3-2)
3 Jill Powis (St)	6	3	(3-3)
4 Alison Barker (Sp)	6	3	(2-3)
5 Clare Mouzon (Nd)	5	4	(2-0)
6 Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy) ...	5	4	(0-2)
7 Alison Boxall (He)	4	5	
8 Diane Malpass (Y)	3	6	(2-1)
9 Louise Forster (Le)	3	6	(1-2)
10 Deborah Simmonds (Bu) .	0	9	

For the record Stokes was beaten by Jukes and Cunningham, whilst Firth, in addition to losing to Stokes, was also beaten by Craggs. Joanne Shaw's two losses were to Miss Popkiewicz and Alison Barker.

Please note: Owing to the Editor's attendance at the European Championships the May edition of "T.T. News" will be later than usual. It will contain complete coverage of the Championships plus photographs.



Women's singles winner, Karen Witt, with Mr. David Martin, Marketing Director of Martin the Newsagent.

Photo by Michael Johnson, Ingatestone, Essex.