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Silver Linings

The dark clouds that gathered over the home front following the dismal showing by English players, both in the star-studded Cleveland 3-Star Open and, more particularly, in the Norwich Union English Open, have given way to positive sunshine which has subsequently shone both in far off Bombay and, more locally, in Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Five gold medals came England's way in the 6th Commonwealth Championships played at the Khar Gymkhana Ground, Bombay where both team titles were captured followed by further successes in the women's singles (by Carole Knight), the women's doubles (by Miss Knight and Joy Grundy) and the mixed (by Nigel Eckersley and Miss Grundy). Truly a magnificent haul and one to be proud of.

And what better tidings of the resurgence emanated from the silk town of Macclesfield where the local league pulled out all the stops in staging the Super Division European League match brilliantly won by England 5-2 at the expense of Sweden who included in their side Top 12 winner Mikael Appelgren and former world champion Stellan Bengtsson! And this following Sweden's shattering 5-2 win over reigning champions Hungary in their previous match.

Oh yes, all is not gloom. And so long as the team spirit prevails, as it did in both Bombay and Macclesfield, then the future of English table tennis is assured. Of that there can be no doubt.

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NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN



ROLL OF HONOUR

Men's Singles:

TENG YI
(China)

Women's Singles:

CHEN LILI
(China)

Men's Doubles:

FAN CHANGMAO and
TENG YI
(China)

Women's Doubles:

CHEN JIELING and
DAI LILI
(China)

Mixed Doubles:

CHEN XINHUA and CHEN LILI
(China)

Men's Team:

CHINA II

Women's Team:

CHINA II

ASIAN DOMINANCE

by **GEORGE R. YATES**

Represented by eight players, a quartet of men and an equal number of women, the People's Republic of China had matters mostly to themselves in the Norwich Union English Open, played at Crawley Leisure Centre, over the period January 6/9, 1982.

All seven titles at stake were captured by this latest batch of Chinese tourists with South Korea having the temerity to have two of their squad contest the mixed doubles final but without success.

Having failed to win the coveted men's singles title in 1978, when he was beaten by the more experienced Li Zhenzhi at Brighton, Teng Yi, now aged 19, was not to be denied on this most recent occasion when victorious over another compatriot in the person of Jiang Jialiang, aged 17, winner of the Scandinavian and Cleveland 3-Star titles.

But, in the counterpart women's event, Chen Lili added the English title to that of the Scandinavian when victorious over Dai Lili in a five game marathon.

Teng Yi took his second title at Crawley when, partnered by the high-serving Fan Changmao, final victory was accomplished over their fellow countrymen Chen Xinhua and Jiang Jialiang. And Chen Lili also made it a double take, winning the mixed event paired with Chen Xinhua.

Sharing the titles around Chen Jieling and Dai Lili succeeded in the women's doubles and all this after China had swamped the two team events with China II beating China I on both occasions.

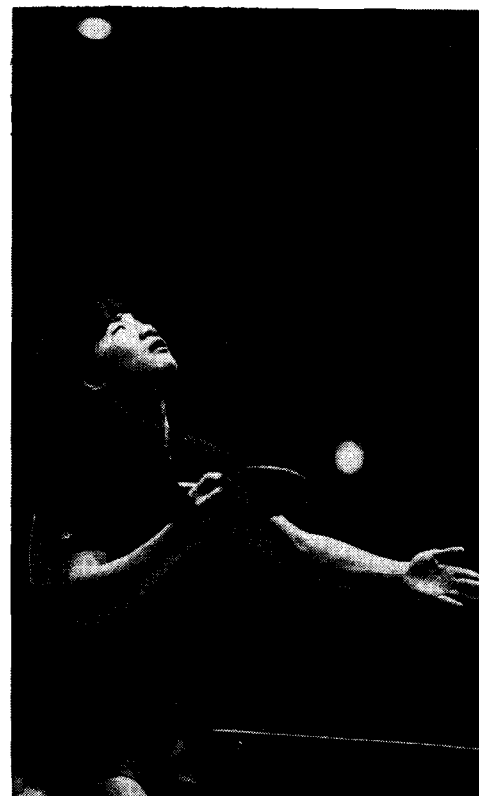
No less than sixteen countries were represented in the team events and yet only France (men) and Yugoslavia (women) succeeded in reaching the semi-finals. What then of the English sides in this European debacle?

DEFEATED

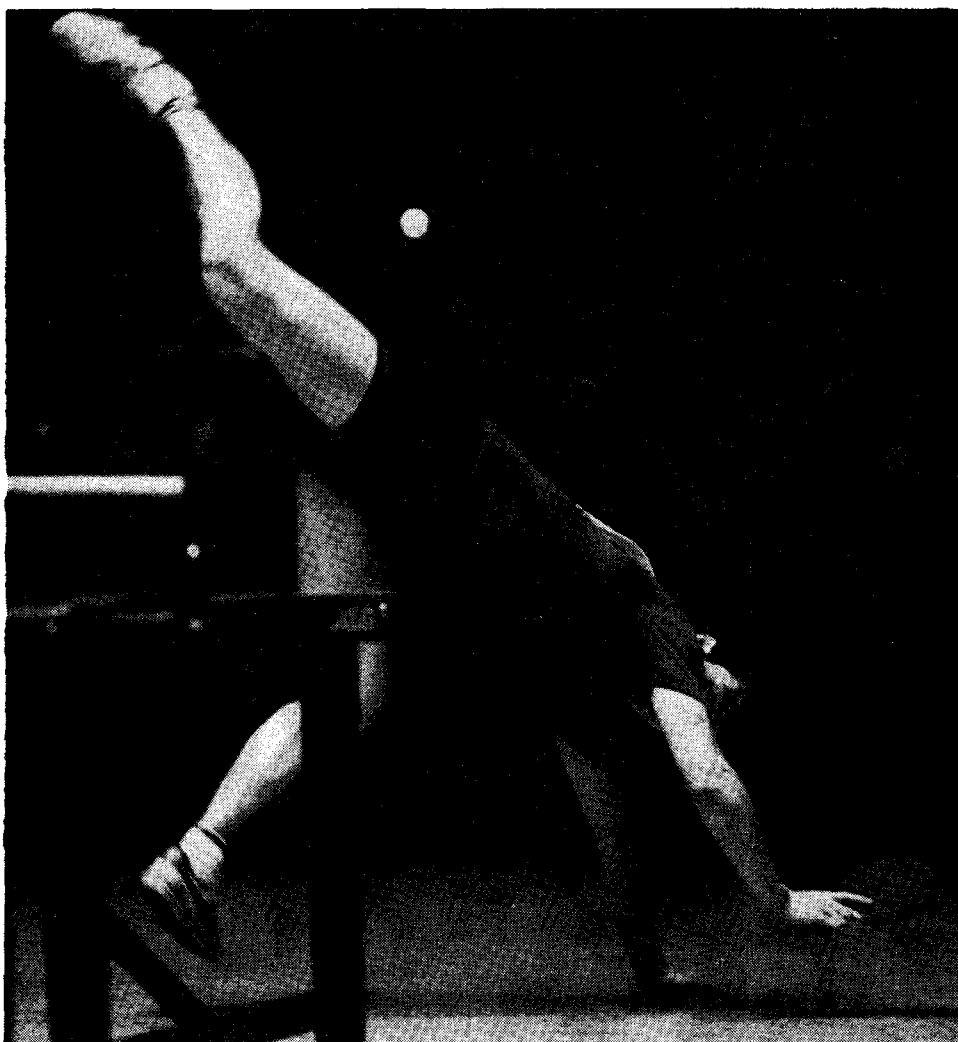
England I, in the mens' event, were summarily defeated 3-0 by Yugoslavia whose penholder, Milivoj Karakasevic, put the boot

in straight away by defeating Desmond Douglas in the first set and this was followed by Damir Jurcic accounting for John Hilton in straight games. Nor was there any joy in the doubles with Douglas and Paul Day being edged out 20 in the third. Truly this was a defeat that defies analysis.

England II, represented by Douggie Johnson and Graham Sandley, did some-



Fan Changmao awaits the return of a high thrown serve . . . as does his opponent!
Photo by Don Morley, Allsport Photographic, Morden, Surrey.



Chen Xinhua demonstrates one method of returning the ball at Crawley.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.

what better with a 3-0 success over Japan whose Kimura and Shibutani, to be truthful, were not their front ranked players. Reality came in the next round in which China II, the eventual winners, polished us off 3-0 Jiang Jialiang and Chen Xinhua doing the damage.

Carrying Europe's flag into the quarters Yugoslavia were beaten 3-1 by China I, the Yugoslavians winning the doubles, Czechoslovakia's Josef Dvoracek and Jindrich Pansky were beaten 3-0 by South Korea I and Sweden I (Ulf Bengtsson and Ulf Carlsson) were shown the door by China II, Carlsson having a notable success against Jiang Jialiang.

France I succeeded 3-1 against Federal Germany I with Jacques Secretin beating both Ralf Wosik and Peter Stellwag, the latter also losing to Bruno Parietti. Secretin was the only French winner in their semi-final encounter with China I when, in the first set, he accounted for Chen Xinhua.

On the distaff side England I, in receipt of a first round bye, were beaten 3-2 by Netherlands whose Bettine Vriesekoop not only felled Jill Hammersley and Karen Witt in single combat but also partnered Sandra de Kruiff to a doubles success over Jill and Linda Jarvis, 21-9 in the third!

England II began with a 3-0 slaying of Italy with Alison Gordon and Joy Grundy contesting the singles and Alison, with Lisa Bellinger, the doubles. But, up against South Korea I, the score was reversed with no set requiring a third game decider.

In the quarters Yugoslavia had it easy, against Ireland's Anne Leonard and Louise Gibson, Czechoslovakia went out 3-1 to South Korea II and Netherlands were des-

patched 3-0 by China I with Bettine Vriesekoop losing -11, -14 to Dai Lili.

Yugoslavia's Dubravka Fabri and Andreja Ojstersek were routed 3-0 in the semis by China II.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

The withdrawal of Milan Orlovski of Czechoslovakia, together with the two Poles, Andrzej Grubba and Leszek Kucharski, robbed the men's singles event of the Nos. 2, 3 and 7 seeds. But, with a Chinese player lurking in all four quarters, albeit unseeded, uneasy lay the passage confronting the European seeds headed by Secretin and Patrick Birocheau, and followed by Erik Lindh, Dvoracek, John Hilton, Stellwag, Pansky, Christian Martin, Igor Solopov, Kim Wan, Ralf Wosik and Massimo Costantini.

Douglas, the defending champion, after wins over Parietti, Gottfried Bar (Aut) and Wosik, fell to Jiang Jialiang but Hilton, following his expected win over Alan Fletcher was beaten over five games by American Eric Boggan which was yet another disastrous result for the reigning European champion.

There was not much going for other English players with Paul Day losing to Karakasevic, Douggie Johnson eliminated, over five games, by Danny Seemiller, Graham Sandley by Carlsson and Kenny Jackson by Bill Bradbury who subsequently lost to Martin.

Carl Prean, the English junior champion, duly qualified and then beat the Indian, Kathuria, before being beaten 16, 11 and 12 by Russia's Solopov. Gleave failed in the qualifying competition losing out to Fletcher.

Lee Soo Ja of South Korea, the No. 1 seed

in the women's singles was unfit to compete, whilst Jill Hammersley, the defending champion fell foul of Chen Lili, the ultimate winner.

Karen Witt had a straight games win over Carole Knight (11, 14, 12) but was then despatched by Ilena Uhlikova. Alison Gordon was removed by Park Mai Hun (KRR) and Linda Jarvis by Dai Lili, Mrs. Hammersley being the only Englishwoman to reach the third round.

Both Bettine Vriesekoop and Valentina Popova were located in the bottom half of the draw with the Russian reaching the semis and Bettine going out in the quarters to Dai Lili.

There was no joy either in the men's doubles with the seeded Douglas/Day pairing falling at their first hurdle to Ulf Bengtsson/Lindh. Johnson and Sandley had a win over Andrew Jones and Gary Wilkins of Wales and went down fighting to the Russians Ivan Minkevitch and Igor Podnosov who edged home -11, 24, 23.

ROMPED

Hilton and Jackson romped home against the Dutchmen, Patrick Swier and Ron van Spanje losing to China's Chen Xinhua and Jialiang. Nigel Eckersley had Oribe of Japan as his partner but they lost to Fan Changmao and Teng Yi whilst David Constance, with Claus Pedersen of Denmark, fell to Bengtsson/Lindh.

In the women's doubles Jill and Linda had a first round exit when beaten by An Hae Sook and Hwang Nam Sook (KRR) whose compatriots, Baik Yang Mi and Shin Kyung Sook, saw off Karen and Joy Grundy.

One combination that did sparkle was that of Carole Knight and Anita Stevenson who, indeed, reached the semis, before surrendering to Chen Lili and Xie Xiaoyan after wins of merit over Miss Gordon/Lisa Bellinger, Brigitte Thiriet/Yang Young Ja and, initially, Anne Leonard and Louise Gibson of Ireland.

Douglas and Linda Jarvis were our seeded pair in the mixed but, after beating Bar and Elizabeth Maier of Austria they were taken out by South Korea's Ron Yoon Kwan and Yang Young Ja.

Hilton and Joy Grundy basked in the glory of beating former world champions, Secretin and Claude Bergeret, but they were subsequently sent packing by Chen Xinhua and Chen Lili 9 and 11. Just what can you do with these Chinese?

Constance and Anita Stevenson could well have posed the question after beating Minkevitch/Narine Antonjan yet losing in the next round to Teng Yi/Dai Lili -15, -10.

All in all a poor showing for the Europeans in general and the English in particular and not the showpiece anticipated.

Nor too was the weather with blizzard conditions to contend with having an adverse effect on transportation to and from the Crest Hotel and to the dining quarters located elsewhere.

Due thanks must be extended to those volunteers who drove the mini buses, in appalling conditions, involving long and tedious hours. Thanks must also be extended to all those others involved in the running of the championships and to the staff of the Crawley Leisure Centre whose wholehearted co-operation was invaluable.

But the question must be posed, is a sports hall the right setting for such a prestigious event and if not, good as Crawley proved, where next must we level our sights?

Wembley's Empire Stadium, with a seating capacity of 6,000 might well be the ideal for some but short of pressganging an audience the days of such numbers in attendance are long since passed — a pity it were not.

Finally a word of commiseration to Roy

and Nancy Evans, together with the Welsh contingent as a whole who, because of the snows in South Wales, were unable to return home on the Sunday. A truly lost day for them and mine too with a journey time from Crawley to Bolton exceeding 10 hours!



Men's singles winner at Crawley, Teng Yi, in typical pose.
Photo by Stan Hilton, Billingham, Cleveland.

RESULTS TEAM EVENTS

MEN
Round 1
Sweden II 3 Japan I 0
Austria 3 Ireland 1
D. Palmi bt K. Keane 11, 13;
G. Bar bt C. Slevin 16, -17, 7;
Bar/Palmi lost to Keane/Slevin -14, -19;
Palmi bt Slevin 17, 9.
Yugoslavia 3 England I 0
M. Karakasevic bt D. Douglas -17, 18, 14;
D. Jurcic bt J. Hilton 18, 15;
Jurcic/Karakasevic bt P. Day/Douglas 15, -17, 20.
South Korea I 3 Fed. Germany II 0
USA 3 Italy II 0
France II 3 Wales II 0
C. Martin bt A. Jones 8, 11;
P. Birocheau bt G. Wilkins 14, 13;
Birocheau/Martin bt Jones/Wilkins 16, 17.
Fed. Germany I 3 Wales I 0
R. Wosik bt M. Thomas 15, 12;
P. Stellwag bt B. Jeanes 12, 10;
Stellwag/Wosik bt Jeanes/Thomas 15, 9.
China II 3 South Korea II 0
England II 3 Japan II 0
D. Johnson bt T. Kimura 14, 13;
G. Sandley bt N. Shibutani -16, 23, 16;
Johnson/Sandley bt Kimura/Shibutani 14, 16.
Sweden I 3 Netherlands 0
Round 2
China I 3 Sweden II 1
Yugoslavia 3 Austria 1

South Korea I 3 USA 0
Czechoslovakia 3 France II 1
France I 3 Italy 0
Fed. Germany I 3 Scotland 0
Wosik bt K. Rodger 12, 12;
Stellwag bt D. Hannah -19, 9, 10;
Stellwag/Wosik bt Hannah/Rodger 12, 14.
China II 3 England II 0
Jiang Jialiang bt Sandley 23, 16;
Chen Xinhua bt Johnson 13, 15;
Jialiang/Xinhua bt Johnson/Sandley -22, 17, 14.
Sweden I w.o. Poland scr
Quarter-finals:
China I 3 Yugoslavia 1
South Korea I 3 Czechoslovakia 0
France I 3 Fed. Germany I 1
China II 3 Sweden I 1
Semi-finals:
China I 3 South Korea I 0
Fan Changmao bt Kim Wan 18, 16;
Teng Yi bt Kim Ki Taek 18, 15;
Changmao/Yi bt Kim Wan/Kim Yi Taek 13, 16.
China II 3 France I 1
Chen Xinhua lost to J. Secretin -22, 12, -17;
Jiang Jialiang bt B. Parietti 18, 14;
Jialiang/Xinhua bt Parietti/Secretin 19, 10;
Jialiang bt Secretin 16, 13.
Final:
CHINA II 3 China I 0
Jialiang bt Yi 20, 19;
Xinhua bt Changmao 20, 12;
Jialiang/Xinhua bt Changmao/Yi 8, 7.
WOMEN
Round 1
England II 3 Italy I 0
J. Grundy bt G. Zampini 6, 19;
A. Gordon bt A. Bottiglieri 9, 14;
L. Bellinger/Gordon bt Bottiglieri/Zampini -18, 14, 12.
Austria 3 Scotland 1
B. Wilsche bt G. MacKay 17, 14;
E. Maier lost to V. Thomson 18, -19, -22;
Maier/Wilsche bt MacKay/Thomson 13, 19;
Wilsche bt Thomson 12, 6.
Round 2
South Korea I 3 England II 0
Baik Yang Mi bt Gordon 11, 13;
An Hae Sook bt Grundy 11, 12;
An Hae Sook/Hwang Nam Sook bt Gordon/Grundy 14, 15.
China II 3 Finland I
Yugoslavia 3 France I 2
Ireland w.o. USSR scr
Czechoslovakia 3 Austria 0
South Korea II 3 Fed. Germany 0
Netherlands 3 England I 2
S. de Kruiff lost to K. Witt -17, -13;
B. Vriesekoop bt J. Hammersley -10, 10, 10;
de Kruiff/Vriesekoop bt Hammersley/L. Jarvis 9, -18, 9;
de Kruiff lost to Hammersley -16, 20, -15;
Vriesekoop bt Witt 9, 12.
China I 3 France II 0
Quarter-finals:
China II 3 South Korea I 2
Yugoslavia 3 Ireland 0
A. Ojstersek bt A. Leonard 14, -17, 18;
D. Fabri bt L. Gibson 13, 8;
Fabri/Ojstersek bt Gibson/Leonard 18, 13.
South Korea II 3 Czechoslovakia I
China I 3 Netherlands 0
Semi-finals:
China II 3 Yugoslavia 0
Xie Xiaoyan bt Fabri 19, 12;
Chen Jieliang bt Ojstersek 19, 19;
Jieling/Xiaoyan bt Fabri/Ojstersek -20, 19, 8.
China I 3 South Korea II 1
Dai Lili bt Kim Jung Mi 15, 17;

Chen Lili lost to Yang Young Ja 7, -17, -15;
Lili/Lili bt Ja/Mi 16, 15;
Dai Lili bt Yang Young Ja 15, 10.
Final:
CHINA II 3 China I 1
Chen Jieliang bt Dai Lili 14, 18;
Xie Xiaoyan lost to Chen Lili -16, -17;
Jieling/Xiaoyan bt Lili/Lili 11, 7;
Xiaoyan bt Dai Lili 11, 15.
Men's Singles Round 3:
D. Douglas (ENG) bt G. Bar (AUT) 9, -20, 18, 13;
R. Wosik (GFR) bt U. Bengtsson (SWE) -15, 14, -11, 16, 18;
Kim Wan (KRR) bt G. Bohm (GFR) 23, -17, 17, 16;
Jiang Jialiang (CHN) bt J. Dvoracek (CZE) -19, 9, 19, 19;
Chen Xinhua (CHN) bt U. Carlsson (SWE) -17, 15, 13, 18;
J. Pansky (CZE) bt Ro Yoon Kwan (KRR) -17, 14, 18, 17;
I. Solopov (USS) bt C. Pedersen (DEN) 14, 19, 18;
J. Secretin (FRA) bt A. Vlieg (NET) 15, 11, 19;
M. Shimizu (JAP) bt K. Rodger (SCO) -13, 12, 9, 17;
Teng Yi (CHN) bt C. Martin (FRA) -19, 7, 6, 16;
E. Boggan (USA) bt J. Hilton (ENG) 14, -8, 19, -19, 18;
Kim Ki Taek (KRR) bt E. Lindh (SWE) 21, 22, 19;
J-O. Waldner (SWE) bt P. Birocheau (FRA) 17, -16, 10, -19, 18;
M. Karakasevic (YUG) bt P. Day (ENG) 11, 18, -15, 20;
P. Stellwag (GFR) bt R. Seemiller (USA) 20, 15, 11;
Fan Changmao (CHN) bt V. Broda (CZE) 16, 11, 9.
Round 4:
Douglas bt Wosik 14, 13, 9;
Jiang Jialiang bt Kim Wan 18, -13, 11, 19;
Chen Xinhua bt Pansky 19, 12, 16;
Secretin bt Solopov 16, 13, 15;
Teng Yi bt Shimizu 16, 4, 16;
Boggan bt Kim Ki Taek -18, 13, 12, 16;
Karakasevic bt Waldner 9, 11, 20;
Fan Changmao bt Stellwag -19, 7, 18, -22, 7.
Quarter-finals:
Jiang Jialiang bt Douglas 12, 10, 14;
Secretin bt Chen Xinhua 18, 20, 15;
Teng Yi bt Boggan 10, 17, 12;
Fan Changmao bt Karakasevic 16, 15, 19.
Semi-finals:
Jiang Jialiang bt Secretin 20, 17, 9;
Teng Yi bt Fan Changmao 19, -16, 23, 11.
Final:
TENG YI bt Jiang Jialiang 9, -20, 17, 13.
Women's Singles Round 3:
Chen Jieliang (CHN) bt S. Grefberg (FIN) 14, -14, 1, 16;
Park Mal Bun (KRR) bt C. Bergeret (FRA) 16, -19, -18, 15, 12;
N. Antonian (USS) bt B. Thiriet (FRA) 21, -19, 17, 17;
Chen Lili (CHN) bt J. Hammersley (ENG) 7, -11, 13, 17;
B. Vriesekoop (NET) bt Baik Yang Mi (KRR) 18, -18, 18, 10;
Dai Lili (CHN) bt M. Freiberg (GFR) 13, 14, 16;
Hwang Nam Sook (KRR) bt I. Uhlikova (CZE) 16, -17, 13, 19;
V. Popova (USS) bt Yang Young Ja (KRR) -17, 10, 13, -18, 14.
Quarter-finals:
Chen Jieliang bt Park Mal Bun 10, 10, 10;
Chen Lili bt Antonian 11, 14, 21;
Dai Lili bt Vriesekoop 19, 14, 18;
Popova bt Hwang Nam Sook -16, 13, 11, -19, 10.
Semi-finals:
Chen Lili bt Chen Jieliang 14, 21, -11, -18, 8;
Dai Lili bt Popova 9, 15, 12.
Final:
CHEN LILI bt Dai Lili 14, 18, -17, -11, 17.
Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:
I. Minkevitch/I. Podnosov (USS) bt P. Bargagli/R. Troilo (ITA) 19, -15, 17;
Chen Xinhua/Jiang Jialiang bt E. Hugging (GFR)/Martin 15, -17, 18;
Birocheau/Secretin bt G. Bisi/M. Costantini (ITA) 14, 18;

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Fan Changmao/Teng Yi bt U. Bengtsson (SWE)/Lindh -14, 19, 12.
Semi-finals:
 Chen Xinhua/Jiang Jialiang bt Minkevitch/Podnosov 19, 17;
 Fan Changmao/Teng Yi bt Birocheau/Secretin 9, -16, 11.
Final:
 FAN CHANGMAO/TENG YI bt Chen Xinhua/Jiang Jialiang 15, 15.
Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:
 C. Knight (Cv)/A. Stevenson (Le) bt Thiriet/Yang Young Ja -21, 20, 20;
 Chen Lili/Xie Xiaoyan bt Baik Yang Mi/Shin Kyung Sook (KRR) 19, 13;
 Chen Jieling/Dai Lili bt Kim Jung Mi (KRR)/Park Mal Bun 10, 11;
 An Hae Sook (KRR)/Hwang Nam Sook bt M. Hrachova (CZE)/Uhlíkova 17, -19, 17.
Semi-finals:
 Chen Lili/Xie Xiaoyan bt Knight/Stevenson 18, 14;
 Chen Jieling/Dai Lili bt An Hae Sook/Hwang Nam Sook 18, 15.
Final:
 CHEN JIELING/DAI LILI bt Chen Lili/Xie Xiaoyan 17, 19.
Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:
 Jiang Jialiang/Chen Jieling bt Carlsson/Vriesekoop 16, 18;
 Chen Xinhua/Chen Lili bt Pansky/Hrachova -13, 7, 16;
 Fan Changmao/Xie Xiaoyan bt Kim Wan/An Hae Sook 16, 13;
 Ro Yoon Kwan/Yang Young Ja bt Teng Yi/Dai Lili 14, 12.
Semi-finals:
 Chen Xinhua/Chen Lili bt Jiang Jialiang/Chen Jieling 12, -19, 15;
 Ro Yoon Kwan/Yang Young Ja bt Fan Changmao/Xie Xiaoyan 17, -16, 15.
Final:
 CHEN XINHUA/CHEN LILI bt Ro Yoon Kwan/Yang Young Ja 17, 19.



Jiang Jialiang, the winner in the Cleveland 3-Star but the runner-up in the Norwich Union English Open.

Photo by Photographic Services, Chelsea, London SW1.

NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX

SUPREME EFFORT NEEDED

by Mike Lawless

With only the Open Championships of Federal Germany and Rumania remaining in the 1981-82 Norwich Union Grand Prix, it now looks that some of the players who have led European table tennis over the last few years have little chance of qualifying for the prestigious and valuable Norwich Union Masters. Players like former World Champions Stellan Bengtsson and Istvan Jonyer, ex-European Champions Milan Orlovski and Gabor Gergely, and Tibor Klampar, the 1980 "Master" and winner of the Citizen World Cup in 1981, will have to find a supreme effort, and a good draw, to overtake some of the new generation of players currently above them in the points table.

It must be encouraging to table tennis authorities to see some of the younger players beginning to "take up the mantle", but, when looking at the attached list of the leading points scores in the Norwich Union Grand Prix so far, the strongest feeling must be one of admiration for Dragutin Surbek, who was European Champion as long ago as 1968 and whose number of awards must be very close to matching the total number of world championships ever held. In deserving of the same feeling is the near veteran Jacques Secretin who had two seasons of, to say the least, mediocre performances, culminating in a first round defeat by an unknown Nigerian in the championships last April; but in three Grand Prix events so far this season he has twice reached the semi-finals and, on the other occasion, the quarter-finals.

China continues to produce so many world class players that it comes as no surprise to see 25% of the leading 28 players in the Grand Prix come from that country, and this without Guo Yue Hua the 1981 Norwich Union Master.

No players from China will be competing

in the German Open, but, before the Europeans begin rejoicing too much, it is perhaps worth remembering that the national airline of China probably still has its direct flight from Peking to Bucharest.

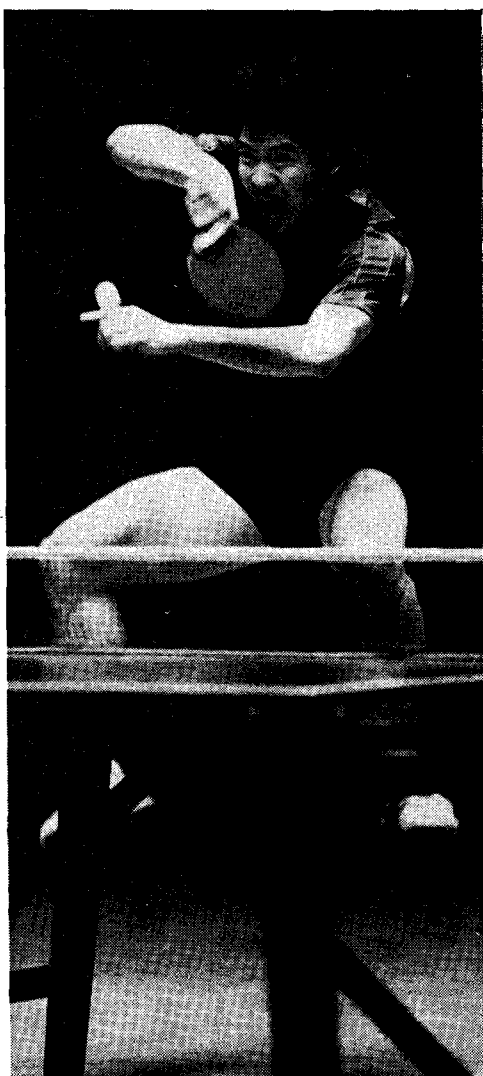
NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX LEADING PLAYERS at 10 January, 1982

Name	Country	Grand Prix Points
1 Jiang Jialiang (CHI)		1800
2 J. Secretin (FRA)		1600
D. Surbek (YUG)		1600
Teng Yi (CHI)		1600
5 A. Grubba (POL)		1400
6 L. Kucharski (POL)		1350
7 Z. Kalinic (YUG)		1200
J. Molnar (HUN)		1200
9 Cai Zhenhua (CHI)		1000
Fan Changmao (CHI)		1000
Chen Xinhua (CHI)		1000
12 D. Douglas (ENG)		950
P. Stellwag (GER)		950
14 E. Boggan (USA)		800
Li Zhenshi (CHI)		800
16 U. Bengtsson (SWE)		750
J. Dvoracek (CZE)		750
18 U. Carlsson (SWE)		700
19 R. Troilo (ITA)		650
20 Chiu Man Kuen (HKG)		600
D. Johnson (ENG)		600
Z. Kriston (HUN)		600
Xie Saike (CHI)		600
24 E. Amplatz (AUT)		550
M. Broda (CZE)		550
J. Pansky (CZE)		550
27 P. Bargagli (ITA)		500
28 P. Birocheau (FRA)		450

EXCHANGE VISIT

The parents of a 15 year old boy from Denmark, Jacob Wester, are interested in an exchange visit with an English boy of similar age. Jacob is in the top flight of junior table tennis in Denmark and his other interests are golf and windsurfing.

Please contact: Mr. Mogens Wester,
Birkevej 6,
6840 Oksbol,
Denmark.



Chen Xinhua still full of bounce as he returns once again another big hit.
Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.

COVER PICTURE

China's high serving Fan Changmao (left) and Norwich Union English Open men's singles winner Teng Yi who, together, captured the men's doubles title at Crawley Leisure Centre at the final expense of their compatriots Chen Xinhua and Jiang Jialiang.

TO PASTURES NEW

by David Ryde, M.B., B.S., F.R.C., G.P.
(Hon. Doctor, E.T.T.A.)

Novi Sad (new field) in the Serbian autonomous province of Vojvodina is in the N.E. corner of Yugoslavia. The purpose of my visit there, for the 36th World Table Tennis Championships, was as Chairman of the International T.T. Medical Commission, and Medical Officer to the English team (though perhaps these positions are grander in title than in substance).

On landing at Belgrade ('white town' from the original white-bricked houses), I experienced my one and only brush with authority; where at passport control, an inspector perhaps trying too hard to be efficient, spent several minutes muttering and glowering back and forth between the bearded real me and the clean-shaven passport image, until a colleague pulled the document from his hands, returned it and waved me on. This brief delay was the origin of much mirth and comment from my peers, concerning what might be done with my face.

A 60 mile journey in bright weather took us first through a great wheat plain, the nations 'bread-shop', then through an undulating, wooded and marshy valley to Novi Sad on the banks of a broad, curved and almost unpolluted Danube. This is a beautiful valley, reminiscent of the Pangbourne reach of the Thames. The ribbon development of villages, often for miles along the way, reflects historically that peasants tilled strips of land behind their homes.

Novi Sad town is a mixture of old and new. Old houses, shops and buildings in local square cut style with moderately decorated facades stood hard by modern large bright edifices which lined broad boulevards.

For a world championships to be held in a town of a quarter million people, a town the size of Reading, was exciting for Novi Sadians and the local administration went to exceptional lengths for publicity and hosting. Leading into town and through to its other side, every telegraph pole, lamp post and mast was adorned with such bunting as coloured flags and emblems. Shop windows, buildings, postcards, transport, gifts and jacket lapels were bedecked with the acronym SPENS which signified the occasion.

Of the 126 nations affiliated to the ITTF 81 sent delegations. The opening ceremony at the new 'City Sports Centre' was introduced with national music from a military band, a gymnastic display and the raising of the flag. Olympic style. Next followed the march-past and line-up of well over 1000 players and officials from these countries and a display of folk dancing in traditional dress from the 6 regions of Yugoslavia.

The Chinese, as always, created unsurpassed standards winning every contest, male and female, singles, doubles and mixed. And herein lay a paradox for in the finals we watched not exhibition table tennis, not a classic struggle between styles, temperaments or tactics, but just technical perfection. It was a monotonous spectacle and large numbers of spectators and players left the arena.

The Chinese party, of fifty four, always pleasant, polite and smiling, take their game seriously. It seems there are a million coaches in the country and each having charge of four players who train eight hours daily and will repeat a stroke as many as 15,000 times in set sessions or until mastered! Chinese standards suggest the truth of these extreme practices. Their

group was self-contained from players to physicians through to cooks, coaches and officials. Indeed they are supreme champions.

The medical commission which has members from eight nations, and representatives from seven more, meets at about the beginning and the end of the Championships. Not all member nations send a delegate though some other nations not represented on the commission are accompanied by a doctor.

The ITTF regulations require that the medical commission advises the International Council on medical matters relating to table tennis, on the current position of drugs in sport, and on medical facilities, hotel accommodation and food and hygiene at World Championships.

The work of the commission is usually modest. This year (1981) it reviewed the medical needs of the World Championships, and assessed the services provided by the host nation. Nothing was found wanting.

At the arena there was a well staffed and equipped medical centre, with a suite of rooms for reception, consultation, treatment and physiotherapy. There was an ambulance on permanent standby, with local hospital facilities available. I suspect the ambulance was more likely to be used for spectators than players. Likewise at the newly enlarged Park Hotel where most players and officials resided there was a purpose-built medical centre.

Clearly injuries constitute only a small part of work of a team doctor in table tennis, but at international games there is a constant stream of general practitioner problems, which are related to climate, food, travel and absence from home.

Further, pressures of competition seem to cause or intensify certain problems which include the usual crop of foot blisters, upper respiratory tract infections and minor alimentary upsets, backaches and other aches. Insomnia, anxieties relating to health, fitness and performance, and so on.

Contrary to Olympic regulations on dope-testing (and table-tennis will probably be included within the Olympic movement by 1988), the T.T. medical commission has remained unconvinced that any drug could raise the standard of table-tennis play. It was our opinion that any drug which could hasten the "reaction time" in a player would at the same time cause a loss of accuracy. The urine collection and dope testing which are tedious, embarrassing and expensive procedures were discontinued after the 1977 championships, but the medical commission will remain alert to the doping situation in sport and advise the council accordingly.

Likewise the commission will seek information on gender typing (sex-testing) and on the unlikely possibility of the use of male hormone by females.

Fifty members of the Vojvodina Sport-Medicine Association arranged a meeting and reception for visiting doctors. Here we heard an account of the development and current state of sports-medicine in Yugoslavia, after which I was privileged to deliver a lecture to the gathering, assisted by an able and attractive translator, standing by my side.

Much of my time was spent with the English team, watching the world's finest players, visiting places of local and historic interest such as the Petrovaradin fortress with its 16 km. of tunnels, walking around old and new Novi Sad, but also including a one day tour of Belgrade. There were receptions and additional meetings to attend, and museums, monuments and the wonderful new white marble theatre to visit, and daily jogs in the park, appropriate reading and writing, and discussing countless topics with countless people from almost as many countries. Also I met and chatted happily over drinks with former world champions

from several countries including our own Johnny Leach and the Rowe twins.

A giant rustic and riverside picnic for all the nations, 15 km. from town was cancelled owing to rain and instead the Belgrade trip was arranged. Lunch for 1200 was taken in the cavernous dining hall of the Yugoslav hotel where alongside the soup and the singing we were able to watch the small ships sailing the Danube.

Perpetual transport was by bus plying a shuttle service of two-kilometres between hotel and arena. Two "militia" motor cyclists preceded the bus accompanied by a great wailing of their sirens, this security procedure causing all traffic to stop as we, ambulance like, speed through the red lights.

What little time I left myself to observe the Yugoslav health services was marred from the start by a comedy of misunderstandings, for unfortunately nothing of this was organised by me until after my arrival in the country, having assumed that informal visits to practices and hospitals could easily be arranged at short notice. But it was only less than 2 days before returning to England that I was finally taken by official car, with the Chief G.P. and the same lady interpreter, for a visit to the "Liman IV" regional clinic where over 50 G.P.'s work. Being Saturday the centre was closed except for emergencies, of which none arrived during my tour.

The Liman IV is a large, new modernistic edifice, mainly of brick, marble and glass, and bright and tastefully coloured, functionally designed and well equipped. There are large individual suites for consultation and investigation in most specialities, a library and also special sections for epidemiology, diagnosis and therapeutics. Health education is a priority and strategically sited are many pleasantly designed wall posters and self-standing placards, particularly relating to heart disease — yet very large numbers of young men and women seemed to be always smoking. Rooms are functionally furnished, and each department has its own filing system, rather than, I presume one comprehensive central file as at our hospitals.

There are, over eighty such clinics in the province though none so large or comparable with this one. The clinic appears to function like that of an out-patient department of an English hospital, or perhaps, as an exceptionally large health centre.

Yugoslavia comprises six republics of which Serbia contains two autonomous regions, and Novi Sad is in the autonomous region of Vojvodina. There are five main languages and at this clinic these five national languages are spoken.

Since the great majority of outpatients do not stay in hospital there are possibly no drawbacks, or virtues, in either Eastern or Western systems, of polyclinics or partnerships for both have evolved to suit particular needs. But sociologists and economists might give more pertinent opinions on this.

Those people of Novi Sad with whom I spoke were proud, independent and proclaimed openly their opinions, as we do in the West. Consumerisation may reflect Western technical achievement, but Yugoslavia is beginning to have its own traffic jams. Athletic friends who visited the country a decade ago have noticed a marked improvement in quality of food, clothes and shops. It is my opinion that social and sexual attitudes are tending towards those of the West. They are spoken about openly, at least for those with whom I spoke and I suspect that as incomes rise so will our standards approximate.

People identified strongly with their national leader and hero Marshal Tito, who died in 1980, and who had guided the country to its present position, for they said he had steered a difficult but successful

course between Russian bear and American eagle.

Indeed, Marshal Tito's tomb, new, simple, elegant and white and on a wooded hillside overlooking Belgrade, had a perpetual queue of sad and devoted citizens filing past in silent homage.

Though unrelated to both table-tennis or medicine, the following experience was for me both profound and moving and made a memory to be treasured.

Ten percent of the National population of 20 million was killed in the war, but this included 80% of the Jewish minority of 75,000. Having made contact with the remnants, 250 from Novi Sad's pre-war 5,000 strong Jewish community, I was invited to celebrate the community's annual Passover meal of freedom the following night.

The elders, rabbis and teachers of the community having all been Nazi victims 40 years earlier, no one remained who was well conversant with the traditional procedures. Instead the President of the Community spoke briefly, in English, to the gathering of seventy, recalling the significance of the Passover, of the liberation of the Biblical Hebrews from slavery and of the Exodus led by Moses. Towards the end of this historic happy, tearful and Traditional Passover meal an anxious President edged over to me, and apologising, said that the meat was not Kosher, not ritually prepared.

He explained that for 40 years such practises had not been possible, but that when the Chief Rabbi of Hungary had visited them and heard of their distress, he gave them a dispensation, that in future all meat could be considered as ritually clean. The Chief Rabbi then proceeded to eat at their table. The irony and the humour for me was that having eaten as a vegetarian at the Park Hotel I went to Synagogue to eat a non-kosher meal. Indeed this whole night

was very different from all other nights.

May I conclude with my final remarks to the medical commission. Sports-Medicine must not become an occupational therapy for doctors. We must not impose our prejudices and anxieties upon the players, who should learn how to regain their best standards simply and quickly, appreciating that in most cases recovery will come from their own efforts. In this way players will resume their sport with independence and dignity and not become doctor-orientated. In this way will doctors best serve sport medicine.

Dennis Millman reports from . . .

NORTHANTS

BLEAKEST SINCE 1947

In a month dominated by extremes of weather not previously experienced by a large majority of current table tennis participants, one particular event will be remembered for many years to come, not for the quality of play, nor yet the strength of entry, but for the dedication shown by those Northampton League enthusiasts who staged the Northants County Closed Tournament at Weston Favell's Lings Forum on Saturday, 9th January, 1982 — by far the bleakest and most wintry of Saturdays since 1947.

Throughout the blizzard conditions of Friday evening, Tournament Organiser Phil Slade and Neville Baxter worked to ensure a prompt start on a Saturday morning most remembered for the number of blocked roads in and around Northampton. Joined by Reg Allen, Gordon Oke, Brian D'Hooghe, Bob Berridge and County Chairman John Worrell, Phil made sure that the first County Closed to be staged at Lings Forum, and possibly the last to be sponsored by

Golden Wonder Ltd., would be a memorable one, and he and his colleagues' dedication were rewarded, when nearly all the players arrived — some later than others — to make full use of the excellent facilities provided.

For once the officials stole the show, but some of their glory was shared by Ken Nicoll who turned the tables on twin brother Keith, to take the Men's Singles title for the first time, and so reverse last year's result, to add the County title to the Kettering and Wellingborough crowns he already holds.

The set followed the now familiar pattern, with Ken's blocking tactics, speed of thought and greater accuracy effectively countering Keith's belligerent attacking ploys and eventually securing a victory which wasn't quite as clear-cut as a 16, 10 score suggests.

Keith had earlier been fully stretched by young Graeme McKim, who was a shade unlucky to lose on an edge ball at "deuce" in the deciding game, while Romano Gallo had also taken him close in the semi-final. Meanwhile Ken had to endure only one close call, when he dropped the first end to John Sanders and trailed in the others, before regaining his composure well enough to again outplay Steve Lyon in the semi-final.

Mandy Wallis gained the expected third success in the Women's Singles, to equal the record of her sister Anne, with an improved Margaret Maltby as her opponent, but with both players reaching all three finals it was Mrs. Maltby who came out on top in both doubles events. Miss Wallis was originally without a partner in the women's event but finally teamed up with young Maxine Shears to such good effect that they reached the final only to bow out to the experience of Mrs. Maltby and Joyce Porter.

In the Mixed the beaten singles finalist

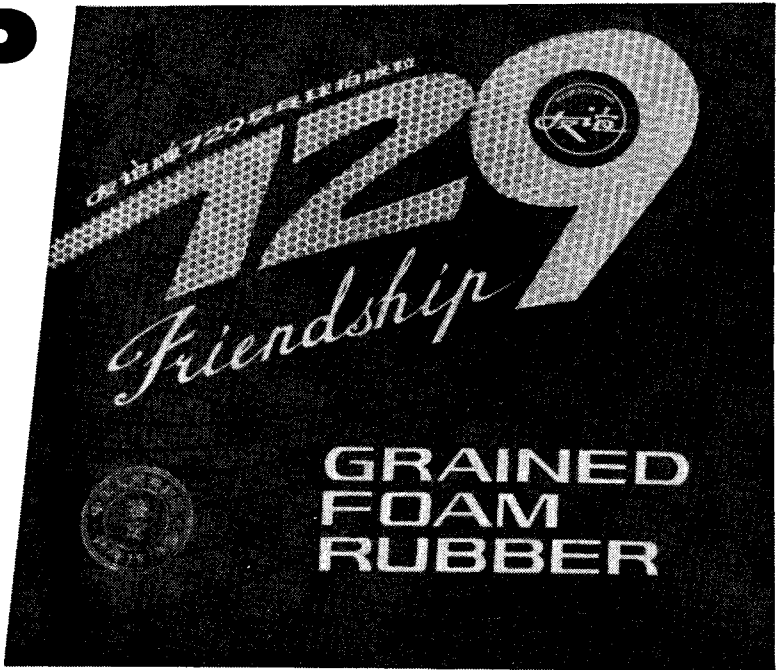
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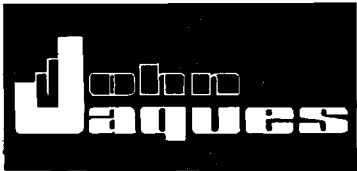
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proved a perfect foil for the fitful brilliance of John Horne, and accompanied by some vociferous Northampton support, the pair came from behind in the final game, to take advantage of some injudicious attacking shots by Keith Nicoll to win -13, 17, 19.

If the Mixed provided the best final of the day, it was the Men's Doubles event which emerged as the best event overall, with all eight pairs in the quarter-finals closely matched. Eventually two Northampton pairings arrived at the final stage which featured four young attacking players, all

of whom contributed to an excellent contest with the final verdict favouring David Gallo and Tim Chamberlain at the expense of Brian Wooding and McKim.

The seeding committee triumphed in the remaining events, with John Palmer securing his fourth Veterans' crown, when he exacted ample revenge for last year's semi-final defeat at the hands of club colleague Dennis Millman, by beating the same player without undue stress.

All the junior events also went with form, though McKim had to find his best form to

hold off an inspired Mark Nannery, who earlier had accounted for second seed Steve Kendall, while another sparkling display from Jane Wallis just failed to wrest the Girls' title away from Jane Nicoll. Earlier the two Janes had combined to take the doubles event and so retain the honour for a third successive year.

In the Boys' Doubles, McKim teamed up with promising Northampton left-hander Richard Bashford to eliminate surprise finalists Steve Kendall and Andrew Edmonds, while in the only event to suffer any significant absences, the Boys' Under-14 Singles, Andrew Trott stole the honours.

However, on a less happy note, the enthusiasm engendered at this tournament has not extended to eager availability for County Championship matches, and such apathy does little to suggest that current playing levels can be improved.

Similarly the unerring consistency of Graham Lynch and his colleagues Steve Mills and Trevor Williams, in travelling regularly from the Sheffield area for Keystone's matches in the Kettering League, compares more than favourably with local players, thirteen of whom declined a recent invitation to play for Kettering in a representative match.

It is perhaps not much wonder, that the Wellingborough and Northampton Leagues have had recent problems caused by teams postponing matches, when one of their players chose to follow an alternative pursuit on the evening in question. It would be beneficial for all players, and particularly those, who by virtue of their greater ability receive the greatest rewards, to read the first two paragraphs of these notes again, and then ask themselves the question — 'Are we putting as much into table tennis as Phil Slade and his trusty colleagues did on Saturday, 9th January'. There will be no need to wait too long for an answer, unpalatable as that answer may prove to be.

COUNTY CLOSED RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

Keith Nicoll bt G. McKim 17, -16, 20;
R. Gallo bt B. Wooding 23, 16;
Ken Nicoll bt J. Sanders -14, 16, 13;
S. Lyon bt A. Hawes 12, 18.

Semi-finals:

Keith Nicoll bt Gallo 16, 20;
Ken Nicoll bt Lyon 16, 10.

Final:

KEN NICOLL bt Keith Nicoll 16, 10.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

M. Maltby bt J. Nicoll 17, 20;
M. Wallis bt D. Marsh 11, 11.

Final:

WALLIS bt Maltby 14, 14.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Wooding/G. McKim bt A. Bennett/
R. Malfait 15, 20;
D. Gallo/T. Chamberlain bt J. Sanders/
G. Ball 12, -21, 17.

Final:

GALLO/CHAMBERLAIN bt Wooding/
McKim -19, 18, 16.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Wallis/M. Shears bt Marsh/G. Hooper
19, 16;
J. Porter/Maltby bt S. Nannery/J. Kendall
13, 13.

Final:

PORTER/MALTBY bt Wallis/Shears 18, 19.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

J. Horne/Maltby bt Wooding/Marsh 18, 18;
Keith Nicoll/Wallis bt B. D'Hooghe/Porter
13, -15, 18.

Final:

HORNE/MALTBY bt Nicholl/Wallis
-13, 17, 19.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

D. Millman bt R. Allen 8, 8;
J. Palmer bt Dorothy Marsh 14, 12.

Final:

PALMER bt Millman 7, 14.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

McKim bt A. Kimbell 10, 13;

(continued on page 12)



LADIES SINGLES FINALISTS

From left to right: Mandy Wallis (Winner), Phil Slade (Tournament Organiser), Margaret Maltby (Runner-up), Reg Allen (Northampton League Secretary).



MIXED DOUBLES FINALISTS

From left to right: John Horne, Margaret Maltby (Winners), Mandy Wallis, Keith Nicoll (Runners-up).

(continued from page 10)

M. Nannery bt S. Kendall -20, 16, 12.

Final:

McKIM bt Nannery 16, 12.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Nicholl bt Nannery 11, 11;

J. Wallis bt Kendall 18, -18, 11.

Final:

NICHOLL bt Wallis 14, -23, 19.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

A. Edmonds/Kendall bt Nannery/Kimbell

17, 19;

A. Bashford/McKim bt R. Allen/N. Metcalfe
20, 15.

Final:

BASHFORD/McKIM bt Edmonds/Kendall

15, 16.

Girls' Doubles Final:

NICOLL/J. WALLIS bt Nannery/Kendall

16, 16.

Cadet Boys' Singles Final:

ANDREW TROTT bt Lee Fraser 3, 10.

Photographs by courtesy of Golden
Wonder Ltd., taken by Staff Photographer.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by David Lomas

AREA TEAM FINALS

All Area Finals of the National School Team Championships (organised by the English Schools' TTA and sponsored by Stiga (UK) Ltd.) were successfully staged on the weekend of Jan. 23/24 at venues throughout the country.

The winning teams in each of the eight events ranging from Under-11 to Under-19 (both Boys and Girls) are due to meet in three Regional Finals being staged on Sunday, Feb. 21, with a place in the National Finals at Lea Green, Matlock, on Saturday, March 20 being at stake.

Venues for the three Regional Finals are: North: Moor Grange High School, Leeds; Midlands & West: Stroud Leisure Centre; South & East: Walnuts Sports Centre, Orpington. Why not arrange to have a look at the talent of the future on that day?

Because of difficulties in accommodating all teams separate arrangements had to be made for schools involved in the Girls' U-11 event and already schools from two of the three regions have qualified for the National Finals. They were both involved in last season's Finals and are: Wold Junior High School, Hull (Humberside) from the north, and Ramridge Junior School, Luton (Bedfordshire) from the South & East.

It was found necessary to reduce the number of areas in the South & West Region from four to three and consequently teams who were originally scheduled to play at Reading were dispersed to other areas and thus some schools are, strictly speaking, not confined to their own region.

The following schools have qualified for the Regional stages of the Championships:

NORTH REGION

Area 1 (Middlesbrough)

B19 Royal Grammar, Newcastle (Tyne & Wear)

G19 Bishop Barrington, Bishop Auckland (Durham)

B16 Royal Grammar, Newcastle (Tyne & Wear)

G16 Ryhope, Sunderland (Tyne & Wear)

B13 Royal Grammar, Newcastle (Tyne & Wear)

G13 Southmoor, Sunderland (Tyne & Wear)

B11 Hylton Castle Junior, Sunderland (Tyne & Wear)

Almost a clean sweep for Tyne & Wear teams. A splendid venue (Eston Sports Centre) and a "first" for organiser Vicki Nichol from Cleveland Schools.

Area 2 (Leeds)

B19 Allerton Grange, Leeds (West Yorks)

G19 Buttershaw Upper, Bradford (West Yorks)

B16 Oulder Hill, Rochdale (Gtr. Manchester)

G16 Marple Ridge, Stockport (Gtr. Manchester)

B13 Bury Grammar (Gtr. Manchester)

G13 Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)

B11 Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)

Wold Junior High, current U-13G holders, had a good day. Nice to see teams from Greater Manchester on the honours list. But organiser, ESTTA Chairman John Arnold, had a surprise when two of the Bury G.S. lads phoned up from a police station to ask directions to the Moor Grange venue!

Area 3 (Fleetwood)

B19 Kirbie Kendal, Kendal (Cumbria)

G19 Dean Row, Wilmslow (Cheshire)

B16 Coppenthall High, Crewe (Cheshire)

G16 Fleetwood Hesketh High (Lancashire)

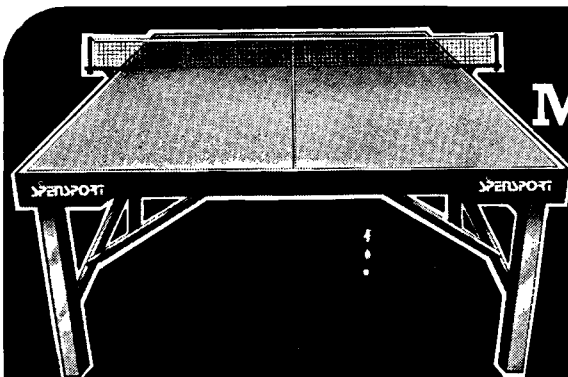
B13 Queen Katherine, Kendal (Cumbria)

G13 St. Albans High, Chorley (Lancashire)

B11 Yarlside Primary, Barrow (Cumbria)



Reg Allen (Northampton League Secretary) presents Veterans Trophy to John Palmer. Runner-up Dennis Millman looks on.



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For the first time ever no place for Millom School who had teams in both U-16 events. But still three teams from Cumbria through and success for local organiser Bob Wood's Fleetwood team.

Area 4 (Nottingham)

B19 Kings, Grantham (Lincolnshire)
G19 Boston High (Lincolnshire)
B16 Tupton Hall, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
G16 Tupton Hall, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
B13 Netherthorpe, Staveley (Derbyshire)
G13 The Gosforth School, Dronfield (Derbyshire)
B11 Dronfield Junior (Derbyshire)

A spacious venue at Fairham Comprehensive School but no success for Notts schools.

MIDLANDS & WEST REGION

Area 5 (Wolverhampton)

B19 Woodlands, Coventry (W. Midlands)
G19 Colton Hills, Wolverhampton (W. Midlands)
B16 Mary Webb, Pontesbury (Shropshire)
G16 The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
B13 The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
G13 The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
B11 Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)

Three out of four for The Grove and five Shropshire teams through although Market Drayton Junior were taken "too close for comfort" by Whitehall Junior, Walsall.

Area 6 (Northampton)

B19 Bewdley High (Hereford & Worcester)
G19 Kingswood, Corby (Northamptonshire)
B16 Lawrence Sherriff, Rugby (Warwicks)
G16 Charlton Park Convent, Gloucester (Glos)
B13 Wollaston, Wellingborough (Northamptonshire)
G13 Sladen C.E. Middle, Kidderminster (Hereford & Worcester)

B11 Bilton Grange, Rugby (Warwicks)

Another new organiser, Glennis Hooper (Northants Schools) reckons best prospects from this Area are in the Boys U-19 and U-16 events.

Area 7 (Callington)

B19 Bridgwater College (Somerset)
G19 Bridgwater College (Somerset)
B16 Exmouth (Devon)
G16 Camborne (Cornwall)
B13 Plymouth College (Devon)
G13 Millfield Junior (Somerset)
B11 Camborne C.E. (Cornwall)

Good wins for Camborne Junior over Holymead (Avon), Colyton (Devon) and Millfield (Somerset). Exmouth include Gary Lambert and Mark Ellett as they bid to improve upon last season's B16 runners-up spot.

Area 8 (Bournemouth)

B19 Bournemouth School (Dorset)
G19 Altwood, Maidenhead (Berkshire)
B16 Maiden Erlegh, Erley (Berkshire)
G16 Talbot Heath, Bournemouth (Dorset)
B13 Wallop, Weybridge (Surrey County)
G13 Bevois Town, Southampton (Hampshire)
B11 Walhampton, Lymington (Hampshire)

B11 (Walhampton and B13 (Wallop) best hopes says Bill New who was delighted with the new Stiga tables supplied for his area.

SOUTH & EAST REGION

Area 9 (St. Neots)

B19 Bedford Modern (Beds)
G19 Ipswich School (Suffolk)
B16 Samuel Whitbread Upper, Sheffield (Beds)
G16 Putteridge High, Luton (Beds)
B13 Bedford Modern (Beds)
G13 St. Martin's, Brentwood (Essex County)
B11 Orwell Park, Nacton (Suffolk)
Could this be Orwell Park's year. They in-

flicted a rare 8-0 defeat on Bedford Modern in the Boys' U-11 category. Another strong B16 team.

Area 11 (Barnet)

B19 Stepney Green (Inner London)
G19 Goff's, Cheshunt (Hertfordshire)
B16 St. Michael's, Stevenage (Herts)
G16 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
B13 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
G13 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
B11 Lyndhurst Prep., Hampstead (Inner London)

Len Pilditch in charge of his first Area Final. Goff's (national holders) nearly came unstuck against one of the five Brampton Manor teams, winning 5-3.

Area 12 (Croydon)

B19 Kingston Grammar (Surrey Metropolitan)
G19 Ifield, Crawley (West Sussex)
B16 Rutlish High, Merton (Surrey Metropolitan)
G16 Tolworth, Surbiton (Surrey Metropolitan)
B13 Hillcross Middle, Merton (Surrey Metropolitan)
G13 Stanford Middle, Norbury (Surrey Metropolitan)
B11 Rockmount Junior, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan)

Disappointing that Kent County were not able to send any team but still plenty of talent with only Ifield preventing a Surrey "whitewash". Three former winners in Rutlish, Tolworth and Hillcross. First-ever Croydon team, Rockmount, through without opposition.

Girls' Under-11 Regional events:

NORTH REGION (Leeds)
Winners: Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)

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MIDLANDS & WEST REGION
Sat., March 6th at Highfields School, Wolverhampton.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DISAPPOINTING T.V. COVERAGE

I was very disappointed with the television coverage of the Lambert and Butler Championship and the Norwich Union English Open Championships. Table tennis has failed to establish itself as a successful television sport and needs to make better use of its limited opportunities if the allocation of viewing time is to be increased or even maintained at its present level.

Apart from the notable triumph of Desmond Douglas in the final, the highlights of the Lambert and Butler Championship were undoubtedly the classic encounters of Liang Geliang against Tibor Klampar and Andrzej Grubba, neither of which were shown on television. Viewers were instead subjected to watching a totally out of form Klampar make a series of unforced errors against Douglas in a semi-final which provided very little entertainment and enjoyment, unless one was solely concerned with seeing an English victory.

I was unable to attend the Norwich Union English Open Championships, but there must surely have been better matches to watch than those we saw on television, the sad demise of Douglas and two boring all-Chinese affairs in which the players were simply going through the motions without any competitive endeavour.

Instead of concentrating television coverage on English players and finals, the first consideration should be to show entertaining table tennis which will appeal to a wider audience. The Liang v Klampar and Liang v Grubba matches thrilled the crowd at Wembley and would have demonstrated to television viewers the potential appeal of table tennis as a spectator sport. It is highly regrettable that such an opportunity was wasted.

There is also scope to improve the commentary which too often consists of potted facts about the players, excessive repetition and comments which are obvious and unnecessary.

Perhaps the ETTA would like to give their views on the points raised in this letter and explain their policy regarding television coverage.

DAVID SHILL,

60A Tennyson Road,
Cheltenham,
Glos. GL51 7BY.

A TALE OF TWO CADETS

When the story starts the two cadets had much in common. Both won Silver Medals at the European Youth Championships, Jan-Ove Waldner from Sweden in 1980 and Billy Gleave from England in 1981. Both, though only 14, enjoyed much success on their domestic scene winning against MEN of deserved reputations. Waldner was sent to numerous junior tournaments all over Europe by his country and enjoyed much success. Gleave, before his silver individual and gold team medal (which Waldner also won the year before), went to only one overseas tournament. That was the Federal German Junior Open. His two-man team, of which he was the outstanding member, reached the semi-finals and Gleave won 5 out of 5 against notable European juniors

3 years older than himself, a sensational debut.

We now switch to the recent Norwich Union English Open where all similarities end. Waldner is now a member of a Swedish men's team and defeated a Chinese. He is European Junior Champion.

Gleave is a lonely qualifier. Although the championships are staged in his own country he is a member of no team. He has to pay his own expenses.

Many years ago Johnny Leach wrote: "For these players are raw because we failed to provide them with the top competition needed to give their play a knife edge".

That, dear reader, is a small example of what recent controversies are all about, not "The Preans vs. The Establishment", not the sometimes low blows aimed at us, whilst elsewhere the mutual admiration societies gathered and flourished.

Little has been remembered since Johnny Leach wrote these lines, everything forgotten, nothing has been learned.

My "Tale of Two Cadets" therefore shows what life is all about for English Juniors who have reached the top (such as it now is), the support in other countries, the neglect here.

That is how we build for the future.

JOHN PREAN,

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

"A MESSAGE FROM MOSCOW"

Recently I had a letter from Mr. Leonid Makarov, the genial leader of the U.S.S.R. contingent at many of the World's and European Championships.

Mr. Makarov, who is of course an Honorary Personal Member of the International Table Tennis Federation, mentions that he is a keen collector of books, badges, and other souvenirs of the history or special moments of Table Tennis, which he loves dearly.

He has over 1,000 such items and would be interested to exchange with a like-minded "fan" in England or elsewhere.

As I am not myself collector-minded, I cannot offer exchanges, so would invite any enthusiast to write direct to:

Leonid S. Makarov,
c/o U.S.S.R. TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION,
Skaterny,
Pereulok 4, MOSCOW 69, U.S.S.R.

I was able to send him a copy of my own publication "Progressive Table Tennis" in return for a copy of A. Amelin's latest instructional book for children. Although the Russian text pages were "beyond my ken", they are enlivened by some attractive drawings which suggest that there is some sound advice in the columns, and a good-humoured approach has been adopted — very important when dealing with young pupils.

JACK CARRINGTON,

18 Cedar Manor,
Bournemouth,
BH4 9DE.

INDIGNATION

In the December issue of the Table Tennis News, under "Lancashire", it was reported that the Lancashire and Cheshire League closed championships had been cancelled and a claim of MALADMINISTRATION was made against the Burnley & Dist. Table Tennis League for the organizing of the Lancashire and Cheshire League closed championships.

This claim was made by the County Press Officer, Mr. George Yates. What he failed to do was to get the facts from the Burnley

League before making his claim of MALADMINISTRATION. What he based his claim on was (using his own words) 'Moans around the county have centred on the Non Receipt of Entry Forms!'

Here following are facts from the Burnley Table Tennis League to give the readers a chance to judge for themselves if the Maladministration claim was justified.

1. The Burnley league had 500 entry forms printed and sent out by post to all the leagues in the Lancashire and Cheshire League handbook on the 8th October, 1981, and entries closing date 5th November, 1981. This date was extended for 7 days to the 12th November 1981, the tournament date being 29th November 1981. Also the Burnley secretary took some entry forms and handed them out at the tournaments he attended.

2. This tournament was to be held at the Burnley Sports Centre, using 10 tables with surrounds, giving first class playing conditions. Meals, snacks plus drinks would be made available for competitors.

3. Granada television were informed to have it put on Granada Reports programme, also Radio Lancashire agreed to put it on.

4. The entries received back were as follows: 66 Men's Singles, 23 Men's Doubles, 14 Veterans, 8 Boys' Singles, 1 Girls' Singles, 7 Women's Singles and 3 Women's Doubles.

The entry fees totalled £124.00, the entries we received back were from the following leagues: Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Bury, Crewe, Ellesmere Port, Farnworth, Fleetwood, Lancaster, Liverpool, Liverpool Business Houses, Lytham, Macclesfield, Manchester, Preston, Rochdale, St. Helens, Stockport, Warrington, Widnes, Wirral. The fact that we received entries from 21 leagues is enough proof that the entry forms were sent out.

5. The cost of staging this tournament would have been:

Hire of sports centre	£128.00
Printing and Postage	£40.00
Trophies, balls and surrounds	£50.00
	£218.00

As the total entry fees were £124.00, this would have meant a loss to the Burnley League, although I understand some sponsorship was to be arranged. But to run a tournament with so few entries would have been ludicrous as it would have been over in no time, as the idea was to have the finals at night.

6. One thing I must point out is the Burnley League failed to send a copy of the entry form to the County Press Officer, we admit this slip up.

The Burnley League would like the readers to judge for themselves if the claim of MALADMINISTRATION is justified. Also we would like to know if Mr. George Yates still thinks it was a case of Maladministration. If he does would he inform the Burnley League what could have been done to get more entries for the tournament, and then we will know for the future.

A. Magnall, Chairman.

B. Ingham, Secretary.

S. Saunt, Tournament Organiser.
Burnley & District T.T.L.

INVALUABLE

Having recently been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Larkhall club in the Premier Division of the National League I have nothing but praise for Keith Ponting, the Administrator, whose help and guidance has been truly invaluable.

JAMES A. DREW,

51 East Dulwich Road,
London S.E.22.

Cleveland 3-Star Open

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

Fan Changmao (CHN) bt D. Wells (Mi) 6, 5;
Teng Yi (CHN) bt K. Jackson (E) 9, 13;
Chen Xinhua (CHN) bt P. Day (Ca) 15, 18;
Jiang Jialiang (CHN) bt D. Seemiller (USA) -19, 11, 6.

Semi-finals:

Teng Yi bt Fan Changmao 19, 12;
Jiang Jialiang bt Chen Xinhua 12, 15.

Final:

JIANG JIALIANG bt Teng Yi 19, 18.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

Xie Xiaoyan (CHN) bt J. Hammersley (Bu) 11, 17;
Dai Lili (CHN) bt K. Witt (Bk) -19, 11, 3;
Chen Lili (CHN) bt A. Stevenson (Le) 11, 13;
C. Knight (Cv) bt Chen Jieliang (CHN) -10, 17, 19.

Semi-finals:

Xie Xiaoyan bt Dai Lili 21, -14, 18;
Chen Lili bt Knight 16, 21.

Final:

XIE XIAOYAN bt Chen Lili 22, 18.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Fan Changmao/Teng Yi bt E. Boggan (USA)/Day 15, 14;
D. Johnson (Wa)/G. Sandley (Mi) bt Chen Xinhua/
Jiang Jialiang -17, 18, 11.

Final:

FAN CHANGMAO/TENG YI bt Johnson/Sandley 20, 10.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Chen Lili/Xie Xiaoyan bt Hammersley/L. Jarvis (Sy)
-16, 7, 20;

Chen Jieliang/Dai Lili bt Knight/Stevenson -17, 7, 14.

Final:

CHEN JIELIANG/DAI LILI bt Chen Lili/Xie Xiaoyan
19, 18

TEAM EVENTS

Men

Quarter-finals:

China I 3 Bristol & West 0

Chen Xinhua bt K. Satchell 10, 13;
Jiang Jialiang bt D. Constance 12, 15;
Xinhua/Jialiang bt Constance/M. Smith 7, 14.

England II 3 USA 0

D. Johnson bt D. Seemiller 19, 18;
G. Sandley bt E. Boggan 21, -11, 14;
Johnson/Sandley bt Boggan/Seemiller 16, 19.

China II 3 Scotland I 0

Fan Changmao bt R. Yule 14, 14;
Teng Yi bt K. Rodger 13, 18;
Changmao/Yi bt Rodger/Yule 21, 17.

England I 3 Wales I 1

P. Day bt A. Griffiths 13, 14;
K. Jackson lost to N. Thomas 22, -18, -19;
Day/Jackson bt Griffiths/Thomas -17, 15, 14;
Day bt Thomas 13, 9.

Semi-finals:

China I 3 England II 0

Jialiang bt Sandley 18, 10;
Xinhua bt Johnson -19, 16, 15;
Jialiang/Xinhua bt Johnson/Sandley 18, 15.

China II 3 England I 1

Changmao bt Day 19, 16;
Xinhua bt Jackson 12, 15;
Changmao/Yi bt Day/Jackson 15, 19.

Final:

CHINA II 3 China I 1

Yi lost to Xinhua -16, 13, -10;
Changmao bt Jialiang 3, 19;
Changmao/Yi bt Jialiang/Xinhua 22, -19, 19;
Yi bt Jialiang 12, 12.

Women

Quarter-finals:

China I 3 Clayton Heights 0

Dai Lili bt S. Midgley 7, 12;
Chen Lili bt M. Hill 6, 14;
Lili/Lili bt Hill/Midgley 20, 11.

England II 3 Finland 1

C. Knight bt M. Grefberg 15, 10;
J. Grundy lost to S. Grefberg -13, -8;
Grundy/Knight bt Grefberg/Grefberg 17, -19, 15;
Knight bt S. Grefberg 18, 18.

China II 3 Omega 1

Xiaoyan lost to A. Gordon 17, -20, -23;
Jieling bt K. Witt -20, 18, 14;
Jieling/Xiaoyan bt Gordon/Witt -19, 17, 17;
Xiaoyan bt Witt 7, 16.

England I 3 Sealink Ormesby 0

J. Hammersley bt J. Parker 3, 9;
L. Jarvis bt J. Bellinger 8, 6.
Hammersley/Jarvis bt Bellinger/Parker 13, 16.

Semi-finals:

China I 3 England II 0

Dai Lili bt Knight 16, 10;
Chen Lili bt L. Bellinger 13, 7;
Lili/Lili bt Bellinger/Knight 12, 6.

England I 3 China II 2

Jarvis lost to Xiaoyan -10, -12;
Hammersley bt Jieling 18, 20;
Hammersley/Jarvis lost to Jieling/Xiaoyan -16, -12;
Hammersley bt Xiaoyan 14, 20;
Jarvis bt Jieling -9, 19, 15.

Final:

CHINA I 3 England I 0

Dai Lili bt Hammersley -19, 12, 6;
Chen Lili bt Jarvis 8, 14;
Lili/Lili bt Hammersley/Jarvis 11, 21.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

February

18/20 **NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS**, Basingstoke Leisure Centre, Town Centre, Basingstoke, Hants. Finals: Saturday, Feb. 20 (1.30 p.m.). Admission Prices: Thursday (£1), Friday (£2.50), Saturday (£3.50). All inclusive of programme.

20 **DUNLOP SCOTTISH CLOSED**, Meadowbank Sports Centre, London Road, Edinburgh.

20 Halton 1-Star Junior Open, Norton Recreation Centre, Castlefields Avenue East, Runcorn, Ches.

21 National League (11).

21 National Schools' Team Championships Regional Finals. North: Moor Grange School, Parkstone Ave., Leeds. Midlands & West: Stroud Leisure Centre, Stratford Pk., Stroud. South & East: Walnuts Centre, Orpington, Kent.

26/28 **Rumanian Open (Norwich Union Grand Prix) (Bucharest).**

27 Yorkshire Evening Press Selby 1-Star Junior Open, Selby High School Sports Hall, Leeds Rd., Selby, N. Yorks.

27 County Championships (6).

27/28 **County Championships Premier Division Weekend (2)**, Batley Sports Centre, Batley, W. Yorks. From 3 p.m. Saturday. Final session 1.30 p.m. Sunday.

28 Lancashire 2-Star Junior Open, Bolton Institute of Technology, Deane Road, Bolton.

March

6/7 Durham 2-Star Open (Peterlee).

6/7 **County Championships Junior Premier Division Weekend (2)**, St. Neots TT Club, Riversmead, The Common, St. Neots. From 3 p.m. Saturday.

Final session 1.30 p.m. Sunday.

8 **European League Division 2 WALES v SCOTLAND (Bridgend).**

10 **European League Super Division HUNGARY v ENGLAND.**

13 County Championships (7).

14 East of England 2-Star Open, North Kesteven Sports Centre, North Hykeham, Lincoln.

20 Cornish 2-Star Junior Open.

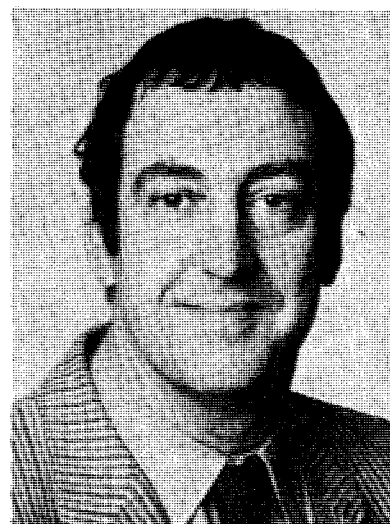
20 English Schools' Team Championships - Finals.

Lea Green Centre, Matlock, Derbyshire.
27 Merseyside 2-Star Open, Kirkby Sports Centre, Valley Road, Liverpool. Closing date: March 5/'82 to Mr. B. A. Leeson, 16 Avolon Road, Liverpool L12 9ER. 051-228 5028.

27/28 Lincolnshire 2-Star Junior Open.

News from the Trade

L. Lenton (Technical Products) Ltd., the all British specialist sports equipment manufacturing company, are planning to take on the Japanese in a 1982 sales assault on the world table tennis bat rubber market.



MARTIN FOULSER

To spearhead their attack, Lentons have recruited the services of 35-year-old Martin Foulser, M.Inst.M. who has been appointed as Lenton's Marketing Director. Martin, well known in table tennis circles, comes with 7½ years' experience as Marketing Executive with Stiga under his belt. "It is good to be involved with a British company who are willing to have a go" says Martin. "We are going to shout about being British; after all, we invented the game and our rubber technology is second to none".

The bat rubbers, sold under the brand name British Lentec, have taken over two years of extensive research to develop and are the only British rival to their Japanese counterpart, and have been officially approved by the International Table Tennis Federation. In 1982 they will be introducing new rubbers to supplement their present range which is proving so successful both on and off the table.

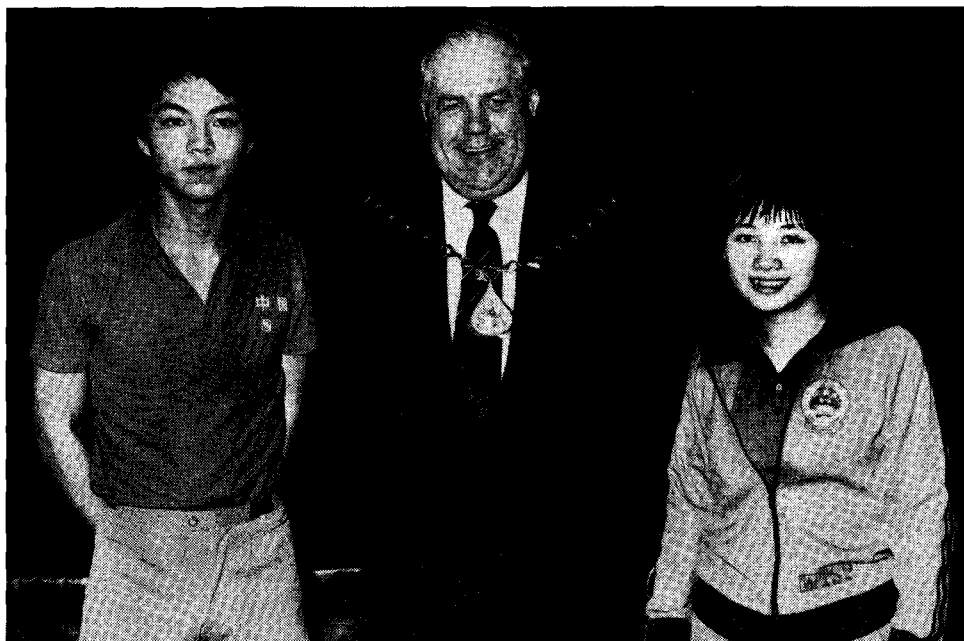
"Martin's specialist knowledge of the table tennis market is going to be a major factor in our bid to increase our share of the market" said Stan Lenton, Chairman of the Coventry based holding Company L. Lenton & Company Limited. "It is good news too for British players. It means they no longer have to be satisfied with whatever their opponents, such as the Japanese, choose to sell them. We can offer them high technology bat rubbers which will take on anything in the world".

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China's two singles winners at Thornaby — Jiang Jialiang (1) and Xie Xiaoyan flanking Councillor A. A. Carter, J.P., Chairman of Cleveland County Council.

Photo by Stan Hilton, Billingham.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Gerald Green reports from . . .

SHROPSHIRE

SHROPSHIRE QUIT COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

After some 20 years of participation in the County Championships, Shropshire, after probably their best ever start to a season, have withdrawn from the competition for the remainder of the campaign.

In their official notice of resignation to the ETTA, financial grounds are given as the reason for the decision.

The tragedy of the situation is that I certainly don't remember them winning their first three Senior County games so comfortably — and the potential has never been so great — but at this stage I do not propose to comment further on the decision.

Grove hit the top

A brilliant display by Phil Bowen took Grove to the top of the National League Division Two North. The Lancastrian was unbeaten in the Drayton team's 5-3 win over Tarmac, Wolverhampton, hammering Andy Rich and Greg Hallam in straight games. The match started well for Wolverhampton with Andy Bellingham beating Malcolm Green in a hard fought match with Malcolm not having the best of luck. Immediately Grove replied with Tony Boasman winning 26-24 in the decider against Rich. Tony Isaac gave Wolverhampton the lead beating Mark Hankey in three sets, but the superb Bowen levelled the match at 2-2 by demolishing Hallam. For the third time Wolverhampton took the lead with Bellingham beating Boasman in a close three setter. However, Bowen beat Rich with ease, then in the crucial match Green gave Grove the lead for the first time when he beat Isaac, setting the stage for Hankey to beat Hallam and clinch the match for Grove.

Sealink Youth Cup

Pontesbury schoolboy Ivan Smith was the most impressive Shropshire player in the Sealink Youth Cup held at the Grove School, Market Drayton, finishing runner-up to Billy Gleave in the U-15 Boys' singles. Grove players also finished in runners-up spots with Alison Barker and Carol Wickstead runners-up in the U-15 Girls' team event and Dawn Wickstead (with Cheshire's Claire Potts) taking second place in the U-13 Girls' event. But success was in store for Paul Fisher, who, in partnership with Wolverhampton's Adrian Dixon, won the U-13 Boys' team event.

National Rankings

The Grove TTA at Market Drayton have eight named players in the recently published National Ranking Lists. The highest placed is Grove School pupil Alison Barker who is ranked second to the National Champion Lesley Popkiewicz of Surrey in the U-14 Girls' list. In the same age group two new faces appear with Dawn Wickstead, ranked at 29, and Nicola Thorneycroft at 30. Meanwhile in the Boys' U-14 list David Williams gains the No. 8 spot with schoolmate Sean Groom at 14.

In the men's list the Grove National League side are well represented with Boasman, Hankey and Shropshire No. 1 Green all ranked. Surprisingly Bowen (beaten only once in the National League this season) does not appear in the list, but recent good wins should ensure him a place in the next.

Pontesbury League

At the season's half way stage the Association can look back with some pride at

their performance. The U-14 team top the East Midland League, while the two teams in the Midland League have only lost one match each.

At National tournaments Ivan and Joanna Smith, Peter Thomas, Simon Cooper, Stephen and David Morris, Justin Goodall, Ian Garrett and Darrell Corfield have all enjoyed success.

In the Pontesbury League the Magpies (Bob Wilson, Steve Brown and Simon Cooper) hold a three point lead over Blackbirds (Stephen Morris, Darrell Corfield and Justin Goodall), while in the second Division Hawks are one point ahead of Falcons.

Maximum for Julie

Julie Ballard was in fine form for Grove 'B' in their Midland League fixtures with Birmingham. The 14-year-old scored a fine maximum against Birmingham 'B' to give her side the basis for victory, with sisters Carol and Dawn Wickstead adding one win each to clinch victory. Julie was in similar good form against Birmingham 'A' winning her two singles with Carol Wickstead adding one win in the eventual 3-7 defeat. Meanwhile Grove 'C' fought hard against an experienced Leamington Spa side only losing 4-6. There were two wins for Nicola Thorneycroft and further victories came from 11-year-old Stephanie Thorneycroft and Julie Bloore.

In local derby matches the results went as predicted with Grove 'A' (Alison Barker, Denise Boughey and Colette Soan) beating Grove 'C' 10-0 and Grove 'B' 7-3. Again Julie Ballard was the star, winning all three sets for the 'B' team.

County League

The re-formed Shropshire County League will be starting fixtures at the end of this month with two Divisions — for Seniors and Juniors. The aim of the league is to promote table tennis in the County below the top level, with players who currently play representative table tennis not eligible to enter. The matches are scheduled for Sunday afternoons. Teams wishing to play their matches at other times must contact their opponents and the league secretary. The task of running the league has been undertaken by Grove's Tony Budd, an enthusiast working in the table tennis boom in Market Drayton.

Leslie Constable reports on the . . .

ST. NEOTS WINTER LEAGUE

By the time these notes are in print all sections of the League will have finished. The Veterans' division has resulted in a tie for first place between Bedford and North Herts. In the final matches Bedford beat Peterborough "B" 9-0 and St. Neots "A" beat North Herts 5-4. This defeat of North Herts cost them the championships and as both teams tied for first place they both agreed to share top place rather than a play-off. Both teams obtained 47 points and very close behind them came Cambridge with 46 points and who at one time seemed to be in with a chance.

The Junior Tournament was held at St. Neots on Jan. 2 and was a triumph for K. Samuels who won the Singles title and then, with G. Turner, the doubles. Samuels had a comparatively easy passage to the final of the singles and did not drop a game in the process, including his win over D. Papworth who, on the other hand, had a struggle in two of his earlier rounds. The final of the doubles in which Samuels and Turner defeated I. Hawes and S. Kendall went to three before the former won after losing the first at 16.

I hope to report fully on the final results of the Senior matches in the next issue of the magazine.

The Veterans' Tournament will be held at

St. Neots on Feb. 20 and the Senior Tournament on March 20 also at St. Neots.

Junior Tournament

RESULTS

Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Samuels bt S. Kendall 11, 14;

I. Hawes bt G. Turner 6, 14.

M. Gaunt bt N. Stanley 14, -19, 16.

M. Papworth bt J. Walsh 11, -14, 19.

Semi-finals:

Samuels bt Hawes 19, 7;

Papworth bt Gaunt 10, 10.

Final:

SAMUELS bt Papworth 11, 18.

Doubles Semi-finals:

Samuels/Turner bt P. Madden/D. Osborn

-16, 11, 9.

Hawes/Kendall bt Papworth/Gaunt 19, 15.

Final:

SAMUELS/TURNER bt Hawes/Kendall

-18, 16, 17.

Ken Green reports from . . .

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

MIXED FORTUNES

With not a lot to report this month, with the exception of County Team results, it may be opportune to reflect in general on the good things and perhaps some of the less good points to emerge from matches played so far. At Senior level nobody can be more pleased with his performances to date than Keith Willett. Keith has been an ever-present in the four matches played to date. From his eight singles, Keith has lost only three, one to Harman of Bucks at "deuce" in the third and one to Gavin Booth of Beds to whom, with respect to Keith, we would expect him to lose anyway. Keep up the good work in '82 Keith, we shall all be looking for the expected two against Shropshire, Worcestershire II and Herefordshire. Perhaps if our hard-working Team Captain Syd Burgess can achieve a more settled Men's Squad then the overall team performances may improve. Of the women in the Senior Team, Jean Alinson can always be relied upon to turn in a good performance. Jean has played in the last three matches, winning her singles against Beds and only losing narrowly to Mandy Wallis of Northants and Nikki Hamilton of Bucks. Again with a more consistent women's pairing results can only improve.

The Junior Team, as was reported in the October issue, lost two of last season's team in Richard Wells and Paul Rogers, and the new look team can only look for experience this season. Philip Cole, our No. 1 Junior and Senior player has unfortunately missed two of the four matches to date. With his experience in the team it would surely add the incentive to the others to do well. At least we have got more of a settled team here and perhaps with Philip being available for the Leicestershire match we can look for a good result. I understand Paul Saywell is playing much better and I know Richard Ballard will not let the side down.

I refuse to report anything but good concerning the Veterans for fear of being accused of bias. Yours truly was 'rested' from the Dorset and Essex games obviously to be kept fresh for later in the season but against Dorset we were most unlucky to lose 4-5 with Gus Albon performing well on his debut and Colin Dale turning in a notable performance to beat Bush 9 in the third. Against Essex Gus had a comfortable win over Murray whilst Len Saywell had the distinction of inflicting the first defeat this season over Fred Lockwood.

Results so far:

Seniors

Won 6-4 away to Oxfordshire with Philip Cole and Willett each winning one singles and taking the doubles 23-21, 24-22 and D. Bushby and Alison Hillard winning their women's singles and their doubles in the third leg.

Lost 1-9 at home to Bucks with Willett winning the only set against J. Wright. Drew 5-5 away to Beds. A disappointing result considering that Beds forfeited two sets in playing an illegal player. Willett and Burgess each won one with Jean Alinson winning the other. The match was apparently played at short notice under not too good conditions.

Lost 3-8 away to Northants. Another disappointing result. Apart from Willett's two, only the women's doubles went to three.

Juniors

Lost 3-7 at home to Lincs. If only Cole had played the result could have been different. Lost 2-8 away against a strong Gloucestershire side.

Veterans

Lost 1-8 at home to Middlesex.

Lost 4-5 away to Dorset.

Lost 3-6 at home to Essex.

On Jan. 23 our Seniors travel to Shropshire and our Juniors are away to Durham. On Feb. 27 our Seniors and Juniors entertain Worcestershire II and Cleveland respectively whilst the Veterans travel to Worcestershire. The last matches of the season on March 13 sees all teams at home, the Seniors to Herefordshire, the Juniors to Bucks and the Veterans to Lincs. All home matches are scheduled to take place at St. Neots Table Tennis Centre and all commence at 2.30 p.m.

The Hunts County Closed will again be held at St. Neots on the weekend of 13th/14th Feb. Entry forms were to be distributed during early January with a closing date of Jan. 29.

At the County Meeting held at Silent Channel on Dec. 9, the Christmas Draw was held. A profit of approx. £236 was achieved. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the list of prizewinners can do so by contacting either our County Secretary Roger Hover on Huntingdon 59232 or myself.

It is intended to report on the history of several Clubs within our County Association in future issues of Table Tennis News. If any Club Secretary wishes their Club to be included perhaps you would contact me with details. Address - 83 Headlands, Fenstanton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 9LP or on St. Ives 68747.

John Robinson reports from ...

DORSET

ANOTHER STEP

Dorset's two senior sides took another step towards winning their respective leagues on Dec. 19 when they were both successful.

The first team gained a particularly impressive win at home to Wiltshire 6-4, as they had a weakened side. Tony Clayton and Mark Werner both won their two singles, Tony scoring a comfortable victory over highly-rated Kevin Satchell. Joyce Coop continued her recent form and defeated old rival Janet Parker, Tony and Martin Abbott completed the victory by winning the doubles.

The second team defeated Cornwall 7-3. Martin Abbott, Trevor Smith and Joyce Coop were all unbeaten, Jason Creasey won one singles and Dorset won the men's doubles. These two victories keep both Dorset sides at the top of their league.

The junior second team were defeated 7-3 by Cornwall, with Mathew Poulson winning two and Rodney Thomas one. Both of these youngsters are playing very well at the moment and seem to be very good prospects. The second veteran team were a bit out of their depth in losing 9-0 to Middlesex.

The Dorset selection Committee issued the following ranking list:

Men

D. Constance, A. Clayton, S. Heaps, M. Abbott, J. Robinson, M. Werner, J. Creasey,

T. Smith, F. Kershaw, C. Pickard, C. Bush, J. Russell, G. Pope, M. Hughes, G. Plutz, S. Davies, Mike Hughes, R. Ellis, M. Doyle, H. Davies.

Women

C. Creasey, I. Kershaw, J. Reading, J. Coop, J. Applin, L. Harman, S. New, S. Hegarty, S. Scott-Pawson, D. Robbins, P. Baldwin, J. Smith, C. Vines.

Boys

Werner, Plutz, R. Fairhall, R. Thomas, J. Allman, D. Hunt, C. Milton, M. Heasman, Martin Poulson, Mathew Poulson, R. Hill.

Girls

Creasey, Harman, Hegarty, S. Scott-Pawson, T. Scott-Pawson, A. Russell, S. Poulson.

Veteran Men

Kershaw, Bush, Russell, D. Joyce, D. Woodcock, R. Fairhall, S. Brice, R. Ellis, B. Bickell, T. Parry, H. Feltham, G. Buckley, J. Gilson, M. Frampton.

Veteran Women

Kershaw, Coop, Robbins, Baldwin, J. Terry, P. New.

Mick Miles reports from ...

BEDFORDSHIRE

UNUSUAL MATCH

The heavy snowfalls in Mid-December caused the Senior Match at Herefordshire to be postponed.

Fortunately our home venue at Luton Vauxhall is close to the Motorway and we were able to entertain Kent Juniors. This was an unusual match in as much that we took the first three sets and from then on never won a leg!

Congratulations though to Peter Edwards who won his debut set for the County.

The Veterans also only managed to win three sets in their match against Leicestershire with Jim Wooliscroft, Duncan Clayton and Audrey Robinson winning a singles apiece.

The Luton League held their traditional Christmas Divisional Tournaments. These Singles and Doubles events give the players from each of the nine divisions the opportunity to participate in their own competitions, and despite the appalling weather conditions, each event was well supported, especially by the players from the lower divisions, whose enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment must help to make the organising of the tournaments well worthwhile, for Luton's hardworking Tournament Secretary, Ken Adams and his committee.

Winner of the Division One Title was Junior, Colin Luscombe, who defeated his County teammate, David Sharpe in the final.

Lisa Bellinger justified her England Selection for the Cleveland 3-Star by reaching the last 16, where she lost to a Chinese girl. Lisa also won the Sealink Cup Under-15 Regional Singles.

Our other Lisa (Lisa Robins) reached the final of the Under-13 Singles.

Geoff Waters reports from ...

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CHALLENGE MAINTAINED

The senior first team kept up their promotion challenge with a 7-3 win over Lancashire II at Impington Village College. This was the first defeat for the northern county, who had previously had big wins over Yorkshire II and Warwickshire II. Mick Harper, who had been suffering with an upset stomach and was far from fit, proved easy meat for Paul Rainford in the opening set, but it was to be quite a while before Lancashire won another.

Cambs proceeded to take the next seven sets all but one in straight games. The new

under-17 champion Jean Parker pulled one back for Lancs with a win over Mandy Judd and Keith Williams added respectability to the score line by beating Geoff Davies -15, 21, 18 in the closest set of the match. Keith Richardson and Joanne Palmer were both unbeaten in a match that puts Cambs top of Div. 2A if only in a sharing position.

Since this match was played however the county have had some bad news in that Davies has a broken collar bone, received in a car accident, and will be out for the rest of the season.

The second team are still looking for their first win in Div. 3D. They travelled to Carshalton to play Surrey II and went down 7-3.

They were still without Robert Swift, who has now happily recovered from his knee injury. Andy Withers lost his unbeaten record to Gordon Chapman but managed to win his other singles. He also combined with Tony Holmes to win the men's doubles. Cambridgeshire's other win came from the ever reliable Val Parkes, who has yet to be beaten. Soham's Trevor Smith made his county debut in this match and although not winning did enough to warrant further matches.

Although Swift will be back for the next match, Withers will now have to move into the first team to replace Davies so the second team will now not be at full strength for the rest of the season.

The junior second team had a rather disappointing result against bottom team Norfolk II and went down 3-7 at the Methodist Centre, Wisbech.

After their draw at Leicestershire one hoped for some improvement of results but it was not so. In the absence of Peter Holliday, who had been moved into the first team to replace the unavailable Tim Ashman, Nick Rayner was given his first chance in county colours. Although showing promise for the future, he was too nervous to do himself justice. Paul Holmes notched his first double for the county and now seems assured of his place.

The other bright spot was the form of 11-year-old Louise Ward, the daughter of Wisbech coach Geoff Ward. Louise won her singles on debut to earn her an extended run in the team.

Holliday's promotion to the first team proved rather unlucky for the March lad as the match against Sussex II had to be postponed because of the treacherous roads conditions. As if that wasn't bad enough he was picked again to replace Jamie Frost in the re-arranged match on Jan. 9 and that was postponed too.

The Cambridge veteran's team are also feeling a little hard done by at the moment. They won their final match in the St. Neots Winter League by a 9-0 score line against Northampton but found to their dismay that they had been pipped by one point by both North Herts and Bedford, who share the title. You can't get a much closer finish than that!

The John Jaques Cambridgeshire Closed was held on Jan. 16 at the Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall, Cambridge and both Harper and Mandy Judd retained their titles. Mick won the men's singles for the third time, his previous triumphs being in 1977 and last season. He beat his friendly rival Richardson in the final after losing the first game. After his defeat Keith jocularly said to Mick 'I thought you weren't going to twiddle your bat!'

Keith, a three times winner himself, will be wondering if he'll ever make it four for it was 1979 since his last success. In 1980 he was beaten in the quarters by Gary Jordan and last season he fell to Davies in the semis.

All the top four men's seeds came through to the semi-finals unscathed but neither Withers nor Swift could make any impression on the top two.

Mandy Judd won the women's singles with a three games win over Joanne Palmer. Poor Jo must have thought she had a chance of lifting the title for the first time when she won the second but once again she finished up as the 'bridesmaid'.

Keith Richardson, Mick Harper and Mandy Judd dominated the doubles events.

Anyway they put up a good show against top seeds Harper and Richardson before going down in the third.

It was Richardson again in partnership with Mandy Judd, who took the mixed with a three game win over Withers and Ruth Hunter. Mandy completed a hat-trick of titles when she combined with Joanne Palmer to take the women's doubles against Anthea Rudd and Ruth Hunter.

Mandy was finally to taste defeat for the first time in three years in this tournament. In the girls' singles she was beaten by Ruth Hunter. This was a well deserved success for the Wisbech League girl who for so long has been in the shadow of the Cambridge girl. In a very close encounter Mandy won the first game 17 but Ruth replied with a narrow 19 success in the second. In a tense and exciting third game Ruth led 18-15 but Mandy levelled at 19-19. What must Ruth have thought at this stage? Whatever it was she was not going to be denied and she took the next two points and the title.

There was a somewhat feeble entry for the Cadet girls' and Helen Smith, Samantha Wales and Louise Ward played a round robin which came out in the above order.

In the men's doubles there was one upset when No. 2 seeds Swift and Jordan lost to the Soham pair Trevor Smith and Geoff Hobbs in the quarters. The Soham pair then missed a great chance of a first final appearance by going down in the semis to the Cambridge University pairing of Phil Pyburn and Robert McMillan. To my knowledge this is the first appearance in a final of a University player but probably Les Constable will prove me wrong.

Julian Wheel took the boys' singles for the first time beating Saffron Walden's Cameron Alexander. Cameron had earlier caused a shock when he beat top seed Jamie Frost in the semi-finals.

There was also something of a shock in the Cadet boys' with Rayner beating Holmes. Only a month ago the two played in a county match together with Paul winning two and Nicky none and Paul in a higher position. However, this was to be Nicky's day and the Wisbech lad won in straight games, albeit the second at "deuce".

John Ashman, the top seed from Soham, won the veterans' at the first attempt with a win over Robert Trigg, who plays for Bassingbourn in the Cambridge League. John always had too much class for the rest of the field but it was nice to see one of the grass roots players like Robert gaining some reward.

The Pye Telecomm Merit award went to Johnny Collins of Wisbech. This trophy is awarded every year to the young player who did best at the tournament, yet went unrewarded. Certainly ten-years-old Johnny looks a good one for the future.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Richardson (Ely) bt R. Swift (March) 7, 11;

M Harper (Camb) bt A. Withers (Ely) 13, 10.

Final:

HARPER bt Richardson -17, 17, 16.

Women's Singles Final:

A. JUDD (Camb) bt J. Palmer (Ely)

15, -19, 15.

Boys' Singles:

J. WHEEL (Ely) bt C. Alexander (Camb) 15, 16.

Consolation Boys' Singles:

N. RAYNER (Wisb) bt P. Holmes (March) 14, 20.

Girls' U-17 Singles:

R. HUNTER (Wisb) bt Judd -17, 19, 19.

Veterans' Singles:

J. ASHMAN (Ely) bt R. Trigg (Camb) 11, 14.

Handicap Singles:

P. HOLLIDAY (March) (20) bt G. Jordan (March) (7) 41-28.

Men's Doubles:

RICHARDSON/HARPER bt P. Pyburn/R. McMillan (Camb) 10, -20, 16.

Women's Doubles:

JUDD/PALMER bt Hunter/A. Rudd (Wisb) 17, 15.

Mixed Doubles:

RICHARDSON/JUDD bt Withers/Hunter 12, -18, 18.

Merit Award:

J. COLLINS (Wisb).

All replicas were supplied by Pye Telecommunications.

Cambridge's interest in the National Competitions has ended with both the men's and boys' teams being knocked out in the second round of their respective competitions. The Men were beaten 5-1 by Norwich in the Wilmott Cup. A very young Norwich team of Richard and Martin Stephenson and Philip Logsdon proved much too strong for the ageing Cambridge team. John Thurston defended stoutly against Martin Stephenson to record Cambridge's solitary win.

The boys' team did only slightly better against Luton in the Carter Cup, going down 2-4.

The Bedfordshire county players Colin Luscombe and David Sharpe proved too strong for Cambridge with Sharpe winning three and Luscombe two. Cambridge had to take advantage of the weaker third player Martin Sharpe and both Stephen Meehan and Cameron Alexander had wins over him.

George Yates reports from . . .

LANCASHIRE

MALADMINISTRATION OR APATHY?

Perhaps I was a little severe in accusing the Burnley and District League of mal-administration in respect of the Lancashire and Cheshire League Championships scheduled to have been played at Burnley Sports Centre on November 29/81.

But the fact remains that the Bolton League, which boasts many registered inter-league players, did not receive a supply of forms nor too did others which may account for the nil return from 21 leagues not included in the entries received as listed in the letter signed by Messrs. Magnall, Ingham and Saunt.

I have the utmost respect for these three gentlemen who, over the years, have given yeoman service to the cause of table tennis in this north-east corner of Lancashire. I am aware that apathy exists in the distribution and submission of forms but I, personally, apart from never being the recipient of a form, was never informed of an extension to the closing date. Nor too was the County chairman, Arthur Upton, or the County Secretary, John McKim.

Surely the assistance of the county officers should have been sought more especially the Press Officer whose job it is to spread the gospel. But perhaps I should have laid greater emphasis on apathy for the Lancashire County Closed Championships, which was to have been run by the Fleetwood League, had also to be cancelled due to lack of entries. This latter event was scheduled for Dec. 20 — not, perhaps, the ideal date but the only one available. And, then again, what weather we were experiencing at that time.

In the latest round of County matches, played on Jan. 23, Lancashire's juniors brought off their fifth successive victory and look to be running away with the Div. 3A title. Philip Huggon, Lancashire's top

junior, suffered his first defeat of the season in this latest encounter, away to Notts, when beaten by Richard Tilford who also accounted for Michael Mercer in an 8-2 win for the Red Rose county.

Young Huggon has been going great guns in all manner of competitions and in a recent Lancs & Ches. League match accounted for Derek Schofield, Roger Hampson and Ron Weatherby in a 9-1 victory for Preston over Stockport.

Playing for Penwortham GRYF in the national club k.o. competition the Chipping schoolboy recorded wins over Jack Clayton, Roy Frankland and Brian Carney of Savoy (Fleetwood) — a treble of some distinction!

Lancashire's second senior team was also on song away to Worcestershire on Jan. 23 winning 7-3 with Preston's Paul Rainford leading the assault and Jean Parker and Sue Hughes performing well on the distaff side.

Bolton's Shaun Browne — he won the Bolton League's Division 1 individual title beating Steve Cowley in the final — caused consternation in the county camp when he asked not to be considered for the Red Rose junior team, as playing in Div. 3A of the County Championships would have no bearing on results submitted to the Lentec computer affecting his national ranking.

Steve Skidmore, writing in the Lancashire Evening Post, says "England's top woman player, Jill Hammersley, is now based in Preston . . . and that is good news for the town's young players. For at the end of this season she intends to help out at the coaching sessions held by Preston's Donald Parker, himself an England international player".

"Preston has some good young players" said Jill, who is living in Levensgarth Avenue, Fulwood. "There are certainly one or two who could make it to the top. Joy Grundy and Jean Parker look very promising players to me".

I wonder what Jill's views are on young Huggon — or of Richard Tilford for that matter!

Ray Simpson reports from . . .

DURHAM

WELL-DESERVED WIN

Durham Seniors gained a well-deserved 9-1 away win over Cumbria in their recent match. Once again the team turned in a good performance. Details (Cumbria names first):

- C. Stebbing lost to T. Gelder -4, -17.
- N. Honeyman lost to I. Svenson 19, -21, -13.
- A. Fay bt D. Svenson -17, 16, 18.
- M. McParland/J. Sephton lost to L. Yarnell/J. Smith -13, -19.
- Fay/N. Honeyman lost to Gelder/D. Svenson -14, -13.
- Stebbing lost to I. Svenson -14, -15.
- Sephton lost to Smith -14, -14.
- Fay lost to Gelder -13, -20.
- McParland lost to Yarnell -13, -18.
- Honeyman lost to D. Svenson -13, 16, -11.

The juniors meanwhile are still finding life hard and points difficult to come by. In their last match, they lost 1-9 away to Yorkshire II, despite going into an early lead thanks to Darren McVitie.

Scores (Yorkshire first):

- J. Thatcher lost to D. McVitie 13, -23, -21.
- M. Firth bt G. Webstell -16, 17, 17.
- R. Whiteley bt D. Blackburne 8, 18.
- R. Brook/J. Shaw bt E. Blackburne/L. Wilson 10, 12.
- Whiteley/Firth bt McVitie/Blackburne -10, 19, 18.
- Thatcher bt Webstell 11, -18, 14.
- Shaw bt Wilson 14, 16.
- Whiteley bt McVitie 16, 9.
- Brook bt Blackburne 14, 12.

Firth bt Blackburne 17, 5.

Durham unfortunately forfeited their hard-earned draw against Cheshire in the Administrator's Room when it was found that Lyn Yarnell and Julie Smith had played out of order, and therefore lost the two sets they had won.

One success story in the Sunderland League has been the popularity of its new magazine 'Topspin'. The editorial committee of Harry Black, Gordon Taylor and Dave Bissett have done well to produce a magazine containing many statistics of happenings both inside and outside the Sunderland League. We hope their success continues.

In the Durham Senior league, there are three teams fighting it out at the top of the men's Division — Darlington, Philadelphia "A" and Sunderland "A". However, none of these three have met each other yet, with everything possibly depending on Philadelphia's last two matches, against the other two.

Table

	P	W	D	L	P
Darlington	5	5	0	0	19
Philadelphia "A"	5	5	0	0	18
Sunderland "A"	3	2	1	0	10
Peterlee	4	1	1	2	7
Bishop Auckland	4	1	0	3	5
Philadelphia "B"	2	1	0	1	4
Sunderland "B"	3	0	0	3	1
Aycliffe	3	0	0	3	0
Durham	1	0	0	1	0
Stanley	2	0	0	2	0

South West Durham, meanwhile, were spared from any further purgatory in the National League when the bad weather intervened with travelling arrangements relating to the matches against Ormesby II and Salford. The weather did not prevent them, however, making the journey to the Cleveland Open to face China I in the first round of the Butterfly International Team Tournament. Needless to say, the absence of banner headlines about this match elsewhere in this magazine, leaves the reader in no doubt about the result, but the SWD players did manage to reach double figures on a few occasions.

The leaders in the member leagues are as follows:

Aycliffe: Aycliffe Hospital
Bishop Auckland: Barrington "A"
Darlington: Buck Inn
Durham: Thornley
Sunderland: Murton C.C.

Alan Jenkins will be holding a coaching course for people wishing to qualify as coaches or upgrade, on May 2, 8 and 9 (all one course). Further details will be announced later.

Pauline Long reports from ...

NORTHUMBERLAND

NEW RANKINGS

The County Selection Committee issued their latest ranking lists just before Christmas, and these are as follows (previous positions in parentheses):

Men

1 Chu Van Que (1), 2 Andrew Clark (2), 3 Ian Robertson (3), 4 Fred Short (4), 5 John Burke (6), 6 Ronnie Scott (8), 7 Bob Dodds (7), 8 Glen McCardle (11), 9 Paul Said (5), 10 Neil McMaster (9), 11 Martin Moore (13), 12 Fred Woodhouse (15), 13 Charlie Robertson (—).

Omitted from previous list are: Martin Tate (10), Tom Trehitt (12), Steve Robinson (14), and Dave McAllister (16).

Women

Unchanged.

Boys

1 McMaster (1), 2 Nicholas Jeffreys (3), 3 Tate (2), 4 Allan Matthewson (4), 5 David O'Neill (5), 6 Paul Morton (8), 7 Peter Curry

(12), 8 Eddie Smith (13), 9 Wasim Shakoor (9), 10 Stephen Waugh (14), 11 Jonathan Miller (15), 12 Gordon Watson (6), 13 Steve Allen (7), 14 John Bridges (10).

Omitted from previous list are: Tom Blackman (11) and Andrew Drapkin (16).

Girls

1 Clare Mouzon (1), 2 Christine Burke (2), 3 Denise Campbell (4), 4 Judith Drapkin (7), 5 Tanya Cramman (5), 6 Lindsey Jackman (3), 7 Julie Robson (6), 8 Meeta Shukla (9), 9 Denise Wilkinson (—), 10 Julie Smith (—), 11 Debbie Wallace (8), 12 Carole Dobson (—).

Cadet Boys

1 Curry, 2 Waugh, 3 Miller, 4 David Watson, 5 Darren Shaw, 6 Blackman, 7 Damien Linskill, 8 S. Scott, 9 Andrew Beattie, 10 K. Patterson, 11 J. Morton, 12 M. Quinn.

Cadet Girls

1 Mouzon, 2 Drapkin, 3 Shukla, 4 Wilkinson, 5 J. Smith, 6 Dawn Smith, 7 Elizabeth Hopper.

The Junior County match against Nottinghamshire, which should have been played on the last Saturday before Christmas, was provisionally rearranged to Jan. 16. The juniors are currently lying in second place in Div. 3A and hope to have consolidated their position.

A young Chinese squad of Jiang Jialiang (age 17), Teng Yi (19) Fan Chang Mao (19), and Chen Xinhua (21), plus a women's squad of Chen Jieling (19), Chen Lili (18), Dai Lili (17) and Xie Xiaoyan (17), which participated in both the Norwich Union English Open and Cleveland Open, travelled to Newcastle to give an exhibition match at Eldon Square Recreation Centre on Jan. 4. The squad might not have been the same one that won the World Championships, but they had already proved to be up to the usual Chinese standard by successes in the Scandinavian Open, and a big crowd was well rewarded by a fine exhibition of skills between China 'A' and China 'B'.

The big freeze which lasted through the first half of January did not affect the second half League fixtures too much, and most clubs, with one or two exceptions in the outlying districts were able to commence their fixtures after the Christmas and New Year break during the week commencing Jan. 4 as scheduled.

The Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open will be held at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, on Saturday, 1st May. Entry forms will be available in due course from the Organiser, Aubrey Drapkin, 6 Northfield Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 3UL (Tel. 0632-853878).

Peter Taylor reports from ...

LINCOLNSHIRE

LINCOLNSHIRE CLOSED

Matt Shearer produced the sensation of this season's Lincolnshire Closed when he defeated Brian Hill 14, 13 in the quarter-final of the men's singles. This is only the second occasion in the last 20 or so years that Hill has been beaten in this event. Matt is playing better than ever — the National League has made him far sharper — and one can only marvel at his speed and footwork around the table. He must be the most 'youthful' fifty-year-old around and is still faster than most of the under-21's present at this tournament.

Having beaten Brian Allison in the semis he then had to face the No. 2 seed Dave Skerratt. Sadly for Matt, the pace of Dave proved too much and it was David who became the mens singles champion.

The women's singles was won by Gillian Sharpe but she was made to fight all the way by her opponent in the final. Jean White, who showed us the form that

seemed to have deserted her in recent years. Both players had little difficulty in reaching the final and as expected the final had both players pushing. It was the deadly hit of the Cator girl Gillian Sharpe that proved the deciding factor for time after time the rally ended with Gillian picking the right one to hit. In the third game it seemed over with Gillian in a comfortable lead but Jean came back to level the score and reach 20-all. Gillian showed her increasing maturity by staying composed and took the game 22-20, much to the relief of an anxious umpire!

Matt beat Allison to win the Veterans' Singles while Chris Bryan made amends for Stuart Worrell beating him in the semis of the U-21 singles by taking the boys' singles with a two-straight win over Stuart. Cathy Bryan made the juniors a family affair by taking the junior girls'. Skerratt took the U-21 singles which once again proved very popular.

The women's doubles had youth triumphing over the older established pairs with Gillian Sharpe and Debra Brown beating Jean White and Mary Burgess while Sue Radley and Jane Wingad beat Connie Moran and Kath Fisher. Gill and Deb took the final 16 in the third. Chris Bryan and Simon Pullen took the men's doubles beating Hill and Dave Armstrong and Mick East combined with Jean White to defeat Hill and Julie Shippey in the mixed final.

Details of results and a report on the Lincs Junior Closed will appear in next month's issue.

INTER-TOWN COMPETITIONS

The race for the Haigh Cup is proving to be one of the closest for many seasons with three teams still in with a chance. Scunthorpe look the best bet for they have only one match to play, against Lincoln which they should win. Grimsby have to play Boston and Grantham. If they win both and Scunthorpe win then it will be on rubber average, so the title could depend on whether Hill plays for Boston in that match. Grantham kept themselves in the race by taking a point from Scunthorpe. Bryan took all three singles in this match although his set against Hugh Dalton proved very close, 22-20 in the third. Playing with Simon in the doubles Chris won this rubber but Grantham could only manage one more win, that of Pullen over Andy Thompson.

Grantham's hopes depend on Lincoln beating Scunthorpe and then they have to beat Grimsby. So it all remains very interesting and the title will probably be decided on the last matches of the season.

The Butcher Cup is more clear. Lincoln looked the best bet with Russell Hodson, Pete Mackie and Andrew Burwell but organising errors — to put it kindly — have probably cost them the title for against their closest rivals Grimsby they turned up with only 2 players. Grimsby took full advantage of this slip and won 9-1. The inclusion of Hodson could easily have made the difference for Mackie — known by his Grimsby "friends" as Rex — lost two rubbers -20 in the third and the other 17 in the third. This fine team performance from Gary Moran, David Fyner and Trevor Vinson should now give them a great chance of winning for they have 2 points advantage and a better rubber average than their rivals Lincoln.

Grimsby have a clear lead in the Butlin Cup but could still be threatened by Spalding who are 6 points behind but have 2 matches in hand. Grimsby had a fine 8-2 win over Lincoln. For Grimsby, Kath Fisher played exceptionally well beating all three Lincoln players including Sue Radley, the score in this set being 19 in the third. Sue beat Connie Moran and Pauline Hale for Lincoln's only rubbers. This was an excellent win for Grimsby who were without

the services of their No. 1 Gillian Sharpe - she was making her debut as a play producer that day (the play turned out quite good).

The Veterans' Cup looks safely in Grimsby's hands again with only Lincoln able to challenge. The match between the two finished quite close, Grimsby winning 6-4, Barry Johnson winning all three for Lincoln.

Finally a word of praise for some of the teams in the other half of the tables. Scunthorpe in the Butlin Cup have won only one rubber all season and yet they still turn out regularly for each match. In their last match one can imagine how they must have felt for Grantham turned out England-ranked Suzanne Hunt along with Jane Wingad and Carol Exton! The experience gained this season will stand them in good stead for next season and with Rasen League almost certain of playing a team in the Butlin Cup next season, they should have at least one closer match to look forward to.

The same applies to Louth in the Butcher and Veteran and Mablethorpe in the Butcher. The team may struggle but as long as the players themselves enjoy their matches then the competitions are serving their purpose of encouraging and fostering table tennis in all areas of the county. The more teams that enter these competitions, the healthier they become and the experience gained by the players pays dividends when they return to playing in their local leagues.

Finally entry forms for our two main open tournaments are now available. Contact Sue Allison about the East of England on March 14 (Louth 605605) and Dennis Worrell about the Lincs Junior 2-Star on Sat./Sun., March 27/28 (Lincoln 683027). Entry forms for the popular Slee Sports Hall Open Under-21 event can be obtained from Pete Taylor (Grimsby 71298). It will be held at Grimsby on Sunday, April 25.

TABLES									
Haigh									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P		
Scunthorpe	5	3	2	0	34	16	8		
Grantham	5	2	3	0	30	20	7		
Grimsby	4	3	0	1	30	10	6		
Gainsborough	5	1	2	2	25	25	4		
Lincoln	4	2	0	2	19	21	4		
Louth	5	1	0	4	11	39	2		
Boston	4	0	1	3	11	29	1		
Butcher									
Grimsby	6	6	0	0	51	9	12		
Lincoln	5	4	0	1	38	12	8		
Scunthorpe	6	4	0	2	46	14	8		
Boston	5	3	0	2	30	20	6		
Grantham	6	3	0	3	27	33	6		
Gainsborough	7	3	0	4	26	44	6		
Mablethorpe	6	1	0	5	15	45	2		
Louth	6	0	0	6	7	53	0		
Butlin									
Grimsby	5	5	0	0	46	4	10		
Spalding	3	2	0	1	22	8	4		
Grantham	4	2	0	2	17	23	4		
Lincoln	3	1	0	2	14	16	2		
Scunthorpe	5	0	0	5	1	49	0		
Veteran									
Grimsby	3	3	0	0	23	7	6		
Lincoln	3	2	0	1	19	11	4		
Grantham	3	1	1	1	16	14	3		
Louth	5	0	1	4	12	38	1		

Jack Chalkley reports from ...

STAFFORDSHIRE
SUFFICIENTLY BUOYANT

Staffordshire fielded an unchanged side for their home match against Derbyshire, and despite the earlier defeat by Leics the team is sufficiently buoyant to make the run home unbeaten. This was demonstrated by a good 7-3 win with only Alan Cooke showing any real form for the visitors.

Mark Evans (Potteries) is beginning to establish himself as the County No. 3, gaining a victory against Philip Vickers and only going down narrowly against Ivor Warner 16, -19, -19. At last we have won a men's doubles! Andrew Bellingham and Andy Rich had little trouble against the partnership of Cooke and Warner, but neither of them could match the brilliance of Cooke in the singles. The visiting women were no match for Jill Harris and Janet Dunning, and it is a delight to see our ladies playing with such skill and confidence.

RESULTS
Bellingham bt Warner 12, 15;
lost to Cooke -16, -14.
Rich lost to Cooke -17, -16;
bt Vickers 19, -17, 10.
Evans bt Vickers 19, -15, 11;
lost to Warner 16, -19, -19.
Jill Harris bt Marilyn O'Sullivan 8, 12.
Janet Dunning bt Andrea Mason 12, 21.
Bellingham/Rich bt Cooke/Warner 12, 17.
Harris/Dunning bt O'Sullivan/Mason 9, 8.

One final word on the game - I hope someone tells Ivor Warner that allowing himself to get upset to the extent of swearing does not help his game. I understand that some of our own County players, fortunately not in the 'A' side, I hasten to add, have been guilty of this misbehaviour recently. I think they will find that the County committee will take a very serious view of this, and rightly so, so let's hope this is the last time I need mention it.

I was guilty of mis-spelling Colin Pearce's name the month before last, but I now have the opportunity of putting that right. Colin has recently been presented with the Wolverhampton Sports Advisory Council's Award of Merit for his contribution to amateur sport in the area. I am sure the whole County joins me in congratulating Colin. His contribution to table tennis is not just limited to Wolverhampton. He helps in many County functions - coaching, tournaments and so on, and he is one of our few active County umpires and regularly umpires at the County matches played in the south of the County.

Congratulations also to Stafford's Rachel Roberts on her selection to play for the Welsh junior team against Scotland. Welsh tournaments have been a happy hunting ground for Rachel in recent years - winning the Aberdare Open and coming runner-up in the Swansea Open this season - so it is perhaps understandable that she is delighted to take advantage of being born in Wales to obtain international honours. Rachel is currently No. 3 in the County girls' ranking list, and plays regularly for both town and County teams. Another Stafford junior rapidly gaining recognition is 13-year-old Adrian Hough. He performed creditably at the National trials earlier this season at Cadet level, and in his first season in the Stafford Div. 1 is helping (being in the team myself, perhaps I should say leading!) his team to one of the top places in the division against opposition which includes County-ranked seniors such as Bill Bridgeman, Paul Dilger and Bob Murray. Adrian was recently one of several young local sportsmen who attended a reception given by the Mayor of Stafford.

Having referred to the Stafford league, perhaps I should take the opportunity of saying that if other leagues within the County want to publicise their activities in this column their press secretaries must write to me with information. Table Tennis News with its County News Supplement provides a forum for recording what is happening in table tennis circles away from the limelight of internationals and top names and if we took the example of motor cycle scrambling, for instance, publicity is given to all levels of the sport in a weekly magazine which undoubtedly has large sales because of this broad coverage. T.T. News provides us with this opportunity on a monthly basis, so it's up to you.

When you read this there should still be time to get your entries in for the County Closed at Northwood on March 14th. If there are any difficulties please telephone me at Stafford 822013.

Ian E. McKelvey reports on the ...

MIDLAND LEAGUE

NUMEROUS POSTPONEMENTS

The snows of December and January have caused numerous postponements and a reduced programme for me to report upon. It is to be hoped that teams will make all possible efforts to play these postponed matches early and not allow them to pile up at the end of the season.

The Women's division has made most progress, as the three Market Drayton teams became particularly active. The "A" team gained wins by 10-0 over their own "C" team and 7-3 over their "B" team. Julie Ballard did notably well to beat all the "A" trio of Alison Barker, Denise Boughy and Colette Soan in the latter match. Julie has in fact only lost to Birmingham "A"s Karen Groves in her team's 3-7 defeat and took further threes in a 9-1 win over Market Drayton "C" and a 6-4 win over Birmingham "B". Market Drayton "C" are struggling. They have lost all six matches so far and only made any impression on Leamington, going down 4-6. Nicola Thorneycroft won two on this occasion, but Lynn Brison's maximum for Leamington was decisive. Kidderminster are also struggling, losing 1-9 to Derby and doing their cause no good by defaulting to Market Drayton "A". In due course I expect that Kidderminster will have to play Market Drayton "C" for the wooden spoon.

The two Veterans divisions have also progressed well despite the snow. One match that was affected was Leicester "A"s visit to Coventry "A", the Leicester team reaching 6-0 and then conceding four sets in order to beat the snow home. Leicester lie third in Div. 1, but Nottingham "A" and Birmingham "A" are beyond everyone else's reach and continue their serene way. Birmingham had a 10-0 over Walsall, Nottingham the same score over Gloucester and an 8-2 over Coventry "A", who are now over half way through their fixtures without a point, and hence in some trouble. Cheltenham confessed themselves lucky to gain a point from Oxford "A" after Alf Davies had injured his back and been forced to concede a set, but gained a justified two points at Walsall, Peter Slack winning three in a 7-3 result. Walsall themselves drew with West Bromwich in a tight match with sets alternating throughout. Phil Canning took three for Walsall. Bryan Merrett took three for Gloucester in a 7-3 win over Derby and conceded only 19 points in the match!

Stratford played in three of the five Veterans Div. 2 matches this month, losing 2-8 to Leicester "B" and Kidderminster, but beating Stroud 6-4. Dave Williams won three in the latter match and one in each of the other two. More significantly, promotion hopefuls Leamington were held to 5-5 by Birmingham "B" for whom Maurice Wood took three, including a first defeat for John Earles 19 in the third at expedite. Eight sets went to three as Nuneaton drew with Nottingham "B" mainly due to three from Arthur Cross.

Other divisions have not had so many matches. Junior Div. 5 has seen only one, in which Stratford beat bottom team Walsall "C" 8-2. Mark Stretton gained Walsall's two but could not trouble Steven Swallow who took three for the winners. Loughborough "whitewashed" Rugby in the only match in Junior Div. 4, which they head at the moment. One match only in Junior Div. 3 also, as Chesterfield "B" beat

Hinckley 8-2 with three from Paul White and two each for Simon Lennox and Chris Clay. Kevin Woodhead won Hinckley's two and seven sets went the distance.

Nottingham "B", leaders in Junior Div. 2 when I last reported, were downed 9-1 by Leicester. Simon Griew maintaining his 100% record and David Aldwinckle coming good at last. Coventry "B" take over at the top with a win 7-3 over Derby (Nigel Tucker and Clive Geelan three each) and a draw with West Bromwich (Tucker and Geelan two each). West Bromwich beat Coventry "C" 6-4 despite Mark Randle's three and drew with Albrighton, the powerful John Ford winning three in this one.

Two matches only were played in Junior Div. 1. Nottingham "A" drawing with Wolverhampton after being 5-2 up and losing 2-8 to Birmingham "B". Only Birmingham "A" and Gloucester now retain 100% records and the championship will probably go to one of these.

A young Oxford team beat Chesterfield "B" in Men's Div. 3, a very creditable performance. In Men's Div. 2, leaders Potteries "A" beat Nottingham "B" 9-1 although the Potteries captain, Craig Bakewell, reports that the match was closer than this score suggests. No doubt he was thinking of his own two wins at 20 in the third! Coventry "A" did well to beat Birmingham "B" 6-4. No player was undefeated or without a win, and this result again opens up competition for the second promotion place (it being assumed that Potteries "A" will win the division).

Bristol lost 3-7 at home to Birmingham "A" in Men's Div. 1. Paul Judd winning a maximum for the visitors, but beat Nottingham 6-4 even though the last set was conceded due to injury. Nuneaton now top Men's Div. 4. They beat Leamington 7-3 and Loughborough 6-4, also drawing with Kidderminster. Peter Muir tops the divisional averages and his absence against Kidderminster probably resulted in the lost point.

Alf Peppard reports from...

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

WEATHER PROBLEMS

I suspect that the weather is the main topic of conversation not only in Table Tennis circles but most other sports as well. I imagine that this season has presented so many weather problems that inevitably many Leagues will have to extend their fixtures or abandon them altogether.

Gloucestershire in the heart of the Cotswolds, has fared better than the unfortunate Welsh but we too have our problems (I can hear readers muttering), have not we all!

Peter Cruwys of Cheltenham began a coaching course for teachers at Saintbridge School, Gloucester in January. I was delighted to hear that any club player could also go along and derive the benefit of Peter's extensive knowledge, a nice gesture.

Bryan Merritt was due to fly out to Bombay in early February. He leads the English female trio of players as non-playing Captain for the Commonwealth Championships. Bryan very kindly drove me up to Crawley for a day at the Norwich Union English Open. The journey home went well until we got to Membury Services Station on the M4, then the fun started, snow, winds, blizzards, you name it, we got it.

Gloucester City's sole representative at Crawley was Nina Tsakarisianos who went out to Mandy Reeves in the 1st round of the qualifying. However, Nina and her partner did well in the Mixed, getting to

the 3rd round where they went out to the Koreans Kim Wan and An Hae Sook. For a first encounter at such high level Nina and Andrew Creed of Avon were not disgraced at all.

The Gloucestershire County Closed, played just before Christmas, was played out on eight tables at Stroud Leisure Centre. In all there were ten events and the final results were:

Girls' Singles:

Nina Tsakarisianos bt Sue Webley 6, 8.

Boys' Singles:

Paul Jackson bt Darren Griffin 12, -14, 18.

Women's Singles:

Tsakarisianos bt Mrs. Jean Golding 8, 11.

Mixed Doubles:

Jackson/Tsakarisianos bt Andrew Golding/Golding 12, 15.

Men's Doubles:

William Dawe/Griffin bt Bryan Merrett/Mike Collier 19, -19, 16.

Consolation Girls' Singles:

Jenny Ellery bt Clare Symonds 8, 13.

Consolation Boys' Singles:

A. Wilson bt R. Hayward 17, 17.

Women's Doubles:

Ellery/Tsakarisianos bt Golding/Webley 6, 23.

Veterans' Singles:

Merrett (Holder) bt Peter Slack 5, 6.

MEN'S SINGLES FINAL

David Harvey (Cheltenham), the defending champion, appeared to have a psychological fear of being ahead and then getting caught and passed, indeed this was to be his ultimate downfall. Leading his younger opponent Paul Jackson 17-11 in the final game Harvey allowed Jackson, the more determined player, to do precisely that. Jackson ran out winner 18, -23, 17, to take the title.

At the end of the evening Mr. Leslie Smith presented the cups and trophies and thanked Mr. George Payne of Cheltenham who was the Tournament Referee, Mr. Ray Westbury the Organiser, and Umpires Messrs. John Cooper, Trevor Golding, Jack Greening, Peter Cruwys, Jack Reeves and G. Wrightson-Warner.

In the recent computerised England Rankings four Gloucester players feature prominently. They are, Nina Tsakarisianos (No. 7) as a junior and (29) as a senior, Paul Jackson (No. 14) and Darren Griffin (No. 18) boys and finally Jenny Ellery was ranked No. 25 cadet girl. All four are registered in the Gloucester City League, and have no doubt derived a lot of their talent from Paddy Jackson the County Coach. When the first list of County Rankings were published, early in the season, they created quite a lot of interest and likewise involved players from all over the County in considerable controversy.

The Gloucs selection committee are hoping that this second list will perhaps have the same effect but it must be emphasised that these lists reflect players' efforts outside their local leagues and County and not just results between each other in say domestic competition. Below are the very latest rankings for Gloucestershire, i.e. G-Gloucester, C-Cheltenham and S-Stroud.

Men

1 Paul Jackson (G), 2 Dave Harvey (C), 3 Andrew Golding (S), 4 Graham Slack (C), 5 Darren Griffin (G), 6 William Dawe (G), 7 Richard Russell (C), 8 Martin Lane (G), 9 Paul Glead (C), 10 Sylvester Callum (G), 11 Alan Goode (G), 12 Adrian Vale (C), 13 Guy Greening (C), 14 John Turner (C), 15 Richard Peppard (G).

Women

1 Nina Tsakarisianos (G), 2 Cathy Robb (C), 3 Julie Towlie (G), 4 Jean Golding (S), 5 Jan Foulser (C), 6 Vanessa Cruwys (C), 7 Wendy Ruffle (C), 8 Julie Bearcroft (C), 9 Linda Bell (G), 10 Jenny Ellery (G).

Boys

1 Jackson (G), 2 Griffin (G), 3 David Smith (G), 4 Stuart Beattie (C), 5 Arron Beckett (G), 6 Tony Wilson (G), 7 John Greenwood (S), 8 Ian Heskins (S), 9 Russell Hayward (C), 10 Lawrence Symonds, 11 Graham Wright (C), 12 Neil Harrison (C), 13 Peter Fowler (C), 14 Martin Stephenson (C), 15 Atul Patel (G).

Girls

1 Tsakarisianos (G), 2 Ellery (G), 3 Claire Symonds (G), 4 Sue Webley (S), 5 Heather Colwill (G), 6 Julie Evans (C), 7 Carol Slack (C), 8 Celia Hughes (C), 9 Heather Penfold (G), 10 Dawn Bowles (C), 11 Emma Sprawson (S), 12 Sophie Dodd (C), 13 Megan Wiltshire (S), 14 Alison Sharpe (S), 15 Carole Wilkins (S).

Cadet Boys

1 Wilson (G), 2 Hayward (C), 3 Greenwood (S), 4 Symonds (G), 5 Fowler (C), 6 Gary Thomas (G), 7 Stephen Hodges (G), 8 P. Tandy (C), 9 Howard Williams (S), 10 Craig Saunders (G), 11 Dale Saunders (G).

Cadet Girls

1 Ellery (G), 2 Symonds (G), 3 Webley (S), 4 Bowles (C), 5 Sprawson (S), 6 Wiltshire (S), 7 Wilkins (S), 8 Anita Wyeman (G).

Gloucestershire travelled to what is possibly their most distant venue when they played The Isle of Wight at Ryde, in Div. 3B of the County Championships. The result was a draw, England's top Junior Carl Prean proved much to powerful for the Gloucs No. 1 & 2 keeping both under ten points in both games.

RESULTS

(IOW players names first)

J. Daly lost to G. Slack -19, 10, -10.

S. Harris lost to W. Dawe -8, -16.

C. Prean bt A. Golding 6, 9.

J. Batten/J. Fothergill bt J. Towie/N.

Tsakarisianos -7, 13, 11.

Prean/Daly bt Slack/Golding 12, 13.

Daly bt Dawe 15, 19.

Batten lost to Towie -18, 15, -14.

Prean bt Slack 8, 8.

Fothergill lost to Tsakarisianos -11, -13.

Harris lost to Golding -13, -17.

Early in the new year The Cheltenham TTA received the sad news of the sudden death of W. E. Griffiths, the Association's President. "Griff", as he was affectionately known, had been player, committee man, in fact everything to the Cheltenham TTA. He attended the County AGM last year and the Town's AGM, and right up to the end took a vital interest in all the goings on in the local sphere. At one period of time with his wife Doris (a Vice-President of the Cheltenham TTA) they virtually ran the association on their own. Such people as "Griff" are to be found all over the country. It is only when they are no longer with us that we who remain really begin to appreciate their value, and then perhaps it's a little bit too late.

Philip Reid reports from...

LEICESTERSHIRE

MOST IMPRESSED

I was most impressed with Jack Chalkley's remarks about my county in his 'Staffordshire Notes'. For my part I would like to say this. We have been playing Staffordshire for, to my knowledge, 35 years. I have never known an unsavoury note to spoil the proceedings and have always eagerly looked forward to meeting them. The reason is the vast amount of personalities it has been my pleasure to meet over the years and I'll name the greatest. Alan and Dorothy Deeley (did Staffordshire ever find a better sports-woman?), Ken Day, Stan Ward, Derek Backhouse, Jim and Joyce Hayward and Colin Pearce. I will, as I am only too well aware, upset people who I have left out,

but this is my list by personal experience only.

Leicestershire are well on the way to the Premier Division as a result of their win over Cambridgeshire. Paul Randell chose this match to give his finest display of the season but one can sympathise with Keith Richardson, who played magnificently but went away empty-handed, thanks to Randell and Chris Rogers. I was impressed with Andy Withers and Joanne Palmer, who won Cambridgeshire's lone sets. I was impressed too with the girls who journeyed to Cleveland and won three, only to see the team lose 4-6 in a Junior 2A encounter. Well played Yvonne Hall and Jane Heath!

Pride of place, however, must surely go to our veterans. Year after year they have struggled at the foot of the chart and Geoff Aldwinckle's wooden spoons must rival son David's trophies. However, this season they are in the unaccustomed position of undefeated champions, thanks to skipper Aldwinckle, Colin Truman, Allen (100%), Crowson and Pat Kilsby. Congratulations to all four of you, you have served the county well. Their latest exploit was to win 6-3 at Rhyl against Clwyd.

I hear on the pipeline that Dick Johnson isn't too well. Get well soon Dick!

The Leicester League is attracting people from far and wide this season. Suzanne Hunt (Grantham), Stuart Worrell and Peter Taylor (Lincoln) are three of the globetrotting fraternity but it certainly helps the standard.

Roy Williams reports from . . .

NORTH WALES WINS FOR RHYL

The North Wales inter-league competition, after three lost Sundays due to bad weather, at last got off the ground on Jan. 24 when nine matches were completed at the Coventry Co-op Holiday Camp.

In the senior competition Rhyl made a bright start with two wins whilst champions Wrexham 'whitewashed' their opponents Llandudno in their first match, but Anglesey held them to a draw later in the day.

In the veterans' division Wrexham won the only match against Llandudno in a very close encounter. Rhyl and Llandudno "B" drew. The junior division provided mixed results which, to date, gives no guide to the team that will dominate the competition.

Don Hobbs lost his unbeaten record in the first division of the Anglesey League losing to Keith Williams who won his three sets against WYLFA P.S. who had not previously lost a set. Llangefni, however, could only muster 4 sets.

Clwyd "A" and Schooner still contest the top division of the Rhyl League which now looks a two-horse race for the championship. In Div. 2 Rhyl Labour Club, led by Clive Parry look certain of promotion next season.

In Llandudno, Lansdowne and Colwyn Bay Cricket Club are level on points in Div. 1 whilst Gwersallt WMC have now gone well ahead in the Wrexham League.

G. S. RADCLIFFE CUP

The North Wales Challenge Cup, open to all member leagues has now reached the quarter-final stage, the draw being: Wylfa P.S. v Sealink Holyhead Clwyd "A" v Schooner C.B.T.T.C. v C.B. C.C. "A" Gwersallt WMC v Malpas

COUNTY UMPIRES

John Johnson and Jeff Nicholls, both from Llandudno, passed their County Umpire's test to join the swelling ranks of

North Wales officials. But more umpires are needed and no doubt the success of the latest candidates will bring in a flood of test papers.

John had his first taste of international table tennis when Wales played Ireland in a junior match at the Deeside Leisure Centre, Queensferry on Jan. 15 when Wales won 5-3.

INTER-LEAGUE RESULTS

Senior Division

Rhyl 7 Anglesey 3
Llandudno 0 Wrexham "A" 10
Rhyl 9 Llandudno 1
Wrexham "A" 5 Anglesey 5

Veteran Division

Llandudno 4 Wrexham 6
Llandudno "B" 5 Rhyl 5

Junior Division

Llandudno "A" 8 Anglesey 2
Rhyl 1 Anglesey 9
Llandudno "B" 4 Rhyl 6

Vic Bennett reports from . . .

NORFOLK

Troubles appear to keep piling up for the county selectors every now and again in the male section, just as the situation began to ease after early season problems, the news of Doug Bennett's enforced lay-off for a few months is a cruel blow indeed.

A weakened first team faced up to Cambridgeshire with a further casualty in flu victim Phil Logsdon, but Paul Durrant as the replacement fought all the way in the deciding match against the eventual winner Tony Holmes giving the visitors the points. Dave Smith beat Robert Swift but failed against Trevor Smith, while Wendy Hogg winning a singles, and doubles with newcomer, who showed great promise - Debra Brown.

The second team senior scored their first win this season against Northants 6-4, with Martyn Stevenson the key to the situation, a little rusty at county level to begin with, but once in gear he couldn't be stopped. Chris Anema won a singles then a doubles with Martyn. Joy for Joy Dixon winning the vital match at deuce in the third.

First team juniors couldn't contain the visiting Bedfordshire team, losing 7-3. But the second string had an excellent match against Cumbria, winning 6-4 with star player for Norfolk Steven Fox winning both doubles games most certainly helped.

Good news of junior activity particularly the East region Joola/Sealink Youth Cup, Simon Steward making it to the U-15 semi-finals, as did Phil Logsdon in the other half, the difference being that he had beaten his opponent earlier in the day, in the team event - that's your luck Phil!

Neil Pickard topped the day with a winning share in the boys' doubles.

During the Xmas period a table tennis evening was held by our newest members, the DISS, with Doug Bennett, Paul Durrant and juniors Steven Fox and Simon Steward, playing with the hosts' top players. Credit to the committee for the organisation and indeed the excellent press coverage.

The Norwich League T.T. Centre story gets better day by day and it is now in a go situation. Within hours of the decision at a special meeting, two additional grants were disclosed of £10,000 and £3,000, making £34,000 against an estimated cost of £45,000. The balance doesn't seem as formidable now, but Amenity Officer Len Miller and his fund raising committee won't be pensioned off yet, still in search of donations, etc. and many ideas beginning to surface. There must be quite a few players somewhere in the country who have enjoyed playing in the Norwich League in years gone by, who might like to contribute. Donations to Len Miller, Norwich T.T.

League Amenity Fund, 82 Lloyd Road, Taverham, Norwich.

The lesson here for other towns or cities who have aspirations for a table tennis centre is - don't give up, Norwich almost did that!

Obituary

NAT SIMON

Nat Simon aged 41, died suddenly after playing a league match. I write not only on behalf of everyone in the Ilford League but as a fellow club mate. Nat, Chairman of Wanstead & Woodford TTC for the past twelve years, was an ardent worker on behalf of the Club, playing a major roll in the rise of a small club in Division 8 to the success for a small club in Division 1. Recently, making a comeback to table tennis after a stomach operation during the summer, he won the Wanstead & Woodford TTC club championship singles title for '80/81, playing with all his old skills. Indeed before joining Wanstead & Woodford TTC in the Ilford League some 16 years ago, Nat played representative table tennis for Willesden. Table tennis was not the only activity Nat excelled at. He was involved in helping handicapped children. As a taxi driver he helped to organise the yearly events and fund raising for their cause. Whatever I write cannot express the great loss we all feel, words are not enough. Our deepest sympathy from everyone within the Ilford League to Melody, his wife, and Elaine his daughter. Melody insisted "play must go on" as Nat would have wished it. We shall, at Wanstead, try to follow his example - a man who will indeed be hard to follow.

VIC ELSTON.

4th North Wales Junior Open

PROBLEMS OVERCOME

by Philip Leddy

Overcoming the problems caused by the "Arctic Freeze" and the rail dispute, the organising committee of the East Flint League breathed a sigh of relief when proceedings finally got under way in the 4th North Wales Junior Open held on Saturday, Jan. 16/82.

The huge multi-sports complex of Deeside Leisure Centre again provided an excellent venue, with Dunlop Sports supplying the equipment. As expected entries were slightly down on last year with the Scottish squad unable to travel down, but the Irish overcame the Sealink strike by sailing to Liverpool bringing with them a 40-strong party led by their No. 1 Colum Slevin.

The boys' singles final saw a tense and exciting contest between Slevin and Andrew Jones, the Welsh No. 1. The top seeds produced some fast and spectacular rallies, but an unfortunate attack of cramp at a vital stage in the third detuned a confident Jones leaving Slevin a somewhat reluctant winner.

Jones had been taken all the way by Cleveland's Lindsay Taylor in the semis in a nail-biting set which could have gone either way while Slevin had to fight off a determined Nigel Tyler who had done well to reach the semis.

The girls' singles saw Cheshire's Tracy Lightfoot in fine form with a final win over Christine Peacock. Tracy, a combination bat player with undoubted ability, swept aside Ireland's Elaine Tuohy and Wales' Rachael Roberts on her way to the final,

while Christine was taken close by Alison Barker in the quarters but showed solid defensive form against Cumbria's Debbie Soothill in the semis.

Cleveland's Stuart Craggs confirmed his England ranking by taking the cadet boys' title but found local 'find' John Ellis a tough nut to crack in the final. Ellis's steady and consistent play had seen him through a difficult semi against Yorkshire's Nigel Wesson, while Craggs had a much easier passage against Ireland's Ivory and Martyn Campbell of Warwicks.

Debbie Soothill beat top-ranked Alison Barker in her cadet girls' semi in three closely contested games, while Cheryl Clarke held off the diminutive Clare Potts in her half. In the final, however, Debbie always looked in command to claim the title.

The Boys' doubles produced plenty of shocks with the effervescent Craggs and Tony Wattis of Cleveland ousting the vastly experienced pairing of Slevin and Brian Orr in their semi. A clever mixture of pace foxed the Irish pair but, in the final, the honours went to the scratch pairing of Lindsay Taylor and local lad Paul Griffiths who carried a little too much power with their heavy hitting. The girls' doubles produced a win for Caroline Hemming and Cheryl Clarke who just edged home from Christine Peacock and Helen Lower of Staffs.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Jones (Wal) bt F. McEwen (La) 17, 16;
L. Taylor (Cv) bt I. Smith (Sp) 9, 14;
N. Tyler (Wal) bt A. Wattis (Cv) 19, 17;
C. Slevin (Ire) bt D. Griffiths (Wal) 9, 7.

Semi-finals:

Jones bt Taylor -23, 16, 22;
Slevin bt Tyler 17, 21.

Final:

SLEVIN bt Jones -20, 14, 16.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

R. Roberts (Wal) bt C. Hemming (La)
-7, 14, 15;

T. Lightfoot (Ch) bt E. Tuohy (Ire) 12, 11;
C. Peacock (La) bt A. Barker (Sp)

18, -18, 14.

D. Soothill (Cu) bt C. Wickstead (Sp)
15, 22.

Semi-finals:

Lightfoot bt Roberts 13, 14;
Peacock bt Soothill 10, 5.

Final:

LIGHTFOOT bt Peacock 19, 16.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

N. Wesson (Y) bt P. Brown (Cv) 14, -16, 17;
J. Ellis (Wal) bt A. Redmond (Ire) 18, 10;

C. Russell (Ire) bt M. Campbell (Wa)
12, 11;

S. Craggs (Cv) bt M. Ivory (Ire) 15, 11.

Semi-finals:

Ellis bt Wesson -21, 19, 19;
Craggs bt Campbell 19, 14.

Final:

CRAGGS bt Ellis -19, 17, 16.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Barker bt H. Curry (Ire) 5, 17;

Soothill bt L. McEwen (La) 9, 11;

C. Clarke (Ch) bt L. Cullen (Ire)

-15, 20, 16;

C. Potts (Cv) bt T. Hughes (Ire) 18, 17.

Semi-finals:

Soothill bt Barker -19, 16, 16;

Clarke bt Potts -15, 18, 11.

Final:

SOOTHILL bt Clarke 18, 15.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Griffiths/Taylor bt Jones/Tyler 15, 15;

Craggs/Wattis bt B. Orr (Ire)/Slevin 19, 23.

Final:

GRIFFITHS/TAYLOR bt Craggs/Wattis
17, 13.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

H. Lower (St)/Peacock bt H. Cotter/
R. Roberts (Wal) -10, 10, 16;

Clarke/Hemming bt K. Ring (Ire)/Tuohy
-16, 18, 15.

Final:

CLARKE/HEMMING bt Lower/Peacock
22, -15, 17.

Yorkshire Junior Open

JOURNEY WORTHWHILE

by Rea Balmford

Despite the non-arrival of large contingents of players, particularly from the Midlands and the South, the Yorkshire Junior Open went ahead as scheduled at Hull over the weekend of Jan. 9/10.

The top seeded players in all events were particularly hard hit by the Arctic weather with only three of the eight seeds in the major Boys' Singles event able to make the date, but one who did manage to struggle through to Humber side after a marathon journey from Kent, was David Dodd.

He began the final stage of his trek at Kings Cross station at 5 a.m., but must have felt that it was all worth while when he returned late the same evening with the title under his belt.

Dodd had no easy passage, for he was extended to advantage games by David Topiwala in the quarters and then to 19 in the third by David Rook at the penultimate stage.

Steven Sharpe took out top seed Alan Cooke in his quarter and then removed Darren McVitie, who had played through from the groups to take the fourth semi-final spot, but the Yorkshire boy was unable to hold the higher-ranked Dodd.

In the parallel Girls' event Rachel Brook shot out the second seeded Melanie Seaton before falling to Lesley Broomhead, who lined up against top seed Jean Parker in the final.

There was further disappointment for Miss Broomhead in the Doubles when, partnering the champion, the pair went down to Josette Ryalls and Miss Seaton, while in the Boys' Doubles two pairs who were brought together when the absentees were taken out of the draw, faced each other, with Rook and Richard Whiteley getting the verdict over Sharpe and Shaun Browne.

The Cadet events provided a clean sweep for the host County's players with Martin Firth and Joanne Shaw powering their way to the singles titles and then sharing wins in the doubles with Andrew Cunningham and Ruth Baxter respectively.

As with the Juniors, the Cadet Boys' Singles suffered badly from the weather with only Firth, Cunningham and Stuart Craggs remaining in the seeded spots, and Cunningham going on to despatch Craggs in Round 3.

The vacant semi-final places were taken by local boy John Bult, who progressed at the expense of the fancied Andrew Henry, and Cumbria's Ian Sharp.

With the girls Diane Malpass had a win over the higher-ranked Claire Mouzon before going out to the eventual winner, while Miss Barker, another of the six seeded players left in the draw, fell to Tanya Holland.

Although beaten by the hard-hitting Wakefield left hander in the final, Miss Holland gained reward in the Under-12 event with a win over Lisa Robins, while one of the best sets of the Sunday finals session featured the U-12 boys where Lancashire's Sean Gibson had the better of Chris Glossop from the rapidly building Chesterfield stable — two boys here to be watched for the future.

Finally, through the columns of the magazine, a word of thanks to all those

who, despite the atrocious weather, enabled the 150 or so players who were able to make the journey to enjoy some worthwhile table tennis.

Referee Lewis Ward, taking his first Open Tournament, who brought both understanding and common sense to bear on the many problems which arose from the non-arrival of competitors; those parents and others who willingly helped out with the various tournament tasks including umpiring; the small, but enthusiastic squad of umpires, both qualified and otherwise who did such a fine job; and finally to all the players who telephoned me on the Thursday and Friday evenings prior to the Tournament to let me know that they were unable to travel, not forgetting my wife Janet who did an excellent P.R.O. job for the County at the receiving end of the telephone.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Dodd (K) bt D. Topiwala (Mi) 20, 22;
S. Sharpe (Y) bt A. Cooke (Dy) 19, 10;
D. Rook (Y) bt S. Bevan (La) 18, 20;
D. McVitie (Du) bt M. Firth (Y) 17, 13.

Semi-finals:

Dodd bt Rook 13, -19, 19;
Sharpe bt McVitie -16, 17, 10.

Final:

DODD bt Sharpe 19, 14.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

J. Parker (La) bt C. Peacock (La) 23, 16;
L. Broomhead (Y) bt R. Brook (Y)
14, -13, 19.

Final:

PARKER bt Broomhead -17, 13, 20.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

R. Whiteley (Y)/Rook bt Sharpe/S. Browne
(La) 19, -17, 13;
Cooke/McVitie bt A. Cunningham (K)/
Topiwala 10, 16.

Final:

WHITELEY/ROOK bt Sharpe/McVitie
16, 12.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

M. Seaton/J. Ryalls (Y) bt L. Robins (Bd)/
H. Broomhead (Y) 11, 13;
Parker/Broomhead bt J. Evans/A. Evans
(Hull) 17, 14.

Final:

SEATON/RYALLS bt Parker/Broomhead
-9, 18, 17.

Cadet Events

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

Firth bt P. Brown (Cv) 15, 11;
Cunningham bt S. Craggs (Cv) 7, 17;
J. Bult (Y) bt A. Henry (Dy) 16, -12, 20;
I. Sharp (Cu) bt I. Omand (Y) 12, -20, 12.

Semi-finals:

Firth bt Bult 4, 9;
Cunningham bt Sharp 13, 15.

Final:

FIRTH bt Cunningham 13, 11.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

J. Shaw (Y) bt D. Malpass (Y) 9, 16;
D. Soothill (Cu) bt T. Holland (E) 13, 15.

Final:

SHAW bt Soothill 15, 14.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Cunningham/Firth bt Craggs/Henry 14, 8;
S. Steward/N. Pickard (Nk) bt Bult/Omand
-16, 14, 16.

Final:

CUNNINGHAM/FIRTH bt Steward/Pickard
16, 5.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

L. Forster (Le)/Soothill bt A. Wattis (Cv)/
Robins 21, 11;
Shaw/R. Baxter (Y) bt Malpass/C. Mouzon
(Nd) 11, -18, 17.

Final:

SHAW/BAXTER bt Forster/Soothill
15, -7, 17.

Under-12 Events

Boys' Singles Final:

S. GIBSON (La) bt C. Glossop (Dy)
12, -21, 12.

Girls' Singles Final:

HOLLAND bt Robins 7, 18.

SEALINK YOUTH CUP COMPETITION



Nicky Jarvis with Eastern region runner-up Alison Boxall who was unfortunate to live in the same region as Linda Bellinger.

£3,000 WORTH OF PRIZES by Alan Ransome

Although the country witnessed some of the worst snow and ice conditions for many years, the Sealink Youth Cup was only marginally affected and the regional competitions were played at five venues throughout the country, in the Christmas fortnight.

Altogether almost 700 youngsters competed, sharing at a regional level more than £3,000 worth of prizes. The Tees Sport organising team included Duggie Johnson, Nicky Jarvis and Linda Jarvis who attended the various tournaments, chatted with the competitors, manned the exhibition stand and presented the prizes.

U-15 Boys' Section

The best performance in the U-15 boys' section came from Nigel Tyler in the South East region which was played at the Britannia Leisure Centre. Tyler won the title by beating Andrew Dodd and Paul Savins turning in some of the best table tennis of his career.

This section, in the Midlands region, was predictably won by Billy Gleave who beat Ivan Smith playing on his home ground in the final and U-13 Andrew Dixon in the semi-final.

The Northern region winner was Darren McVitie who beat Lancashire's new starlet Philip Huggon in straight games in the final and his Sealink International team mate, Anthony Wattis, 21-10 in the third in the semi-final, after Wattis had put out one of the favourites, David Rook, a round earlier. Stuart Craggs did well to beat Martin Firth but found the combination bat of Huggon too confusing.

The Wales and West section was won by Cornishman Mark James. James never looked in trouble. In the final he beat Andrew Oxley comfortably.

The Eastern region championship was one of the closest with Steven Dorking of Essex winning "deuce" in the third against his county team mate Andrew Barker. Dorking enjoyed an easier victory over Simon Steward of Norfolk in the semi-final.

U-15 Girls' Section

Full marks in the U-15 girls' section must go to Staffordshire's Amanda Heggarty who beat two England-ranked players, Alison Barker of the Grove School and Jill Powis to take the Midlands title. Both matches were won by close margins and Amanda was delighted with her success.

The South East championship proved more predictable as Susan Collier beat Lesley Souter and Teresa Moore comfortably to qualify for the finals. One of the best performances was the semi-final win for Teresa Moore who beat Lesley Popkiewicz comfortably.

The Wales and West section was dominated by the Wiltshire girls, Sarah New and Claire Hunter with the winner being Miss New after a close final, whilst the North, also predictably, went to Yorkshire's Joanne Shaw. Although Joanne was favourite to win the title, she was taken to three games in the semi-final by Angela Hewitt of Yorkshire and again in the final by promising Cumbrian girl Debbie Soothill.

The favourite for the Eastern region, England No. 1 junior Lisa Bellinger, won through comfortably even though it was one of the strongest sections. In the semi-final she beat Alison Barker of Essex, then in the final Hertfordshire's Alison Boxall, both victories being comfortable.

U-13 Boys' Section

Living up to his countryman's tradition, Anthony Jones won the Wales and West section of the U-13 boys' singles beating Leon Jose of Cornwall in an exciting final. Although being Wales' best prospect for some time, Jones also had a tough match in the semi-final against Michael Oxley of Wiltshire.

One of the favourites for the U-13 boys' title is Sealink Ormesby player Stuart Craggs. He won the Northern region competition without a close match, beating Sean Gibson of Lancashire in the final.

The South East section was won by Jonathan Goode of Middlesex. He did well to beat Darren Hams of Surrey and Michael Rutherford of Kent, whilst another of the favourites, little Andrew Dixon, was a com-



Under-13 Midlands winner Adrian Dixon with Duggie Johnson. Adrian also enjoyed a good run in the Under-15 section.

fortable winner in this section in the Midlands region defeating Matthew Harvey of Staffordshire in the final.

The Eastern region competition was won by Tony West of Northampton without being stretched. However, a very promising 10-year-old, Neil Pickard of Norfolk, did extremely well to reach the final.



10-year-old Norfolk prospect, Neil Pickard receiving his runners-up prize from Duggie Johnson.

U-13 Girls' Section

The Midlands competition at the Grove School provided one of the best U-13 girls' sections in which Jill Powis was the eventual winner beating Angela Sanders in straight games in the final after Miss Sanders had played extremely well to beat Cheshire prospect Claire Potts in straight games in the semis.

The Welsh title was won by another contender for the national title, Helen Perrott, although she was fully extended by Evelyn Wright in the final.

The Eastern championship was won by Essex starlet Lisa Hayden who comfortably beat Lisa Robins in the final. One of the best sets in this competition was Miss Robins' victory over Tanya Holland in the semi-final.

Debbie Soothill was a good winner of the Northern title beating Sarah Hammond in the final, whilst Lesley Souter fully deserved to win the South East section beating Karen Wilde of Surrey comfortably in the final.

Lesley Souter came into her own in the South East region where she won the title comfortably beating Karen Wilde of Surrey in straight games in the final.

RESULTS

MIDLANDS

U-15 Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

B. Gleave (Ch) bt M. Randle (Wa) 19, 11;
A. Dixon (St) bt R. Hayward (St) 20, 15, 19;
I. Smith (Sp) bt M. Campbell (Wa) 20, 8;
M. Thomas (Wa) bt D. Williams (Sp) 16, 21.

Semi-finals:

Gleave bt Dixon 16, 12;

Smith bt Thomas 18, 19.

Final:

GLEAVE bt Smith 13, 17.

U-15 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

A. Heggarty (Sa) bt A. Barker (Sp) 13, 25;

J. Powis (St) bt L. Forster (Dy) 15, 15.

Final:

HEGARTY bt Powis 11, 19, 18.

U-13 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

Dixon bt C. Glossop (Dy) 19, 12;

M. Harvey (St) bt P. Fisher (Sp) 32, 17, 13.

Final:

DIXON bt Harvey 10, 12.

U-13 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Powis bt L. Davis (Wo) 13, 13;

A. Sanders (St) bt C. Potts (Ch) 18, 15.

Final:
POWIS bt Sanders 11, 24.
U-15 Boys' Team Final:
 F. Gleave/G. Dickson (Ch) bt Thomas/I. Davies (Wa) 3-2.
U-15 Girls' Team Final:
 F. Forster/To Thuy Dung (Dy) bt Barker/C. Wickstead (Sp) 3-2.
U-13 Boys' Team Final:
 F. Dixon/Fisher bt I. Gerrard/S. Jones (Ch) 3-0.
U-13 Girls' Team Final:
 F. Powis/Sanders bt Potts/D. Wickstead (Sp) 3-2.

WALES & WEST
U-15 Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
 A. Beckett (Gs) bt D. Smith (Gs) 15, -17, 5;
 A. Oxley (Wi) bt J. Hook (Wi) 19, -15, 13;
 R. Vowles (Wi) bt H. Fine (Gn) 12, 14;
 M. James (Co) bt M. Holt (Wi) 9, 8.
Semi-finals:
 Oxley bt Beckett 14, 14;
 James bt Vowles 8, 14.
Final:
 JAMES bt Oxley 17, 12.
U-15 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
 C. Hunter (Wi) bt E. Wright (Cw) 20, -19, 18;
 S. New (Wi) bt M. Cohen (Av) -13, 18, 15.
Final:
 NEW bt Hunter -22, 21, 17.
U-13 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:
 A. Jones (Gn) bt M. Oxley (Wi) -10, 20, 17;
 L. Jose (Co) bt P. Payne (So) 16, 11.
Final:
 JONES bt Jose 15, -22, 19.
U-13 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
 H. Perrott (Av) bt F. Stuart (So) 10, 14;
 Wright bt J. Ellery (Gs) 16, 20.
Final:
 PERROTT bt Wright 14, 22.
U-15 Boys' Team Final:
 F. Oxley/Oxley bt Vowles/Hook 3-0.
U-15 Girls' Team Final:
 F. Cohen/Perrott bt Wright/A. Clemens (Co) 3-1.
U-13 Boys' Team Final:
 M. Oxley/M. Edwards (Wi) bt L. Symonds (Gs)/A. Page (Wi) 3-0.
U-13 Girls' Team Final:
 F. Perrott/Ellery bt J. Lee/C. Whyman (Gn) 3-0.

EAST
U-15 Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
 P. Logsdon (Nk) bt T. West (E) 19, -21, 14;
 A. Barker (E) bt R. Green (Bu) 17, -22, 20;
 S. Steward (Nk) bt M. Levene (He) 19, 17;
 S. Dorking (E) bt P. Gooding (Sk) 10, 16.
Semi-finals:
 Barker bt Logsdon 18, -18, 15;
 Dorking bt Steward 6, 18.
Final:
 DORKING bt Barker -17, 17, 20.
U-15 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
 L. Bellinger (Bd) bt A. Barker (E) 10, 10;
 A. Boxall (He) bt L. Hayden (E) -17, 17, 17.
Final:
 BELLINGER bt Boxall 13, 11.
U-13 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:
 West bt I. Bird (Np) 17, 17;
 N. Pickard (Nk) bt A. Trott (Np) 16, 13.
Final:
 F. WEST bt Pickard 15, 17.
U-13 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
 Hayden bt R. Forrester (Bd) 6, 5;
 L. Robins (Bd) bt T. Holland (E) -16, 13, 19.

Final:
 HAYDEN bt Robins 6, 17.
U-15 Boys' Team Final:
 Barker/Dorking bt D. Cole (E)/R. Darnell (E) 3-0.
U-15 Girls' Team Final:
 Bellinger/Boxall bt Barker/Hayden 3-0.
U-13 Boys' Team Final:
 West/Pickard bt M. Cole (E)/D. Holland (E) 3-0.
U-13 Girls' Team Final:
 Holland/Robins bt Forrester/J. Mitchell (Bd) 3-0.

SOUTH EAST
U-15 Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
 N. Tyler (Mi) bt P. Amos (K) 16, 13;
 A. Dodd (K) bt J. Goode (Mi) 13, 15;
 P. Savins (Bk) bt C. Bartram (K) 17, 17;
 A. Cunningham (K) bt J. Cornelius (Sy) 11, 21.
Semi-finals:
 Tyler bt Dodd -15, 11, 15;
 Savins bt Cunningham -17, 12, 16.
Final:
 TYLER bt Savins 22, 13.
U-15 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
 S. Collier (Bk) bt L. Souter (Mi) 18, 16;
 T. Moore (Sx) bt L. Popkiewicz (Sy) 8, 8.
Final:
 COLLIER bt Moore 11, 18.
U-13 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:
 M. Rutherford (K) bt G. Barden (K) 18, 17;
 Goode bt D. Hams (Sy) 14, 16.
Final:
 GOODE bt Rutherford 9, 16.
U-13 Girls' Singles Final:
 SOUTER bt K. Wilde (Sy) 15, 10.
U-15 Boys' Team Final:
 Bartram/Dodd bt Cunningham/Savins 3-0.
U-15 Girls' Team Final:
 Moore/Popkiewicz bt Souter/L. Goldsmith (Mi) 3-2.
U-13 Boys' Team Final:
 Amos/Rutherford bt Hams/P. Galica (Sy) 3-2.
U-13 Girls' Team Final:
 Souter/K. Barker (Mi) bt S. George (Mi)/J. Houghton (K) 3-1.

NORTH
U-15 Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
 A. Wattis (Cv) bt D. Rook (Y) 20, -14, 16;
 D. McVitie (Du) bt I. McLoughlin (La) 10, 14;
 S. Craggs (Cv) bt M. Firth (Y) -9, 19, 16;
 P. Huggon (La) bt R. Tilford (Ng) 20, 13.
Semi-finals:
 McVitie bt Wattis -15, 12, 10;
 Huggon bt Craggs -15, 14, 6.
Final:
 McVITIE bt Huggon 19, 16.
U-15 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
 J. Shaw (Y) bt A. Huit (Y) -22, 7, 13;
 D. Soothill (Cu) bt R. Baxter (Y) 19, 9.
Final:
 SHAW bt Soothill -18, 16, 14.
U-13 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:
 Craggs bt R. Hurley (Y) 7, 11;
 S. Gibson (La) bt L. Brown (La) 14, 22.
Final:
 CRAGGS bt Gibson 10, 13.
U-13 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:
 Soothill bt A. Wattis (Cv) 12, 16;
 S. Hammond (La) bt J. Roberts (Y) 14, -10, 11.
Final:
 SOOTHILL bt Hammond 18, 19.
U-15 Boys' Team Final:
 Firth/Rook bt McVitie/D. Blackburne (Du) 3-0.

U-15 Girls' Team Final:
 Shaw/Baxter bt Soothill/L. McEwen (La) 3-2.
U-13 Boys' Team Final:
 S. Brown (La)/J. Bult (Y) bt L. Brown/Gibson 3-0.
U-13 Girls' Team Final:
 Soothill/A. Evans (Y) bt Roberts/H. Broomhead (Y) 3-0.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES to January 31st

Seniors

Division 2A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leicester	6	5	0	1	38	22	10
Stafford	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Lancashire II	5	3	1	1	34	16	7
Cambridge	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
Yorks II	6	3	0	3	28	32	6
Warwicks II	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Derby	5	0	2	3	19	31	7
Worcester	5	0	0	5	16	34	0

Division 2B

Wiltshire	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Kent	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Dorset	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Sussex	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Herts	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Surrey	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Essex II	5	1	0	4	21	29	2
Devon	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

Division 3A

Cheshire II	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Stafford II	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Derby II	4	2	1	1	18	22	5
Durham	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Lincoln	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Leicester II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Cumbria	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

Division 3B

Dorset II	4	4	0	0	27	13	8
Hants	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Avon	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Glos	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Berkshire II	5	1	2	2	27	23	4
Somerset	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
Isle of Wight	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Cornwall	5	0	0	5	13	27	0

Division 3C

Bedford	4	3	1	0	25	15	7
Oxford	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Northants	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Worcester II	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Hunts	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Bucks	4	1	0	3	20	20	2
Hereford	3	0	2	1	13	17	2
Shropshire had withdrawn and their record deleted.							

Division 3D

Sussex II	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Middlesex II	5	4	0	1	28	22	8
Surrey II	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
Suffolk	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Herts II	5	1	2	2	23	27	4
Kent II	5	2	0	3	21	29	4
Cambridge II	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Norfolk	5	0	0	5	16	34	0

Division 4A

Wiltshire II	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Hants II	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Stafford III	2	1	1	0	14	6	2
Avon II	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Somerset II	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Division 4B

Suffolk II	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Bucks II	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Norfolk II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Northants II	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Oxford II	2	0	1	1	8	12	1

Juniors

Division 2A

Yorks II	6	5	0	1	44	16	10
Cleveland	4	4	0	0	26	14	8
Glos	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
Leicester	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Lincoln	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Durham	5	0	1	4	17	33	1
Hunts	4	0	1	3	14	26	1
Bucks	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

(continued on page 28)

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Division 2B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Devon	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Essex	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Herts	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Glamorgan	5	2	1	2	29	21	5
Berkshire	5	1	2	2	24	26	4
Wiltshire	5	2	0	3	21	19	4
Dorset	4	0	1	3	15	25	1
Avon	5	0	1	4	11	39	1

Division 3A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancashire	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Northumberland	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Cheshire	5	4	0	1	29	21	8
Cumbria	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Derby	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Notts	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Cleveland II	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Lincoln	5	0	0	5	9	41	0

Division 3B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Northants	5	5	0	0	37	13	10
Warwick II	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Worcester	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Oxford	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Bucks II	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Stafford II	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Hereford	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

Shropshire withdrawn, record deleted.

Division 3C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex II	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Surrey II	5	5	0	0	32	8	10
Berks II	5	3	0	2	31	19	6
Hants	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Avon II	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
Cornwall	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Dorset II	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
Somerset	5	0	1	4	11	39	1

Division 3D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex II	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
Kent II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Herts II	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Bedford II	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Cambridge	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Sussex II	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Norfolk	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Suffolk	5	1	0	4	13	37	2

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex III	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Norfolk II	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Hants II	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Cumbria II	3	1	1	1	19	11	3
Leicester II	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Cambridge II	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

Shropshire have withdrawn and their record deleted.

Veterans Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	3	3	0	23	4	6	
Middlesex	4	3	1	27	9	6	
Essex	5	3	2	25	20	6	
Dorset	4	3	1	17	19	6	
Worcester	3	1	2	11	16	2	
Hunts	4	0	4	8	28	0	
Lincoln	3	0	3	6	21	0	

Division 2A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Notts	5	4	1	32	13	8	
Herts	4	3	1	24	12	6	
Cheshire II	3	3	0	17	10	6	
Oxford	4	2	2	17	19	4	
Avon	4	1	3	17	19	2	
Bucks	4	1	3	12	24	2	
Northants	4	0	4	7	29	0	

Division 2B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sussex	5	5	0	35	10	10	
Kent	4	3	1	26	10	6	
Berkshire	5	3	2	24	21	6	
Hants	5	3	2	24	21	6	
Essex II	5	2	3	26	19	4	
Middlesex II	5	2	3	22	23	4	
Dorset II	5	1	4	9	36	2	
Wilts	4	0	4	5	31	0	

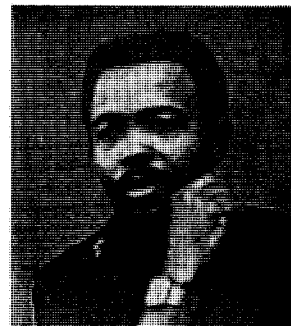
Division 3A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leicester	4	4	0	28	8	8	
Bedford	4	2	2	18	18	4	
Herts II	4	2	2	14	22	4	
Clwyd	4	1	3	15	21	2	
Cumbria	4	1	3	15	21	2	

Division 3B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Herts II	4	4	0	26	10	8	
Hants II	4	3	1	23	13	6	
Sussex II	5	3	2	24	21	6	
Kent II	4	2	2	17	19	4	
Berks II	4	1	3	19	17	2	
Somerset	4	1	3	10	26	2	
Wilts II	3	0	3	7	27	0	

THIS & THAT IN SURREY



by MURRAY CORBIN

GLOVER GETS THE VERDICT

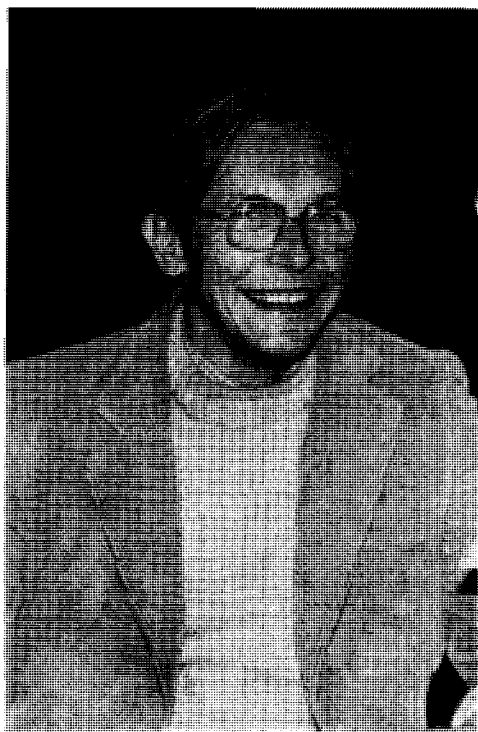
The 5th Annual New Year Junior Tournament, arranged by Alan Grant of the Elmbridge Leisure Centre, was notable not only for the record entry of 127, but also for the success that was enjoyed by the local youngsters in the Walton area.

In the final of the U-17 Singles, GRAHAM BATEMAN had a narrow victory over John Cornelius, in the 3rd, while in the final of the U-14 Singles, JULIAN DUDMAN, who was 15-19 down in the third, fought back spiritedly with some well placed forehand drives to beat Deborah Simmonds without conceding another point. Julian also took the Doubles title with his Elmbridge Club mate, PETER CANN, when they defeated the No. 1 seeds — STEPHEN HAMMOND and RUSSELL HURLEY, 21, -14, 13. Julian's natural attacking style was well backed up by the steadiness of Peter, who also produced some exceptional winners.

Regarding the U-12 Singles final, last year's winner and No. 1 seed, RICHARD JONES, was expected to thrash HENRY GLOVER, who took the first easily but lost the second after a commanding 17-10 lead. However, he played more safely and carefully in the third to wind it up at 19 in his favour. Henry also partnered JUSTIN IRWIN to win the U-12 Doubles. With two outstanding displays from Julian and Henry, deciding the winner of the trophy for the best performance was obviously difficult, but the verdict went to GLOVER, by the narrowest of margins. Well done! You winners, and commiserations to the losers.

Dulwich League

The Closed Championships will be held at PECKHAM MANOR Youth Centre on Saturday, March 20. The requirement for entry is to have played in a minimum of four matches in the league. An event of interest and curiosity should be the battle for the Women's Singles. LYNNE BENNETT, the winner over the last two years was beaten this year by JANICE SEABROOK. However, I have got this feeling that JANET SMITH, from Kent, who shows a marked improvement in her game, could upset the apple cart. Let us see who collects the trophy at the Presentation Dance, which will take place at IRVING SPORTS CLUB, Peckham,



ENCOURAGEMENT HONOURED

A leading table tennis player, paralysed from the chest down after a car crash, was made an MBE in the New Year honours.

Mr. Philip Lewis, who lives in Berkshire, has overcome his disability to win honours as a sportsman and administrator.

He has collected gold medals at paraplegic games and as chairman of the southern region British Sports Association for the Disabled Mr. Lewis has encouraged hundreds of handicapped people to get involved in sport, particularly table tennis.

Play in
style....



TSP



TABLE
TENNIS
WEAR

on Saturday, May 22. Here is an alteration for your handbook: DEREK BENNETT of Southwark TT Club new business number is 669-3468.

In the League, JOE KENNEDY, JOHN BURLETON and KEVIN CALDEN, keep Irving Sports "A" at the top of Division 1, but they are followed closely by SEDGEHILL, who are making a more than welcome return to the League. PECKHAM MANOR and DOG KENNEL HILL "D" are having a very close relationship at the top of Div. 2A, while in 2B, DOG KENNEL HILL "C" are just ahead of Irving Sports "D" and Southwark "B". PARAGON "B" have a better game average than Southwark "C" in Div. 3, where Dulwich Grove "C", "D" and "E", are looking good.

Sutton & District League

I am sad to record the death of JOHN J. (JACK) GOSENS, the first President of this League, when it was founded in 1949. Jack, who was a J.P. and Alderman, Freeman of the Borough, served two terms as Mayor, founder of the local Labour Party, even founded Sutton United Football Club in 1918, died on Sunday, Dec. 27 last year, at the age of 101.

A special tribute was paid to Jack by a current Chairman of the Bench of Sutton Magistrates Court, Ken Monksfield, who remarked after a minute's silence, "Throughout his life he was a warm, generous and kind hearted man with a keen sense of humour".

The Members of the Surrey TTA have asked me to convey through my column, their sympathy to Jack's family and friends, for the great loss they have sustained.

Leatherhead, Epsom & District League

THE CARTER CUP team of ANDREW HARDY (3), GRAHAM BATEMAN (2) and MALCOLM WILDE (1), won 6-3 against

READING recently. This is a very good result. You lads have done well. A special mention must be made of Hardy's excellent victory over the lively Jimmy Stokes. Fantastic!!

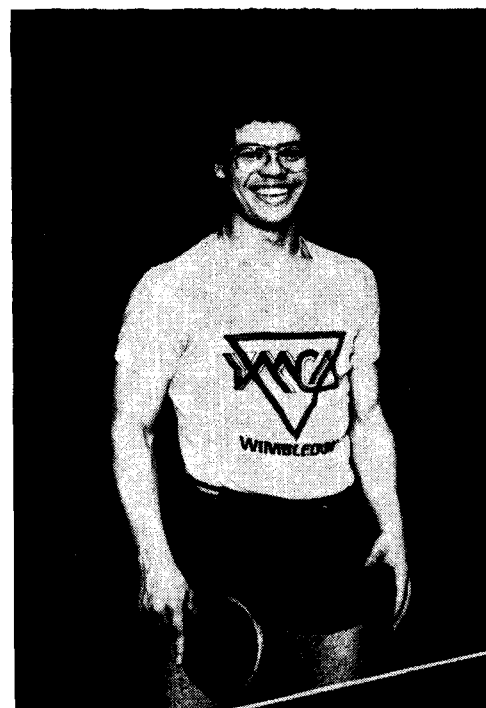
The INTER-LEAGUE team of Andrew Sexton (3), Frank Hams (1) and Robin Denman (0), were defeated 4-5 by REIGATE'S Andy Meads, Keith Horton and Richard Venner. Well done too, Reigate!

In the local league, I note that FETCHAM 1 head Spicer 1 and Mole Valley Nalgo 1, in the Premier: SPICER 2 lead Fetcham 2 and 3 in Division 1: FETCHAM 5 are just holding off Ewell Cedars 2 and Mole Valley Nalgo 3 in Div. 2, while EWELL CEDARS 4 are finding it just as tough keeping St. Johns 1 and Epcorn Post Office 1, at bay, in Div. 3. Hello to everyone at EWELL CEDARS. Perhaps I could drop by sometime.

BITS AND PIECES

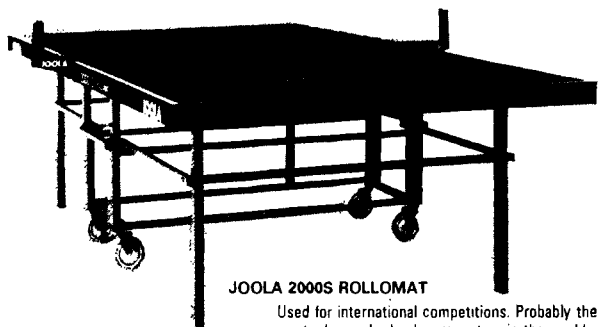
Congratulations to NORMAN and DORINDA HOOPER on the recent birth of Claire Louise, a bouncing (sorry, I must have TT on my mind) 6 lbs 9 ozs baby girl . . . CHARLES BOURNE, President of our Association, was not too well in January. I do hope that he is fit again . . . I believe that many Umpires have now made the necessary changes to their rule books to bring them up-to-date. While on this subject, JANICE SEABROOK tells me that she is 'as blind as a bat'. How do you mean I should have realised this before? . . . Contrary to rumour, MICHELE BAKER is not a Disco Queen, but my good friend MABEL FURKENTHROP-ALLSOP, says that Michele is quite a groover along with the new pin-up TONY FITZGERALD and John Payne . . . NEVILLE MILLER is still trying to make the game look too easy. In order to trick me into believing that he is working hard, he wets his face under a tap

. . . Poor thing! LARKHALL is finding it tough in the Premier of the National League . . . Have you seen Maxwell Crimmins recently? I hope that he is well . . . ROBERT CAMPBELL, you know, the little chap with the built-in illegal serve, had a short skiing



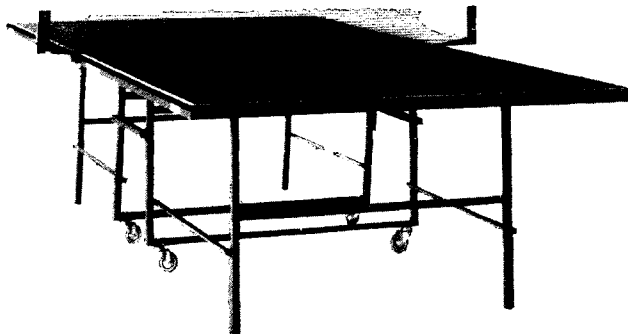
LIONEL FAURE: Terrific backhand skills. Greatly admired by Mabel Furkenthrop-Allsop.

ROLLAWAY FOLDaway the JOOLA way



JOOLA 2000S ROLLOMAT

Used for international competitions. Probably the most advanced wheelaway system in the world. Designed with large wheels that move with a light touch, together with an individual folding method. 25mm playing surface gives excellent bounce.

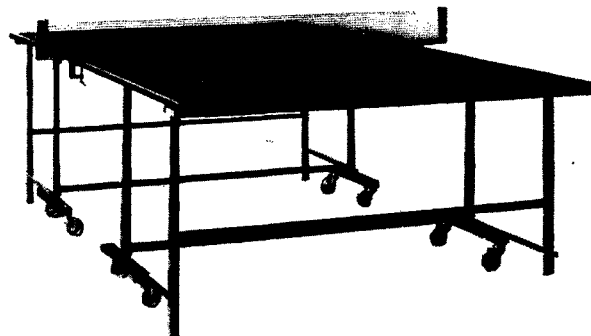


JOOLA TRIMMY.

The latest folding and wheel away table from Joola. The 19mm playing surface is ideal for most league matches whilst the flexibility of the folding system makes it completely suitable for the school or youth club with a limited budget.

JOOLA TRANSPORT

This table has many advantages. It has a 19mm playing surface suitable for league matches. For training purposes half of the table can be angled for a good ball return. Four strong wheels on each half make it the easiest table to move on the market today. Folds to take up minimum storage space. Ideal for Sports Centre use. Considered the greatest advancement in table tennis table design for many years.



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Specialists in Table Tennis

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holiday in Austria last month . . . Mabel, who finds LIONEL FAURE to be sometimes the most exciting player around, hopes that after his magnificent performances in the Kent 2-Star at Folkestone — in particular the straight victory over Michael Hammond in the quarters of the U-20 Singles — he will work his way up the National Ranking List, very quickly . . . Back to Folkestone: who was carrying whom? RON WILDE of Spicer or BRIAN BOXALL of Hertfordshire, as they paired together for the Men's Doubles? They did rather well and had some fun. I do not think it is too late for Brian to develop his tentative attacking game . . . It was nice to see LESLEY ROLL again. It always is . . . Thank you Dave Clay (Portsmouth), Jimmy Cartwright (Thames Valley), Ted Houghton and the lovelies, Manja (pronounced Mannia) Ball and Karen May from Kent, for letting me have a copy of their respective League handbooks, which I collect as another hobby. So please let me have one of yours soon . . . Has my pipeline to JOHN SOMMERVILLE for Inter-League match results dried up? . . . It must be a terrific strain on DESMOND DOUGLAS to have the cameras pointed at him everytime he is here for an important tournament. Why can we not see the best of table-tennis, even if Desmond is not involved. Perhaps ALBERT SHIPLEY could make a note of this and liaise with TONY GUBBA and the BBC, accordingly . . . Even if, as I was informed at the time, that FRANK HAMS did not appreciate my comments about his inability to hit the 'high ball', I now see him hitting at least two in twelve. Good on yer Frank! . . . Will EMIL EMECZ enter a few major tournaments this season? . . . Congratulations to all Surrey players who are currently ranked nationally . . . I apologise for being unable to attend JENNY WEBSTER'S recent engagement party to STEVE CLARK of Kingston — a very lucky cookie . . . Will Larkhall TT be really run by two people, after PETER McQUEEN'S return to the North East? . . . Mike Holloway accused me of being too critical of our County Teams and do not tell them what they want to hear. Before I say 'rubbish', I called on Mabel for her opinion and she assures me that Mike is just as blind and deaf as he always has been. Personally, I believe that Mike was peeved because I called his son, Steve, a 'wallie'. If it is any consolation, a lot of my friends are wallies. I am sure that Steve knows this, may agree with me . . . I must look out for STEVEN MORLEY, the son of Eric and Julia, who plays in the Dulwich League for Dog 'Woof Woof' Kennel Hill and in the Wandsworth, for Twenty Four Club. I am informed that he is a fair player . . . I do think that JOE KENNEDY'S game should be much more progressive and consistent. He has some class and style, but sometimes, as in Max's case, he is not stringing together. Let us see if I have shaken him up a little . . . Mabel believes that TONY FITZGERALD will be visiting Kent often, to see eye-to-eye with KAREN MAY . . . Admiration and congratulation to MARK OAKLEY for winning the Kent 2-Star U-20 Singles. Commiserations to MICHAEL HAMMOND, the losing finalist, who had to play Mark with an unfamiliar bat, because MICHELE HAMS had taken his bat home with her by mistake. The cases are of similar appearance.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 6/7 at St. Neots, Cambridge: JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND: Surrey/Yorks/Kent/Beds and Staffs.
Wed., Mar. 10: Surrey Management Committee Meeting in Sutton.
Sat., Mar. 13: County Matches: SY. SNR. 1 v Essex 2, Herts 2 v SY. SNR. 2, Middx 2 v SURREY JNR. 2.
Sun., Mar. 14: JUNIOR RANKING TOURNAMENT.
Sat./Sun., Mar. 13/14 & 20/21: WANDSWORTH CLOSED at Devas Club.

County Championships

SALOP WITHDRAW

by Philip Reid

Shropshire, as hinted in last month's County Notes, have had to withdraw all their teams from the County Championships. This is particularly unfortunate because their senior team were going great guns in Div. 3B, undefeated, whilst their junior teams, in Divs. 3B and 4 had only one defeat each. We must hope that our friends from Salop, outstandingly good sportsmen and women, will be able to join us once again in the not too distant future.

RESULTS

Division 2A

Staffordshire 7 Derbyshire 3
Worcestershire 3 Lancashire II 7
Warwickshire II 5 Derbyshire 5
Leicestershire 8 Cambridgeshire 2
Staffordshire 6 Yorkshire II 4

Division 2B

Kent 6 Essex II 4
Essex II 3 Sussex 7
Hertfordshire 7 Dorset 3
Kent 3 Wiltshire 7

Division 3A

Cheshire II 6 Staffordshire II 4
Derbyshire II 1 Durham 9
Lincolnshire 8 Cumbria 2

Division 3B

Berkshire II 10 Cornwall 0
Gloucestershire 10 Dorset II 0 (default)
Hampshire 9 Somerset 1

Division 3C

Oxfordshire 6 Northamptonshire 4
Bedfordshire 7 Buckinghamshire 3
Herefordshire 5 Worcestershire II 5

Division 3D

Kent II 7 Hertfordshire II 3
Suffolk 4 Kent II 6
Middlesex II 6 Surrey II 4
Norfolk 4 Cambridgeshire II 6
Hertfordshire II 3 Sussex II 7

Division 4A

Somerset II 10 Staffordshire III 0 (default)
Wiltshire II 6 Hampshire II 4

Division 4B

Norfolk II 6 Northamptonshire II 4

Junior Division 2A

Lincolnshire 1 Yorkshire II 9
Buckinghamshire 5 Gloucestershire 5
Durham 5 Huntingdonshire 5
Cleveland 6 Leicestershire 4

Junior Division 2B

Wiltshire 7 Avon 3
Dorset 5 Avon 5
Devon 7 Hertfordshire 3
Berkshire 8 Wiltshire 2
Glamorgan 3 Essex 7

Junior Division 3A

Cheshire 6 Cleveland II 4
Derbyshire 4 Cheshire 6
Northumberland 7 Nottinghamshire 3
Cumbria 7 Lincolnshire II 3
Nottinghamshire 2 Lancashire 8
Cleveland II 2 Northumberland 8

Junior Division 3B

Herefordshire 3 Buckinghamshire II 7
Oxfordshire 4 Worcestershire 6
Northamptonshire 7 Warwickshire II 3
Staffordshire II 10 Herefordshire 0

Junior Division 3C

Hampshire 4 Surrey II 6
Avon II 6 Cornwall 4
Somerset 4 Middlesex II 6
Berkshire II 9 Dorset II 1

Junior Division 3D

Hertfordshire II 9 Suffolk 1
Essex II 9 Cambridgeshire 1
Kent II 7 Sussex II 3
Norfolk 2 Bedfordshire II 8

Junior Division 4

Essex III 9 Cambridgeshire II 1
Norfolk II 6 Cumbria II 4

Veterans Premier Division

Worcestershire 5 Essex 4
Dorset 5 Middlesex 4
Cheshire 8 Lincolnshire 1

Veterans Division 2A

Avon 8 Buckinghamshire 1
Nottinghamshire 5 Hertfordshire 4
Cheshire II 7 Northamptonshire 2

Veterans Division 2B

Wiltshire 2 Berkshire 7
Dorset II 0 Kent 9
Sussex 8 Middlesex II 1
Essex II 7 Hampshire 2

Veterans Division 3A

Bedfordshire 5 Cumbria 4
Clwyd 3 Leicestershire 6

Veterans Division 3B

Berkshire II 8 Somerset 1
Wiltshire II 4 Kent II 5
Hampshire II 4 Sussex II 5

News from the Trade

DUNLOP LAUNCH U.K. RUBBER UNITS

Dunlop Sports Company are introducing a new U.K. made range of table tennis rubber units, following an intensive development programme over a period of three years at their Research and Development Centre at Horbury. Scientists and technologists have applied their expertise in rubber technology to develop a range of units that can compete on equal terms with top quality units traditionally imported from China and Japan. Intensive trials have indicated these U.K. made units are becoming accepted at the highest levels of the game. They will be used exclusively on Dunlop bats in 1982.

In developing the special sponge and rubber compositions necessary, development work was conducted on combinations of natural and synthetic rubbers. Cellular rubber structures (in the case of sponge) and tackifying agents and anti-degradents (in the case of the rubbers). Special mould surfaces were developed to produce the necessary matt surface finish for the reverse rubber units, and the long-term tack retention of the surface rubber was the subject of long-term study. Unique laboratory tests had to be developed so that experimental units could be evaluated in the laboratory prior to play-testing. The units are made by a precision compression moulding process, again specifically developed for the purpose, and the rigorous quality specified is maintained in manufacture.

The range of units have received I.T.T.F. approval and consist of the Spinner and Allround which are currently available and the Max Tack and Max Drive which will be available mid-1982.

The Dunlop Spinner Rubber incorporates a soft type of sponge with a rubber surface, to provide considerable spin and control. It is designed for the player requiring this particular characteristic, where the sponge enables the player to absorb the most aggressive of the opponent's spin and speed strokes. The Allround is designed specifically for the all-round player who requires control, spin and speed.

The Max Tack rubber unit provides an extremely tacky rubber surface allowing the player to gain maximum spin with the soft sponge providing superb ball control. The Max Drive is a fast rubber unit that features good spin and speed characteristics whilst retaining excellent control of the ball. Ideally suited for the attacking loop and counter-attacking player.

Additional lower-range U.K. units will also be available on the Allround Dual Purpose, Matchpoint Reverse and Black Flash table tennis bats.

European League

YUGOSLAVIA POISED FOR TITLE by George R. Yates

Yugoslavia's 4-3 victory over Czechoslovakia in Ljubljana on Jan. 13, coincident with Sweden's astounding 5-2 win over reigning champions Hungary in Budapest, took the Yugoslavs into the leadership of the Super Division of the European League with one match to go away to Poland on March 10.

Scores in Ljubljana were:
B. Mesaros lost to J. Pansky -16, -18;
Z. Kalinic bt J. Dvoracek -14, 10, 19;
B. Batinic bt M. Hrachova 13, 20;
Kalinic/M. Karakasevic lost to Dvoracek/Pansky 17, -16, -7;
Kalinic/Batinic lost to Pansky/Hrachova -11, -16;
Mesaros bt Dvoracek 18, 14;
Kalinic bt Pansky 15, 17.

In Budapest Sweden were trailing 0-2 before they launched their counter offensive which gave them the next five sets!

Scores:
G. Gergely bt U. Carlsson 16, 18;
I. Jonyer bt J.-O. Waldner 18, -20, 15;
Z. Olah lost to M. Lindblad -16, -17;
Gergely/Jonyer lost to Carlsson/Waldner -18, 9, -13;
Jonyer/G. Szabo lost to Carlsson/Lindblad -18, -12;
Gergely lost to Waldner 17, -20, -14;
Jonyer lost to Carlsson -15, -8.

England's scheduled match, away to Poland in Gdansk on Jan. 13, was called off (it has now been re-arranged for March 17 probably in Sheffield) but, lo and behold, taking on Sweden in Macclesfield on Feb. 10 they triumphed 5-2 thanks to wins by Desmond Douglas over Stellan Bengtsson and Mikael Appelgren, by Jill Hammersley over Marie Lindblad, and by Duggie Johnson and Graham Sandley in the men's doubles and Douglas and Linda Jarvis in the mixed. What a triumph!

Scores:
D. Douglas bt M. Appelgren 19, 14;
G. Sandley lost to S. Bengtsson -21, -9;
J. Hammersley bt M. Lindblad 13, 13;
D. Johnson/Sandley bt Bengtsson/U. Carlsson 15, -19, 14;
Douglas/L. Jarvis bt Appelgren/Lindblad 17, 18;
Douglas bt Bengtsson 12, -17, 11;
Sandley lost to Appelgren -14, -17.

Away to Federal Germany in Waiblingen, France brought off their first win of the season 4-3.

Scores:
R. Wosik bt C. Martin 19, -16, 11;
E. Hugging lost to P. Birocheau -23, -14;
K. Kruger lost to N. Daviaud -19, -13;
J. Rebel/P. Stellwag lost to Birocheau/B. Parietti -20, 19, -15;
Stellwag/Kruger lost to Parietti/Daviaud -14, -10;
Wosik bt Birocheau 20, 17;
Hugging bt Martin 15, 15.

SUPER DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Yugoslavia	6	5	1	27	15	5
Hungary *	6	5	1	25	17	5
Czechoslovakia	6	3	3	24	18	3
England	5	3	2	20	15	3
Sweden	5	2	3	19	16	2
Poland †	4	2	2	15	13	2
Federal Germany	6	1	5	16	26	1
France	6	1	5	8	34	1

* Defending champions † Promotees

In other matches played on Feb. 10, Hungary beat Czechoslovakia 4-3, Yugo-

slavia accounted for France 6-1 and Poland, playing in Hamburg, beat Federal Germany 4-3.

March fixtures:

10th Hungary v England
Sweden v France
Federal Germany v Czechoslovakia
Poland v Yugoslavia
17th England v Poland (? Sheffield)
24th Sweden v Poland

DIVISION ONE

Results from Jan. 13 were:
Netherlands 5 Finland 2
Soviet Union 5 Denmark 2
Greece 4 Italy 3
and on Feb. 10:
Italy 4 Netherlands 3
Finland 4 Soviet Union 3
Austria 5 Greece 2

TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Soviet Union *	5	4	1	27	8	4
Denmark †	5	4	1	23	12	4
Finland	6	4	2	25	17	4
Netherlands	5	3	2	20	15	3
Austria	5	1	4	13	22	1
Italy	5	1	4	11	24	1
Greece	5	1	4	7	28	1

† Promotees * Demotees
(Bulgaria withdrawn)

Fixtures for Mar. 10:

Soviet Union v Netherlands
Greece v Denmark
Italy v Austria

DIVISION TWO

Latest results:
Switzerland 4 Wales 3
Luxembourg 4 Switzerland 3
Belgium 7 Ireland 0
Scotland 4 Spain 3
Norway 5 Wales 2

TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Norway	6	6	0	33	9	6
Belgium	6	5	1	31	11	5
Spain	6	4	2	25	17	4
Luxembourg *	6	3	3	17	25	3
Switzerland	6	2	4	19	23	2
Scotland †	5	2	3	14	21	2
Wales †	6	1	5	15	27	1
Ireland	5	0	5	7	28	0

† Promotees * Demotees

Remaining fixtures:

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

NATIONAL LEAGUE

SEALINK GO CLEAR

An emphatic 7-1 home victory over Unity, Bradford enabled Sealink International Ormesby to leap frog to the top of the Premier Division of the English National Table Tennis League.

The team is now one point clear of Cambridgeshire Club Soham who are the reigning National Champions.

Against Bradford, the only Sealink loser was England senior No. 3 Doug Johnson who narrowly went down in three to his former Sealink Milton Keynes colleague of last season — Skylet Andrew.

Skylet continues his recent fine run that has now rocketed him up the English rankings to No. 9.

The Sealink v Bradford match also brought an unwelcome piece of English table tennis history when Unity's explosive Billy Gleave became the first player ever to be disqualified from National League play. He was disqualified after the last

point of his first game against Sealink's Keith Rodger for persistent swearing and ungentlemanly conduct following a bat throwing incident.

Billy was not allowed to play his second game against England No. 5 Donald Parker who was given a walk-over.

LEAGUE TABLES (25/1/82)

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Sealink Intl.							
Ormesby I	7	6	0	1	41	15	12
2 Massey Perfn.							
Soham	7	5	1	1	40	16	11
3 Ellenborough ...	6	5	1	0	31	17	11
4 Omega/							
Aldryngton	7	2	4	1	28	28	8
5 Unity I	7	2	1	4	22	34	5
6 Bristol & West							
Investments Ltd.	8	2	1	5	23	41	5
7 Mayfair Wall-							
cvrngs Newcastle	6	0	2	4	16	32	2
8 Larkhall I	8	0	2	6	23	41	2

Second Division North

1 Grove	8	7	0	1	49	15	14
2 Sealink Intl.							
Ormesby II	8	4	3	1	37	27	11
3 Tarmac/							
Wolverhampton I	8	5	0	3	42	22	10
4 MBS St. Neots ...	8	4	1	3	39	25	9
5 Salford Select I.	8	3	2	3	35	29	8
6 March Town	8	2	1	6	25	39	5
7 Stockton Select	7	2	1	4	18	38	5
8 South West							
Durham	7	0	0	7	3	53	0

Second Division South

1 Butterfly Cardiff	8	7	1	0	44	20	15
2 Generation II ...	9	7	0	2	47	25	14
3 Dunlop Sports							
Birmingham	8	6	1	1	48	16	13
4 Dolphins	9	4	2	3	41	31	10
5 Larkhall II	9	4	1	4	33	39	9
6 Graham Spicer	9	2	1	6	28	44	5
7 Lansdown							
Medway	9	1	1	7	23	49	3
8 Gunnersbury							
Triangle	9	0	1	8	16	56	1

Third Division North

1 South Yorkshire	9	6	2	1	50	22	14
2 Wharfedale							
Hermits	8	6	2	0	44	20	14
3 Unity II	7	4	1	2	31	25	9
4 Salford Select II	7	3	1	3	30	26	7
5 Tarmac/							
Whampton II	8	2	2	4	28	36	6
6 Sealink Intl.							
Ormesby III	8	2	1	5	25	39	5
7 Ruston Bucyrus							
Lincoln	8	2	1	5	21	43	5
8 Billingham Syn.							
J. D. White	7	1	0	6	19	37	2

Third Division South

1 Dagenham F.C.	9	8	0	1	52	20	16
2 SIB Bath	9	7	1	1	50	22	15
3 Cranfield							
Colours Gwent	9	7	1	1	48	24	15
4 Gillette Reading	9	4	1	4	33	39	9
5 Pengeley Sports							
Torbay	9	3	1	5	28	34	7
6 Southbank	8	2	0	6	26	38	4
7 Prudential Ibis	9	1	1	7	24	48	3
8 Cippenham	8	0	1	7	19	45	1

NATIONAL LEAGUE RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

17th January 1982

Omega 4 Soham 4
Larkhall 4 Mayfair Wallcoverings 4
Sealink Ormesby 7 Unity 1
Ellenborough 6 Bristol & West 2

30th January 1982

Ellenborough 5 Mayfair Wallcoverings 3

7th February 1982

Unity 5 Larkhall 3

2nd DIVISION NORTH

17th January 1982

Grove 8 S.W. Durham 0
MBS St. Neots 5 Salford Select 3
March 2 Sealink Ormesby II 6

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RUBBER CONFUSION

There seems to be some confusion about the I.T.T.F. Regulation concerning racket coverings, which came into effect on 1st January 1982.

Under this regulation only racket covering materials which have been "approved", or "licensed", by I.T.T.F. may be used at certain events. The regulation applies only to World, Continental and Open International Championships, but it may be applied to any other international competition at the discretion of the organising authority.

The only competitions to which the new regulation will apply this season in England are the Norwich Union English Open Championships, which were held in January, and the English Junior International Championships, which are to be held on 15th/16th May 1982.

Eventually it will be obvious whether or not a covering material has been properly authorised because there will be a small imprint of the I.T.T.F. logo on the surface, near the handle of the racket. Until manufacturers have cleared their existing stocks it is accepted that it will be sufficient simply for a player to identify the covering material as one of those included in the I.T.T.F. list of authorised materials.

TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS BEWARE

At the Cleveland 3-Star at the beginning of January, three well known players booked into one of the hotels where special rates had been negotiated by the organisers, gave false names and addresses and left, having lived it up for the weekend, without settling the bill.

The three offenders were eventually traced by the organisers and have now settled their accounts, although investigations have shown that this is not an isolated incident. All tournament organisers are therefore advised when negotiating rates for their tournaments to insist that the hotel be responsible for securing payment for all residents enjoying such favourable terms, to avoid such unfortunate and damaging occurrences in the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RANKINGS

Peter Charters' explanation of computer rankings was helpful and, hopefully, I've grasped the system. Can somebody answer a couple of questions for me?

a) Why should a player gain more for an unexpected win over the person 10 points ahead of him than he would lose by suffering defeat from the same player? e.g. if X has 250 pts. and Y 260 pts., then X beats Y in a B event, X moves up to 254 pts. and Y down to 256 — a net change of eight points between the two. If Y wins, however, the net difference increases by only four points. It seems more logical to me to use the same divisor whether the result is expected or unexpected.

b) Isn't the penalty point system unreasonably harsh especially for Cadets (and perhaps Juniors too)? In a recent conversation with Iris Moss I was sad to hear of at least one Northern Cadet who didn't attend the Southern ranking trials because it was too expensive. The cost for a player and parent (or chaperone) to a weekend in London could not have been less than £100 — assuming two nights in a hotel. For some the cost will have been much more. So if you cannot afford such hefty sums it's hard luck and here are ten penalty points just to rub it in.

Again what happens if you are too ill to compete or injured? I am reminded that Alison Barker of Shropshire, fresh from an excellent triumph at the Cleveland 'Select', was taken ill at the English Junior Closed and unable to compete in the U-14 GS event in which she was the top seed. Did the computer exercise discretion in her favour and waive penalties — I hope so.

Perhaps the Ranking Committee should insist on participation in only a proportion of B events for Cadets/Juniors. Competing in two or three out of six in the calendar would seem to be enough without penalty points being incurred for missing the rest.

JOHN HOLLAND,

41 Foxhunter Walk,
Billericay, Essex.
CM11 1DZ.

RANKING LISTS

I would not like John Preat to feel that he is a lone voice crying in the wilderness on the point of computer rankings raised in the January issue.

The use of a computer for senior players has, in my opinion, some merit since it is obviously impossible to get all seniors together for Ranking Tournaments. With Juniors and Cadets, however, the circumstances are rather different.

Apart from the obvious disadvantages involved outlined by John Preat in his letter surely it is sufficient for a Ranking Committee to gain a comprehensive list from the three "Ranking" and the listed "Select" Tournaments held during the season. At least under that system parents and coaches would "only" have the worry of trying to finance these previously selected weekends.

Newcomers to the tournament scene will surely become quickly disillusioned by the great "rat race" this new system involves with endless journeys chasing spurious computer points. The future ranking lists for Juniors and Cadets will ultimately result in being based on the advantages available to certain areas and players and not necessarily on the ability available over the whole country.

Could the officials involved, therefore, please have a serious rethink on this issue before it gets completely out of hand.

Mrs. BARBARA JUKES,

9 Waverley Close,
Kidderminster,
Worcestershire.

COMMONWEALTH

Five Gold Medals was England's tally in Bombay the final results of which were:

Men's Team:

ENGLAND 5 Nigeria 4

Women's Team:

ENGLAND 3 Canada 1

Men's Singles:

A. Musa (NIG) bt Z. Kosanovic (CAN)
17, -21, 14, 19.

Women's Singles:

C. KNIGHT (ENG) bt A. Gordon (ENG)
-17, 21, 12, 23.

Men's Doubles:

S. Ebob (NIG)/Musa bt J. Eng (CAN)/
Kosanovic 21, 17, -13, 14.

Women's Doubles:

J. GRUNDY (ENG)/KNIGHT bt I. Puri/
V. Shah (IND) -19, 13, -21, 14, 11.

Mixed Doubles:

N. ECKERSLEY (ENG)/GRUNDY bt
Kosanovic/M. Domonkos (CAN) 13, 25, 13.

(A full report with pictures will appear in the March issue).

UNOFFICIAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR VETERANS

These Championships are to be staged on 19th to 22nd May, 1982 in the Valhalla Sports Centre, Gothenburg, Sweden.

There are events for both men and women in four separate classes: Over 40, Over 50, Over 60, and Over 70.

Entry forms, including details of available accommodation, can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. office.

Entries close on 8th March, 1982.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Owing to pressure on space the Current Affairs feature by the E.T.T.A.'s Chairman, Tom Blunn, has been withheld and will appear in the March issue.

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MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

by Iris Moss

The Middlesex Open has, in the past, taken place during some diabolical weather, but our 25th will go down in history as being by far the worst in this respect. Even the modern heating arrangements at Picketts Lock were unable to cope with keeping the players reasonably warm without affecting the flight of the ball, so you can imagine how the poor umpires and referees suffered.

Having said that, it was remarkable how many people (some 70% of the players and a staggering 95% of the officials) braved the elements and managed to get to the venue, albeit some of them arriving somewhat late. As a result of the latter trouble, the Referees did some slightly unorthodox rearranging of the draw in order to ensure that no player who turned up was denied a place. The vast majority of the players seemed happy with the arrangements made, as did the 'Players' Representative' Nicky Jarvis and the National Selection Committee member, Bryan Merrett. We hope that the odd player who felt disgruntled will forgive us in the name of good sportsmanship.

I am afraid that I was among the absentees from the Tournament as was our President, Sir Graham Rowlandson, both of us for the first time, so most of my report must of necessity be hearsay. Looking through the draw sheets, it is remarkable how far some players — and umpires — battled through the snow to come to Picketts Lock. Players arrived from Cleveland, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Warwickshire, apart, of course, from the nearer Counties. Most of the seeded players arrived, although Nigel Eckersley was unable to get here from Germany, and Leicestershire must have been badly affected as neither Chris Rogers nor Karen Smith made it. Alan Ransome told me that it took him 7 hours to get home to Ormesby, and some of our intrepid umpires from the Bristol area had to shelter over-night and did not arrive home until 11.30 a.m. on the Monday. To all the players and umpires who did come we extend our sincere thanks. It makes all the hard work worth while when you support us like this.

Our 25th Championships will also go down in the history of Middlesex as being the first when a Middlesex player took the major title. Graham Sandley is the first Middlesex player to win the Men's Singles and we are extremely proud of him. Graham also partnered Douggie Johnson to win the Men's Doubles and only just missed the hat-trick when he and Alison Gordon were beaten in the final of the Mixed by Johnson and Jill Hammersley. Jill did manage the hat-trick, winning the Women's Singles and the Women's Doubles with Linda Jarvis. Peter D'Arcy regained the Veterans' Singles title after a 2-year lapse when he beat our own Michael Close in the final. Incidentally, Michael was the only competitor who played in the 25th as well as the 1st Middlesex Open, but needless to say not in the same event!

For the record, here are some results:

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Johnson (Wa) bt M. Mitchell (Mi) 11, 10.
G. Sandley (Mi) bt M. Oakley (Sy) 11, 21.
S. Mills (Y) bt D. Parker (La) 18, 16.
K. Jackson (E) bt K. Rodger (Sco) 16, 19.

Semi-finals:

Sandley bt Johnson 14, 21.
Jackson bt Mills 18, 16.

Final:

SANDLEY bt Jackson 14, 16.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Hammersley (B) bt K. Hayden (E) 9, 8.
C. Knight (Cv) bt A. Mitchell (Mi)
19, -15, 14.

L. Jarvis (Cv) bt H. Williams (Mi) 10, 11.
K. Witt (Bk) bt M. Smith (Bk) 17, -13, 19.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley bt Knight 18, -10, 17.
Witt bt Jarvis 17, -22, 18.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY bt Witt 7, -19, 17.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Johnson/Sandley bt J. Kennedy/I. Kenyon
(K) 14, -20, 17;
S. Andrew (E)/J. Souter (Mi) bt D. Hannah
(Sco)/A. Sanderson (Y) 18, -21, 16.

Final:

JOHNSON/SANDLEY bt Andrew/Souter
15, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hammersley/Jarvis bt Knight/A. Stevenson
(Le) 13, 6.

A. Gordon (Bk)/Witt bt Mitchell/S. Sandley
(Mi) 18, -13, 10.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY/JARVIS bt Gordon/Witt
13, -18, 18.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Johnson/Hammersley bt Constance (Do)/
Stevenson 17, 12.

Sandley/Gordon bt Andrew/Knight 19, 12.

Final:

JOHNSON/HAMMERSLEY bt Sandley/
Gordon 13, 11.

Veterans' Singles Final:

P. D'ARCY (Ch) bt M. Close (Mi) 11, 12.

One of the umpires, Dave Miller, told me that despite the intense cold there was a very friendly atmosphere. There were three matches which he umpired which he felt were outstanding. In the Men's Singles, the match between Johnson and Mark Mitchell, while looking an easy win for Douggle on paper, contained some amazing rallies which almost left him forgetting the score. The Men's Doubles match between Skylet Andrew, John Souter, Mitchell and David Barr included some incredible shots and at one point Mark managed to return a shot while on the floor. But the match he enjoyed most was the light-hearted Mixed Doubles when Andrew, Carole Knight, Sandley and Alison Gordon all got the "giggles" and spent a happy quarter of an hour thoroughly enjoying themselves and keeping the umpire amused.

We would like to express our sincere

thanks to our sponsors Levomex Exports, Butterfly Table Tennis U.K. Ltd., and Halexport Ltd. without whose help our Silver Jubilee event would not have taken place. It was particularly gratifying that Mr. Kassardjian of Levomex Exports also took the trouble to come along, despite the weather, to see what goes on at a 3-Star Tournament, not just coming to the Finals, but also while the Tournament was in full spate with all tables working. We would also like to express our appreciation of the help and co-operation we invariably get from the staff and management of Picketts Lock Centre. We do not know what we would do without them.

Finally, could I ask whoever it was that "borrowed" the Men's Singles Draw Sheet and Group Result Sheets and failed to return them, to let us have them back. Geoff James has got the Draw Sheets for all 24 Tournaments and we would like to keep the set complete.

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YORKSHIRE

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

With all the county teams having lost at least one match the struggle for Championship honours this season will not be easy. The junior 2nd team with 8 points out of a possible 10 look to have the best chance and the senior Premier side with 4 points out of 6 should not be written off from retaining the Premier title.

The senior 2nd team is one of the youngest and strongest squads in the county, with Steve Sharp still a junior and three of the four other players juniors last season. All these players are training hard and look capable of winning the remaining matches with Helen Shields the senior member of the side to guide them to victory.

It is still possible for the junior premier team in 4th place to win their division with four matches to be played and two points behind Surrey at the top, but it will need a special effort from all concerned.

The YTTA Selection Committee have issued the following county ranking lists:

Men

1 S. Mills, 2 A. Fletcher, 3 K. Beadsley, 4 M. Illingsworth, 5 A. Sanderson, 6 D. Illingsworth, 7 D. Rook, 8 M. Stead, 9 S. Wathey, 10 T. Bottomley, 11 T. Dyson, 12 N. Bailey, 13 S. Sharpe.

Women

1 M. Hill, 2 H. Shields, 3 J. Speight, 4 J. McLean, 5 S. Midgley, 6 K. Burrows, 7 L. Smith, 8 J. Ryalls, 9 L. Broomhead, 10 R. Brook, 11 M. Seaton.

Boys

1 Sharpe, 2 Rook, 3 D. Illingsworth, 4 R. Whiteley, 5 J. Thatcher, 6 M. Firth, 7 C. Render, 8 M. Emmerson, 9 K. M'Kandla, 10 D. Indriks, 11 T. Walton, 12 A. Kutcheruk.

Girls

1 Seaton, 2 Ryalls, 3 Broomhead, 4 Brook, 5 J. Shaw, 6 D. Malpass, 7 R. Baxter, 8 A. Huitt.

Cadet Boys

1 Firth, 2 R. Thompson, 3 C. Guest, 4 N.

Wesson, 5 N. Newton, 6 J. Bult, 7 I. Omand, 8 D. Scruton, 9 S. Arnold, 10 N. Carr.

Cadet Girls

1 Shaw, 2 Malpass, 3 Baxter, 4 A. Evans, 5 H. Broomhead, 6 J. Stocks, 7 J. Roberts, 8 A. Speight.

Teams selected for the next two county matches:

Senior 2nd team: Sanderson, Stead, Sharpe, H. Shields, J. Speight, v Staffordshire away. Junior 2nd team: Whiteley, Thatcher, Firth, R. Brook, J. Shaw, v Lincolnshire Juniors away — 23rd January.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LEAGUES

The Wakefield League has been lucky to obtain a sponsor for the Wakefield Individual Championships to be held at Featherstone Sports Centre on Saturday, March 6. Dunlop Sports Company are doing a great deal to make sure that the Championship is a big success and even more professional than usual. This will not be easy due to the excellent work of organising the event in recent years by ESTTA Chairman, Mr John Arnold, his wife Margaret and a back-up team led by League Chairman Mrs. Doreen O'Keefe and Competitions Secretary, Bernard Atkinson. The same team of officials will spearhead this year's organisation, but in addition will be reinforced by the expertise of ex-international, Alan Hydes and his Dunlop team of workers who will supply tables, other equipment and transport to and from the venue. In addition, to encourage table tennis in Wakefield, a 'Dunlop Trophy' is to be awarded annually to the most promising player of the year. Mr. Hydes has accepted the League's invitation to present trophies at the Championships.

Another exciting event being planned by the Wakefield League and backed by the Yorkshire T.T.A. is a visit by National Coach Donald Parker and Div. 1 National League player, Steve Turner as part of a coaching and exhibition session at the Ings Road Coaching Centre on Sunday, March 7. Important guests at the session will be Mrs. Dorothy Burt, Secretary of the Yorkshire Association of Sports for the Disabled, and a party of young disabled players. Invitations have also been sent to two of the top disabled players in the country: Billy Leake, Paraplegic Olympics medal winner who played with distinction - in spite of being confined to a wheelchair - for Pinderfield's Hospital team in the early '70's and to David Hope, Green's 'A' in the Wakefield Premier and for Dewsbury first team who have a 100% record in the Yorkshire League and is also an international umpire. The organisers plan to show the young players present with the help of these two disabled sportsmen that it is still possible to play table tennis to a very high standard, despite major disabilities.

Two of the Leagues top Premier teams, Youth 'A' and Green's 'A', made a disastrous start to the new year. Youth 'A' were annihilated 10-nil by Green's (D. Lamb 3, S. Milnes 3, D. Hope 3) and then had the humiliation of being beaten by their own second team 6-4 (J. Speight 2, K. Burrows 2, G. Rothery 2). Steven Sharpe stopped the 'A' team from being completely eclipsed with three wins in the singles and the doubles with Phil Tomlinson. Green's came to earth with an unexpected bang against Wakefield Nomads 6-4 (Ram Singh 3 and doubles with Steve Holdroyd). Any hopes of a further challenge for the Premier title was shattered by current champions and leaders, Pretoria W.M.C. (Steve Wathey 3, Alan Summerscales 2, George Summerscales 1) in the 7-3 result. The match between David Lamb and Alan Summerscales was one of the best contests seen at any level by those present with the match finally going to David 19 in the 3rd. Other divisional leaders are Div. 1 Rothwell Nomads; Div 2 Horbury Victoria 'A'; Div. 3 Ossett Community Centre 'B'.

Doncaster
With the season just past the half-way stage, St. Mary's 'A' (Steve Holdroyd, John Walton, Steve Wathey) are five points clear at the top of the Premier Division and favourites for the title. Nearest contenders are YMCA 'A', Harvesters 'A' and last year's champions Peglers 'A'. Top players are: Steve Wathey, Ian Denton (YMCA 'A') and Dave Skerrat (Harvesters). Dave and Ian are members of the South Yorks National League team.

Doncaster

St. Mary's 'C' lead the Div. 1 title race with the experienced Derek Taylor guiding a talented young squad: Tony Walton (No. 2 junior), Nicky Newton (No. 1 cadet boy) and Diane Malpass (No. 1 cadet girl). In 2nd place are G.P.O. 'A', led by undefeated Ray Swain — former Doncaster Closed Champion. Only four points separate the top five teams in Div. 2. Michael Scott (Nat. West. 'A') No. 2 Cadet is undefeated and looks set to maintain his record to the end of the season. Plant 'D', Div. 3 were relegated last season, but should regain their place, being five points clear of the rest. Minsthorpe Y.C. 'A' and 'B' teams are 1st and 2nd respectively in Div. 4.

Yorkshire League RESULTS
Men's Premier Division
Sheffield 7 Bradford 3rds 3
Bradford 9 Huddersfield 1
York 4 Doncaster 6
Bradford 2nds 8 Barnsley 1
Division 1
Leeds 4 Wakefield 6
Harrogate 8 Barnsley 2nds 2
York 3rds 1 York 2nds 9
Division 2
Halifax 2nds 3 Hull 2nds 7
Hull 8 Halifax 2
Wakefield 2nds 5 Leeds 2nds 5
Rotherham 5 Harrogate 2nds 5
Veteran Division 1
Rotherham 8 York 2
Castleford/Pontefract 2 Barnsley 8
York 0 Huddersfield 10
Leeds 1 Bradford 9
Junior Premier
Bradford 6 Bradford 2nds 3
Doncaster 6 Sheffield 3
Harrogate 3 Leeds 6



WAKEFIELD CLOSED WINNERS

Front row shows left to right three of Wakefield's current county players: Karen Burrows, Joanne Shaw (Yorkshire Cadet No. 1, also Yorkshire Cadets girls singles and doubles Champion), Steven Sharpe (Yorkshire No. 1 junior boy) centre with men's singles trophy. Left centre Mr. Brian Bateman with the Francis Hare Service to Wakefield T.T. Trophy.